Abstract:
Introduction: Nausea and vomiting (NV) during pregnancy are the most common symptoms. The incidence of NV during pregnancy has ranged from 50% to 80%. Hyperemesis gravidarum (HG) was the primary reason for the hospitalization of pregnant women. NV during pregnancy not only may make expectant mothers feel uncomfortable, decrease their quality of life, but also may have adverse consequences on fetus. The purpose of this study was to compare the physiological and psychological reactions on stress and birth outcomes for pregnant women with HG and mild NV.

Method(s): A comparative and prospective study design with a convenience sampling was conducted. Pregnant women were recruited from prenatal clinics in southern Taiwan. To examine the biochemical data related to HG, NV, and stress (e.g. hCG and cytokines), every pregnant woman was collected the biochemical data follow her prenatal clinical routine. In addition, three measurement instruments were used in this study: the Demographic Inventory
(DI), the Index of Nausea, Vomiting, and Retching (INVR), and the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS). Data were analyzed using SPSS packages for Windows, including descriptive statistics and independent-samples t test.

**Results:** A total of 63 pregnant women were recruited in this study and divided into two groups: HG (24 subjects) and mild NV (39 subjects) groups. The average age of these participants was 30.78 (SD = 3.33) years. Most women (38.1%) were educated at undergraduate level, most (82.5%) were employed, and 54.0% were primigravida. The results of independent-samples t test showed that women with HG (5.29±2.75) had significantly higher stress than women with mild NV (3.92±2.16) (p = .033). The levels of hCG [(99.63±40.67 vs. 95.42±40.68)x1000], IL6 (14.50±10.76 vs. 19.05±11.12) and IL10 (5.25±4.38 vs. 4.85±4.95) for the two groups were different but not significant. The birth outcomes of the two groups (2.96±.48 vs. 2.99±.43 kg) were also not significantly different.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** The findings of this study provided the first understanding of the physiological and psychological reactions to stress and birth outcomes for Taiwanese pregnant women with HG and mild NV.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

**Financial Disclosure:**
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

**FDA Disclosure:**
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

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