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A severe case of Hyperemesis Gravidarum complicated by altered gastrointestinal motility and Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus.

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Background

Hyperemesis Gravidarum continues to be a challenging entity of obstetric medicine, leading to a significant number of hospitalisations each year and known to have a detrimental impact upon patients' quality of life (1). It presents in 0.3-1.5% of all live birth pregnancies, yet the severity and responsiveness to therapy varies greatly (2-3). While various hormonal and metabolic factors have been implicated in the pathogenesis of Hyperemesis Gravidarum, the exact cause remains unknown.

Case Report

A 28-year-old primigravida woman with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus was transferred to a tertiary facility from a nearby regional hospital. She was admitted to ICU and received Total Parenteral Nutrition

in light of starvation ketosis and labile blood glucose levels. Her presentation was further complicated by the development of pre-eclamptic toxemia. Preceding this, she had multiple early pregnancy hospital admissions for uncontrollable nausea, vomiting and severe abdominal pain. A MRI abdomen and gastroscopy found no abnormalities. The patient was managed within a large multidisciplinary team. The patient's abdominal pain worsened despite high analgesic requirements and the decision was made to deliver by Caesarean section at 33 weeks gestational age. Post-delivery, her symptoms rapidly resolved over the next three days.

Discussion

This case is intriguing as the patient's history and investigations aligned

with the diagnostic hypothesis of gastroparesis. However, we were unable to confirm this with a gastric emptying study. Nonetheless, the lack of pathology on all anatomical investigations indicates altered motility, requiring a very specialised multidisciplinary team approach.

Conclusion

We conclude that further research into pregnancy related gastrointestinal motility disorders is required to better guide our management of severe Hyperemesis Gravidarum.

References

1. Hyperemesis Gravidarum is associated with substantial economic burden in addition to severe physical and psychological suffering, *Israel journal of health policy*
2. Hyperemesis gravidarum: assessment and management, *Australian Family Physician*.
3. Hyperemesis gravidarum, a literature review, *Human Reproductive Update*.