

# Nausea and Vomiting During Pregnancy

Nausea and vomiting during early pregnancy, sometimes called morning sickness, can happen any time of the day.

Morning sickness often begins about the 6th week of pregnancy and gets better by the 13th week. It likely happens because hormone levels in your body change rapidly in early pregnancy. Stress, not eating for several hours or certain odors may trigger morning sickness.

You may worry about the health of your baby if morning sickness is a problem. If you are in good health before pregnancy, your growing baby will have enough nutrients for the first months of pregnancy.

## What you can do

- Take more rest periods or naps.
- Keep something in your stomach.
  - Eat crackers, toast or dry cereal before getting out of bed in the morning.
  - Eat small meals every 2 to 3 hours to avoid an empty stomach.
- Eat more protein.
- Eat foods that are easy to digest. These include: dry foods, toast, bagels, saltine crackers, cereals, pasta and potatoes.
- Avoid greasy or highly seasoned foods that may cause your symptoms to get worse.
- Drink between meals, not at meals.
- Sip clear liquids if you are vomiting. When vomiting occurs, take sips of clear liquids only. Some examples of clear liquids are gelatin, clear soft drinks (7UP) sports drinks, tea and broth.
  - As the nausea passes, increase the amount of liquids to ½ cup every hour. Stay hydrated.
- Avoid food smells that make nausea worse.
- Talk to your provider about taking:
  - Antihistamines doxylamine or dimenhydrinate
  - Vitamin B6

## Follow-Up

Call your doctor, clinic or go to the emergency department if:

- You cannot keep liquids down for 24 hours.
- You have abdominal pain, fever, dizziness, severe weakness or feel faint.

**These may be signs of a more serious problem.**

**Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**