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CONSUMER HEALTH DAILY - BRIEFING

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Morning sickness may have silver lining

BUFFALO, N.Y., June 21 (UPI) -- Women who suffer through morning sickness during pregnancy may have a 30 percent lower risk of developing breast cancer later in life, says a U.S. study.

The study, conducted by the University at Buffalo, was based on data from participants in the Western New York Exposure and Breast Cancer Study, a population-based case-control study of breast cancer conducted in women 35 to 79 from two western New York counties between 1996 and 2001.

The analysis compared extensive data on pregnancy-related conditions from 1,001 women with primary breast cancer and 1,917 women without breast cancer matched to cases by age and race who served as controls, according to first author David Jaworowicz, Jr., a doctoral candidate in the School of Public Health and Health Professions.

"Although the exact mechanism responsible for causing nausea and vomiting during pregnancy has yet to be pinpointed, it likely is a result of changing levels of ovarian and placental hormone production, which may include higher circulating levels of a hormone called human chorionic gonadotropin," Jaworowicz said in a statement.

"In vitro studies have shown that this hormone possesses several activities that have potential protective effects against cancer cells."

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