Pernicious Vomiting of Pregnancy Hyperemesis Gravidarum (HG)

Tutorial | August 09, 2011
By Muhammad M. El Hennawy, MD
Pernicious Vomiting of Pregnancy

Hyperemesis Gravidarum

(HG)

Dr Muhammad El Hennawy
Ob/Gyn Specialist
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Names

- Pernicious vomiting of pregnancy
- Severe nausea and vomiting of pregnancy
- Severe morning sickness
- Persistent vomiting of pregnancy
- HG (hyperemesis gravidarum)
- Uncontrollable vomiting during pregnancy
• **Nausea** is the unpleasant, painless sensation that one may potentially vomit.

• **Vomiting** is an organized, autonomic response that ultimately results in the forceful expulsion of gastric contents through the mouth.
Protective Mechanism

- Normal nausea and vomiting may be an evolutionary protective mechanism.

- It may protect the pregnant woman and her embryo from harmful substances in food such as pathogenic microorganisms in meat products and toxins in plants, with the effect being maximal during embryogenesis, (the most vulnerable period of pregnancy).

- This is supported by studies showing that women who had nausea and vomiting during pregnancy were less likely to have miscarriages and stillbirth.
Incidence

- 50% to 90% of pregnant women report having some nausea in their first trimester.
- More than 40% report vomiting.
- Vomiting usually begins around the 5th to 6th week of pregnancy, peaking at 9 weeks, and usually resolves on its own by week 16 – 18;
- however, symptoms may continue until the third trimester in 15 to 20% of gravida and until delivery in 5%.
- If vomiting persists beyond a few days postpartum, other etiologies should be investigated.
- Severe, persistent vomiting is called hyperemesis gravidarum and occurs approximately in 3.5 per 1000 pregnancies.
Epidemiology

It is more common in:
- Primigravida
- Multiple pregnancy
- History of previous hyperemesis
- Mother or sister with HG
- The presence of trophoblastic disease
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- Young maternal age under the age of 20
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It is less common with:
- Maternal age older than 30 years
- Maternal smoking
- Unmarried mothers
Degree of Nausea and Vomiting During Pregnancy

IN EARLY PREGNANCY
- Related to pregnancy
  - Mild --- in evening or morning ---- mild emesis gravidarum
  - Moderate – with meals ---- moderate emesis gravidarum
  - Severe --- frequent more than 10 times / day

- without affection of general condition of pregnancy---severe emesis gravidarum
- with affection of general condition of pregnancy ----- HYPEREMESIS GRAVIDARUM
  = hyperemesis gravidarum without complications
  = hyperemesis gravidarum with complications
- Other causes of nausea and vomiting

IN LATE PREGNANCY
- HYPEREMESIS GRAVIDARUM
- Other causes of nausea and vomiting
hyperemesis gravidarum without complications

- with affect on general condition of pregnant increase pulse over 100 + Decrease systolic blood pressure below 100 + increase temp above 38 degree + dehydration like dry tongue, sunken eyes + ketosis

hyperemesis gravidarum with complications

- Esophageal rupture or perforation
- Pneumothorax and pneumomediastinum
- Wernicke encephalopathy or blindness
- Hepatic disease
- Seizures, coma, or death
- Others complications include renal failure, pancreatitis, deep venous thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, central pontine myelinolysis, rhabdomyolysis, Vitamin K deficiency and coagulopathy, and splenic avulsion.
Severity

Assessment of severity by checking for ketones is important as severity determines management.
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Incidence

- 50% to 90% of pregnant women report having some nausea in their first trimester.
- More than 40% report vomiting.
- Vomiting usually begins around the 5th to 6th week of pregnancy, peaking at 9 weeks, and usually resolves on its own by week 16 – 18;
- however, symptoms may continue until the third trimester in 15 to 20% of gravida and until delivery in 5%.
- If vomiting persists beyond a few days postpartum, other etiologies should be investigated.
- Severe, persistent vomiting is called hyperemesis gravidarum and occurs approximately in 3.5 per 1000 pregnancies.
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• Hyper means ‘over’, Emesis means ‘vomiting’ and Gravidarum means ‘pregnancy’.
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