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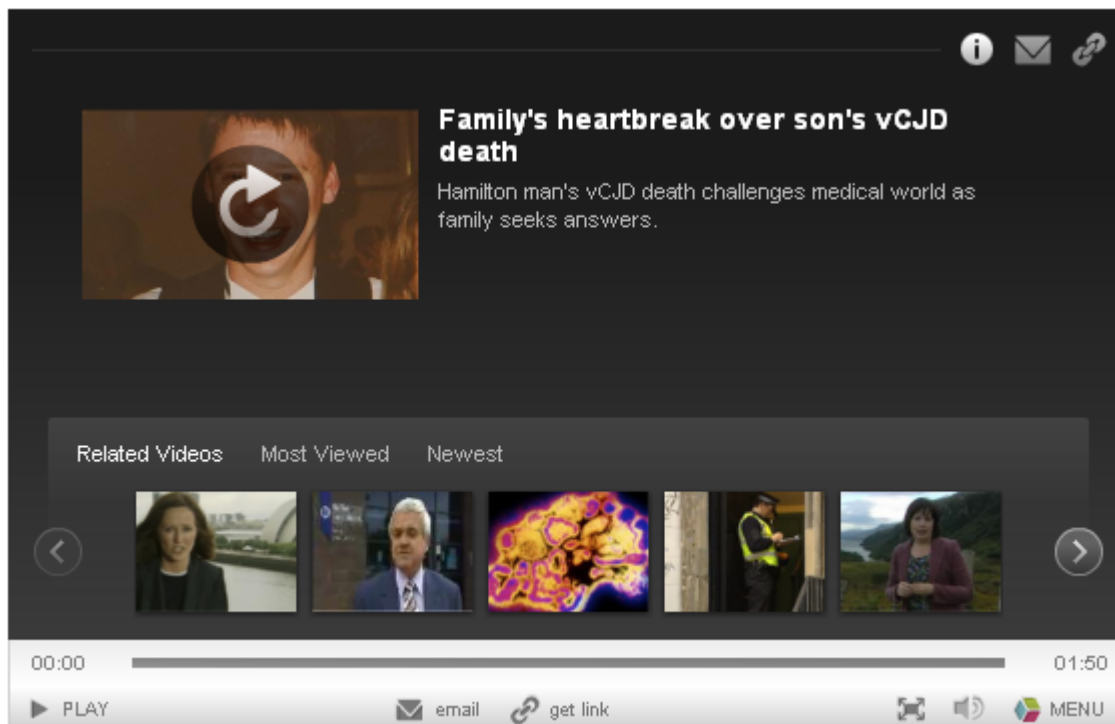
## Family's heartbreak over son's vCJD death

Hamilton man's vCJD death challenges medical world as family seeks answers.

18 December 2009 18:30 PM

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A family have spoken to STV of their heartbreak as they fight for answers after their son's death from the human form of mad cow disease.

Grant Goodwin, from Hamilton, was diagnosed with vCJD in September last year and within months he had lost his short-term memory, his ability to walk and his personality.

Since Grant's death, aged 30, the family have been fighting for recognition from scientists that he died from a variant form of CJD, despite not having a particular gene.

All previous cases of the disease have had the gene type MM but Grant has the MV genetic code - which is the same as around half of the population, which means more people than first thought could be incubating the disease.

His father Thomas said: "I reckon, Grant for us, wasn't the same person, from, maybe November. And it was heartbreaking for our family. Grant turned into someone we didn't recognise, just because of this illness."

"It's an absolutely horrendous illness and you'll never witness anything like it, and I hope to god nobody else has to witness it. But I know, and so does the professional people know that there's a second go of this just around the corner."


The disease is commonly associated with eating infected meat but Grant's case also challenges that theory.

Mr Goodwin added: "With Grant's incubation period we knew, and we'd been told he picked it up as a very young infant and I went down and asked Professor Collinge. We

thought it was either his baby food or his inoculations, and he told me not to look any further than baby food."

The Goodwin family are now hoping their son's death can lead to more research into the disease and spare others their heartache.

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