



**HER FOUNDATION**  
HYPEREMESIS EDUCATION & RESEARCH

**HER Foundation**  
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[www.HelpHER.org](http://www.HelpHER.org)  
[www.hyperemesis.org](http://www.hyperemesis.org)

## Medical Perspectives on HG & HER Foundation

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"HG is a tremendously **debilitating disease** that can have life long consequences. Progress in understanding and treating the disease has been slowed because of **common misconceptions**. The most troubling of these is the idea that HG is due to a psychological disorder of the mother or due to a pathologic relationship with between the mother and her spouse, family or her child in utero. The HER Foundation Web site, **HelpHER.org**, helps dispel these misconceptions and provides much needed support to mothers suffering from this debilitating disease."

–**T Murphy Goodwin, MD** Chief, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Keck School of Medicine, **University of Southern California**

"HG has a **devastating personal and family impact** and effective management is most important. The short-term effects of severe HG on the mother are extreme and long-term effects via family disruption are possible."

–**Roy Taylor, MD** Professor of Medicine and Metabolism  
School of Clinical Medical Sciences, **University of Newcastle upon Tyne**  
United Kingdom

"The medical establishment does not take HG as seriously as they should. It's **underdiagnosed and undertreated**. Many doctors assume it's a nervous condition, or the woman is just seeking attention. Women are often told by their families, friends and health care providers, that their symptoms are normal, so they **do not seek the care** they need early on in the illness when it is easier to treat and prevent complications. Even as an OB/Gyn, I was completely unprepared for HG in my first pregnancy. It was only from that personal experience, and with the help of online support groups, that we were able to try [having children] again. A national dialogue will **help countless women** cope with Hyperemesis."

–**Aimee Brecht-Doscher, MD** OB/Gyn  
Camarillo, CA

"Hyperemesis Gravidarum is a **devastating illness** and yet so little research has been undertaken into causes and therapies."

–**Matthes Seeling, MD**  
Berlin, Germany

"The etiology of HG is currently unknown and there is a great need for **more research** in this area so that therapies can be developed to treat the cause of the disease rather than the symptoms. The HER Foundation provides a unique place for scientists to come in contact with affected individuals to study different aspects of the disease. Because the site [**hyperemesis.org**] is used by so many affected individuals, it provides an excellent forum to begin to answer extremely important questions regarding, for example, the **safety and efficacy** of more commonly used therapies, where large numbers need to be recruited for statistical significance."

–**Marlena Schoenberg Fejzo, Ph.D.** Geneticist, Researcher  
**University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**

“The negative effects of NVP on a woman's quality of life has been largely ignored in the medical community, which has often led to a lack of compassion and treatment. It can and should be treated if persistent or disruptive to a woman's physical, mental or social health.”

–**Adrienne Einarson, RN** Assistant Director, The Motherisk Program  
Hospital for Sick Children  
Toronto, Canada

“Women's somatic complaints are more likely to be labeled by physicians and other health care professionals as psychologically based when the condition has an obscure etiology. Perhaps because of this, there are a number of medical conditions that have been under investigated and where erroneous assumptions about them exist. Hyperemesis Gravidarum (HG)—severe nausea and vomiting during pregnancy—is an example of such an illness. HG remains a puzzling condition for both physicians and patients because there is **no known cause or cure**. By its very nature, HG has a clearly established **biological cause**—pregnancy. Yet, because the exact causal pathophysiological mechanism is unknown, the organicity of the pregnant state is either minimized or ignored.”

–**Shari Munch, MSW, Ph.D.** Assistant Professor  
School of Social Work, **Rutgers University**

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For more information on Hyperemesis Gravidarum contact: [media@HelpHER.org](mailto:media@HelpHER.org)