

Genetic analysis of Hyperemesis Gravidarum reveals association with stress-induced calcium channel (RYR2)

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6 2 induced calcium channel (RYR2)

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60 **Running Title:** RYR2 linked to Hyperemesis Gravidarum

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Abstract

Hyperemesis Gravidarum (HG), severe nausea/vomiting in pregnancy (NVP), leads to electrolyte imbalance, ketonuria, and can cause neurologic, renal, and liver abnormalities. HG is also associated with an increased risk of adverse fetal outcome and neurodevelopmental delay. Evidence for a genetic predisposition suggests understanding the genetic component is essential in discovering an etiology. We performed whole-exome sequencing of 5 families followed by analysis of candidate variants in 584 cases and 431 controls. One novel and one known rare variant in RYR2 segregated with disease in 2 families. The novel variant was not found in 584 cases and 431 controls. The known rare variant, rs3766871, has a proven biological effect and was almost twice as common in cases as controls ($p=0.046$), and almost 4-times as common when comparing extreme ends of the spectrum, 106 cases with intravenous tube-feeding (TPN) and 141 controls with no NVP ($p=0.023$). Independent replication of rs3766871 using Norwegian and Australian GWAS data was supportive. Common RYR2 variants rs790899 and rs1891246 were significantly associated with HG and severity. RYR2 copy-number analysis was performed in 139 women with no NVP and 101 TPN-treated women and revealed a deletion in a severe patient. RYR2 encodes a stress-induced calcium channel biologically involved in vomiting, linked to cyclic-vomiting syndrome (CVS), and may play a role in thyroid function and fertility. Additionally, RYR2 is a drug target (Inderal) already used to treat HG and CVS. Thus, herein we provide genetic evidence for a pathway and therapy for the etiology and treatment of HG.

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3 86 **Key Words:** Hyperemesis Gravidarum, Nausea, Vomiting, Pregnancy, Ryanodine
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For Peer Review

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90 Introduction

91 HG occurs in approximately 0.2-2% of pregnancies and leads to significant weight
92 loss, dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, and ketonuria (1-3). Until 60 years ago, HG
93 was an important cause of maternal mortality with ten percent of cases ending in
94 death (4). Although maternal mortality has since decreased, 6 deaths due to HG
95 have been reported recently (5), as well as morbidity including Wernicke's
96 encephalopathy (6), acute renal failure (7), liver function abnormalities (8), splenic
97 avulsion (9), esophageal rupture (10), pneumothorax (11), and post-traumatic
98 stress symptoms (12). HG is also associated with poor fetal/child outcomes
99 including a 4-fold increased risk of preterm birth and a 3-fold increased risk of
100 neurodevelopmental delay in children (13-14).

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102 A variety of potential causative factors have been investigated, but the etiology
103 remains unknown. Evidence for a genetic predisposition is provided by classic twin
104 studies of Norwegian, Spanish, and Finnish cohorts that all support a genetic
105 component to NVP (15-16). In a series of family based studies, there is evidence that
106 female relatives of patients with HG are more likely to be affected, with a 17-fold
107 increased risk if a sister has HG (17-20). Recently, mutations in the thyrotropin
108 receptor gene have been linked to hyperemesis gravidarum accompanied by
109 gestational thyrotoxicosis in an affected family and an additional case. This suggests
110 a genetic etiology has already been identified in, at minimum, a subgroup of cases
111 (21). Thus, understanding the genetic component is essential in discovering the

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3 112 causal pathway(s).
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6 113 The objective of this study was to perform whole-exome sequencing on HG families
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8 114 to identify rare variants conferring susceptibility to HG and to validate these
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10 115 findings in a large cohort of affected and unaffected individuals from the United
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12 116 States, followed by replication in cohorts from Australia and Norway.
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17 18 118 **Results**

19 20 119 **Whole-exome sequencing identifies RYR2 variants linked to HG in 2 of 5** 21 22 **families.** 23

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25 121 We sequenced the entire exomes (~50 Mb) of 15 affected individuals and 3
26
27 122 unaffected individuals from 5 families with HG. The mean coverage was 54 fold.
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29 123 Reads were mapped to the human genome reference build UCSC hg19 using BWA
30
31 124 (22). On average, 3223 single-nucleotide variants were detected in each individual
32
33 125 and a total of 58006 variants were detected in all 5 families combined (Figure 1).
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35 126 The synonymous variants were subsequently discarded resulting in 29856 variants.
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37 127 The identified variants were further filtered against variants present in the HapMap,
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39 128 1000 Genomes Project, and dbSNP132 databases, resulting in 13509 novel variants
40
41 129 and known variants with minor allele frequency <5% (23,24). These variants were
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43 130 further filtered by selecting variants predicted to affect protein function using
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45 131 PolyPhen and SIFT (25,26). Filtering for missense and stop gain or stop loss variants
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47 132 that were shared by any of the 3 whole-exome sequenced unaffected family
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49 133 members resulted in 6481 variants.
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3 135 As we did not find any single variant that was shared by all the affected members
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6 136 across all of the families, we focused on variants within each family shared by all 3
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8 137 whole-exome sequenced affected subjects. For example, 94 variants were shared by
9
10 138 all 3 affected individuals in Family 1, and 227 variants were shared by all 3 affected
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12 139 individuals in Family 2. We searched for variants and/or genes that were shared by
13
14 140 more than one family. 27 genes were identified that carried rare variants in the
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16 141 affected family members in more than one family. These variants were evaluated
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18 142 based on a functional effect, which included variants located in genes functionally
19
20 143 relevant to reproduction (ie hormones), nausea and vomiting (ie gastric tract,
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22 144 vomiting center of the brain), and genes expressed in relevant tissues (ie ovary,
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24 145 placenta). This resulted in identification of the gene RYR2 involved in 2 of 5 families
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26 146 as a strong candidate based on its functional potential: RYR2 encodes a stress
27
28 147 induced calcium channel that is part of a signaling pathway for emesis expressed in
29
30 148 the vomiting center of the brain (27-28). It is the only gene identified with variants
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32 149 significantly linked to cyclic vomiting syndrome, is involved in thyroid function, and
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34 150 is differentially expressed in cumulus cells of the pre-ovulatory follicle (29-31).
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44 152 **Genotyping the novel and rare RYR2 variants in the US cohort provides**
45
46 153 **confirmation.**

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49 154 In the largest HG family (Family 1), the novel variant in the RYR2 gene
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51 155 (RYR2:NM_001035:exon68:c.T9830G:p.Leu3277Arg) was confirmed by Sanger
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53 156 Sequencing to be shared by four affected sisters and was not shared by either of 2
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55 157 unaffected sisters, the unaffected mother, nor the unaffected maternal aunt (Figure
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3 158 2A). Genotyping via Taqman showed the RYR2 variant to be unique in the sample to
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6 159 Family 1, as it was not identified in 584 HG cases and 431 unaffected controls (Table
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8 160 1). The nucleotide at the location of this novel variant is 100% conserved across
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11 161 vertebrates and invertebrates. The mutation changes a hydrophobic amino acid to
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13 162 an electrically charged amino acid, and is predicted to be damaging and deleterious
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15 163 (SIFT Prediction Score=0; Provean Prediction Score=-5.38).
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20 165 In Family 2, the variant RYR2:NM_001035:exon37:c.G5656A:p.Gly1886Ser
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22 166 rs3766871 was shared by all 3 affected sisters (Figure 2B). Genotyping via Taqman
23
24 167 identified variant rs3766871 (Family 2) to be twice as common ($p=.046$) in cases
25
26 168 than controls (in 38 out of 580 additional cases and 17 out of 431 controls) and four
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28 169 times more common ($p=.023$) when comparing the extreme ends of the clinical
29
30 170 spectrum, 9 out of 106 cases requiring tube feeding compared to 3 out of 141
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32 171 controls who reported no nausea/vomiting in pregnancy) (Table 1). The SNP
33
34 172 rs3766871 is already known to have a biological effect. Substitution of serine for
35
36 173 glycine causes a significant increase in cellular calcium oscillation activity compared
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38 174 to wild-type RYR2 in HEK293 cells (32). Interestingly, the effect is completely
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40 175 abolished by substitution of a neighboring SNP, which may explain why rs3766871,
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42 176 although significantly more common in extreme cases, is also present in a subset of
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44 177 unaffected individuals. The SNP rs3766871 has also been associated with
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46 178 ventricular arrhythmias and is an independent predictor of sudden cardiac death
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48 179 (33).
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3 181 **Summary statistics were supportive but not statistically significant for RYR2**
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5 182 **in both a Norwegian and an Australian GWAS.**
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8 183 Genotype data for rs3766871 were imputed in both Norwegian and Australian
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10 184 datasets. Although statistical significance was not achieved probably due to the
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12 185 rarity of rs3766871 and the small number of affected individuals, there is a
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14 186 supportive trend in both cohorts. In the Norwegian cohort there is a 1.3-fold OR for
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16 187 this SNP (reference allele A), and in the Australian cohort, after removal of the cases
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18 188 with no weight loss to better reflect the severe end of the clinical spectrum of NVP,
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20 189 there was a 1.2-fold OR for rs3766871 (Table 1). In addition, common RYR2 SNPs
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22 190 (rs790899 and rs1891246) were significantly linked to HG in both the Norwegian
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24 191 and Australian GWAS using the case-control phenotypes (Table 1). In the Norwegian
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26 192 dataset, adding the zscore for weight change until gestational week 18 as a covariate
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28 193 increased the odds ratio and significance for the common RYR2 variants, and
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30 194 suggested a strong association with weight loss (Table 2A). In the smaller Australian
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32 195 dataset, using the continuous severity measure, neither rs790899 nor rs1891246
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34 196 reached statistical significance.
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44 198 **Copy-number analysis identifies a deletion in RYR2 in an extreme HG case**
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46 199 **requiring intravenous feeding (TPN).**
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49 200 Copy-number analysis was performed because likely pathogenic duplications in
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51 201 RYR2 have been reported previously in developmental delay/autism (34). A
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53 202 deletion in exon 16 was identified in RYR2 (Table 1) among DNA isolated from 101
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55 203 cases requiring total parenteral nutrition (TPN) for severe HG. The deletion was not
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3 204 observed in any of the remaining samples including 139 extreme controls reporting
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6 205 no nausea and no vomiting in any of their pregnancies.
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10 207 **Discussion**
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13 208 This is the first whole-exome association study of HG and suggests RYR2 may play a
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15 209 role in the biology of HG. We have successfully identified two rare variants in RYR2
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17 210 that are linked to HG using a whole-exome sequencing approach followed by
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19 211 genotyping a large validation cohort from the US. Independent replication in GWAS
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21 212 studies from Norway and Australia are suggestive of a role for RYR2 and revealed 2
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23 213 common variants likely to be associated with HG. Copy-number screening identified
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25 214 a deletion in RYR2 in an extreme HG case requiring intravenous feeding.
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30 215 Ryr2 encodes a stress-induced calcium channel and variants in the gene, including
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32 216 rs3766871 identified in this study, have been shown to cause aberrant Ca⁺⁺
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34 217 signaling.³¹ Variants in the RYR2 gene are associated with ventricular tachycardia,
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36 218 so it is of particular interest that the rate of HG in postural tachycardia syndrome is
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38 219 as high as 59%, well above the expected 0.5-2% (35). The role RYR2 variants play in
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40 220 HG etiology is unknown, but there are several intriguing avenues to explore further.
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42 221 Firstly, RYR2 encodes a stress-induced calcium channel that is the only ryanodine
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44 222 receptor expressed in the vomiting center of the brain (27) and has been implicated
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46 223 in a signaling pathway underlying emesis in an animal model (28). Secondly, the
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48 224 thyroid hormone has been shown to induce RYR2 overexpression (30), while the
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50 225 drug Inderal (Propranolol, used to treat hyperthyroidism) blocks RYR2
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52 226 phosphorylation and lowers its expression (36). Hyperthyroidism accompanies HG
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3 227 in as many as 60% of pregnancies (37) and mutations in the thyrotropin receptor
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6 228 have been linked to HG (21), providing additional genetic evidence that this
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8 229 pathway may be causal in some cases. Of note, two of 6 recent maternal deaths
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10 230 secondary to HG were accompanied by severe thyrotoxicosis/thyroid storm (5).
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12 231 Thirdly, in a GWAS study of Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome (CVS), RYR2 was the only
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14 232 gene identified with variants significantly linked to the disease (29), and Inderal has
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16 233 been used to effectively treat 92% of children with CVS (38). Likewise, in 1980 a
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18 234 patient presenting with severe thyrotoxicosis and hyperemesis gravidarum
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20 235 reportedly responded dramatically to Inderal treatment (39). As her thyroid
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22 236 function improved and the Inderal was discontinued, she again returned to the
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24 237 hospital with severe vomiting. Upon restarting medication, her vomiting ceased and
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26 238 she continued treatment until term.¹⁰ Our findings provide evidence for a biological
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28 239 pathway, diagnostic marker, and potential targeted therapy for the etiology and
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30 240 treatment of HG.
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32 241 Lastly, mounting evidence suggests RYR2 may play a role in fertility. It is expressed
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34 242 more than 50-fold in cumulus cells compared to mural granulosa cells of human pre-
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36 243 ovulatory follicle, and its expression correlates with amphiregulin, a key mediator of
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38 244 the effect of LH/hCG and a marker for oocyte competence (31). Ryanodine receptor
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40 245 variants are significantly associated with pig litter size (40), and women with HG
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42 246 produce an abnormally high number of mature oocytes when undergoing follicle
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44 247 stimulation (41). A genetic link that explains both the symptoms of HG and a
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46 248 potential increase in fertility, would provide a rationale for why severe nausea in
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48 249 pregnancy has not been selected out in nature despite its link to adverse outcomes.
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3 250 The strength of this study comes from the innovative approach to identifying the
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6 251 etiology of HG. This disease has thus far eluded both scientists and clinicians,
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9 252 resulting in largely ineffective treatments, significant maternal morbidity, and an
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11 253 increased risk in adverse fetal outcome (13). In addition, while most biological
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13 254 studies of HG have been small with broad definitions of the disease, this study
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15 255 included not only five large HG families, but also, a validation cohort of 584 clinically
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18 256 defined cases and 431 well-characterized controls, and two separate GWAS studies
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21 257 for replication.

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23 258 The limitation of this study stems from the fact that full sequencing and copy
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25 259 number analysis of RYR2 in all cases and controls, is cost-prohibitive. We were only
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28 260 able to study the 2 mutations involved in the 2 HG families in this study, not the
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30 261 complete gene sequence, in the validation cohorts from the United States. Also,
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32 262 while the US cohort used intravenous fluid treatment as its clinical criteria for HG,
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34 263 and the Norwegian cohort used hospitalization, the Australian cohort used a less
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37 264 severe phenotype, which may have led to a reduced effect for that dataset. The
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39 265 small sizes for GWAS may also contribute to an underestimate of the effect for the
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42 266 validation cohorts. Finally, the copy-number analysis that identified a deletion only
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45 267 surveyed 90 bp of exon 16 in 240 individuals. Mutation and copy-number analysis of
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47 268 the full RYR2 gene in cases and controls is now warranted to determine their
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49 269 frequencies in affected individuals and to understand the role of RYR2 in HG
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52 270 pathogenesis.

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3 272 In conclusion, from exome sequencing of 5 HG families, we have identified rare
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6 273 variants in RYR2 in 4 affected sisters in one HG family and in 3 sisters with HG in
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8 274 another family. Follow-up screening in over 1,000 individuals provided further
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10 275 support that RYR2 variants play a role in HG. GWAS studies were supportive and
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12 276 resulted in identification of 2 common RYR2 variants linked to HG, and copy-
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14 277 number analysis identified a deletion. Mutations in genes in the ryanodine receptor-
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16 278 signaling pathway may account for a substantial amount of the attributable risk of
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18 279 HG, although just how much must be deferred to a follow up study. RYR2 is the only
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20 280 ryanodine channel expressed in the vomiting center of the brain (27); rs3766871
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22 281 has already been shown to result in leaky calcium signaling (32); and leaky RYR2
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24 282 calcium signaling has been shown to increase vomiting in an animal model (28), but
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26 283 causality has not been definitively established. Additional studies are required, such
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28 284 as functional analysis of the novel deleterious RYR2 variant and a larger GWAS.
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30 285 However, this novel discovery may provide the first step in understanding the
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32 286 etiology of HG. The identification of genes linking HG to RYR2 provides an intriguing
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34 287 new avenue for diagnosis, research, and therapy.
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289 Materials and Methods

290 **US Population.** The source population for cases included patients primarily
291 recruited through advertising on the HER Foundation website (42). All participants
292 gave informed consent. This study was approved by the UCLA Institutional Review
293 Board. The whole-exome sequencing study included 15 affected individuals and 3
294 unaffected individuals from 5 families. Follow-up analysis to confirm segregation in
295 Family 1 included additional family members -3 unaffected and 1 affected individual
296 from Family 1 (Figure 2A). The follow-up case-control population from the United
297 States included 584 HG cases and 431 unaffected controls.

298 The stringent study criteria were designed to exclude all cases and controls that
299 would increase phenotypic uncertainty. Briefly, the inclusion criteria for affected
300 individuals was a diagnosis of HG and treatment with IV fluids or total parenteral
301 nutrition/nasogastric feeding tube. Each participant was asked to recruit a non-
302 blood related acquaintance with at least 2 pregnancies that went beyond 27 weeks.
303 Controls were eligible if they experienced normal or no nausea/vomiting in their
304 pregnancy, no weight loss due to nausea/vomiting and no medical attention in their
305 pregnancy due to nausea/vomiting. Participants were enrolled in the family study if
306 they had 2 or more additional family members with HG. Affected family members
307 were eligible if they reported severe NVP accompanied by > 5% weight loss, and
308 medication or hospitalization for HG. Control family members had the same
309 eligibility requirements as controls, and all other family members (including males)
310 were labeled as unknown. Each family submitted saliva samples for a minimum of
311 three affected individuals. A recent review of whole-exome sequencing shows how

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3 312 whole-exome sequencing of single individuals, siblings, or 1 to 5 small families has
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5 313 successfully identified causal variants for many genetically heterogeneous
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7 314 conditions including hearing loss, intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum
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9 315 disorders, and cardiovascular disease. For example, since the introduction of the
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11 316 whole-exome sequencing technique, genes for 12 intellectual disability syndromes
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13 317 were identified by whole-exome sequencing of 3 or less families, and 13 more were
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15 318 identified by whole-exome sequencing of 5 or less affected individuals (43).
16
17 319 Therefore, in this study, we chose to analyze a total of 18 individuals: 3 affected
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19 320 individuals from each of 5 families with HG in addition to 3 unaffected controls from
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21 321 3 of the five families to further limit potential causal variants by dismissing those
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23 322 variants identified in unaffected family members. Pedigrees of two families of
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25 323 Caucasian/European descent analyzed in this whole-exome sequencing study, and
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27 324 whose variants are described herein, are shown in Figure 2. Family 1 is of mixed
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29 325 Finnish, Swedish, English, and German descent. We collected DNA from 4 cases (4
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31 326 sisters) and 4 controls (2 sisters, mother, and maternal aunt) from Family 1. This
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33 327 family consists of 9 sisters, 5 affected and 4 unaffected, but only those siblings who
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35 328 participated are shown in Figure 2A. Family 2 is of mixed Scottish, German, Swiss,
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37 329 English, and Italian descent and we collected DNA from 3 affected sisters (Figure
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39 330 2B).

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45 332 **DNA**

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47 333 Each study participant was asked to submit a saliva sample for DNA analysis. A
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49 334 saliva collection kit (Oragene, Ottawa, Canada) was self-administered for submitting
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3 335 2 milliliters of saliva. DNA was extracted from 75% of the saliva sample according to
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6 336 the manufacturer's instructions (Oragene, Ottawa Canada).
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10 338 **Whole-Exome Sequencing**

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13 339 We sequenced the entire exomes (~50 Mb) of 15 affected individuals and 3
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15 340 unaffected individuals from 5 HG families. Paired end reads 100 nucleotides (2 X
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17 341 100 nucleotides) were generated on an Illumina HiSeq 2000. Each sample was
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19 342 sequenced on 3 different lanes to avoid lane bias. Qseq files were converted into
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21 343 Sanger-formatted FASTQ files and reads were mapped to the reference human
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23 344 genome build hg19 using the Burrows Wheeler Alignment algorithm (BWA) (22).
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25 345 Duplicated reads were marked by Picard. The Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK) was
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27 346 used for local realignment around indel sites followed by a base quality
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29 347 recalibration (23). For reliable SNP calling we used genotype quality ≥ 10 ; read
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31 348 QUAL ≥ 30 and a minimum read depth of 4. The combined total variants from all 18
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33 349 individuals were filtered as shown in Figure 1. Synonymous variants, which are
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35 350 unlikely to be causal, were discarded. The identified variants were further filtered
36
37 351 against variants present in the HapMap, 1000 Genomes Project and
38
39 352 dbSNP132 databases, selecting for novel variants and known variants with minor
40
41 353 allele frequency $< 5\%$ (23,24,). These variants were further filtered by selecting
42
43 354 variants predicted to affect protein function using PolyPhen and SIFT (25,26).
44
45 355 Variants were further filtered by deleting variants present in the 3 unaffected family
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47 356 controls. All variants were discarded that were not shared by all 3 whole- exome
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49 357 sequenced affected family members with each family. Finally, we identified 27 genes
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3 358 involved in more than one family, among which the most promising candidate was
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5 359 RYR2: among 27 genes screened for functional effect, which included genes 1)
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7
8 360 functionally relevant to reproduction (ie hormones), 2) nausea and vomiting (ie
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10 361 gastric tract, vomiting center of the brain), and 3) genes expressed in relevant
11
12 362 tissues (ie ovary, placenta, vomiting center of the brain), only RYR2 fulfilled all 3
13
14 363 criteria (27-31).
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20 365 **Genotyping**

21
22 366 The variant in RYR2 in Family 1 is a novel variant in
23
24 367 exon68:c.T9830G:p.Leu3277Arg. Sanger Sequencing was used to confirm whole-
25
26 368 exome sequencing results and to confirm or deny segregation with the disease in
27
28 369 the remaining family members who were not included in exome sequencing (1
29
30 370 affected sister and 1 unaffected sister, the unaffected mother, and an unaffected
31
32 371 maternal aunt). PCR primer pairs GGAAGTCATACTGCCCATGC and
33
34 372 GGGGTACAATGTCTTCTTCCA were designed from genomic DNA to amplify and
35
36 373 sequence the variant. PCR amplification and sequencing were carried out using
37
38 374 standard methods. The SIFT protein prediction tool was used to determine that the
39
40 375 novel SNP resulted in a damaging protein product, and the Provean Prediction tool
41
42 376 was used to determine that it was deleterious. (26,44). Taqman primers were
43
44 377 designed for both the novel variant in Family 1 and the rare variant rs3766871
45
46 378 identified in Family 2, and used to screen individuals from ≥ 573 HG cases and ≥ 426
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48 379 controls using Applied Biosystems PRISM 7900HT Sequence Detection System
49
50 380 (TaqMan) for large-scale screening. The call rate was $> 96\%$. P-values were
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3 381 calculated using a 1-tailed Fisher's exact test (45) and Odds ratios were calculated
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6 382 using the Odds ratio calculator (46).
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10 384 **Norwegian GWAS**

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12 385 Summary statistics for RYR2 were analyzed for independent replication in the
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14 386 Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study (MoBa), a prospective population-based
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16
17 387 pregnancy cohort conducted by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health recruited
18
19 388 from Norway during 1999-2008 (47,48). Ethical approval for the MoBa study has
20
21 389 been approved by the Regional Committee for Medical Research Ethics and all
22
23 390 women provided informed written consent.
24
25

26
27 391 Analysis and results were calculated using data obtained from self-reported
28
29 392 questionnaires (49). The samples in this HG study included 385 affected mothers
30
31 393 and 2280 unaffected mothers answering questionnaire 3 (Q3) question 27; "...Have
32
33 394 you been admitted to hospital since you became pregnant...forprolonged nausea
34
35 395 and vomiting"? The samples included were singleton pregnancies of Norwegian
36
37 396 ancestry.
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41 397 Maternal genome-wide data were obtained using Illumina HumanCoreExome
42
43 398 genotyping BeadChip v1.1. Imputation was performed with reference panel HapMap
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45 399 phase 3 build 36 using IMPUTE2 (50). Standard association analyses were
46
47 400 performed in PLINK 1.7 (51). Genotypes were analyzed with allelic and genotypic
48
49 401 approach. Regression analysis was performed using a *z-score transformed*
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51 402 *gestational weight gain (GWG)* based on maternal pre-pregnancy weight and weight
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3 403 change until week 18 of gestation and showed candidate SNPs to be strongly
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6 404 associated with weight loss.
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10 406 **Australian GWAS**

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12
13 407 The Australian sample is composed of genotyped women unselected for HG who are
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15 408 part of the Australian Endogene Study and the QIMR Mothers of Twins Study, which
16
17 409 are two of the cohorts participating in the NVP Genetics Consortium (52).

18
19
20 410 As part of health and wellbeing surveys, a total of 1440 women reported their
21
22 411 experience in their pregnancy with the most severe NVP using a five-point
23
24 412 questionnaire adapted from Zhang et al (2011). The reported severity was
25
26 413 distributed as follows: 'I did not have any nausea or vomiting' (n = 677); 'I had some
27
28 414 NVP for more 7 days, but I didn't see a doctor or nurse about this. It didn't disrupt
29
30 415 my daily routine very much' (n = 163); 'It disrupted my daily routine but it didn't
31
32 416 affect my weight and I didn't need medication to manage it' (n = 331); 'It really
33
34 417 disrupted my daily routine and I was prescribed medication but it didn't lead to
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36 418 weight loss' (n = 139); 'It really disrupted my daily routine. I lost weight. I was
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38 419 prescribed medication or was put on a drip or feeding tube' (n = 130). For the
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40 420 present study, we analyzed the continuous phenotype. We also conducted
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42 421 case/control analyses using 946 women who were in the extremes of the severity
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44 422 scale. Women reporting no NVP (n=677) were used as controls and women
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46 423 reporting severe NVP (n=269) with disruption of their daily routine and medication
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48 424 prescription, including those losing weight and put on a drip or feeding tube, were
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50 425 used as cases. The samples were genotyped using Illumina arrays and genotype
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3 426 imputation was completed using 1000 Genome Phase 3 version 5 as reference data.
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6 427 For validation of the rare imputed SNP rs3766871, we also conducted case/control
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8 428 analysis in a more stringent subset by removing the participants who did not report
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10 429 weight loss from the cases, thus limiting to a more stringent case phenotype
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12 430 (n=130),
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16 17 18 432 **Copy-number analysis of RYR2**

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20 433 Quantitative real-time PCR analysis of RYR2 was performed in triplicate on 10 ng
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22 434 from 240 DNA samples (101 extreme cases requiring tube feeding and 139 extreme
23
24 435 controls with no nausea/vomiting in ≥ 2 pregnancies) on 384-microwell optical
25
26 436 plates using the predesigned Taqman Copy Number Assay covering 90 base pairs
27
28 437 within a likely pathogenic duplicated region in autism (34) (Assay ID:
29
30 438 Hs00137466_cn FAM labeled, MGB probe, ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA)
31
32 439 and the RNaseP Copy Number Reference Assay (VIC labeled, TAMRA probe). Melt-
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34 440 curve analysis was applied and all results were normalized to RNaseP levels and
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36 441 calculated using the $\Delta\Delta C_T$ method. One sample with a deletion originally identified
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38 442 in the above triplicate assay along with 5 normal control samples, were assayed a
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40 443 second time in duplicate (re-diluted to 10 ng from the original DNA sample) to
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42 444 verify the deletion.
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51 52 53 54 447 **Acknowledgements**

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6 450 **Disclosure of interests.**

7
8 451 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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13 453 **Contribution to authorship.**

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15 454 All authors fulfill authorship criteria as defined in the instructions for authors.

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20 456 **Details of ethics approval.**

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22 457 This study was approved by the UCLA Institutional Review Board on 5/20/2011 as

23
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26 459 Ethics Committee.

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3 629 **Figure 1. Whole-exome sequencing filtering steps identifies RYR2 variants.**
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4 631 **Figure 2. Pedigrees and Genotypes of A) Family 1 and B) Family 2.** In Family 1,
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6 632 A, B, C, and D all were affected with HG. Participant A reported pic line, medication
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8 633 and weight loss to treat HG, B reported a 10 pound weight loss and medication to
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10 634 treat symptoms until birth, C reported intravenous fluids (IV) and a 23 pound
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12 635 weight loss, and D reported IV fluids, hospitalization, weight loss, and medication to
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14 636 treat her HG. Among the unaffected family members, participant E reported 2
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16 637 pregnancies with mild nausea, no weight loss, and no medication; F reported 5
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18 638 pregnancies with no nausea and vomiting, no weight loss, and no medication in any
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20 639 pregnancy, G reported 13 pregnancies with normal nausea and vomiting, no weight
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22 640 loss, no medication, and H reported 3 pregnancies with normal nausea and
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24 641 vomiting, no weight loss, and no medication. For Family 2, all 3 sisters were affected
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26 642 and all 3 sisters required medication and IV fluids to treat their HG. Sisters A and C
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28 643 were both hospitalized for HG. Their mother was also affected but did not
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30 644 participate.
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646 **Table 1. RYR2 variant table.**

RYR2 VARIANT	SOURCE	EXON/INTRON	METHOD	SCREENED	OR	P- value
NOVEL AA*	FAMILY 1, USA	68:c.T9830G	Genotyping	584 HG, 431 C	NA	NA
rs3766871	FAMILY 2, USA	37:c.G5656A	Genotyping	584 HG, 431 C	1.29	0.046
rs3766871	FAMILY 2, USA2	37:c.G5656A	Genotyping	106 HG, 141 C	4.27	0.023
rs3766871	NORWEGIAN	37:c.G5656A	GWAS	318 HG, 1823 C	1.32	0.661
rs3766871	AUSTRALIAN	37:c.G5656A	GWAS	269 HG, 677 C	0.89	0.693
rs3766871	AUSTRALIAN2	37:c.G5656A	GWAS	130 HG, 677 C	1.17	0.665
rs790899	NORWEGIAN	intron 95	GWAS	385 HG, 2280 C	1.19	0.033
rs790899	AUSTRALIAN	intron 95	GWAS	269 HG, 677 C	1.33	0.013
rs1891246	NORWEGIAN	intron 100	GWAS	385 HG, 2280 C	1.23	0.009
rs1891246	AUSTRALIAN	intron 100	GWAS	269 HG, 677 C	1.3	0.014
NOVEL DEL*	USA	16:237619976	Copy Number	101 HG, 139C	NA	NA

HG=Hyperemesis Gravidarum, C=Unaffected Control, TPN=Severe HG requiring tube feeding

*AA=deleterious amino acid change, *DEL=deletion in exon 16 of unknown size

NOVEL AA* (c.9830T>G, p.Leu3277Arg)

rs3766871 (NM_001035.2:c.5656G>A, NP_001026.2:p.Gly1886Ser)

rs790899 (NM_001035.2:c.13913+381G>A; XM_006711804.2:c.13943+381G>A)

rs1891246 (NM_001035.2:c.14434-490T>G; XM_005273224.1:c.14491-490T>G)

USA2 and AUSTRALIAN2 are datasets with more stringent criteria.

USA2 (HG=requiring iv feeding, C=no NVP)

AUSTRALIAN2 (HG=weight loss, C=no NVP)

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648 **Table 2. Adding zscore weight change until gestational week 18 as covariate**
 649 **shows rs790899 and rs1891246 associated with weight.**

CHR	SNP	BP	A1	TEST	NMISS	OR	STAT	P-VALUE
1	rs790899	237957678	C	ADD	2499	1.267	2.649	0.00808
							-	
1	rs790899	237957678	C	COV1	2499	0.2447	11.66	2.12E-31
1	rs1891246	237981846	G	ADD	2499	1.292	2.968	0.002993
							-	
1	rs1891246	237981846	G	COV1	2499	0.2424	11.71	1.19E-31

rs790899 (NM_001035.2:c.13913+381G>A; XM_006711804.2:c.13943+381G>A)

rs1891246 (NM_001035.2:c.14434-490T>G; XM_005273224.1:c.14491-490T>G)

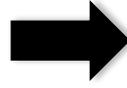
Human Molecular Genetics, Fejzo

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For Peer Review

Figure 1. Whole-exome sequencing filtering steps

1. 58006 variants from 18 individuals in 5 families
2. 29856 after removal of synonymous variants
3. 13509 after removal of common variants
4. 9870 after removal of non-damaging variants
5. 6481 after removal of variants in unaffected



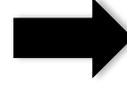
6A. 94 variants shared by Family 1



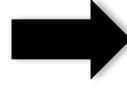
6B. 156 variants shared by Family 2



6C. 405 variants in remaining 3 Families



7. 27 Genes with variant(s) segregating in more than one family



RYR2

Figure 2A.

Human Molecular Genetics
Family 1

RYR2:NM_001035:

exon68:c.T9830G:p.Leu3277Arg

Clear = Unaffected
Grey = Affected

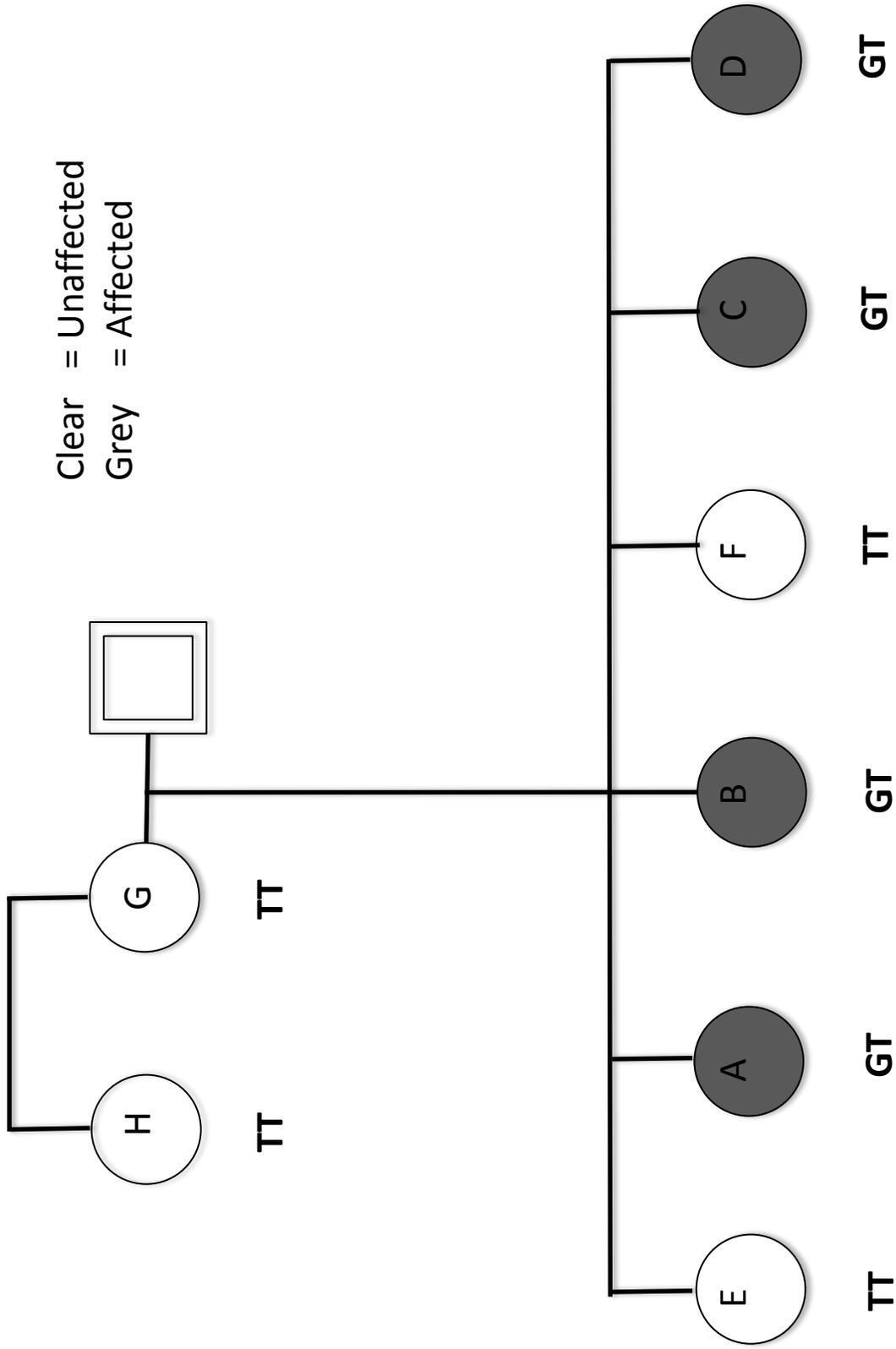
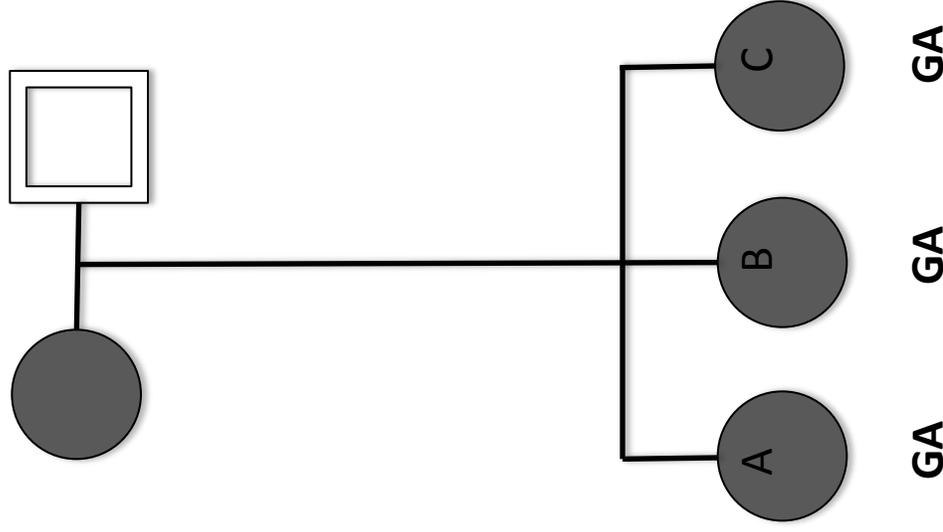


Figure 2B.

Human Molecular Genetics
Family 2

RYR2:NM_001035: rs3766871
exon37:c.G5656A:p.Gly1886Ser

Clear = Unaffected
Grey = Affected



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