

## Vitamin D Deficiency - What the Primary Care Physicians Needs to Know

Saturday, June 18, 2011  
Madrid I ~ 8:00am - 8:45am

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### Objectives

- Distinguish between the targets of the IOM recommendations and the advice physicians give their patients
- Cite evidence of skeletal benefit at serum 25(OH)D concentrations above 20 ng/mL
- Describe the cell-biologic basis of vitamin D action
- Recall several nonskeletal conditions aggravated by low vitamin D status

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**VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY**

WHAT THE PRIMARY CARE  
PHYSICIAN NEEDS TO KNOW

Robert P. Heaney, M.D.  
Creighton University Osteoporosis Research Center

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**DISCLOSURES**

- Robert P. Heaney, M.D.
  - > no personal financial relationships to disclose

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**SCOPE OF PRESENTATION**

- what are some of the manifestations of vitamin D deficiency?
- how common is vitamin D deficiency?
- what is the biologic basis for the effects of vitamin D in the body?
- how should the PCP approach the prevention and treatment of vitamin D deficiency?

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Working definition:

- a deficiency is any condition in which inadequate intake of a nutrient results in significant dysfunction or disease  
- or -
- deficiency is a nutrient status below the lower limit of some measurement

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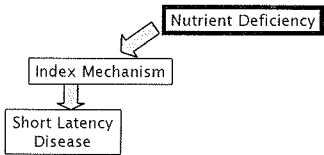
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### RETHINKING DEFICIENCY DISEASE



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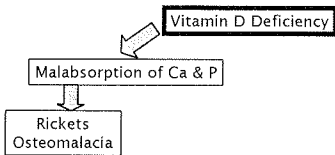
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### RETHINKING DEFICIENCY DISEASE



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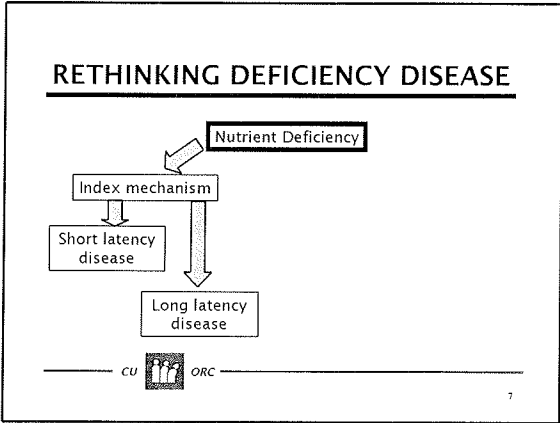
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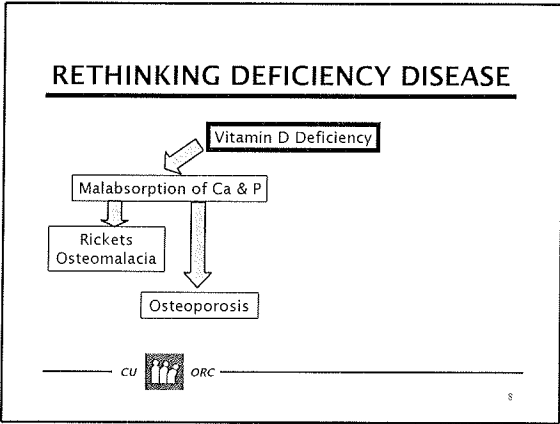
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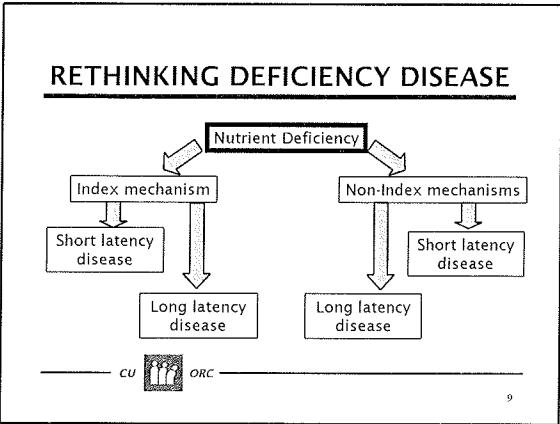
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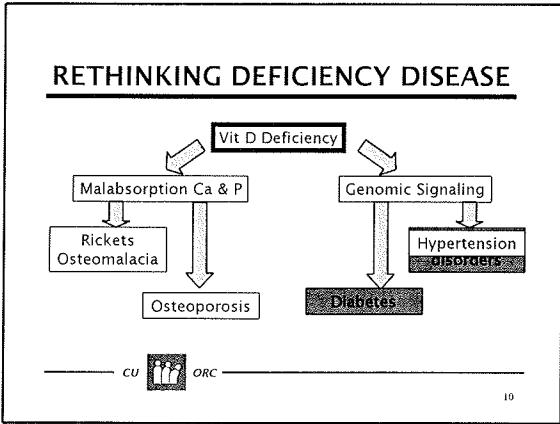
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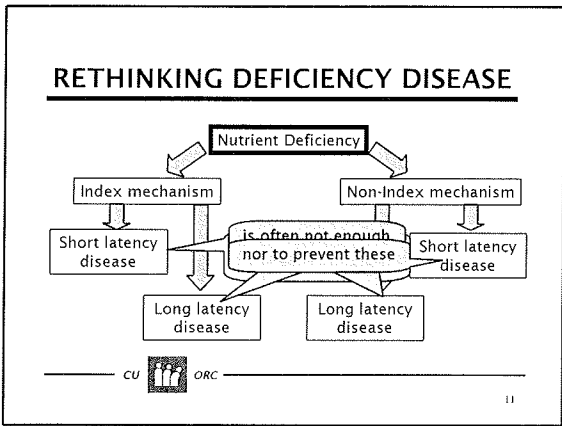
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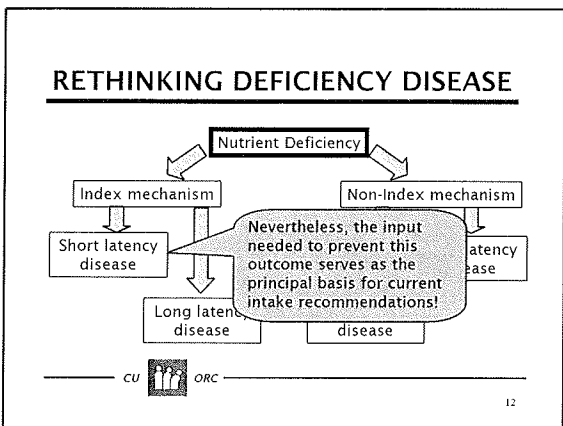
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Prevalence

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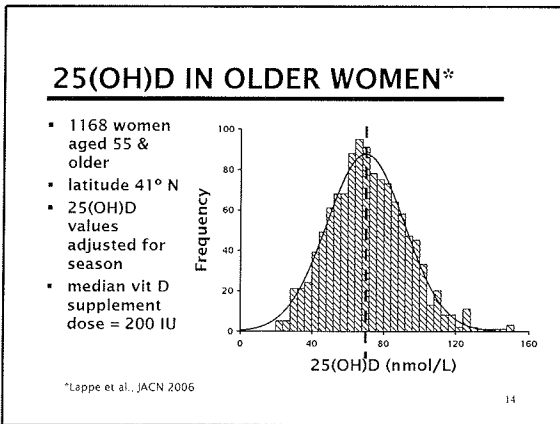
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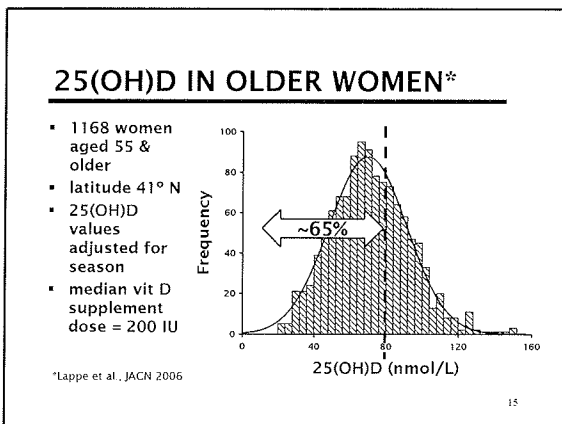
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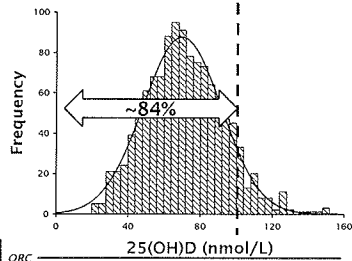
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### 25(OH)D IN OLDER WOMEN\*

- 1168 women aged 55 & older
- latitude 41° N
- 25(OH)D values adjusted for season
- median vit D supplement dose = 200 IU



Lappe et al. ORC

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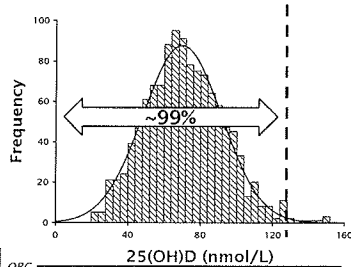
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Lappe et al. ORC

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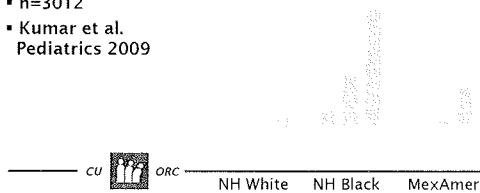
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### VIT D DEFICIENCY IN CHILDREN

- NHANES 2001-2004
- girls
- n=3012
- Kumar et al. Pediatrics 2009



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All studies, in virtually all nations, irrespective of latitude, show that the majority of the world's population has inadequate vitamin D status.

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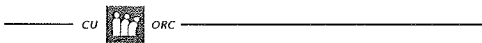
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### Rickets/Osteomalacia - Mechanism

- inadequate concentrations of Ca and P in blood to mineralize growth cartilage or newly formed bone matrix
- additionally, low serum Pi impairs chondroblast & osteoblast function



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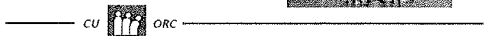
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### CANONICAL VIT D DEFICIENCY

- rickets in children
- osteomalacia in adults



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### INFANT VIT D INTAKE\*

- 2008 AAP infant recommendation 400 IU/d
- using data from Infant Feeding Practices Study, investigators found that:
  - > fewer than 1 in 7 were given any vitamin D, overall
  - > formula-fed: 20-37% met AAP recs\*\*
  - > breast-fed: 5-13% met AAP recs
  - > mixed-fed: 9-14% met AAP recs

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\* Perrine et al. 2010, Pediatrics 125:627-32  
\*\* Rates vary by age

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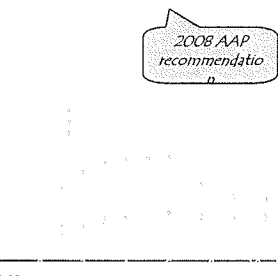
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### INFANT VITAMIN D INTAKE\*

- Infant Feeding Practices Study
- > 33,000 infants
- 2005-2007
- Intakes (1 mo):
  - > breast - 43%
  - > formula - 26%
  - > mixed - 32%

2008 AAP recommendation



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\* Perrine et al. 2010, Pediatrics 125:627-32

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### CRANIOTABES AND ABNORMAL VITAMIN D

Note "hot cross bun" skull in this 5 mo old

1120 consecutive neonates in Japan  
22% had craniotabes; median 25(OH)D at 1 mo: < 10 ng/mL

\* Yorifuji et al., JCEM, 95:1784-88 (2008)



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Manifestations/Consequences

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**WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?**

- bone diseases, falls, & fractures
- hypertension
- ↑ risk of cardiac disease & death
- prematurity, low birth weight, & ↑ Caesareans
- diabetes & metabolic syndrome
- periodontal disease
- decreased resistance to infection
- various cancers
- ↑ risk of multiple sclerosis
- ↑ risk of schizophrenia

the IOM confined its recommendations to this group of outcomes

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**WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?**

- bone diseases, falls, & fractures
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- ↑ risk of cardiac disease & death
- prematurity, low birth weight, & ↑ Caesareans
- diabetes & metabolic syndrome
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for these it reported that there was not enough information to permit setting an intake requirement

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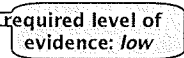
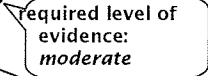
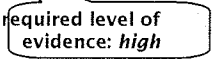
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### RECOMMENDED FOR WHOM?

- myself 
- my patients & clients 
- the general public 

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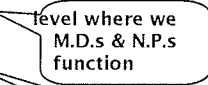
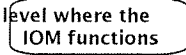
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### RECOMMENDED FOR WHOM?

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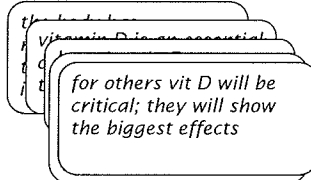
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### CHRONIC DISEASE PERSPECTIVE

- chronic disease is the breakdown of structure and/or function of a body system
- its origin is usually multifactorial
  - genes
  - environment
    - ✓ nutrition
    - ✓ infection
    - ✓ toxins
    - ✓ injury



for others vit D will be critical; they will show the biggest effects

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## VITAMIN D IN NATURE

- vitamin D exists in two chemically distinct forms:
  - > vitamin D2 - ergocalciferol
  - > vitamin D3 - cholecalciferol
- cholecalciferol is the natural form in animals; it is what we make in our skins on exposure to UV-B light

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## THEORETICAL MORTALITY CURVE

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## THEORETICAL MORTALITY CURVE

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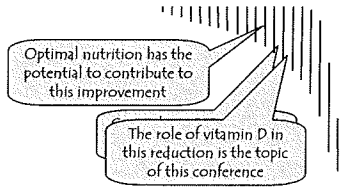
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## SQUARING THE MORTALITY CURVE



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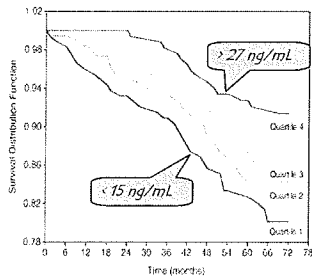
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## ALL-CAUSE MORTALITY\*

- 714 community dwelling women
- aged 70-79
- Baltimore Women's Health & Aging Studies I & II
- median follow-up: 72 months
- risk adjusted for age, race, BMI, & other factors associated with mortality



\* Semba et al. (2009) Nutr Res 29:525-530

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## VITAMIN D IN NATURE

- serum 25(OH)D is the way vitamin D status is evaluated
- lower end of acceptable range for serum 25(OH)D:
  - 75-80 nmol/L
  - (30-32 ng/mL)

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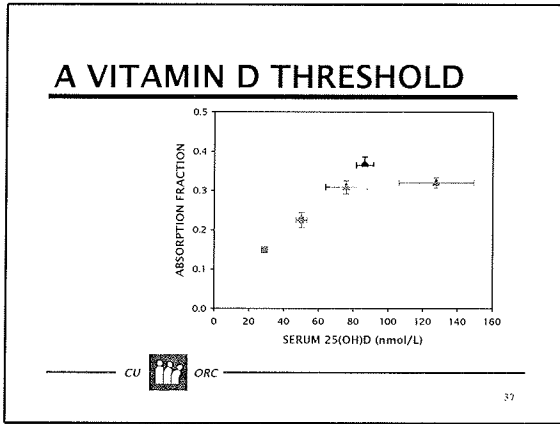
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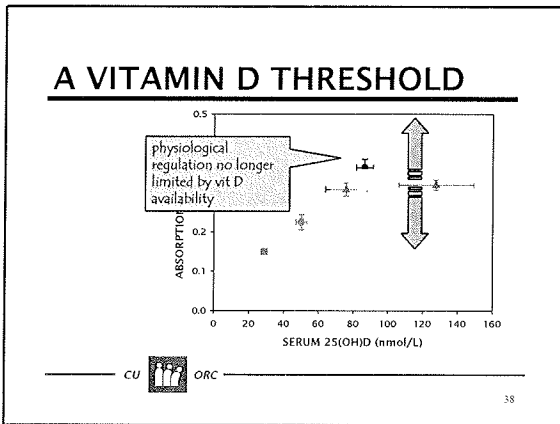
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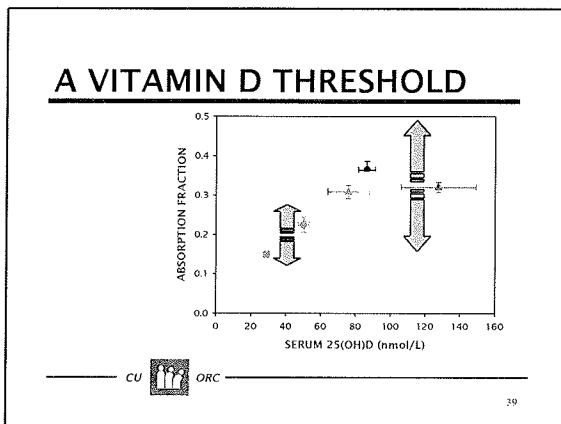
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Skeletal outcomes

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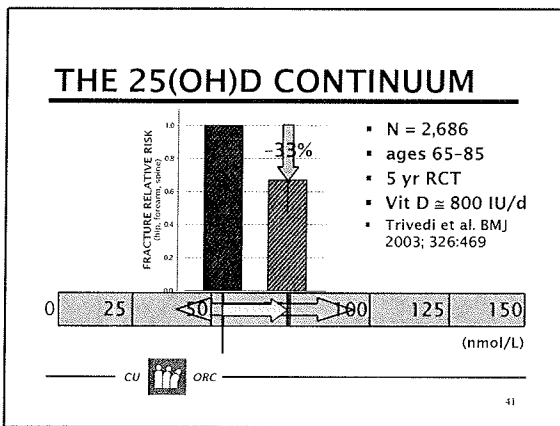
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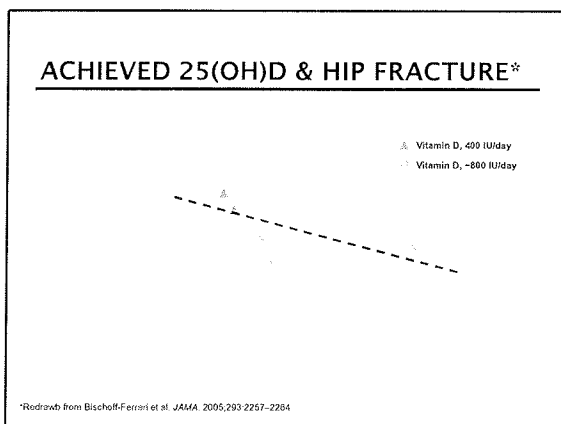
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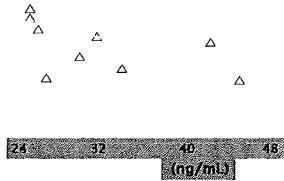
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### ACHIEVED 25(OH)D & NON-VERT FX\*



\* Redrawn from Bischoff-Ferrari et al. (2009) Arch Int Med; 169:551-561

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### VITAMIN D & OSTEOMALACIA

- 675 autopsy cases
- static histomorphometry on iliac crest
- osteoid volume evaluated as a function of vitamin D status
- Priemel et al., JBMR 2010; 25:305-12

osteoid accumulation is the histological hallmark of  
normally osteoid is mineralized within few days of its deposition; if it accumulates that means there is a mineral deficit



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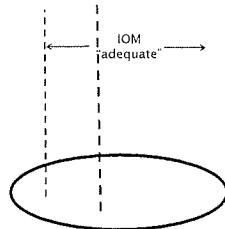
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### VITAMIN D & OSTEOMALACIA

- autopsy cases
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### VITAMIN D & OSTEOMALACIA

- autopsy cases
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### VITAMIN D & OSTEOMALACIA

- 121 postmenopausal women
- S. Australia
- seasonal differences in dynamic histomorphometric variables
- Need et al., JBMR 2007; 72:757-61

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### VITAMIN D & OSTEOMALACIA

- 121 postmenopausal women
- S. Australia
- seasonal differences in histomorphometric variables
- Need et al., JBMR 2007; 72:757-61

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### VITAMIN D & RISK OF FALLING\*

- 122 women
- Age: 63-99
- DB-RCT
  - > Ca 1,200 mg/d
  - > Ca + 800 IU Vit D
- 12 week duration
- 25(OH)D 12 ng/mL at baseline

Group	Fall Risk
Ca only	1.0
Ca + D	0.51 (-49%)

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\*Bischoff et al. JBM 2003; 18:343-351 49

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### VIT D & NEUROMUSCULAR FUNCTION\*

- 1359 men & women; mean age 75.5
- Amsterdam longitud. aging study
- neuromuscular performance measured on a scale of 0 to 12 (higher is better)
- each step statistically significant

SERUM 25(OH)D	Performance Score
<25	5.0
25-50	7.0
50-75	8.0
>75	8.8

\*Wicherts et al. JBM 2008; 13:1000-1005

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Cardiovascular outcomes

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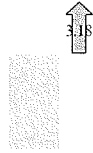
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### VIT D & BLOOD PRESSURE\*

- 1811 men & women with measured 25(OH)D levels\*\*
- 4 yrs' observation
- 97 cases of incident hypertension
- RR computed for 25(OH)D <15ng/mL vs. >30 ng/mL



\*Forman et al., 2007 Hypertension 49:1063  
 \*\* Health Profs Follow-up Study & Nurses Health Study

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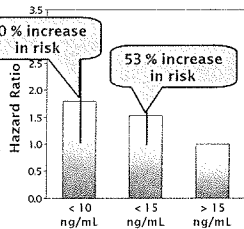
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### VIT D & CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

- 1739 Framingham Offspring members
- age: 59 yrs
- follow-up: 5.4 yrs
- 120 individuals developed a CV event
- HR calculated against 25(OH)D values > 15 ng/mL
- Wang et al. Circulation 2008




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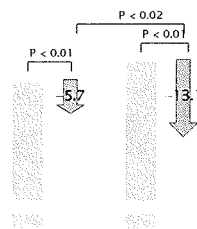
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### VIT D & BLOOD PRESSURE\*

- 148 women, aged 74 ± 1
- DB-RCT
- baseline 25(OH)D < 50 nmol/L
- treated for 8 wks with:  
 Ca 1200 mg/d or Ca + 800 IU vit D/d



\*Pfeifer et al., JCEM 2001, 56:1633-37

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Immune system outcomes

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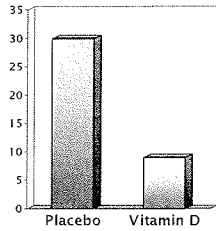
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### VITAMIN D & INFLUENZA\*

- 208 African-American, postmenopausal women
- 3 yr DB-RCT
- placebo or vit D<sub>3</sub>
  - > 800 IU/d - 2 yrs
  - > 2000 IU/d - 3<sup>rd</sup> yr
- basal 25(OH)D: 18.8 ± 7.5
- P < 0.002



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\*Aloia & U-Ng (2007) Epidemiol & Infect 56

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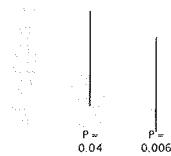
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### VITAMIN D & INFLUENZA\*

- DB-RCT
- winter 2008-2009
- 334 Japanese school children, aged 6-15
- mean wt: 35.5 kg
- 1200 IU D<sub>3</sub>/d in addition to self-supplementation



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\*Urashima et al., AJCN 2010 57

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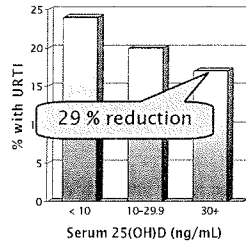
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### VITAMIN D & THE COMMON COLD\*

- 18,883 individuals in NHANES-III
- tested association between serum 25(OH)D & recent URTI
- P < 0.001
- association stronger for those with asthma & COPD



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Ginde et al., Arch Int Med 2009; 169: 58

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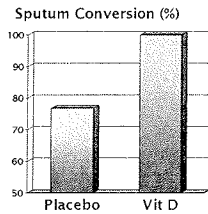
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### VITAMIN D & TUBERCULOSIS\*

- 67 pts with pulmonary TB
- standard treatment for all
- in addition, randomized to either vit D 10,000 IU/d or placebo
- P = 0.002



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\*Nursyam et al., Acta Med Indones 2006; 59

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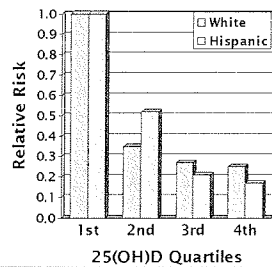
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### DIABETES & 25(OH)D

- Scragg et al., 2004 Diabetes Care 27:2813-18
- NHANES-III
- 6,228 adults
- plasma glucose independently predicted by BMI & serum 25OHD (fasting and 2 hr post load)



CU ORC

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Cancer outcomes

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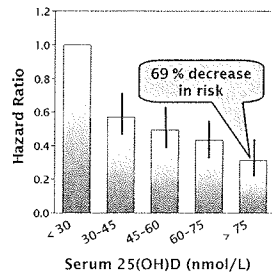
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### BREAST CANCER RISK

- Case-control study
  - > 1394 cases
  - > 1365 controls
- Odds ratio for CA inversely associated with vit D status [25(OH)D]
- *Abbas et al., Carcinogenesis (2008) 29:93-99*



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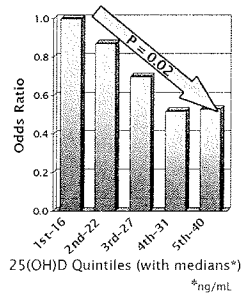
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### COLORECTAL CANCER

- Nurses' Health Study
- ages 46-78
- nested case-control study
- 193 incident cases
- 25(OH)D measured twice, prior to diagnosis
- *Feskanich et al., Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev 2004 13:1502-08*



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### VITAMIN D & CANCER\*

- 1179 healthy women
- aged 66.7 ± 7.3
- four year trial
- 1032 finished (87.5%)
- baseline 25(OH)D: 28 ng/mL ± 8
- three treatment groups:
  - > control
  - > Ca (1400-1500 mg/d)
  - > Ca plus D<sub>3</sub> (1100 IU/d)
- achieved 25(OH)D: 38 ng/mL ± 9

CU  ORC \*Lappe et al. AJCN 2007

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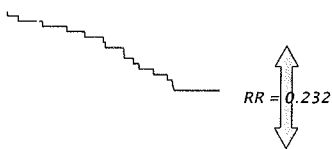
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### VITAMIN D & CANCER\*



RR = 0.232

\*Lappe et al. AJCN 2007

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### CANCERS BY TREATMENT (YRS 2-4)

Site	Placebo (n=266)	Ca+D (n = 403)
Breast	7 (2.6%)	4 (1.0%)
Colon	2 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)
Lung	3 (1.1%)	1 (0.2%)
Marrow/Lymphoma	4 (1.5%)	2(0.5%)
Other	2 (0.7%)	1 (0.2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 (6.8%)</b>	<b>8 (2.0%)*</b>

\* P < 0.05

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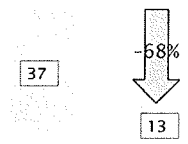
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### CANCER RISK (ALL)

- N = 1,179
- ages 55-85
- 4 yr RCT
- Vit D  $\geq$  1100 IU/d
- median achieved serum 25(OH)D = 29 ng/mL
- Lappe et al. AJCN 2007



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How is it that a single nutrient could have such diverse effects in so many body systems?

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### CELL MODELS

*old:* DNA in somatic cells functions mainly to make faithful copies for tissue repair or replacement



*new:* DNA functions constantly in synthesis of needed cellular apparatus

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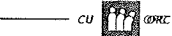
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## CELL MODELS

*old:* cell/tissue differentiation meant that each cell type contained different cytoplasmic apparatus



*new:* cell/tissue differentiation meant that only certain genes can be accessed in each tissue



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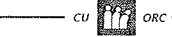
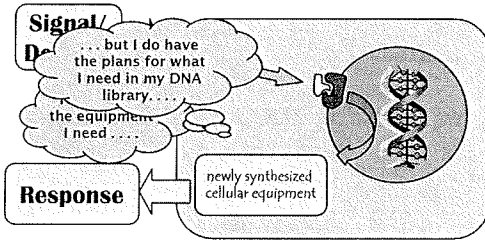
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## HOW A CELL RESPONDS



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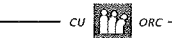
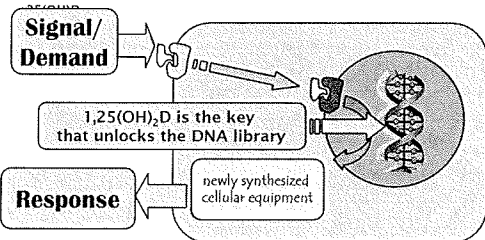
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## HOW A CELL RESPONDS



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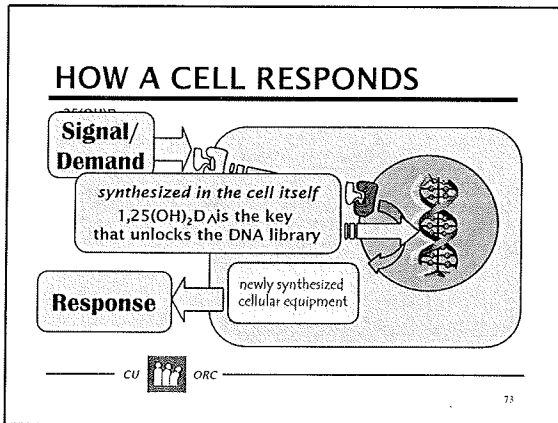
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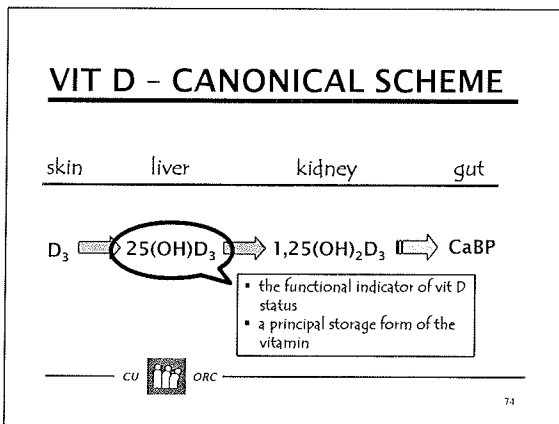
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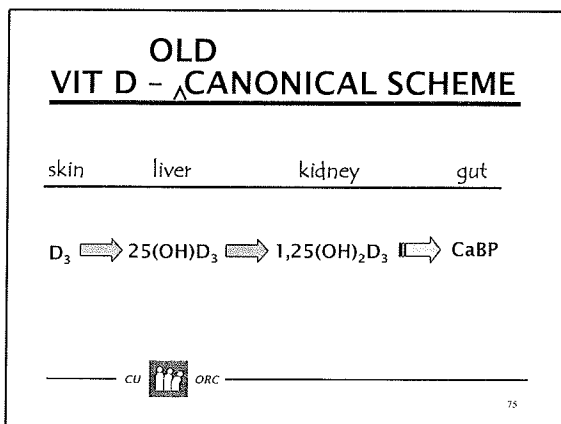
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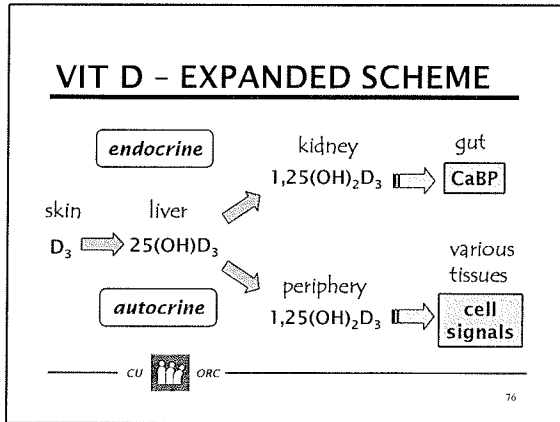
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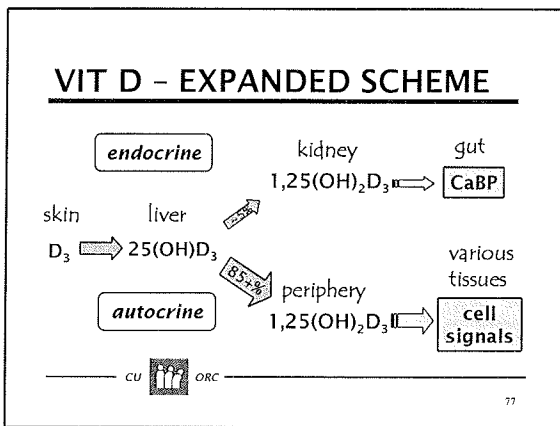
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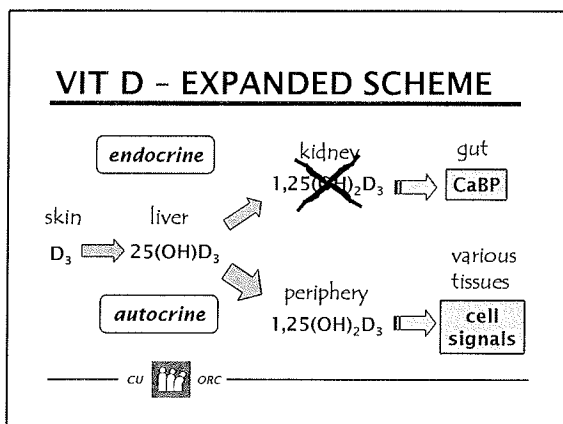
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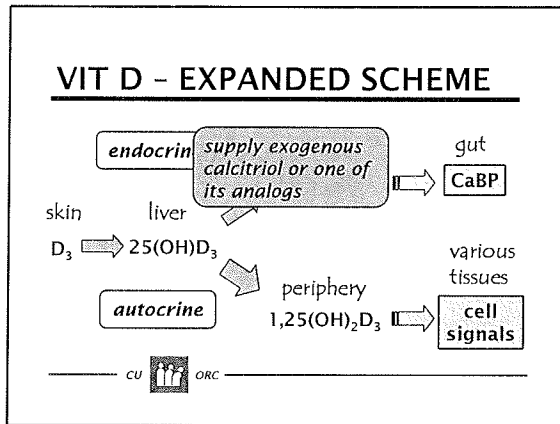
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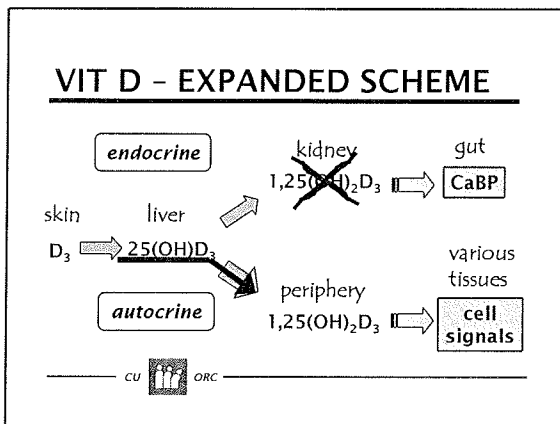
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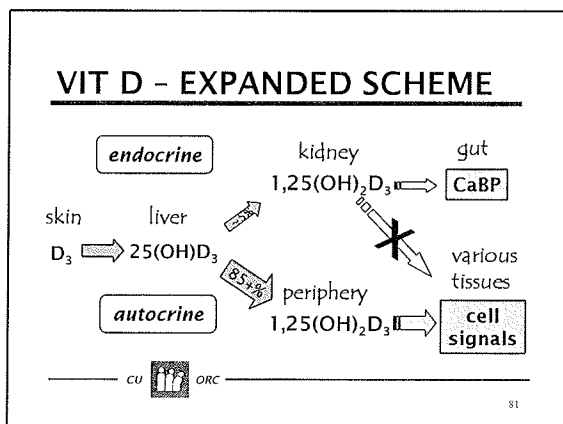
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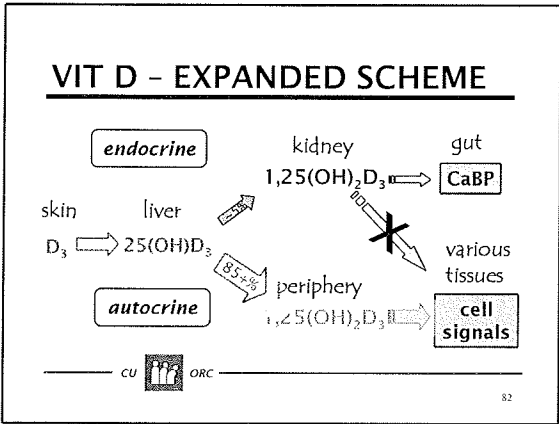
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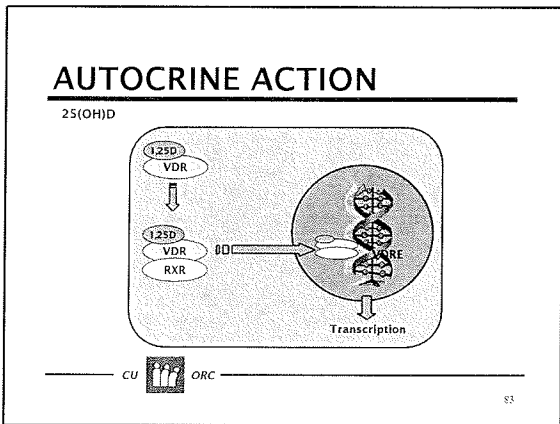
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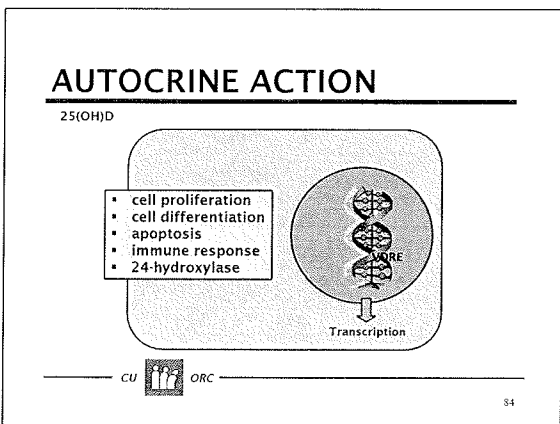
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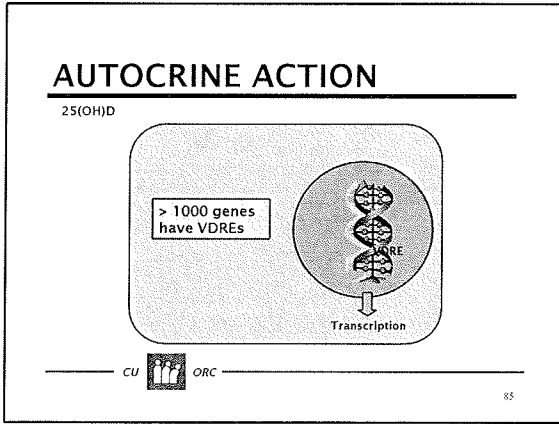
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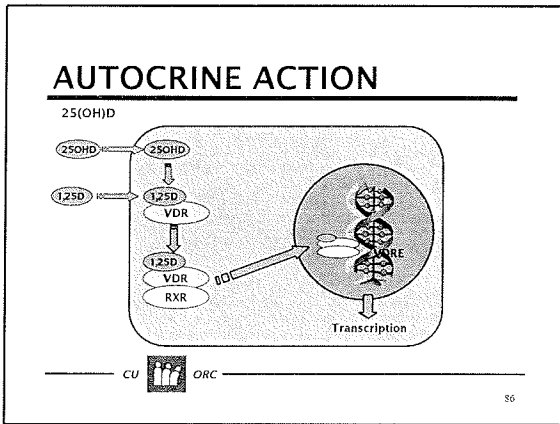
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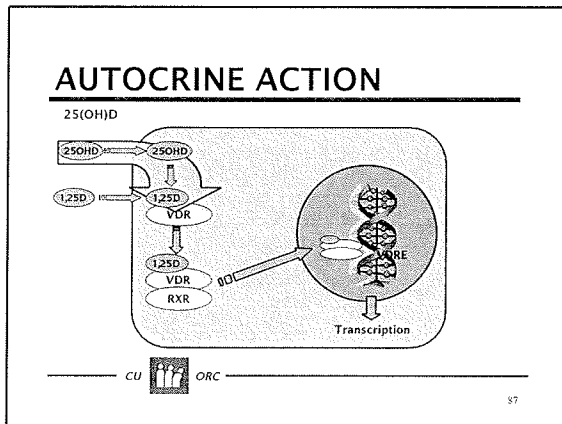
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This scheme means that each tissue

- has the amount of  $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$  it needs
- when it needs it
- and is not dependent upon a "one-size-fits all" systemic level of circulating  $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$

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Management

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**ASSESSING VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY**

- serum *total*  $25(\text{OH})\text{D}$  is the: -
  - functional indicator for vit D status
  - an important storage form of vit D at typical inputs
- serum  $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$  is of no value unless the MD is following treatment with vit  $\text{D}_2$
- serum  $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}$  does not measure vit D status (instead, it measures Ca need)

CU  ORC

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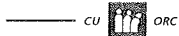
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### AN APPROACH TO VIT D REPLETION

- aim for serum 25(OH)D of 40 to 60 ng/mL
- as a first approximation assume a *total* needed input (all sources) of 75 IU/kg/d
- but: know that individual response varies hugely (6-fold range!); so monitor effect at ~120 day intervals
- many MDs prefer to use larger doses at the outset of treatment (e.g., 3X the expected daily dose daily for the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 weeks)



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Safety

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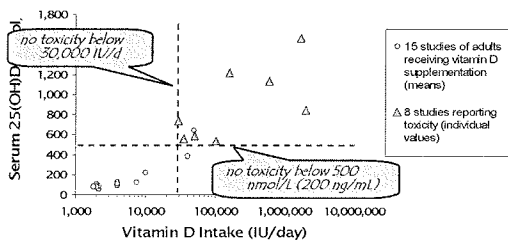
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### VITAMIN D INTAKE & TOXICITY\*



\* Hathcock JN et al. Am J Clin Nutr. 2007;85:6-18

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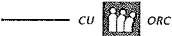
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## CONCLUSIONS

- serum 25(OH)D levels below 32 ng/mL are not adequate for any body system
- levels of as high as 50 ng/mL may be closer to optimal
- inputs from all sources combined (needed to sustain 32 ng/mL) are in the range of ~4,000 IU/d and higher
- in most healthy adults, 2000-3000 IU/d, in addition to all other inputs, will usually suffice



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Thank you

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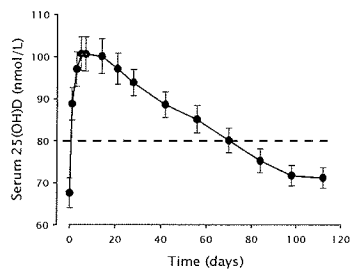
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## 25(OH)D RESPONSE TO LARGE DOSES\*

- 100,000 IU D<sub>3</sub>, by mouth, once



\*Ilahi, Armas, & Heaney (in press)

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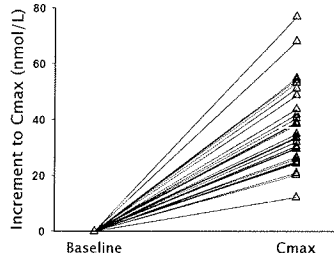
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### VARIABILITY OF 25(OH)D RESPONSE\*

- $\Delta$  25(OH)D to  $C_{max}$  ranged from +12 nmol/L to +76 nmol/L
- ~half of the variability due to body size



\*Ilahi, Armas, & Heaney (AJCN 2008)

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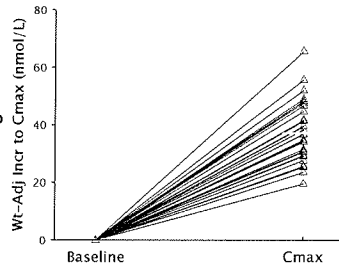
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### VARIABILITY OF 25(OH)D RESPONSE\*

- Wt-adjusted  $\Delta$  25(OH)D to  $C_{max}$  ranged from +20 nmol/L to +66 nmol/L



\*Ilahi, Armas, & Heaney (in press)

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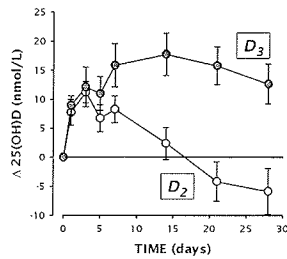
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### D<sub>2</sub> vs. D<sub>3</sub>\*

- single oral dose
- 50,000 IU
- D<sub>2</sub> or D<sub>3</sub>
- n = 10 in each group



\*Armas et al., 2004

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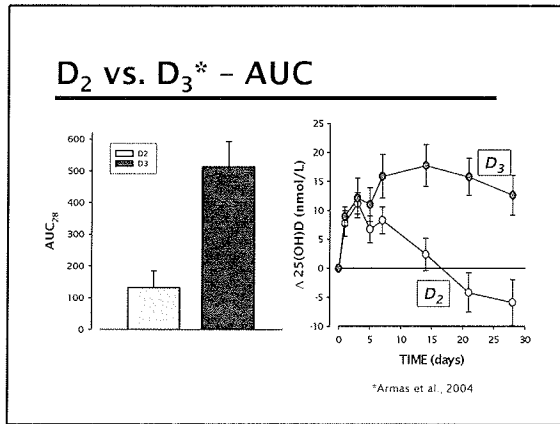
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