

Vitamin D and Cancer

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- **Biological Mechanisms**
- **Epidemiologic Studies**
- **Randomized Controlled Trials**
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The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE



American Journal of Epidemiology

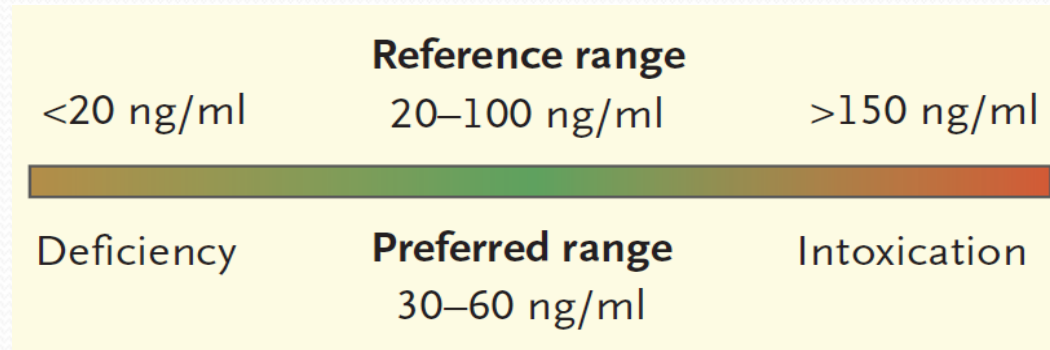
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Editorial

Anticancer Vitamins du Jour—The ABCED's So Far

Known and Unknowns

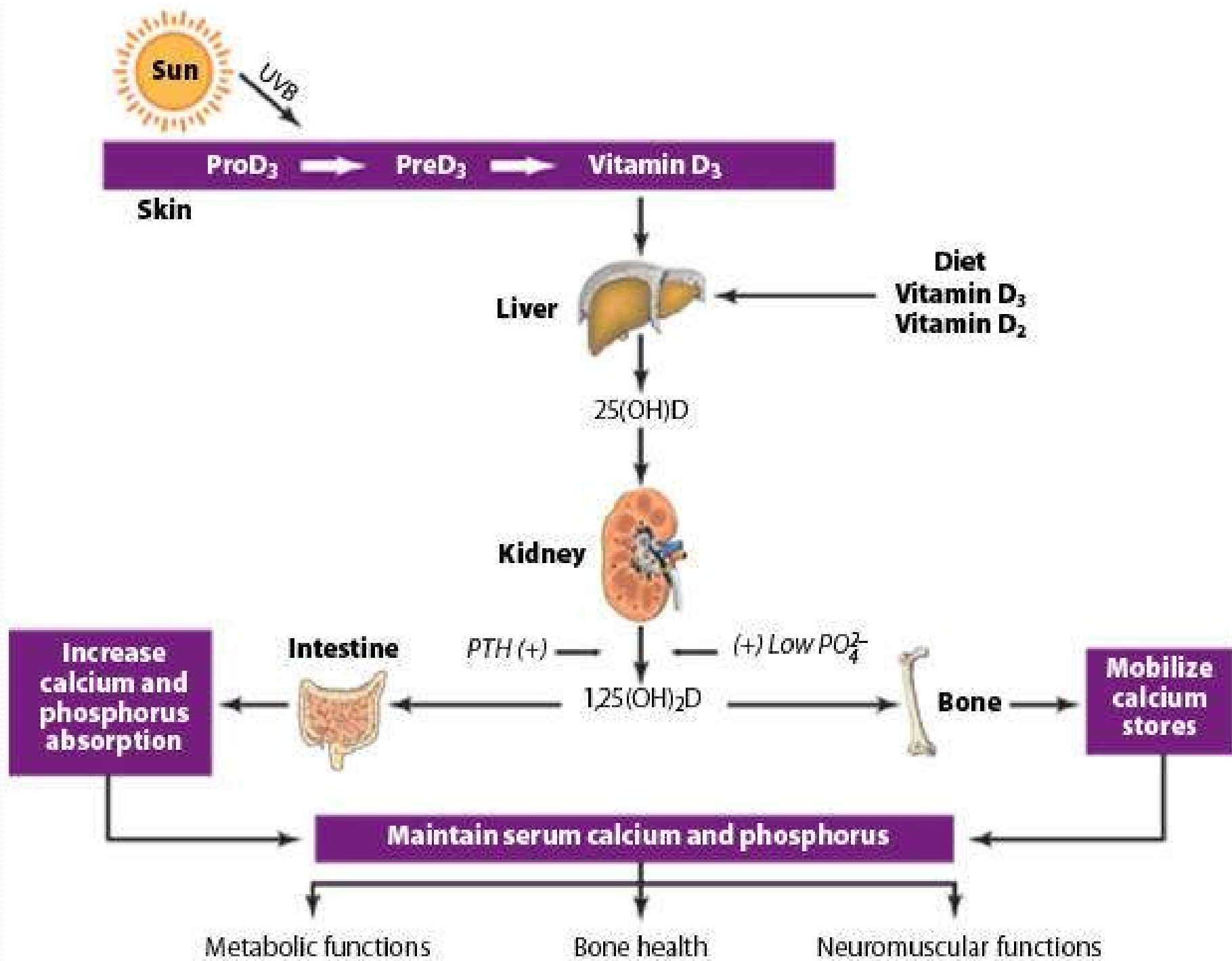
- WE KNOW – Vitamin D is important



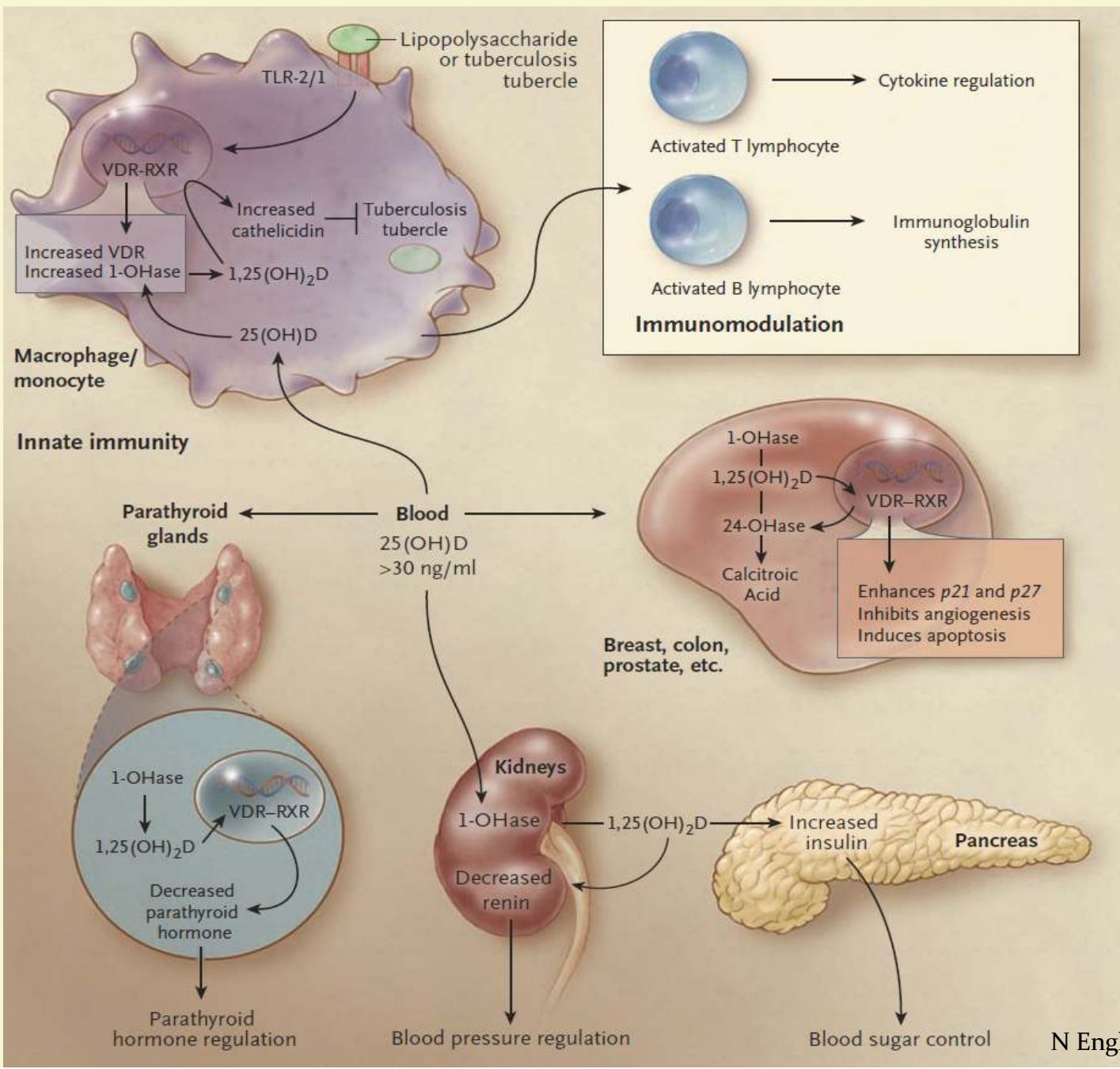
- < 20 ng/mL : deficient or insufficient
- Potentially harmful level: ≥ 150 ng/mL
 - hypercalcemia, vascular soft tissue calcification, hyperphosphatemia
- **UNKNOWNNS**
 - Optimal intake?
 - Optimal blood 25(OH)D level?



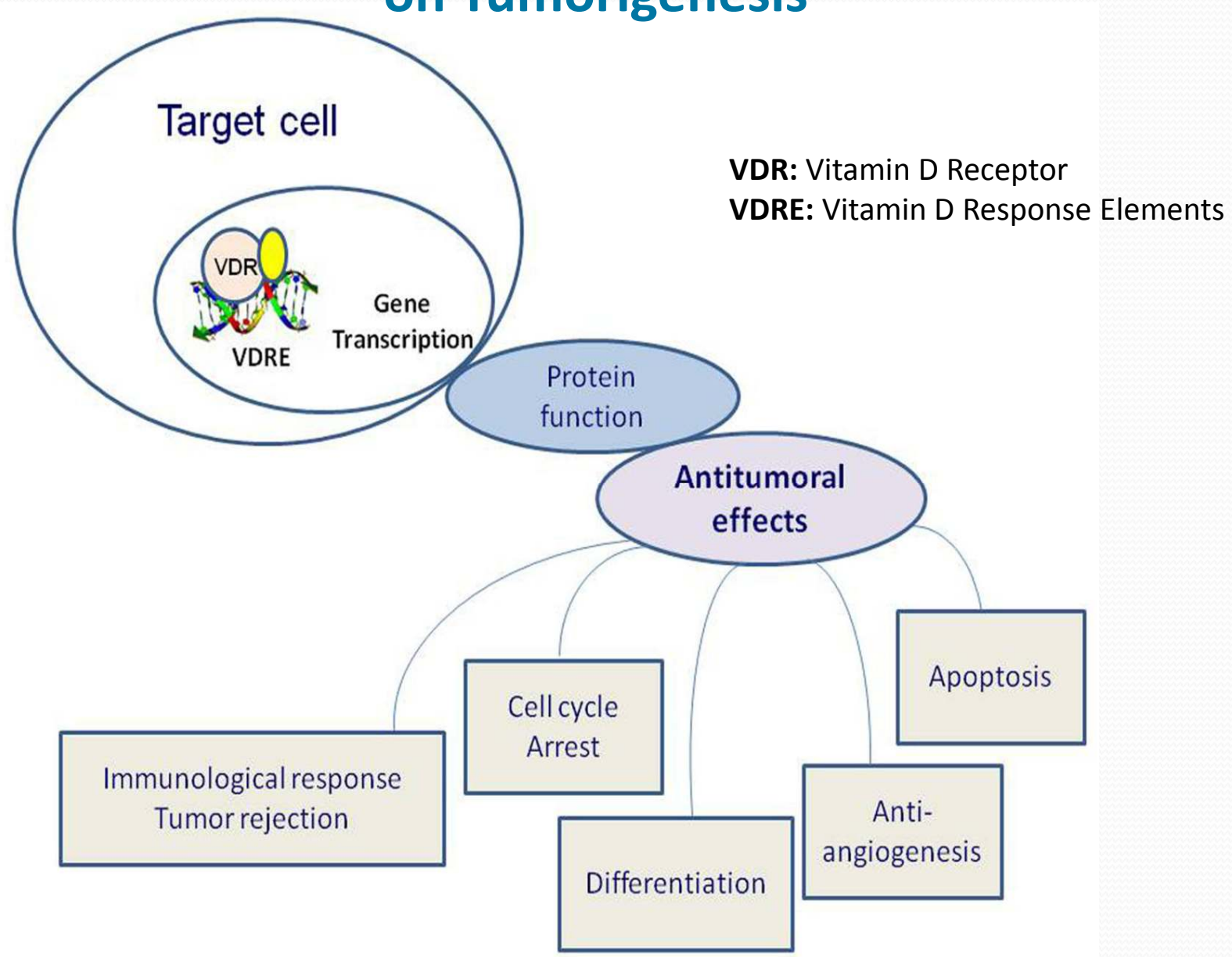
Biological Mechanisms



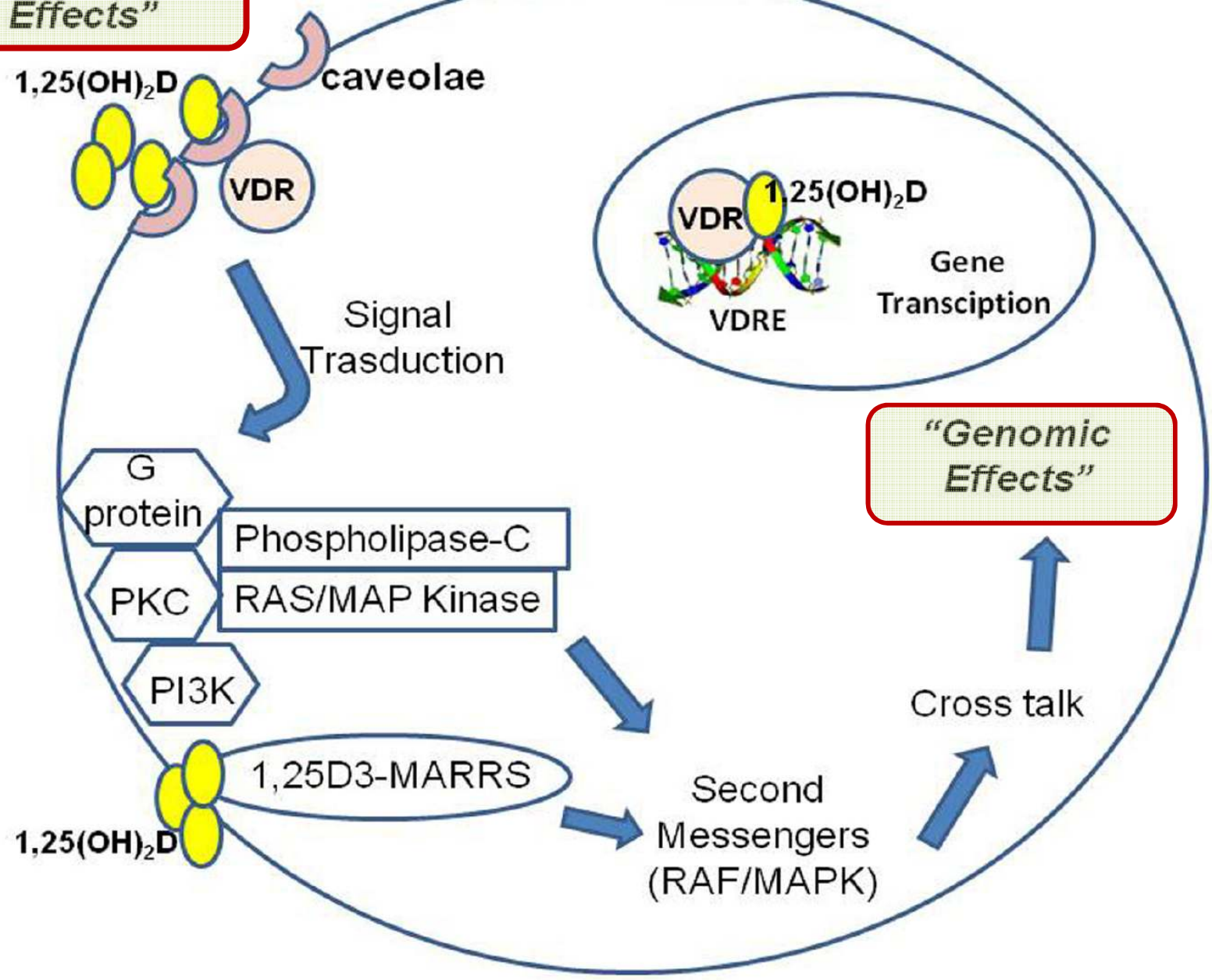
Non-Skeletal Functions of Vitamin D



Effects of Vitamin D Receptor(VDR) Activation on Tumorigenesis



“Non Genomic Effects”



“Genomic Effects”

Epidemiologic studies

The Association of Solar Ultraviolet B (UVB) with Reducing Risk of Cancer: Multifactorial Ecologic Analysis of Geographic Variation in Age-adjusted Cancer Mortality Rates

WILLIAM B. GRANT¹ and CEDRIC F. GARLAND²

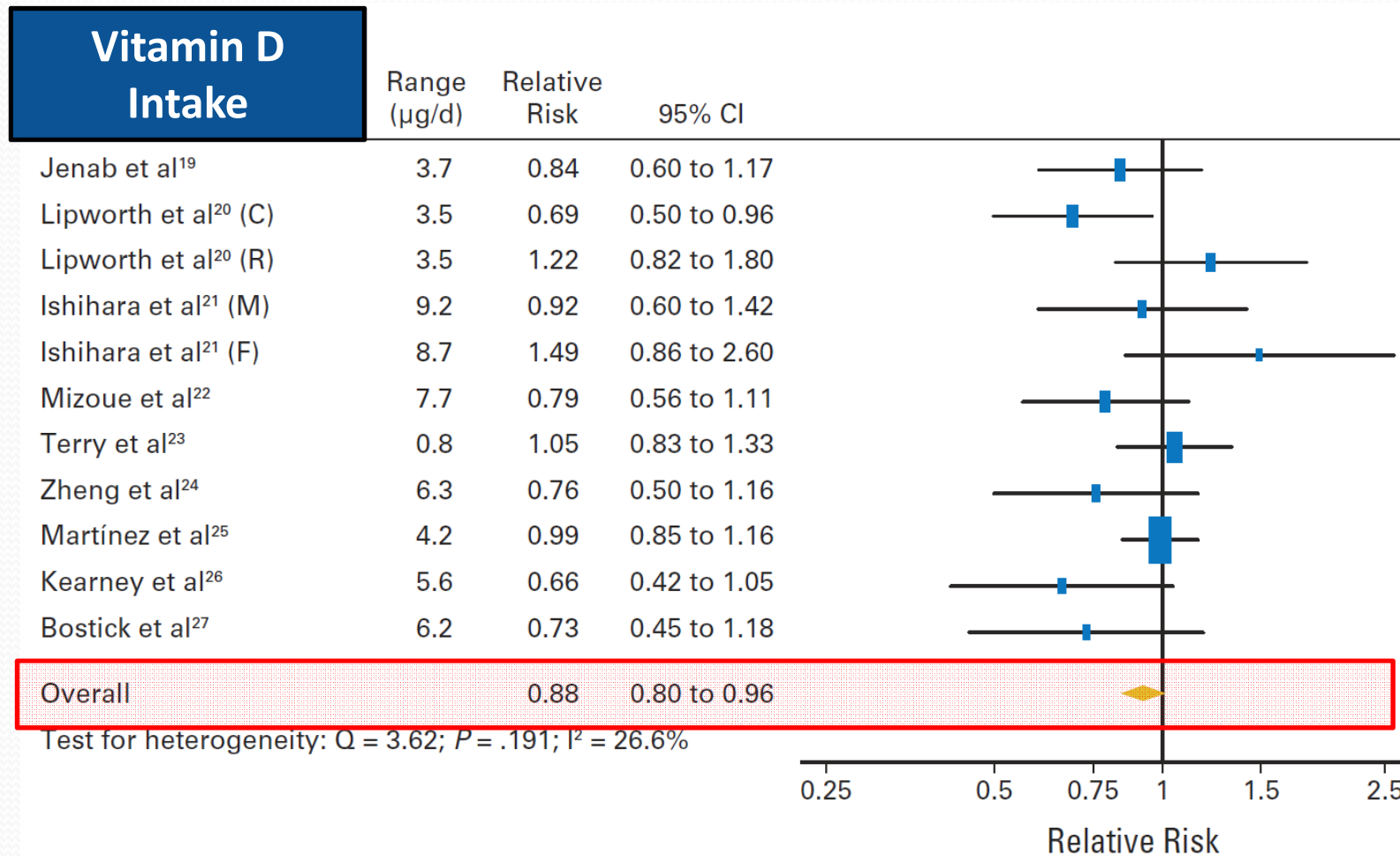
GRANT WB. *Anticancer Research* 2006; 26: 2687-2700

- Colon cancer
- Breast cancer
- Prostate cancer
- NHL (Non-Hodgkin lymphoma)
- Pancreatic cancer
- Bladder cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Lung cancer
- Ovarian cancer
- Endometrial cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Gastric cancer

Colorectal Cancer

Association Between Vitamin D and Risk of Colorectal Cancer: A Systematic Review of Prospective Studies

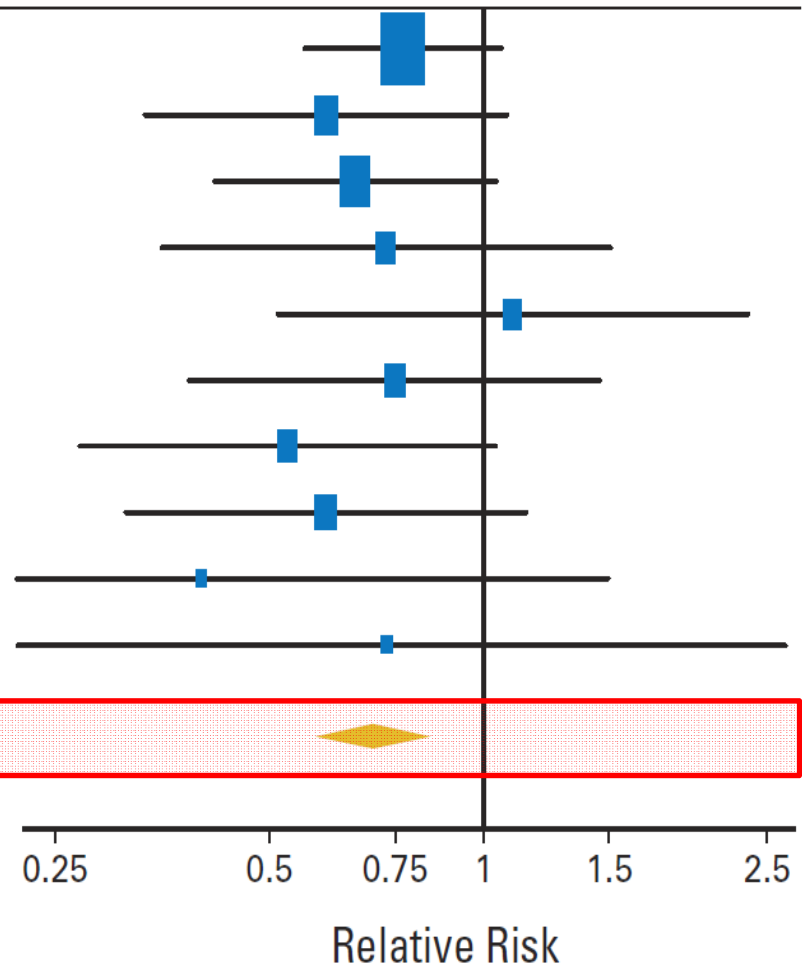
Yanlei Ma, Peng Zhang, Feng Wang, Jianjun Yang, Zhihua Liu, and Huanlong Qin



Blood 25(OH)D Levels

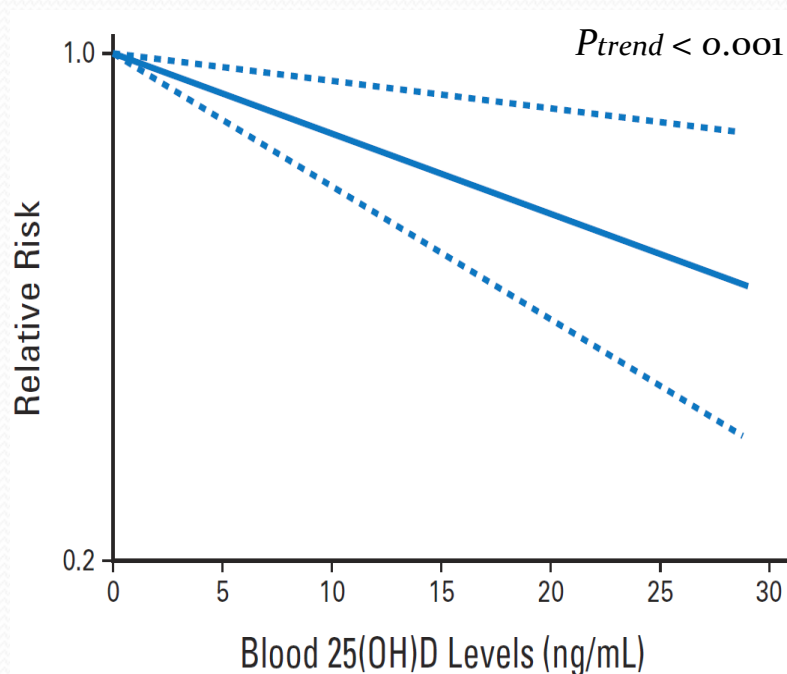
	Range (ng/mL)	Relative Risk	95% CI
Jenab et al ¹⁹	8.0	0.77	0.56 to 1.06
Woolcott et al ²⁸	16.0	0.60	0.33 to 1.07
Wu et al ²⁹	21.0	0.66	0.42 to 1.05
Otani et al ³⁰ (M)	9.2	0.73	0.35 to 1.50
Otani et al ³⁰ (F)	8.3	1.10	0.50 to 2.30
Wactawski-Wende et al ³¹	11.0	0.75	0.39 to 1.48
Feskanich et al ³⁴	20.4	0.53	0.27 to 1.04
Tangrea et al ³²	9.5	0.60	0.30 to 1.10
Braun et al ³³	12.9	0.40	0.10 to 0.40
Garland et al ³⁵	23.0	0.73	0.20 to 2.66
Overall		0.67	0.54 to 0.80

Test for heterogeneity: $Q = 3.637$; $P = .934$; $I^2 = 0.0\%$

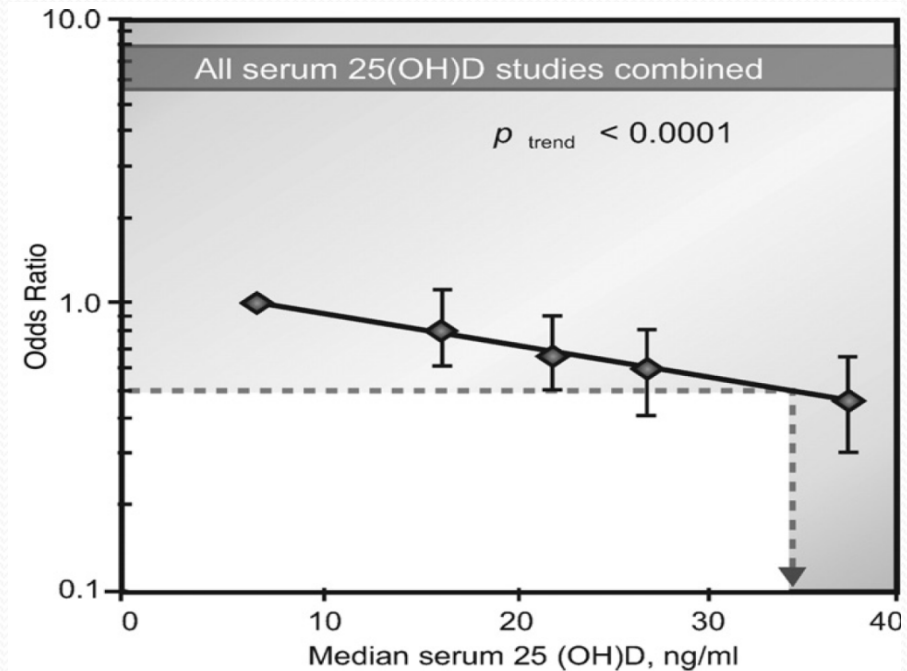


Meta-regression

Dose-Response Relationship



**Per 10 ng/mL increment in blood 25(OH)D ,
RR = 0.74 (95% CI, 0.63-0.89)**



50% projected reduction in CRC incidence with 33 ng/ml, compared to ≤ 12 ng/ml

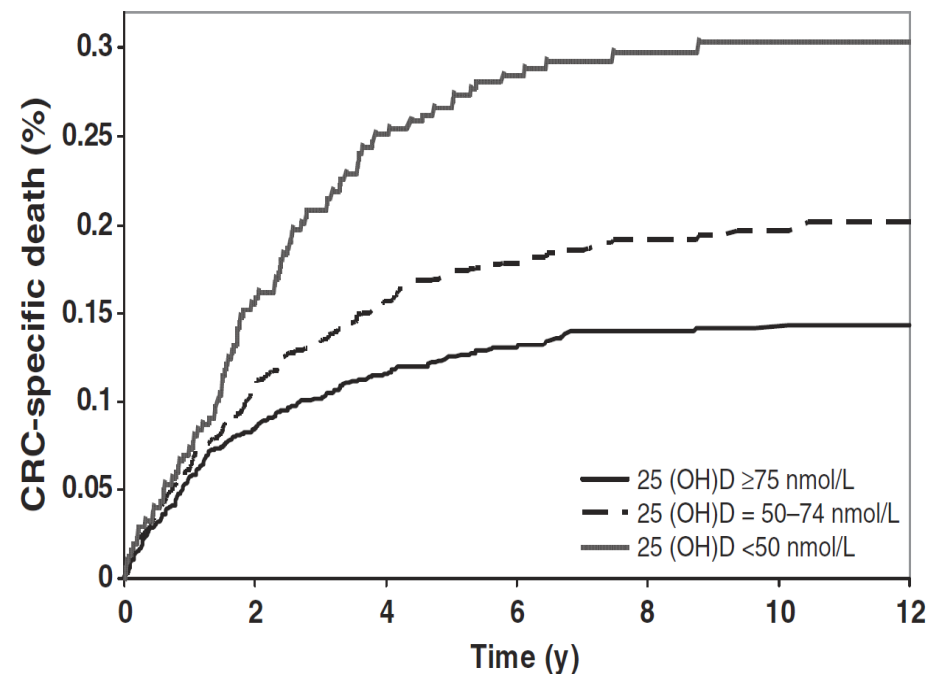
Colorectal Cancer Mortality

Research Article

Cancer
Epidemiology,
Biomarkers
& Prevention

Prediagnostic 25-Hydroxyvitamin D, *VDR* and *CASR* Polymorphisms, and Survival in Patients with Colorectal Cancer in Western European Populations

Veronika Fedirko¹, Elio Riboli², Anne Tjønneland³, Pietro Ferrari¹, Anja Olsen³, H. Bas Bueno-de-Mesquita^{4,5},



Adjusted cumulative incidence curve of CRC-specific mortality by prediagnostic 25(OH)D levels in the EPIC cohort

CRC and Overall Mortality

Table 2. HRs and 95% CIs for CRC-specific and overall mortality according to quintiles of blood 25(OH)D in the EPIC study ($N = 1,202$)

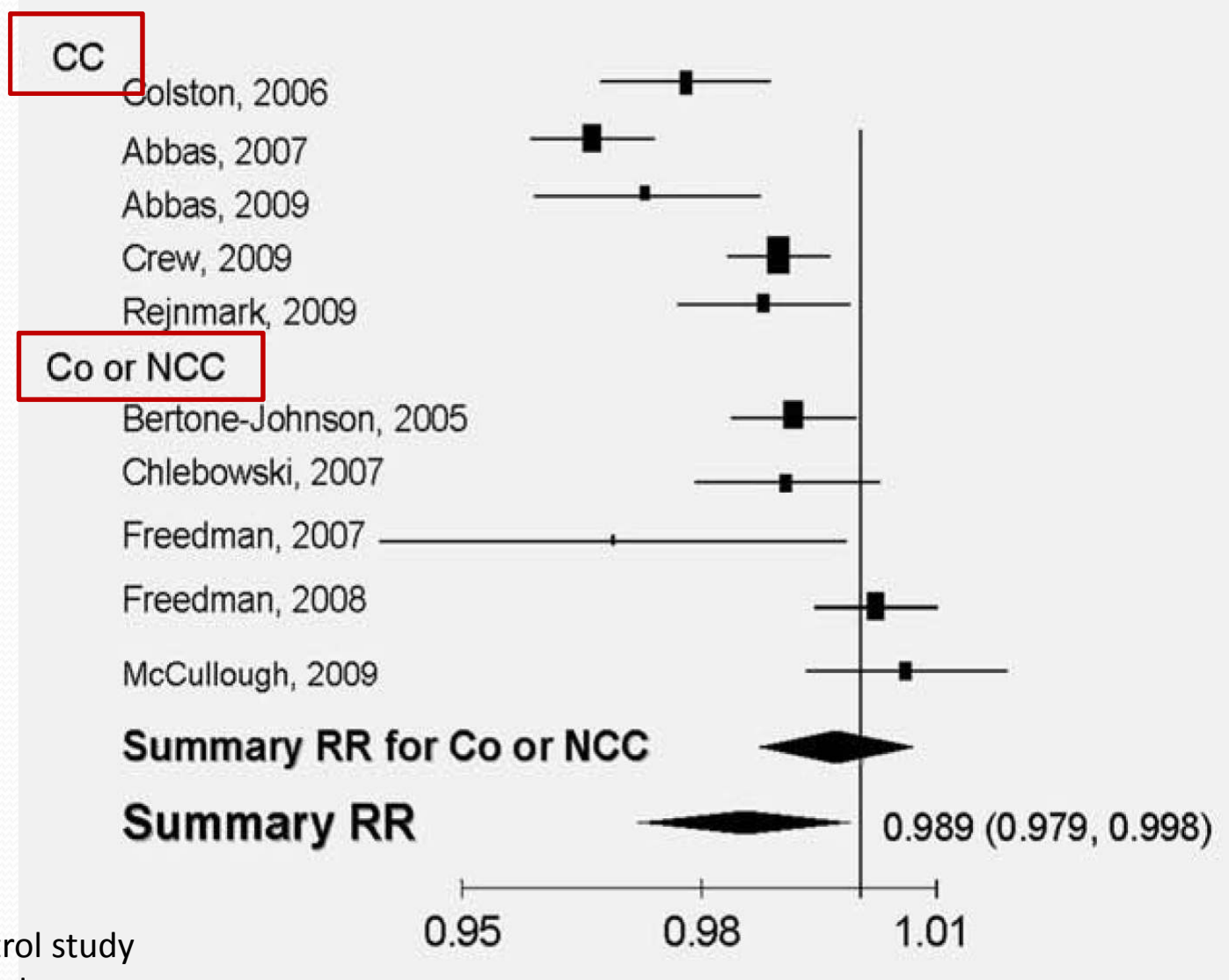
25(OH)D category	Category range, nmol/L	No.	Event	HR (95% CI)	P_{trend}^a
CRC-specific mortality					
Multivariable ^c					
Quintile 1	<36.3	242	104	1.00 (ref.)	0.04
Quintile 2	36.4–48.6	239	85	0.76 (0.56–1.02)	
Quintile 3	48.7–60.5	241	95	0.93 (0.69–1.24)	
Quintile 4	60.6–76.8	240	78	0.78 (0.58–1.06)	
Quintile 5	>76.8	240	82	0.69 (0.50–0.93)	
Overall mortality					
Multivariable ^c					
Quintile 1	<36.3	242	128	1.00 (ref.)	<0.01
Quintile 2	36.4–48.6	239	108	0.82 (0.63–1.07)	
Quintile 3	48.7–60.5	241	117	0.91 (0.70–1.18)	
Quintile 4	60.6–76.8	240	95	0.78 (0.59–1.03)	
Quintile 5	>76.8	240	93	0.67 (0.50–0.88)	

Summary of Colorectal Cancer in epidemiologic studies

- **Consistently inverse relationship**
- **Between vitamin D levels and CRC risk or mortality**

Breast Cancer

Relative Risks of Breast Cancer per 1 ng/ml Increase in Serum 25(OH)D



CC: Case-Control study

Co: Cohort study

NCC: Nested Case Control study within a prospective cohort study

Plasma 25-hydroxyvitamin D and risk of breast cancer in the Nurses' Health Study II

A Heather Eliassen^{1,2*}, Donna Spiegelman^{2,3}, Bruce W Hollis⁵, Ronald L Horst⁶, Walter C Willett^{1,2,4} and Susan E Hankinson^{1,2}

- prospective nested case-control study within the Nurses' Health Study II
- 613 cases vs. 1,218 matched controls

Relative Risks (95% CI) of Breast Cancer by Quartile of Pre-diagnostic Plasma 25(OH)D

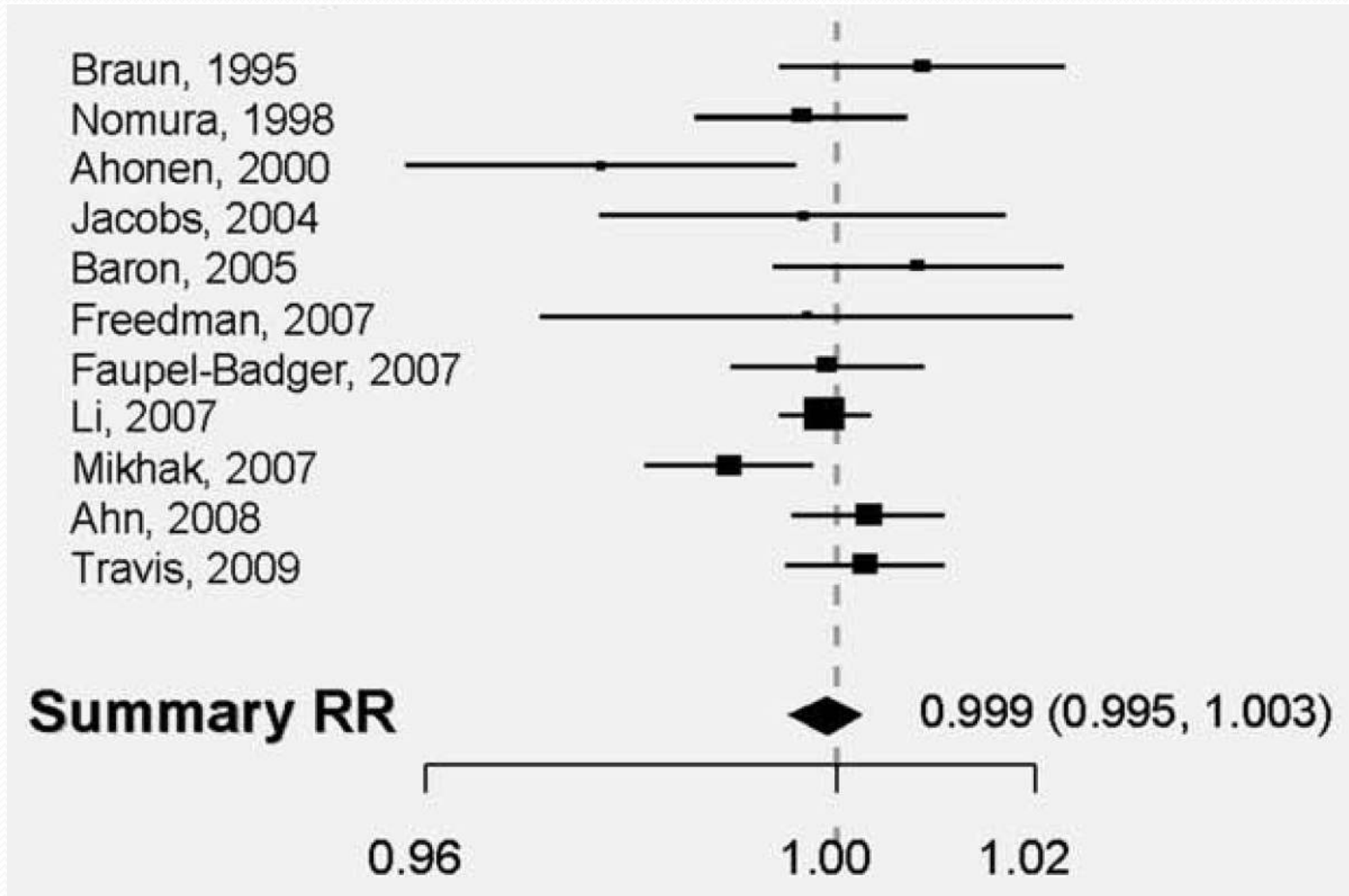
	Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4	P-value, test for trend
Cut points (ng/mL)§	< 18.4	18.4 to < 24.6	24.6 to < 30.6	≥ 30.6	
Cases/controls	141/300	151/305	145/307	176/306	
Simple	1.00 (ref)	1.06 (0.80 to 1.40)	1.02 (0.77 to 1.36)	1.26 (0.94 to 1.69)	0.14
Multivariate*	1.00 (ref)	1.05 (0.79 to 1.39)	0.95 (0.71 to 1.29)	1.20 (0.88 to 1.63)	0.32

Summary of Breast Cancer in epidemiologic studies

- Inconsistent relationship

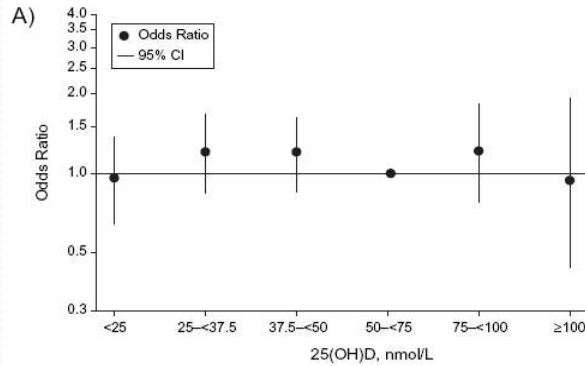
Other Cancers

Relative Risks of Prostate Cancer per 1 ng/ml Increase in Serum 25(OH)D

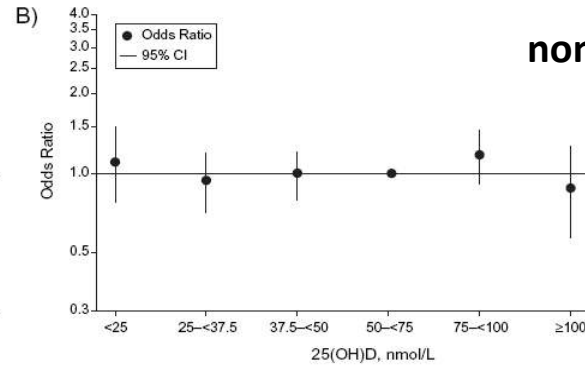


A pooled nested case-control study (the Cohort Consortium Vitamin D Pooling Project of Rarer Cancers)

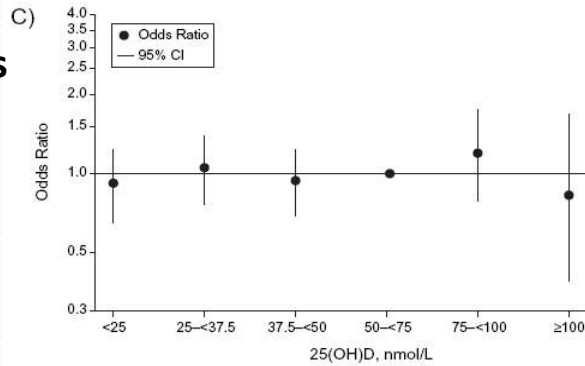
Kidney cancer



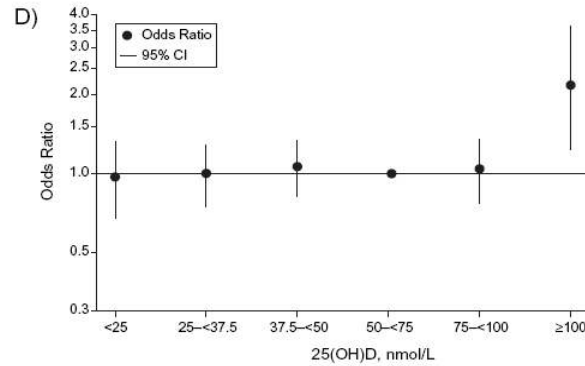
non-Hodgkin lymphoma



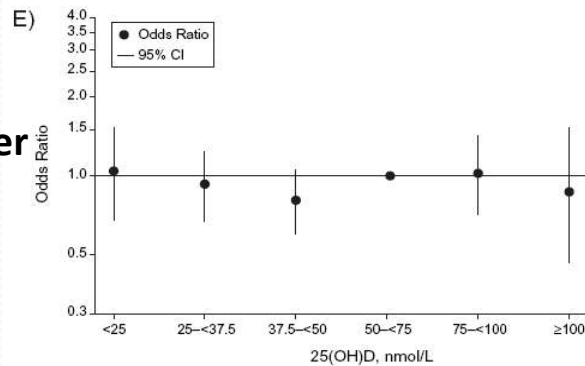
Upper GI cancers



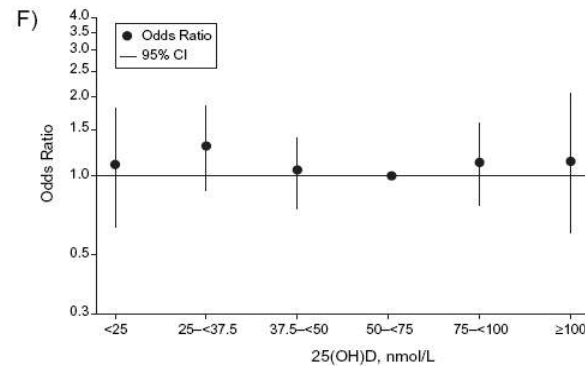
pancreatic cancer



Endometrial cancer



ovarian cancer

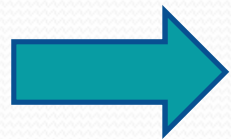


Limitations

in Observational Studies

- **Single serum 25(OH)D measurement** at a time of enrollment
→ **CANNOT** represent **LONG-TERM** vitamin D levels
- In large-scale epidemiological studies
 - For whole population
 - multiple measurement of blood 25(OH)D
 - for a long-term period

might be
UNFEASIBLE



Predicted 25(OH)D scores

- Combined influences of major determinants of circulating 25(OH)D
- Can be used in a large population without blood samples
- Can be updated multiple times during follow-up

Predicted Plasma 25-Hydroxyvitamin D and Risk of Renal Cell Cancer

Hee-Kyung Joh, Edward L. Giovannucci, Kimberly A. Bertrand, Soo Lim, Eunyoung Cho

Natl Cancer Inst 2013; Apr 8 [Epub]

Derivatives of predicted plasma 25(OH)D score

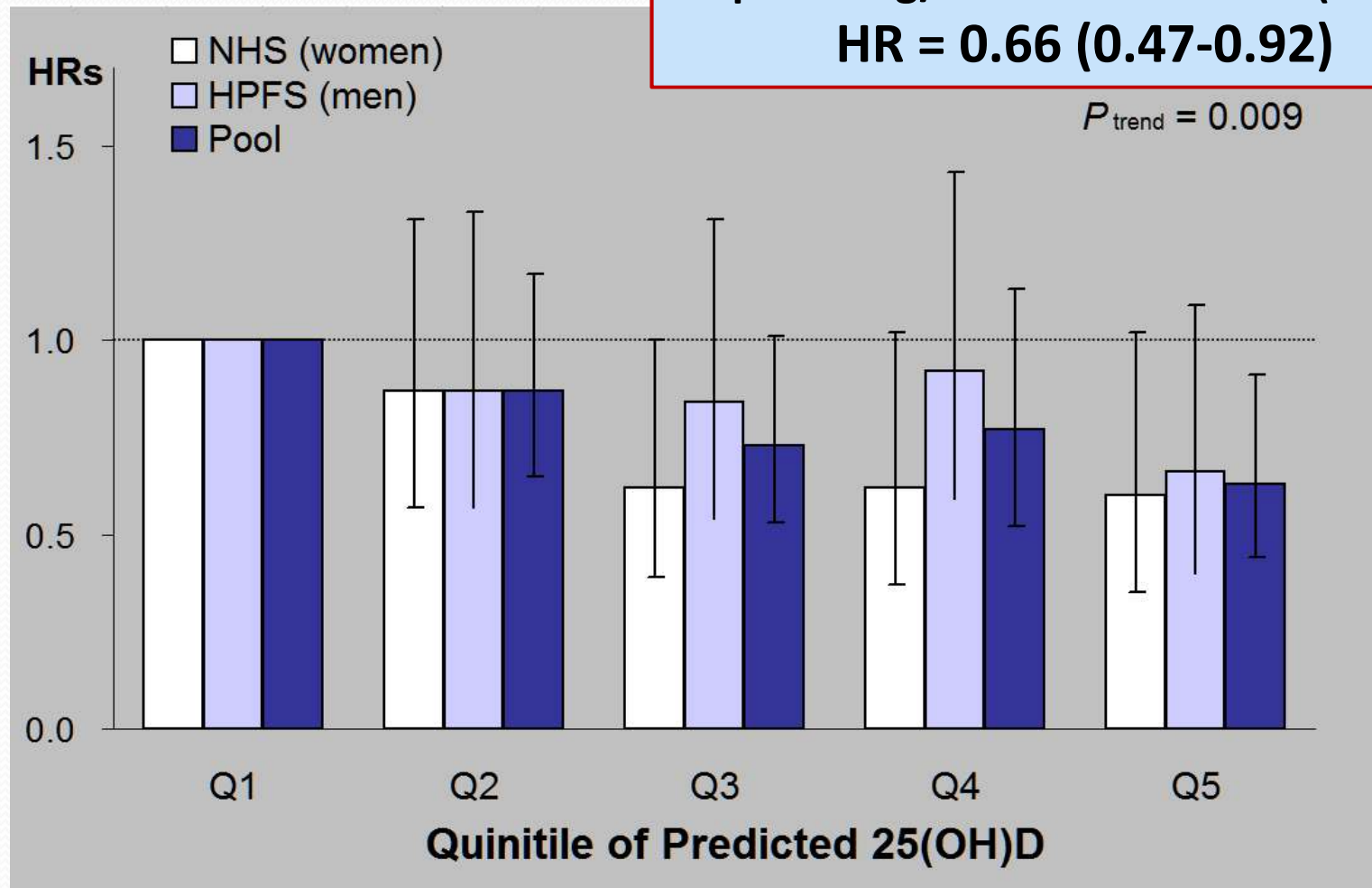
- Race
- UV-B radiation flux at residence
- Leisure-time physical activity
- Body mass index
- Dietary and supplemental vitamin D intakes
- Alcohol intake
- Post-menopausal hormone use (in women)

METHODS

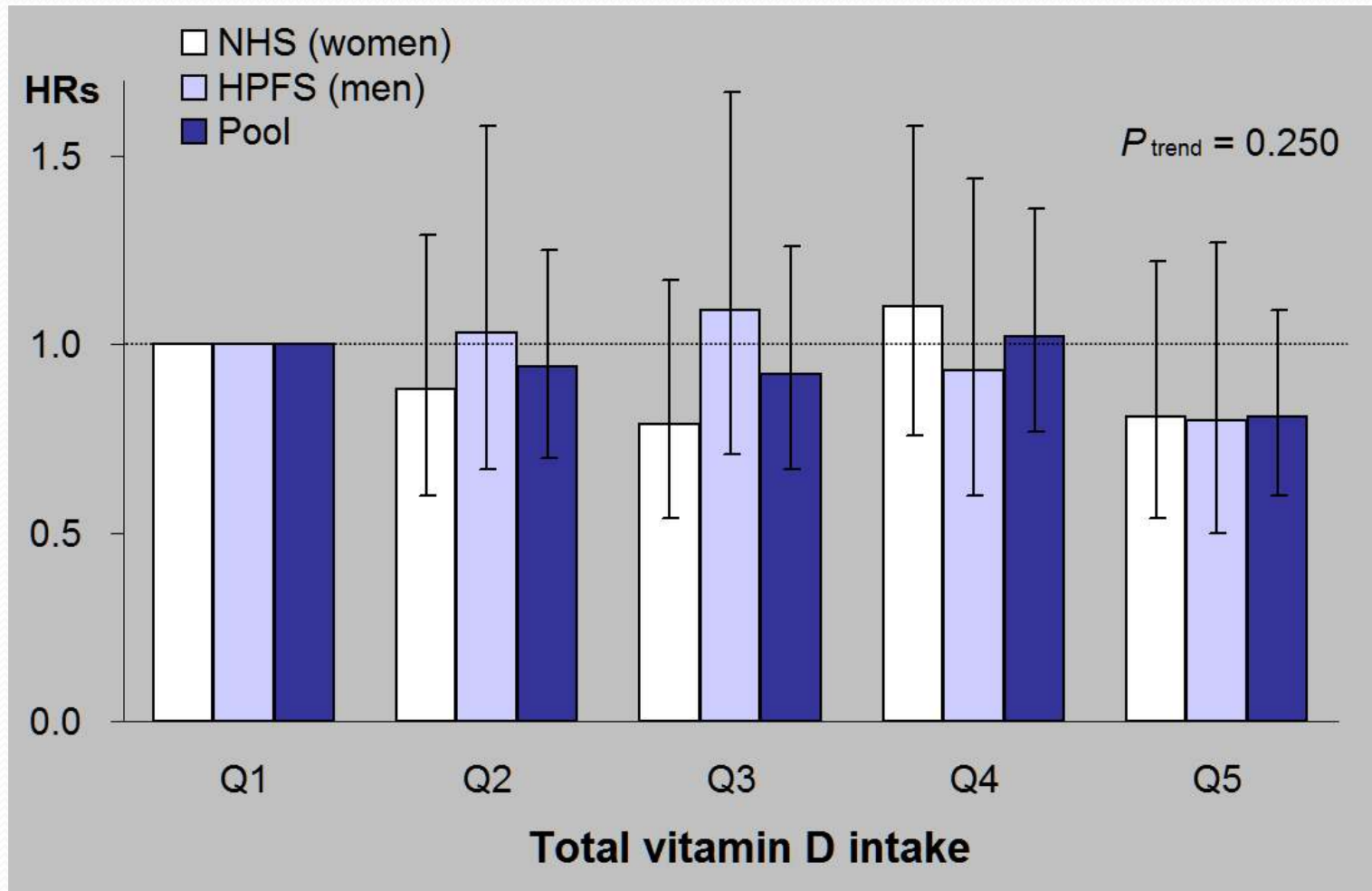
- **STUDY POPULATION**
 - Two independent prospective cohorts in the US
 - 72,051 women (Nurses' Health Study)
 - 46,380 men (Health Professionals Follow-Up Study)
- **Follow-up : 1986 - 2008 (22 years)**
- **Predicted 25(OH)D score & all covariables :**
updated every 2 years
- **No. of incident RCC cases**
 - 201 cases in women
 - 207 cases in men

Predicted Plasma 25(OH)D and Risk of Renal Cell Cancer

per 10 ng/ml increment in 25(OH)D
HR = 0.66 (0.47-0.92)



Vitamin D Intake and Risk of Renal Cell Cancer



RCTs

No RCT in vitamin D has been completed with **cancer** as the pre-specified **primary outcome**.

- **All evidence are from secondary analyses**

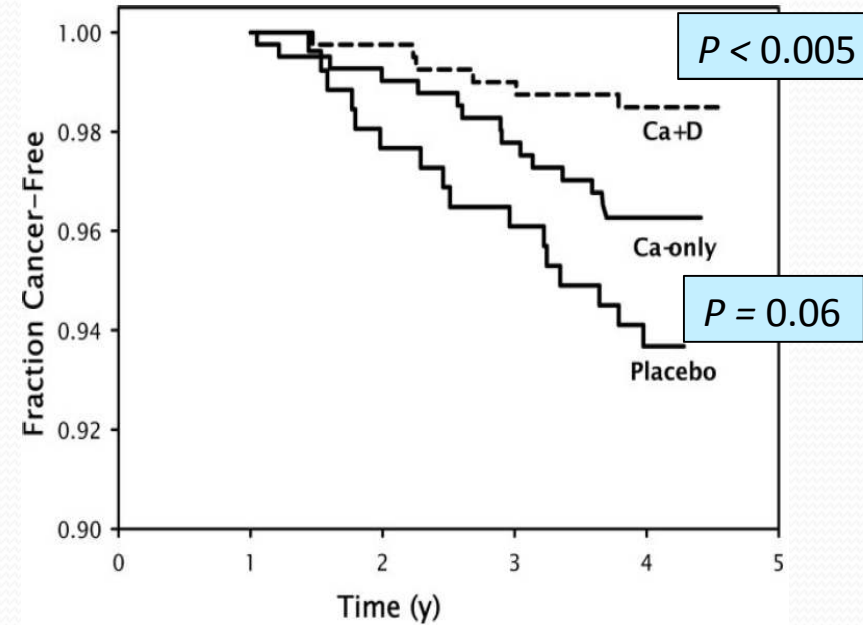
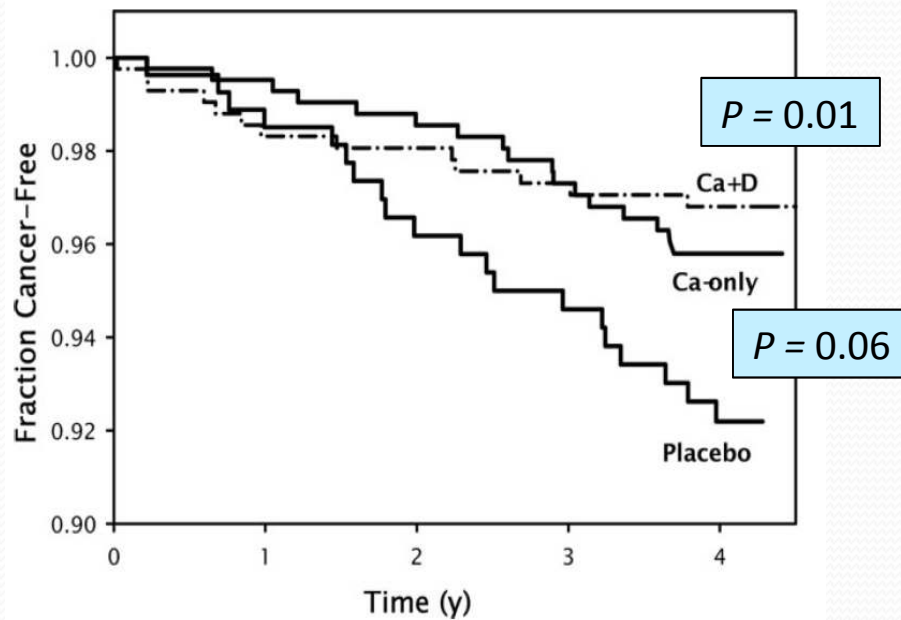
Vitamin D and calcium supplementation reduces cancer risk: results of a randomized trial^{1,2}

Joan M Lappe, Dianne Travers-Gustafson, K Michael Davies, Robert R Recker, and Robert P Heaney

Am J Clin Nutr 2007;85:1586-91

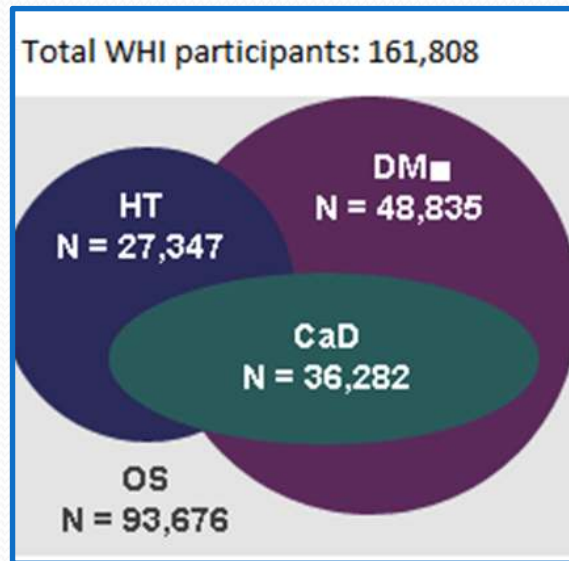
- Population & Follow-up
 - 1179 postmenopausal women aged >55 y followed 4 years
- Intervention
 - Ca-only : 1400-1500 mg/d Calcium
 - Ca + D : 1400-1500 mg/d Calcium + 1100 IU/d cholecalciferol
 - Placebo
- Outcome variables
 - Primary outcome: fracture incidence
 - Secondary outcome: **total cancer incidence**

Site	Years 1-4			Years 2-4		
	Placebo (n = 288)	Calcium only (n = 445)	Vitamin D plus calcium (n = 446)	Placebo (n = 266)	Calcium only (n = 416)	Vitamin D plus calcium (n = 403)
Breast(n)	8	6	5	7	6	4
Colon (n)	2	0	1	2	0	0
Lung (n)	3	3	1	3	2	1
Lymph, leukemia, myeloma (n)	4	4	2	4	4	2
Uterus (n)	0	2	1	0	1	0
Other (n)	3	2	3	2	2	1
Total[†]	20 (6.9)	17 (3.8)	13 (2.9)	18 (6.8)	15 (3.6)	8 (2.0)

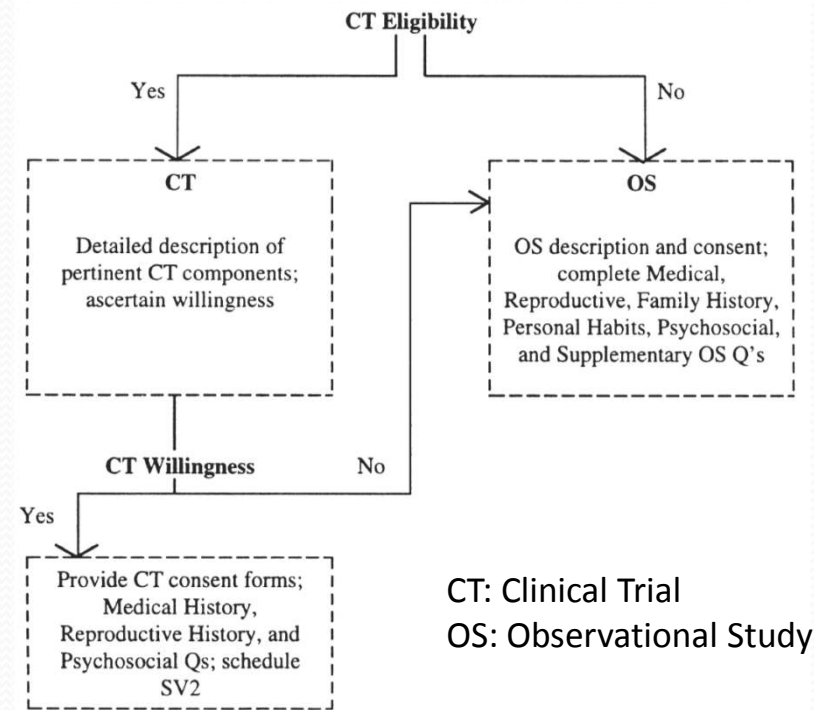


Women's Health Initiative (WHI) Study

1994-1999 (average 7 years)
in the US postmenopausal women (50-79y)



HT: Hormone Therapy
DM: Dietary Modification
CaD: Calcium + Vitamin D supplementation



CaD supplementation: in 36,282 women

- 18,176 received **1000 mg of elemental calcium** and **400 IU of vitamin D3** daily
- 18,106 received placebo
- **Primary outcome:** hip fracture
- **Secondary outcome:** total fracture and **colorectal cancer**

Critics of WHI study

- **LOW dosage** of vitamin D supplementation (400 IU/d)
- More than half (57%) of the participants were taking personal calcium or vitamin D supplements at randomization
- **Poor adherence** :
 - 1/3 of the intervention group did not take supplements.
 - Off-study use of additional vitamin D and calcium supplements during the trial in placebo group
 - minimize the difference between placebo and supplement
- **Lack of blood 25-(OH)D measurement**
- **No regular or end-of-study colonoscopy**
 - 15% had no bowel assessment
- **Short length of follow-up**

Colorectal Cancer – WHI study

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Calcium plus Vitamin D Supplementation and the Risk of Colorectal Cancer

Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D., Jane Morley Kotchen, M.D., Garnet L. Anderson, Ph.D.,
Ann Louise R. Assaf, Ph.D., Robert L. Brunner, Ph.D., Mary Jo O'Sullivan, M.D.,
Karen L. Margolis, M.D., Judith K. Ockene, Ph.D., Lawrence Phillips, M.D.,
Linda Pottern, Ph.D., Ross L. Prentice, Ph.D., John Robbins, M.D.,
Thomas E. Rohan, Ph.D., Gloria E. Sarto, M.D., Santosh Sharma, M.D.,
Marcia L. Stefanick, Ph.D., Linda Van Horn, Ph.D., Robert B. Wallace, M.D.,
Evelyn Whitlock, M.D., Tamsen Bassford, M.D., Shirley A.A. Beresford, Ph.D.,
Henry R. Black, M.D., Denise E. Bonds, M.D., Robert G. Brzyski, M.D.,
Bette Caan, Dr.P.H., Rowan T. Chlebowski, M.D., Barbara Cochrane, Ph.D.,
Cedric Garland, Dr.P.H., Margery Gass, M.D., Jennifer Hays, Ph.D.,
Gerardo Heiss, M.D., Susan L. Hendrix, D.O., Barbara V. Howard, Ph.D.,
Judith Hsia, M.D., F. Allan Hubbell, M.D., Rebecca D. Jackson, M.D.,
Karen C. Johnson, M.D., Howard Judd, M.D., Charles L. Kooperberg, Ph.D.,
Lewis H. Kuller, M.D., Andrea Z. LaCroix, Ph.D., Dorothy S. Lane, M.D.,
Robert D. Langer, M.D., Norman L. Lasser, M.D., Cora E. Lewis, M.D.,
Marian C. Limacher, M.D., and JoAnn E. Manson, M.D.,
for the Women's Health Initiative Investigators*

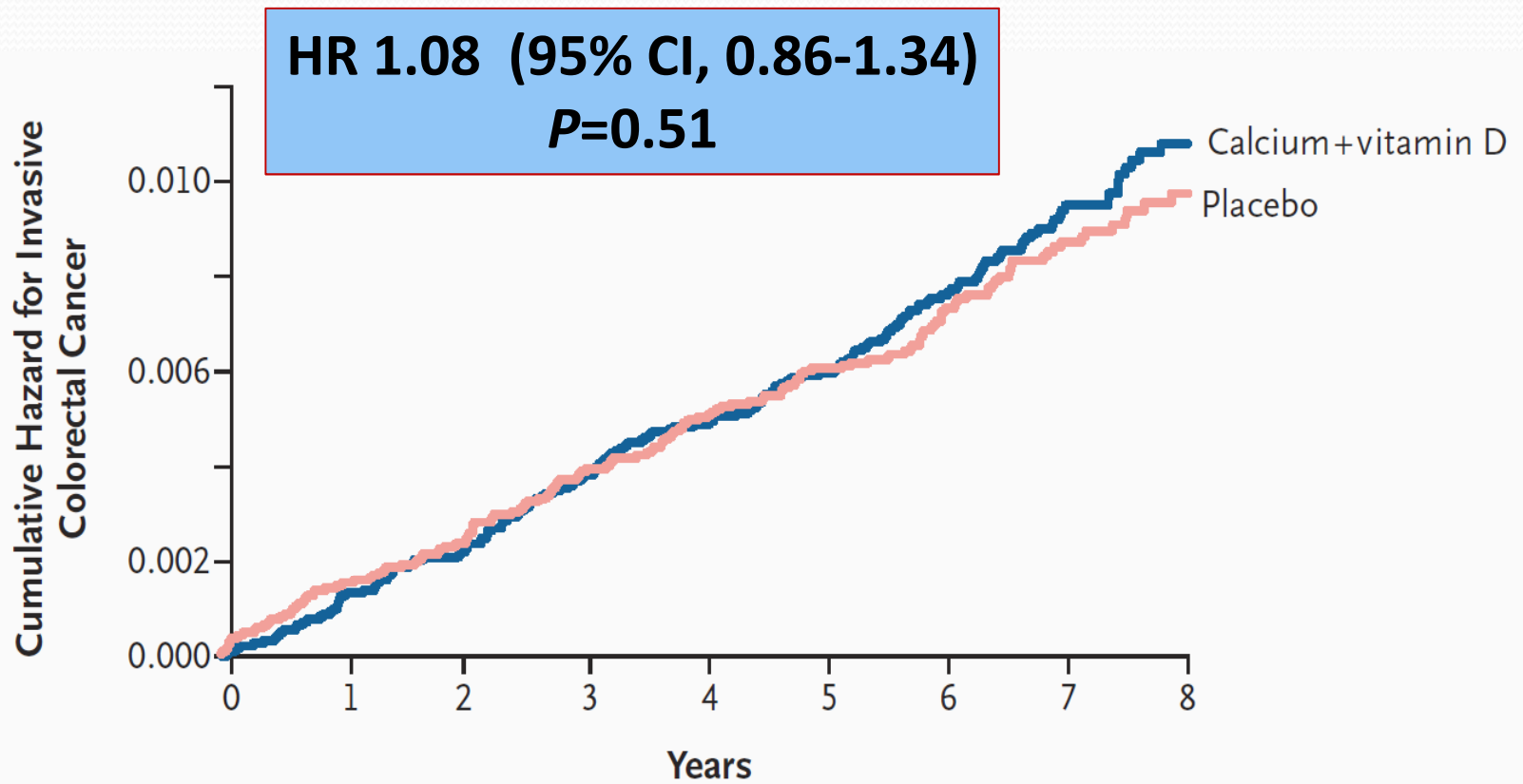
Calcium plus Vitamin D Supplementation and the Risk of Colorectal Cancer

RCT

- Effect of CaD supplementation ?
 - Colorectal cancer: secondary outcome
 - A Cox proportional hazards model

Nested Case-Control Study

- Effect of Baseline serum 25(OH)D levels?
 - 306 cases
 - 306 controls
 - logistic regression model



Calcium+vitamin D

No. of events	0	23	17	28	20	19	27	23	9
No. at risk	18,176	18,048	17,936	17,780	17,605	17,248	14,680	9138	4403

Placebo

No. of events	0	27	16	27	20	18	20	17	7
No. at risk	18,106	17,967	17,832	17,663	17,471	17,093	14,530	9041	4351

Odds Ratios for **Invasive Colorectal Cancer** by the Quartile of **Baseline Serum 25(OH)D Level** in a Nested Case–Control Study

Baseline Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D	Main-Effect Odds Ratio (95% CI) [†]	Calcium + Vitamin D		Intervention Odds Ratio (95% CI) [‡]
		Placebo	No. with Colorectal Cancer/ No. of Controls	
≥58.4 nmol/liter	1.00	27/45	33/48	1.15 (0.58–2.27)
42.4–58.3 nmol/liter	1.96 (1.18–3.24)	34/32	44/41	1.12 (0.59–2.12)
31.0–42.3 nmol/liter	1.95 (1.18–3.24)	45/41	35/32	0.99 (0.51–1.91)
<31.0 nmol/liter	2.53 (1.49–4.32)	42/28	46/39	0.75 (0.39–1.48)

P for trend = 0.02
P for interaction = 0.54

Significantly increased risk of colorectal cancer in the lower baseline serum 25(OH)D levels

However, findings from the nested case–control study revealed no significant interaction between serum 25(OH)D levels at baseline and treatment assignment.

Breast cancer – WHI

Calcium Plus Vitamin D Supplementation and the Risk of Breast Cancer

Chlebowski RT. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2007;100:1581 – 1591

RCT

- Effect of CaD supplementation ?

Nested Case-Control Study

- Effect of Baseline serum 25(OH)D levels?
 - 1067 cases
 - 1067 controls

Cumulative Hazard Ratio for Invasive Breast Cancer with Supplemental Calcium + Vitamin D

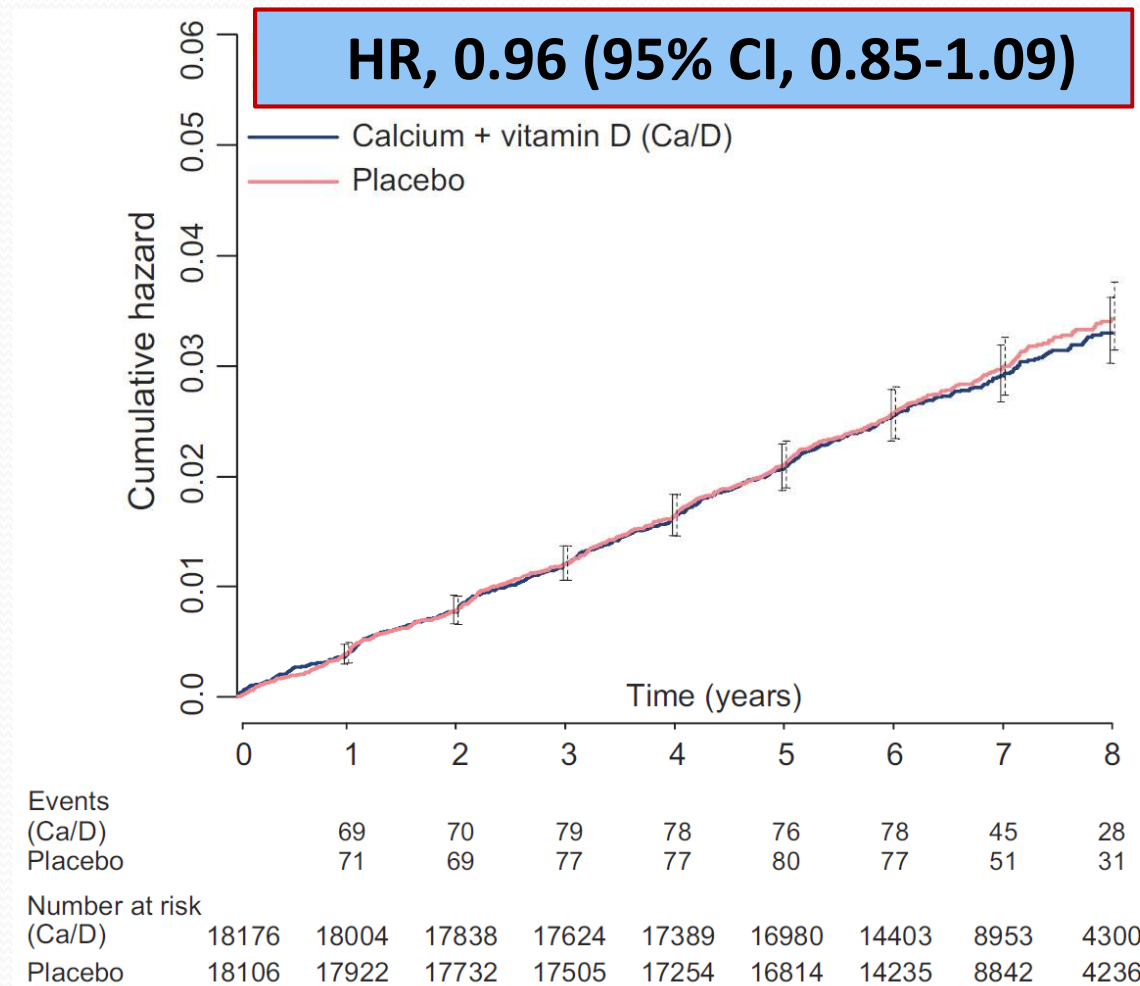
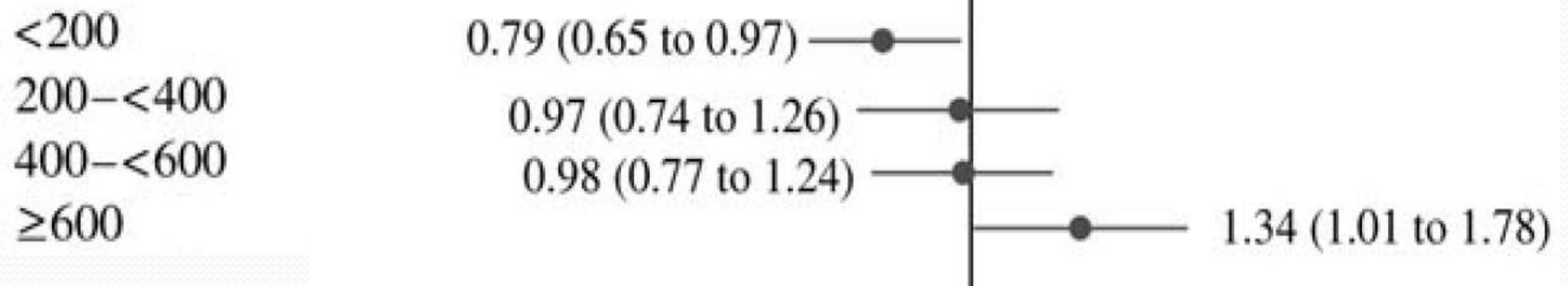


Figure 2. Kaplan–Meier estimates of the cumulative hazard ratio for invasive breast cancer with supplemental calcium plus vitamin D (Ca/D) as compared with placebo. HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval.

Subgroup Analysis

Baseline total Vitamin D (supp. + diet), IU



P interaction = 0.003

Baseline Serum 25(OH)D Levels

Determinate quintile	Main effect OR (95% CI)†	Calcium + vitamin D		Intervention OR (95% CI)‡
		No. of mpatients/ no. of control subjects	Placebo	
≥67.6	1.00 (referent)	86/109	76/86	0.89 (0.58 to 1.36)
55.4 ≤ 67.6	1.15 (0.86 to 1.55)	95/87	86/98	1.25 (0.83 to 1.90)
43.9 ≤ 55.4	1.35 (0.99 to 1.82)	102/87	92/84	1.07 (0.70 to 1.62)
32.4 ≤ 43.9	1.17 (0.86 to 1.60)	71/84	102/87	0.69 (0.45 to 1.06)
<32.4	1.22 (0.89 to 1.67)	94/94	91/82	0.91 (0.60 to 1.39)

Baseline 25(OH)D levels were not associated with subsequent breast cancer risk

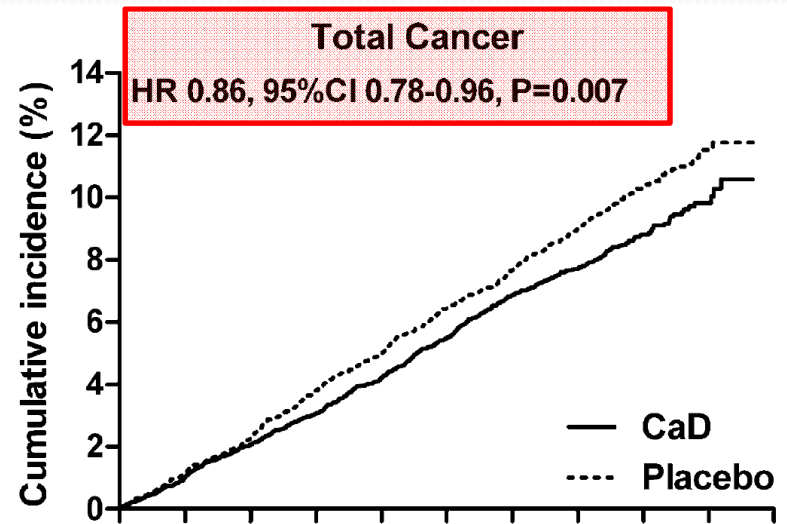
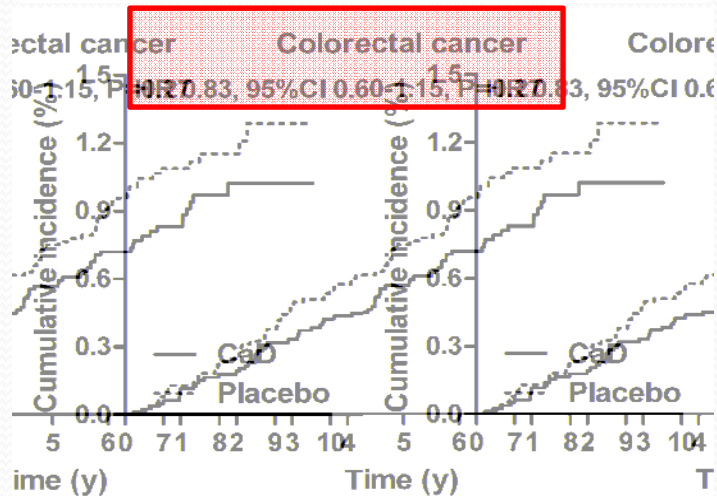
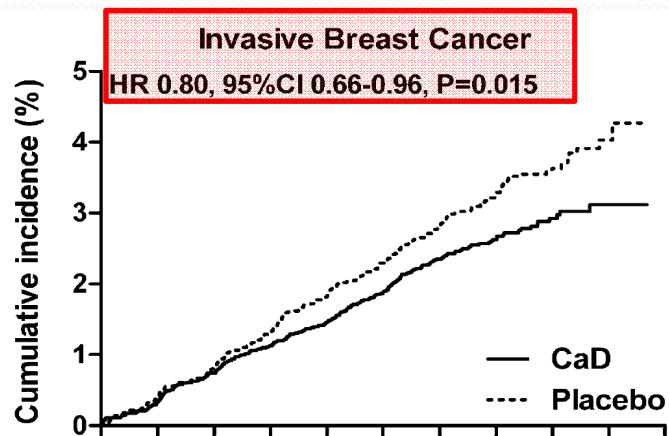
Invasive Cancer – WHI Study

Invasive cancer incidence	HR	(95% CI)
Total cancer	0.98	(0.90 - 1.05)
Breast	0.96	(0.85 - 1.09)
Colon	0.98	(0.76 - 1.27)

Cancer mortality	HR	(95% CI)
Total cancer	0.90	(0.77 - 1.05)

Calcium and Vitamin D Supplements and Health Outcomes: a Reanalysis of the WHI limited-access data set

Among 15,646 women who were **NOT** taking
personal calcium or vitamin D supplements at baseline.



Osteoporos Int (2013) 24:567–580

DOI 10.1007/s00198-012-2224-2

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Health risks and benefits from calcium and vitamin D supplementation: Women's Health Initiative clinical trial and cohort study

Prentice, R. L. *Osteoporos Int* 2013;24:567–580

Hazard ratios (95% confidence intervals) for Invasive Cancer in the WHI CaD trial and Observational Study

Colorectal cancer

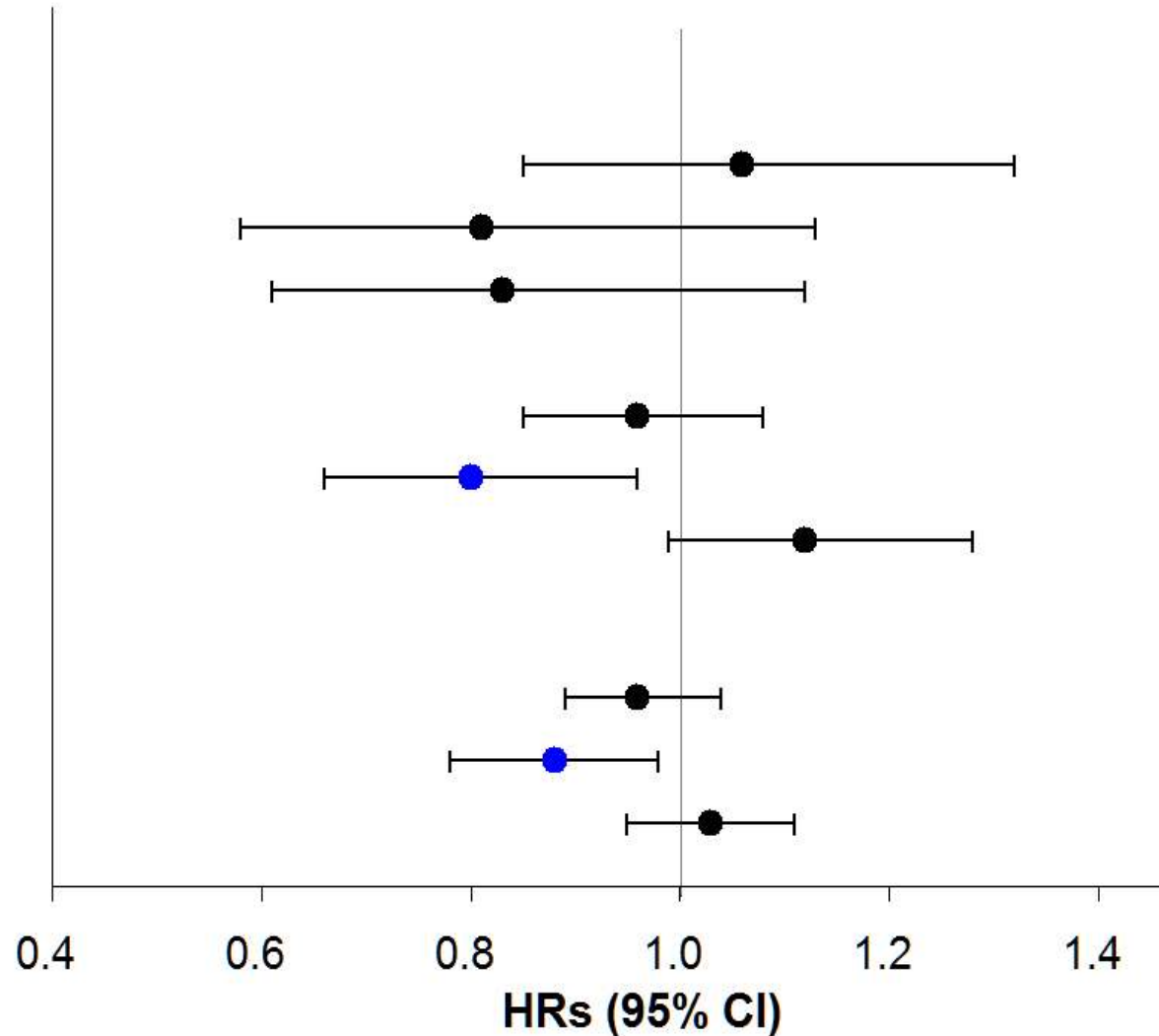
- All participants (CT)
- No personal supplements (CT)
- Observational study

Breast cancer

- All participants (CT)
- No personal supplements (CT)
- Observational study

Total invasive cancer

- All participants (CT)
- No personal supplements (CT)
- Observational study



Hazard ratios (95% confidence intervals) in the WHI CaD trial among Adherent Women

Colorectal cancer

All participants

No personal supplements

Breast cancer

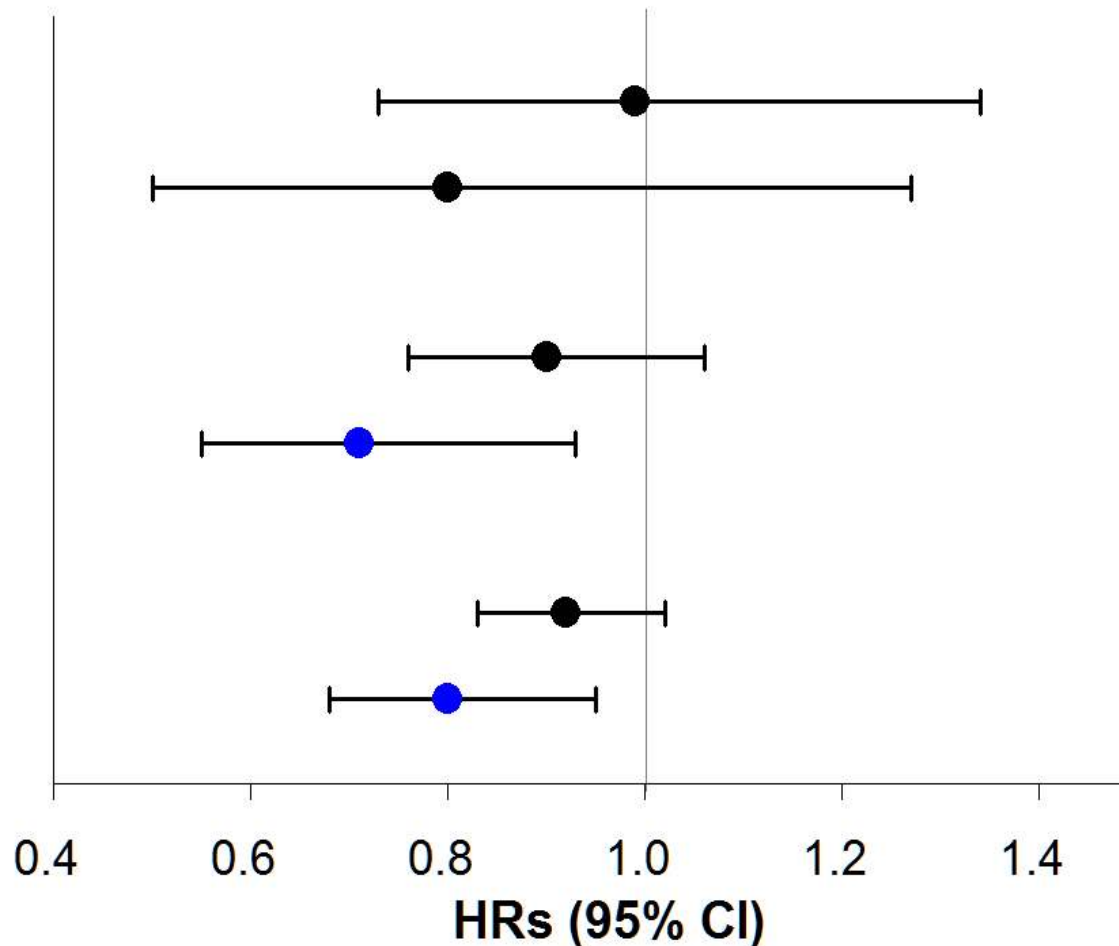
All participants

No personal supplements

Total invasive cancer

All participants

No personal supplements





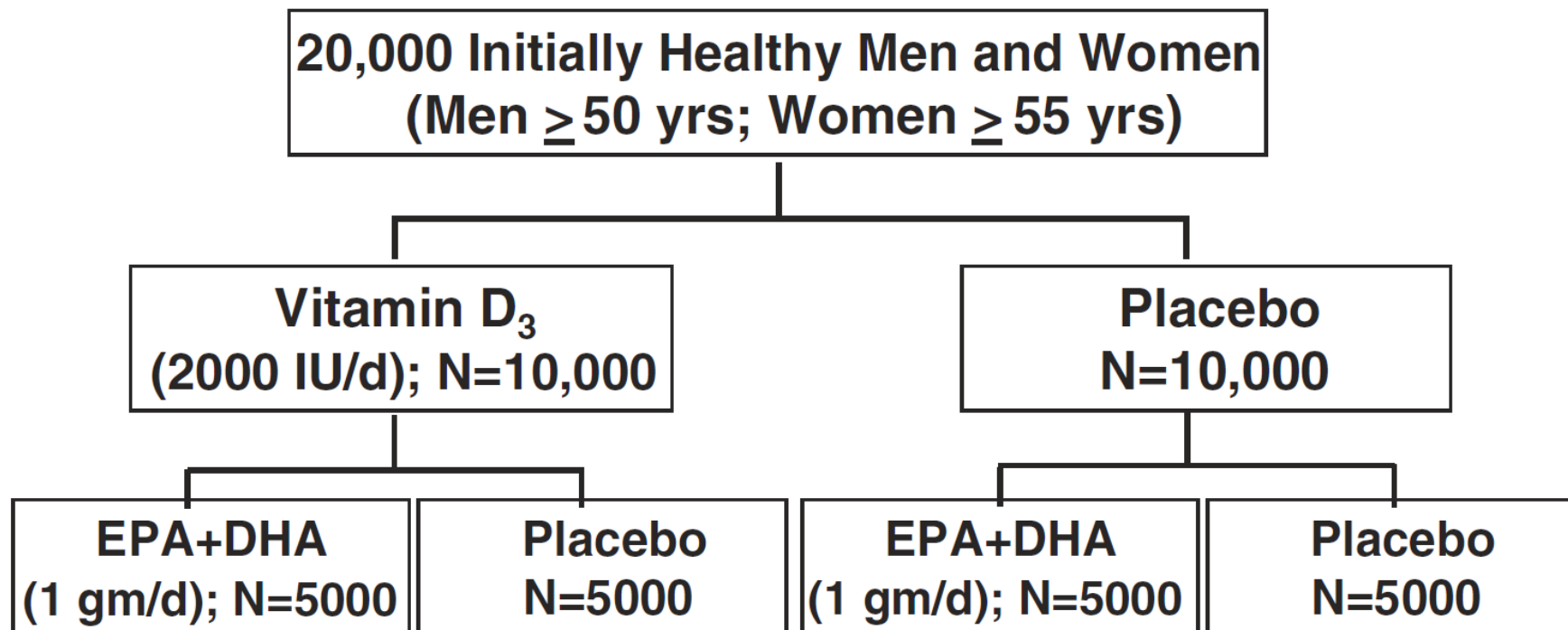
VITAL

THE VITAMIN D AND OMEGA-3 TRIAL (VITAL)

The *VIT*amin D and *OmegA*-3 *TriAL* (VITAL): Rationale and design of a large randomized controlled trial of vitamin D and marine omega-3 fatty acid supplements for the primary prevention of cancer and cardiovascular disease

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- 1st RCT for the primary prevention of cancer & CVD
- 20,000 healthy men (≥ 50 yrs) and women (≥ 55 yrs) in the US
- **2,000 IU/day of vitamin D3**
- **1 g/day of marine omega-3 fatty acids**
- **For 5 years**



Mean Treatment Period = 5.0 years

Blood collection in ~16,000, follow-up bloods in ~6000

Primary Outcomes: Cancer (total) and CVD (MI, stroke, CVD death)

Fig. 3. The *VIT*amin D and *Om*egA-3 *Tri*aL (VITAL) design.

Limitations in RCTs

1. Generalizability
2. Low power
3. Single dose or a limited set of doses
4. Contamination between intervention and placebo group

Guidelines

POSITION PAPER

IOF position statement: vitamin D recommendations for older adults

**B. Dawson-Hughes • A. Mithal • J.-P. Bonjour •
S. Boonen • P. Burckhardt • G. E.-H. Fuleihan •
R. G. Josse • P. Lips • J. Morales-Torres • N. Yoshimura**

- Optimal serum 25OHD level: **30 ng/ml**
- Efficacy of doses
 - Fractures : 800 IU/day
 - Falls : 1,000 IU/day
- Recommended dose for older adults: **800-1,000 IU/d**

Dietary Reference Intakes for Calcium and Vitamin D

Vitamin D DRIs (Dietary Reference Intakes)

Age	RDA (IU/day)	Serum 25(OH)D level (ng/ml)*	UL (IU/day)
1–3 yrs	600	20	2,500
4–8 yrs	600	20	3,000
9–70 yrs	600	20	4,000
>70 yrs	800	20	4,000

RDA: Recommended Dietary Allowance

UL: Upper Level Intake

*Corresponding to the RDA

Screening for Vitamin D Deficiency

This topic is in the process of being updated. Please go to the [Update in Progress](#) section to see the latest documents available.

This topic page summarizes the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) evidence on screening for vitamin D deficiency.

Update in Progress

In an effort to make the USPSTF recommendations clearer and its processes more transparent, the Task Force is sharing drafts of many of its documents for public comment, including draft Research Plans and draft Recommendation Statements. As a result, the final Recommendation Statement is not yet available.

Evaluation, Treatment, and Prevention of Vitamin D Deficiency: an Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline

Michael F. Holick, Neil C. Binkley, Heike A. Bischoff-Ferrari, Catherine M. Gordon, David A. Hanley, Robert P. Heaney, M. Hassan Murad, and Connie M. Weaver

- Optimal 25(OH)D : 40–60 ng/ml
 - 600 IU/d will raise and maintain blood concentrations of 25(OH)D > 20 ng/ml, but <30 ng/ml
- Recommended doses
 - Children: 400–1,000 IU/d
 - Adults: 1,500–2,000 IU/d

Summary

- Most evidence for vitamin D and cancer is derived from laboratory studies, ecologic correlations, observational associations, and secondary analysis of RCTs.
- New trials assessing moderate-to-high dose vitamin D supplementation for cancer prevention are in progress.

