## The Fertility Center of Oregon

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## **Over-the-Counter Remedies for Nausea & Vomiting in Pregnancy**

- 1. Eat small, frequent meals, as often as every 2 hours, because nausea is more common on an empty or overly full stomach. The more often you eat, the more chances you have to keep at least a little something down. Eat what sounds good to you.
- 2. Eat a protein snack at bedtime and keep protein snacks by the bed to eat each time you awaken during the night to keep blood sugar stable and help prevent morning nausea.
- Eat dry crackers, potato chips, lemon drops, ginger cookies or toast before getting up in the morning.
- 4. Make sure each meal or snack contains a source of protein to keep blood sugar stable.
- 5. Do not brush your teeth immediately after getting up in the morning or right after eating to avoid stimulating the gag reflex at these susceptible times.
- 6. Drink carbonated beverages, especially ginger ale that contains real ginger (like Canada Dry).
- 7. Suck on lemon drops or ginger candies or sip lemonade throughout the day or when nauseated.
- 8. Avoid food with strong, spicy, or offensive flavors or slimy and overly chewy textures.
- 9. Limit fat in your diet as it is hard to digest.
- 10. Try acupressure wrist bands, like Sea-Bands per package instructions (available at most pharmacies).
- 11. Rest! Nap daily or at least lie down whenever possible.
- 12. Stop prenatal vitamins until nausea resolves and just take folic acid 800-4000mcg.
- 13. For mild nausea without vomiting, Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine), 25mg by mouth 3 times a day.
- 14. For moderate nausea with mild vomiting (less than 2 times a day) or if no relief from Vitamin B6 alone, ADD Unisom (doxylamine) 12.5mg (1/2 tablet) by mouth at bedtime and continue Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) 25mg by mouth 3 times a day.
  - Unisom can cause drowsiness. Start with bedtime dose for 4-5 days first to decrease drowsiness, then
    add as needed and as tolerated in morning and afternoon.
  - If no relief after 4-5 days, try Unisom (doxylamine) 25mg by mouth at bedtime and 12.5mg (1/2 tablet) in the morning and in the midafternoon PLUS Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) 25mg three times a day. May also increase Vitamin B6 to 50mg at bedtime with 25mg in morning and midafternoon if needed.