

HUNTINGTON PLAZA PEDIATRIC GROUP

VOMITING

Many cases of vomiting are caused by a viral infection of the stomach (viral gastroenteritis) and may last up to one week. Vomiting may be present with a combination of symptoms that include diarrhea, fever, and generalized abdominal cramping. Treatment is focused on supportive care and adequate hydration.

Replacement of fluids is important in the vomiting child. Do not give your child ANYTHING to eat or drink for 30-60 minutes after vomiting. Your child will not become dehydrated by waiting, in fact giving their bellies time to rest and then offering small amounts of clear liquids is the best way to ensure adequate hydration. A teaspoon every couple of minutes will suffice at first, and then gradually increase the amount as it is tolerated. The vomiting is usually greatest in the first 24 hours.

If your child does not eat any solids for several days, don't worry. As long as they are drinking liquids and staying hydrated, they will be fine. Their appetite will return once they are feeling better.

Less than one year:

Breast fed:

- no solids or liquids for 30-60 minutes after vomiting
- provide breast milk in more frequently than usual
- May give oral rehydration solution (i.e., Pedialyte) for extra fluids if not breastfeeding as well as usual

Formula fed:

- no solids or liquids for 30-60 minutes after vomiting
- offer oral rehydration solutions (Pedialyte). Avoid plain water.
- give small amounts (one tsp every few minutes) and increase gradually.
- after 4 hours of no vomiting, return to formula

Older children:

- no solids or liquids (especially milk) for 30-60 minutes after vomiting
- oral rehydration solutions or clear fluids (Gatorade, chamomile tea, popsicles, Sprite or Ginger ale); NOT plain water.
- give small amounts: one teaspoon every few minutes and increase gradually as tolerated
- when your child feels hungry, start with bland starchy foods (crackers, toast, rice etc)
- resume regular diet after 24 hrs of no vomiting

Common mistakes in treatment of vomiting:

- giving liquids or solids too soon
- giving as much liquid as your child will take instead of starting small and gradually increasing the amount
- using medication; the most effective way to deal with vomiting is changing the diet (there is no medicine for vomiting).

Call our office if:

- No urine for over 8 hours, dry mouth, no tears
- Your child continues vomiting for more than 24 hours
- Any blood in the vomit
- Fever for more than 72 hours
- Abdominal pain
- Your child is acting sick