

CYCLICAL VOMITING SYNDROME (CVS) AWARENESS

Dear Health Provider:

Enclosed is information about Cyclical Vomiting Syndrome (CVS), a condition that is often not recognized and difficult to diagnose and treat. It can afflict both children and adults and can go undiagnosed for years. The condition is characterized by recurrent prolonged attacks of severe nausea, vomiting and prostration with no apparent cause, most commonly every 6-8 weeks. Vomiting occurs at frequent intervals 5-10 times an hour at the peak for up to 10 days (1-4 days commonly). The episodes tend to be similar to each other in symptoms and duration and are self-limited. The person is typically well between episodes. Up until 1993 very little had been written about CVS and, still today, many patients and families still suffer in a realm of isolation. Episodes are debilitating, frustrating and difficult for both the patient, family and health care providers.

Ongoing research is being conducted by physicians, medically trained scientists and professionals. The focus includes mitochondrial dysfunction, autonomic functioning and DNA testing, to name a few. Treatment includes the use of prophylactic, abortive and sedating medication and supplements to control symptoms. Life style changes also can add to the success of treatment and improve the quality of life for the individual.

Patients with CVS may present frequently to the Emergency Room (ER) with various symptoms that may include intense abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, headaches and prostration. There may be other symptoms that will be stereotypical for them. Some who have been diagnosed with CVS may have a protocol suggested by their physician which has been effective in restoring hydration, eliminating vomiting, nausea and pain. Following these individualized protocols can bring much faster and more effective relief to the patient.

Included in this packet is information that may prove to be helpful in furthering the understanding of this perplexing disease. Please share the information, especially with the ER. Call upon the Cyclical Vomiting Syndrome Association (CVSA) for any further information. In addition, there are patients or their family members who have experienced the "road to diagnosis and treatment" who would be pleased to share their insights and support the medical community.

To receive additional information and support, please contact:

Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome Association
PO Box 270341
Milwaukee, WI
414-342-7880
E-mail cvsa@cvsaonline.org

Your dedication to improving life for all is appreciated and recognized.

Sincerely,

Jan Wood (209 769-0339)
Parent of adult child with CVS
Member of CVSA



Cyclic Vomiting
Syndrome Association
HOPE STARTS HERE.