Reviewer's report

Title: Anticipatory nausea in cyclical vomiting

Version: Date: 22 February 2005

Reviewer: B Li

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This revised manuscript is much improved and the reviewers have responded to most of the comments.

Major
1) The inclusion of the frequency documents a striking three-fold increase (from 7 to 22 episodes/year) that was induced in part by the anticipatory nausea. Although the subsequent improvement is the result of several factors now identified in the text, I would still recommend inclusion of the subsequent episode frequency after improvement on page 5 because it provides the magnitude of improvement.

2) On page 9, paragraph 2, the authors state ‘ANV should be regarded as a normal response to severe nausea, and not as a primary anxiety disorder. While classical conditioning is predicated on an anxiety disorder, the latter can clearly exacerbate the former and may explain why only some patients develop ANV. While we don’t want to unnecessarily stigmatize patients, we also want a predisposing anxiety disorder to be properly diagnosed and treated. We propose adding ‘but an underlying anxiety disorder may be a predisposing condition in some patients.’

Minor
Pg 8, Pr 2, Ln 7: suggest stigmatization rather than stigma

I recommend publication after the authors respond.