

Current vitamin D status in Korea

Dongguk University Ilsan Hospital

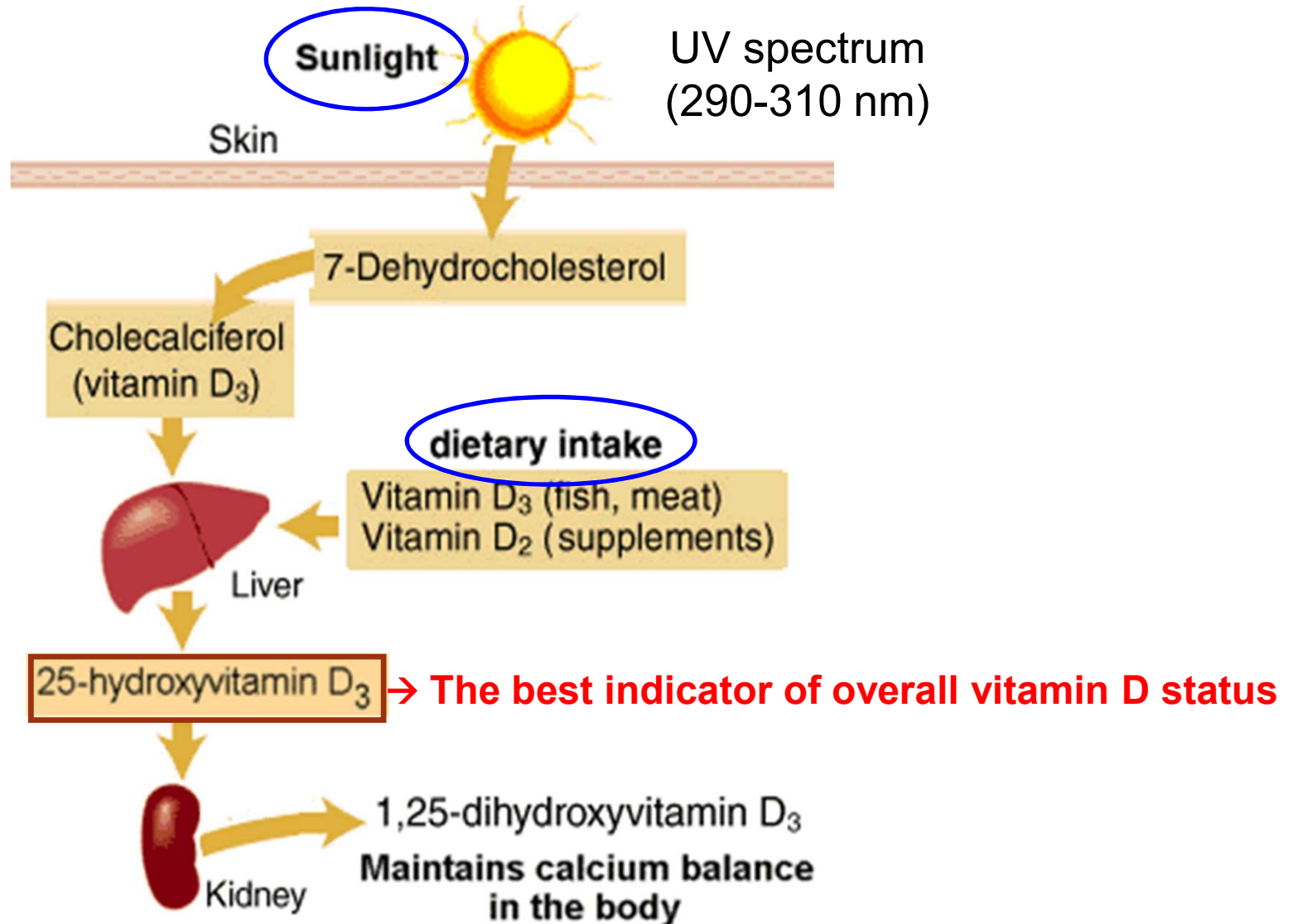
Han Seok Choi

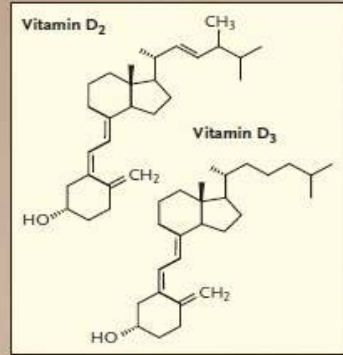
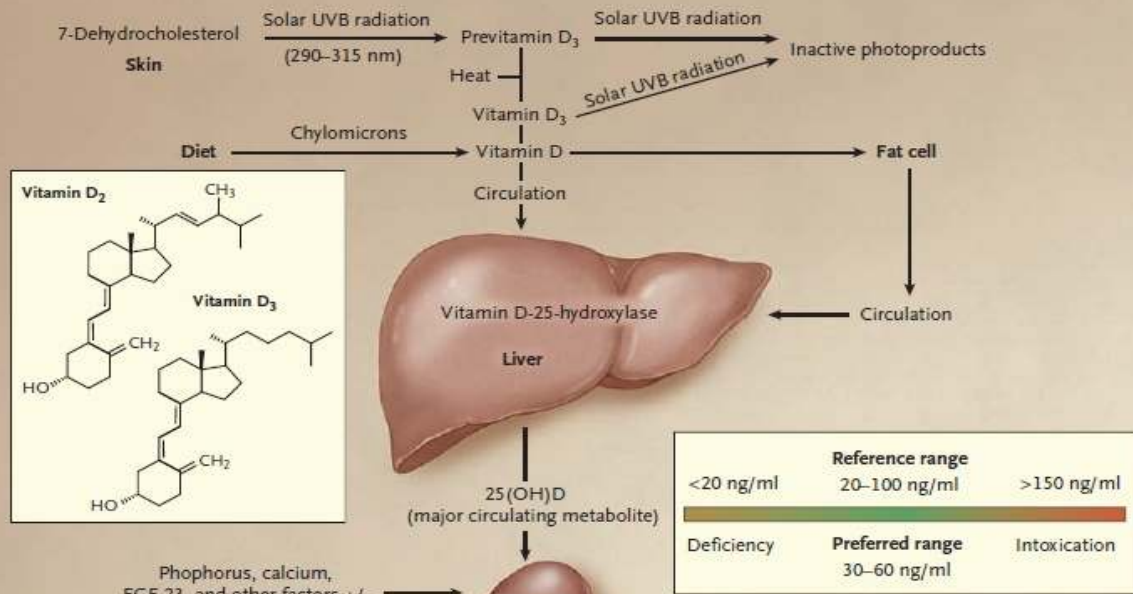
Overview

- Introduction: vitamin D
- Definition of vitamin D status
- Vitamin D status in Korea and other countries
- Determinants of vitamin D status
- Strategies to improve vitamin D status
- Conclusion

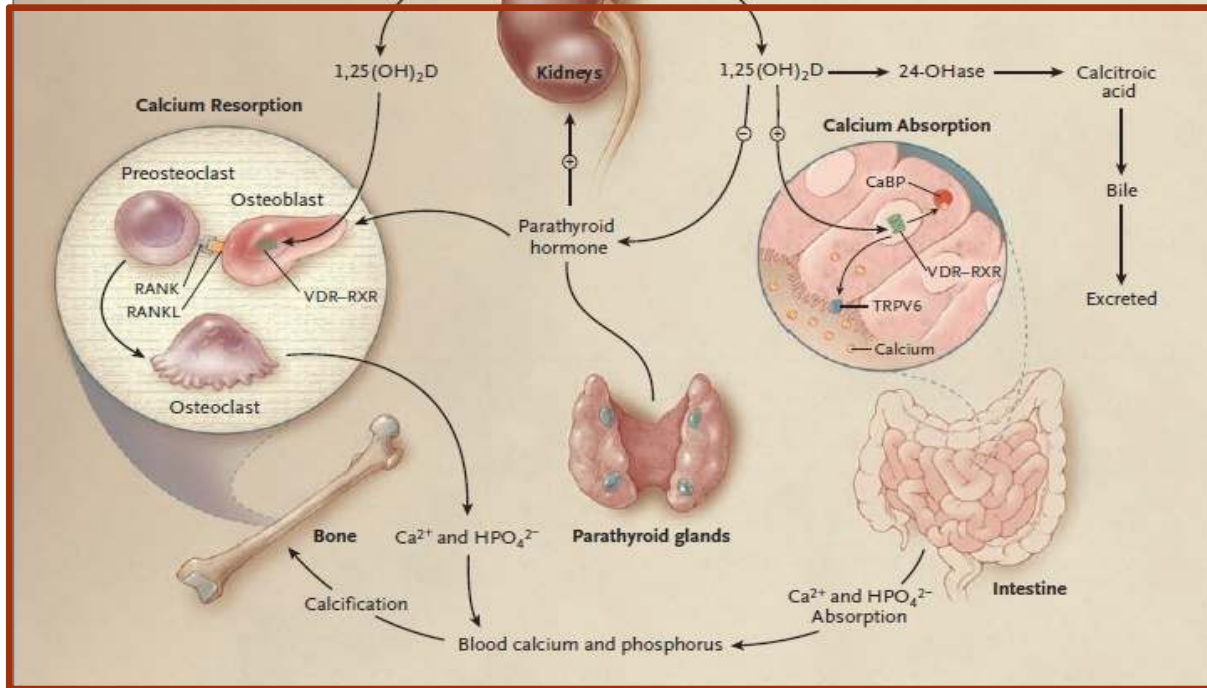
Introduction: vitamin D

Vitamin D metabolism

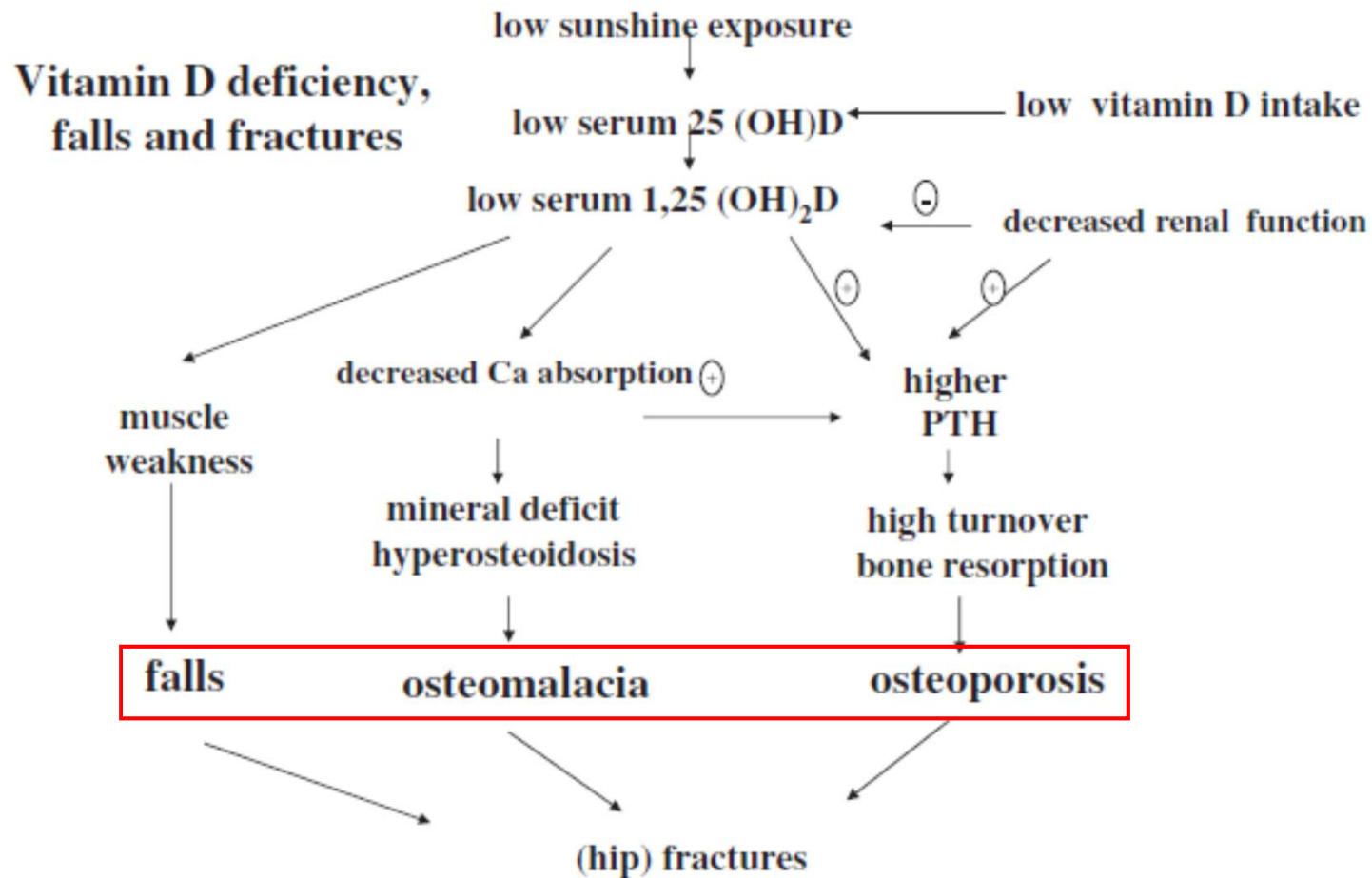


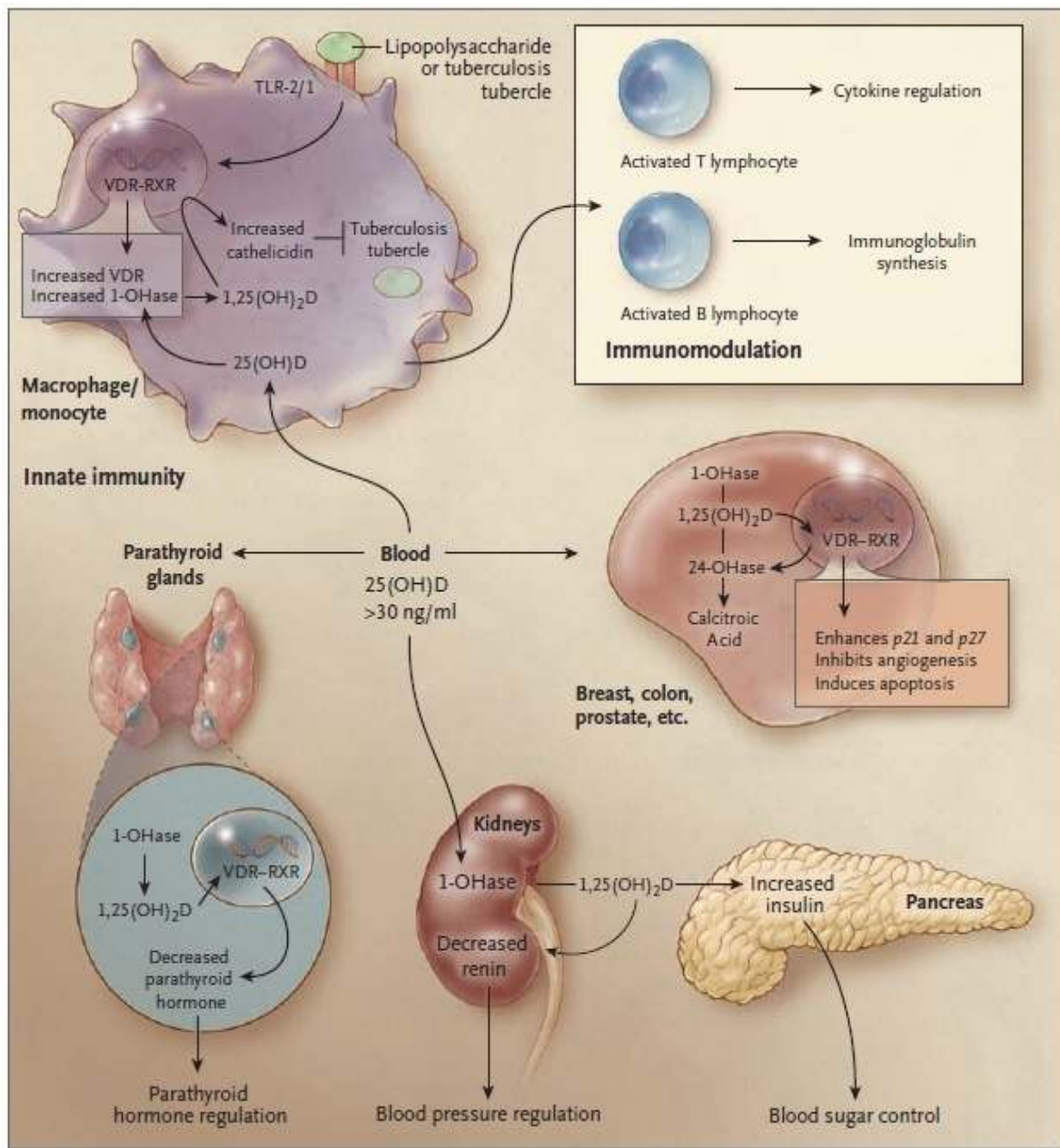


Vitamin D action on bone and mineral metabolism



Vitamin D deficiency





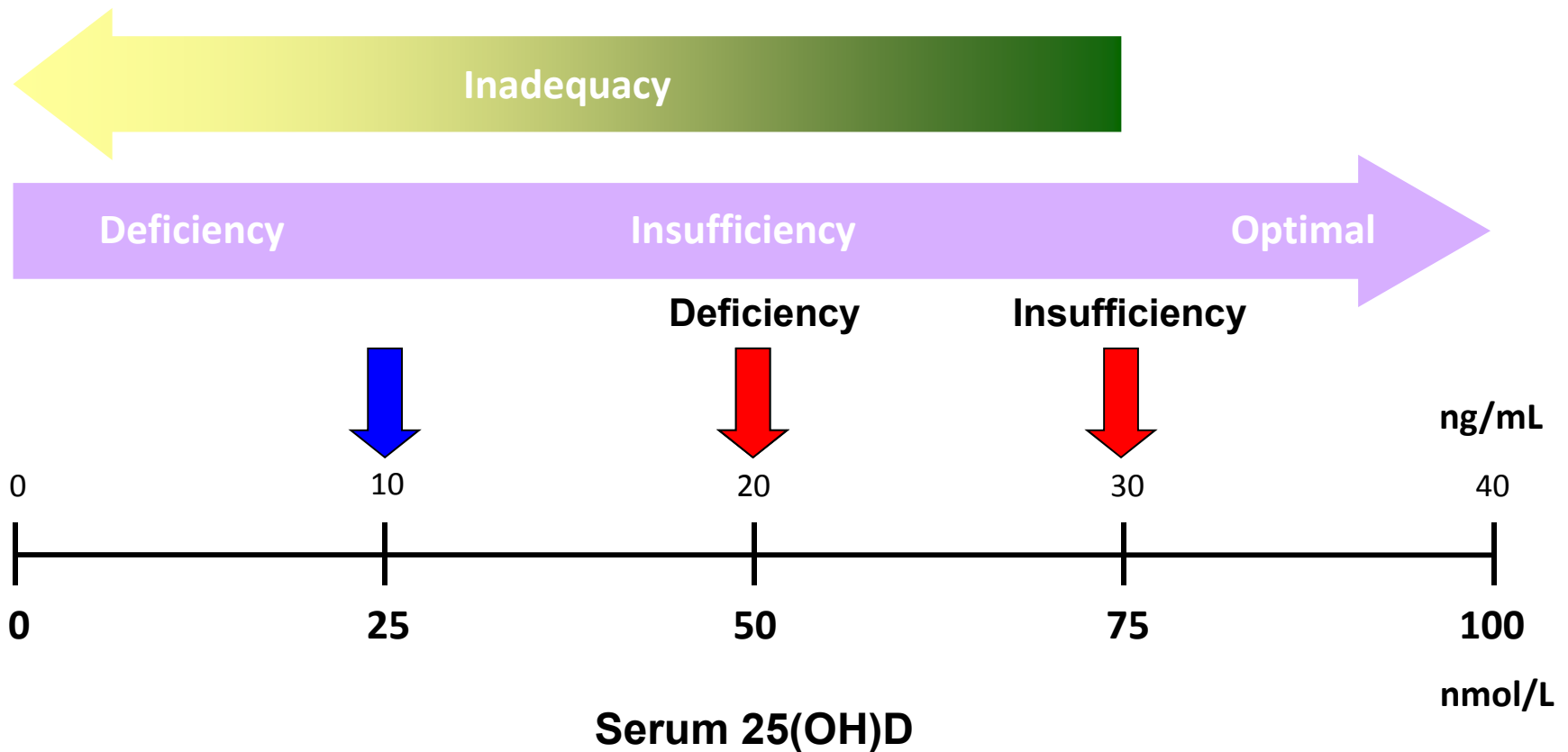
Non-skeletal action of vitamin D

Vitamin D deficiency

- Cardiovascular disease
- Diabetes mellitus
- Cancer
- Autoimmune diseases
- Infection

Definition of vitamin D status

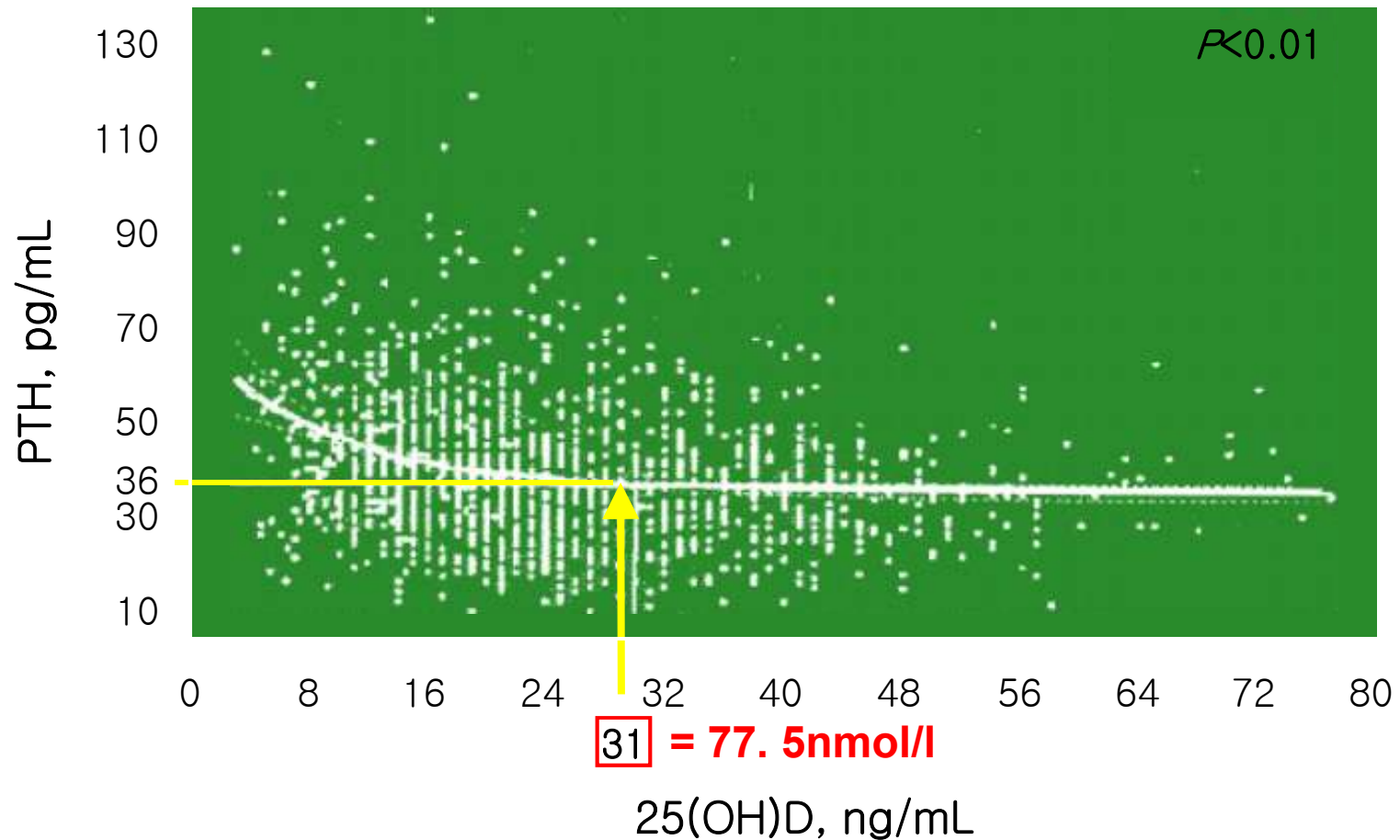
25(OH)D continuum controversy



Guidelines from professional societies

- International workshop on vitamin D (2007)
 - Minimum desirable 25(OH)D is 50 nmol/l
- Osteoporosis Canada (2010)
 - 25(OH) level should be at least 75 nmol/l
- International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) (2010)
 - A target level of 25(OH)D of 75 nmol/l
- Institute of Medicine (IOM) (2011)
 - 25(OH)D above the 50 nmol/l is needed for good bone health for practically all individuals

Serum 25(OH)D and PTH

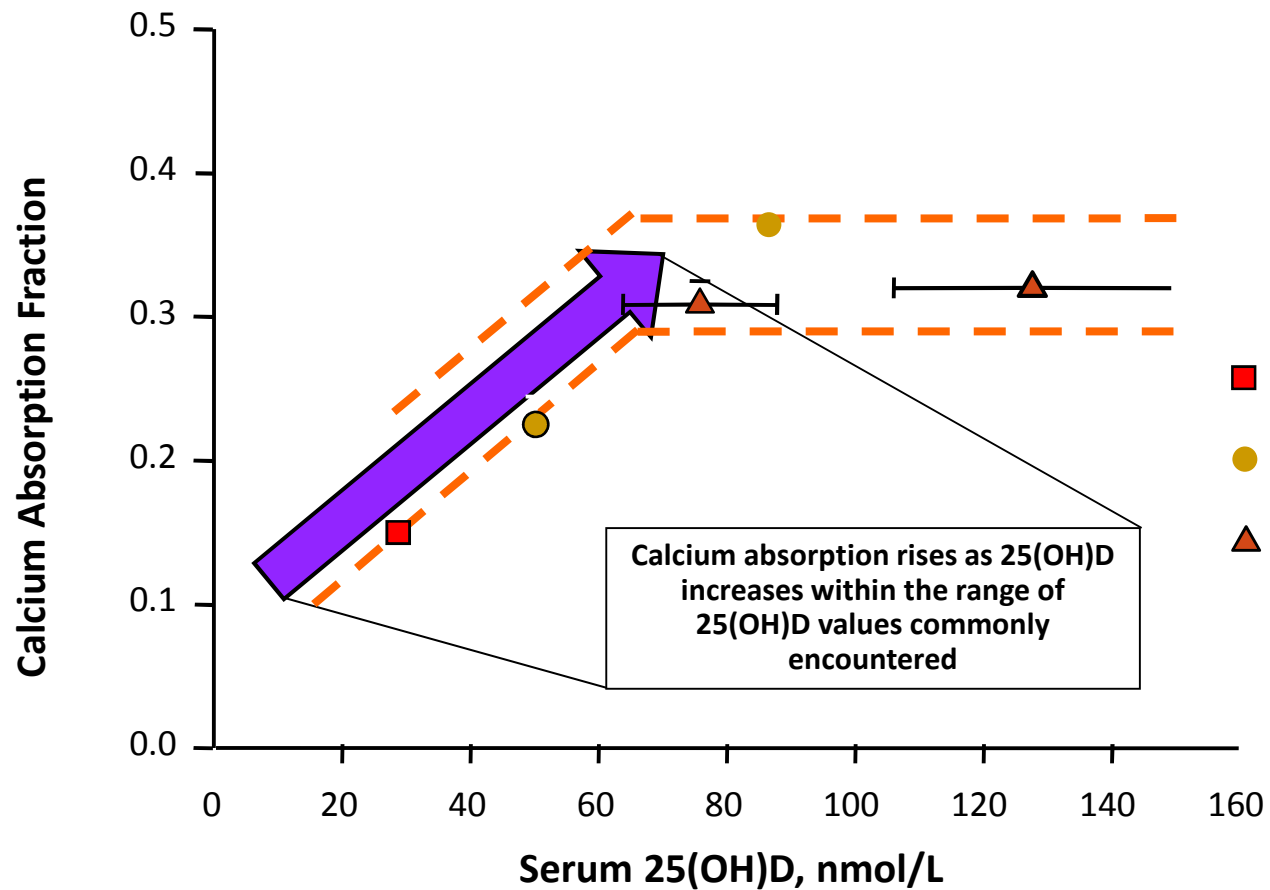


Study design: Multicenter, epidemiologic study of serum 25(OH)D distribution in 1569 healthy men and women in France

Adapted from Chapuy M-C, et al. Osteoporos Int. 1997;7:439-443

Serum 25(OH)D and calcium absorption

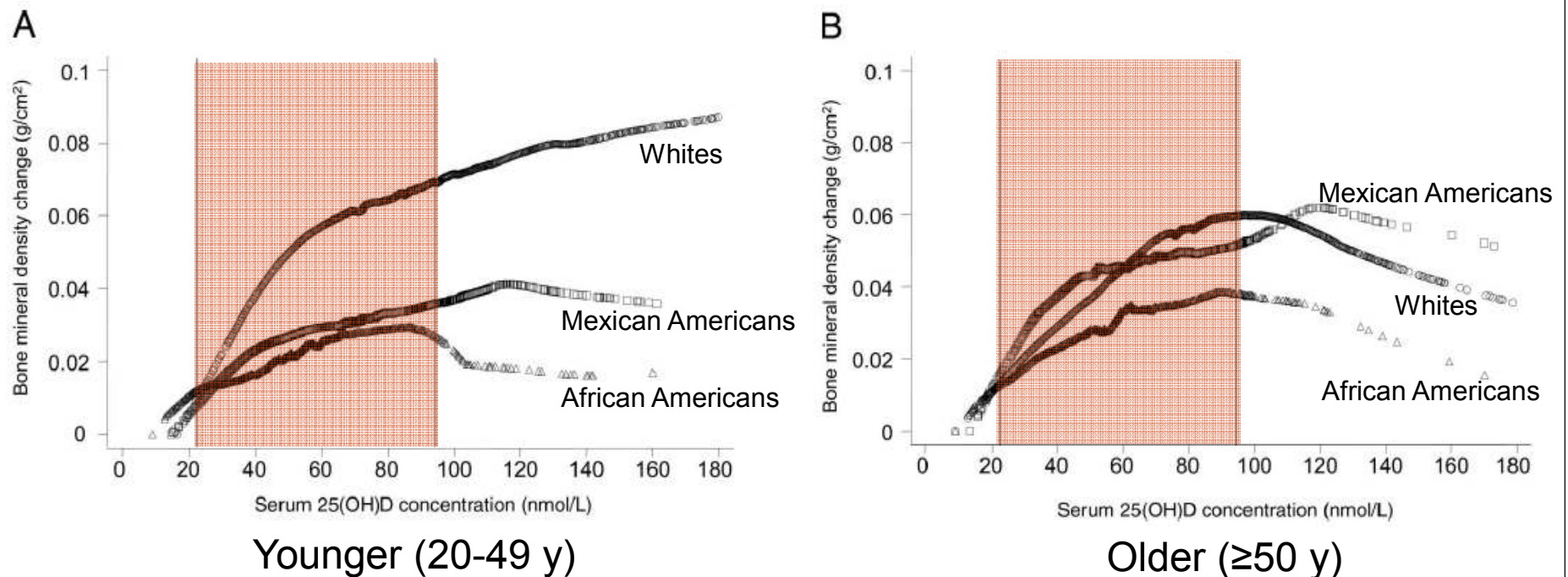
Calcium absorption plateaus at serum 25(OH)D levels ≥ 80 nmol/l



- Bischoff HA, et al. *J Bone Miner Res.* 2003;18:343–351.
- Heaney RP, et al. *J Am Coll Nutr.* 2003;22:142–146.
- ▲ Barger-Lux MJ, et al. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2002;87:4985–4956.

Serum 25(OH)D and BMD

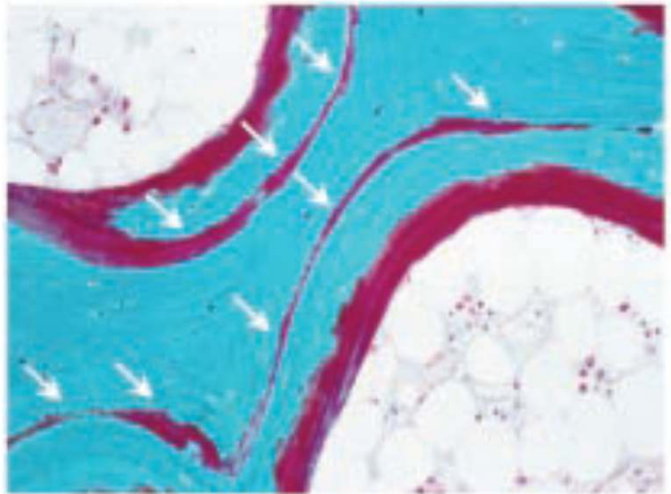
- The association between serum 25(OH)D and hip BMD among 13,432 subjects
- The third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III)



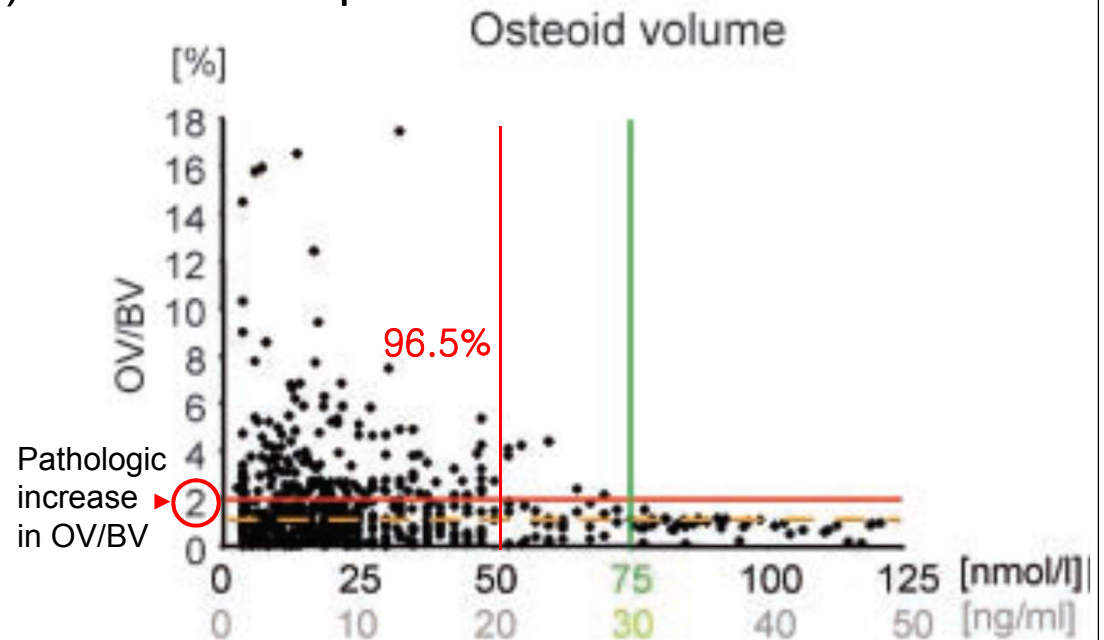
→ Higher 25(OH)D was associated with higher BMD throughout the reference range of **22.5 to 94 nmol/L**. In younger whites and younger Mexican American, higher 25(OH)D was associated with higher BMD, even that **>100 nmol/L**.

Bone Mineralization Defects and Vitamin D Deficiency

Histomorphometric Analysis of Iliac Crest Bone Biopsies and Circulating 25(OH)D in 675 autopsies



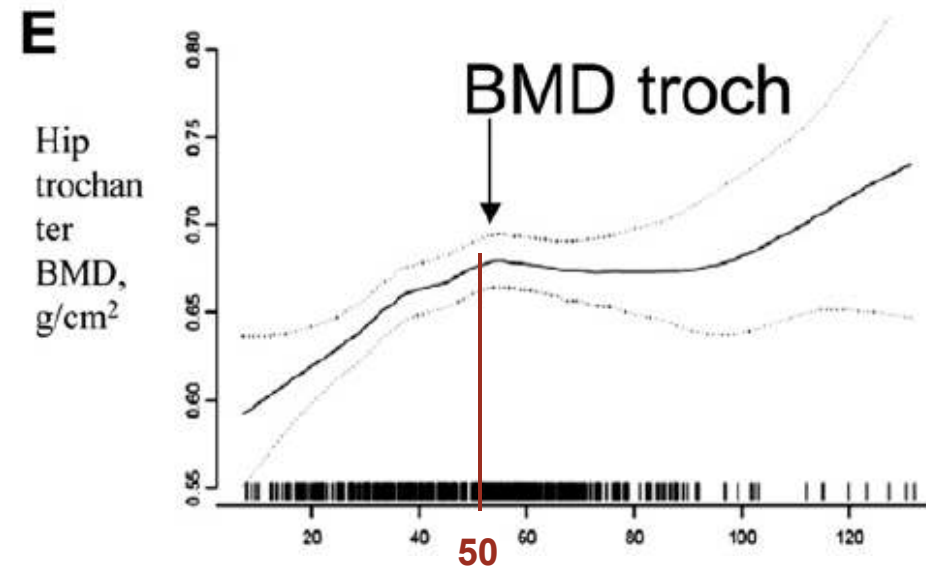
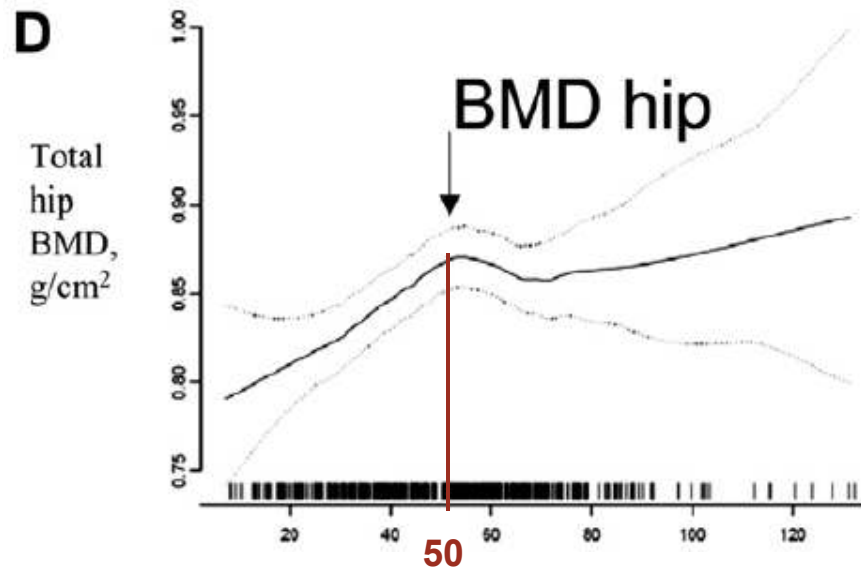
Mineralized bone is stained blue
Unmineralized osteoid is stained red



- No case of osteomalacia with 25(OH)D **above 75 nmol/L**
- About 96.5% of osteomalacia cases occurred at a 25(OH)D level of **less than 50 nmol/L**

Serum 25(OH)D and BMD

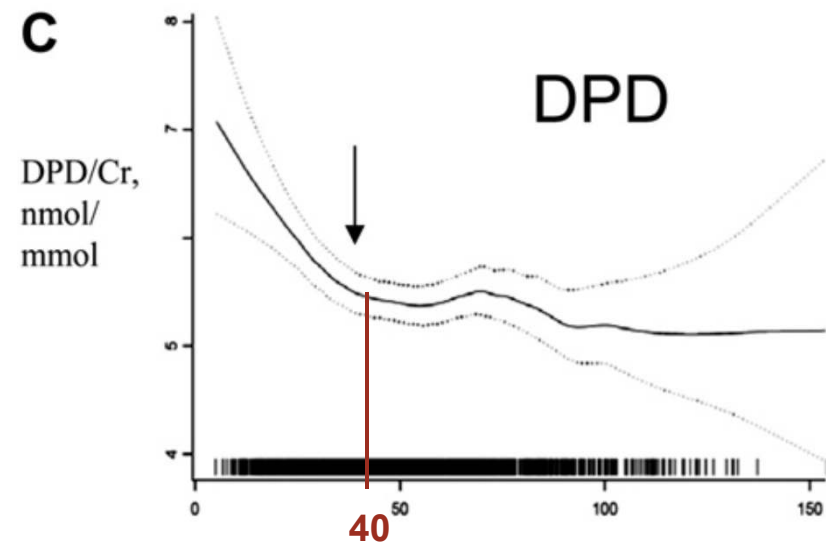
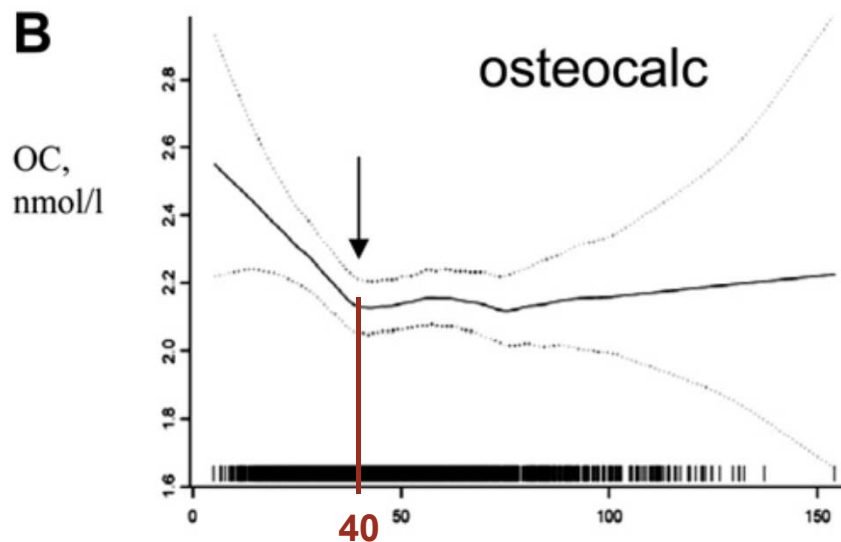
- The Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam (LASA)
- A total of 1319 subjects (643 men and 676 women)



→ A threshold appeared to exist around the serum 25(OH)D level of **50 nmol/L**

Serum 25(OH)D and BTM

- The Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam (LASA)
- A total of 1319 subjects (643 men and 676 women)



→ A steep decrease up to the serum 25(OH)D level of **about 40 nmol/L**, followed by a plateau

Serum 25(OH)D and BMD in Korea

The Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (KNHANES) 2008-2009

	Serum 25(OH)D ^a (nmol/L) in Women				P value ^b
	<25 (n=119)	25~50 (n=2526)	50~75 (n=1432)	>75 (n=300)	
Lumbar spine	0.90±0.00	0.91±0.00	0.92±0.00	0.90±0.01	0.079
Femur trochanter	0.61±0.00***	0.62±0.00*	0.63±0.00	0.62±0.01	<0.001
Femoral neck	0.69±0.00***	0.70±0.00**	0.72±0.00	0.71±0.01	<0.001
Total hip	0.84±0.00***	0.86±0.00**	0.87±0.00	0.86±0.01	<0.001

	Serum 25(OH)D ^a (nmol/L) in Men				P value ^b
	<25 (n=393)	25~50 (n=1693)	50~75 (n=1560)	>75 (n=525)	
Lumbar spine	0.96±0.01	0.96±0.00	0.97±0.00	0.97±0.01	0.063
Femur trochanter	0.67±0.02***	0.68±0.00***	0.70±0.00	0.70±0.00	<0.001
Femoral neck	0.79±0.01***	0.80±0.00***	0.82±0.00	0.81±0.01	<0.001
Total hip	0.95±0.01***	0.96±0.00***	0.98±0.00	0.98±0.01	<0.001

Values are presented as mean ± standard error.

^a Adjusted by age, BMI, regular walking, regular exercise, current smoking, and season of vitamin D determination

^b Overall results of covariance analysis.

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, as compared to the reference group (20~30 ng/mL).

Serum 25(OH)D and femur geometry

The Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (KNHANES) 2008-2009

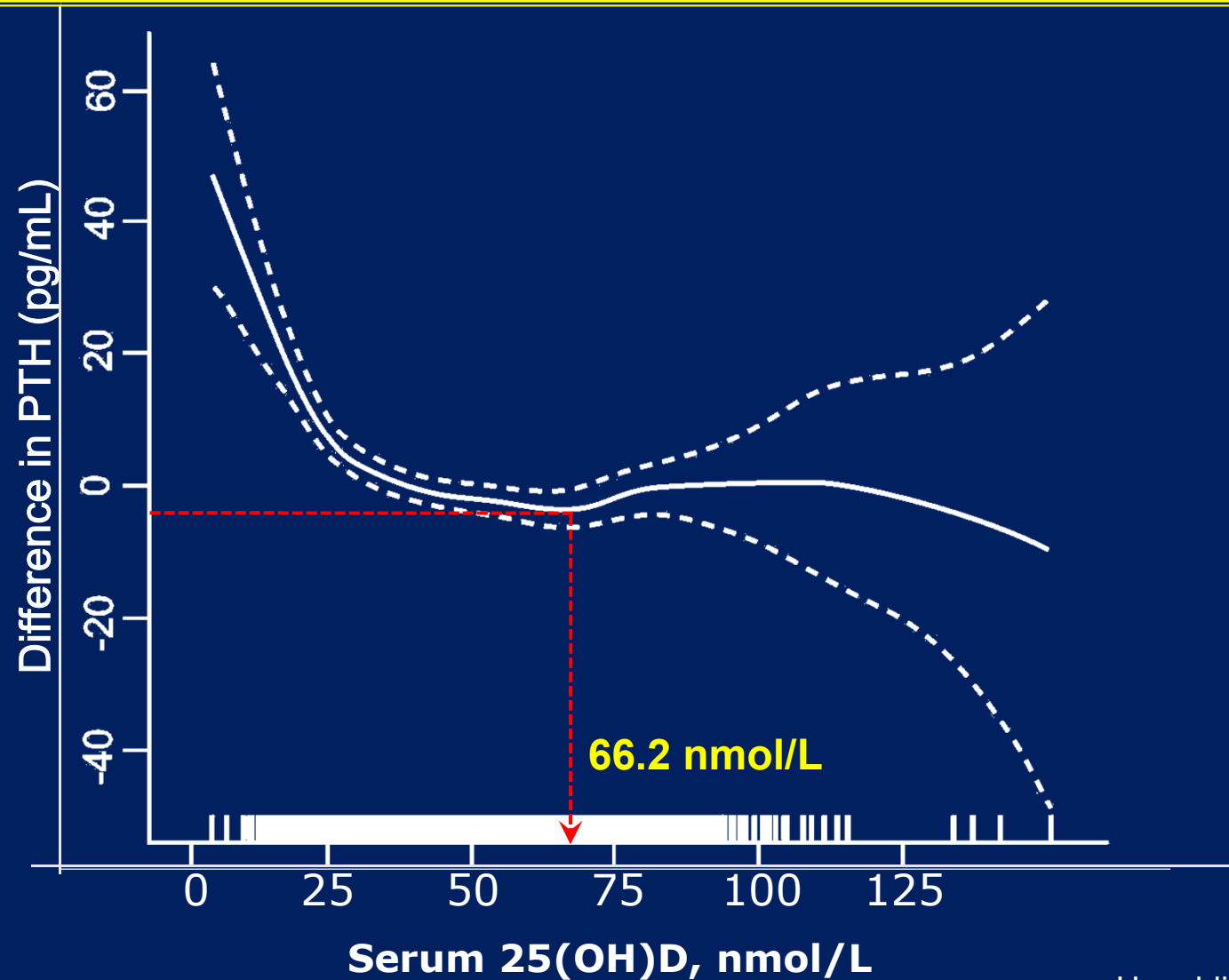
	Serum 25(OH)D ^a (nmol/L) in Women				<i>P</i> value ^b
	<25 (n=214)	25~50 (n=1995)	50~75 (n=1182)	>75 (n=270)	
FN cortical thickness (mm)	1.62±0.00**	1.66±0.00	1.69±0.00	1.67±0.00	0.005
FN CSA(cm²)	2.52±0.03***	2.62±0.01	2.65±0.01	2.62±0.03	<0.001
FN CSMI (cm⁴)	2.16±0.04***	2.30±0.01	2.34±0.02	2.32±0.04	<0.001
FN buckling ratio	11.8 ±0.19**	11.34±0.06	11.20±0.08	11.19±0.18	0.013

	Serum 25(OH)D ^a (nmol/L) in Men				<i>P</i> value ^b
	<25 (n=50)	25~50 (n=995)	50~75 (n=1088)	>75 (n=361)	
FN cortical thickness (mm)	1.76±0.00	1.83±0.00	1.86±0.00	1.86±0.00	0.020
FN CSA(cm²)	3.18±0.06	3.27±0.01*	3.34±0.01	3.35±0.02	0.002
FN CSMI (cm⁴)	3.68±0.11	3.76±0.02**	3.87±0.02	3.93±0.04	<0.001
FN buckling ratio	12.10±0.29	11.56±0.07	11.33±0.06	11.38±0.10	0.020

FN, femur neck; CSA, cross-sectional area; CSMI, cross-sectional moment of inertia

Unpublished data

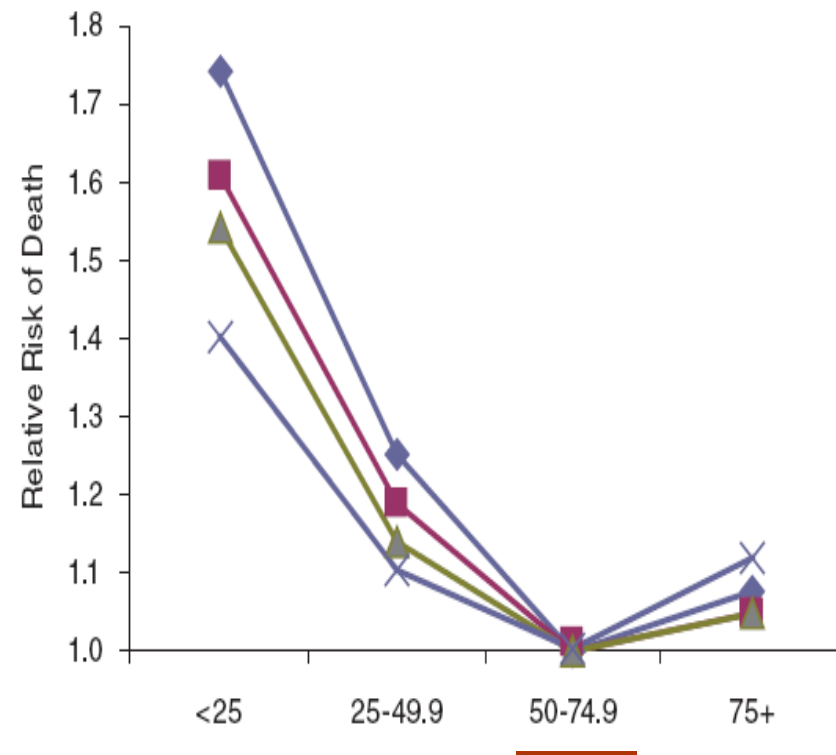
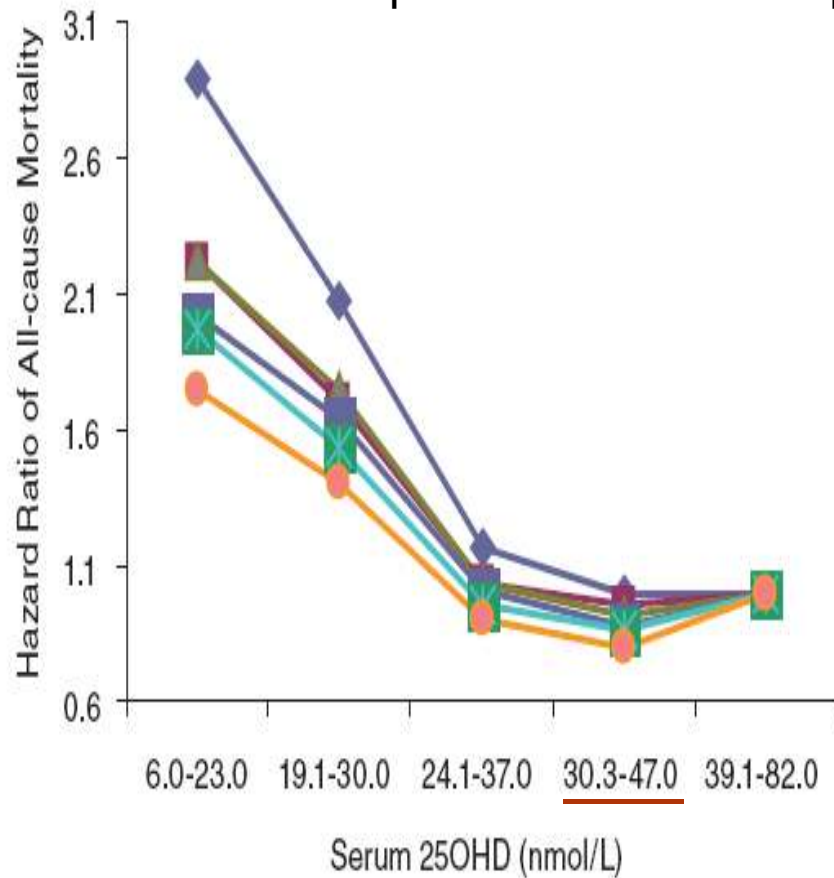
Association between serum 25(OH)D and PTH



Unpublished data

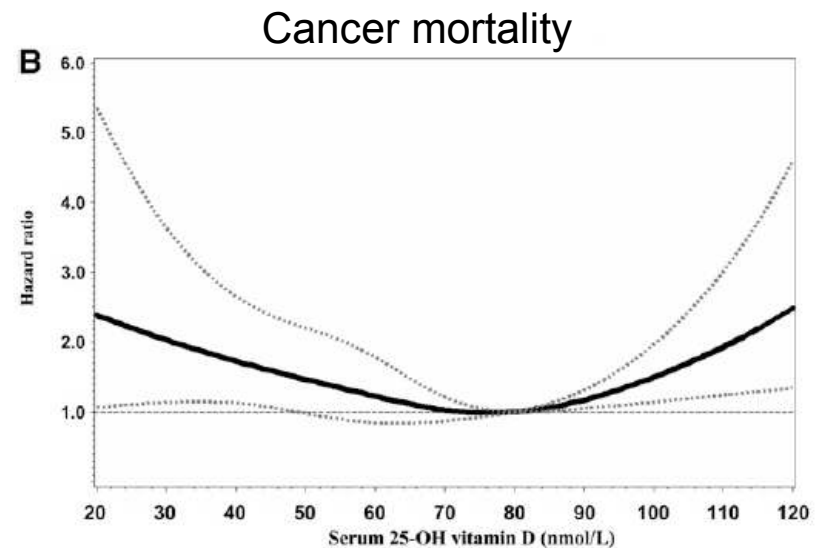
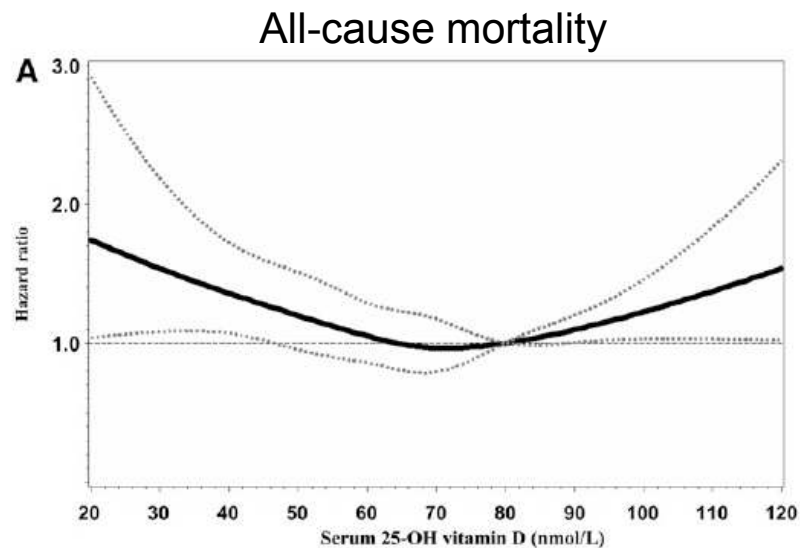
Serum 25(OH)D level and all-cause mortality

- Cohort studies
- U-shaped or reverse J-shaped pattern



Serum 25(OH)D level and all-cause mortality

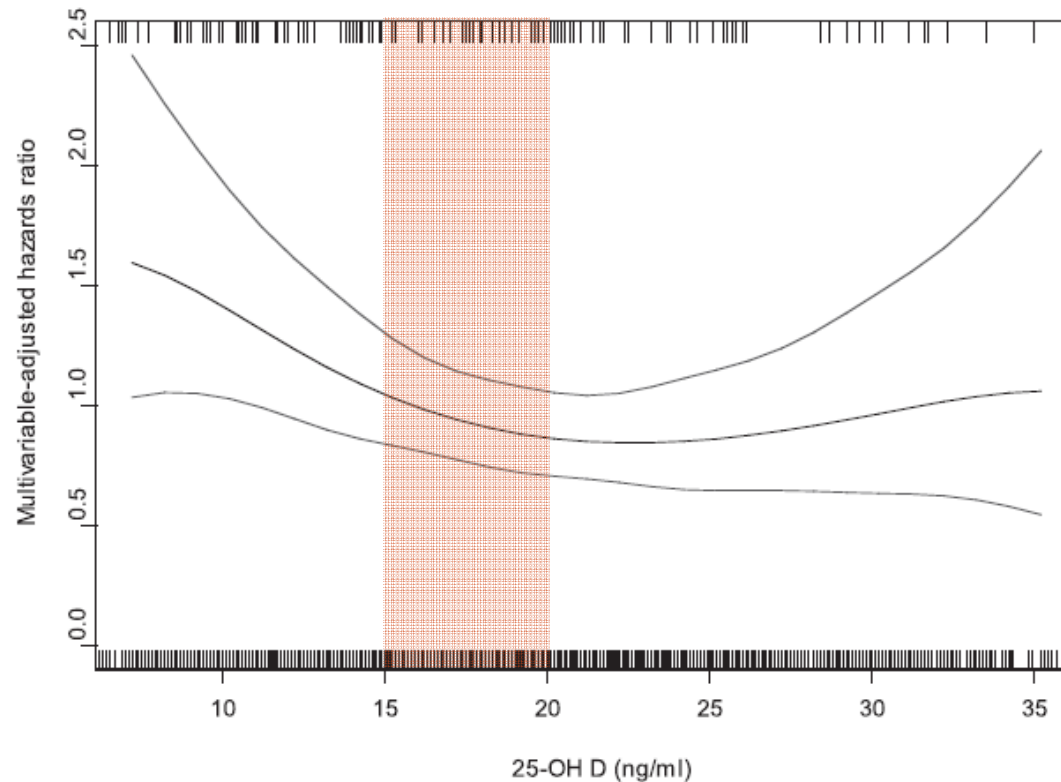
- The Uppsala Longitudinal Study of Adult Men
- A community-based cohort of elderly men (mean age: 71 yr, n= 1,194)
- Follow up: 12.7 yr
- U-shaped or reverse J-shaped pattern



→ An approximately 50% higher total mortality rate was observed among men in the lowest 10% (<46 nmol/L) and the highest 5% (>98 nmol/L) of plasma 25(OH)D concentrations compared with intermediate concentrations.

Relation between baseline vitamin D status and incident cardiovascular events

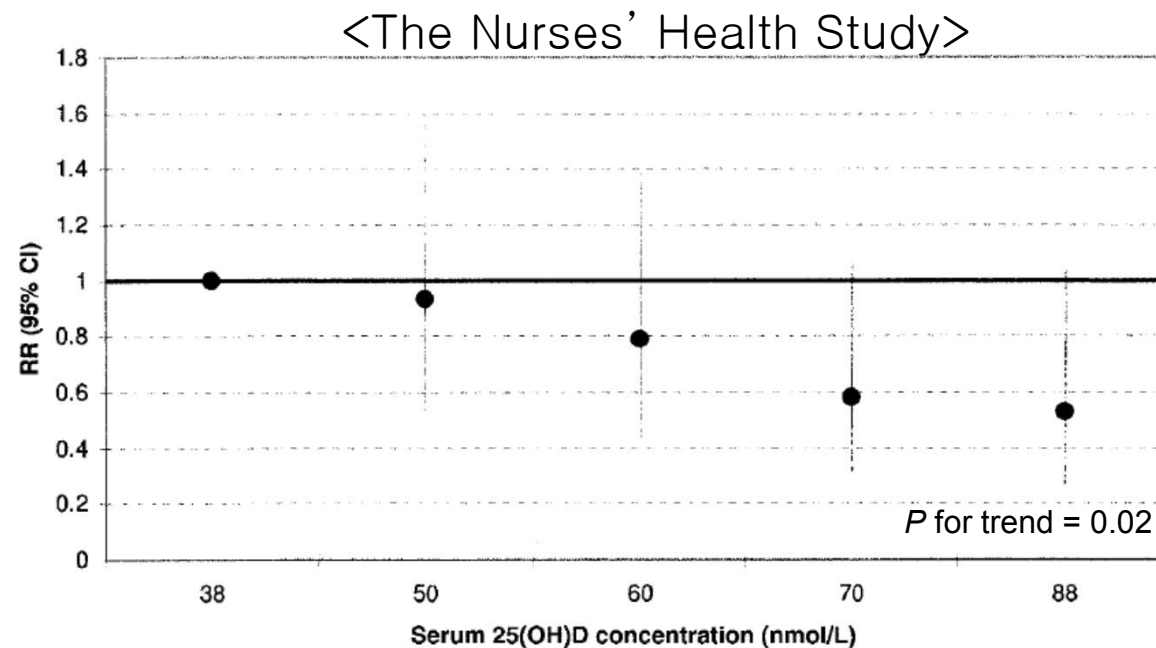
- The Framingham Offspring cohort
- 1739 participants (mean age 59 years) without prior cardiovascular disease



→ A nonlinear relation between 25(OH)D levels and cardiovascular risk, with increased risk for cardiovascular events at 25(OH)D levels below 37.5 to 50 nmol/L

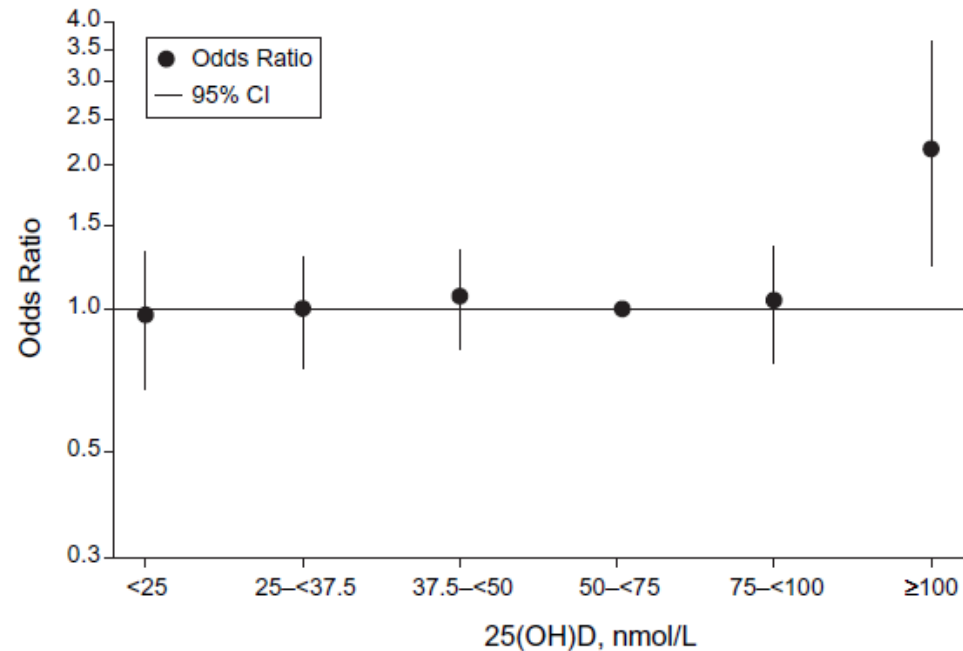
Vitamin D and colorectal cancer

- Previous studies found a inverse associations of vitamin D intake with colon or rectal cancer
- A lower risk of colorectal cancer associated with higher 25(OH)D levels was reported



Vitamin D and pancreatic cancer

- The Cohort Consortium Vitamin D Pooling Project of Rarer Cancers
- Involving 10 cohorts that are members of the National Cancer Institute Cohort Consortium



→ An increased risk at very high levels (**above 100 nmol/L**) was noted

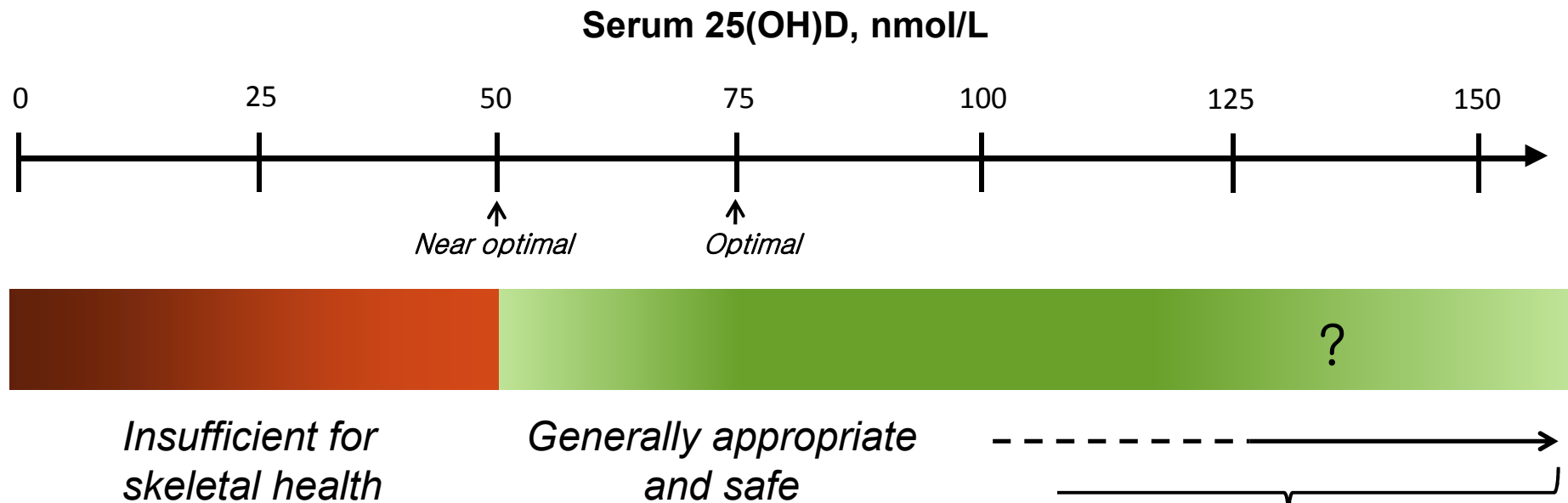
Vitamin D and prostate cancer

- A longitudinal nested case-control study in the Nordic countries

Vitamin D level (nmol/l)	All countries		Norway		Finland		Sweden	
	Number of cases	OR (CI)	Number of cases	OR (CI)	Number of cases	OR (CI)	Number of cases	OR (CI)
≤ 19	19	1.5 (0.8–2.7)	5	0.9 (0.3–2.8)	13	2.4 (1.1–5.1)	1	1.3 (0.1–12.5)
20–39	169	1.3 (0.98–1.6)	89	1.2 (0.9–1.7)	68	1.9 (1.1–3.1)	12	0.7 (0.3–1.4)
40–59 (ref.)	229	1	155	1	29	1	45	1
60–79	138	1.2 (0.9–1.5)	98	1.2 (0.8–1.7)	18	1.4 (0.7–2.8)	22	1.0 (0.5–1.8)
≥80	67	1.7 (1.1–2.4)	57	1.8 (1.1–2.8)	4	1.2 (0.4–3.8)	6	1.5 (0.5–4.4)

→ Both high and low levels of blood vitamin D are associated with a higher prostate cancer risk

Definition of vitamin D status



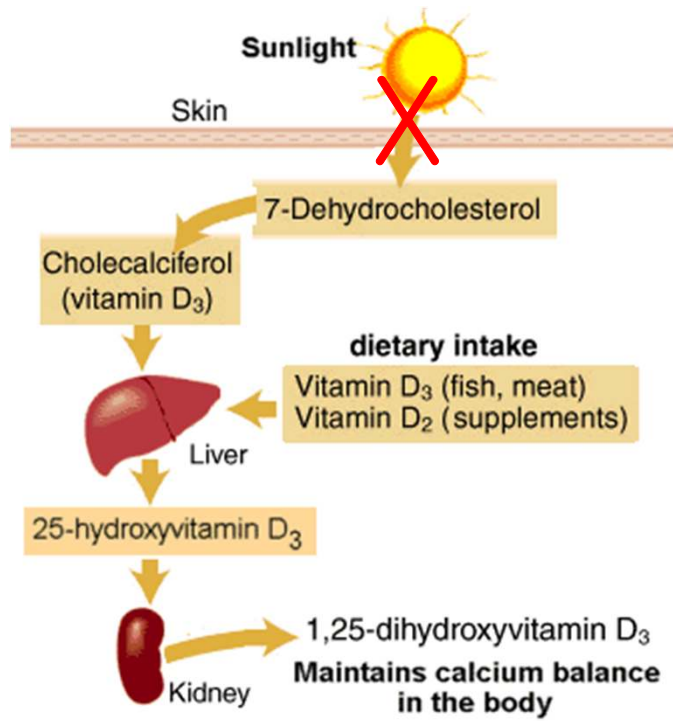
- 25(OH)D < 50 nmol/L: insufficient for skeletal health
- 25(OH)D ≥ 50 nmol/L: generally appropriate and safe for public health
- 25(OH)D ≥ 75 nmol/L: needed for vulnerable people (osteoporotic, elderly)
- 25(OH)D ≥ 375 nmol/L: intoxication can occur
- 25(OH)D between 100~150 and 375 nmol/L: consider potential risk and benefit. Further research is needed

Potential benefit
 Further benefit in skeletal health
 Potential benefit in extra-skeletal health

vs

Potential risk
 Cardiovascular events, Cancer risk
 All-cause mortality

Vitamin D status in Korea and other countries



Demographic Differences and Trends of Vitamin D Insufficiency in the US Population, 1988-2004

Adit A. Ginde, MD, MPH; Mark C. Liu, MD; Carlos A. Camargo Jr, MD, DrPH

Table 1. Description of Demographics and Serum 25(OH)D Levels in NHANES III and NHANES 2001-2004

	NHANES III (1988-1994) ^a			NHANES 2001-2004 ^a		
	No. of Participants	Estimated US Population, Millions	% of Participants (95% CI) ^b	No. of Participants	Estimated US Population, Millions	% of Participants (95% CI) ^b
Total	18 883	195	100	13 369	221	100
Age, y						
12-19	2937	26	13 (13-14)	4224	29	13 (12-14)
20-39	6455	77	40 (38-42)	3249	75	34 (32-36)
40-59	4293	54	28 (27-29)	2726	74	34 (32-35)
≥60	5198	37	19 (17-21)	3170	41	19 (18-20)
Sex						
Male	8840	94	48 (48-49)	6512	107	49 (48-49)
Female	10 043	101	52 (51-52)	6856	114	51 (51-52)
Race/ethnicity						
NH white	7428	146	75 (72-78)	6131	158	72 (67-76)
NH black	5362	22	11 (10-13)	3149	25	11 (9-14)
Mexican American	5305	11	6 (5-7)	3211	18	8 (6-11)
Other	788	16	8 (7-10)	878	20	9 (7-12)
25(OH)D level, ng/mL						
<10	684	4	2 (2-2)	1321	14	6 (5-8)
10 to <30	12 302	104	53 (51-55)	9843	157	71 (68-73)
≥30	5897	87	45 (43-47)	2205	50	23 (20-26)

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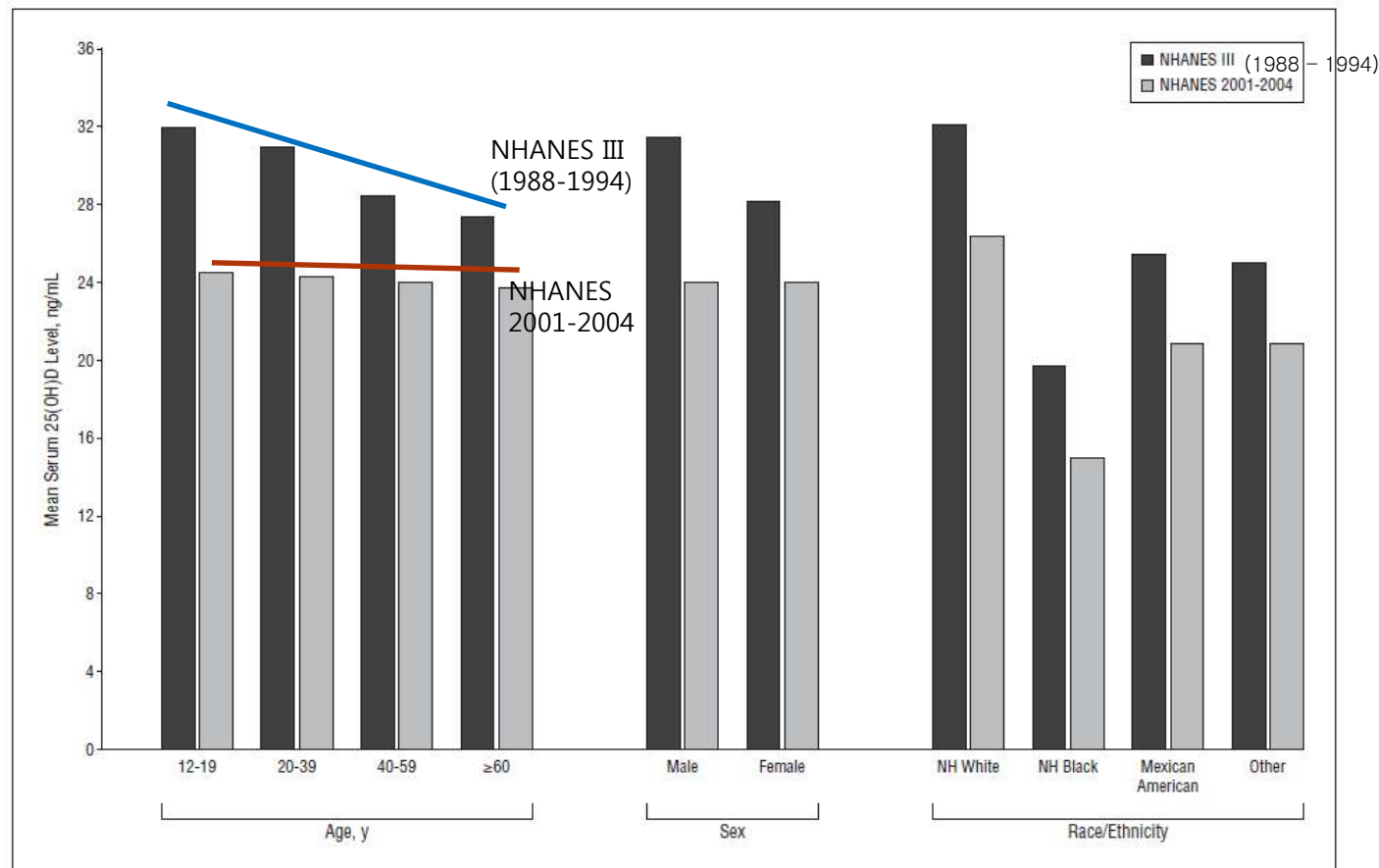
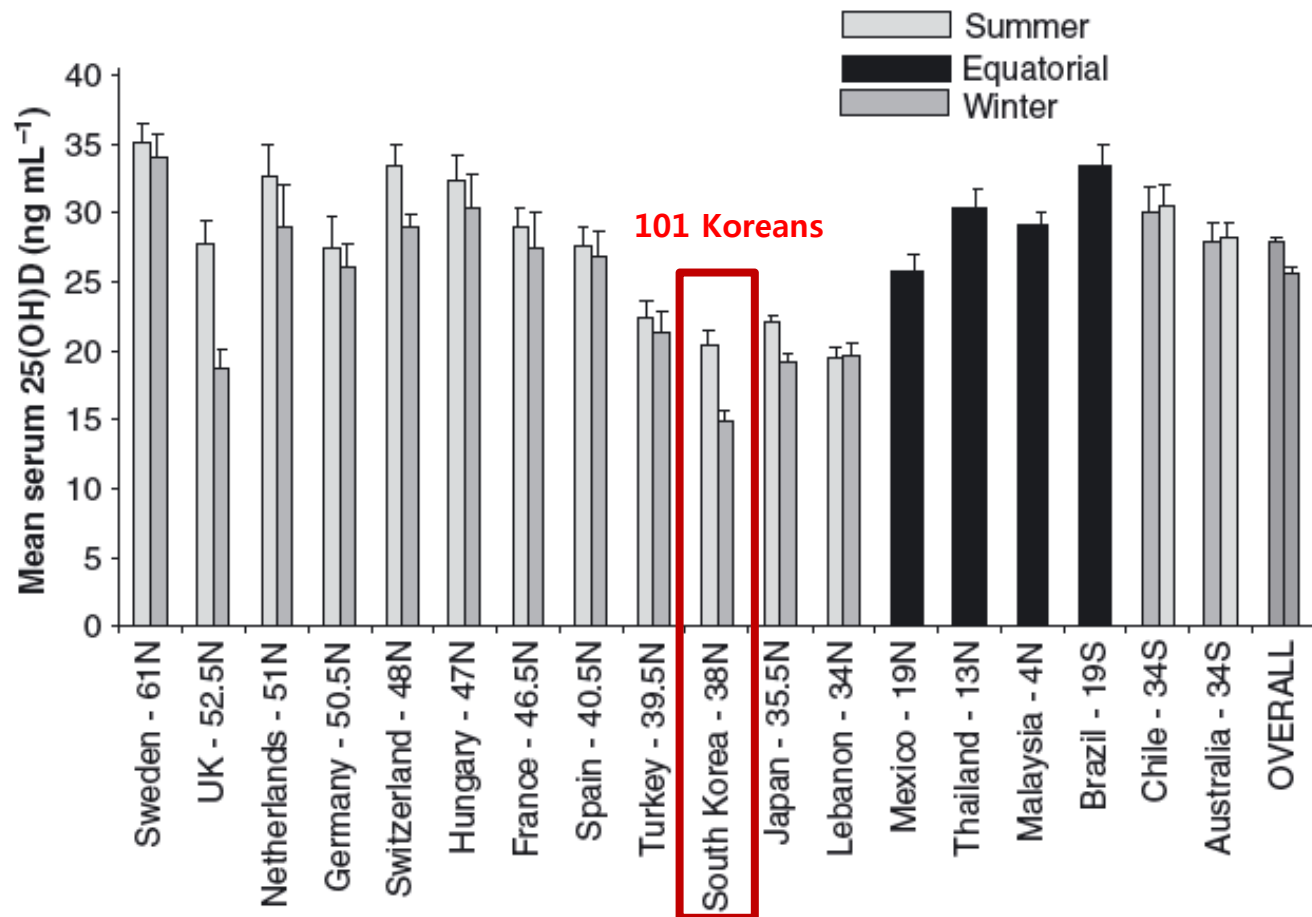


Figure 1. Mean serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25[OH]D) levels in the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III) (1988-1994) and in NHANES 2001-2004, stratified by demographic characteristics. NH indicates non-Hispanic. To convert 25(OH)D levels to nanomoles per liter, multiply by 2.496.

Vitamin D status in Korea

Mean 25(OH)D (ng/mL) by country and descending latitude (North to South)
(n=2589) **postmenopausal osteoporotic women**



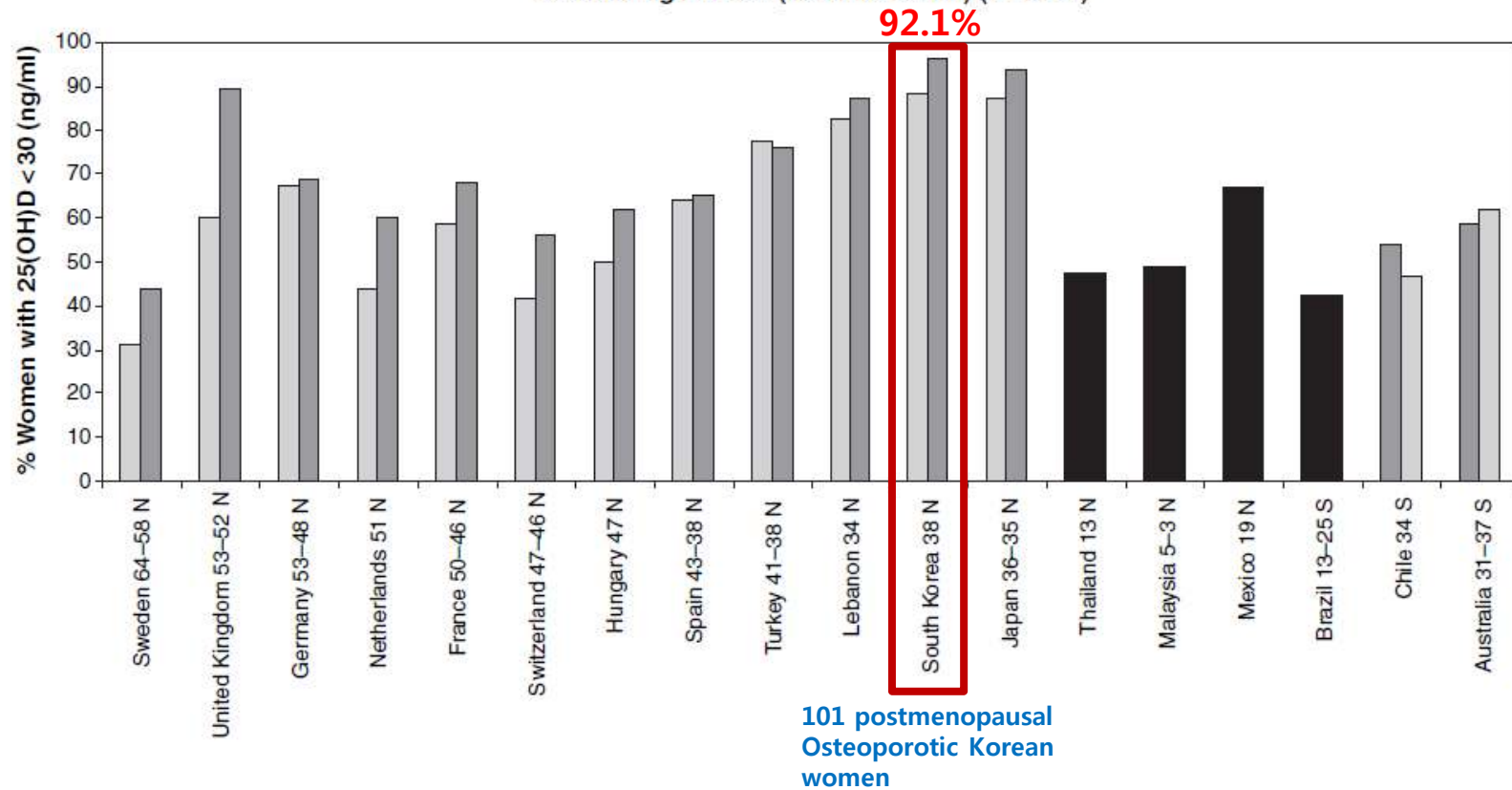
17.6 ng/mL

Lips et al. J Intern Med 260: 245, 2006

Vitamin D status in Korea

25(OH)D < 75nmol/l

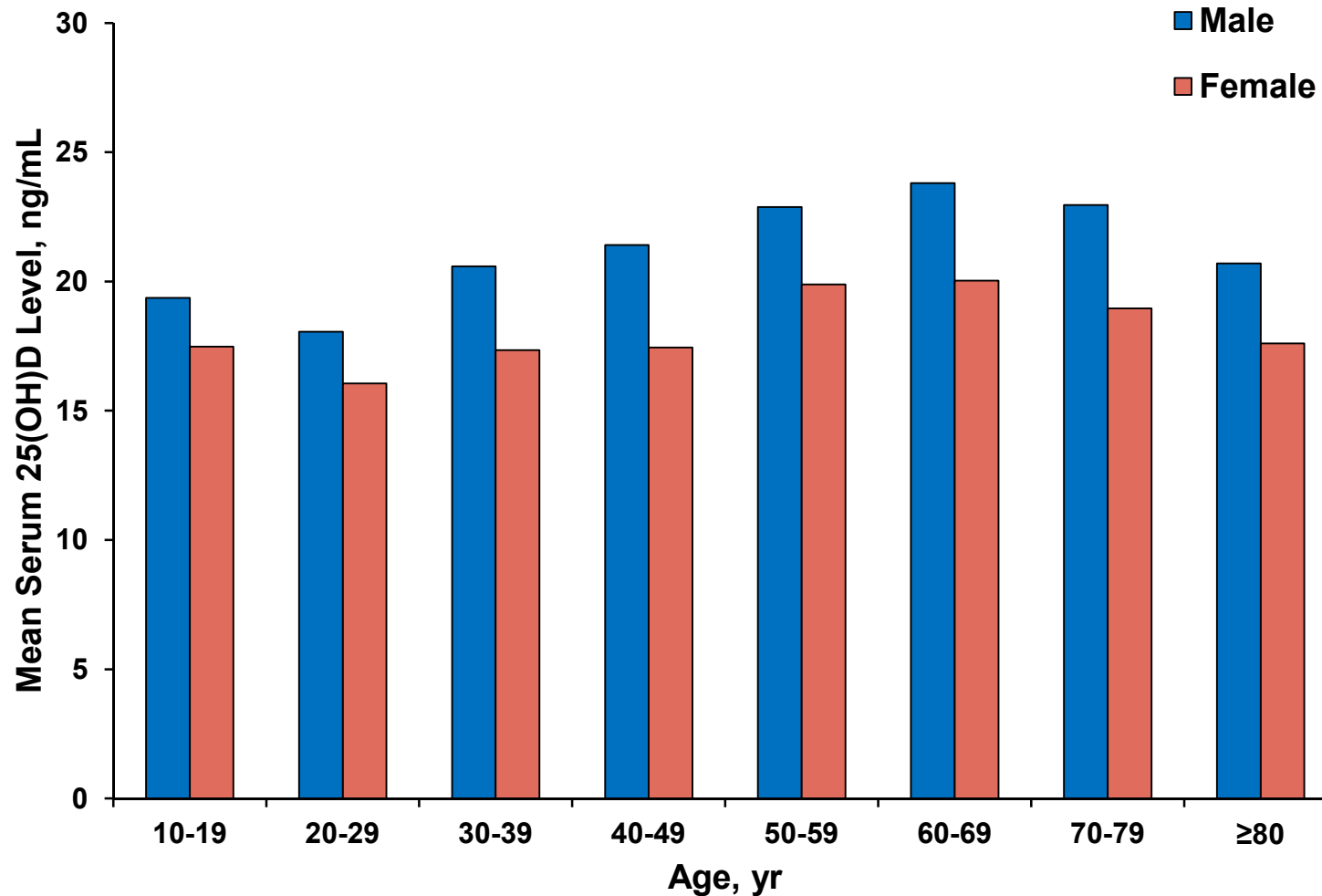
Percent of women with 25(OH)D < 75 nmol/l (< 30 ng/ml) by country and descending latitude (North to South) (n = 2589)



The Fourth Korean National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

- The KNHANES has been conducted periodically since 1998 to assess the health and nutritional status of the **civilian, non- institutionalized population** of the Korea
- A **cross-sectional** and **nationally representative survey** conducted by the Division of Chronic Disease Surveillance, Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Duration:** February, 2008 – December, 2008
- **Participants:** Total 6,925 (Male- 3,047, Female- 3,878)
- **Age:** ≥ 10 yr
- **25-hydroxyvitamin D assay:** RIA (DiaSorin)

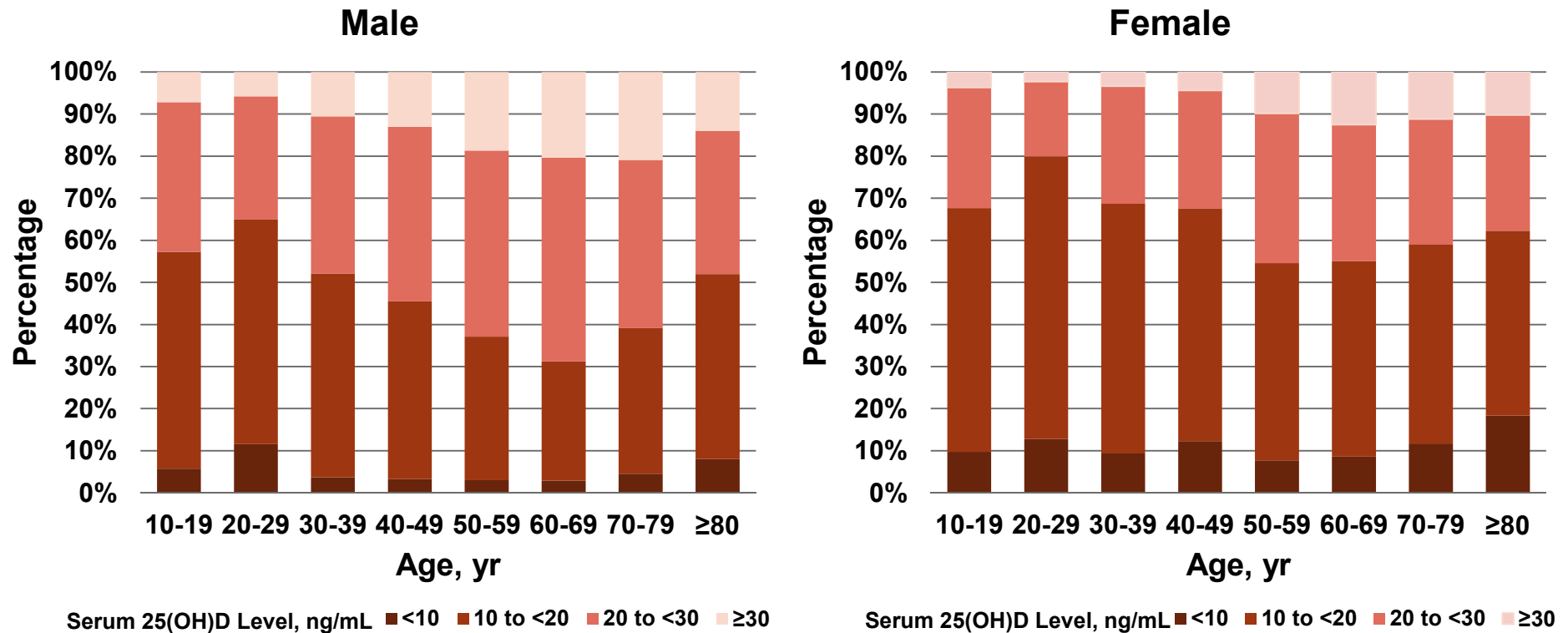
Age-related change of serum 25(OH)D levels



→ Mean serum 25(OH)D level: **53 nmol/L** (21.2 ng/dL) for men, and **45.5 nmol/L** (18.2 ng/dL) for women

Prevalence of vitamin D insufficiency by 10-year age categories

The Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (KNHANES) 2008



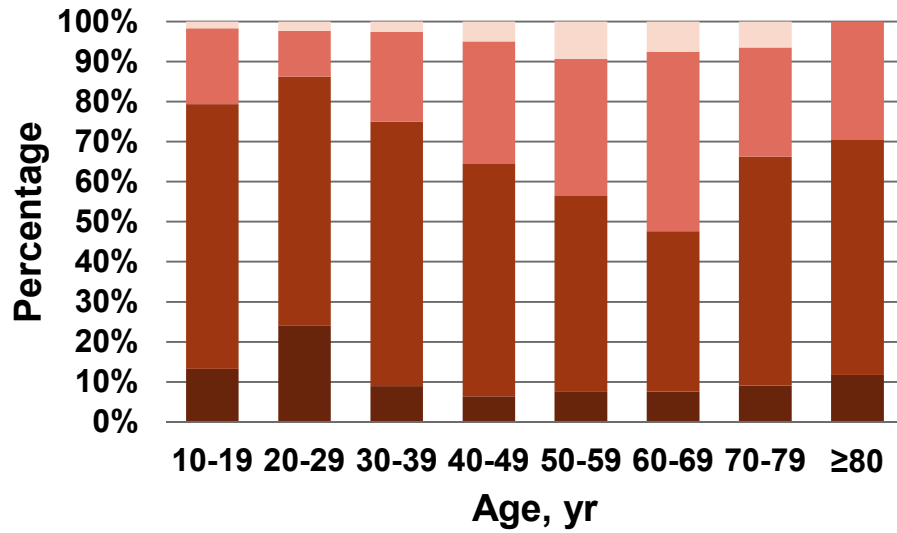
→ Vitamin D insufficiency

< 50 nmol/L: 47.3% in men and 64.5% in women

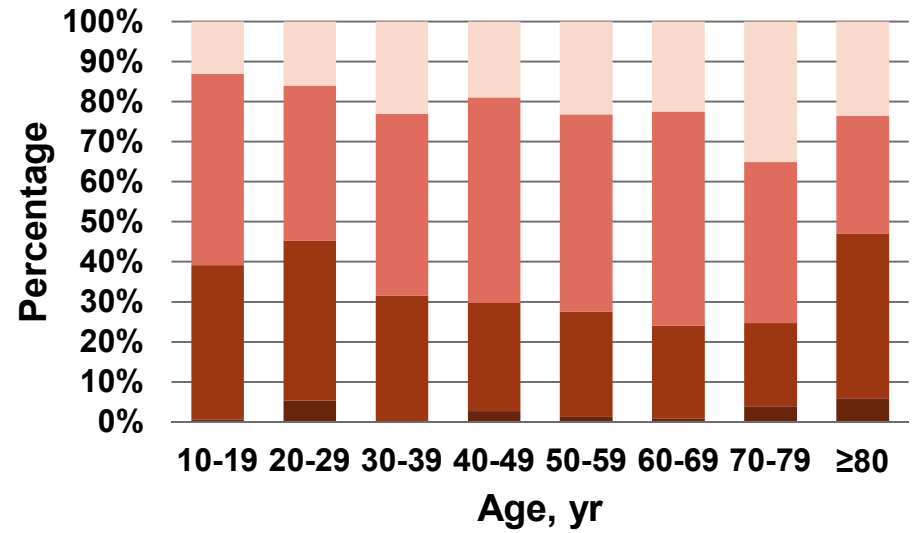
< 75 nmol/L: 86.8% in men and 93.3% in women

Male

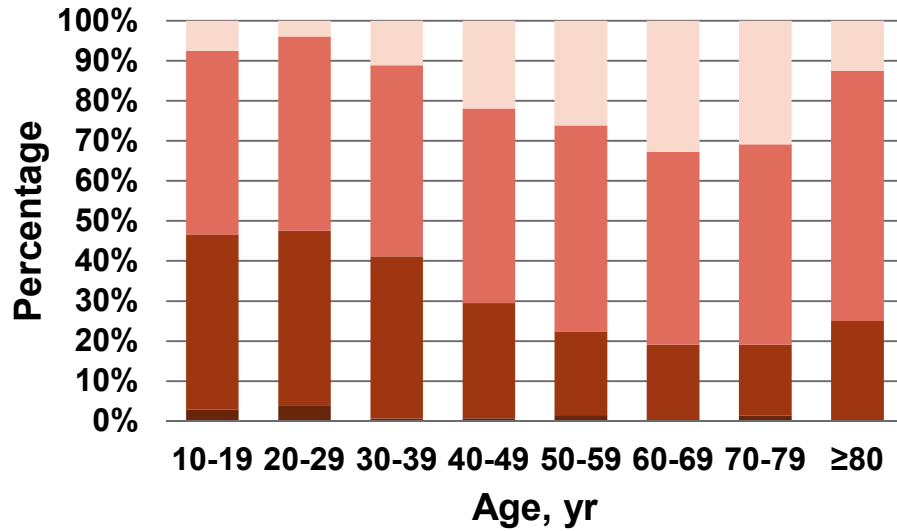
Spring



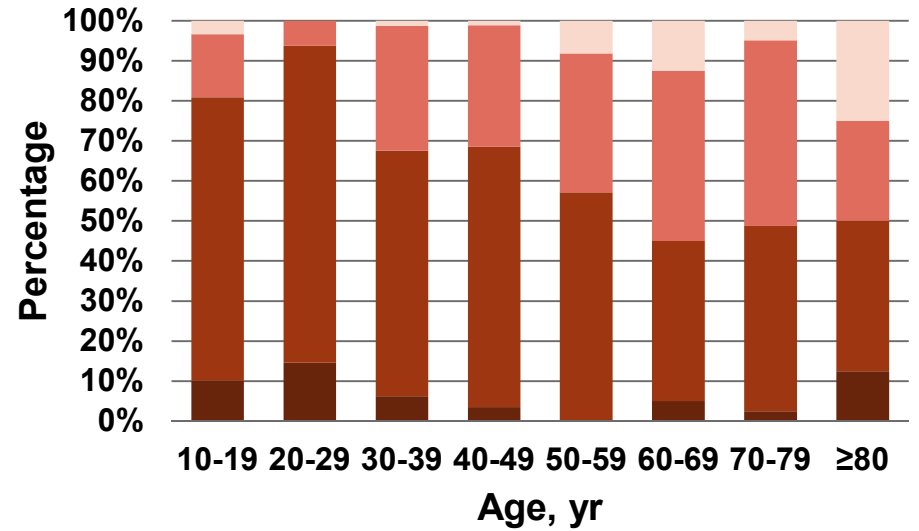
Summer



Fall



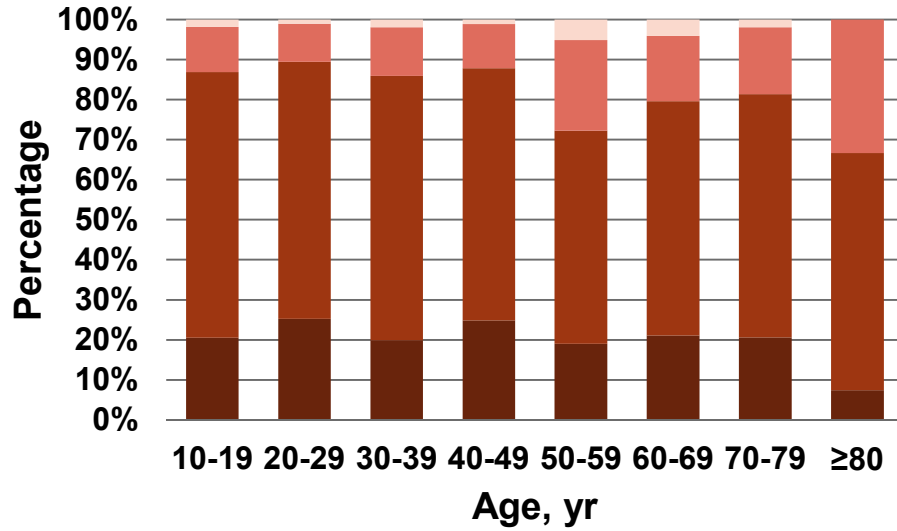
Winter



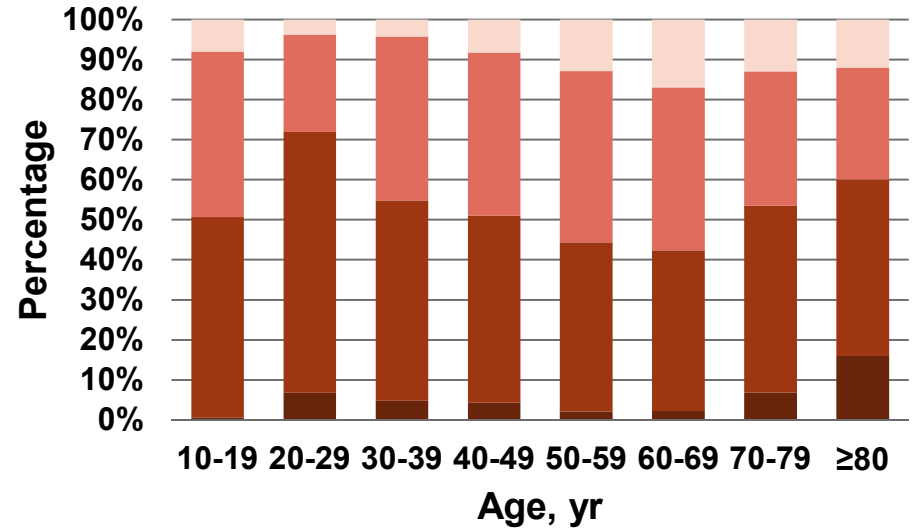
Serum 25(OH)D Level, ng/mL ■ <10 ■ 10 to <20 ■ 20 to <30 ■ ≥30 (75 nmol/l)

Female

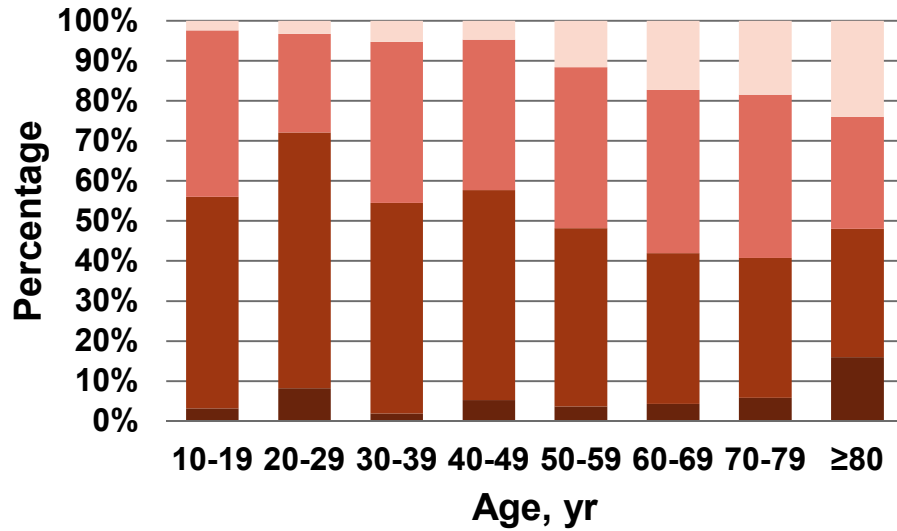
Spring



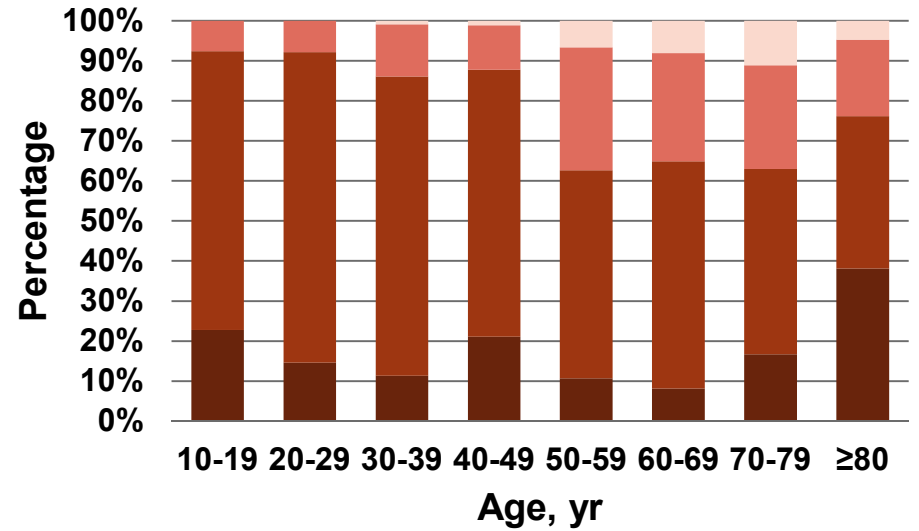
Summer



Fall



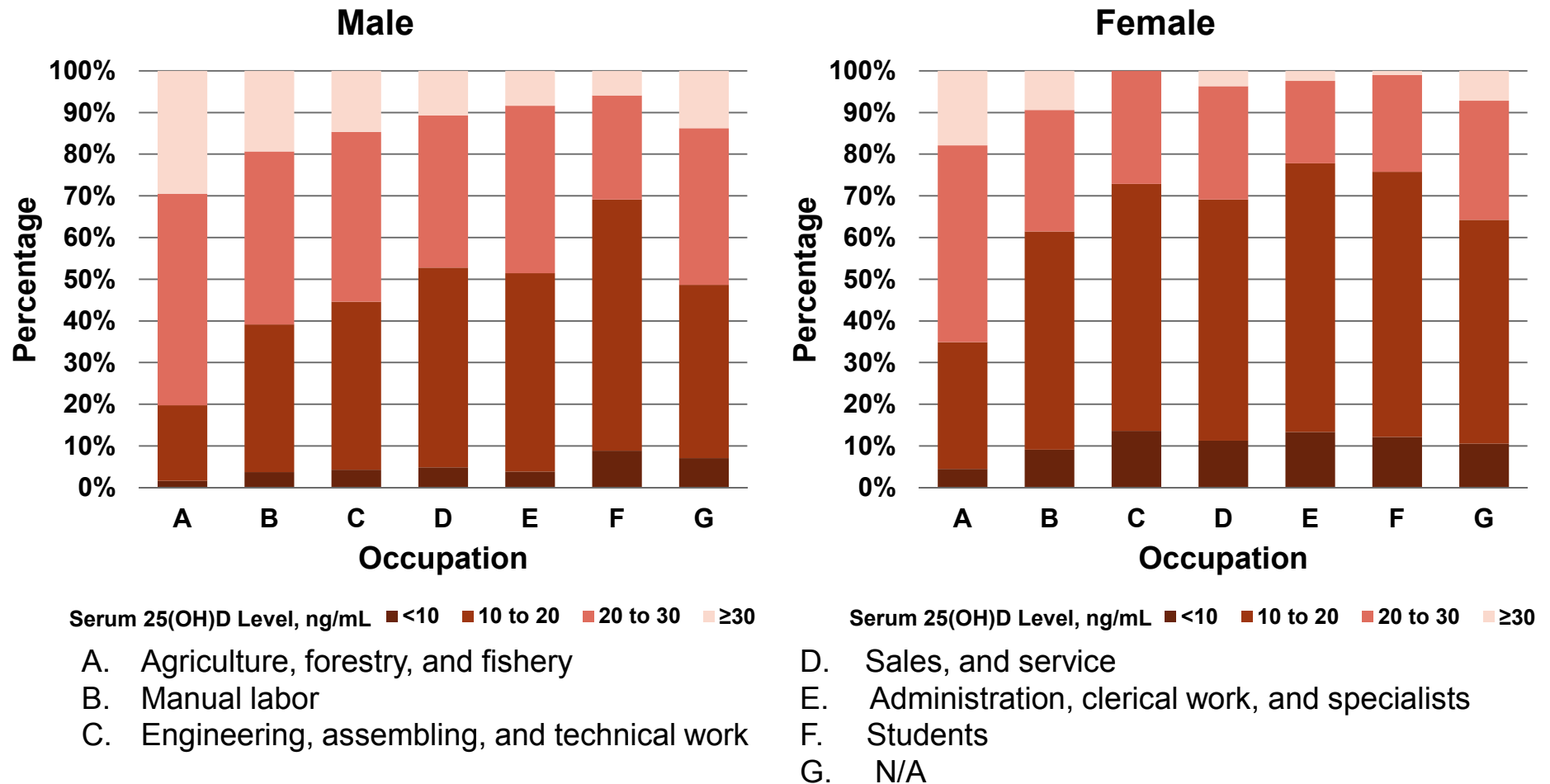
Winter



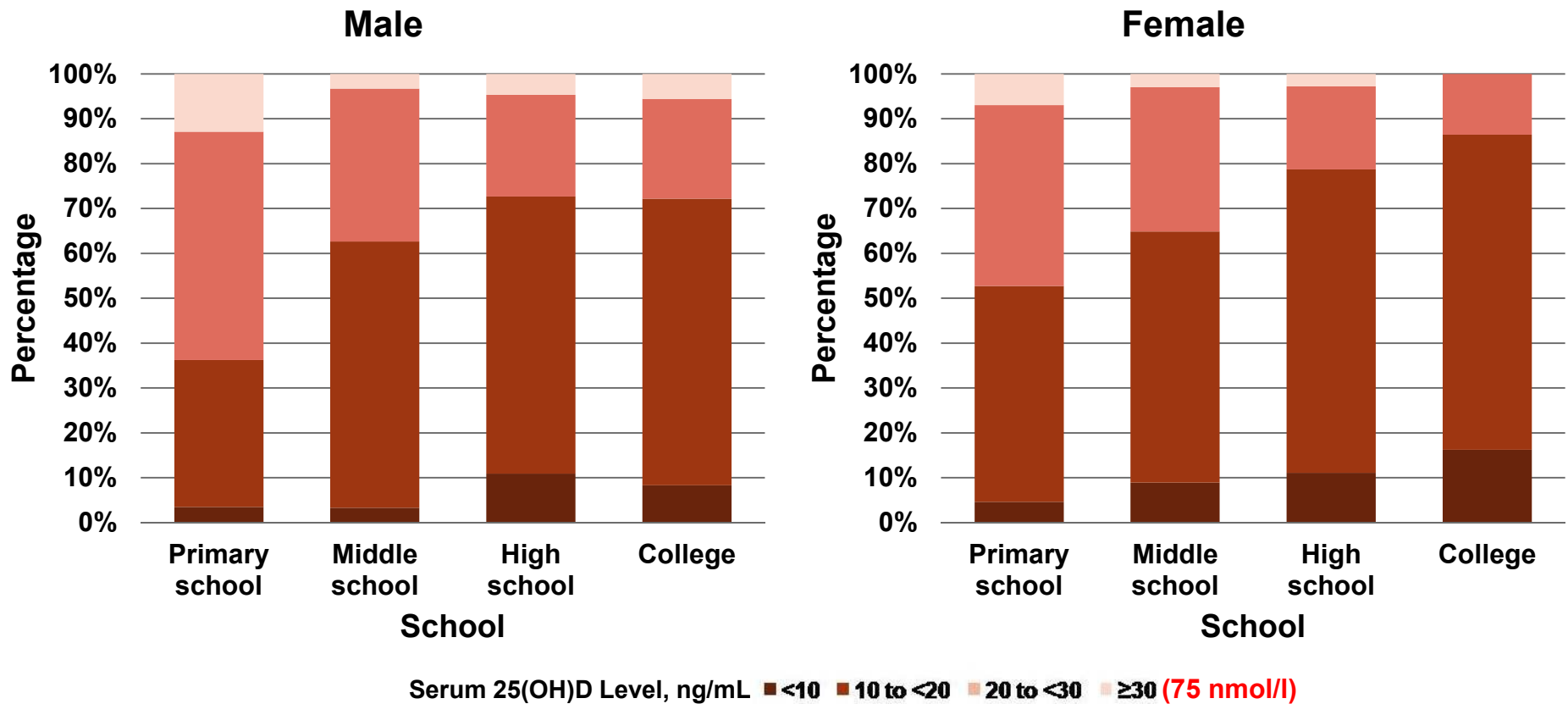
Serum 25(OH)D Level, ng/mL ■ <10 ■ 10 to <20 ■ 20 to <30 ■ ≥30 (75 nmol/l)

Prevalence of vitamin D insufficiency by occupation in adults aged 20 yrs or older

The Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (KNHANES) 2008



Prevalence of vitamin D insufficiency by school in participants younger than 20 yrs



Mean 25(OH)D level and the prevalence of vitamin D insufficiency based on nationwide surveys in Korea, the US, and Canada

Country	Survey	Sample size (n)	Age (yr)	Assay	Mean 25(OH)D (nmol/l)	25(OH)D (nmol/l)	
						<50	<75
Korea	KNHANES 2008	6,925 (M:3,047, F:3,878)	10-93	RIA (DiaSorin)	48.7 (M:52.9, F:45.4)	56.9% (M:47.3%, F:64.5%)	90.5% (M:86.8%, F:93.3%)
US	NHANES 1988-1994	18,641 (M:8,759, F:9,882)	≥12	RIA (DiaSorin)	60.7	29% (M:22%, F:35%)	69% (M:64%, F:74%)
US	NHANES 2001-2006	23,424 (M:11,443, F:11,981)	≥2	RIA (DiaSorin)	55.2	32% (M:29%, F:34%)	76% (M:76%, F:76%)
Canada	CHMS 2007-2009	5,306 (M:2,566, F:2,740)	6-79	CLIA- LIAISON (DiaSorin)	67.7 (M:65.7, F:69.7)	-	64.6% (M:67.0%, F:62.2%)

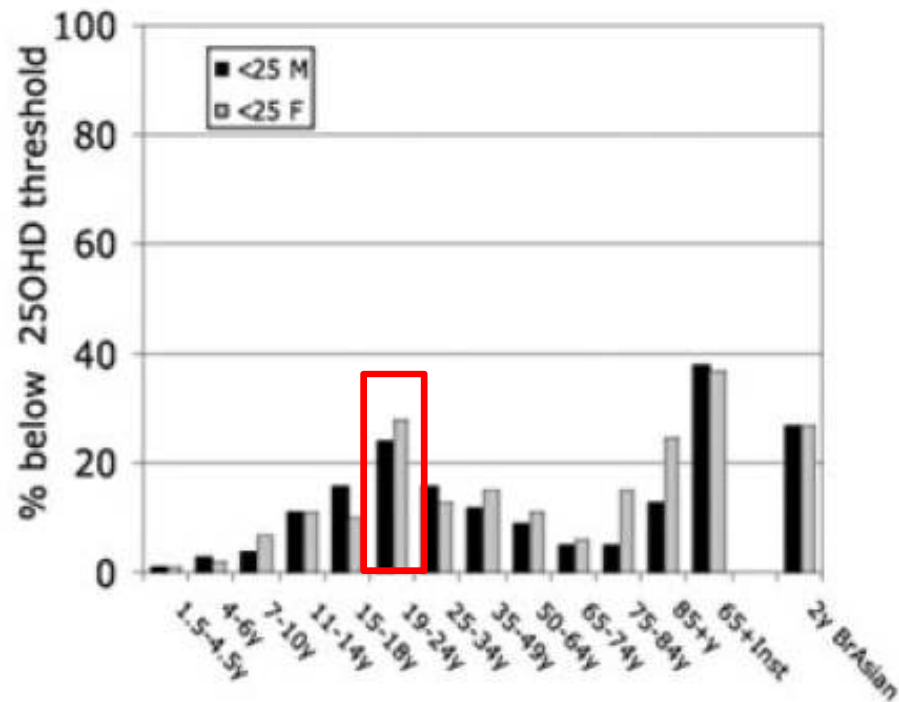
Comparison between the RIA and LIAISON methods showed an average bias of 4.8 ± 16 nmol/L with the LIAISON method giving higher values

***Higher rate of vitamin D insufficiency
in younger generation***

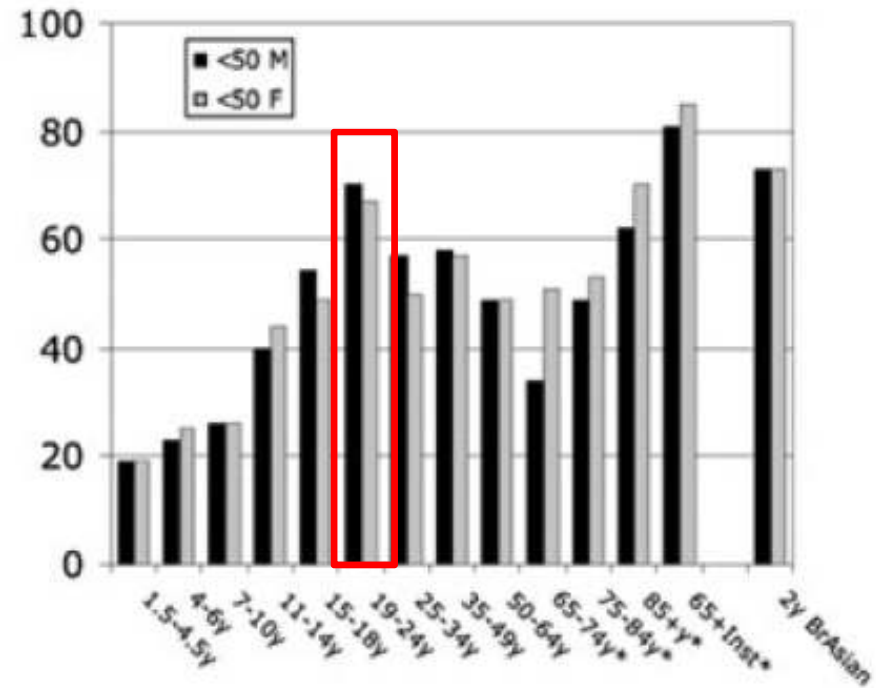
***Is it a unique finding in Korea or recent
worldwide trend in the modern
epidemic of vitamin D insufficiency ?***

The National Diet and Nutrition Survey in the UK 1992–2001

(a)
<25nmol/l



(b)
<50nmol/l



Canadian Health Measures Survey 2007-2009

Age group and sex	Mean		
	Mean nmol/L	95% confidence interval	
		from	to
Total 6 to 79 years	67.7	65.3	70.1
Male	65.7*	62.5	68.9
Female	69.7	67.8	71.7
6 to 11 years	75.0^{c d}	70.3	79.7
Male	76.8 ^{b c d e}	72.9	80.7
Female	73.1	67.0	79.1
12 to 19 years	68.1	63.8	72.4
Male	65.6 ^{*a}	60.8	70.4
Female	70.8	65.8	75.9
20 to 39 years	65.0^{a e}	61.0	69.0
Male	60.7 ^{*a e}	55.3	66.1
Female	69.5	65.8	73.2
40 to 59 years	66.5^{a e}	63.8	69.2
Male	66.0 ^a	62.1	69.8
Female	67.1 ^e	65.0	69.2
60 to 79 years	72.0^{c d}	69.4	74.5
Male	70.5 ^{a c}	67.5	73.6
Female	73.3 ^d	70.3	76.4

Determinants of vitamin D status

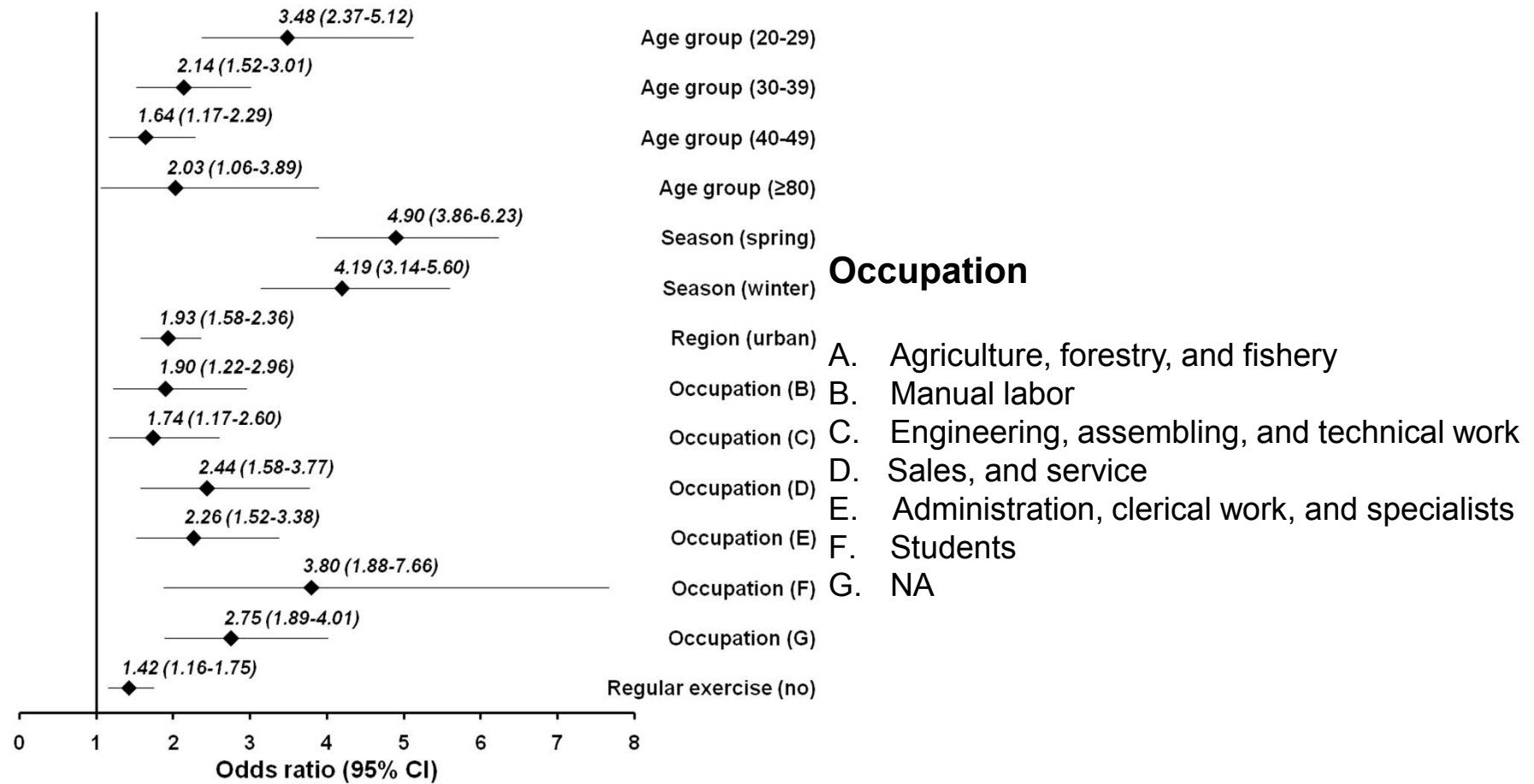
Risk factors for vitamin D insufficiency

- **Older age***
- Female sex
- Lower latitude
- Winter season
- Darker skin pigmentation
- Factors that determine sunlight exposure: clothing and cultural practises, dietary habits, national policies of vitamin D fortification

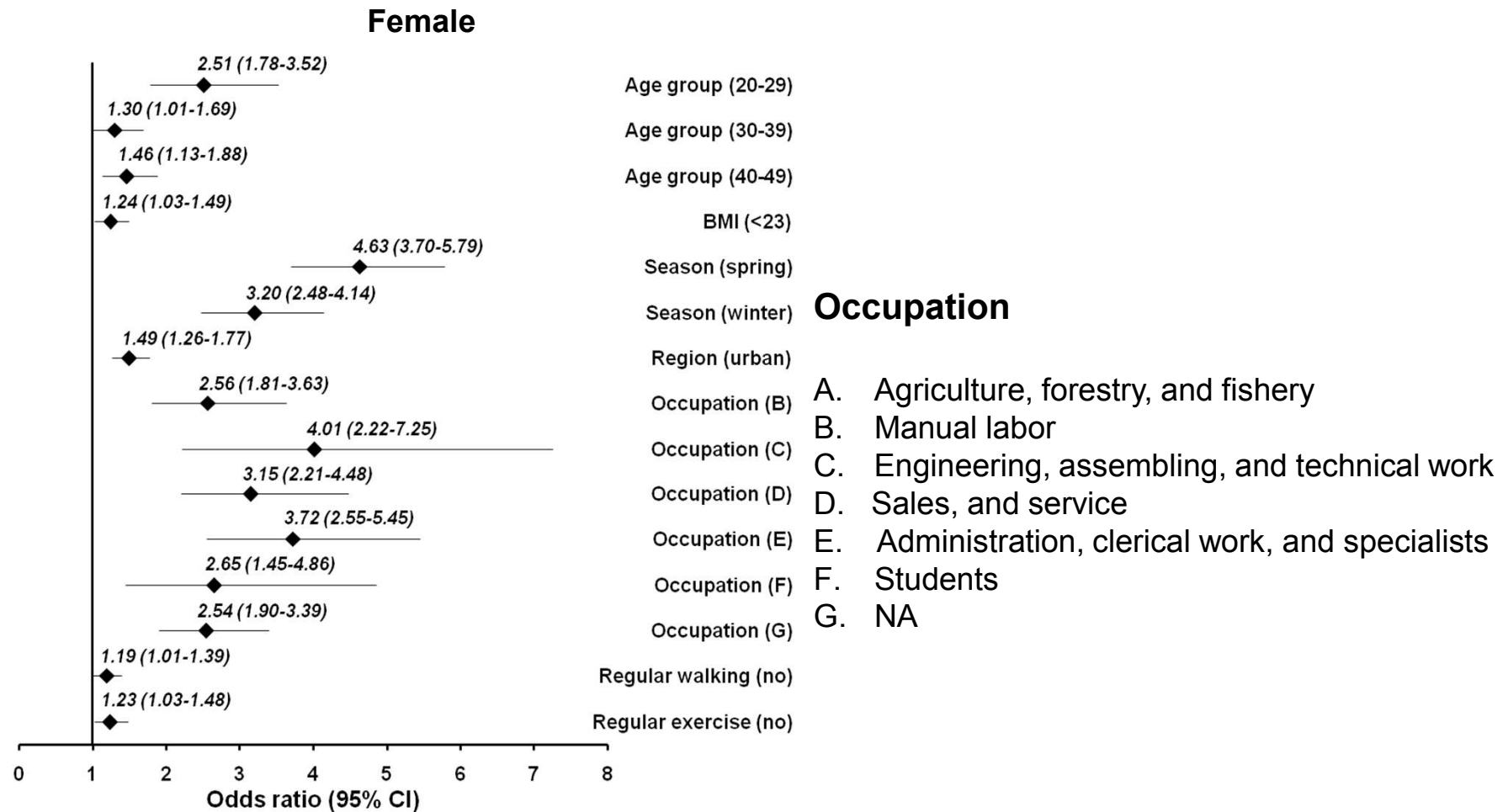
*The cutaneous production of vitamin D₃ declines with age

Independent predictors for vitamin D insufficiency in Koreans

Male



Independent predictors for vitamin D insufficiency in Koreans



Independent predictors for vitamin D insufficiency in Koreans

- After adjusting for confounders, young age groups were independent predictors for vitamin D insufficiency in our study
- Although the cause of this finding is not clear, it might be due to other behavioral factors of young age groups (indoor lifestyle, sunscreen use, or dietary habits)

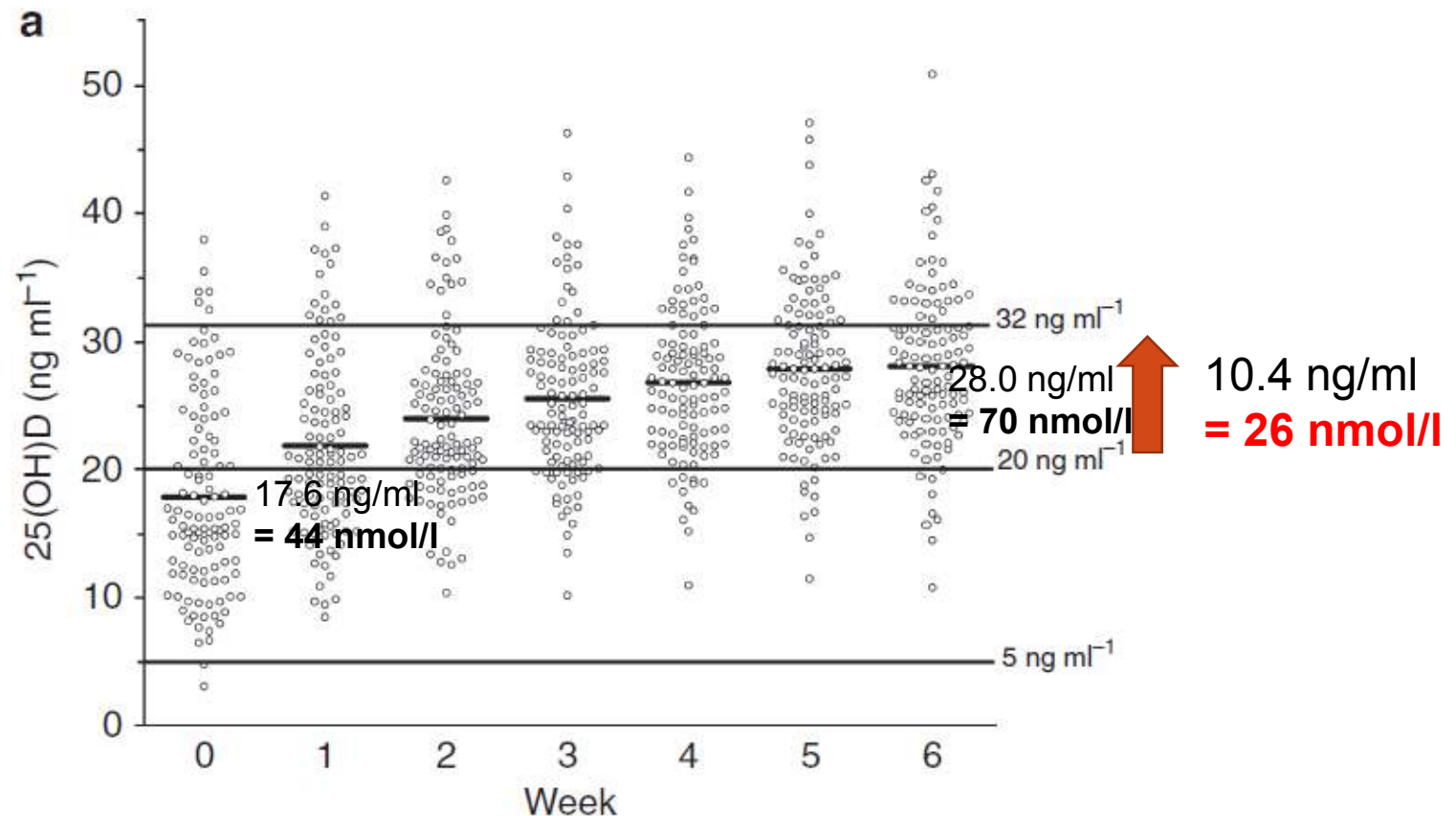
Strategies to improve vitamin D status

Sunlight and vitamin D

- Whole body exposure to 10~15 minutes of midday sun in summer [1 MED (minimal erythemal dose)], or the amount of sun exposure which produces a faint redness of skin
→ 15,000 ~ 20,000 IU of vitamin D
- Exposure of hand, face and arms (15% of body surface) to around 1/3 MED
→ 1000 IU of vitamin D
- Holick's rule: 1/4 of body to 1/4 MED of sunlight
→ 1000 IU of vitamin D

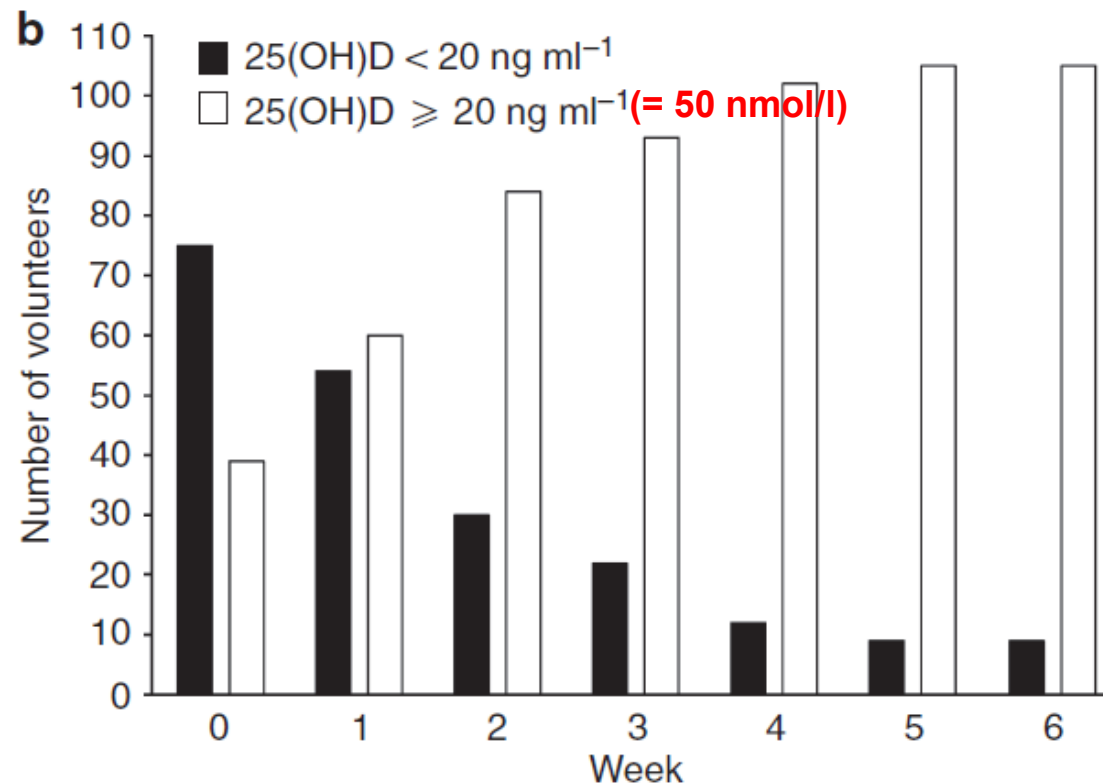
Sunlight and vitamin D

- 120 white Caucasians, aged 20–60 years, from UK (53.51N)
- A simulated summer's sunlight exposures, specifically 1.3 SED (= **summer's 13 minutes sunlight exposures**), three times weekly for 6 weeks, while wearing T-shirt and shorts (35%)



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Sunlight and vitamin D

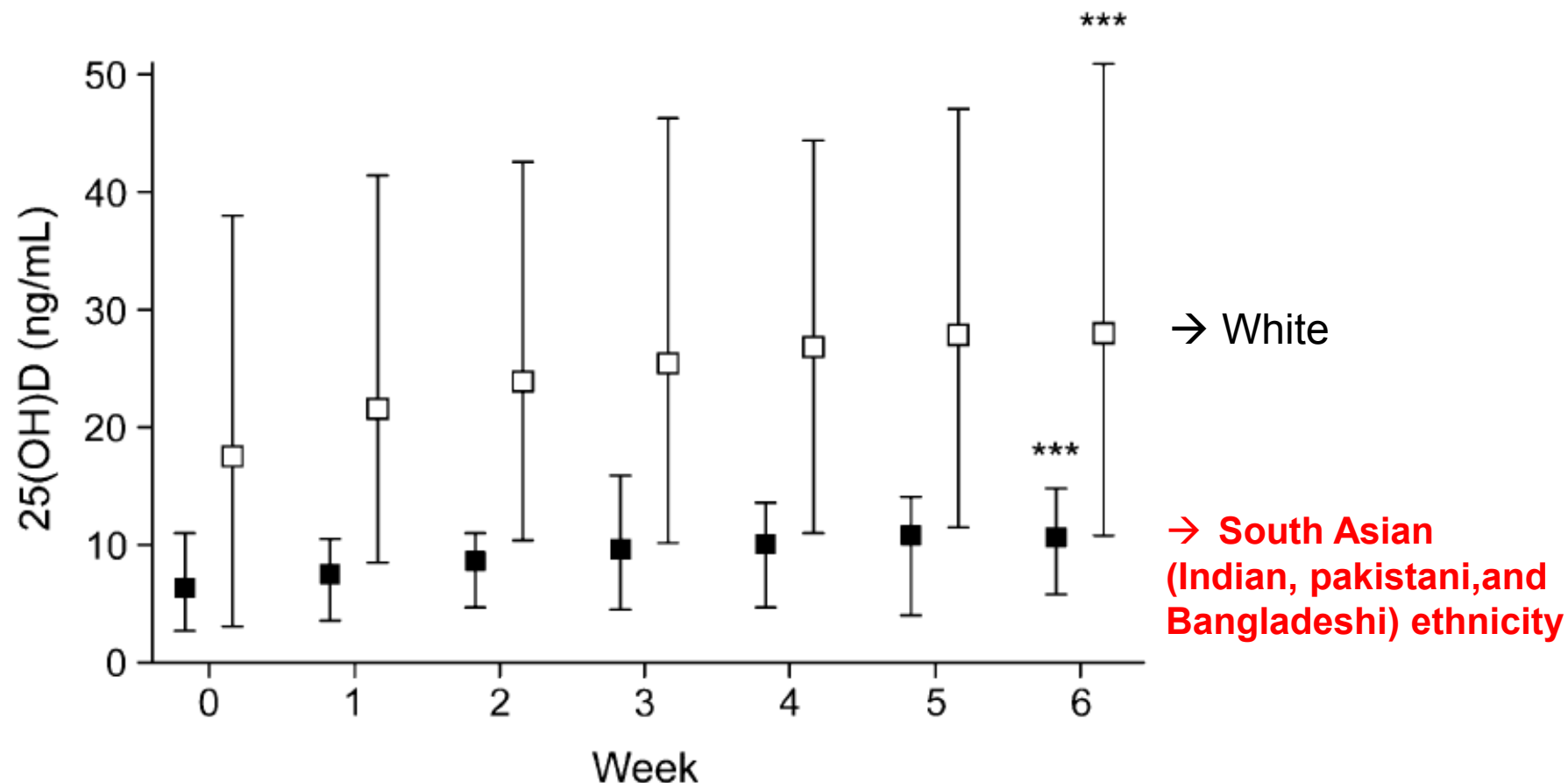
Table 4. Estimated time taken to acquire the same vitamin D-weighted dose as used in this study, at different North American and European locations at local noon on June 21 and December 21

City	Latitude ¹ (deg, min)	Summer ² (minutes)	Winter ² (minutes)
New Orleans	29, 57	9	39
San Diego	32, 42	9	49
Athens	37, 58	9	—
Washington	38, 53	9	—
Boston	42, 21	10	—
Vancouver	49, 13	11	—
Brussels	50, 52	12	—
Manchester	53, 30	13	—
Oslo	58, 57	16	—

¹Latitude is given in degrees and minutes.

²Times are given to the nearest minute; times > 1 h are not shown.

Sunlight and vitamin D



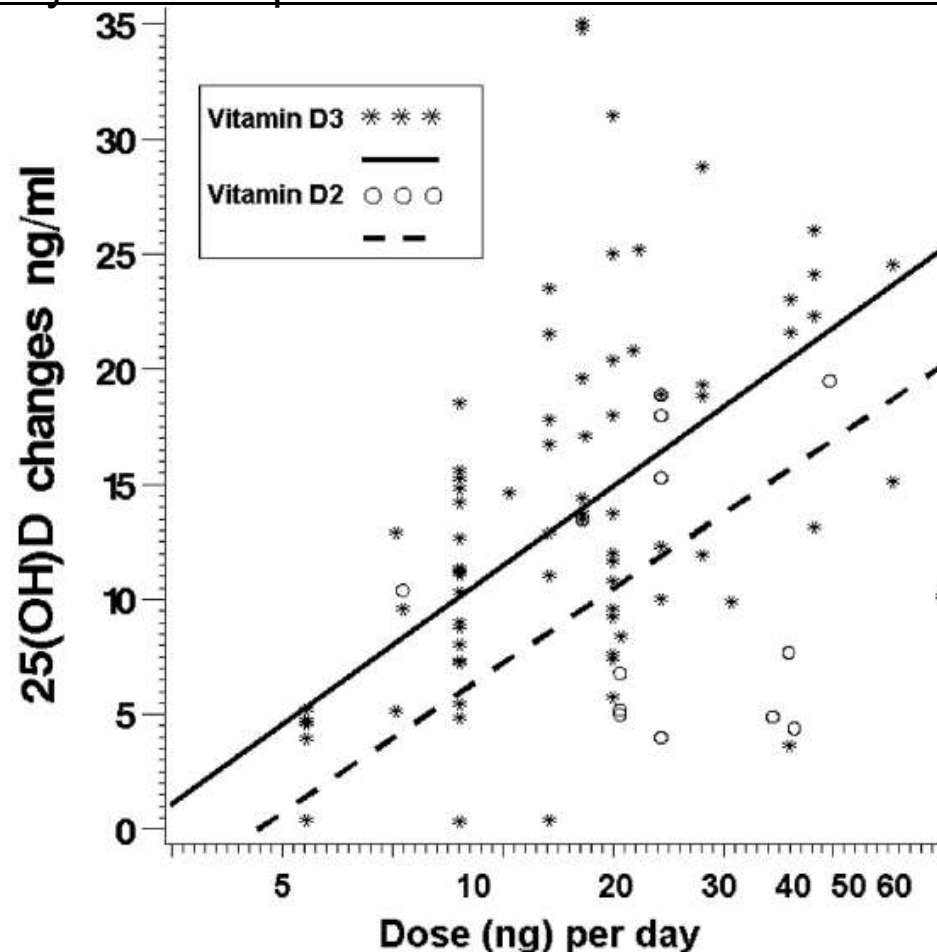
→ Participants who received exposures 1.95 SEDs (**equivalent to 45 min unshaded sunlight**) attained a mean (6SD) 25(OH)D of **39.25 nmol/l**

Dietary sources

- Fatty fish species
 - Catfish, 85 g provides 425 IU (5 IU/g)
 - Salmon, cooked, 100 g provides 360 IU (3.6 IU/g)
 - Mackerel, cooked, 100 g, 345 IU (3.45 IU/g)
 - Sardines, canned in oil, drained, 50 g, 250 IU (5 IU/g)
 - Tuna, canned in oil, 100 g, 235 IU (2.35 IU/g)
 - Eel, cooked, 100 g, 200 IU (2.00 IU/g)
- A whole egg provides 20 IU (0.33 IU/g)
- Beef liver, cooked, 100 g provides 15 IU (0.15 IU/g)
- Fish liver oils, such as cod liver oil, 15 ml provides 1360 IU (90.6 IU/ml)

Vitamin D Supplementation on Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D

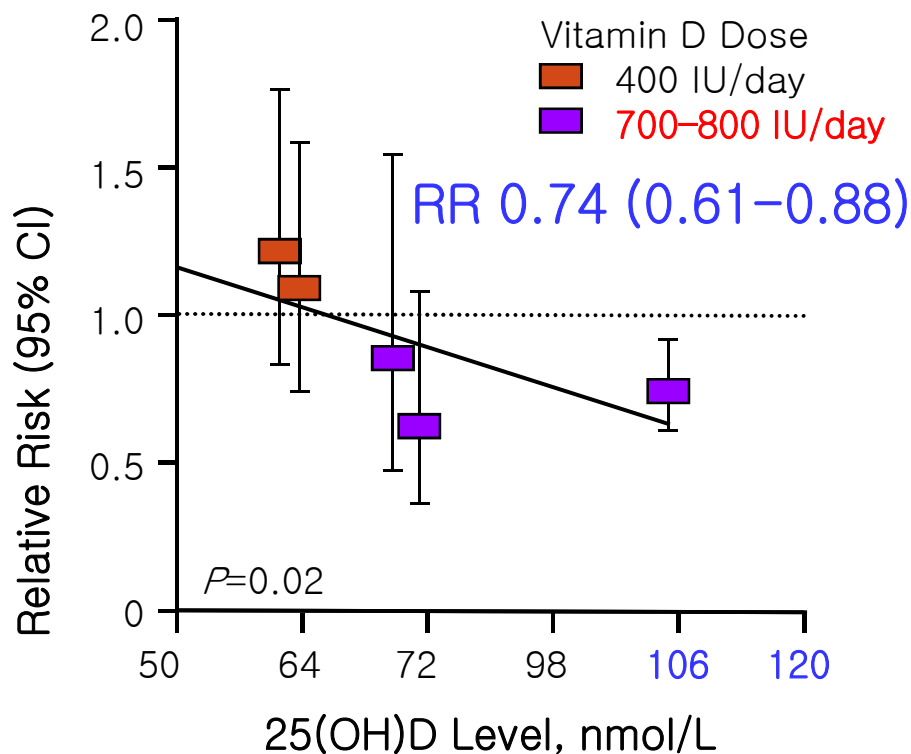
- Meta-analysis of changes in circulating 25-hydroxyvitamin D level associated with vitamin D supplementation in Caucasian subjects over 50 yr old
- Seventy-six trials published from 1984 to March 2011 included 6207 subjects



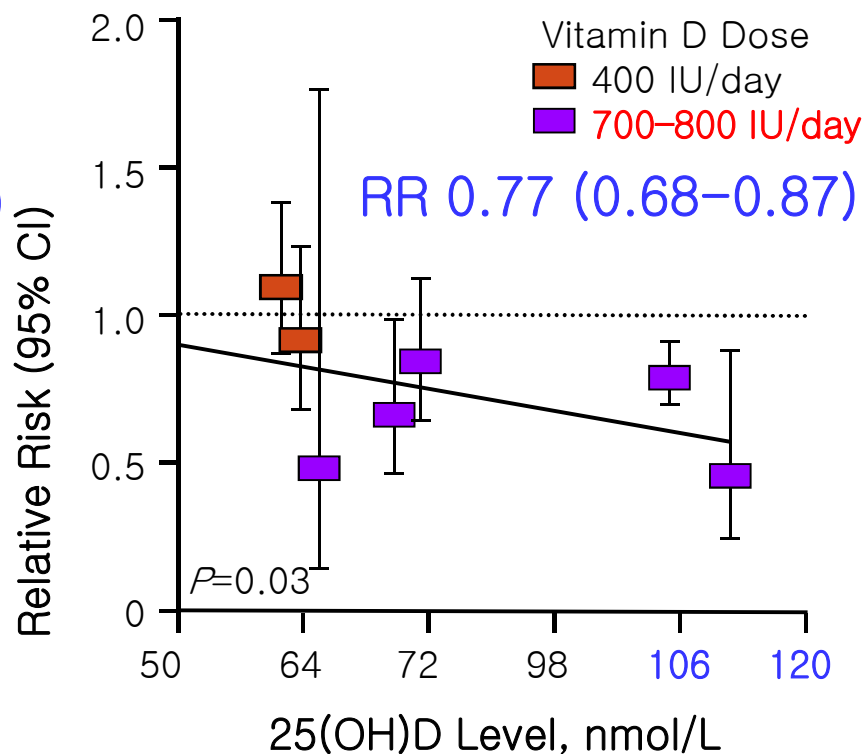
The average increase in serum 25(OH)D was 0.78 ng/ml (1.95 nmol/liter) per microgram of vitamin D3 supplement (40IU) per day

Fracture risk correlated with achieved 25(OH)D levels in RCTs

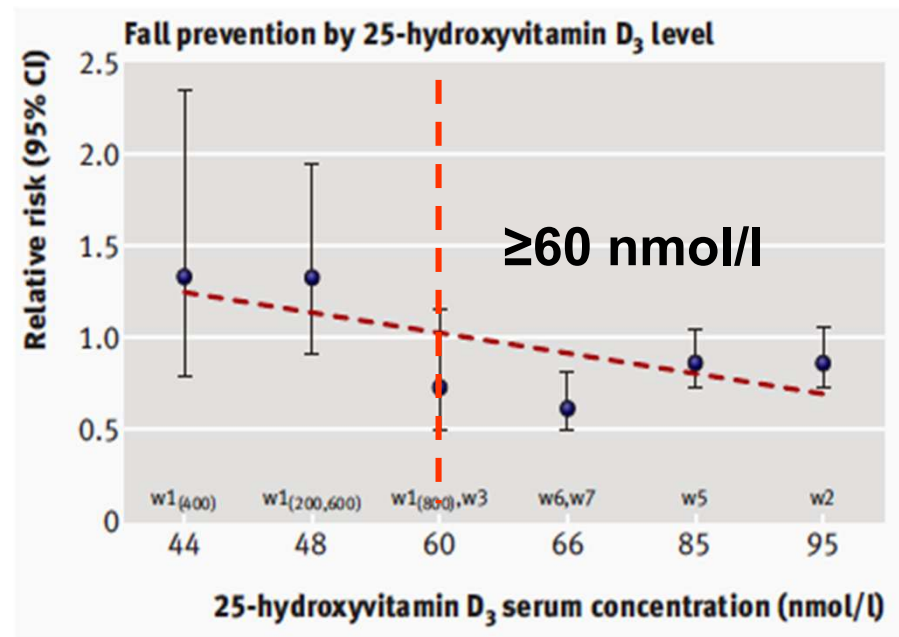
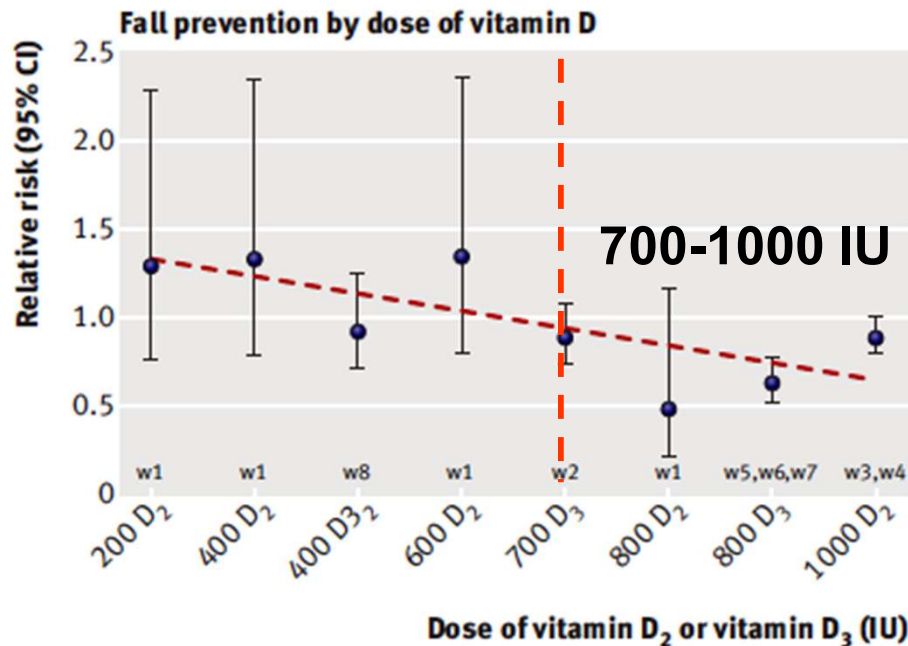
Hip Fracture



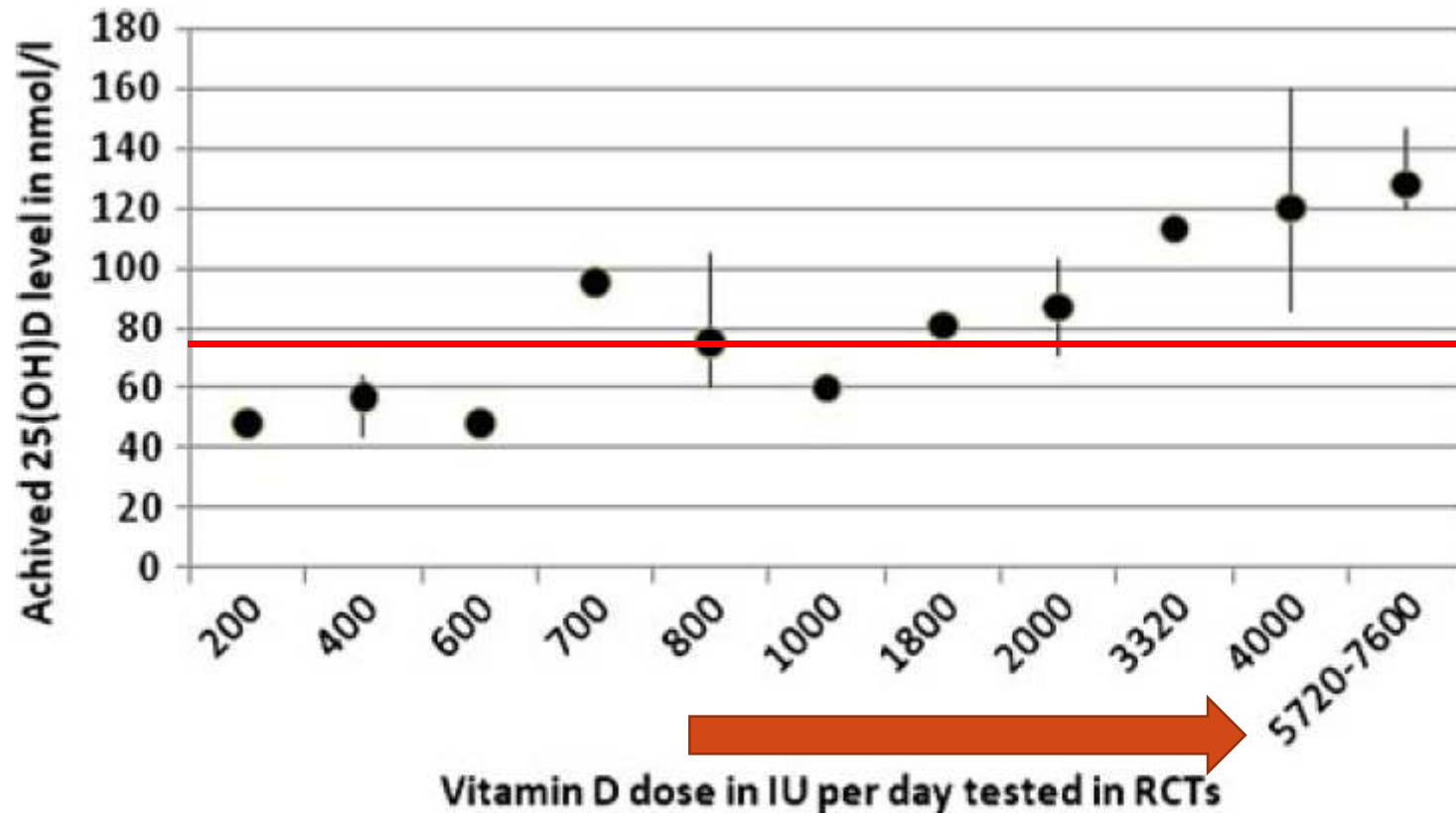
Nonvertebral Fracture



Fall prevention by dose and achieved 25(OH)D concentrations



Dose of vitamin D and achieved 25(OH)D levels based on RCTs with a duration of at least 4 weeks



Dietary Reference Intakes for Calcium and Vitamin D

NOVEMBER 2010

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

TABLE: Dietary Reference Intakes for Calcium and Vitamin D

Life Stage Group	Calcium			Vitamin D		
	Estimated Average Requirement (mg/day)	Recommended Dietary Allowance (mg/day)	Upper Level Intake (mg/day)	Estimated Average Requirement (IU/day)	Recommended Dietary Allowance (IU/day)	Upper Level Intake (IU/day)
Infants 0 to 6 months	*	*	1,000	**	**	1,000
Infants 6 to 12 months	*	*	1,500	**	**	1,500
1-3 years old	500	700	2,500	400	600	2,500
4-8 years old	800	1,000	2,500	400	600	3,000
9-13 years old	1,100	1,300	3,000	400	600	4,000
14-18 years old	1,100	1,300	3,000	400	600	4,000
19-30 years old	800	1,000	2,500	400	600	4,000
31-50 years old	800	1,000	2,500	400	600	4,000
51-70 year old males	800	1,000	2,000	400	600	4,000
51-70 year old females	1,000	1,200	2,000	400	600	4,000
>70 years old	1,000	1,200	2,000	400	800	4,000
14-18 years old, pregnant/lactating	1,100	1,300	3,000	400	600	4,000
19-50 years old, pregnant/lactating	800	1,000	2,500	400	600	4,000

NOF recommendations for vitamin D

- The National Osteoporosis Foundation (NOF) recommends that
 - Adults under age 50 get 400 - 800 IU of vitamin D every day
 - Adults age 50 and older get 800 - 1,000 IU of vitamin D every day
 - Some people may need more vitamin D

한국인 영양섭취기준 2010- 비타민 D

연령	남자				여자			
	평균 필요량	권장 섭취량	충분 섭취량	상한 섭취량	평균 필요량	권장 섭취량	충분 섭취량	상한 섭취량
0~5개월	-	-	200	1,000	-	-	200	1,000
6~11개월	-	-	200	1,000	-	-	200	1,000
1~2세	-	-	200	2,400	-	-	200	2,400
3~5세	-	-	200	2,400	-	-	200	2,400
6~8세	-	-	200	2,400	-	-	200	2,400
9~11세	-	-	200	2,400	-	-	200	2,400
12~14세	-	-	200	2,400	-	-	200	2,400
15~18세	-	-	200	2,400	-	-	200	2,400
19~29세	-	-	200	2,400	-	-	200	2,400
30~49세	-	-	200	2,400	-	-	200	2,400
50~64세	-	-	400	2,400	-	-	400	2,400
65~74세	-	-	400	2,400	-	-	400	2,400
75세 이상	-	-	400	2,400	-	-	400	2,400
임신부	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
수유부	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Conclusions

- The prevalence of vitamin D insufficiency, defined as a serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D [25(OH)D] level below 50 nmol/L, was 47.3% in males and 64.5% in females
- Only 13.2% of males and 6.7% of females had a serum 25(OH)D level of greater than 75 nmol/L
- In Korea, vitamin D insufficiency was more prevalent in young adults than in elderly people, likely due to the indoor lifestyle of younger people

Conclusions

- Compared with the United States and Canada, Korea has a lower mean 25(OH)D level and a higher prevalence of vitamin D insufficiency
- To improve the vitamin D status of the Korean population, more aggressive policies on food fortification and vitamin D supplementation are needed