# **Evidence Synthesis**

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# Screening for Vitamin D Deficiency: Systematic Review for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation

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#### Structured Abstract

**Background:** It is unclear if screening for vitamin D deficiency can improve the health of asymptomatic individuals with this deficiency.

**Purpose:** The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force will use this report to develop a recommendation statement on screening for vitamin D deficiency in asymptomatic adults not known to have this deficiency.

**Data Sources:** We searched the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials and Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (through August 2014) and MEDLINE® (1946 to August 2014), and manually reviewed reference lists from applicable review articles.

**Study Selection:** We included systematic reviews; randomized, controlled trials (RCTs); and case-control studies nested within an RCT to examine the benefits of vitamin D treatment (with or without calcium) compared with placebo, calcium alone, or no treatment. We included systematic reviews, RCTs, and cohort or case-control studies to evaluate harms. Included study populations were asymptomatic (i.e., not selected for signs or symptoms of vitamin D deficiency or medical conditions that increase risk for deficiency) adults (age ≥18 years) from the United States, Canada, and Europe with reported serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D [25(OH)D] concentrations of 30 ng/mL or less.

**Data Extraction:** No study examined the effect of vitamin D screening on health outcomes. In treatment studies, mortality was decreased in participants randomized to vitamin D treatment (with or without calcium) (11 studies; pooled risk ratio [RR], 0.83 [95% confidence interval (CI), 0.70 to 0.99]). This risk reduction, however, was limited to studies of older institutionalized persons (3 trials; pooled RR, 0.72 [95% CI, 0.56 to 0.94]). Vitamin D treatment was associated with possible decreased risk for falling, including risk for at least one fall (5 studies; RR, 0.84 [95% CI, 0.69 to 1.02]) and number of falls per person (5 studies; incidence rate ratio, 0.66 [95% CI, 0.50 to 0.88]). These findings were not influenced by institutionalized status. Vitamin D treatment (with or without calcium) was not associated with decreased fracture risk (5 studies; pooled RR, 0.98 [95% CI, 0.82 to 1.16]). Neither vitamin D dosage nor baseline level of 25(OH)D in the population influenced risk estimates. Data were limited (≤2 studies) for cancer risk, type 2 diabetes risk, psychosocial functioning, disability, and physical functioning. No trials on the effect of vitamin D treatment on risk for cardiovascular or immune disease met inclusion criteria. Vitamin D treatment (with or without calcium) was not associated with increased risk for harms.

**Limitations:** There was no direct evidence on the effect of screening for vitamin D on health outcomes. Evidence on the effects of vitamin D treatment on health outcomes was limited. Most studies that reported harms were not designed to assess harms and lacked rigorous reporting. No study examined effects according to subgroups defined by race, age, and sex. Few studies were conducted in nonwhite, nonfemale populations. There was variability in types of assays used to measure 25(OH)D, baseline 25(OH)D levels of the study population, dosages used, calcium cosupplementation, and duration of followup.

**Conclusions:** Treatment with vitamin D, with or without calcium, may be associated with decreased risk for mortality and falls in older or institutionalized adults. Vitamin D treatment did not reduce fracture risk. More research is needed to determine vitamin D treatment's effects in younger noninstitutionalized adults and to clarify the subpopulations that are most likely to benefit from treatment.

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# **CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION**

# **Purpose of Review**

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) will use this report to develop a recommendation statement on screening for vitamin D deficiency in asymptomatic adults. While the USPSTF has not previously issued recommendations on screening for vitamin D deficiency, it has issued several recommendation statements on the effects of vitamin D supplementation on the prevention of adverse health outcomes (e.g., falls, fractures, cancer, and cardiovascular disease) in populations of persons who were not necessarily vitamin D deficient (i.e., they included general populations who may or may not have been deficient).<sup>1-4</sup>

#### **Condition Definition**

Vitamin D is a term used to refer to a group of fat-soluble compounds that play a significant role in calcium homeostasis and bone metabolism.<sup>5</sup> Vitamin D is a unique vitamin in that it is acquired through synthesis in the skin after sun exposure in addition to through consuming food.<sup>6</sup> Once synthesized, vitamin D is stored in adipocytes (fat cells) and is available for conversion to its active form, 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D [1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D]. In addition to its effects on calcium and bone homeostasis, vitamin D potentially affects many other cellular regulatory functions.<sup>7</sup>

Vitamin D deficiency is determined by measuring serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D [25(OH)D] concentrations. The major circulating form of vitamin D is 25(OH)D, which is considered the best indicator of vitamin D status. Measurement of the active form of vitamin D, 1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D, is generally not performed in routine clinical practice because it does not accurately reflect vitamin D status. This is because vitamin D deficiency leads to elevated parathyroid hormone, which stimulates 1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D production in the kidneys, even when blood levels of vitamin D are low. While measurement of levels of vitamin D-binding protein (the major carrier protein for vitamin D) in conjunction with total 25(OH)D could possibly be a useful method for estimating bioavailable 25(OH)D, more research is needed on methods for measuring and interpreting bioavailable 25(OH)D. Measuring vitamin D-binding protein is not part of current standard clinical practice.

25(OH)D assays can be subject to variability (like all clinical assays). Multiple methodologies are available commercially and for research purposes to measure 25(OH)D. The first method developed to measure 25(OH)D used competitive protein–binding methodology. Because of the multiple limitations of this method, it has been supplanted by immunoassay methods as well as high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and the combination of HPLC and mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). The sensitivity and specificity of different assays are not available because there is not yet an internationally recognized, commutable vitamin D reference material. Studies have produced evidence of intermethod and interlaboratory variability of 10 to 20 percent, however, which could limit the ability to precisely define an individual's vitamin D status using 25(OH)D levels. In studies comparing how different assays would classify a person's deficiency status, 4 to 32 percent of the samples would have been considered either

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deficient or not deficient depending on the assay used.<sup>17-20</sup> The greatest risk for differential classification occurred when an individual's measured levels were close to defined cutoffs (i.e., those with very high and low levels were unlikely to be classified differently depending on the assay used).<sup>16,19</sup>

Several ongoing programs are currently working to decrease assay variability. In 2009, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) produced standard reference material for 25(OH)D, which represents the first step in standardizing its measurement. While this reference material has improved the accuracy of LC-MS/MS analyses, it has been less helpful in standardizing immunoassays. 10,11 In 2010, the Vitamin D Standardization Program (VDSP) was established to promote 25(OH)D measurements that are accurate and comparable over time, at differing locations, and using different laboratory procedures. VDSP is an international effort conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Dietary Supplements, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Center for Environmental Health; NIST; and the Belgian Laboratory for Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ghent. VDSP developed protocols for standardizing procedures for measuring 25(OH)D in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). These protocols, however, are not yet available for commercial use or other research laboratories. Until these protocols are available, several external accuracy-based testing systems can be used, such as those of the NIST-NIH Vitamin D Metabolites Quality Assurance Program, the College of American Pathologists, and the Vitamin D External Quality Assurance Scheme (DEQAS). These schemes are similar to those used in other areas of clinical chemistry and can lead to decreased variability. 21 DEQAS, 12 for example, has acted as an early warning system to alert commercial kit manufacturers when they need to modify their products and procedures or when they need to withdraw kits.<sup>12</sup>

The level of 25(OH)D used to define vitamin D deficiency has varied over the previous two decades. There is no consensus on optimal 25(OH)D concentrations. To determine sufficiency cutoff levels, researchers have examined the level of 25(OH)D associated with maximal suppression of parathyroid hormone, <sup>12,22-25</sup> maximum calcium absorption, <sup>26,27</sup> and reduced fracture risk. <sup>28</sup> In fact, the actual requirements for bone health likely reflect a distribution of values rather than a specific cutpoint. This is problematic for the purposes of diagnosing deficiency because clinicians require a specific cutpoint to make a diagnosis. While experts generally agree that levels lower than 20 ng/mL (50 nmol/L) may place an individual at risk relative to bone health, disagreement exists about whether goal 25(OH)D levels should be higher than 20 ng/mL for skeletal health <sup>29</sup> (**Table 1**).

In 2011, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) concluded that 20 ng/mL was the level necessary for good bone health for practically all individuals.<sup>30</sup> Other groups suggest that 25(OH)D levels should be greater than 30 ng/mL (75 nmol/L), particularly in older adults. These groups include the Endocrine Society, National Osteoporosis Foundation, and International Osteoporosis Foundation.<sup>13,31-34</sup> The Endocrine Society suggests that, because of variability in laboratory measurements of 25(OH)D, targeting a higher 25(OH)D level than the goal level (such as 40 ng/mL [100 nmol/L]) better ensures that all persons meet goal levels.<sup>13</sup> The IOM concluded, however, that there may be a potential U-shaped relationship between 25(OH)D and some outcomes with potential risks (e.g., mortality, cardiovascular disease, selected cancers, falls) at

levels higher than 50 ng/mL (125 nmol/L). Experts agree that optimal serum 25(OH)D concentrations for extraskeletal health have not been established. For this report, the term "vitamin D deficient" refers to study participants who have been diagnosed with vitamin D deficiency, regardless of the study's cutoff (as long as it was  $\leq$ 30 ng/mL).

#### Prevalence and Burden of Disease

The prevalence of vitamin D deficiency varies based on how deficiency is defined (<20 vs. ≤30 ng/mL). According to NHANES data, 8 percent of the population were at risk for very low 25(OH)D levels (<12 ng/mL) from 2001 to 2006, and about 25 percent were at risk for deficiency, as defined by serum 25(OH)D levels of 12 to 20 ng/mL. The IOM has recently developed a statistical procedure to derive group prevalence estimates of nutritional inadequacy. According to this statistical model, 19 percent of the population is at risk for vitamin D deficiency as defined by the IOM. Data on the prevalence of 25(OH)D levels of less than 30 ng/mL come from a 2009 study using 2001 to 2004 NHANES data, which was not corrected for assay drift per instructions from the National Center for Health Statistics to do so. Between 2001 and 2004, 77 percent of noninstitutionalized U.S. participants had 25(OH)D levels below 30 ng/mL.

When total 25(OH)D levels are used to define deficiency, blacks have a twofold to ninefold greater risk for deficiency and Hispanics a twofold to threefold greater risk for deficiency compared with whites. Additionally, one recent study found that black Americans not only had lower total 25(OH)D levels compared with white Americans, they also had lower vitamin D-binding protein levels. This resulted in similar concentrations of estimated bioavailable 25(OH)D between blacks and whites. More research is needed to determine whether total versus bioavailable 25(OH)D levels are a better indication of a state of deficiency and how they correlate with clinical health outcomes (e.g., bone density and fracture risk), especially in nonwhite populations.

Cross-sectional studies have reported inconsistent findings on the association between older age and prevalence of vitamin D deficiency, although there may be an increased risk in persons age 85 years or older.<sup>37-41</sup> While some studies reported that females had greater risk for deficiency, and not all studies confirmed this finding. 39

In NHANES, mean 25(OH)D levels were lower in 2000 to 2004 than in 1988 to 1994. Most of the differences in 25(OH)D levels between these time periods appear to be an artifact of assay changes rather than an actual decline in serum 25(OH)D levels. In an adult subgroup from NHANES, however, changes in body mass index (BMI), milk intake, and sun protection appeared to contribute to a small but real decline in vitamin D status. 42

# **Etiology and Natural History**

Vitamin D is synthesized in the skin under the influence of ultraviolet (UV) rays in sunlight and is also obtained from dietary sources and supplements. In the United States, the primary dietary

sources of vitamin D are fortified foods such as milk, milk products, fortified orange juice, and cereals, as well as supplements. Naturally occurring foods that contain vitamin D include fatty fish, egg yolk, and mushrooms that have been exposed to sunlight or UV radiation. In healthy individuals, vitamin D deficiency most often results from either decreased dietary intake, reduced sun exposure, or reduced ability to produce vitamin D (e.g., due to increased skin pigmentation or aging, or a combination of these factors).

Vitamin D has a variety of actions on calcium, phosphate, and bone metabolism. Low 25(OH)D concentrations are associated with impaired intestinal calcium and phosphate absorption, negative calcium balance, phosphaturia, and a compensatory rise in parathyroid hormone, which results in excessive bone resorption. Severe vitamin D deficiency causes a mineralization defect in the skeleton. In children, vitamin D deficiency results in skeletal deformities classically called "rickets." In adults, severe vitamin D deficiency can result in osteomalacia, which is associated with decreased bone mineral density, diffuse bone and joint pain, muscle weakness, and difficulty walking.

#### Association Between 25(OH)D Levels and Health Outcomes

The association between 25(OH)D levels of 12 to 30 ng/mL and bone and other health outcomes is controversial (**Table 1**). In 2009, an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) report (not for the USPSTF) concluded that the evidence for an association between serum 25(OH)D concentrations and fracture risk was inconsistent. Prospective studies published since the 2009 review have generally shown that lower 25(OH)D levels were associated with increased fracture risk. A recent 2014 umbrella study of systematic reviews and meta-analyses of observational studies, however, concluded that evidence was suggestive only for nonvertebral fractures and that no conclusions could be reached about other fractures. Prospective studies finding an association have generally noted that fracture risk increases at 25(OH)D levels less than 20 ng/mL in persons of Caucasian or European descent. Low 25(OH)D levels may not be associated with increased fracture risk in nonwhites. Some have hypothesized that these findings could be due to the differences in vitamin D-binding protein and levels of bioavailable 25(OH)D among different races.

In addition to its role in calcium and bone homeostasis, vitamin D potentially regulates many other cellular functions. Most tissues in the body have vitamin D receptors, and  $1,25(OH)_2D$  influences genomic expression in many cells.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, researchers have hypothesized possible links between low 25(OH)D levels and muscle function, cancer, and metabolic, immune, and cardiovascular systems.<sup>48-54</sup>

The 2009 AHRQ review concluded that there was fair evidence for an association between low serum 25(OH)D concentrations (<16 ng/mL) and increased risk for falls in institutionalized elderly persons. This association, however, has not been observed in community-dwelling elderly persons. Similarly, a 2014 umbrella analysis of systematic reviews and meta-analyses concluded that there was insufficient evidence to draw conclusions about the association between low levels and fall risk. The review concluded that evidence suggested that high 25(OH)D levels are linked to an increased rate of falls. Evidence on the association between 25(OH)D levels and decline in physical functioning is inconsistent.

Although the 2009 AHRQ review concluded that evidence describing the association between 25(OH)D status and cardiovascular disease was inconsistent, 44 more recent data, mostly from white or primarily white populations, suggest an inverse association between risk for cardiovascular disease and 25(OH)D levels. 45,58,64-67 Several studies have suggested an association up to 24 ng/mL. This inverse association, however, has not been observed in black individuals. 68,69

While low 25(OH)D levels have not been associated with increased risk for breast, prostate, or pancreatic cancer, <sup>45,58,70-74</sup> studies suggest an association between 25(OH)D levels and risk for colorectal cancer, <sup>45</sup> with each increase of 10 to 20 ng/mL up to a 25(OH)D level of 35 to 40 ng/mL associated with a 15- to 50-percent decreased risk. <sup>58,71,72,75-78</sup>

Lower 25(OH)D levels (<12 to 20 ng/mL) have been associated with an increased risk for diabetes 45,58,79-87 and depressed mood. 45,58,88,89 The 2014 umbrella analysis of systematic reviews and meta-analyses concluded that evidence suggested a decreased risk for cognitive decline in persons with high 25(OH)D levels. 45,58 Risk may increase at levels below 10 to 20 ng/mL versus levels greater than 30 ng/mL. The association may vary by sex, with the effect being seen more in women. 91,92

Two 2014 systematic reviews of 31 to 73 studies concluded that lower 25(OH)D levels were associated with a significantly increased risk for death. A 2014 umbrella review of 107 systematic reviews and 74 meta-analyses of observational studies, however, stated that there was not enough evidence to make conclusions about the association between vitamin D levels and mortality. Although previous studies have concluded that there may be a U-shaped association in which high and low 25(OH)D levels are associated with an increased risk for mortality, 45 this was not observed in the recent meta-analyses. In studies that included a significant proportion of nonwhite populations, lower 25(OH)D levels were associated with decreased mortality risk in black and white individuals.

More detailed information on the association between 25(OH)D levels and health outcomes is provided in **Appendix A1**.

# **Risk Factors**

Low dietary vitamin D intake and/or lack of vitamin D supplements are associated with a twofold to fivefold increased risk for vitamin D deficiency (<20 ng/mL).<sup>37-39</sup> Little or no UV light exposure (e.g., due to winter season, high latitude, and sun avoidance) is also associated with an increased risk for vitamin D deficiency.<sup>37,38,40,41,105</sup> While sunscreen reduces the skin's ability to produce vitamin D in response to UV light in controlled research settings, <sup>106</sup> this association has not been found in population-based studies.<sup>105,107</sup> This finding in population-based studies is likely due to incomplete application<sup>108</sup> and/or because subjects who use sunscreen are more likely to be exposed to the sun for extended periods.<sup>78</sup>

Obesity is associated with an almost twofold increased risk for vitamin D deficiency. <sup>37-39,109</sup> This finding is possibly due to sequestration of vitamin D in fat cells <sup>30</sup> or lifestyle differences (e.g.,

lower physical activity levels or lower dietary vitamin D intake). Low levels of physical activity, <sup>37,38,41</sup> education attainment, <sup>36</sup> and health status <sup>39,105</sup> are modestly associated with vitamin D deficiency in some studies. Differences in diet, supplement use, and UV light exposure, however, could be mediating factors.

A significant proportion of the variability in 25(OH)D levels does not appear to be explained by traditional risk factors, which appear to account for only 20 to 30 percent of the variation in 25(OH)D levels. <sup>41,110</sup> Genetic factors, including genetic variants of vitamin D–metabolizing genes, may influence serum 25(OH)D concentrations. <sup>111</sup>

More detailed information on risk factors associated with vitamin D deficiency is detailed in **Appendix A2**.

# Rationale for Screening and Screening Strategies

Vitamin D deficiency might affect one fifth to three fourths of the population, depending on which cutoff is used. 5,35,36,39 Despite this prevalence, many of those who have low 25(OH)D levels are unaware of their status. Screening could identify persons with deficiency prior to the development of adverse health outcomes associated with this condition, assuming thresholds for deficiency can be established. If interventions to increase 25(OH)D levels successfully decrease disease risk, screening may improve the health of individuals with low 25(OH)D levels. This potential benefit, however, would need to be weighed against the risks associated with misdiagnosis of vitamin D deficiency, given current assay variability and unclear cutoffs to define deficiency. The risk for misclassification could outweigh any benefits if there are harms resulting from treatment or if diagnosis of deficiency leads to anxiety or inaccurate labeling.

#### **Interventions and Treatment**

For healthy individuals not known to be vitamin D deficient, the IOM recently revised the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) for vitamin D to up to 600 IU per day for adults ages 18 to 70 years and 800 IU per day for adults older than age 70 years.<sup>30</sup> Other expert bodies, however, suggest that the daily intake of vitamin D may need to be higher (e.g., 1,000 to 2,000 IU per day) to avoid vitamin D deficiency, especially in high-risk individuals.<sup>13,32-34,112,113</sup>

Vitamin D deficiency can be treated by increased dietary intake, vitamin treatment, and increased UV light exposure. UV light exposure is usually not recommended because of increased skin cancer risk. While few foods naturally contain vitamin D, several food products (e.g., milk, cereals) are available fortified with vitamin D. An AHRQ-commissioned evidence report (not for the USPSTF) that assessed the effect of vitamin D and calcium intake on various health outcomes concluded that there was good evidence that dietary intake of vitamin D increases serum 25(OH)D levels in adults.

Primary care physicians often treat vitamin D deficiency with oral vitamin D treatment. There are two commonly available forms of vitamin D treatment: vitamin D<sub>3</sub> (cholecalciferol) and

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vitamin  $D_2$  (ergocalciferol). A 2012 meta-analysis of seven randomized trials concluded that vitamin  $D^3$  treatment increased serum 25(OH)D more efficiently than vitamin  $D_2$  treatment. The trials in the meta-analysis, however, used varying doses, treatment time periods, and assays to measure  $25(OH)D_2$  and  $25(OH)D_3$ . Interpreting these findings is challenging because between-study statistical heterogeneity was present and the observed difference was of uncertain clinical significance. A 2013 bioavailability study that was powered to examine the effects of vitamin  $D_2$  compared with  $D_3$  treatment concluded that vitamin  $D_3$  treatment was more effective in raising total 25(OH)D levels. The Endocrine Society suggests using either vitamin  $D_2$  or  $D_3$  treatment  $D_3$  treatment at increasing and maintaining serum  $D_3$  treatment at increasing and maintaining serum  $D_3$  treatment at increasing and maintaining serum  $D_3$  treatment  $D_3$  treatment at increasing and maintaining serum  $D_3$  treatment at increasing and maintaining serum  $D_3$  treatment in its recommendations.

There are multiple forms (e.g., tablet, gel capsule), dosages (e.g., 200 to 500,000 IU), and dosing regimens (e.g., daily, weekly, monthly, yearly) of vitamin D treatment. Increasing doses of vitamin D are associated with greater net change in 25(OH)D concentration, although these effects vary depending on study participants' serum 25(OH)D status (e.g.,  $\leq$ 16 vs.  $\geq$ 16 ng/mL) at baseline and the duration of treatment (e.g.,  $\leq$ 3 vs.  $\geq$ 3 months).

The amount of vitamin D required to effectively treat vitamin D deficiency also likely depends on an individual's vitamin D absorptive capacity, capacity to convert vitamin D to 25(OH)D in the liver, and genetic determinants. These factors lead to many different dosages and dosage patterns being used clinically. The Endocrine Society, for example, recommends that adults with vitamin D deficiency (≤30 ng/mL) be treated with 50,000 IU of vitamin D once a week or 6,000 IU per day for 8 weeks, followed by maintenance therapy of 1,500 to 2,000 IU per day. In persons with obesity, the Endocrine Society recommends increasing the dose by twofold or threefold. The efficacy of this practice, however, has not been rigorously compared with daily, weekly, or monthly dosing. While optimal monitoring strategies during vitamin D treatment are also not well studied, most experts recommend measuring 25(OH)D levels after 2 to 4 months of high-dose therapy.

Vitamin D supplements are often given with oral calcium, which may affect health outcomes and harms. Meta-analyses have suggested possible differences in health outcomes, such as mortality and fractures, when studies were stratified according to whether calcium was or was not given with the vitamin D supplements. 118,119

#### Effect of Vitamin D Treatment on Intermediate Outcomes

In older white women with severe vitamin D deficiency (<12 ng/mL), vitamin D treatment (400 to 800 IU per day, with or without calcium) for 12 to 24 months was associated with less decline in hip and/or spine bone mineral density than placebo in some studies, <sup>120,121</sup> but not all. <sup>122</sup> Vitamin D treatment (1,000 to 5,700 IU per day) for 6 to 36 months did not improve bone mineral density compared with placebo in older men, postmenopausal black women, or younger mixed-sex populations. <sup>123-126</sup>

In older women, our included studies found no association between vitamin D treatment (400 to

1,800 IU per day, with or without calcium) and improved hand strength, <sup>127,128</sup> leg strength, <sup>127</sup> or balance after 11 to 24 weeks <sup>129</sup> versus placebo. Young persons (mean age, 18 to 33 years) who were vitamin D deficient (<30 ng/mL) and given large (25,000 to >60,000 IU per week) doses of vitamin D had improvement on several strength measures compared with those given placebo, <sup>130</sup> but this improvement in strength was not seen in a third trial that used smaller doses (400 to 1,000 IU) of vitamin D. <sup>132</sup>

Studies found no association between vitamin D treatment (400 to 7,143 IU per day, with or without calcium) and improvement in lipid, glucose, and insulin levels or insulin sensitivity in persons without diabetes and with low 25(OH)D levels (<30 ng/mL).<sup>133-137</sup>

Although some studies reported that vitamin D treatment (800 to 4,000 IU per day) was associated with decreased systolic (but not diastolic) blood pressure compared with placebo, <sup>135</sup>, a nested case-control study of postmenopausal women with vitamin D deficiency in the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) Calcium with Vitamin D (CaD) trial found no difference between vitamin D supplementation (400 IU per day with 1,000 mg calcium) and placebo in risk for incident hypertension over 7 years. <sup>138</sup>

More detailed information on the effect of vitamin D treatment on intermediate outcomes is presented in **Appendix A3**.

#### Adverse Effects of Vitamin D Treatment

Laboratory signs of vitamin D toxicity may appear before symptoms are evident. These symptoms include hypercalcemia, hyperphosphatemia, suppressed parathyroid hormone, and hypercalciuria and can occur after less than 4 weeks of continuous excess ingestion. These symptoms are variable and, while often nonspecific, are mostly related to hypercalcemia and hypercalciuria. Mild hypercalcemia can result in constipation, fatigue, and depression. More severe hypercalcemia can cause polyuria, polydipsia, dehydration, anorexia, nausea, muscle weakness, arrhythmias, and mental status changes. Hypercalciuria can lead to increased risk for kidney stones. The toxicity level of vitamin D (most commonly defined as >200 ng/mL [500] nmol/L]) is well above the level considered to be sufficient. <sup>139,140</sup> Acute toxicity has not been linked to vitamin D intake of less than 10,000 IU per day.<sup>30</sup> The IOM recommends a tolerable upper intake level of vitamin D supplementation for adults of 4,000 IU per day in order to avoid 25(OH)D levels greater than 50 ng/mL, which may be associated with potential risks (e.g., increased mortality, cardiovascular disease risk, certain cancers, and falls). While the Endocrine Society recommends a maintenance regimen of 4,000 IU per day, it states that 10,000 IU per day may be needed to correct deficiency in persons at risk for deficiency or during treatment of deficiency. 13

#### **Current Clinical Practice**

While we identified no reliable data on screening rates for vitamin D deficiency, available data suggest that testing rates for vitamin D status are increasing in general. A 2009 email survey of readers of *Clinical Laboratory News* (a publication of the American Academy for Clinical

Chemistry) found that more than 50 percent of respondents reported an increase of at least 50 percent in the volume of testing for 25(OH)D in their laboratories over the prior year, and 27 percent reported an increase of 100 percent. Testing for 1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D also increased over this period, which suggests possible clinician uncertainty regarding which tests to order to assess vitamin D status. <sup>141</sup>

While data regarding vitamin D treatment patterns are limited, these data also suggest increased use. In one large integrated health care delivery system (>3 million members), use of high-dose vitamin D (50,000 IU) increased nearly eightfold between 2007 and 2010. Use of over-the-counter supplemental vitamin D has also increased over the past decade. In 2003 to 2006, for example, NHANES data reported that 56 percent of women age 60 years or older took vitamin D in one or more dietary supplements, as did 45 percent of women ages 40 to 59 years and 33 percent of women ages 20 to 39 years. This represents a significant increase from 1999 to 2002. Vitamin D supplementation was lower in men than in women in the same age groups (44%, 38%, and 26%, respectively). In 2008, 60 percent of women and 46 percent of men age 50 years or older in a large integrated health system reported taking vitamin D in the form of dietary supplements, as did 76 percent of women and 47 percent of men ages 51 to 85 years. Rates of vitamin D supplement usage were generally lower among nonwhites.

# **Recommendations of Other Groups**

In 2011, the Endocrine Society recommended screening for vitamin D deficiency in persons at risk for deficiency. These identified groups include persons with diseases that predispose them to deficiency, such as chronic renal disease and malabsorption syndromes; persons who use medications that increase the risk for deficiency, such as glucocorticosteroids and antiepileptics; and persons who belong to an at-risk population, such as obese persons, blacks, and Hispanics. The Endocrine Society did not recommend screening for vitamin D deficiency in persons who are not at risk for this condition, noting a lack of evidence demonstrating the benefit of population-level screening.<sup>13</sup>

The American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation's 2013 "Choosing Wisely" report on unnecessary medical tests included a statement from the American Society for Clinical Pathology that "vitamin D testing is generally unnecessary." It also stated that "over-the-counter vitamin D supplements and summer sun exposure are sufficient for most otherwise healthy people." However, the report also stated that "laboratory testing is appropriate in higher risk patients—those who are obese or have chronic kidney disease, for example—when results will be used to decide whether to order more aggressive therapy." 145

From 2009 to 2011, the IOM convened an expert panel to update the Recommended Dietary Allowance for vitamin D. The panel assessed data on health outcomes associated with calcium and vitamin D to determine dietary reference intakes for vitamin D for the U.S. population. While the IOM did not make statements about vitamin D screening, it concluded that most persons have an average serum 25(OH)D level above that needed for good bone health. Because national surveys show an average total intake of vitamin D that is below the recommended median requirement, the IOM concluded that sun exposure likely contributes meaningful

amounts of vitamin D to the U.S. population and that "the majority of the population is meeting its needs for vitamin D." The IOM noted, however, that some subgroups may be at an increased risk for getting too little vitamin D (e.g., those who are older and living in institutions or who have dark skin pigmentation).

While the USPSTF has not previously issued recommendations on screening for vitamin D deficiency, it has issued several recommendations on the effects of vitamin D supplementation on the prevention of adverse health outcomes (e.g., falls, fractures, cancer, and cardiovascular disease) in populations that are not necessarily vitamin D deficient (i.e., they included general populations that may or may not be deficient). In 2012, the USPSTF recommended vitamin D supplementation for community-dwelling adults age 65 years or older at increased risk for falls (i.e., history of falls and mobility problems) to prevent future falls (B recommendation). The USPSTF examined the effects of vitamin D and calcium on fracture risk and concluded that there was insufficient evidence to assess the benefits and harms of vitamin D and calcium supplementation for the primary prevention of fractures in premenopausal adults (I statement). In noninstitutionalized postmenopausal women, there was insufficient evidence to assess the benefits and harms of daily supplementation with greater than 400 IU of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> and 1,000 mg of calcium (I statement). The USPSTF recommended against daily supplementation with 400 IU or less of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> and 1,000 mg calcium for the primary prevention of fractures in this population (D recommendation).

The USPSTF also recently issued a recommendation statement on multivitamin and single vitamin supplementation for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease and cancer. The recommendation was based on a review that included studies of vitamin D as part of multivitamins, as well as vitamin D given as a single tablet to persons who were likely receiving adequate nutritional vitamin D. The USPSTF concluded that the evidence was insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of the use of vitamin D (alone or as part of a multivitamin) for the prevention of cardiovascular disease or cancer (I statement).

#### **CHAPTER 2. METHODS**

# **Key Questions and Analytic Framework**

The USPSTF, with input from AHRO, set the scope and developed the key questions for this review. Based on this work, we created an analytic framework including key questions and the patient populations, interventions, and outcomes reviewed (Figure 1). Key question 1 focuses on direct evidence on the effectiveness of screening for vitamin D deficiency in improving future health outcomes (e.g., mortality reduction, morbidity from selected conditions, physical and emotional functioning) compared with not screening. Such direct evidence on the effectiveness of screening interventions may be limited. Therefore, the remainder of the analytic framework (key questions 2 through 4) evaluates the chain of indirect evidence needed to link screening with improvements in important health outcomes. Links in the chain of indirect evidence include the effectiveness of vitamin D treatment in reducing the incidence of future health outcomes and the harms associated with screening and treatment in persons with vitamin D deficiency. It is implicit in the indirect chain of evidence that, in order to understand benefits and harms of screening, it is not sufficient to identify individuals who are vitamin D deficient. Instead, it is necessary to show that there are effective treatments for those identified with vitamin D deficiency, which are addressed in key questions 1 and 3. Key questions 1a, 3a, and 4a address how the effectiveness of screening and treatment varies in different subgroups.

# **Key Questions**

- 1. Is there direct evidence that screening for vitamin D deficiency results in improved health outcomes?
  - a. Are there differences in screening efficacy between patient subgroups (subgroups defined by risk factors for vitamin D deficiency, such as age 65 years or older, sex, race/ethnicity, BMI, UV light exposure, and institutionalized status)?
- 2. What are the harms of screening (e.g., risk from procedure, false-positive or false-negative results)?
- 3. Does treatment of vitamin D deficiency with vitamin D lead to improved health outcomes?
  - a. Are there differences in efficacy between patient subgroups (subgroups defined by risk factors for vitamin D deficiency, such as age, sex, race/ethnicity, BMI, UV light exposure, and institutionalized status)?
- 4. What are the adverse effects of treatment of vitamin D deficiency with vitamin D?
  - a. Are there differences in adverse effects between patient subgroups (subgroups defined by risk factors for vitamin D deficiency, such as age 65 years or older, sex, race/ethnicity, BMI, UV light exposure, and institutionalized status)?

We accepted different definitions of vitamin D deficiency as long as at least 90 percent of participants had a baseline 25(OH)D level of 30 ng/mL or less, based on the uncertainties about what level defines deficiency. However, we examined data stratified by 25(OH)D cutoff levels. For the purposes of this report, the term "vitamin D deficient" refers to populations in which at least 90 percent of individuals have 25(OH)D levels of 30 ng/mL or less.

#### **Contextual Questions**

The USPSTF also requested three contextual questions to help inform the report. Contextual questions are not reviewed using systematic review methodology. Instead, they focus on evidence from large high-quality epidemiological and clinical studies. These contextual questions are addressed in the Introduction in the sections on Etiology and Natural History, Risk Factors, and Rationale for Screening and Screening Strategies and in more detail in **Appendixes A1–A3**.

The contextual questions are:

- 1. What is the association between serum 25(OH)D levels and health outcomes?
- 2. What are the risk factors associated with vitamin D deficiency?
- 3. What is the effect of vitamin D treatment (with or without calcium) on intermediate outcomes (e.g., blood pressure, bone mineral density, glucose tolerance, lipid levels)?

# **Search Strategies**

We searched the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials and Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (through August 2014) and Ovid MEDLINE® (through the third week of August 2014) for relevant studies and systematic reviews. Search strategies are shown in **Appendix B1**. We also reviewed reference lists of relevant articles.

# **Study Selection**

At least two reviewers independently evaluated potential studies against inclusion and exclusion criteria developed for each key question (**Appendix B2**). Articles were selected for full-text review if they evaluated the benefits or harms of screening versus no screening or vitamin D treatment versus no treatment for our target population (see section below). We evaluated only English-language articles and excluded studies published only as abstracts. We also excluded studies of nonhuman subjects. All included studies reported original data. To evaluate the benefits of vitamin D screening, we included systematic reviews and randomized, controlled trials (RCTs). We also included case-control studies nested within an RCT, such as the large Women's Health Initiative (WHI) Calcium-Vitamin D (CaD) trial. <sup>146</sup> For evaluation of harms, we included systematic reviews, RCTs, and cohort or case-control studies. Studies had to be conducted in or relevant to primary care settings. While we included studies of persons in institutional settings, we performed stratified analyses in which they were examined separately from studies of community-dwelling persons.

Our target population was vitamin D-deficient adults (age  $\geq$ 18 years) in countries generalizable to the United States. As a result, we included only studies conducted in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia. For key question 1, we included studies of screening for vitamin D deficiency if they enrolled a healthy asymptomatic study population (persons neither known to have vitamin D deficiency nor selected for testing for evaluation of a medical condition

associated with vitamin D deficiency); described the study population (e.g., number screened, sex, age range, and setting); and reported health outcomes or harms (e.g., labeling or effects of subsequent treatments). We could not assess sensitivity, specificity, or related measures of diagnostic accuracy (e.g., false-positives or false-negatives) due to assay variability and the absence of a recognized reference standard for vitamin D status. For key question 3, we included studies of treatment of vitamin D deficiency if they examined vitamin D-deficient persons identified through screening, if participants were not selected on the basis of having symptoms or signs of vitamin D deficiency, and if they were not being treated with vitamin D for a specific health condition (e.g., low bone mineral density, prior fracture, prior falls). While our review targeted asymptomatic persons, most studies did not report the presence of symptoms, and symptoms of vitamin D deficiency are nonspecific and may be relatively common. 147,148 Therefore, we did not require that studies screen for symptoms of deficiency or exclude all patients with conditions associated with deficiency (e.g., studies of older patients might have included some persons who had osteoporosis or who had fallen in the past and were not excluded as long as the study did not purposely select patients with these conditions). We did not examine studies that targeted populations with signs of vitamin D deficiency (e.g., osteoporosis, history of nontraumatic fracture, or history of falls) or with medical conditions that increase risk for deficiency (e.g., liver, kidney, or malabsorptive disease) because screening for vitamin D deficiency and its treatment would be considered medical management of these conditions.

We accepted variable definitions of vitamin D deficiency as long as at least 90 percent of the participants had baseline 25(OH)D levels of 30 ng/mL or less. In addition, we included studies that did not specifically define their population as being vitamin D deficient as long as at least 90 percent of participants had baseline 25(OH)D levels of 30 ng/mL or less identified through screening. For the purposes of this report, the term "vitamin D deficient" refers to populations in which at least 90 percent of individuals have 25(OH)D levels of 30 ng/mL or less. For studies that did not restrict enrollment to persons with 25(OH)D levels of 30 ng/mL or less, we used the mean 25(OH)D level plus the standard deviation multiplied by 1.282 to approximate the 90th percentile and determine whether this level was at or below the 30 ng/mL threshold. To account for variability in the 25(OH)D level that constitutes deficiency, we stratified studies according to whether at least 90 percent of persons had levels less than 20 ng/mL ("<20 ng/mL" in this report) or at least 90 percent had levels less than 30 ng/mL with at least 10 percent greater than 20 ng/mL ("\le 30 ng/mL" in this report). We converted 25(OH)D levels reported as nmol/L to ng/mL (1 nmol/L = 0.4 ng/mL). We included interventions of vitamin D treatment (with or without calcium) if they compared vitamin D treatment with placebo, calcium alone, or no treatment. Interventions were considered to be of vitamin D alone if they examined vitamin D treatment compared with placebo or no treatment, or if they examined vitamin D and calcium compared with calcium alone. Included studies described the study population (e.g., number screened, sex, age range, setting, and baseline 25(OH)D level), had a treatment period of at least 8 weeks for beneficial outcomes, and reported clinical health outcomes (see Appendix B2).

The selection of literature is summarized in the literature flow diagram (**Appendix B3**). **Appendix B4** lists excluded studies with reasons for exclusion.

# **Data Abstraction and Quality Rating**

We abstracted details about the study design, patient population, setting, screening method, interventions, analysis, followup, and results. Two investigators independently applied USPSTF criteria<sup>149</sup> to rate the quality of each study as good, fair, or poor (**Appendix B5**). Poor-quality studies with a "fatal flaw" (or flaws) were excluded from the synthesis of the results. We resolved discrepancies through a consensus process. We considered the following factors to determine applicability: setting and generalizability of the setting to screening and primary care, enrollment criteria and whether they resulted in a highly selected population, use of run-in and washout periods, and similarity of testing and interventions to current clinical practices.

# **Data Synthesis**

We assessed the aggregate internal validity (quality) of the body of evidence for each key question (good, fair, poor) using USPSTF methods. This assessment was based on the number, quality, and size of studies as well as the consistency of results between studies and the directness of evidence. <sup>149</sup>

We conducted meta-analyses to calculate summary risk ratios (RRs) for clinical outcomes (decreased mortality and decreased morbidity from fractures, falls, and diabetes) and harms (withdrawals due to adverse events, serious adverse events, and hypercalcemia) of treatment with vitamin D and/or calcium versus placebo, no treatment, or only calcium. We used the DerSimonian-Laird random effects model with Review Manager Version 5.2 (The Cochrane Collaboration, Copenhagen, Denmark) to conduct these analyses. Analyses for clinical outcomes used data on total study duration (including time following discontinuation of vitamin D treatment). For number of falls per person, we calculated rate ratios based on reported data and assumed mean equal length of followup between treatment groups if not reported. Rate ratios were combined using DerSimonian-Laird random effects models in the primary analyses. For all outcomes with substantial between-study heterogeneity, we conducted sensitivity analyses using profile likelihood random effects models. For number of falls per person, one study reported an adjusted rate ratio and we conducted a sensitivity analysis to assess the effect of the adjusted rate ratio on the summary rate ratio. Rate ratio analysis using the profile likelihood model were conducted with StataIC 12.0 (StataCorp LP, College Station, TX).

We assessed statistical heterogeneity using the standard chi-squared test and  $I^2$  statistic. <sup>151</sup> For all analyses, we stratified results by serum baseline 25(OH)D level. We performed additional analyses in which trials were stratified by institutionalized status, treatment regimen (vitamin D alone or combined with calcium), vitamin D dose ( $\leq 400 \text{ vs.} > 400 \text{ IU}$  per day), study duration ( $\leq 12 \text{ vs.} > 12 \text{ months}$ ), and participant mean age ( $\leq 70 \text{ vs.} > 70 \text{ years}$ ).

Several analyses included nested case-control studies from the WHI. We performed sensitivity analyses restricted to RCTs, excluding the results of the WHI subanalyses. For analyses that included results from nested case-control studies from WHI, we also performed sensitivity analyses using the odds ratio (OR) rather than the RR.

#### **External Review**

The draft report was reviewed by content experts, USPSTF members, AHRQ Project Officers, and collaborative partners (**Appendix B6**).

# **Response to Public Comments**

This systematic review was posted for public comment from June 24 to July 21, 2014. The systematic review team reviewed and considered relevant comments. No comments identified missing studies that met inclusion criteria or errors in the evidence reviewed, resulting in no changes to the findings or the conclusion of this report.

# **CHAPTER 3. RESULTS**

# **Key Question 1. Is There Direct Evidence That Screening for Vitamin D Deficiency Results in Improved Health Outcomes?**

We found no study that addressed this key question.

# **Key Question 2. What Are the Harms of Screening?**

We found no study that addressed this key question.

# **Key Question 3. Does Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency With Vitamin D Lead to Improved Health Outcomes?**

#### Summary

Eleven studies examined the effect of vitamin D treatment on mortality,  $^{120,122,152-160}$  five examined fractures,  $^{122,161-164}$  six examined falls,  $^{122,136,162,163,165,166}$  one examined cancer,  $^{167,168}$  two examined type 2 diabetes,  $^{136,169}$  two examined psychosocial functioning and disability,  $^{170,171}$  and one examined physical functioning. While vitamin D treatment was associated with decreased risk for mortality compared with placebo/no treatment (pooled RR, 0.83 [95% CI, 0.70 to 0.99];  $I^2$ =0%; 11 studies), these studies were not designed to assess mortality.  $I^{120,122,152-160}$  Additionally, the benefits of vitamin D treatment were confined to trials of elderly institutionalized participants with high mortality rates.  $I^{120,122,154}$  The reduction was no longer significantly reduced when we examined only noninstitutionalized populations (RR, 0.93 [95% CI, 0.73 to 1.18];  $I^2$ =0%; 8 studies).  $I^{152,153,155-158}$  Vitamin D treatment was not associated with decreased risk for fracture (pooled RR, 0.98 [95% CI, 0.82 to 1.16];  $I^2$ =32%; 5 studies).  $I^{122,161-164}$  Falls data were mixed: while vitamin D treatment was not associated with decreased risk for experiencing a fall (pooled RR, 0.84 [95% CI, 0.69 to 1.02];  $I^2$ =70%; 5 trials),  $I^{120,162,163,165,166}$  our primary fall endpoint, vitamin D treatment was associated with a decreased number of falls per individual (pooled rate ratio, 0.66 [95% CI, 0.50 to 0.88];  $I^2$ =65%; 5 trials).  $I^{136,162,163,165,166}$  We found limited data ( $I^2$ 2 studies) on the effect of vitamin D treatment on cancer risk, type 2 diabetes risk, psychosocial functioning, disability, and physical functioning.

#### **Evidence**

We identified 16 trials and one nested case-control study that evaluated the effects of vitamin D treatment (with or without calcium) on health outcomes in vitamin D-deficient populations (**Table 2** and **Appendixes C1** and **C2**). Seven of these studies were conducted in populations in which at least 90 percent of participants had 25(OH)D levels of less than 20 ng/mL <sup>122,155,157-160,162</sup> and 10 in populations in which at least 90 percent of participants had levels of 30 ng/mL or less

(but at least 10% had levels of ≥20 ng/mL).  $^{120,136,152-154,156,161,163-171}$  Eleven studies examined the effect of vitamin D treatment on mortality,  $^{120,122,152-160}$  five examined effects on fracture,  $^{122,161-164}$  six examined effects on falls,  $^{122,136,162,163,165,166}$  one examined effects on cancer,  $^{167,168}$  two examined effects on type 2 diabetes,  $^{136,169}$  two examined effects on psychosocial functioning and disability,  $^{170,171}$  and one examined effects on physical functioning.  $^{155}$  The mean age of the participants ranged from 37 to 85 years, and 40 to 100 percent were female. Mean BMIs ranged from 24 to 36 kg/m². The included studies were population-based or were conducted within outpatient clinics, academic institutions, and nursing or residential homes for the elderly (considered institutionalized) in the United States or Europe. UV light exposure was not well quantified in any study. Only six  $^{136,146,152,156,159,160,164,167-170}$  of 17 studies reported race. One study comprised 100 percent African Americans.  $^{160}$  In the remaining studies reporting race, 83 to 100 percent of participants were white. Studies examined vitamin D₃ at dosages ranging from 400 to 4,800 IU per day to 8,400 to 50,000 IU per week. Five studies examined vitamin D₃ treatment coadministered with calcium (1,000 to 1,200 mg per day) and 12 examined vitamin D₃ treatment alone. Study duration ranged from 2 months to 7 years. To measure 25(OH)D levels in participants, four studies used competitive protein binding,  $^{120,122,154,157,161}$  eight used immunoassay methods,  $^{146,153,156,159,160,162,163,165,166}$  one used HPLC,  $^{155}$  and four used LC-MS/MS.  $^{136,158,170,171}$  Two trials used laboratories that were participating in an external accuracy-based testing system (DEQAS).  $^{155,156}$ 

Two trials were rated good quality<sup>156,171</sup> and 15 were rated fair quality<sup>120,122,127,136,146,153-155,157-167,</sup> (**Appendix C3**). Methodological shortcomings in the fair-quality studies frequently included the unclear use of adequate randomization and allocation concealment methods and/or masking of outcome assessors, providers, or participants. Some studies also reported high attrition (>20%).

The WHI CaD trial was the largest study (N=36,282). \(^{146,152,164,167-169}\) The results of the overall trial were not included in this evidence review because baseline levels of 25(OH)D were not measured in all participants. Instead, we included the results reported for the subset of trial participants with low 25(OH)D levels, reported in several case-control studies. We quality rated the overall trial because the case-control studies were based on women originally randomized to the main WHI CaD trial (**Table 2** and **Appendixes C2** and **C3**). We rated this trial as fair quality, primarily because of a potential lack of intervention fidelity. Participants in both intervention groups were allowed off-protocol supplementation of up to 600 IU per day of vitamin D initially and up to 1,000 IU per day from 1999 onward. Six years into the trial, off-protocol vitamin D use was reported by 52 percent of participants. \(^{167}\) Despite this finding, those assigned to vitamin D supplementation had a 28-percent higher 25(OH)D level than those taking placebo in a random subsample of 1.2 percent of the study population at the end of year 2. \(^{164}\) The baseline characteristics of the cases and controls in the WHI CaD subanalyses were also not provided, although study intervention and placebo participants had similar baseline characteristics in the overall trial.

#### **Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Mortality**

One good-quality trial, nine fair-quality trials, and one fair-quality nested case-control study examined the effect of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment on mortality in vitamin D-deficient populations

(N=4,126).  $^{120,122,154,155,157,161}$  Five studies were conducted in populations with a mean age older than 70 years,  $^{120,122,154,155,157,161}$  three trials specifically focused on older (age >80 years) women in nursing or elderly homes,  $^{120,122,154}$  and one trial specifically focused on younger (age  $\geq$ 45 years) women.  $^{159}$  No study had death as a primary outcome.

No individual study reported a statistically significant reduction in mortality in participants randomized to vitamin  $D_3$  treatment (dosage of 400 IU per day to 40,000 IU per week, with or without calcium) compared with placebo, calcium alone, or no treatment. The estimates in some trials were extremely imprecise, however, because of very few events. <sup>153,155-160</sup> In four studies that reported at least 10 events, RR estimates ranged from 0.51 to 0.90. <sup>120,122,152,154</sup> When data were combined for all studies, vitamin  $D_3$  treatment (with or without calcium) was associated with decreased risk for mortality versus placebo/no treatment (pooled RR, 0.83 [95% CI, 0.70 to 0.99];  $I^2$ =0%; **Figure 2**). Studies reported an absolute risk difference that ranged from a reduction of 6 percentage points to an increase of 2 percentage points with vitamin  $D_3$  treatment (with or without calcium) versus placebo/no treatment.

These results should be interpreted with caution. While the CI was very close to 1, mortality was not the primary outcome in any study and was usually not a prespecified outcome. In addition, in the only good-quality trial, a U.S. vitamin D treatment dose-response trial of 400 to 4,800 IU per day of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment in 163 vitamin D−deficient (≤20 ng/mL) white postmenopausal women with a mean age of 67 years, no deaths were observed in any group after 12 months. 156 The largest study (n=2,185), a case-control study nested within the WHI CaD trial, also found no association between randomization to 400 IU per day of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> with 1,000 mg per day of calcium versus placebo and risk for mortality after 7 years in vitamin D–deficient (<21 ng/mL) postmenopausal women in the United States. <sup>152</sup> The two trials with the RR that most suggested a possible benefit of vitamin D treatment on mortality (0.75 [95% CI, 0.54 to 1.05]<sup>122</sup> and 0.51 [95% CI, 0.25 to 1.02]<sup>120</sup>) examined the effects of 400 to 800 IU per day of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment (with or without calcium) in older (mean age, 80 to 85 years) vitamin D–deficient (≤30 ng/mL) institutionalized European women who experienced high mortality rates (9% to 20%) during followup. 120,122 When we analyzed trials of institutionalized and noninstitutionalized persons separately, the risk reduction was limited to studies of older institutionalized persons (pooled RR, 0.72 [95% CI, 0.56 to 0.94];  $I^2$ =0%; 3 trials; **Figure 3**); absolute risk reductions ranged from 4 to 6 percentage points. <sup>120,122,154</sup> The reduction was no longer significantly reduced when we examined only noninstitutionalized populations (RR, 0.93 [95% CI, 0.73 to 1.18];  $I^2$ =0%; 8 studies; **Figure 3**). <sup>152,153,155-158</sup> In sensitivity analyses, the reduction in mortality occurred only when studies with more than 12 months duration were pooled and in studies whose population had a mean age older than 70 years. Stratification by baseline 25(OH)D level (<20 vs. ≤30 ng/mL), treatment regimen (vitamin D treatment alone vs. with calcium), or vitamin D dosage (≤400 vs. >400 IU per day) did not affect risk estimates. Excluding the WHI case-control study and pooling ORs instead of RRs did not affect findings.

#### **Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Fracture Risk**

Four fair-quality trials and one nested case-control study examined the effects of 2 months to 7 years of treatment with 400 to 800 IU per day of vitamin  $D_3$  (with or without calcium) on risk for any type of fracture in ambulatory and institutionalized vitamin D-deficient persons (94%)

women) with mean ages of 62 to 85 years (N=3,551).  $^{122,161-164}$  No individual study reported a statistically significant reduction in fracture risk in those randomized to vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment versus placebo, and the pooled estimate was close to 1 (pooled RR, 0.98 [95% CI, 0.82 to 1.16];  $I^2$ =32%; **Figure 4**). This includes the largest study, which was a case-control analysis nested within the WHI CaD trial.  $^{164}$  Stratifying studies by institutionalized status, baseline 25(OH)D level (<20 vs.  $\leq$ 30 ng/mL), treatment regimen (vitamin D treatment alone vs. with calcium), vitamin D dosage ( $\leq$ 400 vs.  $\geq$ 400 IU per day), study duration ( $\leq$ 12 vs.  $\geq$ 12 months), and mean age of population ( $\leq$ 70 vs.  $\geq$ 70 years) resulted in similar findings of no effect and did not decrease heterogeneity. Neither exclusion of the WHI case-control study nor examination of pooled ORs affected findings.

In three trials and one nested case-control study that reported data separately (N=1,619), <sup>122,161,162, 164</sup> there was no significant reduction in hip fracture risk with vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment versus placebo in any individual study, and the pooled estimate was close to 1 (pooled RR, 0.96 [95% CI, 0.72 to 1.29];  $I^2$ =46%; **Figure 5**). Considering only noninstitutionalized populations did not affect the null findings. Stratification by baseline 25(OH)D level, dosage, study duration, age, and treatment regimen did not change findings and did not decrease heterogeneity. The trial most suggestive of a possible benefit of vitamin D treatment on hip fracture risk was conducted in older institutionalized European women given 800 IU per day of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> with calcium over 24 months and had a population whose baseline 25(OH)D level was less than 20 ng/mL (RR, 0.62 [95% CI, 0.36 to 1.07]). <sup>122</sup>

#### Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Fall Risk

Five fair-quality trials examined the effects of 2 to 36 months of 800 IU per day of vitamin  $D_3$  treatment (with or without calcium) compared with placebo, no treatment, or calcium alone on the risk for experiencing at least one fall (N=1,677; **Table 3**). <sup>122,162,163,165,166</sup> Although trials did not specifically recruit participants for being at high risk for frailty or because of prior falls, the studies included persons who may have been at risk for falls based on older age (mean age, >70 years), <sup>122,162,163,165</sup> institutionalized status, <sup>122,165</sup> mobility problems, <sup>122,165</sup> or multiple comorbid conditions. <sup>122,162,165</sup> In two studies that reported how many patients had prior falls in the past 3 to 6 months, the proportions were 16 and 34 percent. <sup>122,165</sup> While the overall summary RR indicated no statistically significant effect on risk for experiencing at least one fall in participants given vitamin  $D_3$  treatment versus the control intervention (pooled RR, 0.84 [95% CI, 0.69 to 1.02]; **Figure 6**), heterogeneity was high ( $I^2$ =70%). Trials reported an absolute risk difference that ranged from a reduction of 22 percentage points to an increase of 2 percentage points with vitamin  $D_3$  treatment (with or without calcium) versus placebo/no treatment.

The only trial that reported a statistically significant effect on risk for falls was a German trial conducted in an ambulatory population (75% women) with 25(OH)D levels of 30 ng/mL or less and a mean age of 77 years (n=242). This trial reported that 12 months of 800 IU per day of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment was associated with a 36-percent reduction in the risk for having at least one fall over 20 months (RR, 0.64 [95% CI, 0.50 to 0.83]), which was the trial's primary outcome. When we stratified trials by institutionalized status, the RRs did not change and heterogeneity remained high. Similarly, stratification of trials according to baseline 25(OH)D level, vitamin D dosage, study duration, and age did not reduce heterogeneity and resulted in

similar estimates. Heterogeneity was reduced to zero, however, when we excluded the two trials of cosupplementation with vitamin D and calcium in order to separately examine the three trials of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment alone, and there was a significant reduction in risk for experiencing at least one fall (RR, 0.65 [95% CI, 0.52 to 0.81];  $I^2=0\%$ ).  $I^{62,163,165}$ 

Five fair-quality trials examined the effect of 400 to 1,000 IU per day of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment (with or without calcium) on the number of falls per individual (N=1,399, **Table 3**). <sup>136,162,163,165</sup>, <sup>166</sup> When the five trials were pooled, vitamin D treatment was associated with a significant reduction in the number of falls per individual compared with placebo (pooled rate ratio, 0.66 [95% CI, 0.50 to 0.88]; *I*<sup>2</sup>=65%; **Figure 7**). Although there was statistical heterogeneity, all estimates favored vitamin D treatment. The trial populations were European, mostly female (88%), and had mean ages of 64 to 85 years. Only one trial studied institutionalized persons. <sup>165</sup> Excluding this trial did not affect the risk estimate. Stratification by baseline 25(OH)D level, study duration, and age did not change findings and did not decrease heterogeneity. Excluding the one trial that coadministered calcium with vitamin D did not change findings but decreased heterogeneity. Our findings did not change when the analysis was re-run using the profile likelihood random effects model.

Four trials examined both risk for falling and rate of falls per person.  $^{162,163,165,166}$  In three of these trials, the risk estimates were similar.  $^{162,163,166}$  In the fourth trial, the rate ratio for falls per person (primary outcome of this trial) was lower than the risk for experiencing at least one fall (0.46 [95% CI, 0.28 to 0.76] and 0.75 [95% CI, 0.41 to 1.37], respectively). This trial, conducted in an institutionalized population with a high comorbidity burden, used nurses to record falls, while other trials relied on self-report or did not report how falls were recorded. This trial also had a shorter duration than the other trials (12 weeks vs.  $\geq$ 12 months). The one trial that examined only risk for falls (not rate of falls) reported no reduced risk for falls in those given vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment with calcium versus placebo (RR, 1.03 [95% CI, 0.90 to 1.18]). This trial's primary outcome was risk for fractures, and the method of recording falls was not described. The trial examining only rate of falls (not risk for falls) was conducted in a younger (mean age, 64 years) population in which falls were collected as part of adverse event reporting; few falls were recorded during followup, leading to wide CIs.  $^{136}$ 

#### **Effect of Vitamin D Treatment on Cancer Risk**

Effects of 7 years of treatment with 400 IU per day of vitamin  $D_3$  and calcium on risk for breast cancer (n=909 cases) and colorectal cancer (n=237 cases) in women with low 25(OH)D levels were examined in case-control studies nested within the WHI CaD trial. Compared with placebo, treatment with vitamin  $D_3$  and calcium was not associated with a decreased risk for colorectal or breast cancer in women with 25(OH)D levels in the deficiency range (OR, 1.15 [95% CI, 0.58 to 2.27] for <23 vs.  $\geq$ 23 ng/mL for colorectal cancer and adjusted OR, 0.89 [95% CI, 0.58 to 1.36] for <27 vs.  $\geq$ 27 ng/mL for breast cancer).

#### Effect of Vitamin D Treatment on Type 2 Diabetes Risk

One fair-quality trial  $(n=305)^{136}$  and one case-control study nested within the WHI CaD trial  $(n=192 \text{ cases})^{169}$  examined the effects of treatment with 400 to 1,000 IU per day of vitamin  $D_3$ 

(with or without calcium) for 1 to 7 years in mostly (>83%) white, vitamin D–deficient (<30 ng/mL) women with mean ages of 62 to 64 years. Neither study found that vitamin D treatment was associated with reduced risk for developing type 2 diabetes, and the summary RR was close to 1 (pooled RR, 0.93 [95% CI, 0.68 to 1.27];  $I^2$ =0%; **Figure 8**).

#### Effect of Vitamin D Treatment on Psychosocial Functioning and Disability

One good-quality trial examined the effect of 20,000 IU per week of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> for 6 months on depression and anxiety as measured by the Beck Depression Inventory, the Montgomery-Åsberg Depression Rating Scale, and the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale. In vitamin D–deficient (<22 ng/mL) healthy persons (56% female) with a mean age of 53 years, <sup>171</sup> there was no difference after 6 months of treatment on any scale (**Table 2** and **Appendix C1**). There were also no significant differences between treatment groups in change from baseline when stratifying by sex, age, BMI, 25(OH)D level at baseline, or smoking status.

One small fair-quality trial (n=90) examined the effect of eight weekly doses of 50,000 IU of vitamin  $D_3$  on psychosocial functioning and disability as measured by the Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire. In vitamin D-deficient (<25 ng/mL) healthy persons (40% female) with a mean age of 59 years, those randomized to vitamin  $D_3$  treatment showed improvement in their overall score after 8 weeks (**Table 2** and **Appendix C1**). Individuals in the placebo group, on the other hand, experienced worsening scores (mean difference from baseline on scale from 0 to 100, -3.7 vs. +1.9; p<0.03 for difference between groups). Despite this result, however, vitamin  $D_3$  treatment did not beneficially affect scores on the depression or work interference subscales compared with placebo.

#### Effect of Vitamin D Treatment on Physical Functioning

One fair-quality trial (n=213) examined the effect of 16 weekly doses of 8,400 IU of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> on physical functioning in U.S. and European populations with an average age of 78 years. Compared with placebo, vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment did not result in greater improvement on the Short Physical Performance Battery, a validated measure of lower extremity functioning. 173

#### **Effect of Vitamin D Treatment in Patient Subgroups**

None of the included trials were designed or powered to evaluate potential subgroup effects based on age or institutionalized status. Data suggesting benefits of vitamin D treatment on mortality were limited to trials of institutionalized European women. <sup>120,122,154</sup> While studies that examined fall risk with vitamin D treatment did not include participants chosen for being at high risk for falls, baseline characteristics indicate that most of the participants were older (>70 years) and many may have had risk factors for falls. No included studies were designed to evaluate differential effects of vitamin D treatment on clinical outcomes based on factors such as sex, race, BMI, or UV light exposure.

# Key Question 4. What Are the Adverse Effects of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency With Vitamin D?

#### Summary

Data on the adverse events of treatment of vitamin D deficiency with vitamin D (with or without calcium) are limited. Trials were generally not designed to address harms, and prespecified outcomes rarely included assessment of harms. In the included trials, there was no evidence that treatment with 400 to 7,000 IU per day or 8,400 to 54,000 IU per week of vitamin  $D_3$  or  $D_2$  (with or without calcium) resulted in more total adverse events, serious adverse events, withdrawals due to adverse events, hypercalcemia, kidney stones, or gastrointestinal symptoms compared with control intervention over 6 weeks to 4 years.

#### **Evidence**

We identified 24 trials that examined adverse events associated with vitamin D treatment (with or without calcium) in vitamin D–deficient (<20 or  $\le30$  ng/mL) populations (N=4,471; **Table 4** and **Appendix C1**). The mean age of participants ranged from 31 to 85 years. Seven trials were conducted in the United States, <sup>156,159,160,170,174-177</sup> 16 were conducted in Europe, <sup>115,120,122,125,127,128,132,133,136,153,154,157,158,165,171,178,179</sup> and one was conducted in both the United States and Europe. <sup>155</sup> These trials examined vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment (21 trials), <sup>120,122,125,127,128,132,133,136,153-160,165,170,171,174,175,177,178</sup> vitamin D<sub>2</sub> treatment (2 trials), <sup>176,179</sup> or both (1 trial) <sup>115</sup> and examined dosages ranging from 400 to 7,000 IU per day to 8,400 to 54,000 IU per week. Nineteen trials evaluated the effects of vitamin D treatment alone and five evaluated the effects of vitamin D treatment with calcium (1,000 to 1,200 mg per day). Trials were from 6 weeks to 4 years in duration.

Two trials were rated good quality<sup>156,171</sup> and 20 were rated fair quality. <sup>115,120,122,125,127,128,132,133,136,153,155,157,160,165,170,174,175,177,179</sup> We excluded two poor-quality studies from the synthesis of the results <sup>176,178</sup> (**Appendix C2**). Methodological shortcomings in the poor- and fair-quality trials included unclear randomization procedure; inadequate or unclear masking of assessors, providers, and/or participants; high attrition; and/or no clear statement that adverse events were a prespecified outcome.

#### **Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Adverse Events**

One good-quality and six fair-quality trials reported on total adverse events in participants being treated with 400 to 7,000 IU per day or 20,000 to 40,000 IU per week of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> or D<sub>2</sub> for 6 to 36 months (**Table 4** and **Appendix C1**; N=1,296). 125,132,133,136,157,158,171,175,177 No trial reported significantly more total adverse events in the intervention group compared with the control group.

One good-quality and six fair-quality trials examined the effect of 400 to 4,800 IU per day or 8,400 IU per week of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment (with or without calcium) on serious adverse events in vitamin D–deficient white U.S. or European women with mean ages of 37 to 78 years (N=1,401). <sup>136,155-157, 159,160,175,177</sup> No trial reported a significantly increased risk for serious

adverse events. The summary RR did not indicate a significantly increased risk for serious adverse events in participants given vitamin D treatment compared with placebo (pooled RR,  $1.17 [95\% CI, 0.74 \text{ to } 1.84]; I^2=0\%;$  **Figure 9**).

Five trials (one good and four fair quality) compared withdrawals due to adverse events in white U.S. and European women randomized to 400 to 4,800 IU per day or 8,400 IU per week of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment (with or without calcium) compared with placebo or no vitamin D treatment (N=938). Withdrawals were not significantly increased in the intervention group compared with the control group in any trial, although the number of withdrawals was low (29 out of 568 vs. 23 out of 370). A fair-quality trial conducted in elderly institutionalized women in Europe reported the biggest difference in withdrawals between the intervention and control groups, but the estimate was very imprecise (7 vs. 0; RR, 15.00 [95% CI, 0.87 to 259.82]). Withdrawals were due to gastrointestinal symptoms (n=6) or hypercalcemia (n=1). When data from the five trials were combined, there was no significantly increased risk for withdrawals due to adverse events (pooled RR, 0.90 [95% CI, 0.36 to 2.24];  $I^2$ =32%; **Figure 10**).

Two good-quality and 15 fair-quality trials examined the effects of treatment with 400 to 7,000 IU per day to 8,400 to 40,000 IU per week of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> or D<sub>2</sub> (with or without calcium) on risk for hypercalcemia in white, black, and South Asian participants in the United States and United Kingdom with mean ages of 34 to 85 years. <sup>115,120,122,125,128,133,136,155-160,165,171,174,175,177,179</sup> Fifteen trials detected hypercalcemia by monitoring levels during followup. In three trials, hypercalcemia was defined as calcium levels of 10.8 mg/dL or greater. <sup>156,157,160</sup> One trial defined hypercalcemia as levels of 10.6 mg/dL or greater, while two trials defined it as levels greater than 10.2 mg/dL. <sup>158,159</sup> The remaining trials did not report how hypercalcemia was detected or defined. <sup>115,120,122,125,128,133,136,155,165,171,175,177,179</sup> No individual study reported a significantly higher incidence of hypercalcemia in the intervention group compared with the control group, although the number of events was small, and seven trials reported no cases. <sup>115,125,128,133,158,165,174,179</sup> The nine trials with at least one participant with hypercalcemia measured calcium as part of followup. <sup>120,122,136,156,157,159,160,171,175,177</sup> Hypercalcemia in these trials was described as being mild, reversible, or due to an unrelated underlying illness uncovered by vitamin D treatment. One study reported that the incidence of hypercalcemia did not differ between treatment groups, although these data were not provided. <sup>155</sup> Overall, in trials that provided data and reported at least one case of hypercalcemia, 32 (1.7%) of 1,939 persons randomized to vitamin D treatment (with or without calcium) were found to have hypercalcemia versus 16 (1.3%) out of 1,233 controls (pooled RR, 1.05 [95% CI, 0.57 to 1.94]; *I*<sup>2</sup>=0%; **Figure 11**).

No kidney stones were reported in any participants in seven trials reporting this outcome (**Table 4** and **Appendix C1**). 122,128,155,156,158,159,175,177 Five fair-quality trials found no significant differences in the risk for gastrointestinal symptoms in intervention compared with control participants (**Table 4** and **Appendix C1**). 122,136,157,165,171 Five trials reported no adverse events in any study participants, regardless of group allocation. 115,170,176,178,179

#### Effect of Vitamin D Treatment on Adverse Events in Patient Subgroups

In three trials that included nonwhite participants, adverse events were not increased in the vitamin D treatment group compared with placebo, but adverse events were not stratified by



# **CHAPTER 4. DISCUSSION**

# **Summary of Review Findings**

The findings of this report are summarized in **Table 5**. We did not find any studies that directly examined whether screening for vitamin D deficiency resulted in improved health outcomes or harms. While the evidence on the effects of vitamin D treatment in populations with low 25(OH)D levels was available, it had limitations. For example, we identified only two good-quality studies, <sup>156,171</sup> relatively few trials evaluated clinical outcomes, and many studies reported few events or were otherwise underpowered to evaluate clinical outcomes. Additionally, studies were mostly conducted in white women, and factors that may influence risk for deficiency, such as BMI and UV light exposure, were often not reported. No study specifically evaluated effects of treatment in participants with screen-detected vitamin D deficiency.

Of 11 studies that examined the association between vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment and mortality, only a nested case-control analysis within the WHI CaD trial<sup>152</sup> was designed to assess mortality risk associated with vitamin D<sub>3</sub> supplementation. While no individual study found that vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment was associated with decreased risk for mortality versus control conditions, the number of deaths in most studies was low. When results were pooled, however, vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment was associated with a slight but significant decrease in risk for mortality in persons with 25(OH)D levels of 30 ng/mL or less. Benefits were no longer seen when we excluded trials of institutionalized persons (8 studies; RR, 0.93 [95% CI, 0.73 to 1.18]). Some, <sup>58,93</sup> but not all, <sup>45</sup> recent systematic reviews that included studies of persons with and without deficiency have concluded that supplementation in older persons (mainly women) seems to slightly reduce all-cause mortality.

Vitamin D treatment was associated with a nonsignificant reduction in the risk for experiencing one or more falls and a significantly reduced overall burden of falls, as measured by the number of falls per individual. Four trials examined both risk for falling and rate of falls per person. <sup>162,163</sup>, Risk estimates were similar in three of these trials. <sup>162,163,166</sup> In the fourth trial, the rate ratio for falls per person (primary outcome of this trial) was lower than the risk for experiencing at least one fall (0.46 [95% CI, 0.28 to 0.76] and 0.75 [95% CI, 0.41 to 1.37], respectively). <sup>165</sup> This trial was conducted in an institutionalized population with a high comorbidity burden, and its results could account for the potential discrepancy between the pooled falls outcome estimates.

Vitamin  $D_3$  treatment was not associated with decreased risk for fracture in vitamin D–deficient persons. Data were limited ( $\leq 2$  studies) on its effect on cancer risk, type 2 diabetes risk, psychosocial functioning, disability, and physical functioning in persons with 25(OH)D levels of 30 ng/mL or less. We did not find that baseline 25(OH)D level, vitamin D dosage, or duration of followup influenced results. No trials evaluating how vitamin D treatment affected risk for cardiovascular disease or immune disease met inclusion criteria. Recent (2014) systematic reviews that included studies of persons with and without deficiency concluded that vitamin D supplementation did not favorably affect the health outcomes of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, falls, or fracture outcomes.

Vitamin D ( $D_3$  or  $D_2$ ) treatment did not appear to be associated with harms, although few trials were designed to specifically address harms, and adverse event reporting was often suboptimal. Given the variability of the 25(OH)D assay, there is the potential for misclassification that could lead to unnecessary vitamin D treatment and mislabeling. Most misclassification, however, is likely to occur near the cutoff for sufficiency, so individuals with very low or very high 25(OH)D levels were probably classified correctly.

Our findings are generally consistent with previous evidence reviews for the USPSTF of vitamin D supplementation in populations not known to be deficient. A 2013 evidence review conducted by Fortmann and colleagues<sup>180</sup> included three trials on the effects of vitamin D supplementation (with or without calcium) on mortality in noninstitutionalized populations. We excluded all of these trials from our review because they did not measure 25(OH)D levels in all participants at baseline. None of the three trials found that vitamin D supplementation (with or without calcium) was associated with decreased mortality risk. The USPSTF concluded that the evidence on the effects of vitamin D supplementation (alone or with other vitamins) on mortality risk was insufficient to make a recommendation.

A 2011 systematic review and meta-analysis by Chung and colleagues<sup>70</sup> examined 16 studies of the association between vitamin D supplementation (with or without calcium) and fracture risk. Because the review did not require that populations be vitamin D deficient, we excluded 12 of these studies from our review. Chung and colleagues concluded that vitamin D combined with calcium (but not vitamin D alone) could reduce fracture risk, particularly in institutionalized elderly persons.<sup>70</sup> The USPSTF recommended against low-dose supplementation with vitamin D ( $\leq$ 400 IU) and calcium ( $\leq$ 1,000 mg) to reduce fracture risk in noninstitutionalized populations and concluded that the evidence on the effects of higher doses was insufficient to make a recommendation.<sup>3</sup>

A 2010 systematic review by Michael and colleagues<sup>181</sup> examined nine trials evaluating the association between vitamin D supplementation (without or without calcium) and fall risk. We excluded six of these trials because they did not examine a known deficient population or examined persons at high risk for falls. We included three studies not in the previous review, two because they were published after that review<sup>136,166</sup> and one<sup>165</sup> because the population was institutionalized and the 2010 review examined only noninstitutionalized populations. Michael and colleagues concluded that vitamin D supplementation (with or without calcium) was associated with a reduced risk for falling. The USPSTF recommended that vitamin D supplementation be given to community-dwelling adults age 65 years or older who are at increased risk for falls, regardless of 25(OH)D status.<sup>1</sup>

Two systematic reviews (in 2011 and 2013) examined whether vitamin D supplementation with or without calcium was associated with cancer risk. The four trials included in these prior systematic reviews were excluded from our review because the study populations, including that from the full WHI CaD trial, were not known to have low 25(OH)D levels. The authors of the most recent systematic review concluded that vitamin D and/or calcium supplementation showed no overall effect on cancer. The USPSTF concluded that the evidence was insufficient to make a recommendation

Previous systematic reviews on the effects of vitamin D and calcium supplementation on fractures, falls, and cancer in general populations (not selected for deficiency) found that adverse event rates were generally low in both treatment and placebo groups. The systematic reviews noted that the WHI CaD trial found a significantly increased risk for harm: a 17-percent increased risk for kidney stones in persons randomized to supplementation with 400 IU of vitamin D and 1,000 mg calcium per day (participants were also allowed to take up to 1,000 IU of vitamin D and 1,000 mg calcium per day on their own). We did not include this evidence, however, because the reviews derived harms data from persons with unknown vitamin D status. Harms were not reported for the subgroup with 25(OH)D levels from the WHI case-control analyses. 185

#### **Limitations of Review Methods**

We excluded non–English-language articles, which could result in language bias. Some studies, however, have found empirical evidence that restricting systematic reviews of noncomplementary medicine intervention to English-language studies has little effect on the conclusions. We did not search for studies published only as abstracts and could not formally assess for publication bias with graphical or statistical methods because we identified only small numbers of studies for each key question. We included the WHI nested case-control studies in the pooled trials, as the event rates were low enough (≤11%) that the ORs could be expected to estimate the rate ratio. In sensitivity analyses, results were unchanged when we excluded the WHI case-control analyses and when we calculated ORs for all of the studies before pooling. Some pooled analyses were based on small numbers of studies or were characterized by the presence of statistical heterogeneity. Stratification further reduced the number of studies in the pooled analyses. In such cases, CIs may be too narrow. As a result, these results should be interpreted cautiously. We also conducted sensitivity analyses based on the profile likelihood method, which did not affect conclusions.

For key questions 3 and 4, our goal was to examine the effects of vitamin D treatment in populations similar to those that would be identified through a screening program. Therefore, we did not include studies that targeted populations for which vitamin D might be considered a treatment option or with particular medical conditions, even if the participants had low 25(OH)D levels. Based on these criteria, we excluded trials that required participants to have osteoporosis or osteopenia (4 studies), <sup>188-191</sup> risk factors for falls (5 studies), <sup>194-196</sup> prediabetes (1 study), <sup>197</sup> heart failure (2 studies), <sup>198,199</sup> or tuberculosis (1 study). <sup>200</sup> The findings from these studies of selected populations were similar to our overall results. Vitamin D treatment did not reduce risk for experiencing a compression fracture in vitamin D—deficient persons with a history of a compression fracture. <sup>188</sup> The effects of vitamin D treatment on fall risk and functional status or physical performance were mixed. Vitamin D treatment did not reduce fall risk in persons with vitamin D deficiency who had recently suffered a hip fracture <sup>191</sup> or who had one or more health problems or functional limitations at admission to a geriatric rehabilitation center; <sup>194</sup> however, vitamin D treatment reduced falls in vitamin D—deficient populations with a history of falls. <sup>192</sup> Although community-dwelling homebound persons experienced an improvement in functional status with vitamin D treatment, <sup>195</sup> long-term inpatients and those in a rehabilitation center with health problems or functional limitations did not experience an improvement in physical

functioning or the ability to complete activities of daily living with vitamin D treatment. <sup>194,196</sup> In one trial, risk for diabetes was not reduced when vitamin D treatment was given to persons with prediabetes who had low 25(OH)D levels. <sup>197</sup>

#### Limitations in the Evidence

We identified no direct evidence on the effect of vitamin D screening on health outcomes. The evidence on clinical outcomes associated with vitamin D treatment in deficient populations was relatively limited. Data on adverse events was not highly reliable because most trials were not designed to assess harms and had suboptimal adverse event reporting. No study examined the effects of vitamin D treatment according to subgroups defined by race, age, or sex. In fact, few studies were conducted in populations other than white females of European descent. While we attempted to examine age and institutionalized status through sensitivity analyses, such sensitivity analyses are not as strong as subgroup analyses within studies. No study specifically evaluated the effect of treatment for screen-detected vitamin D deficiency, potentially limiting applicability to screening settings. There was variability in baseline 25(OH)D levels, the dosages used, the use of calcium cosupplementation, and duration of followup, all of which could have contributed to heterogeneity.

The effects of variability in vitamin D assays were difficult to assess, given the lack of a reference standard with which to estimate sensitivity, specificity, and other diagnostic parameters. In general, differential classification due to assay variability is likely to affect persons close to the threshold used to define vitamin D deficiency. In studies of treatment of vitamin D deficiency, the expected effect of misclassification would be to attenuate estimates of treatment benefit, as some persons who are not vitamin D deficient would be classified and treated as such. These persons would therefore be subject to unnecessary treatment and any associated harms.

For the WHI CaD trial, the largest trial, we included only the results of the nested case-control studies in which 25(OH)D levels were measured. Statistical power was limited for many of these stratified analyses. The results for the overall WHI CaD trial, however, were similar to those for the nested case-control studies; vitamin D supplementation did not significantly reduce risk for death, colorectal or breast cancer, or fractures. <sup>146,152,164,167-169</sup> We were not able to include harm outcomes from the WHI CaD trial because they were not stratified by 25(OH)D status. The WHI CaD trial found an increased risk for kidney stones in women with unknown 25(OH)D status who were randomized to vitamin D and calcium supplementation.

# **Emerging Issues and Next Steps**

A trial of vitamin D screening in a diverse population would be the ideal way to answer the question of whether vitamin D screening leads to benefits or harms. Before such a trial can be conducted, however, the best method for measuring and defining vitamin D deficiency needs to be determined. A recent study noted that while total 25(OH)D levels were lower in blacks than whites, the level of bioavailable 25(OH)D was similar. However, this is only one study, and

the results require replication. This study highlights the need for ongoing research to examine the most accurate way to measure vitamin D deficiency, especially in nonwhite populations.

In addition, there is a lack of consensus on what level of 25(OH)D (<20 vs. <30 ng/mL) defines deficiency. While the IOM contends that 25(OH)D concentrations of at least 20 ng/mL<sup>30</sup> are optimal, other expert bodies, including the Endocrine Society, National Osteoporosis Foundation, and International Osteoporosis Foundation, recommend 25(OH)D levels of greater than 30 ng/mL.<sup>13,31-34</sup> Our survey of the literature on the association between 25(OH)D levels and outcomes (**Appendix A1**) found that data are still lacking about the levels associated with various health outcomes. Therefore, we stratified the results for key questions 3 and 4 according to the level of 25(OH)D in the population of study (<20 vs.  $\le30$  ng/mL). We did not find a clear difference in outcomes by baseline 25(OH)D level.

# **Relevance for Priority Populations**

Certain patient subgroups appear to be at increased risk for vitamin D deficiency, including those with low UV light exposure, high BMI, and dark skin pigmentation. In addition, beneficial effects of vitamin D treatment on mortality and falls risk were primarily observed in older (e.g., age >70 years) and/or institutionalized populations that were mainly female. Determining whether screening these high-risk populations for vitamin D deficiency would result in benefit or harm remains a critical issue. No screening studies have been conducted, however, and few trials have examined the benefits and harms of vitamin D treatment in these patient subgroups.

#### **Future Research**

Future trials of vitamin D treatment should measure 25(OH)D levels and be powered to examine effects in deficient subgroups. Trials of clinical outcomes should be adequately powered and of sufficient length to detect clinically important effects. Future trials should focus on persons at higher risk and those in understudied groups. Researchers should use state-of-the-science assay methods that have acceptable performance characteristics, are comparable to currently available reference standards, and are conducted in laboratories participating in quality assurance programs. Future studies should examine vitamin D treatment alone and vitamin D treatment combined with calcium to separate the beneficial and harmful effects of these two nutrients.

An ongoing trial, the Vitamin D and Omega-3 Trial, is designed to address many of these issues. <sup>201</sup> This large randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial examines the effects of 5 years of supplementation with 2,000 IU per day of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> for the primary prevention of cancer and cardiovascular disease in a multiethnic population of 20,000 U.S. men age 50 years or older and women age 55 years or older. The researchers estimate that about 16,000 participants will have baseline 25(OH)D levels measured. Results are expected in 2017.

#### **Conclusions**

In conclusion, no study directly examined the benefits and harms of screening for vitamin D deficiency. Treatment of vitamin D deficiency with vitamin D may be associated with decreased risk for mortality in institutionalized elderly persons and a reduction in the average number of falls. More research is needed to reduce assay variability, determine appropriate thresholds for vitamin D deficiency, clarify the effects of screening, define the subsequent treatment, and identify the subpopulations most likely to benefit.

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Figure 1. Analytic Framework

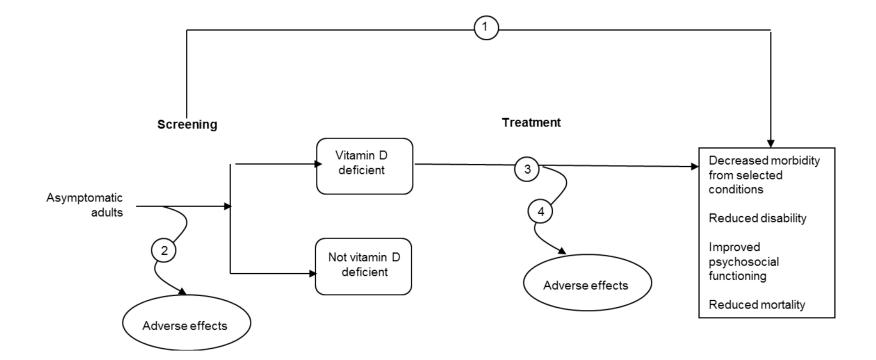
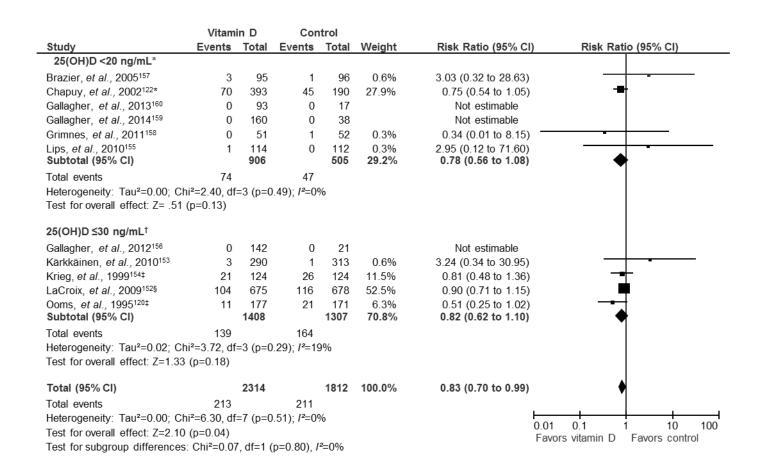


Figure 2. Meta-Analysis of Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Mortality



<sup>\* ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels <20 ng/mL.

<sup>† ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels ≤30 ng/mL, with ≥10% with 25(OH)D levels ≥20 ng/mL.

<sup>‡</sup> Included an institutionalized population.

<sup>§</sup> This is a nested case-control study from the Women's Health Initiative Calcium with Vitamin D Trial.

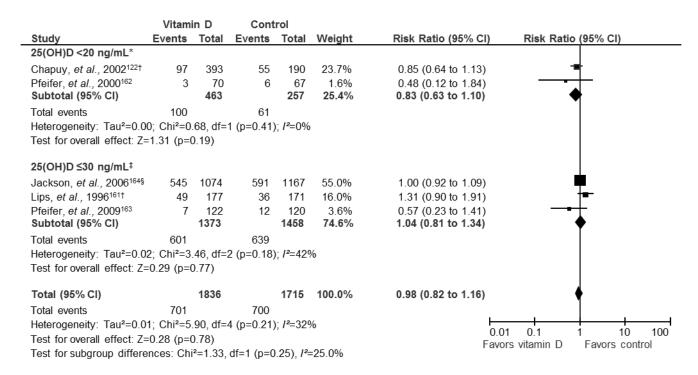
Figure 3. Meta-Analysis of Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Mortality by Institutionalized Status

	Vitan	nin D	Cont	rol			
Study	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	Risk Ratio (95% CI	) Risk Ratio (95% CI)
Institutionalized							
Chapuy, et al., 2002122	70	393	45	190	27.9%	0.75 (0.54 to 1.05)	<del>-≡</del>
Krieg, et al., 1999154	21	124	26	124	11.5%	0.81 (0.48 to 1.36)	<del></del>
Ooms, et al., 1995 <sup>120</sup> Subtotal (95% CI)	11	177 <b>694</b>	21	171 <b>485</b>	6.3% <b>45.7%</b>	0.51 (0.25 to 1.02) 0.72 (0.56 to 0.94)	
Total events	102		92		1011 70	(0.00 to 0.0 t)	<b>"</b>
Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> =0.00; C	hi²=1.24. df	=2 (p=0	).54): <i>[</i> 2=0	%			
Test for overall effect: Z=2.43	,	- U					
Noninstitutionalized							
Brazier, et al., 2005157	3	95	1	96	0.6%	3.03 (0.32 to 28.63)	<del>-   •</del>
Gallagher, et al., 2012156	0	142	0	21		Not estimable	
Gallagher, et al., 2013160	0	93	0	17		Not estimable	
Gallagher, et al., 2014159	0	160	0	38		Not estimable	
Grimnes, et al., 2011 <sup>158</sup>	0	51	1	52	0.3%	0.34 (0.01 to 8.15)	
Karkkainen, et al., 2010 <sup>153</sup>	3	290	1	313	0.6%	3.24 (0.34 to 30.95)	
LaCroix, et al., 2009152*	104	675	116	678	52.5%	0.90 (0.71 to 1.15)	<b>-</b>
Lips, et al., 2010 <sup>155</sup>	1	114	0	112	0.3%	2.95 (0.12 to 71.60)	
Subtotal (95% CI)		1620		1327	54.3%	0.93 (0.73 to 1.18)	•
Total events	111		119				
Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> =0.00; C	,	=4 (p=0	).52); <i>I</i> ²=0°	%			
Test for overall effect: Z=0.62	2 (p=0.53)						
Total (95% CI)		2314		1812	100.0%	0.83 (0.70 to 0.99)	<b>♦</b>
Total events	213		211				
Heterogeneity: Tau2=0.00; C	hi²=6.30, df	=7 (p=0	).51); <i>I</i> 2=0	%			0.01 0.1 1 10 100
Test for overall effect: Z=2.10	(p=0.04)						Favors vitamin D Favors control
Test for subgroup differences	s: Chi <sup>2</sup> =1.87	, df=1 (	(p=0.17), <i>I</i>	<sup>2</sup> =46.69	6		i avois vitaiiiii D i avois colitioi

<sup>\*</sup> This is a nested case-control study from the Women's Health Initiative Calcium with Vitamin D Trial.

**Abbreviation:** CI = confidence interval.

Figure 4. Meta-Analysis of Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Any Type of Fracture Risk



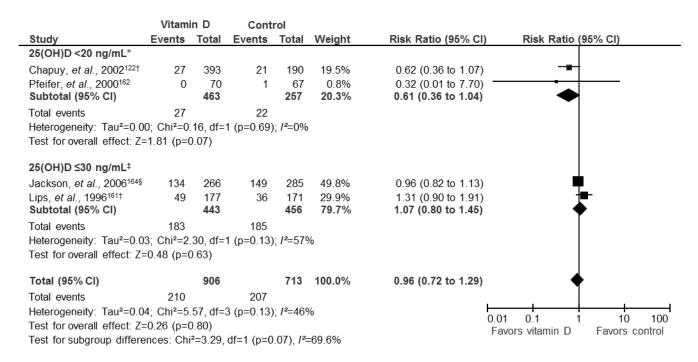
<sup>\* ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels <20 ng/mL.

<sup>†</sup> Included an institutionalized population.

<sup>‡ ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels ≤30 ng/mL, with ≥10% with 25(OH)D levels ≥20 ng/mL.

<sup>§</sup> This is a nested case-control study from the Women's Health Initiative Calcium with Vitamin D Trial.

Figure 5. Meta-Analysis of Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Hip Fracture Risk



<sup>\* ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels <20 ng/mL.

<sup>†</sup> Included an institutionalized population.

<sup>‡ ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels ≤30 ng/mL, with ≥10% with 25(OH)D levels ≥20 ng/mL.

<sup>§</sup> This is a nested case-control study from the Women's Health Initiative Calcium with Vitamin D Trial.

Figure 6. Meta-Analysis of Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Falls Risk

	Vitam	in D	Cont	rol						
Study	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	Risk Ratio (95% CI)	Risk Ratio (95% CI)			
25(OH)D <20 ng/mL*										
Chapuy, et al., 20021227	251	393	118	190	31.0%	1.03 (0.90 to 1.18)	<b>*</b>			
Pfeifer, et al., 2000162	11	70	19	67	6.9%	0.55 (0.29 to 1.08)	<del></del> -			
Subtotal (95% CI)		463		257	37.9%	0.82 (0.45 to 1.49)	•			
Total events	262		137							
Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> =0.1	4; Chi2=3	.38, df=	1 (p=0.07)	; <i>1</i> 2=709	%					
Test for overall effect: Z=	=0.65 (p=0	0.52)								
05/01/05 /00 / 1+										
25(OH)D ≤30 ng/mL <sup>‡</sup>										
Bischoff, et al., 2003 <sup>165†</sup>	14	62	18	60	8.1%	0.75 (0.41 to 1.37)	<del></del>			
Kärkkäinen, et al., 20101	66§ 179	287	205	306	31.9%	0.93 (0.83 to 1.05)	•			
Pfeifer, et al., 2009163	49	122	75	120	22.1%	0.64 (0.50 to 0.83)	<u>₹</u>			
Subtotal (95% CI)		471		486	62.1%	0.78 (0.58 to 1.05)	•			
Total events	242		298							
Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> =0.0	4; Chi2=7	.02, df=2	2 (p=0.03)	; <i>1</i> 2=729	%					
Test for overall effect: Z=	=1.61 (p=0	0.11)								
Total (95% CI)		934		743	100.0%	0.84 (0.69 to 1.02)	•			
Total events	504		435							
Heterogeneity: Tau2=0.0	3; Chi <sup>2</sup> =1;	3.27, df	=4 (p=0.0°	1); <i>I</i> 2=7(	0%	ŀ	<del>                                      </del>			
Test for overall effect: Z=	Test for overall effect: Z=1.78 (p=0.08)  0.01									
Test for subgroup differe		,	df=1 (p=0	.89). /2=	=0%		Favors vitamin D Favors control			

<sup>\* ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels <20 ng/mL.

<sup>†</sup> Included an institutionalized population. ‡ ≥90% of study participants had 25(OH)D levels ≤30 ng/mL, with ≥10% with 25(OH)D levels ≥20 ng/mL. § The calculated risk ratio is different than the one reported by the study.

Figure 7. Meta-Analysis of Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on the Number of Falls per Person

	Vit	amin D	Cor	ntrol		
Study	Events	Falls/PY	Events	Falls/PY	Rate Ratio (95% CI)	Rate Ratio (95% CI)
25(OH)D <20 ng/mL*						
Pfeifer, et al., 2000162	17	0.24	30	0.45	0.54 (0.28 to 1.02)	<del></del>
25(OH)D ≤30 ng/mL <sup>†</sup>						
Bischoff, et al., 2003165‡	25	1.30	55	2.81	0.46 (0.28 to 0.76)	<b></b>
Kärkkäinen, et al., 2010 <sup>166</sup>	430	0.50	524	0.57	0.87 (0.77 to 1.00)	=
Pfeifer, et al., 2009163	106	0.53	169	0.84	0.63 (0.49 to 0.80)	+
Wood, et al., 2012 <sup>136</sup>	4	0.02	3	0.03	0.67 (0.11 to 4.57)	<del></del>
<b>Subtotal</b> ( <i>I</i> <sup>2</sup> = 69.9%, p=0.019) Total events	565		751		0.68 (0.50 to 0.93)	$\Diamond$
<b>Total</b> ( <i>I</i> <sup>2</sup> = 64.5%, p=0.024) Total events	582	887	781	922	0.66 (0.50 to 0.88)	$\Diamond$
						.13 .25 .5 1 2 4 8 Favors vitamin D Favors control

**Abbreviations:** 25(OH)D = 25-hydroxyvitamin D; CI = confidence interval; PY = person-year.

<sup>\* ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels <20 ng/mL.
† ≥90% of study participants had 25(OH)D levels ≤30 ng/mL, with ≥10% with 25(OH)D levels ≥20 ng/mL.

<sup>‡</sup> Included an institutionalized population.

Figure 8. Meta-Analysis of Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Type 2 Diabetes Risk

	Vitam	in D	Conf	rol				
Study	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	Risk Ratio (95% CI)	Risk Rati	o (95% CI)
25(OH)D ≤30 ng/mL*							_	
de Boer, et al., 2008169†	69	1118	79	1187	99.1%	0.93 (0.68 to 1.27)	)	
Wood, et al., 2012 <sup>136</sup> Total (95% CI)	1	203 <b>1321</b>	0	102 <b>1289</b>	0.9% <b>100.0%</b>	1.51 (0.06 to 36.86) 0.93 (0.68 to 1.27)		•
Total events	70		79					
Heterogeneity: Tau2=0.0	0; Chi <sup>2</sup> =0	.09, df=	1 (p=0.76)	); <i>I2</i> =0%	)			
Test for overall effect: Z=	=0.45 (p=	0.66)						
							0.01 0.1	1 10 100
						1	Favors vitamin D	Favors control

<sup>\* ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels ≤30 ng/mL, with ≥10% with 25(OH)D levels ≥20 ng/mL. † This is a nested case-control study from the Women's Health Initiative Calcium with Vitamin D Trial.

Figure 9. Meta-Analysis of Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Serious Adverse Events

	Vitam	in D	Conti	ol			
Study	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	Risk Ratio (95% CI)	Risk Ratio (95% CI)
25(OH)D <20 ng/mL*							
Brazier, et al., 2005157	14	95	12	96	40.3%	1.18 (0.58 to 2.41)	<b>-</b>   <b>=</b> -
Gallagher, et al., 2013160	1	93	0	17	2.1%	0.57 (0.02 to 13.55)	<del></del>
Lips, <i>et al.,</i> 2010 <sup>155</sup>	3	114	3	112	8.3%	0.98 (0.20 to 4.76)	<del></del>
Subtotal (95% CI)		302		225	50.7%	1.11 (0.59 to 2.11)	•
Total events	18		15				
Heterogeneity: Tau2=0.00	); Chi <sup>2</sup> =0.	22, df=	2 (p=0.90)	; <i>I</i> 2=0%			
Test for overall effect: Z=	0.32 (p=0	).75)					
25(OH)D ≤30 ng/mL†							
Gallagher, et al., 2012156	9	142	2	21	9.7%	0.67 (0.15 to 2.87)	<del></del>
Talwar, et al., 2007 <sup>177</sup>	8	104	7	104	21.7%	1.14 (0.43 to 3.04)	<del>-</del>
Wood, et al., 2012 <sup>136</sup>	15	203	4	102	17.9%	1.88 (0.64 to 5.53)	<del></del>
Subtotal (95% CI)		449		227	49.3%	1.23 (0.64 to 2.36)	<b>~</b>
Total events	32		13				
Heterogeneity: Tau2=0.00	); Chi <sup>2</sup> =1.	32, df=	2 (p=0.52)	; <i>I</i> 2=0%			
Test for overall effect: Z=	0.63 (p=0	).53)					
Total (95% CI)		751		452	100.0%	1.17 (0.74 to 1.84)	<b>*</b>
Total events	50		28				
Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> =0.00	); Chi <sup>2</sup> =1.	58, df=	5 (p=0.90)	; /²=0%		<u> </u>	1 1 10 10
Test for overall effect: Z=						0.0	01 0.1 1 10 100 vors vitamin D Favors control
Test for subgroup differer	nces: Chi	²=0.05,	df=1 (p=0	.82), I <sup>2</sup> =	=0%	rav	vois vitainini D Favois Control

<sup>\* ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels <20 ng/mL. † ≥90% of study participants had 25(OH)D levels ≤30 ng/mL, with ≥10% with 25(OH)D levels ≥20 ng/mL.

Figure 10. Meta-Analysis of Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Withdrawals Due to Adverse Events

	Vitami	in D	Con	trol			
Study	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	Risk Ratio (95% CI)	Risk Ratio (95% CI)
25(OH)D <20 ng/mL*							
Brazier, et al., 2005 <sup>157</sup>	15	95	17	96	48.0%	0.89 (0.47 to 1.68)	<b>-</b> ≢-
Gallagher, et al., 2013160	1	93	1	17	9.5%	0.18 (0.01 to 2.78)	<del></del>
Lips, <i>et al.,</i> 2010 <sup>155</sup> <b>Subtotal (95% CI)</b>	3	114 302	5	112 <b>225</b>	25.2% <b>82.8</b> %	0.59 (0.14 to 2.41) 0.78 (0.44 to 1.37)	
Total events	19		23			(,	
Heterogeneity: Tau²=0.00 Test for overall effect: Z=	,	,	2 (p=0.49)	; <i>I=</i> 0%			
25(OH)D ≤30 ng/mL <sup>†</sup>							
Gallagher, et al., 2012 <sup>156</sup>	3	142	0	21	8.4%	1.08 (0.06 to 20.15)	<del></del>
Krieg, <i>et al.,</i> 1999 <sup>154‡</sup> Subtotal (95% CI)	7	124 <b>266</b>	0	124 <b>145</b>	8.8% <b>17.2</b> %	15.00 (0.87 to 259.82) 4.10 (0.28 to 60.65)	
Total events	10		0				
Heterogeneity: Tau²=1.60 Fest for overall effect: Z=	*	,	1 (p=0.19)	; <i>I</i> 2= 42	%		
Total (95% CI)		568		370	100.0%	0.90 (0.36 to 2.24)	•
Total events Heterogeneity: Tau²=0.35 Test for overall effect: Z= Test for subgroup differer	0.23 (p=0	).82)				<b>⊢</b> 0.( Fa	01 0.1 1 10 100 vors vitamin D Favors control

<sup>\* ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels <20 ng/mL.
† ≥90% of study participants had 25(OH)D levels ≤30 ng/mL, with ≥10% with 25(OH)D levels ≥20 ng/mL.
‡ Included an institutionalized population.

Figure 11. Meta-Analysis of Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Hypercalcemia

	Vitam	in D	Con	trol			
Study	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	Risk Ratio (95% CI)	Risk Ratio (95% CI)
25(OH)D <20 ng/mL*							
Brazier, et al., 2005 <sup>157</sup>	7	95	11	96	46.3%	0.64 (0.26 to 1.59)	— <del>■</del> †-
Chapuy, et al., 2002122†	3	393	0	190	4.3%	3.39 (0.18 to 65.36)	<del>-   -</del>
Gallagher, et al., 2013160	8	93	1	17	9.3%	1.46 (0.20 to 10.95)	<del></del>
Gallagher, et al., 2014159	1	160	0	38	3.7%	0.73 (0.03 to 17.50)	
Grimnes, et al., 2011 <sup>158</sup>	0	51	0	52		Not estimable	
Wamberg, et al., 2013133	0	22	0	21		Not estimable	
Subtotal (95% CI)		814		414	63.7%	0.82 (0.38 to 1.77)	•
Total events	19		12				
Heterogeneity: Tau2=0.00	; Chi2=1.	52, df=	3 (p=0.68)	); <i>1</i> 2=0%			
Test for overall effect: Z=0	0.51 (p=0	0.61)					
25(OH)D ≤30 ng/mL‡							
Aloia, et al., 2008 <sup>174</sup>	0	65	0	73		Not estimable	
Bischoff, et al., 2003165†	0	62	0	60		Not estimable	
Gallagher, et al., 2012156	5	142	0	21	4.6%	1.69 (0.10 to 29.55)	
Honkanen, <i>et al.,</i> 1990 <sup>128</sup>	† 0	63	0	63		Not estimable	
Kjaergaard, et al., 2012 <sup>17</sup>	1 0	120	1	110	3.7%	0.31 (0.01 to 7.43)	-
Lehmann, <i>et al.</i> , 2013 <sup>115</sup>	0	93	0	19		Not estimable	
Martineau, et al., 2007 <sup>179</sup>	0	96	0	96		Not estimable	
Ooms, et al., 1995 <sup>120†</sup>	1	177	0	171	3.7%	2.90 (0.12 to 70.67)	-
Гаlwar, <i>et al.,</i> 2007 <sup>177</sup>	6	104	3	104	20.5%	2.00 (0.51 to 7.78)	<del>  -</del>
Wood, et al., 2012 <sup>136</sup>	1	203	0	102	3.7%	1.51 (0.06 to 36.86)	
Subtotal (95% CI)		1125		819	36.3%	1.63 (0.59 to 4.53)	
Total events	13		4				
Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> =0.00	,	,	4 (p=0.87)	); <i>I²</i> =0%			
Test for overall effect: Z=0	0.94 (p=0	0.35)					
Total (95% CI)		1939		1233	100.0%	1.05 (0.57 to 1.94)	<b>*</b>
Total events	32		16				
Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> =0.00	; Chi <sup>2</sup> =3.	90, df=	8 (p=0.87)	); <i>12</i> =0%		Ļ	.01 0.1 1 10 10
Test for overall effect: Z=0	0.16 (p=0	0.88)					.01 0.1 1 10 10 avors vitamin D Favors control
Test for subgroup differer	nces: Chi	²=1.12,	df=1 (p=0	).29), <i>1</i> 2=	10.4%	Га	avors vitallill D Tavors COIIIIO

 $<sup>^{\</sup>star}$  ≥90% of study participants had 25(OH)D levels <20 ng/mL. † Included an institutionalized population.

<sup>‡ ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels ≤30 ng/mL, with ≥10% with 25(OH)D levels ≥20 ng/mL.

Table 1. Summary of Current Opinions About Defining Vitamin D Deficiency and Association Between 25(OH)D Cutoff Levels and Health Outcomes

25(OH)D Cutoff	Expert and Professional Body Opinions About Cutoff Levels	Association Between 25(OH)D Level and Health Outcomes	Subgroup Differences for the Association
<20 ng/mL	Widely used by researchers and available guidelines as indicative of deficiency	Levels >20 ng/mL have been associated with decreased risk for fractures, cardiovascular disease, colorectal cancer, diabetes, depressed mood, cognitive decline, and mortality	<ul> <li>Association with fracture and cardiovascular disease not seen in blacks</li> <li>Mortality association seen in blacks</li> <li>Association with falls has been seen in studies of institutionalized elderly populations</li> <li>Limited data that association with cognition may be stronger in women</li> </ul>
20-30 ng/mL	Debate about whether 25(OH)D levels in this range represent deficiency	Levels >24 ng/mL     associated with decreased cardiovascular disease risk     Levels >30 ng/mL     associated with decreased mortality and colorectal cancer risk     Levels >30 ng/mL have mixed association with decreased fracture risk	Association with cardiovascular disease not seen in blacks     Mortality association seen in blacks
>30-40 ng/mL	General agreement that 25(OH)D levels in this range do not represent deficiency; however, some recommend targeting 25(OH)D to this range because of potential variability in laboratory testing	Levels up to 35–40 ng/mL may be associated with decreased risk for mortality and colorectal cancer	No data available
>50 ng/mL	Debate about whether 25(OH)D levels above this range are associated with adverse health outcomes	Possible U-shaped association between vitamin D level and risk for mortality and pancreatic cancer	No data available
>200 ng/mL	25(OH)D levels above this range are considered to be toxic	No data available	No data available

Note: For consistency throughout the report, we converted 25(OH)D levels reported as nmol/L to ng/mL (1 nmol/L = 0.4 ng/mL).

**Abbreviation:** 25(OH)D = 25-hydroxyvitamin D.

Table 2. Studies of Effectiveness of Vitamin D Treatment

Author, Year Quality	Country	Population Characteristics*	25(OH)D Level at Baseline (ng/mL)* <sup>†</sup> (Vitamin D vs. Control)	25(OH)D Level at Followup (ng/mL)* <sup>†</sup> (Vitamin D vs. Control)	Interventions	Duration*	Clinical Health Outcomes Reported
25(OH)D level		Citaracteristics	Control	Control	interventions	Duration	Reported
Brazier et al, 2005 <sup>157</sup> Fair	France	Analyzed: 191 Age (years): 74.6 Female: 100% Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Institutionalized: 0%	7 vs. 7	Median: 29 vs. 11	Vitamin D (n=95): 800 IU vitamin D₃ and 1000 mg calcium daily Control (n=97): Placebo	12 months	Mortality
Chapuy et al, 2002 <sup>122</sup> Fair	France	Analyzed: 583 Age (years): 85 Female: 100% Comorbidities: NR History of falls: 16.1% Use of walking device: 40.7% Institutionalized: 100%	9 vs. 9	~33 vs. 5 (from figure); p=0.0001 for change from baseline for vitamin D group only	Vitamin D (n=393): 800 IU of vitamin D₃ and 1200 mg calcium daily Control (n=190): Placebo	24 months	Fractures (primary outcome) Fallers Mortality
Gallagher et al, 2013 <sup>160</sup> Fair	United States	Analyzed: 110 Age (years): 67 Female: 100% BMI (kg/m²): 32.7 Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	Placebo: 14 Vitamin D 800 IU: 14 1600 IU: 13 2400 IU: 14 4800 IU: 14 NR for 400, 3600, or 4000 IU groups	97.5% (from figure) of those using vitamin D 800 IU reached serum 25(OH)D >20 ng/mL; p<0.05 vs. placebo for all vitamin D groups	Vitamin D: 400, 800, 1600, 2400, 3200, 4000, or 4800 IU of vitamin D₃ daily Control: Placebo All participants supplemented to maintain total calcium intake of 1200 to1400 mg/day	12 months	
Gallagher et al, 2014 <sup>159</sup> Fair	United States	Analyzed: 198 Age (years): 37 Female: 100% BMI (kg/m²): 30.2 Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	Placebo: 13 Vitamin D 400 IU: 13 800 IU: 14 1600 IU: 13 2400 IU: 14	97.5% (from figure) of white women using vitamin D 400 IU reached serum 25(OH)D >20 ng/mL; 97.5% of black women using vitamin D 800 to 1600 IU reached serum 25(OH)D >20 ng/mL	Vitamin D: 400, 800, 1600, or 2400 IU of vitamin D₃ daily Control: Placebo All participants supplemented to maintain total calcium intake of 1000 to 1200 mg/day	12 months	Mortality <sup>§</sup>

Table 2. Studies of Effectiveness of Vitamin D Treatment

			25(OH)D Level at	25(OH)D Level at			
Author, Year		Population	(Vitamin D vs.	Followup (ng/mL)* <sup>†</sup> (Vitamin D vs.			Clinical Health Outcomes
Quality	Country	Characteristics*	Control)	Control)	Interventions	Duration*	Reported
Grimnes et	Norway	Analyzed: 104	17 vs. 16	57 vs. 17	Vitamin D (n=51): 40,000	6 months	Mortality
al, 2011 <sup>158</sup>		Age (years): 52.1 (51.5 vs.			IU of vitamin D₃ weekly		
Fair		52.7)			Control (n=52): Placebo		
		Female: 49.1% (45% vs.					
		51%) BMI (kg/m²): 26.5 (27.2 vs.					
		26.3)					
		History of falls: NR					
		Institutionalized: 0%					
Lips et al,	The	Analyzed: 213 for SPPB;	14 vs. 14	26 vs. 12; p<0.001	Vitamin D (n=114): 8400 IU	16 weeks	Physical
2010 <sup>155</sup>	Netherlands,	226 for mortality		•	of Vitamin D <sub>3</sub> weekly		functioning
Fair	Germany,	Age (years): 78			Control (n=112): Placebo		Mortality
	United	Female: NR			Those with daily calcium		
	States	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 27.8 <sup>†</sup>			intake <1000 mg were also		
		Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR			given 500 mg calcium		
		Use of walking device: 15%					
		Institutionalized: 14%					
Pfeifer et al,	Germany	Analyzed: 137	10 vs. 10	26 vs. 17; p<0.001	Vitamin D (n=70): 800 IU of	8 weeks	Falls
2000 <sup>162</sup>		Age (years): 74.8 <sup>†</sup>			vitamin D <sub>3</sub> and 1200 mg of	treatment;	Fallers
Fair		Female: 100%			calcium daily	1 year	Fractures
		BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 25.5 <sup>†</sup>			Control (n=67): 1200 mg of	followup	
		Comorbidities: 39%			calcium daily		
		cardiovascular; 12% central					
		nervous, neurological; <1% psychiatric; 22%					
		musculoskeletal					
		History of falls: NR					
		Use of walking device: NR					
		Institutionalized: 0%					
25(OH)D level			1				
Arvold et al,	United	Analyzed: 90	18 vs. 18	45 vs. 22	Vitamin D (n=48): 50,000	8 weeks	Psychosocial
2009 <sup>170</sup>	States	Age (years): 58.8 <sup>†</sup>			IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> weekly		functioning
Fair		Female: 40% BMI: NR			Control (n=42): Placebo		Disability
		Comorbidities: NR					
		History of falls: NR					
		Use of walking device: NR					
		Institutionalized: 0%					

Table 2. Studies of Effectiveness of Vitamin D Treatment

			25(OH)D Level at	25(OH)D Level at			
Author Voor		Population	Baseline (ng/mL)*' (Vitamin D vs.	Followup (ng/mL)* <sup>†</sup> (Vitamin D vs.			Clinical Health Outcomes
Author, Year Quality	Country	Characteristics*	Control)	Control)	Interventions	Duration*	Reported
Bischoff et al,	Switzerland	Analyzed: 122	Median, 12 vs. 12		Vitamin D (n=62): 800 IU of	6 weeks	Falls (primary
2003 <sup>165</sup>		Age (years): 85	,	p<0.001	vitamin D <sub>3</sub> and 1200 mg of	pre-	outcome)
Fair		Female: 100%		·	calcium daily	treatment;	Fallers
		BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 24.7			Control (n=60): 1200 mg	12 weeks	
		Comorbidities: 30.3%			calcium daily	treatment	
		hypertension, 15.6% stroke,					
		50.0% myocardial infarction					
		or congestive heart failure,					
		12.3% anemia, 14.8% diabetes, 8.2% chronic					
		obstructive pulmonary					
		disease, 16.4% peptic ulcer					
		disease, 24.6% depression,					
		9.0% malnutrition, 4.1%					
		obesity, 54.9% dementia,					
		54.1% fracture at any site					
		History of falls: 34%					
		Use of walking device: 60%					
	11.26	Institutionalized: 100%	DI 1 15	07 50/ (5 5 5	) ( 140) E''		B. 4 . 124
Gallagher et	United	Analyzed: 163	Placebo: 15	97.5% (from figure)	Vitamin D (n=142): Either	Median,	Mortality
al, 2012 <sup>156</sup> Good	States	Age (years): 67 Female: 100%	Vitamin D 400 IU: 15	of those using vitamin D 600 IU	400, 800, 1600, 2400, 3200, 4000, or 4800 IU of vitamin	12 months	
Good		BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 30.2	800 IU: 16	reached serum	$D_3$ daily		
		Comorbidities: NR	1600 IU: 15	25(OH)D >20	Control (n=21): Placebo		
		History of falls: NR	2400 IU: 15	ng/mL; p<0.05 vs.	All participants		
		Institutionalized: NR	3200 IU: 16	placebo for all	supplemented to maintain		
			4000 IU: 15	vitamin D groups	total calcium intake of 1200		
			4800 IU: 16		to 1400 mg/day		
Kärkkäinen et	Finland	Analyzed: 593	20 vs. 20	30 vs. 22	Vitamin D (n=290 and	3 years	Falls (primary
al, 2010 <sup>166</sup>		Age (years): 67.4 <sup>⊤</sup>			287**): 800 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub>		outcome)
Kärkkäinen et		Female: 100%			and 1000 mg of calcium		Fallers
al, 2010 <sup>153</sup> Fair		BMI (kg/m²): 27.5 <sup>†</sup> Comorbidities: NR			daily Control (n=313 <sup>¶</sup> and 306**):		Mortality
rair		History of falls: NR			No treatment		
		Ambulatory: 100%			INO HEAHIICHL		
		Institutionalized: NR					
		moditationalized. 1413	I				

Table 2. Studies of Effectiveness of Vitamin D Treatment

			25(OH)D Level at	25(OH)D Level at Followup (ng/mL)* <sup>†</sup>			Clinical Health
Author, Year		Population	(Vitamin D vs.	(Vitamin D vs.			Outcomes
Quality	Country	Characteristics*	Control)	Control)	Interventions	Duration*	Reported
Kjaergaard et	Norway	Analyzed: 230 (per protocol)	19 vs. 19	59 vs. 21	Vitamin D (n=120): 20,000	6 months	Psychosocial
al, 2012 <sup>171</sup>		Age (years): 53.4 <sup>†</sup>			IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> weekly		functioning
Good		Female: 56%			Control (n=110): Placebo		(primary outcome)
		BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 27.7 <sup>†</sup>					
		Comorbidities: NR					
		History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR					
Krieg et al	Switzerland	Analyzed: 248	12 vs. 12	27 vs. 6	Vitamin D (n=124): 880 IU	2 years	Mortality
Krieg et al, 1999 <sup>154</sup>	Switzerianu	Age (years): 84.5 <sup>†</sup>	12 VS. 12	21 VS. 0	of vitamin $D_3$ and 1000 mg	2 years	ivioriality
Fair		Female: 100%			calcium daily		
an		BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 24.7 <sup>†</sup>			Control (n=124): No		
		History of falls: NR			supplementation		
		Institutionalized: 100%					
Lips et al,	The	Analyzed: 270 for fracture;	Median, 11 vs. 10	Median, 25 vs. 9	<u>Vitamin D (n=177):</u> 400 IU	3 to 3.5	Fractures (primary
Lips et al, 1996 <sup>161</sup>	Netherlands	348 for mortality	•	(at 1 year)	of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> daily	years,	outcome) "
Ooms et al,		Age (years): 80.4 <sup>†</sup>			Control (n=171): Placebo	maximum	Mortality
1995 <sup>120</sup>		Female: 100%				4 years	
Fair		BMI (kg/m²): 28.3 <sup>†</sup>					
		Comorbidities: NR					
		History of falls: NR					
		Use of walking device: NR					
DC::Communication	A . (	Institutionalized: 100% <sup>††</sup>	00 . 00	M (b. 40, 04 00	\(\frac{1}{2}\) \(\frac{1}\) \(\frac{1}{2}\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(1	40	E. II. /
Pfeifer et al, 2009 <sup>163</sup>	Austria and	Analyzed: 242	22 vs. 22	Month 12: 34 vs. 23 Month 20: 19 vs. 15		12 month	Falls (primary
Fair	Germany	Age (years): 76.5 Female: 74.5%		Month 20: 19 vs. 15		treatment; 8 months	outcome) Fallers
raii		BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 27.3			of calcium daily Control (n=120): 1000 mg	post-	Fractures
		Comorbidities: NR			of calcium daily	treatment	riaciules
		History of falls: NR			or calcium daily	licalinent	
		Ambulatory: 100%					
		Institutionalized: 0%					
Wood et al,	United	Analyzed: 305	Vitamin D 400 IU	Vitamin D 400 IU	Vitamin D (n=102 and 101):	12 months	Falls
2012 <sup>136</sup>	Kingdom	Age (years): 63.8 <sup>†</sup>	vs. 1000 IU vs.	vs. 1000 IU vs.	400 or 1000 IU of vitamin	treatment;	Type 2 diabetes
Fair	_	Female: 100%	control: 13 vs. 13	control: 26 vs. 30	D₃ daily	1 month	•
		BMI (kg/m²): 26.7 <sup>†</sup>	vs. 14	vs. 13	Control (n=102): Placebo	followup	
		History of falls: NR					
		Institutionalized: NR					

Table 2. Studies of Effectiveness of Vitamin D Treatment

				Followup (ng/mL)* <sup>†</sup>			Clinical Health
Author, Year		Population	(Vitamin D vs.	(Vitamin D vs.			Outcomes
Quality	Country	Characteristics*	Control)	Control)	Interventions	Duration*	Reported
WHI Calcium	United	Analyzed: 36,282	Entire trial: NR	Entire trial: After 2	Vitamin D: 400 IU of vitamin	7 years	Fractures
with Vitamin D	States	Case-control studies	Case-control	years, in random	D <sub>3</sub> + 1000 mg calcium daily		Mortality
Trial		Fractures: 1491	studies	sample of 1.2% of	Control: Placebo		Type 2 diabetes
Fair		cases/controls	Fractures: <24	participants, vitamin	Number analyzed in case-		Cancer
		Colorectal cancer: 612	Colorectal cancer:	D levels were 28%	control studies per		
Associated		cases/controls	<23	higher (9 ng/mL) in	intervention (vitamin D vs.		
case-control		Breast cancer: 895	Breast cancer:	vitamin D vs.	control)		
studies with		cases/controls	<27	placebo group	Fractures: 266 vs. 285		
outcome		Diabetes: 192 cases/2905	Diabetes: <24	Case-control	Colorectal cancer: 237 vs.		
reported:		controls	Mortality: <21	studies: NR	222		
Jackson et al,		Mortality: 323 cases/1962			Breast cancer: 909 vs. 722		
2006 <sup>164</sup> (for		controls			Diabetes: 1118 vs. 1187		
fractures)		Entire trial characteristics			Mortality: 675 vs. 678		
Wactawski-		Age (years): 62					
Wende et al,		Female: 100%					
2006 <sup>168</sup> (for		BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 29					
colorectal		Race: 83.1% white; 9.1%					
cancer)		black; 4.2% Hispanic; 0.42%					
Chlebowski et		American Indian or Native					
al, 2008 <sup>167</sup>		American; 2.0% Asian or					
(for breast		Pacific Islander; 1.2%					
cancer)		unknown or not identified					
de Boer et al,		Comorbidities: 35% with					
2008 <sup>169</sup> (for		previous fracture; 67% with					
diabetes)		no falls, 20% with 1 fall,					
LaCroix et al,		9.0% with 2 falls, 4.0% with					
2009 <sup>152</sup> (for		>3 falls in past 12 months					
mortality)		<u>Case-control characteristics</u>					
		NR					

<sup>\*</sup> Reported as means, unless otherwise noted.

Abbreviations: 25(OH)D = 25-hydroxyvitamin D; BMI = body mass index; NR = not reported; SPPB = Short Physical Performance Battery.

<sup>†</sup> Calculated.

<sup>‡ ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels <20 ng/mL.

<sup>§</sup> As per author correspondence.

II ≥90% of study participants had 25(OH)D levels ≤30 ng/ml, with ≥10% with 25(OH)D levels ≥20 ng/mL. ¶ For mortality outcomes.

<sup>\*\*</sup> For falls/fallers outcomes.

<sup>††</sup> Received care, but not as much as in a nursing home.

Table 3. Studies Examining the Association Between Vitamin D Treatment and Falls

Study, Setting, Age*	Fall Risk	Intervention	IRR (95% CI) for Falls per Person	RR (95% CI) for Risk for Falling	Primary Outcome of Study
Bischoff et al, 2003 <sup>165</sup> Institutionalized Age: 85	34% with falls 6 weeks prior; 30% of CG fell over 3 months	Vitamin D	0.46 (0.28 to 0.76)	0.75 (0.41 to 1.37)	Number of falls per person
Chapuy et al, 2002 <sup>122</sup> Institutionalized Age: 85	16% with falls 3 months prior; 62% of CG fell over 24 months	Vitamin D + calcium	NR	1.03 (0.90 to 1.18)	Fractures
Kärkkäinen et al, 2010 <sup>166</sup> Noninstitutionalized Age: 67	Fall history NR; 67% of CG fell over 36 months	Vitamin D + calcium	0.87 (0.77 to 1.00)	0.93 (0.83 to 1.05)	Occurrence of falls
Pfeifer et al, 2000 <sup>162</sup> Noninstitutionalized Age: 75	Fall history NR; 28% of CG fell over 12 months	Vitamin D	0.54 (0.28 to 1.02)	0.55 (0.29 to 1.08)	Body sway; biochemical measures of bone
Pfeifer et al, 2009 <sup>163</sup> Noninstitutionalized Age: 77	Fall history NR; 63% of CG fell over 20 months	Vitamin D	0.63 (0.49 to 0.80)	0.64 (0.50 to 0.83)	Occurrence of falls
Wood et al, 2012 <sup>136</sup> Noninstitutionalized Age: 64	Fall history NR; 3 falls among 227 in CG	Vitamin D	0.67 (0.11 to 4.57)	NR	Reported as adverse event

<sup>\*</sup> Mean age (in years) of study population.

**Abbreviations:** CG = control group; CI = confidence interval; IRR = incidence rate ratio; NR = not reported; RR = risk ratio.

**Table 4. Studies of Harms of Vitamin D Treatment** 

			25(OH)D Level at	25(OH)D Level at Followup (ng/mL):*†			
Author, Year		Population	Vitamin D vs.	Vitamin D vs.			Adverse Events or
Quality	Country	Characteristics*	Control	Control	Interventions	Duration*	Harms Reported
25(OH)D level			T				
Brazier et al, 2005 <sup>157</sup> Fair	France	Analyzed: 191 Age (years): 74.6 (74.2 vs. 75.0) Female: 100% Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Institutionalized: 0%	7 vs. 7	Median, 29 vs. 11	Vitamin D (n=95): 800 IU vitamin D₃ and 1000 mg calcium daily Control (n=97): Placebo	12 months	Withdrawal due to AEs Serious AEs Any AE Hypercalcemia Gastrointestinal AEs Osteomuscular AEs Nervous system AEs Metabolic/nutritional AEs
Chapuy et al, 2002 <sup>122</sup> Fair	France	Analyzed: 583 Age (years): 85 Female: 100% Comorbidities: NR History of falls: 16.1% Use of walking device: 40.7% Institutionalized: 100%	9.2 vs. 9.2	~ 33 vs. 5 (from figure); p=0.0001 for change from baseline for vitamin D group only	Vitamin D (n=393): 800 IU of vitamin D₃ and 1200 mg calcium daily Control (n=190): Placebo	24 months	Withdrawal due to AEs (NR by group) Hypercalcemia Kidney stones Hypercalciuria Gastrointestinal AEs
Gallagher et al, 2013 <sup>160</sup> Fair	United States	Analyzed: 110 Age (years): 67 Female: 100% BMI (kg/m²): 32.7 Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	Placebo: 14 Vitamin D <sup>§</sup> 800 IU: 14 1600 IU: 13 2400 IU: 14 4800 IU: 14	97.5% (from figure) of those using vitamin D 800 IU reached serum 25(OH)D >20 ng/mL; p<0.05 vs. placebo for all vitamin D groups	Vitamin D: 400, 800, 1600, 2400, 3200, 4000, or 4800 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> daily Control: Placebo All participants supplemented to maintain total calcium intake of 1200 to 1400 mg/day	12 months	Withdrawal due to AEs <sup>®</sup> Serious AEs Hypercalcemia
Gallagher et al, 2014 <sup>159</sup> Fair	United States	Analyzed: 198 Age (years): 37 Female: 100% BMI (kg/m²): 30.2 Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	Placebo: 13 Vitamin D 400 IU: 13 800 IU: 14 1600 IU: 13 2400 IU: 14	97.5% (from figure) of white women using vitamin D 400 IU reached serum 25(OH)D >20 ng/mL; 97.5% of black women using vitamin D 800 to 1600 IU reached serum 25(OH)D >20 ng/mL	Vitamin D: 400, 800, 1600, or 2400 IU of vitamin D₃ daily Control: Placebo All participants supplemented to maintain total calcium intake of 1000 to 1200 mg/day	12 months	Serious AEs (NR by group) Hypercalcemia Kidney stones

**Table 4. Studies of Harms of Vitamin D Treatment** 

Author, Year		Population	Vitamin D vs.	25(OH)D Level at Followup (ng/mL):* <sup>†</sup> Vitamin D vs.			Adverse Events or
Quality	Country	Characteristics*	Control	Control	Interventions	Duration*	Harms Reported
Grimnes et al, 2011 <sup>158</sup> Fair	Norway	Analyzed: 104 Age (years): 52.1 (51.5 vs. 52.7) Female: 49.1% (45% vs. 51%) BMI (kg/m²): 26.5 (27.2 vs. 26.3) History of falls: NR Institutionalized: 0%	17 vs. 16	57 vs. 17	Vitamin D (n=51): 40,000 IU vitamin D₃ weekly Control (n=52): Placebo	6 months	Total AEs Hypercalcemia Kidney stones
Janssen et al, 2010 <sup>127</sup> Fair	The Netherlands	Analyzed: 70 Age (years): 80.8 <sup>†</sup> Female: 100% BMI (kg/m²): 26.4 <sup>†</sup> Comorbidities: 2.4 <sup>†</sup> Medications used: 5.0 <sup>†</sup> History of falls: NR Institutionalized: 100% <sup>‡</sup>	13 vs. 14	31 vs. 17	Vitamin D (n=28): 400 IU of vitamin D₃ and 500 mg of calcium daily Control (n=31): Placebo and calcium 500 mg daily	6 months	Withdrawals Any AE
Knutsen et al, 2014 <sup>132</sup> Fair	Norway	Analyzed: 215 Age (years): 37.3 <sup>†</sup> Female: 73% BMI (kg/m²): 27.4 <sup>†</sup> Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	11 vs. 11	19 vs. 10	Vitamin D (n=169): 25 or 10 μg of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> daily Control (n=82): Placebo		Total AEs
Lips et al, 2010 <sup>155</sup> Fair	The Netherlands Germany United States	Analyzed: 226 Age (years): 78 Female: NR BMI (kg/m²): 27.8† Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Use of walking device: 15% Institutionalized: 14%	14 vs. 14	26 vs. 12; p<0.001	Vitamin D (n=114): 8400 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> weekly Control (n=112): Placebo Those with daily calcium intake <1000 mg were also given 500 mg calcium	16 weeks	Withdrawal due to AEs Serious AEs Any AE Kidney stones Hypercalcemia (data not shown)

**Table 4. Studies of Harms of Vitamin D Treatment** 

Author, Year Quality	Country	Population Characteristics*	25(OH)D Level at Baseline (ng/mL):* <sup>†</sup> Vitamin D vs. Control	25(OH)D Level at Followup (ng/mL):* <sup>†</sup> Vitamin D vs. Control	Interventions	Duration*	Adverse Events or Harms Reported
Wamberg et al, 2013 <sup>125</sup> Wamberg et al, 2013 <sup>133</sup> Fair	Denmark	Analyzed: 43 Age (years): 40.5 Female: 71% BMI (kg/m²): 35.8% <sup>†</sup> Sedentary: 35% <sup>†</sup> Lightly active: 48% <sup>†</sup> Moderately active: 17% <sup>†</sup> Comorbidities: 2% (1/55) on lipid-lowering meds, 5% (3/55) on antihypertension meds History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	14 vs. 14	44 vs. 19	Vitamin D (n=22): 7000 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> daily Control (n=21): Placebo	26 weeks	Total AEs Hypercalcemia
25(OH)D level		LAL L. 400	140		\(\frac{1}{2}\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}	0	11
Aloia et al, 2008 <sup>174</sup> Fair	United States	Analyzed: 138 Age (years): 47.2 <sup>†</sup> Female: 81% History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	19	>30 ng/mL achieved by virtually all in active group; also increased by 8 ng/mL in placebo group because of seasonal change	Vitamin D (n=65): Dosage of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> depended on 25(OH)D concentration; mean dose, 3440 IU Control (n=73): Placebo	6 months	Hypercalcemia Hypercalcuria
Arvold et al, 2009 <sup>170</sup> Fair	United States	Analyzed: 100 Age (years): 58.8 <sup>†</sup> Female: 40% BMI: NR Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Use of walking device: NR Institutionalized: 0%	18 vs. 18	45 vs. 22	Vitamin D (n=48): 50,000 IU vitamin D₃ weekly Control (n=42): Placebo	8 weeks	Any AE
Berlin et al, 1986 <sup>178</sup> Poor	Sweden	Analyzed: 24 Age (years): 31 (range, 22 to 47) Female: 0% History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	15 vs. 15	49 vs. 19	Vitamin D (n=12): 54,000 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> weekly Control (n=12): No treatment	NR; implies 2 months	Any AE

**Table 4. Studies of Harms of Vitamin D Treatment** 

Audhan Vaan				25(OH)D Level at Followup (ng/mL):*†			Adams Francis
Author, Year Quality	Country	Population Characteristics*	Vitamin D vs. Control	Vitamin D vs. Control	Interventions	Duration*	Adverse Events or Harms Reported
Bischoff et al, 2003 <sup>165</sup> Fair	Switzerland	Analyzed: 122 Age (years): 85 Female: 100% BMI (kg/m²): 24.7 Comorbidities: 30.3% hypertension, 15.6% stroke, 50.0% myocardial infarction or congestive heart failure, 12.3% anemia, 14.8% diabetes, 8.2% chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, 16.4% peptic ulcer disease, 24.6% depression, 9.0% malnutrition, 4.1% obesity, 54.9% dementia, 54.1% fracture at any site History of falls: 34% Use of walking device: 60% Institutionalized: 100%	Median, 12 vs. 12	Median, 26 vs. 11; p<0.001	Vitamin D (n=62): 800 IU of vitamin D₃ and 1200 mg of calcium daily Control (n=60): 1200 mg calcium daily	6 weeks pre- treatment 12 weeks treatment	Hypercalcemia Withdrawals Gastrointestinal AEs
Gallagher et al, 2012 <sup>156</sup> Good	United States	Analyzed: 163 Age (years): 67 Female: 100% BMI (kg/m²): 30.2 Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	Placebo: 15 Vitamin D 400 IU: 15 800 IU: 16 1600 IU: 15 2400 IU: 15 3200 IU: 16 4000 IU: 15 4800 IU: 16	97.5% (from figure) of those using vitamin D 600 IU per day had serum 25(OH)D >20 ng/mL; p<0.05 vs. placebo for all vitamin D groups	Vitamin D (n=235): Either 400, 800, 1600, 2400, 3200, 4000, or 4800 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> daily Control (n=38): Placebo All participants supplemented to maintain total calcium intake of 1200 to 1400 mg daily	Median, 12 months	Withdrawal due to AEs Any AE Serious AEs Kidney stones Hypercalcemia

**Table 4. Studies of Harms of Vitamin D Treatment** 

			25(OH)D Level at	25(OH)D Level at Followup (ng/mL):*†			
Author, Year		Population	Vitamin D vs.	Vitamin D vs.			Adverse Events or
Quality	Country	Characteristics*	Control	Control	Interventions	Duration*	Harms Reported
Harris et al, 1999 <sup>176</sup> Poor	United States	Analyzed: 20 Age (years): 31 (range, 22 to 47) Female: 0% Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	Younger men: 13 vs. 17 Older men: 16 vs. 16	Younger men: 25 vs. 13 Older men: 19 vs. 15	Vitamin D (n=11): 1800 IU of vitamin D <sub>2</sub> daily Control (n=7): No treatment	3 weeks	Any AE
Honkanen et al, 1990 <sup>128</sup> Fair	Finland	Analyzed: 126 Home patients Age (years): 69.5† Female: 100% Weight (kg): 69.5† Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Hospital inpatients (52%) Age (years): 82.5† Female: 100% Weight (kg): 61.8† Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR	Home patients: 17 vs. 15 Hospital inpatients: 10 vs. 10	Home patients: 32 vs. 9 Hospital inpatients: 26 vs. 4	Vitamin D (n=63): 1800 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> and 1.558 g of calcium daily Control (n=63): No treatment	11 weeks	Hypercalcemia Kidney stones
Kärkkäinen et al, 2010 <sup>153</sup> Fair		Analyzed: 603 Age (years): 67.4 <sup>†</sup> (67.4 vs. 67.4) Female: 100% BMI (kg/m²): 27.4 <sup>†</sup> (27.5 vs. 27.4) History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	20 vs. 20	30 vs. 22	Vitamin D (n=290): 800 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> and 1000 mg calcium daily Control (n=313): No treatment	3 years	Withdrawal due to AE
Kjaergaard et al, 2012 <sup>171</sup> Good	Norway	Analyzed: 230 (per protocol) Age (years): 53.4 <sup>†</sup> Female: 56% BMI (kg/m²): 27.7 <sup>†</sup> Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	19 vs. 19	59 vs. 21	Vitamin D (n=120): 20,000 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> weekly Control (n=110): Placebo	6 months	Total AEs Gastrointestinal AEs Respiratory AEs Dermatological AEs Musculoskeletal AEs Urogenital AEs Circulatory AEs Neurological AEs Endocrinological AEs Other organ AEs Hypercalcemia

**Table 4. Studies of Harms of Vitamin D Treatment** 

			25(OH)D Level at Baseline (ng/mL):*†	25(OH)D Level at Followup (ng/mL):*†			
Author, Year Quality	Country	Population Characteristics*	Vitamin D vs. Control	Vitamin D vs. Control	Interventions	Duration*	Adverse Events or Harms Reported
Krieg et al, 1999 <sup>154</sup> Fair	Switzerland	Analyzed: 248 Age (years): 84.5 <sup>†</sup> Female: 100% BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 24.7 <sup>†</sup> History of falls: NR Institutionalized: 100%	12 vs. 12	27 vs. 6	Vitamin D (n=124): 880 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> and 1000 mg calcium daily Control (n=124): No treatment	2 years	Withdrawal due to AE
Lehmann et al, 2013 <sup>115</sup> Fair	Norway	Analyzed: 119 Age (years): 33.8 <sup>†</sup> Female: 63.5% BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 23.8 <sup>†</sup> History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	Overall (vitamin D <sub>2</sub> vs. vitamin D <sub>3</sub> vs. control): 16 (15 vs. 18 vs. 16)	Vitamin D <sub>2</sub> vs. vitamin D <sub>3</sub> vs. control: 27 vs. 36 vs. 13	Vitamin D (n=47, 46): 2000 IU of either vitamin $D_2$ or $D_3$ daily Control(n=19): Placebo	8 weeks	Any AE Hypercalcemia
Martineau et al, 2007 <sup>179</sup> Fair	United Kingdom	Analyzed: 192 <sup>††</sup> Median age (years): 33.7 <sup>†</sup> Female: 51.2% <sup>†</sup> History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	14 vs. NR	27 vs. NR	Vitamin D (n=96): Single dose of 100,000 IU vitamin D <sub>2</sub> Control (n=96): Placebo	6 weeks	Any AE Hypercalcemia
Ooms et al, 1995 <sup>120</sup> Fair	The Netherlands	Analyzed: 348 Age (years): 80.4 <sup>†</sup> Female: 100% BMI (kg/m²): 28.3 <sup>†</sup> Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Use of walking device: NR Institutionalized: 100%**	Median, 11 vs. 10	Median, 25 vs. 9 (at 1 year)	Vitamin D (n=177): 400 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> daily Control (n=171): Placebo	3 to 3.5 years, maximum 4 years	Any AE Hypercalcemia
Talwar et al, 2007 <sup>177</sup> Aloia et al, 2005 <sup>175</sup> Fair	United States	Analyzed: 208 Age (years): 60.5 <sup>†</sup> Female: 100% BMI (kg/m²): 29 vs. 30 History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	19 vs. 17	35 vs. 18	Vitamin D (n=104): 800 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> daily for first 24 months, increased to 2000 IU daily Control (n=104): Placebo Supplements given to maintain total daily intake of 1200 to 1500 mg calcium	36 months	Total AEs (NR by group) Serious AEs Hypercalcemia Hypercalcuria Kidney stones

**Table 4. Studies of Harms of Vitamin D Treatment** 

Author, Year Quality	Country	Population Characteristics*	25(OH)D Level at Baseline (ng/mL):* <sup>†</sup> Vitamin D vs. Control	25(OH)D Level at Followup (ng/mL):* <sup>†</sup> Vitamin D vs. Control	Interventions	Duration*	Adverse Events or Harms Reported
Wood et al, 2012 <sup>136</sup> Fair	United Kingdom	Analyzed: 305 Age (years): 63.8 <sup>†</sup> Female: 100% BMI (kg/m²): 26.7 <sup>†</sup> History of falls: NR Institutionalized: NR	Vitamin D 400 IU vs. 1000 IU vs. control: 13 vs. 13 vs. 14	Vitamin D 400 IU vs. 1000 IU vs. control: 26 vs. 30 vs. 13	Vitamin D (n=102, 101) 400 or 1000 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> daily Control (n=102): Placebo	12 months treatment; 1 month followup	Total AEs

<sup>\*</sup> Reported as mean, unless otherwise noted.

Abbreviations: 25(OH)D = 25-hydroxyvitamin D; AE = adverse event; BMI = body mass index; NR = not reported.

<sup>†</sup> Calculated.

<sup>‡ ≥90%</sup> of study participants had 25(OH)D levels <20 ng/mL. § NR for 400, 3600, or 4000 IU groups.

<sup>¶</sup> As per author correspondence.
¶ ≥90% of study participants had 25(OH)D levels ≤30 ng/mL, with ≥10% with 25(OH)D levels ≥20 ng/mL.
\*\*\* Received care, but not as much as in a nursing home.

<sup>††</sup> Population characteristics only reported for those who finished study (n=131).

Table 5. Summary of Evidence

Number and	Overall				
Type of Studies	Quality	Limitations	Consistency	Applicability	Summary of Findings
Key Question 1a.	Are there dif	evidence that screening for ferences in screening effica body mass index, ultraviole	cy between patier	nt subgroups (subgroups	defined by risk factors for vitamin D deficiency, such as age
No studies	NA	NA	NA	NA	ÍNA
Key Question 2. W	hat are the h	narms of screening?			
No studies	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Key Question 3. D	oes treatmer	nt of vitamin D deficiency wi	th vitamin D lead	to improved health outcom	mes?
17 studies RCTs, nested case-control studies	Fair	Few studies addressed each outcome; many studies reported few events or were underpowered; variability in baseline 25(OH)D levels, doses of vitamin D treatment, use of calcium cosupplementation, and length of followup	Moderate	Studies mostly conducted in older white U.S. or European women	<ul> <li>Vitamin D treatment (with or without calcium) was associated with a decreased risk for mortality (11 studies; pooled RR, 0.83 [95% CI, 0.70 to 0.99]); risk reduction limited to studies of older, institutionalized persons (3 trials; pooled RR, 0.72 [95% CI, 0.56 to 0.94])</li> <li>Vitamin D treatment was not associated with decreased risk for falling (5 studies; pooled RR, 0.84 [95% CI, 0.69 to 1.02]), but was associated with a lower rate of falls per individual (pooled rate ratio, 0.66 [95% CI, 0.50 to 0.88])</li> <li>Vitamin D treatment was not associated with a decreased fracture risk (5 studies; pooled RR, 0.98 [95% CI, 0.82 to 1.16])</li> <li>Limited (≤2 studies) data on cancer risk, type 2 diabetes risk, psychosocial functioning, disability, and physical functioning, but generally no associations with vitamin D treatment were seen</li> </ul>
		ferences in efficacy betwee index, ultraviolet light expo			risk factors for vitamin D deficiency, such as age ≥65 years,
No studies	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		adverse effects of treatment			1
24 studies* RCTs, cohorts	Fair	Few studies prespecified harms outcomes; studies were not designed to address harms; variability in baseline 25(OH)D levels, doses of vitamin D treatment, use of calcium cosupplementation, and length of followup	High	Only 7 studies were conducted in the U.S. and only 3 of these U.S. studies reported populations having a significant percentage of nonwhite participants	Vitamin D treatment (with or without calcium) was not associated with increased adverse events
Key Question 4a.	Are there dif	ferences in adverse effects	between patient s	subgroups (subgroups de	fined by risk factors for vitamin D deficiency such as age ≥65
	nnicity, body NA	/ mass index, ultraviolet ligh NA	nt exposure, and in	NA	NA
No studies  * Includes two poor-		INA	INA	INA	INA

<sup>\*</sup> Includes two poor-quality trials.

**Abbreviations:** CI = confidence interval; NA = not applicable; RCT = randomized, controlled trial; RR = risk ratio.

# Contextual Question 1. What Is the Association Between Serum 25(OH)D Levels and Health Outcomes?

The association between serum 25(OH)D levels and health outcomes has been evaluated in several studies (**Table 1**). For this contextual question, we included prospective cohort and nested case-control studies or systematic reviews that examined the association between predisease-state 25(OH)D levels and health outcomes, to avoid the problem of reverse causation or the health outcome influencing the 25(OH)D level (e.g., through changes in sun exposure or diet). We included studies that reported on the following health outcomes: mortality, cancer, fractures, falls, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, depression, cognitive function, and functional status.

# Mortality

A 2009 AHRQ review (not for the USPSTF) included four cohort studies on the association between 25(OH)D levels and subsequent mortality. The highest quality study found a significant trend for lower odds of death with increasing 25(OH)D concentrations, although there was a suggestion of a U-shaped relationship; the three other cohort studies did not find any association between 25(OH)D level and mortality risk.

A 2012 meta-analysis of 11 prospective cohort studies concluded that as 25(OH)D levels increased, there was a nonlinear decline in mortality risk, with levels between 30 and 35 ng/mL being most clearly associated with a decreased mortality risk. Similarly, three studies published soon after the review concluded that both low and high 25(OH)D levels were associated with an increased risk for mortality, with optimal 25(OH)D level ranging from 20 to 40 ng/mL. However, two 2014 systematic reviews of 31 to 73 studies concluded that lower 25(OH)D levels were associated with a significantly increased risk for death but did not describe a U-shaped association. A 2014 umbrella review of 107 systematic reviews and 74 meta-analyses of observational studies stated that there was not enough evidence to make conclusions about the association between vitamin D levels and mortality.

In two studies that had a large enough nonwhite population to examine the association by race, lower 25(OH)D levels were associated with increased mortality risk in blacks.<sup>5,9</sup>

## Cancer

We examined the 2011 systematic review and meta-analysis conducted for the USPSTF that included studies through July 2011 on the association between 25(OH)D levels and colorectal, breast, and prostate cancer. We also reviewed other meta-analyses and research conducted since 2011.

#### **Colorectal Cancer**

The 2011 USPSTF review reported an association between higher 25(OH)D concentrations and

decreased risk for colorectal cancer in a meta-analysis of eight fair-quality nested case-control studies. <sup>10</sup> For each 4 ng/mL increase in blood 25(OH)D concentration, there was a 6 percent (95% CI, 3% to 9%) reduced risk for colorectal cancer. The direction of the association is consistent with other systematic evidence reviews, including two 2014 evidence reviews <sup>6,8</sup> and one conducted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), although the magnitude of the effect was smaller; other meta-analyses have noted that an increase of 10 to 20 ng/mL in 25(OH)D levels decreased the risk for colorectal cancer by 15 to 50 percent, respectively. <sup>11,12</sup> When evaluated by 25(OH)D level, meta-analyses have shown that individuals in the highest quartile or quintile of 25(OH)D have about one third to one half the risk of developing colorectal cancer as those in the lowest group. <sup>6,13-15</sup> In its 2008 report on vitamin D and cancer, the IARC working group concluded that the dose–response was fairly linear up to a 25(OH)D level of 35 to 40 ng/mL. Some, but not all, <sup>8</sup> studies suggest that the association might be stronger in rectal rather than colon cancer, but the numbers have been too small to draw any firm conclusions. <sup>15</sup>

## **Breast Cancer**

Four meta-analyses, including the 2011 USPSTF review, have not found evidence of an association between 25(OH)D level and breast cancer risk in prospective studies. Similarly, a nested case-control study, not included in these meta-analyses, did not find an association between 25(OH)D level and breast cancer in predominantly premenopausal women.

## **Prostate Cancer**

No association was reported between 25(OH)D level and risk for prostate cancer in systematic reviews and meta-analyses of prospective studies, including the 2011 USPSTF review.<sup>6,8,10,11,16</sup>

## **Pancreatic Cancer**

No association between 25(OH)D level and pancreatic cancer risk was noted in two meta-analyses of prospective studies. <sup>11,16</sup> Both meta-analyses noted that several individual studies had observed a U-shaped association between 25(OH)D level and pancreatic cancer, with both low and high 25(OH)D levels increasing risk for pancreatic cancer. One 2014 evidence review concluded that higher 25(OH)D levels were associated with a 24-percent increased risk for pancreatic cancer, <sup>6</sup> but a different systematic review concluded that data were inconsistent about whether high 25(OH)D levels were associated with an increased risk for pancreatic cancer. <sup>8</sup>

## **Other Cancers**

Two 2014 systematic reviews did not conclude that 25(OH)D level was associated with risk for other cancers, including esophageal and gastric, ovarian, endometrial, bladder, and kidney cancer, or non-Hodgkin lymphoma.<sup>6,8</sup>

# **Fractures**

A 2009 AHRQ review examined the association between 25(OH)D level and fracture risk. <sup>19</sup> Citing a 2007 evidence review conducted by the Ottawa Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC), the 2009 review concluded that the evidence for an association between serum 25(OH)D concentrations and fracture risk was inconsistent.

While prospective studies published since the 2009 review have generally shown that lower 25(OH)D levels were associated with increased fracture risk, a recent 2014 umbrella study of systematic reviews and meta-analyses of observational studies concluded that the evidence was suggestive only for nonvertebral fractures and that no conclusions could be reached about other fractures. Prospective studies finding an association have generally reported that risk increases at 25(OH)D levels less than 20 ng/mL in persons of Caucasian or European descent. The largest and most recent study, a prospective case-cohort study of more than 21,774 persons from Norway (1,175 hip fractures), reported an inverse association between 25(OH)D level and hip fracture; those in the lowest quartile (<17 ng/mL) had a 38-percent increased risk for fracture compared with those with 25(OH)D levels greater than 27 ng/mL. Similarly, two smaller Scandinavian studies found increased risk for any fracture when 25(OH)D level was below 13 to 16 ng/mL.

In the United States, studies that have found associations between 25(OH)D and fracture risk have been done in older white men and women. In these studies, an increased risk for hip fracture occurred when 25(OH)D levels dropped below 18 to 24 ng/mL.<sup>23-25</sup> A 25(OH)D level of 30 ng/mL or greater was associated with a decreased risk for fracture in the WHI trial, <sup>26</sup> but not in NHANES data.<sup>24</sup> An association between 25(OH)D level and fracture may not exist in nonwhite races. In the WHI trial, black women actually had a higher fracture risk at 25(OH)D levels greater than 20 ng/mL and Asians had higher risk when levels exceeded 30 ng/mL. In Hispanic and Native American women, there was no association between 25(OH)D level and fracture risk.<sup>26</sup> In the Health ABC study, in which more than 40 percent of participants were black, there was no clear association between 25(OH)D and fracture risk, although the number of fractures in the study was low.<sup>27</sup>

Based on these data as well as the optimal level of 25(OH)D necessary to maximally suppress parathyroid hormone<sup>28-32</sup> and maximize calcium absorption,<sup>33,34</sup> experts generally agree that levels lower than 20 ng/mL are suboptimal for skeletal health. However, there is not general consensus about whether goal 25(OH)D levels should be higher than 20 ng/mL to protect the skeleton. The IOM contends that 25(OH)D concentrations above 20 ng/mL are sufficient for optimal bone health.<sup>35</sup> Other expert bodies such as the Endocrine Society, National Osteoporosis Foundation, and International Osteoporosis Foundation suggest that 25(OH)D levels should be higher, at least 30 ng/mL, particularly in older adults.<sup>36-40</sup>

## **Falls**

A 2009 AHRQ review cited a 2007 Ottawa EPC review that found there was fair evidence of an association between lower serum 25(OH)D concentrations and an increased risk for falls in institutionalized elderly persons. <sup>19,41</sup> One study suggested a serum 25(OH)D concentration below

16 ng/mL was associated with an increased risk for falls. We identified one additional study published on this association since 2007. In that study of community-dwelling persons, 25(OH)D levels less than 20 ng/mL were associated with increased falls in men, but not in women. Of note, the one study in the 2007 Ottawa EPC review that did not find an association between 25(OH)D level and fall risk was conducted among community-dwelling women. A recent 2014 umbrella analysis of systematic reviews and meta-analysis stated that the evidence was inconsistent and no conclusions could be reached about the association between lower 25(OH)D levels and fall risk; instead, the evidence was suggestive that high 25(OH)D levels are actually linked to an increased rate of falls.

## **Cardiovascular Disease**

A 2009 AHRQ review identified four prospective studies on the association between serum 25(OH)D concentrations and cardiovascular outcomes (cardiovascular events, nonfatal myocardial infarction or fatal coronary heart disease, cardiovascular death, myocardial infarction, and stroke). Results were mixed; two studies noted that levels less than 15 ng/mL were generally associated with increased cardiovascular risk, but the other two studies did not report an association.<sup>19</sup>

Since the 2009 AHRQ review, multiple studies on this association have been published. Recent evidence reviews and meta-analyses have concluded that among largely white or entirely white participants with 25(OH)D levels less than 24 ng/mL, lower levels may be associated with an increased risk for incident cardiovascular disease. The association between 25(OH)D levels greater than 24 ng/mL and cardiovascular disease is not clear. Meta-analyses of seven prospective studies found that lower levels (<12 ng/mL) of 25(OH)D were associated with an increased risk for developing stroke compared with higher levels (>19 ng/mL).

These associations may differ by race/ethnicity; in a recent study, lower 25(OH)D levels were not associated with a greater risk for incident coronary heart disease among blacks, although it was associated with cardiovascular risk among white and Chinese participants. Similarly, a recent cohort study did not find that 25(OH)D levels were associated with stroke risk in blacks.

## **Diabetes**

A 2014 umbrella analysis of systematic reviews and meta-analyses concluded that the evidence was suggestive for an association between 25(OH)D level and diabetes risk.<sup>8</sup> A 2013 meta-analysis concluded that each 4-ng/mL increment in 25(OH)D level was associated with a 4-percent decreased risk for diabetes.<sup>50</sup> Individual studies generally found that risk for diabetes increased in the lowest (generally <10 to 20 ng/mL) versus highest quartile or quintile of 25(OH)D level.<sup>51-58</sup>

# **Depression**

Two 2014 systematic reviews concluded that the evidence was suggestive of a decreased risk for depression and mood disorders with high 25(OH)D concentrations.<sup>6,8</sup> In two prospective studies,

optimal 25(OH)D levels were between 21 and 34 ng/mL. <sup>59,60</sup>

# **Cognitive Functioning**

Two large 2014 systematic evidence reviews concluded that the evidence was suggestive of an association between high 25(OH)D levels and a decreased risk for cognitive decline. A study conducted in Italian men and women found that levels less than 10 ng/mL were associated with an increased risk for cognitive decline on the Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) versus those with a level greater than 30 ng/mL. The association may vary by sex. In older American women, 25(OH)D levels less than 20 ng/mL were associated with a higher risk for incident global cognitive decline as measured by the MMSE compared with women with levels greater than 30 ng/mL. However, the association was not seen in older American men. Same association men.

# **Functional Status**

Results from prospective studies of community-dwelling older persons from a range of racial backgrounds (100% European to 50% black) are mixed.<sup>6</sup> Baseline 25(OH)D levels less than 20 ng/mL were associated with greater decreases in physical functioning measures after 3 to 6 years in some, <sup>64-66</sup> but not other, <sup>67,68</sup> studies. Vitamin D deficiency was not associated with a greater risk for developing activities of daily living disability over 3 years.<sup>65</sup>

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# Contextual Question 2. What Are the Risk Factors Associated With Vitamin D Deficiency?

In the United States, the main dietary sources of vitamin D are fortified foods such as milk, milk products, and cereals, as well as supplements; naturally occurring foods that contain vitamin D include fatty fish, egg yolk, and mushrooms. In large (>750 persons) population-based cross-sectional studies in predominantly American populations, <sup>1-4</sup> low dietary vitamin D intake and/or lack of vitamin D supplements are associated with a two- to five-fold increased risk for vitamin D deficiency (defined as a 25(OH)D level <20 ng/mL). <sup>1-3</sup>

Vitamin D is also obtained through synthesis in the skin in response to UVB radiation. Large population-based studies confirm that low UVB exposure is associated with an increased risk for vitamin D deficiency.<sup>2,4-6</sup> Persons who have blood drawn for a 25(OH)D level in winter have a 2 to 3 times greater risk for being vitamin D deficient than those whose level is evaluated in the fall or summer.<sup>1,2</sup> Avoiding sunlight by staying in the shade/indoors or wearing long sleeves is associated with increased risk for vitamin D deficiency.<sup>5</sup> Higher latitude of residence has been modestly associated with vitamin D deficiency.<sup>2,4,5</sup> Although sunscreen reduces the skin's ability to produce vitamin D in response to UVB in controlled research settings,<sup>7</sup> it is not associated with vitamin D deficiency in population-based studies.<sup>6,8</sup> This discrepancy is likely due to incomplete application of sunscreen<sup>9</sup> and/or subjects who use sunscreen being in the sun for extended periods.<sup>10</sup>

Increased skin pigmentation reduces the skin's ability to produce vitamin D in response to UVB. <sup>10</sup> When total 25(OH)D levels are used to define deficiency, blacks have a two- to ninefold greater risk and Hispanics a two- to three-fold greater risk for vitamin D deficiency compared with whites. <sup>1-3</sup> However, a recent study found that compared with white Americans, black Americans had not only lower total 25(OH)D levels but lower vitamin D-binding protein, <sup>11</sup> resulting in similar concentrations of estimated bioavailable 25(OH)D. This recent study has called into question previous reports of higher rates of vitamin D deficiency in blacks.

Aging also reduces the skin's ability to synthesize vitamin D, and older adults may also have poor dairy and vitamin D intake and decreased sun exposure. However, studies are inconsistent about whether older age is associated with increased risk for vitamin D deficiency. In a cohort of older men (>65 years), the oldest participants (>85 years) had a two-fold increased risk for vitamin D deficiency compared with younger men.<sup>2</sup> In cohorts with a smaller percentage of participants older than age 70 years, the results are mixed, with some showing significant associations between risk for vitamin D deficiency and older age, <sup>4,5</sup> and others not. <sup>1,3</sup>

Since vitamin D is stored in adipose tissue, it has been hypothesized that higher adiposity leads to greater sequestration of vitamin D. Also, obese and overweight persons may have lower physical activity levels and lower dietary vitamin D intake. Desity does appear to confer an almost two-fold increased risk for vitamin D deficiency. In addition, since women have a higher percentage of body fat compared with men, they may be at greater risk than men. In two large cohort studies, women were at increased risk for vitamin D deficiency than men. However, in the most recent NHANES analysis, sex did not influence risk for deficiency.

# Appendix A2. Risk Factors Associated With Vitamin D Deficiency

Other factors have been modestly associated with vitamin D deficiency in some studies, but diet, supplement use, and UV exposure may be mediating factors. For example, low levels of physical activity was modestly associated with vitamin D deficiency in three studies. 1,2,4 In NHANES, lower education level was associated with an increased risk for deficiency, but this was not true in a cohort of older men who had an overall high educational background (75% had college and/or graduate education). Lower health status has also been associated with an increased risk for deficiency in NHANES. 3,6

However, these risk factors appear to account for a small percentage of the variation in 25(OH)D levels. In the WHI trial, a predictive model consisting of latitude of residence, total vitamin D intake from foods and supplements, waist circumference, recreational physical activity, and race/ethnicity could only explain 21 percent of the variation in 25(OH)D level. Similarly, in a cohort study of male health professionals, geographic region of residence, skin pigmentation, dietary and supplement intake, BMI, and physical activity accounted for only 28 percent of the variation in 25(OH)D level. A percent of the variation in 25(OH)D level.

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# Contextual Question 3. What Is the Effect of Vitamin D (With or Without Calcium) on Intermediate Outcomes?

We examined RCTs of vitamin D (with or without calcium) versus placebo on the intermediate outcomes of lipids, glucose, blood pressure, bone mineral density, and physical functioning or balance in persons with vitamin D deficiency (at least 90% <30 ng/mL).

# Lipids

Four studies examining the effects of 400 to 5,700 IU per day of vitamin D treatment on lipid levels in persons with vitamin D insufficiency (most <23 ng/mL) found that vitamin D had no effect on lipid levels compared with placebo.<sup>1-4</sup>

# **Glucose**

Three studies that examined the effects of 400 to 7,143 IU per day of vitamin D treatment found that vitamin D had no effect on glucose levels, insulin levels, insulin sensitivity, or insulin resistance in persons without diabetes. <sup>1,4,5</sup>

## **Blood Pressure**

We reviewed three studies examining the effect of vitamin D treatment on blood pressure in patients with vitamin D deficiency.  $^{3,6,7}$  Two studies, one of elderly (age  $\geq 70$  years) women and the other of blacks ages 30 to 80 years, found that 800 to 4,000 IU per day of vitamin D resulted in decreases in systolic but not diastolic blood pressure compared with placebo.  $^{3,7}$  However, in the WHI trial, women with vitamin D deficiency who were randomized to 1,000 mg per day of calcium and 400 IU per day of vitamin D did not have a decreased risk for incident hypertension.  $^7$ 

# **Bone Mineral Density**

We identified seven studies that examined the effect of vitamin D treatment on bone mineral density in persons with vitamin D deficiency. <sup>1,2,8-13</sup> In three European studies of older women with severe deficiency (<12 ng/mL), 400 to 800 IU per day of vitamin D (with and without calcium) had mixed results on hip bone mineral density; <sup>8-10</sup> two <sup>9,10</sup> of three studies found less decline at the femoral neck and one <sup>9</sup> of two <sup>9,10</sup> found less decline at the trochanter while the other did not. <sup>8</sup> No study found that vitamin D treatment led to less decline at the distal radius compared with placebo. <sup>8,10</sup> Postmenopausal black women randomized to 1,000 IU per day of vitamin D for 2 years did not have improved bone mineral density compared with those given placebo. <sup>13</sup> In elderly men, 1,000 IU per day of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> and 1,000 mg per day of calcium did not result in less loss of bone mineral content at the radius or vertebra over 3 years. <sup>11</sup> Results in younger, mixed-sex populations given 400 to 7,000 IU per day of vitamin D for 26 to 52 weeks did not find significant effects of vitamin D on spine or hip bone mineral density. <sup>1,12</sup> In a recent

## Appendix A3. Effects of Vitamin D Treatment on Intermediate Outcomes

2014 meta-analysis of eight studies with populations whose mean 25(OH)D level was less than 20 ng/mL, there was little evidence of an overall benefit of vitamin D supplementation on bone density.<sup>14</sup>

# **Physical Functioning/Balance**

We reviewed four studies that evaluated the effect of vitamin D treatment on strength <sup>15-18</sup> and one study that examined balance. <sup>19</sup> Among elderly women, 400 to 1,800 IU per day of vitamin D did not improve hand strength, <sup>15,17</sup> leg strength, <sup>15</sup> or balance <sup>19</sup> compared with placebo. In two studies of younger (mean age, 18 to 33 years) deficient (<30 ng/mL) persons, large (25,000 to >60,000 IU per week) doses of vitamin D improved several strength measures more in the vitamin D versus the placebo group. <sup>16,18</sup> However, in a Norwegian trial using smaller dosages of vitamin D (400 to 1,000 IU per day) in deficient immigrants with mean ages of 35 to 40 years, strength measures were not improved in the intervention versus control group after 16 weeks. <sup>20</sup>

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- 16. Gupta R, Sharma U, Gupta N, et al. Effect of cholecalciferol and calcium supplementation on muscle strength and energy metabolism in vitamin D-deficient Asian Indians: a randomized, controlled trial. Clin Endocrinol. 2010;73(4):445-51.
- 17. Honkanen R, Alhava E, Parviainen M, et al. The necessity and safety of calcium and vitamin D in the elderly. J Am Geriatr Soc. 1990;38(8):862-6.
- 18. Close GL, Russell J, Cobley JN, et al. Assessment of vitamin D concentration in non-supplemented professional athletes and healthy adults during the winter months in the UK: implications for skeletal muscle function. J Sports Sci. 2013;31(4):344-53.
- 19. Bischoff-Ferrari HA, Conzelmann M, Stahelin HB, et al. Is fall prevention by vitamin D mediated by a change in postural or dynamic balance? Osteoporos Int. 2006;17(5):656-63.
- 20. Knutsen KV, Madar AA, Lagerlov P, et al. Does vitamin D improve muscle strength in adults? A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial among ethnic minorities in Norway. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2014;99(1):194-202.

Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) and Ovid OLDMEDLINE(R) Search Strategy:

\_\_\_\_\_

1 exp Vitamin D/

2 Vitamin D Deficiency/

3 exp Mass Screening/

4 Diagnostic Tests, Routine/

5 3 or 4

6 1 or 2

7 5 and 6

8 ((take or taking or takes or give or giving or prescri\$ or provid\$ or oral\$ or parenteral\$ or diet\$ or food\$ or pill or pills or tablet\$) adj5 supplement\$ adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$)).mp.
9 (supplement\$ adj5 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or serum or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp.
10 8 or 9

11 exp Vitamin D/ad, ae, ct, po, tu, to [Administration & Dosage, Adverse Effects, Contraindications, Poisoning, Therapeutic Use, Toxicity]

12 10 or 11

13 2 and 12

14 limit 13 to english language

15 limit 13 to abstracts

16 14 or 15

17 limit 16 to "all adult (19 plus years)"

Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) and Ovid OLDMEDLINE(R)

Search Strategy:

\_\_\_\_\_

1 exp vitamin d/

2 vitamin d deficiency/

3 1 or 2

4 exp Mass Screening/

5 Diagnostic Tests, Routine/

64 or 5

7 3 and 6

8 ((risk\$ or presence or prevalence or danger\$ or complicat\$ or morbid\$ or comorbid\$ or mortal\$) adj7 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp.

9 ((risk\$ or presence or prevalence or danger\$ or complicat\$ or morbid\$ or comorbid\$ or mortal\$) adj7 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (hypovitamin\$ adj d))).mp.

```
10 8 or 9
11 3 and 10
12 7 or 11
13 limit 12 to english language
14 limit 12 to abstracts
15 13 or 14
16 limit 15 to "all adult (19 plus years)"
17 exp Epidemiologic Studies/
18 16 and 17
19 limit 16 to (controlled clinical trial or guideline or meta analysis or randomized controlled
trial)
20 18 or 19
21 exp "Outcome and Process Assessment (Health Care)"/
22 16 and 21
23 exp Vital Statistics/
24 16 and 23
25 mo.fs.
26 pc.fs.
27 25 or 26
28 16 and 27
```

Database: EBM Reviews - Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials Search Strategy:

\_\_\_\_\_\_

1 ((risk\$ or presence or prevalence or danger\$ or complicat\$ or morbid\$ or comorbid\$ or mortal\$) adj7 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp.

2 ((risk\$ or presence or prevalence or danger\$ or complicat\$ or morbid\$ or comorbid\$ or mortal\$) adj7 (hypovitamin\$ adj d)).mp. [mp=title, original title, abstract, mesh headings, heading words, keyword]

3 1 or 2

29 20 or 22 or 24 or 28

- 4 ((diagnos\$ or detect\$ or determin\$ or find\$ or found or discover\$ or identif\$ or undiagnos\$ or undetect\$ or asymptomat\$ or preclinical\$ or pre-clinical\$ or underlying or screen\$ or test or tests or testing or tested or assay\$ or accura\$ or predict\$) adj7 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or serum or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp.
- 5 ((diagnos\$ or detect\$ or determin\$ or find\$ or found or discover\$ or identif\$ or undiagnos\$ or undetect\$ or asymptomat\$ or preclinical\$ or pre-clinical\$ or underlying or screen\$ or test or tests or testing or tested or assay\$ or accura\$ or predict\$) adj7 (hypovitamin\$ adj d)).mp. [mp=title, original title, abstract, mesh headings, heading words, keyword] 6 4 or 5

7 ((take or taking or takes or give or giving or prescri\$ or provid\$ or oral\$ or parenteral\$ or diet\$ or food\$ or pill or pills or tablet\$) adj5 supplement\$ adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$)).mp.
8 (supplement\$ adj5 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or serum or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp.
9 7 or 8

Database: EBM Reviews - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews Search Strategy:

.....

1 ((risk\$ or presence or prevalence or danger\$ or complicat\$ or morbid\$ or comorbid\$ or mortal\$) adj7 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp.

- 2 ((risk\$ or presence or prevalence or danger\$ or complicat\$ or morbid\$ or comorbid\$ or mortal\$) adj7 (hypovitamin\$ adj d)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text] 3 1 or 2
- 4 ((diagnos\$ or detect\$ or determin\$ or find\$ or found or discover\$ or identif\$ or undiagnos\$ or undetect\$ or asymptomat\$ or preclinical\$ or pre-clinical\$ or underlying or screen\$ or test or tests or testing or tested or assay\$ or accura\$ or predict\$) adj7 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or serum or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp.
- 5 ((diagnos\$ or detect\$ or determin\$ or find\$ or found or discover\$ or identif\$ or undiagnos\$ or undetect\$ or asymptomat\$ or preclinical\$ or pre-clinical\$ or underlying or screen\$ or test or tests or testing or tested or assay\$ or accura\$ or predict\$) adj7 (hypovitamin\$ adj d)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, full text, keywords, caption text]

7 ((take or taking or takes or give or giving or prescri\$ or provid\$ or oral\$ or parenteral\$ or diet\$ or food\$ or pill or pills or tablet\$) adj5 supplement\$ adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$)).mp. 8 (supplement\$ adj5 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or serum or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp. 9 7 or 8

Database: EBM Reviews - Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects Search Strategy:

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- 1 ((risk\$ or presence or prevalence or danger\$ or complicat\$ or morbid\$ or comorbid\$ or mortal\$) adj7 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp.
- 2 ((risk\$ or presence or prevalence or danger\$ or complicat\$ or morbid\$ or comorbid\$ or mortal\$) adj7 (hypovitamin\$ adj d)).mp. [mp=title, full text, keywords] 3 1 or 2
- 4 ((diagnos\$ or detect\$ or determin\$ or find\$ or found or discover\$ or identif\$ or undiagnos\$ or undetect\$ or asymptomat\$ or preclinical\$ or pre-clinical\$ or underlying or screen\$ or test or tests or testing or tested or assay\$ or accura\$ or predict\$) adj7 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or serum or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp.
- 5 ((diagnos\$ or detect\$ or determin\$ or find\$ or found or discover\$ or identif\$ or undiagnos\$ or undetect\$ or asymptomat\$ or preclinical\$ or pre-clinical\$ or underlying or screen\$ or test or tests or testing or tested or assay\$ or accura\$ or predict\$) adj7 (hypovitamin\$ adj d)).mp. [mp=title, full text, keywords]

6 4 or 5

7 ((take or taking or takes or give or giving or prescri\$ or provid\$ or oral\$ or parenteral\$ or diet\$ or food\$ or pill or pills or tablet\$) adj5 supplement\$ adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$)).mp. 8 (supplement\$ adj5 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or serum or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp. 9 7 or 8

Database: EBM Reviews - Health Technology Assessment Search Strategy:

1 ((risk\$ or presence or prevalence or danger\$ or complicat\$ or morbid\$ or comorbid\$ or mortal\$) adj7 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp.

- 2 ((risk\$ or presence or prevalence or danger\$ or complicat\$ or morbid\$ or comorbid\$ or mortal\$) adj7 (hypovitamin\$ adj d)).mp. [mp=title, text, subject heading word] 3 1 or 2
- 4 ((diagnos\$ or detect\$ or determin\$ or find\$ or found or discover\$ or identif\$ or undiagnos\$ or undetect\$ or asymptomat\$ or preclinical\$ or pre-clinical\$ or underlying or screen\$ or test or tests or testing or tested or assay\$ or accura\$ or predict\$) adj7 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or

serum or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp.

5 ((diagnos\$ or detect\$ or determin\$ or find\$ or found or discover\$ or identif\$ or undiagnos\$ or undetect\$ or asymptomat\$ or preclinical\$ or pre-clinical\$ or underlying or screen\$ or test or tests or testing or tested or assay\$ or accura\$ or predict\$) adj7 (hypovitamin\$ adj d)).mp. [mp=title, text, subject heading word]

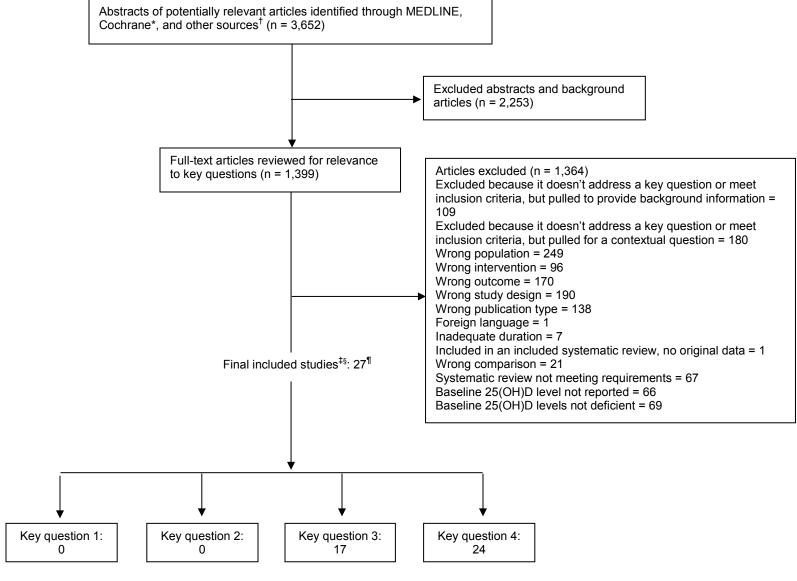
6 4 or 5

7 ((take or taking or takes or give or giving or prescri\$ or provid\$ or oral\$ or parenteral\$ or diet\$ or food\$ or pill or pills or tablet\$) adj5 supplement\$ adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$)).mp.
8 (supplement\$ adj5 ((((low or lower or circulat\$ or blood or serum or hematolog\$) adj3 (level\$ or amount\$)) or insuffic\$ or defic\$ or status or depriv\$) adj5 (vitamin d or vitamin d3 or Cholecalciferol\$ or Hydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcifediol or Dihydroxycholecalciferol\$ or Calcitriol or Dihydroxyvitamin D or Ergocalciferol\$ or Dihydrotachysterol\$))).mp.
9 7 or 8

# Appendix B2. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

	Include	Exclude
Population	<ul> <li>KQs 1, 3: Nonpregnant adults age ≥18 years who are generally healthy. Study participants are either:</li> <li>Unselected or low-risk, or</li> <li>Selected for increased risk for vitamin D deficiency based on certain characteristics, including participants who are older, have darker skin pigmentation (blacks or Hispanics), or are obese or institutionalized</li> <li>KQ 2: Nonpregnant adults age ≥18 years who are generally healthy.</li> <li>Study participants are either:</li> <li>Unselected or low-risk, or</li> <li>Selected for increased risk for vitamin D deficiency</li> <li>KQ 4: Nonpregnant adults age ≥18 years who are generally healthy with vitamin D deficiency. Study participants are either:</li> <li>Unselected or low-risk, or</li> <li>Selected for increased risk for vitamin D deficiency</li> </ul>	Selected populations with conditions including clinical signs of vitamin D deficiency, osteoporosis, malabsorption, granuloma-forming disorders, chronic kidney disease, hepatic failure, cancer, coronary heart disease, diabetes/glucose intolerance, immune disorders, high risk for falls, polycystic ovarian syndrome, and multiple sclerosis
Interventions	Vitamin $D_2$ or $D_3$ (with or without calcium); food-based interventions if vitamin D dose is quantified and doses differ between comparison groups	Nonoral routes of vitamin D delivery; dietary intake (unless a food-based intervention, as described under inclusion criteria); ultraviolet light exposure; multivitamins
Comparators	KQs 1, 2: Screening KQs 3, 4: Placebo, no treatment, usual care	KQs 1, 2: No screening KQs 3, 4: Different dosages of vitamin D
Outcomes	KQs 1, 3: Health outcomes include decreased morbidity from osteoporosis/fractures, falls, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and immune diseases; improved depression; improved psychosocial functioning as measured by quality of life instruments; physical fitness capacity or performance; physical functioning as measured by scores on physical subscales of quality of life measures; disability (global measures only, such as activities of daily living); mortality; outcomes reported at ≥8 weeks after start of intervention or the baseline assessment (if the intervention start cannot be determined) (required) KQs 2, 4: Mortality; renal outcomes (e.g., kidney stones); soft tissue calcification; adverse events (e.g., gastrointestinal symptoms)	KQs 1, 3: Improved functioning (except as enumerated under health outcomes); intermediate physiological outcomes (examined as contextual question); behavioral changes (e.g., physical activity, diet); outcomes reported <8 weeks after start of the intervention or the baseline assessment (if time from intervention start cannot be determined); baseline vitamin D level not reported or not deficient KQs 2, 4: None
Settings	Studies conducted in primary care or feasible for conducting in or referral from primary care, including institutionalized settings. For an intervention to be feasible for primary care referral, it would need to be conducted as part of a health care setting or be widely available in the community at a national level. United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and other geographic settings generalizable to the United States	Studies performed in countries with populations not similar to the United States; studies conducted in schools or work sites, unless primary care–feasible
Timing	KQs 1, 3: ≥8 weeks KQs 2, 4: Any duration	KQs 1, 3: <8 weeks KQs 2, 4: None
Study types and designs	<b>KQs 1, 3:</b> Systematic reviews or meta-analyses of randomized or controlled clinical trials, primary reports of randomized or controlled clinical trials	KQs 1, 3: Nonsystematic reviews, letters to the editor, cohort or case-control studies,
and designs	KQs 2, 4: Systematic reviews or meta-analyses of randomized or controlled clinical trials, primary reports of randomized or controlled clinical trials, primary reports of randomized or controlled clinical trials, and large cohort or case-control studies; studies must have an appropriate comparison group	noncomparative studies, and comparative efficacy trials; reviews not in English  KQs 2, 4: Nonsystematic reviews, letters to the editor, noncomparative studies, and comparative efficacy trials; reviews not in English

## Appendix B3. Literature Flow Diagram



<sup>\*</sup> Cochrane databases include the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials and the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

<sup>†</sup> Identified from reference lists, hand searching, and suggestions by experts.

<sup>#</sup> Studies that provided data and contributed to the body of evidence were considered "included."

<sup>§</sup> Studies may have provided data for more than one key question.

<sup>¶</sup> Studies may have more than one published article; there were 27 unique studies but a total of 35 articles included.

## **Key to Exclusion Codes**

2	Doesn't address a key question or meet inclusion criteria,
	but pulled to provide background information
3	Doesn't address a key question or meet inclusion criteria,
	but pulled for contextual question(s)
4	Wrong population
5	Wrong intervention
6	Wrong outcomes
7	Wrong study design for key question
8	Wrong publication type
9	Foreign language
10	Inadequate duration
11	Included in an included systematic review, no original data
12	Wrong comparison
13	Systematic review not meeting our requirements
14	Baseline 25(OH)D level not reported
15	Baseline 25(OH)D levels not deficient

Abrahamsen B, Masud T, Avenell A, et al. Patient level pooled analysis of 68 500 patients from seven major vitamin D fracture trials in US and Europe. *BMJ (Online)*. 2010;340(7738):139 Exclusion code: 6

Afzal S, Nordestgaard BG, Bojesen SE. Plasma 25-hydroxyvitamin D and risk of non-melanoma and melanoma skin cancer: a prospective cohort study. *J Invest Dermatol.* 2013;133(3):629-636 Exclusion code: 3

Arem H, Weinstein SJ, Horst RL, et al. Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D and risk of oropharynx and larynx cancers in Finnish men. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2011;20(6):1178-1184 Exclusion code: 3

Bergman GJD, Fan T, McFetridge JT, Sen SS. Efficacy of vitamin D3 supplementation in preventing fractures in elderly women: A meta-analysis. *Curr Med Res Opin.* 2010;26(5):1193-1201 Exclusion code: 13

Bjorkhem I, Holmberg I. Mass Fragmentography of 25 hydroxyvitamin D3. Quantitative mass spectrometry in life sciences II: proceedings of the second international symposium held at the State University of Ghent, June 13-16, 1978 / editors, A. P. de Leenheer, R. R. Roncucci, C. van Peteghem. 1978 Exclusion code: 2

Björkhem I, Holmberg I. [45] Mass fragmentographic assay of 25-hydroxyvitamin D3. In: Donald B. McCormick LDW, ed. *Methods in Enzymology*. Vol Volume 67: Academic Press; 1980:385-393

Exclusion code: Exclusion code: 2

Buttigliero C, Monagheddu C, Petroni P, et al. Prognostic role of vitamin d status and efficacy of vitamin D supplementation in cancer patients: a systematic review. *Oncologist*. 2011;16(9):1215-1227

Exclusion code: 4

Carter GD. Accuracy of 25-hydroxyvitamin D assays: confronting the issues. *Curr Drug Targets*. 2011;12(1):19-28 Exclusion code: 2

Cranney A, Weiler HA, O'Donnell S, Puil L. Summary of evidence-based review on vitamin D efficacy and safety in relation to bone health. *Am J Clin Nutr.* 2008;88(2):513S-519S Exclusion code: 13

de Boer IH, Levin G, Robinson-Cohen C, et al. Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentration and risk for major clinical disease events in a community-based population of older adults: a cohort study.[Summary for patients in Ann Intern Med. 2012 May 1;156(9):136; PMID: 22547485]. *Ann Intern Med.* 2012;156(9):627-634 Exclusion code: 3

De Souto Barreto P, Lapeyre-Mestre M, Mathieu C, et al. A multicentric individually-tailored controlled trial of education and professional support to nursing home staff: Research protocol and baseline data of the IQUARE study. *J Nutr Health Aging*. 2013;17(2):173-178

Exclusion code: 5

Demetriou ET, Travison TG, Holick MF. Treatment with 50,000 IU vitamin D(2) every other week and effect on serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D(2), 25-hydroxyvitamin D(3), and total 25-hydroxyvitamin D in a clinical setting. *Endocr Pract.* 2012;18(3):399-402

Exclusion code: 12

Donald IP, Pitt K, Armstrong E, Shuttleworth H. Preventing falls on an elderly care rehabilitation ward. *Clin Rehabil*. 2000;14(2):178-185 Exclusion code: 5

Ensrud KE, Blackwell TL, Cauley JA, et al. Circulating 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels and frailty in older men: the osteoporotic fractures in men study. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2011;59(1):101-106 Exclusion code: 3

Fang F, Kasperzyk JL, Shui I, et al. Prediagnostic plasma vitamin D metabolites and mortality among patients with prostate cancer. *PLoS ONE [Electronic Resource]*. 2011;6(4):e18625 Exclusion code: 3

Forouhi NG, Ye Z, Rickard AP, et al. Circulating 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentration and the risk of type 2 diabetes: Results from the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer (EPIC)-Norfolk cohort and updated meta-analysis of Prospective studies. *Diabetologia*. 2012;55(8):2173-2182 Exclusion code: 3

Gallagher JC, Jindal P, Lynette MS. Vitamin D does not Increase Calcium Absorption in Young Women: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *J Bone Miner Res.* 2013

Exclusion code: 6

Ganji V, Milone C, Cody MM, McCarty F, Wang YT. Serum vitamin D concentrations are related to depression in young adult US population: the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. *Int Arch Med.* 2010;3:29 Exclusion code: 7

Grant WB, Tuohimaa P. Geographic variation of prostate cancer mortality rates in the United States: Implications for prostate cancer risk related to vitamin D [3] (multiple letters). *Int J Cancer*. 2004;111(3):470-472 Exclusion code: 8

Haines TP, Bennell KL, Osborne RH, Hill KD. Effectiveness of targeted falls prevention programme in subacute hospital setting: randomised controlled trial. *BMJ*. 2004;328(7441):676
Exclusion code: 5

Healey F, Monro A, Cockram A, Adams V, Heseltine D. Using targeted risk factor reduction to prevent falls in older in-patients: a randomised controlled trial. *Age Ageing*. 2004;33(4):390-395 Exclusion code: 5

Hojskov CS, Heickendorff L, Moller HJ. High-throughput liquid-liquid extraction and LCMSMS assay for determination of circulating 25(OH) vitamin D3 and D2 in the routine clinical laboratory. *Clin Chim Acta.* 2010;411(1-2):114-116 Exclusion code: 2

Holick MF. Evidence-based D-bate on health benefits of vitamin D revisited. *Dermato-Endocrinology*. 2012;4(2):183-190 Exclusion code: 8

Izaks GJ. Fracture prevention with vitamin D supplementation: considering the inconsistent results. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord*. 2007;8:26 Exclusion code: 13

Lai JKC, Lucas RM, Clements MS, Roddam AW, Banks E. Hip fracture risk in relation to vitamin D supplementation and serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels: A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials and observational studies. *BMC Public Health*. 2010;10 Exclusion code: 13

LeBlanc E, Chou R, Zakher B, Daeges M, Pappas M. Screening for Vitamin D Deficiency: Systematic Review for the U.S. Preventive Servies Task Force Recommendation [in press]. Rockville (MD)2014Exclusion code: 2

Lee DM, Tajar A, O'Neill TW, et al. Lower vitamin D levels are associated with depression among community-dwelling European men. *J Psychopharmacol.* 2011;25(10):1320-1328 Exclusion code: 7

Lensmeyer GL, Wiebe DA, Binkley N, Drezner MK. HPLC method for 25-hydroxyvitamin D measurement: comparison with contemporary assays. *Clin Chem.* 2006;52(6):1120-1126 Exclusion code: 2

Ma Y, Zhang P, Wang F, Yang J, Liu Z, Qin H. Association between vitamin D and risk of colorectal

cancer: A systematic review of prospective studies. *J Clin Oncol.* 2011;29(28);3775-3782

Exclusion code: 3

Maddock J, Berry DJ, Geoffroy MC, Power C, Hyppönen E. Vitamin D and common mental disorders in mid-life: Cross-sectional and prospective findings. *Clin Nutr.* 2013;32(5):758-764 Exclusion code: 3

Maunsell Z, Wright DJ, Rainbow SJ. Routine isotope-dilution liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry assay for simultaneous measurement of the 25-hydroxy metabolites of vitamins D2 and D3. *Clin Chem.* 2005;51(9):1683-1690 Exclusion code: 2

Mayo NE, Gloutney L, Levy AR. A randomized trial of identification bracelets to prevent falls among patients in a rehabilitation hospital. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil.* 1994;75(12):1302-1308 Exclusion code: 5

Mitri J, Muraru MD, Pittas AG. Vitamin D and type 2 diabetes: a systematic review. *Eur J Clin Nutr*. 2011;65(9):1005-1015 Exclusion code: 3

Mora JR, Iwata M, Von Andrian UH. Vitamin effects on the immune system: Vitamins A and D take centre stage. *Nature Reviews Immunology*. 2008;8(9):685-698

Exclusion code: 13

Muir SW, Montero-Odasso M. Effect of vitamin D supplementation on muscle strength, gait and balance in older adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2011;59(12):2291-2300 Exclusion code: 13

Nanri A, Mizoue T, Matsushita Y, et al. Association between serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D and depressive symptoms in Japanese: analysis by survey season. *Eur J Clin Nutr.* 2009;63(12):1444-1447 Exclusion code: 7

Norman PE, Powell JT. Vitamin D, shedding light on the development of disease in peripheral arteries. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol.* 2005;25(1):39-46 Exclusion code: 7

Parviainen MT, Savolainen KE, Korhonen PH, Alhava EM, Visakorpi JK. An improved method for routine determination of vitamin D and its hydroxylated metabolites in serum from children and adults. *Clin Chim Acta*. 1981;114(2-3):233-247

Exclusion code: 2

Pilz S, Dobnig H, Tomaschitz A, et al. Low 25-hydroxyvitamin D is associated with increased mortality in female nursing home residents. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2012;97(4):E653-E657 Exclusion code: 3

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Wu K, Feskanich D, Fuchs CS, Willett WC, Hollis BW, Giovannucci EL. A nested case control study of plasma 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentrations and risk of colorectal cancer. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2007;99(14):1120-1129 Exclusion code: 3

Zeleniuch-Jacquotte A, Gallicchio L, Hartmuller V, et al. Circulating 25-hydroxyvitamin D and risk of endometrial cancer: Cohort Consortium Vitamin D Pooling Project of Rarer Cancers. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2010;172(1):36-46 Exclusion code: 6

Zheng W, Danforth KN, Tworoger SS, et al. Circulating 25-hydroxyvitamin D and risk of epithelial ovarian cancer: Cohort Consortium Vitamin D Pooling Project of Rarer Cancers. *Am J Epidemiol.* 2010;172(1):70-80 Exclusion code: 6

### Randomized, Controlled Trials (RCTs) and Cohort Studies

#### Criteria:

- Initial assembly of comparable groups:
  - o for RCTs: adequate randomization, including first concealment and whether potential confounders were distributed equally among groups
  - o for cohort studies: consideration of potential confounders with either restriction or measurement for adjustment in the analysis; consideration of inception cohorts
- Maintenance of comparable groups (includes attrition, cross-overs, adherence, contamination)
- Important differential loss to follow-up or overall high loss to followup
- Measurements: equal, reliable, and valid (includes masking of outcome assessment)
- Clear definition of interventions
- Important outcomes considered
- Analysis: adjustment for potential confounders for cohort studies, or intention-to-treat analysis for RCTs

## Definition of ratings based on above criteria:

Good: Meets all criteria: Comparable groups are assembled initially and maintained throughout the study (followup at least 80%); reliable and valid measurement instruments are used and applied equally to the groups; interventions are spelled out clearly; important outcomes are considered; and appropriate attention to confounders in analysis. In addition, for RCTs, intention to treat analysis is used.

**Fair:** Studies will be graded "fair" if any or all of the following problems occur, without the fatal flaws noted in the "poor" category below. Generally comparable groups are assembled initially but some question remains whether some (although not major) differences occurred in follow-up; measurement instruments are acceptable (although not the best) and generally applied equally; some, but not all, important outcomes are considered; and, some but not all potential confounders are accounted for. Intention to treat analysis is done for RCTs.

**Poor:** Studies will be graded "poor" if any of the following fatal flaws exists: Groups assembled initially are not close to being comparable or maintained throughout the study; unreliable or invalid measurement instruments are used or not applied at all equally among groups (including not masking outcome assessment); and key confounders are given little or no attention. For RCTs, intention to treat is lacking.

**Source:** USPSTF Procedure Manual<sup>149</sup>

# **Expert Reviewers**

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Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

	Overall Population Characteristics:			_	Definition of Deficiency/ Insufficiency	Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs.
Author, Year, Title*	Vitamin D vs. Control	Country and Setting	Eligibility Criteria	Assay	(ng/mL)	Control (ng/mL)
	ipants had 25(OH)D level <20		The decision of the decision o	lo ee	l	
	Mean age (years): 74.6 (74.2		Inclusion: Community-dwelling ambulatory	Competitive		7 vs. 7
Clinical and laboratory	,		women age >65 years who spontaneously	protein-binding	serum 25(OH)D	100% <20
			consulted a practitioner and presented with	assay	≤12	
	Race: NR		vitamin D insufficiency.			
	BMI: NR Comorbidities: NR		Exclusion: Hypercalcemia, primary			
			hyperparathyroidism, renal insufficiency, or			
	History of falls: NR Mean dietary calcium intake		hepatic insufficiency; taken bisphosphonate, calcitonin, vitamin D or its metabolites,			
	at baseline (mg/day): 736		estrogen, raloxifene, fluoride, anticonvulsives,			
	(752 vs. 721)		or any other treatment acting on bone			
randomized, double-	(152 VS. 121)		metabolism in the past 6 months.			
blind, placebo-						
controlled study						
	Mean age <sup>‡</sup> (years): 85 (84.9 <sup>†</sup>	France	Inclusion: Elderly women living in apartment	Competitive	Not specifically	9.2 vs. 9.2
Combined calcium		Homes for the elderly	houses for the elderly who were ambulatory	protein-binding	defined	100% <20
	1 2	Institutionalized: 100%	(able to walk indoors with cane or walker) and	assav	domiod	10070 20
	Race <sup>‡</sup> : NR		had a life expectancy of ≥24 months.	doody		
	Mean weight (kg): 59.2 <sup>†</sup>		Exclusion: Women with intestinal			
confirmation of	(58.9† vs. 59.9)		malabsorption, hypercalcemia, or chronic renal			
reversal of secondary	Mean height (cm): 155 (155		failure; women who had received drugs known			
	vs. 155)		to alter bone metabolism, such as			
	Falls in 3 months prior to		corticosteroids, anticonvulsants, or high-dose			
	randomization (%): 16.1 <sup>†</sup>		thyroxine within the past year; women who had			
	(16.3 <sup>†</sup> vs. 15.8)		been treated with fluoride salts (>3 months),			
	Use of walking device (%):		bisphosphonates, calcitonin (>1 month),			
	40.7 <sup>†</sup> (41.2 <sup>†</sup> vs. 39.5 <sup>†</sup> )		calcium (>500 mg/day), and vitamin D (>100			
	Mean dietary calcium intake		IU/day) in the past 12 months.			
	at baseline: 557.7 mg/day					

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

	Overall Population Characteristics:				Definition of Deficiency/ Insufficiency	Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs.
Author, Year, Title*	Vitamin D vs. Control	Country and Setting	Eligibility Criteria	Assay		Control (ng/mL)
Gallagher et al,	Mean age (years): 67	Indiana and Nebraska		Radio-	Insufficiency:	Overall: 13
2013 <sup>160</sup>	Female: 100%		,	immunoassay	serum 25(OH)D	
Effects of vitamin D		center; community	years postmenopausal with vitamin D		≤20	Vitamin D
supplementation in	( ) ,		insufficiency.			800 IU: 14
older African		Institutionalized: NR	Exclusion: Substantial comorbid conditions; any			1600 IU: 13
American women	History of falls: NR		history of nonskin cancer in last 10 years;			2400 IU: 14
	Mean dietary calcium intake		terminal illness; previous hip fracture;			4800 IU: 14
	at baseline (mg/day): 551		hemiplegia; uncontrolled diabetes with or			NR for 400, 3600
			without significant proteinuria or fasting blood			or 4000 IU groups
			glucose level <7.8 mmol/L in persons with type			
			2 diabetes; active kidney stone disease or a history of >2 kidney stones in lifetime; chronic			
			renal failure; evidence of chronic liver disease,			
			including alcoholism; physical conditions such			
			as rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, and heart			
			failure, severe enough to prevent reasonable			
			physical activity; unwillingness to discontinue			
			therapy with vitamin D supplements after			
			entering the study; 25(OH)D level <5 or >20			
			ng/mL; BMI >45 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ; serum calcium level			
			>2.57 mmol/L on 2 baseline tests; 24-hour			
			urinary calcium level >7.3 mmol/day on 2			
			baseline tests; BMD T-score <-3 at the spine			
			or hip; current use of bisphosphonates or prior			
			use for >3 months; use of fluoride, PTH, or PTH			
			derivatives in the past 6 months; use of			
			calcitonin or estrogen in the past 6 months;			
			current use of phenytoin or phenobarbital, high-			
			dose thiazide therapy, or any drugs interfering			
			with vitamin D metabolism; or inability to give			
			informed consent.			

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

	Overall Population Characteristics:	0		•	Definition of Deficiency/ Insufficiency	Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs.
Author, Year, Title*	Vitamin D vs. Control	Country and Setting	Eligibility Criteria	Assay		Control (ng/mL)
		Nebraska University		Radio-	Insufficiency:	Overall: 13.4
Vitamin D		medical center;		immunoassay	serum 25(OH)D ≤20	Vitamin D
	Race: 60% white, 40% black Mean BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 30.2	Institutionalized: NR	<u>Exclusion:</u> Pregnant; significant comorbidities; history of cancer except skin cancer within last			400 IU: 13.1
	Comorbidities: NR	institutionalized. NK	10 years; uncontrolled type 1 diabetes ±			800 IU: 13.8
African American	History of falls: NR		significant proteinuria or fasting blood sugar			1600 IU: 13.3
	Mean dietary calcium intake		>140 mg in type 2 diabetes; active kidney stone			2400 IU: 14.1
	at baseline (mg/day): 655		disease or history of >2 kidney stones; chronic			2400 10. 14.1
	(mg/ddy).		renal failure; evidence of chronic liver disease;			
			alcoholism; severe vitamin D deficiency (serum			
			25(OH)D level <5 ng/mL); BMI >45 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ;			
			serum calcium level >2.57 mmol/L on 2			
			baseline tests; 24-hour urinary calcium level			
			>7.3 mmol/day on 2 baseline tests; BMD T-			
			score <-3 at the spine or hip (specific to race);			
			and use of bone-active drugs such as fluoride,			
			PTH or derivatives, calcitonin, estrogen during			
			past 6 months, chronic high-dose corticosteroid			
			therapy (>10 mg/d), bisphosphonates for >3			
			months in the past, anticonvulsants, or high-			
0.1	M	N	dose thiazide therapy (>37.5 mg/d).	11. 11		17 . 10
	Mean age (years): 52.1 (51.5		Inclusion: Ages 30 to 75 years with serum	Liquid		17 vs. 16
Vitamin D, insulin		Community			25(OH)D <17	100% <17
	Female: 49.1% (45% vs. 51%)	Institutionalized: 0%	Exclusion: Current smokers, diabetes, acute MI or stroke during the past 12 months, cancer	spectrometry		
	Race: NR		during the past 5 years, steroid use, serum	spectrometry		
study and a	Mean BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 26.5		creatinine ≥130 (males) or ≥110 µmol/L			
randomized controlled			(females), possible primary			
	Comorbidities: NR		hyperparathyroidism (plasma PTH >5.0 pmol/L			
hyperglycemic clamp			combined with serum calcium >2.50 mmol/L),			
technique	Mean dairy servings at		sarcoidosis, SBP >175 mm Hg or DBP >105			
,	baseline: 16/week		mm HG, pregnancy, lactation, or fertile age and			
			no contraception use.			

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	Overall Population Characteristics: Vitamin D vs. Control	Country and Setting	Eligibility Criteria	Assay	Definition of Deficiency/ Insufficiency (ng/mL)	Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)
Janssen et al, 2010 <sup>127</sup> Muscle strength and mobility in vitamin D-insufficient female geriatric patients: a randomized controlled trial on vitamin D and calcium supplementation	Mean age (years): 80.8 <sup>†</sup> (82.4 vs. 79.2) Female: 100% Race: NR Mean BMI (kg/m²): 26.4 <sup>†</sup>	The Netherlands Outpatient clinics Institutionalized: most women lived in residential homes for the elderly, number NR		NR	Insufficiency: serum 25(OH)D 8 to 20	13 vs. 14
Knutsen et al, 2014 <sup>132</sup> Does vitamin D improve muscle strength in adults? A randomized, double- blind, placebo- controlled trial among ethnic minorities in Norway	Overall (25 vs. 10 μg/day vs. control) Mean age (years): 37.3 <sup>†</sup> (36 vs. 37 vs. 39) Female: 73% (69% vs. 72% vs. 77%)	11 local immigrant activity centers Institutionalized: NR	50 years, living in Oslo, but with parents born in the Middle East, Africa, or South Asia. <u>Exclusion:</u> Regularly used vitamin D-containing supplements, receiving treatment for vitamin D deficiency, pregnant or breastfeeding, known	High performance liquid chromatography Laboratory participates in DEQAS	Insufficiency: serum 25(OH)D 20	25 vs. 10 μg/day vs. control 11 vs. 10 vs. 11 100% <20
Lips et al, 2010 <sup>155</sup> Once-weekly dose of 8400 IU vitamin D <sub>3</sub> compared with placebo: effects on neuromuscular function and tolerability in older	Mean age (years): 78 (78.5 vs. 77.6) Female: NR Race: NR Mean BMI (kg/m²): 27.8 <sup>†</sup> (27.4 vs. 28.2)	Pennsylvania Medical centers and nursing homes Institutionalized: 14%	mentally competent. <u>Exclusion:</u> Primary hyperparathyroidism, active thyroid disease, impaired renal function, osteomalacia, neurologic impairment, peripheral neuropathy, MI within 6 months,	Reverse phase high performance liquid chromatography Laboratory participates in DEQAS	Insufficiency: serum 25(OH)D 6 to 20	14 vs. 14 100% <20

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	Overall Population Characteristics: Vitamin D vs. Control	Country and Setting	Eligibility Criteria	Assay	Insufficiency	Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)
		Germany	Inclusion: Healthy ambulatory women age ≥70	Radio-		10 vs. 10
Effects of a short-term		Population-based	years with serum 25(OH)D level <20 ng/mL.	immunoassay	defined, but	100% < 20
vitamin D and calcium	Female: 100%	Institutionalized: 0%	Exclusion: Hypercalcemia or primary		study only	
	Race: NR		hyperparathyroidism; extremity fractures from		included women	
	Mean BMI (kg/m²): 25.5 <sup>†</sup>		osteoporosis; therapy with bisphosphonate,		with serum	
	(25.5 vs. 25.4)		calcitonin, vitamin D and its metabolites,		25(OH)D <20	
	Comorbidities: 39%		estrogen, tamoxifen in the past 6 months, or			
in elderly women	cardiovascular; 12% central		fluoride in the past 2 years; known intolerance			
	nervous, neurological; <1%		to study medication; chronic renal failure			
	psychiatric; 22%		(serum creatinine >20% of upper limit of			
	musculoskeletal		reference range); history of drug or alcohol			
	Concomitant medication:		abuse; nicotine abuse (>20 cigarettes daily);			
	2.8% benzodiazepine use;		>7 cups of coffee/day; scheduled holiday along			
	13.6% thyroidotherapy; 68%		geographic longitude during study period;			
	cardiovascular drugs		diabetes mellitus and other diseases;			
	History of falls: NR		medications possibly interfering with postural			
	Calcium intake: NR		stability and balance (anticonvulsants).			

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

dose vitamin D supplementation on calciotropic hormones and bone mineral density in obese subjects with low levels of circulating 25-hydroxyvitamin D: results from a randomized controlled study Wamberg et al, 2013 <sup>133</sup> Effects of vitamin D supplementation on body fat accumulation,	Sedentary: $35\%^{\dagger}$ (35% vs. 35%) Lightly active: $48\%^{\dagger}$ (46% vs. 50%) Moderately active: $17\%^{\dagger}$ (19% vs. 15%)	University hospital	Eligibility Criteria  Inclusion: Healthy males and females ages 18 to 50 years with BMI >30 kg/m² and plasma 25(OH)D level <20 ng/mL.  Exclusion: Pregnant women or women planning pregnancy; history of diabetes, fasting plasma glucose >7.0 mmol/L, hypercalcemia, or impaired renal or hepatic function; subjects treated with vitamin D within the last 3 months; and history of sarcoidosis, osteomalacia, or alcohol or substance abuse; recent large weight change (± 3 kg); and body weight >125 kg.	Assay Isotope dilution liquid chromatography- tandem mass spectrometry	Definition of Deficiency/ Insufficiency (ng/mL) Low: plasma 25(OH)D <20	Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL) 14 vs. 14 100% <20
inflammation, and metabolic risk factors in obese adults with low vitamin D levels: results from a randomized trial						
≥90% of study partici	pants had 25(OH)D levels ≤	30 ng/mL, with ≥10% with	25(OH)D levels ≥20 ng/mL			
Aloia et al, 2008 <sup>174</sup> Vitamin D intake to attain a desired serum 25- hydroxyvitamin D concentration	Mean age (years): 47.2 <sup>†</sup> Female: 81% Race: 45% black; 55% white BMI: NR Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Mean dietary calcium intake at baseline: 665 mg/day	New York University hospital Institutionalized: NR	Inclusion: Healthy men and women ages 18 to 65 years.  Exclusion: Baseline 25(OH)D >32 ng/mL, morbid obesity, chronic medical conditions (history of nephrolithiasis or hypercalciuria), bone disease (osteoporosis), or taking medications known to interfere with vitamin D metabolism.	Radio-receptor assay Laboratory participates in DEQAS		Overall: 19 90% ≤30

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	Overall Population Characteristics: Vitamin D vs. Control	Country and Setting	Eligibility Criteria	Assay	Definition of Deficiency/ Insufficiency (ng/mL)	Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)
Arvold et al, 2009 <sup>170</sup> Correlation of symptoms with vitamin D deficiency and symptom response to cholecalciferol treatment: a randomized controlled trial	History of falls: NR Weekly milk intake ≥1 quart:	Minnesota Outpatient clinic	Inclusion: Adult patients with mild to moderate vitamin D deficiency.  Exclusion: History of vitamin D deficiency, hypercalcemia, primary hyperparathyroidism, severe renal disease (creatinine >3 mg/dL), or sarcoidosis.	Liquid chromatography- tandem mass spectrometry	Moderately	18 vs. 18 100% <25
Studies on the relationship between vitamin D <sub>3</sub> status and urinary excretion of calcium in healthy subjects: effects of increased levels of	48% (46% vs. 50%)  Mean age (years): 31 (range, 22 to 47) Female: 0% Race: NR Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Mean calcium intake estimated to be 800 mg/day based on outside sources (not measured)	Sweden Department of Urology, university hospital Institutionalized: NR	Inclusion: Healthy males.  Exclusion: Exposure to drugs containing vitamin D.	Isotope dilution mass spectrometry	NR	15 vs. 15 90% ≤30
Effects of vitamin D and calcium supplementation on falls: a randomized controlled trial	Mean age (years): 85 (85 vs. 85) Female: 100% Race: NR Mean BMI (kg/m²): 24.7 (24.7 vs. 24.7) % using walking aid: 60 <sup>†</sup> (58 vs. 62) % with history of falls: 34 <sup>†</sup> (35 vs. 33) % with comorbidities: 95 <sup>†</sup> (98 vs. 91) % comorbid fracture at any site: 54.1 <sup>†</sup> (56.5 vs. 51.7) % using ≥4 medications: 70.6 <sup>†</sup> (77 vs. 64) Mean dietary calcium intake at baseline (mg/day): 600 to 700	Long-stay geriatric clinic Institutionalized: 100%	Inclusion: Women age ≥60 years being cared for in long-stay geriatric care units; able to walk 3 m with or without a walking aid.  Exclusion: Primary hyperparathyroidism; hypocalcaemia; hypercalciuria; renal insufficiency (creatinine >117 μmol/L); fracture or stroke within last 3 months; those who had received treatment with HRT, calcitonin, fluoride, or bisphosphonates during the previous 24 months.	Radio- immunoassay	Not specifically defined by study; refers to different definitions such as how many of their subjects were <12, <31, or <40	Median, 12.3 vs. 11.6

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

	Overall Population Characteristics:					Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs.
Author, Year, Title*	Vitamin D vs. Control	Country and Setting	Eligibility Criteria	Assay		Control (ng/mL)
Gallagher et al, 2012 <sup>156</sup> Dose response to vitamin D supplementation in postmenopausal women: a randomized	Characteristics:	Nebraska	Inclusion: Healthy, postmenopausal white and African American women ages 57 to 90 years who were ≥7 years postmenopausal with vitamin D insufficiency.  Exclusion: Substantial comorbid conditions; any history of nonskin cancer in last 10 years; terminal illness; previous hip fracture; hemiplegia; uncontrolled diabetes with or without significant proteinuria or a fasting blood glucose level <7.8 mmol/L in persons with type 2 diabetes; active kidney stone disease or a history of >2 kidney stones; chronic renal failure; evidence of chronic liver disease, including alcoholism; physical conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, and heart failure, severe enough to prevent reasonable physical activity; unwillingness to discontinue therapy with vitamin D supplements after	Radio- immunoassay	Insufficiency (ng/mL) Insufficiency: serum 25(OH)D ≤20	Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL) Overall: 15
			entering the study; 25(OH)D level <5 or >20 ng/mL; BMI >45 kg/m²; serum calcium level >2.57 mmol/L on 2 baseline tests; 24-hour urinary calcium level >7.3 mmol/day on 2 baseline tests; BMD T-score <-3 at the spine or hip; current use of bisphosphonates or prior use for >3 months; use of fluoride, PTH, or PTH derivatives in the past 6 months; use of calcitonin or estrogen in the past 6 months; current use of phenytoin or phenobarbital, high-dose thiazide therapy, or any drugs interfering with vitamin D metabolism; or inability to give informed consent.			

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	Overall Population Characteristics: Vitamin D vs. Control	Country and Setting	Eligibility Criteria	Assay	Definition of Deficiency/ Insufficiency (ng/mL)	Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)
Harris et al, 1999 <sup>176‡‡</sup> Plasma 25- hydroxyvitamin D responses of younger and older men to	Mean age (years): 31 (range, 22 to 47) Female: 0% Race: NR BMI: NR Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR	Massachusetts Tufts University Institutionalized: NR	Inclusion: Men with low vitamin D intake (<200 IU/day), either younger (ages 20 to 35 years) or older (ages 60 to 75 years).  Exclusion: Men who had traveled to southern locations in the previous month; used vitamin D supplement in the previous 6 months or worked in an outdoor occupation; usual calcium intake of ≥600 mg/day; use of calcium supplement in the past 6 months; usual consumption of >3 alcoholic beverages a day; use of medications known to affect vitamin D absorption or metabolism in past year; any history of liver, kidney, or gastrointestinal disease resulting in malabsorption syndrome; gastrointestinal surgery; kidney stone in the past 5 years; or any current medical condition likely to affect	High	Low: <26	Younger men: 13 vs. 17 Older men: 16 vs. 16 90% ≤24
1990 <sup>128‡‡</sup> The necessity and safety of calcium and vitamin D in the elderly	Home patients Mean age (years): 69.5 <sup>†</sup> (69.4 vs. 69.6) Female: 100% Weight (kg): 69.5 <sup>†</sup> (70.7 vs. 68.4) Race: NR BMI: NR Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Dietary calcium intake: NR Hospital inpatients (institutionalized) Mean age (years): 82.5 <sup>†</sup> (82.2 vs. 82.8) Female: 100% Weight (kg): 61.8 <sup>†</sup> (62.1 vs. 61.5) Race: NR BMI: NR Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Dietary calcium intake: NR	Institutionalized (inpatients): 52%	vitamin D absorption or metabolism.  Inclusion: Elderly women ages 67 and 72 years living independently at home or geriatric female inpatients age ≥65 years.  Exclusion: Use of calcium and/or vitamin D; trip to south; cancer; kidney disease; other health disorders; trip in Finland; refused to participate; unable to eat or drink without help; and active malignant disease.	NR	NR	Home patients: 17 vs. 15 Hospital inpatients: 10 vs. 10 90% ≤26

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	Overall Population Characteristics: Vitamin D vs. Control	Country and Setting	Eligibility Criteria	Assay	Definition of Deficiency/ Insufficiency (ng/mL)	Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)
2010 <sup>166‡‡</sup> Does daily vitamin D 800 IU and calcium 1000 mg supplementation decrease the risk of falling in ambulatory women aged 65-71 years? A 3-year randomized population-based trial (OSTPRE-FPS) Kärkkäinen et al, 2010 <sup>153‡‡</sup>	Mean age (years): 67.4 <sup>†</sup> (67.4 vs. 67.4) Female: 100 % Race: NR Mean BMI (kg/m²): 27.5 <sup>†</sup> (27.5 vs. 27.4) Ambulatory: 100% Mean number of prescribed medications: 2.7 <sup>†</sup> (2.8 vs. 2.5) History of falls: NR Baseline use of calcium supplements: 17% <sup>†</sup> (15% vs. 19%) Total calcium at baseline: 977 <sup>†</sup> mg/day (988 vs. 965)		Inclusion: Female members of the OSTPRE cohort born in 1932 to 1941 and age ≥65 years at the end of November 2001; living in Kuopio province in Finland at trial onset; not belonging to former OSTPRE bone densitometry sample; subsample with vitamin D levels included a random sample of ambulatory women from the larger study.  Exclusion: NR	Radio- immunoassay	NR	20 vs. 20 90% ≤30
supplement on depression scores in people with low levels of serum 25- hydroxyvitamin D: nested case-control	Mean age (years): 53.4 <sup>†</sup> (53.4 vs. 53.3) Female: 56% Race: NR Mean BMI (kg/m²): 27.7 <sup>†</sup> (27.5 vs. 28.0) Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Mean serum calcium at baseline (mmol/L): 2.28 (2.28 vs. 2.28)		study, a population-based cohort study conducted from 2007 to 2008.	Liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry	<u>Low</u> : <22	19 vs. 19 100% <22

# Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	Overall Population Characteristics: Vitamin D vs. Control	Country and Setting	Eligibility Criteria	Assay	Definition of Deficiency/ Insufficiency (ng/mL)	Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)
Krieg et al, 1999 <sup>154‡‡</sup> Effect of supplementation with vitamin D₃ and calcium on quantitative ultrasound of bone in	Mean age (years): 84.5 <sup>†</sup> (84 vs. 85) Female: 100% Race: NR Mean BMI (kg/m²): 24.7 <sup>†</sup> (25.7 vs. 23.8; p=0.04) Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Calcium intake: NR	Switzerland Nursing homes	Inclusion: Women living in 19 nursing homes in		NR	12 <sup>§§</sup> vs. 12 <sup>§§</sup> 90% ≤21
Lehmann et al, 2013 <sup>115</sup> Bioavailability of vitamin D <sub>2</sub> and D <sub>3</sub> in healthy volunteers, a randomized placebocontrolled trial	Mean age (years): 33.8 <sup>†</sup>	Healthy community population Institutionalized: NR	supplements, history of chronic illness and	Liquid chromatography with mass spectrometry	NR	Vitamin D <sub>2</sub> vs. D <sub>3</sub> vs. control) 15 vs. 18 vs. 16 90% ≤25
fracture incidence in elderly persons: a randomized, placebo- controlled clinical trial Ooms et al, 1995 <sup>120</sup>	Race: NR Mean BMI (kg/m²): 28.3 <sup>†</sup> (28.1 vs. 28.6)	The Netherlands Community Institutionalized: 100% <sup>III</sup>		Competitive protein-binding assay	Not specifically defined	Median: 11 vs. 10 90% ≤20

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	Overall Population Characteristics: Vitamin D vs. Control	Country and Setting	Eligibility Criteria	Assay	Deficiency/ Insufficiency	Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)
Martineau et al, 2007 <sup>179</sup> A single dose of vitamin D enhances immunity to mycobacteria	Median age <sup>    </sup> (years): 33.7 <sup>†</sup> (30.1 vs. 37.5) Female <sup>   </sup> : 51.2% <sup>†</sup> (46.3% vs. 56.2%) Black <sup>   </sup> : 12.9% <sup>†</sup> (10.4% vs. 15.6%) South Asian <sup>   </sup> : 68% <sup>†</sup> (70.1% vs. 67.2%) White <sup>   </sup> : 13.7% <sup>†</sup> (13.4% vs. 14.1%) BMI: NR Comorbidities: NR History of falls: NR Calcium intake: NR	London TB contact clinics Institutionalized: NR	Inclusion: Persons age >17 years who had been exposed to a patient with active TB.  Exclusion: Had symptoms, clinical signs, or radiographic evidence of active TB; had HIV infection, renal failure, sarcoidosis, or hyperparathyroidism; taking corticosteroids, thiazide diuretics, or supplementary vitamin D;	Isotope dilution	Deficiency: <8 Insufficiency: <30	14 vs. NR <u>Overall deficient</u> : 42% (84/192) <u>Overall</u> <u>insufficient</u> : 94% (189/192)*** 94% <30
Effects of a long-term vitamin D and calcium supplementation on falls and parameters	vs. 77)	Austria and Germany Population-based Institutionalized: 0%			Not specifically defined, but study only included participants with 25(OH)D <31	22 vs. 22 100% <31

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

	Overall Population Characteristics:				Deficiency/ Insufficiency	Mean Baseline 25(OH)D Level: Vitamin D vs.
Author, Year, Title*	Vitamin D vs. Control	Country and Setting	Eligibility Criteria	Assay		Control (ng/mL)
	3 () /	New York		Radio-	Deficiency: <30	
Dose response to		Population-based	j –	immunoassay		90% ≤29
vitamin D		Institutionalized: NR		Laboratory		
supplementation	Black: 100%			participates in		
among	Mean BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 29 vs. 30		affects skeletal metabolism; previous treatment	DEQAS		
postmenopausal	Comorbidities: NR		with bisphosphonates or fluoride; use of			
African American	History of falls: NR		estrogen, calcitonin, glucocorticoids,			
women	Calcium intake: NR		androgens, phosphate, anabolic steroids, or			
Aloia et al, 2005 <sup>175</sup>			>400 IU/day vitamin D in past 6 months; history			
A randomized			of previous hip fracture; uncontrolled diabetes,			
controlled trial of			anemia, or thyroid disease; history of current			
vitamin D₃			liver, renal, neurologic, or malignant disease;			
supplementation in			malabsorption or alcoholism; history of hyper-			
African American			calciuria, nephrolithiasis, or active sarcoidosis;			
women			smoking >10 cigarettes/day; unexplained			
			weight loss; use of medications known to			
			interfere with calcium or vitamin D absorption or			
			metabolism; severe osteoarthritis or scoliosis			
			that would interfere with bone density			
			assessment of the spine or hip; participation in			
144 1 4 1 00 40 136	0 " ' ' D 100	11.12	weight training or elite athletic training.	11. 1	ND	) (") . D 400
		U.K.		High	NR	Vitamin D 400 vs.
Vitamin D₃		Community		performance		1000 IU vs.
	(,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Institutionalized: NR		liquid		control
no effect on	(63.5 vs. 64.1 vs. 63.9)			chromotography-		13 vs. 13 vs. 14
	Female: 100%			tandem mass		90% ≤23
	White: 100%		, ,	spectrometer		
factors: a parallel-	Mean BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 26.7 <sup>†</sup>		swallowing tablets or capsules, taking			
group, double-blind,	(26.6 vs. 26.8 vs. 26.6)		medications or supplements known to affect			
placebo-controlled	Comorbidities: NR		any dependent variable, current smokers, or			
RCT	History of falls: NR		abnormal blood biochemistry at screening.			
	Calcium intake: NR					

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

	Mean 25(OH)D Level	Number Approached, Screened, Eligible,			Adjusted	
Author Voor Title*	Attained: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)	Enrolled, Analyzed: Vitamin D vs. Control	Duration	Attrition: Vitamin D vs. Control	Confounders in Analysis	Interventions
Author, Year, Title*	pants had 25(OH)D level <20 n		Duration	D VS. COILLIOI	Allalysis	interventions
	Median: 29 vs. 11 ≤12 ng/mL	Approached: 360 Screened: NR Eligible: 192 Enrolled: 192 (95 vs. 97) Analyzed: 191 (95 vs. 96)	12 months	18.9% (18/95) vs. 28.9% (28/97) Overall: 24.0% (46/192)	NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: 400 IU of vitamin D₃ BID (total, 800 IU/day) and 500 mg of calcium BID (total, 1000 mg/day) Control: Identical placebo tablet BID
tablet in ambulatory elderly women with vitamin D insufficiency: results of a multicenter, randomized, double- blind, placebo- controlled study						
vitamin D <sub>3</sub> supplementation in elderly women: confirmation of reversal of secondary hyperparathyroidism and hip fracture risk. The Decalyos II Study	Shown in figure; vitamin D groups had significant increase from baseline (p=0.0001); placebo group did not have significant increase from baseline; mean at followup was 30 and 35 for vitamin D groups and 5 for placebo group	Analyzed: 583 (393 vs. 190)	24 months	28.2 <sup>†</sup> vs. 36.1 <sup>§</sup> <u>Overall:</u> 30.8% (188/610)	NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: 800 IU of vitamin D₃ daily and 1200 mg of calcium daily Control: Identical placebo daily
Gallagher et al, 2013 <sup>160</sup> Effects of vitamin D supplementation in older African American women	97.5% of those on 800 IU of vitamin D per day reached a 25(OH)D level >20 ng/mL; vitamin D levels higher in all vitamin D groups individually vs. placebo (p<0.05)	Approached: 526 Screened: 303 Eligible: 108 (303 screened – 195 ineligible=108, but figure reports 110) Enrolled: 110 (93 [2 to 24 per dosage] vs. 17) Analyzed: 82 (68 vs. 14) for ITT dose reponse analysis; 110 for harms	NR)	Overall: 17.3% (19/110)	Primary outcome adjusted for age, BMI, calcium intake, smoking status, alcohol use, average caffeine intake, serum creatinine, and season	Control: Identical placebo daily All Participants: Citracal calcium supplements administered to maintain total calcium intake of 1200 to 1400 mg/day
Gallagher et al, 2014 <sup>159</sup> Vitamin D supplementation in young white and African American women	response curve predicted that 97.5% of white women on 400 IU of vitamin D per day reached a 25(OH)D level >20 ng/mL; between 800 and 1600	Enrolled: 198 (160 [37 to 42 per dosage] vs. 38)	(NR if mean or	37.5% (60/160) vs. 26.3% (10/38) Overall: 35.4% (70/198)	Primary outcome adjusted for season at baseline, age, BMI category, calcium intake, smoking status, alcohol use, and serum creatinine	Vitamin D: 400, 800, 1600, or 2400 IU of vitamin D₃ daily Control: Identical placebo daily All Participants: Citracal calcium supplements administered to maintain total calcium intake of 1000 to 1200 mg/day

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	Mean 25(OH)D Level Attained: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)	Number Approached, Screened, Eligible, Enrolled, Analyzed: Vitamin D vs. Control	Duration	Attrition: Vitamin D vs. Control	Adjusted Confounders in Analysis	Interventions
	57 vs. 17; p<0.01	Approached: 1028 Screened: 337	6 months	4% (2/51) vs. 15% (8/53)	NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: 20,000 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> twice/week (total, 40,000 IU/week)
secretion, sensitivity, and lipids: results from a case-control study		Eligible: 172 Enrolled: 104 (51 vs. 53) Analyzed: 104 (51 vs. 52)		<u>Overall:</u> 10% (10/104)		Control: Identical placebo twice/week
and a randomized controlled trial using hyperglycemic clamp technique						
	31 vs. 17 ; p<0.001	Approached: NR Screened: NR Eligible: 91 Enrolled: 70 (36 vs. 34) Analyzed: 59 (28 vs. 31)	6 months	22.2% (8/36) vs. 8.8% (3/34) <u>Overall:</u> 15.7% (11/70)	NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: 400 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> daily and 500 mg of calcium daily Control: Identical placebo and 500 mg of calcium daily
improve muscle strength in adults? A randomized, double- blind, placebo- controlled trial among ethnic minorities in Norway	25 vs. 10 μg/day vs. control 21 vs. 17 vs. 10	Approached: NR Screened: 301 Eligible: 253 Enrolled: 251 (84 vs. 85 vs. 82) Analyzed: 215 (75 [25 µg/day] vs. 69 [10 µg/day] vs. 71 control)	16 weeks	10.7% (9/84) on 25 µg/day vs. 18.8% (16/85) on 10 µg/day vs. 13.4% (11/82) control	NR (RCT)	<u>Vitamin D:</u> 25 or 10 μg of vitamin D₃ daily <u>Control:</u> Identical placebo
Lips et al, 2010 <sup>155</sup> Once-weekly dose of 8400 IU vitamin D <sub>3</sub> compared with placebo: effects on neuromuscular function and tolerability in older adults with vitamin D insufficiency	26 vs. 12 Mean difference, 13.0; p<0.001	Approached: NR Screened: 593 Enrolled: 226 (114 vs. 112) Analyzed: 226 for AEs, 213 for SPPB measure	16 weeks	7.9% (9/114) vs. 13.4% (15/112) <u>Overall:</u> 10.6% (24/226)	Covariance model included terms for baseline body sway, baseline vitamin D stratum, and treatment group	Vitamin D: 2800 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> given in 3 tablets once a week (total, 8400 IU/week)  Control: 3 identical placebo tablets once a week  All participants: Those with daily calcium intake <1000 mg were also given 500 mg calcium

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

	Mean 25(OH)D Level Attained: Vitamin D vs.	Number Approached, Screened, Eligible, Enrolled, Analyzed:		Attrition: Vitamin	Adjusted Confounders in	
Author, Year, Title*	Control (ng/mL)	Vitamin D vs. Control	Duration	D vs. Control	Analysis	Interventions
Pfeifer et al, 2000 <sup>162</sup> Effects of a short-term vtamin D and calcium supplementation on body sway and secondary hyperparathyroidism in elderly women	26 vs. 17; p <0.001	Approached: 208 Screened: 165 Eligible: 151 Enrolled: 148 Analyzed: 145 in ITT; 137 for falls (70 vs. 67)	8 weeks treatment; 1 year posttreatment followup	5.4% (4/74) vs. 9.5% (7/74) Overall: 7.4% (11/148)	NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: 400 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> BID (total, 800 IU/day) and 600 mg of calcium BID (total, 1200 mg/day) Control: 600 mg of calcium BID (total, 1200 mg/day)
Wamberg et al, 2013 <sup>125</sup> The effect of high-dose vitamin D supplementation on calciotropic hormones and bone mineral density in obese subjects with low levels of circulating 25-hydroxyvitamin D: results from a randomized controlled study  Wamberg et al, 2013 <sup>133</sup> Effects of vitamin D supplementation on body fat accumulation, inflammation, and metabolic risk factors in obese adults with low vitamin D levels: results from a randomized trial	>32: 96% vs. NR >20: 100% vs. 18%	Approached: NR Screened: 88 Eligible: 55 Enrolled: 52 (26 vs. 26) Analyzed for main outcomes <sup>¶</sup> : 43 (22 vs. 21)	26 weeks	15.4% (4/26) vs. 19.2% (5/26) Overall: 17.3% (9/52)	NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: 1400 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> given 5 times a day (total, 7000 IU/day) Control: Identical placebo tablets given 5 times daily

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	Mean 25(OH)D Level Attained: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)	Number Approached, Screened, Eligible, Enrolled, Analyzed: Vitamin D vs. Control	Duration	Attrition: Vitamin D vs. Control	Adjusted Confounders in Analysis	Interventions
	pants had 25(OH)D level ≤30 n				Analysis	interventions
Aloia et al, 2008 <sup>174</sup> Vitamin D intake to attain a desired serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentration	Reported on figure by race and sex; goal of >30 ng/mL achieved by virtually all in active group; also increased by 8 ng/mL in placebo group because of seasonal change	Approached: NR Screened: 262 Eligible: 138 Enrolled: 138 (65 vs. 73) Analyzed: 138	6 months	Overall: 20% (27/138)	NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: vitamin D₃ dose depended on 25(OH)D level, as follows: Baseline 20 to 32 ng/mL: start at 2000 IU/day Baseline <20 ng/mL: start at 4000 IU/day At followup <20 ng/mL: increase by 2000 IU/day At followup 20 to 32 ng/mL: increase by 2000 IU/day At followup 32 to 56 ng/mL: do not change At followup >56 ng/mL: decrease by 2000 IU/day (unless current dose was ≤2000 IU/day, decrease dose to 800 IU) Mean dose: 3440 IU Control: Identical placebo
Arvold et al, 2009 <sup>170</sup> Correlation of symptoms with vitamin D deficiency and symptom response to cholecalciferol treatment: a randomized controlled trial		Approached: NR Screened: 610 Eligible: 244 Enrolled: 100 (50 vs. 50) Analyzed: 90 (48 vs. 42)	8 weeks treatment/ followup	4% (2/50) vs. 16% (8/50) Overall: 10% (10/100)	NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: 50,000 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> weekly Control: Identical placebo tablet weekly
Berlin et al, 1986 <sup>178</sup> ** Studies on the relationship between vitamin D <sub>3</sub> status and urinary excretion of calcium in healthy subjects: effects of increased levels of 25- hydroxyvitamin D <sub>3</sub>	49 vs. 19; p<0.000001	Approached: NR Screened: NR Eligible: NR Enrolled: 24 (12 vs. 12) Analyzed: 24 (12 vs. 12)	NR; implied 2 months	INR	NR	Vitamin D: 18,000 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> taken 3 times a week in March and April (total, 54,000 IU weekly) Control: No intervention

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	Mean 25(OH)D Level Attained: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)	Number Approached, Screened, Eligible, Enrolled, Analyzed: Vitamin D vs. Control	Duration	Attrition: Vitamin D vs. Control	Adjusted Confounders in Analysis	Interventions
Bischoff et al, 2003 <sup>165</sup> Effects of vitamin D and calcium supplementation on falls: a randomized controlled trial	Median, 26 vs. 11; p<0.001	Approached: NR Screened: NR Eligible: 130 Enrolled: 124 in pretreatment period; 122 in treatment (62 vs. 60) Analyzed: 122 (62 vs. 60) for falls	6 weeks pretreatment 12 weeks treatment		Adjusted for treatment and baseline covariates that reached significance of p<0.1 (age, number of fallers in pretreatment period, being a faller in pretreatment period, baseline vitamin D level and baseline 1,25(OH) <sub>2</sub> D level, observation time during treatment)	Vitamin D: 400 IU of vitamin D₃ BID (total, 800 IU/day) and 600 mg of calcium BID (total, 1200 mg/day) Control: 600 mg of calcium BID (total, 1200 mg/day)
Gallagher et al, 2012 <sup>15t</sup> Dose response to vitamin D supplementation in postmenopausal women: a randomized trial	Shown in figure; dose- response curve predicted that 97.5% of those on 600 IU/day reached >20 ng/mL; vitamin D levels higher in all vitamin D groups individually compared with placebo (p<0.05)	Approached: 2113 Screened: 633 Eligible: NR Enrolled: 163 (142 [20 to 21 per dosage] vs. 21) Analyzed: 163 (142 vs. 21)	Median, 12 months (range, 0.9 to 14.0 months)	12.7% (18/142) vs. 14.3% (3/21) Overall: 12.9% (21/163)	NR	Vitamin D: 400, 800, 1600, 2400, 3200, 4000, or 4800 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> daily Control: Identical placebo daily All Participants: Citracal calcium supplements administered BID to maintain total calcium intake of 1200 to 1400 mg/day
Harris et al, 1999 <sup>176‡‡</sup> Plasma 25- hydroxyvitamin D responses of younger and older men to three weeks of supplementation with 1800 IU/day of vitamin D	Younger men: 25 vs. 13 Older men: 19 vs. 15	Approached: NR Screened: NR Eligible: NR Enrolled: 20 (12 vs. 8) Analyzed: 18 (11 vs. 7)	3 weeks	55% (11/20) (4/10 younger and 5/10 older)	NR	Vitamin D: 1800 IU of vitamin D <sub>2</sub> in liquid form taken with food daily in the morning Control: No intervention
Honkanen et al, 1990 <sup>128‡‡</sup> The necessity and safety of calcium and vitamin D in the elderly	Home patients: 32 vs. 9 Hospital inpatients: 26 vs. 4 p<0.001 for change in intervention group	Approached: NR Screened: 203 Eligible: NR Enrolled: 126 (63 vs. 63) Analyzed: 126 (63 vs. 63)	11 weeks	8/63 (12.7%) vs. 3/60 (4.8%) <u>Overall:</u> 11/126 (8.7%)	NR (RCT)	<u>Vitamin D:</u> 1800 IU of vitamin D₃ daily and 1.558 g of calcium daily <u>Control:</u> No intervention

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	Mean 25(OH)D Level Attained: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)	Number Approached, Screened, Eligible, Enrolled, Analyzed: Vitamin D vs. Control	Duration	Attrition: Vitamin D vs. Control	Adjusted Confounders in Analysis	Interventions
Karkkainen et al, 2010 <sup>166‡‡</sup> Does daily vitamin D 800 IU and calcium 1000 mg supplementation decrease the risk of falling in ambulatory women aged 65-71 years? A 3-year randomized population-based trial (OSTPRE-FPS) Karkkainen et al, 2010 <sup>153‡‡</sup> Effect of calcium and vitamin D supplementation on bone mineral density in women aged 65-71 years: a 3-year randomized population-based trial (OSTPRE-FPS)	30 vs. 22; p<0.001	Approached: 5407 Screened: 3744 Eligible: 3432 Enrolled: 603 (290 vs. 313) in subsample with vitamin D levels Analyzed: 593 (287 vs. 306) in subsample with vitamin D levels	3 years Mean, 2.8 years	1.0% (3/290) vs. 2.2% (7/313) <u>Overall:</u> 1.7% (10/603) in subsample with vitamin D levels	NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: 400 IU of vitamin D₃ BID (total, 800 IU/day) and 500 mg of calcium BID (total, 1000 mg/day) Control: No intervention
Kjaergaard et al, 2012 <sup>171</sup> Effect of vitamin D supplement on depression scores in people with low levels of serum 25- hydroxyvitamin D: nested case-control study and randomized clinical trial	59 vs. 21	Approached: NR (12,984 in sixth Tromsø study) Screened: 1351 Eligible: NR Randomized: 243 (122 vs. 121) Enrolled: 237 (121 vs. 116; 6 excluded at baseline for not meeting inclusion criteria) Analyzed: 230 per protocol (120 vs. 110)	6 months	1.6% (2/122) vs. 9.1% (11/121) Overall: 5.4% (13/243)	NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: 20,000 IU of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> weekly Control: Identical placebo weekly

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	Mean 25(OH)D Level Attained: Vitamin D vs. Control (ng/mL)	Number Approached, Screened, Eligible, Enrolled, Analyzed: Vitamin D vs. Control	Duration	Attrition: Vitamin D vs. Control	Adjusted Confounders in Analysis	Interventions
	27 vs. 6; p<0.01	Approached: NR Screened: NR Eligible: NR Enrolled: 248 (124 vs. 124) Analyzed: 248 (124 vs. 124)	2 years		NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: 440 IU of vitamin D₃ BID (total, 880 IU/day) and 500 mg of calcium BID (total, 1000 mg/day) Control: No intervention
Lehmann et al, 2013 <sup>115</sup> Bioavailability of vitamin D <sub>2</sub> and D <sub>3</sub> in healthy volunteers, a randomized placebo- controlled trial	Vitamin D <sub>2</sub> vs. D <sub>3</sub> vs. control 27 vs. 36 vs. 13; p<0.001	Approached: NR Screened: NR Eligible: NR Enrolled: 119 (50 to vitamin D <sub>2</sub> vs. 49 to vitamin D <sub>3</sub> vs. 20 to control) Analyzed: 107 (47 to vitamin D <sub>2</sub> vs. 46 to vitamin D <sub>3</sub> vs. 19 to control)	8 weeks	Vitamin D <sub>2</sub> vs. D <sub>3</sub> vs. <u>control:</u> 8% (4/50) vs. 14% (7/49) vs. 5% (1/20) <u>Overall:</u> 10% (12/119)	NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: 2000 IU of either vitamin D₂ or D₃ daily Control: Identical placebo daily
Lips et al, 1996 <sup>161</sup> Vitamin D supplementation and fracture incidence in elderly persons: a randomized, placebo- controlled clinical trial Ooms et al, 1995 <sup>120</sup> Prevention of bone loss by vitamin D supplementation in elderly women: a randomized double- blind trial		Approached: NR Screened: NR Eligible: NR Enrolled: 348 (177 vs. 171) Analyzed: 270 with vitamin D levels	maximum 4 years	31.0% (53/171)  Overall: 28.7% (100/348)  Drop out in first year: 19% (65/348) 16% (29/177) vs. 21% (36/171) 3.7% (13/348) are not in analysis at end of study	age; sex; residence; sum of outdoor, sunshine, and walking scores; and compliance; fracture analysis was repeated excluding participants who used vitamin D or multivitamin supplements other than trial medication	<u>Vitamin D:</u> 400 IU of vitamin D₃ daily <u>Control:</u> Identical placebo daily
Martineau et al, 2007 <sup>179</sup> A single dose of vitamin D enhances immunity to mycobacteria	27 vs. NR	Approached: NR Screened: 364 Eligible: NR Enrolled: 192 (96 vs. 96) Analyzed: 192 (96 vs. 96)	6 weeks	31.2% (29/96) vs. 33.3% (32/96) <u>Overall:</u> 31.8% (61/192)	NR (RCT)	<u>Vitamin D:</u> 100,000 IU vitamin D₂ in a single dose <u>Control:</u> Identical lactose placebo in a single dose

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

	Mean 25(OH)D Level Attained: Vitamin D vs.	Number Approached, Screened, Eligible, Enrolled, Analyzed:		Attrition: Vitamin	Adjusted Confounders in	
Author, Year, Title* Pfeifer et al, 2009 <sup>163</sup> Effects of a long-term	Control (ng/mL) Month 12: 34 vs. 23 Month 20: 19 vs. 15	Vitamin D vs. Control Approached: 315 Screened: NR		(7/121)	Analysis NR (RCT)	Interventions <u>Vitamin D:</u> 400 IU of vitamin D₃ BID (total, 800 IU/day) and 500 mg of
vitamin D and calcium supplementation on falls and parameters of muscle function in community-dwelling older individuals		Eligible: NR Enrolled: 242 (121 vs. 121) Analyzed: 242 (122 vs. 120) for falls and fractures <sup>†††</sup>	8 month posttreatment followup Total: 20 months	Overall: 6% (14/242)		calcium BID (total, 1000 mg/day) Control: 500 mg of calcium BID (total, 1000 mg/day)
Talwar et al, 2007 <sup>177</sup> Dose response to vitamin D supplementation among postmenopausal African American women Aloia et al, 2005 <sup>175</sup> A randomized controlled trial of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> supplementation in African American women	<32)	Approached: 50,000 Screened: 385 Eligible: 322 Enrolled: 208 (104 vs. 104) Analyzed: 208 (104 vs. 104)		28.8% (30/104) <u>Overall:</u> 29.4% (60/208)	NR (RCT)	Vitamin D: 800 IU of vitamin D₃ daily for first 24 months, increased to 2000 IU daily Control: Identical placebo daily All participants: Supplements given to ensure total daily intake of 1200 to 1500 mg calcium
Wood et al, 2012 <sup>136</sup> Vitamin D₃ supplementation has no effect on conventional cardiovascular risk factors: a parallel- group, double-blind, placebo-controlled RCT	Vitamin D 400 vs. 1000 IU vs. control 26 vs. 30 vs. 13; p<0.001	Approached: NR Screened: 424 Enrolled: 305 (102 [vitamin D 400 IU] vs. 101 [vitamin D 1000 IU] vs. 102 [control]) Analyzed: 305 (102 [vitamin D 400 IU] vs. 101 [vitamin D 1000 IU] vs. 102 [control])		Vitamin D 400 vs. 1000 IU vs. control: 18% (18/102) vs. 11% (11/101) vs. 11% (11/102) Overall: 13% (40/305)	NR (RCT)	<u>Vitamin D:</u> 400 or 1000 IU of vitamin D₃ daily <u>Control:</u> Identical placebo daily

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

			<b>5</b> / 1 / 1	Clinical Health	_ , , , ,	. "	
Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Intervention Fidelity	Determination of Outcomes	Outcomes: Vitamin D vs. Control	Adverse Events/Harms: Vitamin D vs. Control	Quality Rating	Sponsor
≥90% of study partic		•		vs. control	Vitaliili D vs. Colitioi	ixating	Эропвоі
16/1	NR		AEs: prespecified; recorded	Mortality: 3.2% (3/95)	All NS:	Fair	Innothera
Clinical and		levels	spontaneously reported and	vs. 1.0% (1/96); RR,	Total AEs: 187 vs. 170		Laboratories,
laboratory safety of		No assessment of	observed AEs		Withdrawals due to AE: 15.8%		Arcueil, France
one year's use of a			Hypercalemia: measured serum	28.63) <sup>†</sup> ; all unrelated to	(15/95) vs. 17.7% (17/96); RR, 0.89		
combination calcium				drug	(95% CI, 0.47 to 1.68); <sup>†</sup> specifically,		
+ vitamin D tablet in		,	mg/dL, reported spontaneously		GI (3 vs. 6 cases), cardiovascular (3		
ambulatory elderly		vs. 84) IU/day			vs. 4 cases); hypercalcemia (2 vs. 0		
women with vitamin					cases)		
D insufficiency:					SAEs: 14.7% (14/95) vs. 12.5%		
results of a multicenter,					(12/96); RR, 1.18 (95% CI, 0.58 to 2.41) <sup>†</sup>		
randomized, double-					Cardiovascular: 6.3% (6/95) vs.		
blind, placebo- controlled study					5.2% (5/96); RR, 1.21 (95% CI, 0.38 to 3.84) <sup>†</sup>		
controlled study					Osteomuscular: 5.3% (5/95) vs.		
					2.1% (2/96); RR, 2.53 (95% CI, 0.50		
					to 12.70) <sup>†</sup>		
					Nervous system: 1.1% (1/95) vs.		
					2.1% (2/96); RR, 0.51 (95% CI, 0.05		
					to 5.48) <sup>†</sup>		
					GI: 1.1% (1/95) vs. 2.1% (2/96); RR,		
					0.51 (95% CI, 0.05 to 5.48) <sup>T</sup>		
					Body as a whole: 1.1% (1/95) vs.		
					1.1% (1/96); RR, 1.01 (95% CI, 0.06 to 15.92) <sup>†</sup>		
					Other: 2.1% (2/95) vs. 3.2% (3/96);		
					RR, 2.02 (95% CI, 0.19 to 21.92) <sup>†</sup>		
					≥1 AE: 72.6% (69/95) vs. 72.9%		
					(70/96); RR, 0.10 (95% CI, 0.84 to		
					1.18) <sup>†</sup>		
					NonSAEs:		
					Osteomuscular: 33.7% (32/95) vs.		
					25.0% (24/96); RR, 1.34 (95% CI,		
					0.83 to 2.11) <sup>†</sup>		
					GI: 23.2% (22/95) vs. 21.9% (21/96);		
					RR, 1.06 (95% CI, 0.63 to 1.79) <sup>†</sup>		
					Metabolic and nutritional: 16.8% (16/95) vs. 18.8% (18/96); RR, 0.90		
					(10/95) vs. 18.8% (18/96), KK, 0.96 (95% CI, 0.49 to 1.65) <sup>†</sup>		
					Hypercalcemia: 7.4% (7/95) vs.		
					11.5% (11/96); RR, 0.64 (95% CI,		
					0.26 to 1.59) <sup>†</sup>		

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

		Intervention	Determination of	Clinical Health Outcomes: Vitamin D	Adverse Events/Harms:	Quality	
Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Fidelity	Outcomes	vs. Control	Vitamin D vs. Control	Rating	Sponsor
Brazier et al, 2005 <sup>157</sup> (Cont'd)	See above	See above	See above		vs. 24.0% (23/96); RR, 0.92 (95% CI, 0.55 to 1.55) <sup>†</sup> Metabolic and nutritional: 9.5% (9/95) vs. 10.4% (10/96); RR, 0.91 (95% CI, 0.38 to 2.14) <sup>†</sup> Hypercalcemia: 6.3% (6/95) vs. 8.3% (8/96); RR, 0.76 (95% CI, 0.27 to 2.10) <sup>†</sup> GI: 9.5% (9/95) vs. 8.3% (8/96); RR, 1.14 (95% CI, 0.46 to 2.82) <sup>†</sup>	See above	See above
Chapuy et al, 2002 <sup>122</sup> Combined calcium and vitamin D <sub>3</sub> supplementation in elderly women: confirmation of reversal of secondary hyperparathyroidism and hip fracture risk. The Decalyos II Study.	NR	Followup levels increased in vitamin D group No verification of pill content Dietary vitamin D intake at baseline: 40.8 IU/day	fractures during investigator assessment every 3 months. For peripheral fractures, date, site, and cause of trauma were recorded on a case report form. For vertebral fractures, spine radiographs were required for confirmation. AEs: every 3 months, women were asked whether they had experienced any AEs. Falls: NR Mortality: NR Hypercalcemia: measured	CI, 0.36 to 1.07) <sup>†</sup> Nonvertebral fractures: 17.8% (70/393) vs. 17.9% (34/190); RR, 1.0 (95% CI, 0.7 to 1.4) <sup>†</sup> Fallers: 63.9% (251/393) vs. 62.1% (118/190); RR, 1.0 (95% CI, 0.9 to 1.2) <sup>†</sup> Mortality: 18.1% (70/393) vs. 23.9% (45/190); RR, 0.75 (95% CI, 0.54 to 1.05) <sup>†</sup> (ITT	GI disturbance (nausea, diarrhea, epigastric pain): 6.1% (24/393) vs. 8.4% (16/190); RR, 0.73 (95% CI, 0.40 to 1.33) <sup>†</sup> Withdrawals due to GI AEs: 3 (group NR) Hypercalcemia: 3 vs. 0; RR, 3.39 (95% CI, 0.18 to 65.4) <sup>†</sup> No kidney stones reported Hypercalciuria at 12 months (urinary calcium >350 mg/24 hours): 3.0% (5/166) vs. 1.3% (1/77); RR, 2.32 (95% CI, 0.28 to 19.52) <sup>†</sup> Hypercalciuria at 24 months (urinary calcium >350 mg/24 hours): 3.4% (3/89) vs. 2.9% (1/35); RR, 1.18 (95% CI, 0.13 to 10.96) <sup>†</sup>	Fair	Merck KGaA, Germany
Gallagher et al, 2013 <sup>160</sup> Effects of vitamin D supplementation in older African American women	Screened throughout the year from January 2008 to January 2010	levels Verified pill content Mean baseline vitamin D intake NR Participants	AEs: prespecified; self-reported by patient, recorded at each regularly scheduled visit Hypercalcemia: measured serum calcium, defined as either >10 or >10.8 mg/dL, collected at baseline and after 3, 6, 9, and 12 months of treatment	author correspondence)	Withdrawals due to AEs: 1.1% (1/93; uncontrolled diabetes) vs. 5.9% (1/17; hypercalcemia); RR, 0.18 (95% CI, 0.01 to 2.78)† Patients with SAEs: 1.1% (1/93; cerebral hemorrhage) vs. 0/17; RR, 0.57 (95% CI, 0.02 to 14.0); thought to be unrelated to treatment Hypercalcemia (serum calcium level ≥10 or ≥10.8 mg/dL): 8.6% (8/93) vs. 5.9% (1/17); RR, 1.5 (95% CI, 0.20 to 11.0) (as per author correspondence)		Grant from the National Institute on Aging and the Office of Dietary Supplements

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Intervention Fidelity	Determination of Outcomes	Clinical Health Outcomes: Vitamin D vs. Control	Adverse Events/Harms: Vitamin D vs. Control	Quality Rating	Sponsor
Gallagher et al, 2014 <sup>159</sup> Vitamin D supplementation in young white and African American women	Screened throughout the year from	Assessed followup levels	AEs: prespecified; self-reported by patient, recorded at each regularly scheduled visit Hypercalcemia: measured serum calcium, defined as ≥10.6 mg/dL, collected at baseline and after 3, 6, 9, and 12 months of treatment		Patients with SAEs: 4 patients with 5 events (internal bleeding from auto accident; subarachnoid hemorrhage from hemangioma; maxillary hypoplasia surgery; and broken ankle and tibia); no events attributed to study treatment (NR by group) Hypercalcemia (serum calcium ≥10.3 mg/dL): 1 event in black participant using 400 IU vitamin D daily; 0.63% (1/160) vs. 0/38; RR, 0.73 (95% CI, 0.03 to 17.5) Kidney stones: none	Fair	Grant from the Department of Defense
Grimnes et al, 2011 <sup>158</sup> Vitamin D, insulin secretion, sensitivity, and lipids: results from a case-control study and a randomized controlled trial using hyperglycemic clamp technique	used sun bed	Assessed followup levels No assessment of pill content At baseline, 26% of participants took vitamin D supplements	reported to be out of the normal range Other outcomes: unclear	Mortality: 0/51 vs. 1/53 (unknown cause); RR, 0.34 (95% CI, 0.01 to 8.15)	Number of AEs: 45 vs. 46 No hypercalcemia No kidney stones		Norwegian Council of Cardiovascular Disease
Janssen et al, 2010 <sup>127</sup> Muscle strength and mobility in vitamin D- insufficient female geriatric patients: a randomized controlled trial on vitamin D and calcium supplementation	NR	Followup levels increased in intervention group No verification of pill content Diet and supplement use NR		Mortality: 1 (NR by group)	Withdrawals: 15.7% (11/70) overall; 22.2% (8/36) vs. 8.8% (3/34); RR, 0.94 (95% CI, 0.20 to 4.36) <sup>†</sup> Other withdrawals: cognitive decline (4), malignant lung tumor (1), recurrent upper urinary tract infections with malaise (2), acute emotional distress (1), hip fracture (1), peritonitis (1) No AE reported during intervention period; 3 participants reported nausea with the calcium tablets		Prevention Program of ZonMw

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Intervention Fidelity	Determination of Outcomes	Clinical Health Outcomes: Vitamin D vs. Control	Adverse Events/Harms: Vitamin D vs. Control	Quality Rating	Sponsor
Knutsen et al, 2014 <sup>132</sup> Does vitamin D improve muscle strength in adults? A randomized, double- blind, placebo- controlled trial among ethnic minorities in Norway	January to March	Followup levels increased in intervention group Pill count at followup		NR	Brief hospital admission: 2.7% (2/75) in 25 µg/day vs. 0 in 10 µg/day vs. 1.4% (1/71) in control; deemed unrelated to drug Few, mild, and equally reported harms between groups; otherwise no information reported		Institute of Health and Society, University of Oslo, Norwegian Women's Public Health, Association Furst Medical Laboratory and Nycomed Pharma AS
compared with placebo: effects on	October to June Told to limit UV exposure by avoiding or wearing sun block	intervention No verification of pill content Subjects asked not to change diet and to refrain from taking supplements with >100 IU of vitamin D during period of	balance, a gait speed test (timed 4-minute walk), and timed rising from chair and sitting without the use of arms for 5 repetitions AEs: recorded at each study	Mean SPPB summary score change from baseline at week 16: 0.355 (95% CI, 0.1008 to 0.601) vs. 0.601 (95% CI, 0.351 to 0.852); p=0.162 Mortality: 0.9% (1/114) vs. 0/112; RR, 2.95 (95% CI, 0.12 to 71.61) <sup>†</sup>	Withdrawals due to AEs: 2.6% (3/114) vs. 4.5% (5/112); RR, 0.59 (95% CI, 0.14 to 2.41) <sup>†</sup> SAEs: 2.6% (3/114) vs. 2.7% (3/112); RR, 0.98 (95% CI, 0.20 to 4.76) <sup>†</sup> ≥1 AE: 21% (24/114) vs. 23.2% (26/112); RR, 0.91 (95% CI, 0.56 to 1.48) <sup>†</sup> Drug-related: 0.9% (1/114) vs. 3.6% (4/112); RR, 0.25 (95% CI, 0.03 to 2.16) <sup>†</sup> No kidney stones No serious laboratory AEs No difference between groups in hypercalciuria, hypercalcemia, or elevated creatinine (data not shown)	Fair	Merck and Co, Inc.

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Intervention Fidelity	Determination of Outcomes	Clinical Health Outcomes: Vitamin D vs. Control	Adverse Events/Harms: Vitamin D vs. Control	Quality Rating	Sponsor
Pfeifer et al, 2000 <sup>162</sup> Effects of a short- term Vitamin D and calcium supplementation on body sway and secondary hyperparathyroidism in elderly women	Baseline vitamin D levels in March and supplementation from March to May	increased in intervention group	Fractures resulting from falls: verified by x-ray and medical reports	Number of participants who fell after 1 year of followup: 16% (11/70) vs. 28% (19/67); RR, 0.55 (95% CI, 0.29 to 1.08) <sup>†</sup> Mean number of falls after 1 year of followup: 0.24 (17 falls/70 persons) vs. 0.45 (30 falls/67 persons); p<0.05 Number of participants with fractures after 1 year of followup: 4% (3/70) vs. 9% (6/67) total; RR, 0.48 (95% CI, 0.12 to 1.84)  By fracture site Radius/ulna: 2.9% (2/70) vs. 4.5% (3/67); RR, 0.64 (95% CI, 0.11 to 3.70) Pelvis: 0/70 vs. 1.5% (1/67); RR, 0.32 (95% CI, 0.01 to 7.70) Hip: 0/70 vs. 1.5% (1/67); RR, 0.32 (95% CI, 0.01 to 7.70) Ankle/foot: 1.4% (1/70) vs. 1.5% (1/67); RR, 0.36 (95% CI, 0.06 to 15.00)	NR	Fair	Strathmann AG Hamburg

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

				Clinical Health			
		Intervention	Determination of	Outcomes: Vitamin D	Adverse Events/Harms:	Quality	
Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Fidelity	Outcomes	vs. Control	Vitamin D vs. Control	Rating	Sponsor
Wamberg et al, 2013 <sup>125</sup> The effect of high-dose vitamin D supplementation on calciotropic hormones and bone mineral density in obese subjects with low levels of circulating 25-hydroxyvitamin D: results from a randomized controlled study  Wamberg et al, 2013 <sup>133</sup> Effects of vitamin D supplementation on body fat accumulation, inflammation, and metabolic risk factors in obese adults with low vitamin D levels: results from a	Recruited from February 2010 to May 2011	Assessed followup levels No assessment of pill content At baseline, mean dietary vitamin D	AEs: prespecified; patient visits at weeks 2, 10, and 18 for safety measures and AE registration; no other details provided Hypercalcemia: not specifically assessed, spontaneous reporting by patients		All NS: Total AEs: 13 vs. 17; p=0.76 (nausea, constipation, tiredness, and headaches); RR, 0.76 (95% CI, 0.48 to 1.23) <sup>†</sup> Hypercalcemia: 0/26 vs. 0/26		NR
randomized trial							
	cipants had 25(C	H)D level ≤30 ng/m	L, with ≥10% with 25(OH)D leve	el ≥20 ng/mL			
Aloia et al, 2008 <sup>174</sup> Vitamin D intake to attain a desired serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentration	Recruited during 3 winters (November to March) and followed for 6 months (into	Assessed followup levels Probable verification of pill content (somewhat unclear)	AEs and hypercalcemia: prespecified clinical laboratory criteria for safety (serum calcium >10.6 mg/L, urine calcium/creatine ratio >0.16 mg/mL, and serum vitamin D level >80 ng/mL)	NR	High concentration of 25(OH)D (>80 ng/mL): 0.7% (1/138) Hypercalcemia: 0 Hypercalcuria: 0		Partially funded by Merck Co. and the Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

				Clinical Health			
		Intervention	Determination of	Outcomes: Vitamin D	Adverse Events/Harms:	Quality	
Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Fidelity	Outcomes	vs. Control	Vitamin D vs. Control	Rating	Sponsor
Arvold et al, 2009 <sup>170</sup>	Participants	Followup levels	Depressed mood (FIQ scale		No AE reported by any participants	Fair	St. Luke's
Correlation of	identified and	increased in	from 0 to 100); ranking of	mean and (SD):			Foundation
	study started in		depressed mood and	Before treatment: 33.6			
1	midwinter		interference with work or	(18.4) vs. 27.8 (17.5)			
and symptom			housework on scale from 0 to	After treatment: 29.9			
response to		were within 10% of	10	(19.7) vs. 29.7 (15.8);			
cholecalciferol		stated dose		p=0.03			
treatment: a		Number NR of		Depressed mood from			
randomized		diet/supplement		FIQ Part III, mean and			
controlled trial		use during period		(SD):			
		of observation		Before treatment: 2.9			
				(2.3) vs. 2.4 (2.6)			
				After treatment: 2.8			
				(2.7) vs. 2.1 (2.0); p=NS			
				for change from			
				baseline in either group			
				or between groups.			
				Interference with work			
				or housework from FIQ			
				Part III, mean and (SD):			
				Before treatment: 3.1			
				(2.5) vs. 2.7 (2.5) After treatment: 2.7			
				(2.7) vs. 3.0 (2.4);			
				p=0.08			
Berlin et al, 1986 <sup>178</sup> **	February to	Assessed followup	Unclear		No AEs, objective or subjective,	Poor	Grants from the
	April	levels	Official		were reported	1 001	Swedish Medical
relationship between		No assessment of			word reported		Research Council
vitamin D <sub>3</sub> status	no subjects	pill content					(project 03X-
and urinary excretion							3141), Loo and
of calcium in healthy							Hans Ostermans
subjects: effects of	oral oral our light						Foundation,
increased levels of							Stockholm, and
25-hydroxyvitamin							ACO Lakemedal
$D_3$							AB, Solna,
							Sweden

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

				Clinical Health			
		Intervention	Determination of	Outcomes: Vitamin D	Adverse Events/Harms:	Quality	
Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Fidelity	Outcomes	vs. Control	Vitamin D vs. Control	Rating	Sponsor
Bischoff et al,	Winter	Followup levels	Falls: recorded by nurses on	Pretreatment period	Constipation: 2 vs. 0; RR, 4.8 (95%	Fair	Stratham AG;
2003 <sup>165</sup>	(November and	increased in	inpatient unit who had training	Total falls (n): 22 vs. 20	CI, 0.2 to 98.8)		International
Effects of vitamin D	March)				Hypercalcemia: 0		Foundation for
and calcium			circumstances, injuries); nurses				the Promotion of
supplementation on		pill content					Nutrition
falls: a randomized				to 1.96) <sup>†</sup>	(95% CI, 0.01 to 7.8		Research and
controlled trial				<u>During treatment</u>			Nutrition
			AEs: reported to the physician	Total falls (n): 25 vs. 55			Education; Swiss
			in charge of the patient and to 1				Orthopedic
		use during period		(n): 48 vs. 42; RR, 1.1			Society; Swiss
		of observation NR		(95% CI, 0.9 to 1.4)			Foundation for
				Persons with 1 fall (n):			Nutrition
			hypercalcemia or frequency	10 vs. 8; RR, 1.2 (95% CI, 0.5 to 2.9)			Research
				Persons with 2–5 falls			
				(n): 3 vs. 7; RR, 0.4			
				(95% CI, 0.1 to 1.5)			
				Persons with 6–7 falls			
				(n): 1 vs. 2; RR, 0.5			
				(95% CI, 0.05 to 5.2)			
				Persons with >7 falls			
				(n): 0 vs. 1; RR, 0.3			
				(95% CI, 0.01 to 7.8)			
				Fallers (n): 23% (14/62)			
				vs. 30% (18/60); RR,			
				0.7 (95% CI, 0.3 to 1.5)			
				Vitamin D group had			
				49% reduction (p=0.01)			
				in falls after adjusting			
				for age, falls in			
				pretreatment period,			
				baseline 1,25(OH) <sub>2</sub> D			
				and 25(OH)D, and			
				observation time during			
				treatment. Using			
				absolute number of falls			
				as primary outcome,			
				vitamin D group had			
				62% reduction in falls			
				(p<0.0002) after			
				adjustment			

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

		Intervention	Determination of	Clinical Health Outcomes: Vitamin D	Adverse Events/Harms:	Quality	
Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Fidelity	Outcomes	vs. Control	Vitamin D vs. Control	Rating	Sponsor
Bischoff et al, 2003 <sup>165</sup> (cont'd)	See above	See above	See above	Mean number of excessive falls among fallers was lower in the vitamin D group (p=0.045), suggesting decrease in recurrent falls	See above	See above	See above
vitamin D supplementation in postmenopausal women: a randomized trial	winter and early spring 1st phase: April to May 2007 2nd phase: January to May 2008	levels Verified pill content Mean baseline vitamin D intake: 114 IU/day Participants instructed not to	AEs: prespecified; self-reported by patient, recorded at each regularly scheduled visit, validated by chart review Hypercalcemia: measured serum calcium, defined as either >10 or >10.8 mg/dL, collected at baseline and after 3, 6, 9, and 12 months of treatment		Withdrawals due to AEs: 1.4% (3/142) vs. 0/21; RR, 1.08 (95% CI, 0.06 to 20.15) <sup>†</sup> Patients with any AEs: 85.2% (121/142) vs. 85.7% (18/21); RR, 0.99 (95% CI, 0.82 to 1.20) <sup>†</sup> Patients with SAEs: 6.3% (9/142; diverticulitis, cerebrovascular accident, knee replacement, partial thyroidectomy, tibia-fibula fracture, cholecystectomy, CHF, angina and stent, COPD exacerbation [no events attributed to treatment]) vs. 9.5% (2/21; syncope and total hip replacement); RR, 0.67 (95% CI, 0.15 to 2.87) <sup>†</sup> Kidney stones: 0 vs. 0 Hypercalcemia (serum calcium level ≥10 mg/dL): 10.6% (16/142) vs. 4.8% (1/21); RR, 2.22 (95% CI, 0.31 to 15.93) <sup>†</sup> Hypercalcemia (serum calcium level ≥10.8 mg/dL): 3.5% (5/142) vs. 0; RR, 1.69 (95% CI, 0.10 to 29.55) <sup>†</sup>	Good	Grant from the National Institute on Aging
Harris et al, 1999 <sup>176‡‡</sup> Plasma 25- hydroxyvitamin D responses of younger and older men to three weeks of supplementation with 1800 IU/day of vitamin D	Late winter (February); excluded those in outdoor jobs or those who traveled to southern locations in the previous month	Assessed followup levels No assessment of pill content	Unclear	NR	No AEs of supplementation reported	Poor	U.S. Department of Agriculture

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

		Intervention	Determination of	Clinical Health Outcomes: Vitamin D	Adverse Events/Harms:	Quality	
Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Fidelity	Outcomes	vs. Control	Vitamin D vs. Control	Rating	
	November to	Assessed followup	Hypercalcemia: measure serum	NR	9 independently living subjects	Fair	Grant from
	December,	levels	calcium at baseline and after 11		reported mild GI symptoms with		Academy of
	Kuopos (63°		weeks of treatment		treatment		Finland, the
safety of calcium and		pill content			No kidney stones reported		Remeda
	winter [5 hour]				No hypercalcemia		Pharmaceutical
elderly	and long						Company, and
	summer [11						the Sandoz
	hour] days)						Pharmaceutical
	Institutionalized						Company
	had sun						
	exposure to some extent in						
	summer						
	Baseline vitamin	Followup levels	Number of falls and number of	Number of falls: 430 vs	Discontinued medication due to AE:	Fair	Finnish Cultural
100++	D measures:	increased in	falls requiring medical attention		6% (17/290; GI symptoms [n=9],	ı alı	Foundation,
Does daily vitamin D					exacerbation of diseases [n=2],		Sigrid Juselius
	Followup	Pills distributed by			mouth irritation [n=1], skin		Foundation,
	vitamin D	pharmacist but no		67% (205/306); RR,	symptoms [n=1], nausea [n=1],		Academy of
•	measures:	verification of pill		0.82 (95% CI, 0.73 to	cough [n=1], backache [n=1], weight		Finland, Kuopia
decrease the risk of	January to May	content	Mortality: NR	0.92); no fall vs. fall,	increase [n=1]) vs. NR		University-
falling in ambulatory		Groups asked to	-	OR, 0.82 (95% CI, 0.58	/		Hospital EVO-
women aged 65-71		continue with their		to 1.14); 0 or 1 fall vs.			grant
years? A 3-year		previous diet		≥2 falls, OR, 0.70 (95%			
randomized		during study		CI, 0.50 to 0.97)			
population-based				Number of women with			
trial (OSTPRE-FPS)				falls requiring medical			
IZ . I I ( . I				attention: 33% (95/287)			
Karkkainen et al, 2010 <sup>153‡‡</sup>				vs. 35% (106/306); no			
				fall vs. fall requiring			
Effect of calcium and vitamin D				medical attention, OR,			
supplementation on				0.93 (95% CI, 0.66 to 1.31); 0 or 1 fall vs. ≥2			
bone mineral density				falls requiring medical			
in women aged 65-				attention, OR, 0.82			
71 years: a 3-year				(95% CI, 0.49 to 1.37)			
randomized				Mortality: 1% (3/290) vs.			
population-based				0.3% (1/313); RR, 3.24			
trial (OSTPRE-FPS)				(95% CI, 0.34 to 30.95) <sup>†</sup>			

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

		Intervention	Determination of	Clinical Health Outcomes: Vitamin D	Adverse Events/Harms:	Quality	
Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Fidelity	Outcomes	vs. Control	Vitamin D vs. Control	Rating	Sponsor
Kjaergaard et al, 2012 171 Effect of vitamin D supplement on depression scores in people with low levels of serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D: nested case-control study and randomized clinical trial	Inclusion period from October to April of following year	Assessed followup levels Pills distributed by pharmacist but no verification of pill content	Depressive symptoms: Beck Depression Inventory (BDI); Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS); Montgomery-Åsberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS) AEs: self-report via telephone interview at 3 months; serum levels measured at baseline and end of study	Median total BDI score at 6 months: 3 vs. 2; p=NS Median total HADS score at 6 months: 4 vs. 3; p=NS Median MADRS score at 6 months: 2 vs. 1; p=NS No significant difference between groups for change from baseline when stratifying by sex, age, BMI, serum 25(OH)D level at	No significant difference between groups for AEs Hypercalcemia: 1 patient in placebo group had serum calcium of 10.5 mg/dL (resolved 4 weeks later); 0/120 vs. 1/110; RR, 0.31 (95% CI, 0.01 to 7.43) AEs by organ system Gastrointestinal: 14 vs. 12	Good	Northern Norway Regional Health Authority grant
					but no further information provided		
Krieg et al, 1999 <sup>154‡‡</sup> Effect of supplementation with vitamin D <sub>3</sub> and calcium on quantitative ultrasound of bone in elderly institutionalized women: a longitudinal study		Assessed followup levels No assessment of pill content		vs. 21% (26/124); RR, 0.81 (95% CI, 0.48 to 1.36) <sup>†</sup> (no deaths were deemed to be related to treatment)	disturbances and severe illness: 2.4% (3/124) vs. 1.6% (2/124); RR, 1.50 (95% CI, 0.26 to 8.82) <sup>†</sup> Withdrawals due to upper GI AEs: 4.8% (6/124) vs. 0; RR, 13.00 (95% CI, 0.74 to 228.32) Withdrawals due to hypercalcemia: 0.8% (1/124) vs. 0; RR, 3.00 (95% CI, 0.12 to 72.94) <sup>†</sup> (due to hyperparathyroidism)	Fair	NR
Lehmann et al, 2013 <sup>115</sup> Bioavailability of vitamin D <sub>2</sub> and D <sub>3</sub> in healthy volunteers, a randomized placebo-controlled trial		Assessed followup levels Verified pill content	interviewed about AEs at each	NR	No AEs reported; no hypercalcemia detected		German Ministry of Education and Research

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Intervention Fidelity	Determination of Outcomes	Clinical Health Outcomes: Vitamin D vs. Control	Adverse Events/Harms: Vitamin D vs. Control	Quality Rating	Sponsor
Lips et al, 1996 <sup>161</sup> Vitamin D supplementation and fracture incidence in elderly persons: a randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial  Ooms et al, 1995 <sup>120</sup> Prevention of bone loss by vitamin D supplementation in elderly women: a randomized doubleblind trial	Enrolled from August to December	increased in intervention group No verification of pill content Spontaneous use of vitamin D supplements and vitamin D was discouraged, but	for participants; GPs or caretakers asked to immediately report hip fracture; hip fractures were verified with	49 vs. 36; HR, 1.3 (95% CI, 0.84 to 2.0)	Reported AE: 0.6% (1/177) vs. 0; RR, 2.90 (95% CI, 0.12 to 70.68) <sup>†</sup> Hypercalcemia: 0.6% (1/177) vs. 0; RR, 2.90 (95% CI, 0.12 to 70.68) <sup>†</sup>	_	Praeventiefonds grant
Martineau et al, 2007 <sup>179</sup> A single dose of vitamin D enhances immunity to mycobacteria	NR	Assessed followup levels only in intervention group No assessment of pill content	Unclear		Hypercalcemia: 0 vs. 0 No other AEs reported		Welcome Trust, Department of Environmental Health, London Borough of Newham, Newham University Hospital NHS Trust Research Fund, and Northwick Park Hospital Tropical Research Fund

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

				Clinical Health			
		Intervention	Determination of	Outcomes: Vitamin D	Adverse Events/Harms:	Quality	
Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Fidelity	Outcomes	vs. Control	Vitamin D vs. Control	Rating	Sponsor
Pfeifer et al, 2009 <sup>163</sup>	May (vitamin D	Followup levels	Falls at 20 months: daily fall	≥1 fall: 40% (49/122) vs.	NR	Fair	Meda Pharma
Effects of a long-	levels start to	increased in		63% (75/120); RR, 0.64			Inc.
term vitamin D and	rise) to March	intervention group	contacted by telephone every 2				
calcium				Mean number of falls:			
	at their lowest)	/		0.63 vs. 1.41; p<0.001			
falls and parameters		1 1	Fractures due to falls: verified	Total falls (per text): 76			
of muscle function in			by x-ray and medical reports	vs. 171			
community-dwelling		of observation NR		Total falls (per Table 3):			
older individuals		No verification of		106 vs. 169; p<0.001			
		pill content		By number of falls <sup>‡‡‡</sup>			
		Instructed to		1: 20% (24/120) vs.			
		maintain usual diet		30% (37/122); RR, 0.66			
		and avoid taking		(95% CI, 0.42 to 1.03)			
		supplemental		2: 11% (13/120) vs.			
		calcium and		15% (18/122); RR, 0.73			
		vitamin D on own		(95% CI, 0.38 to 1.43)			
		(unclear if these		3: 2.5% (3/120) vs.			
		instructions		5.7% (7/122); RR, 0.44			
		applied to entire		(95% CI, 0.12 to 1.65)			
		trial period or only		>3: 11% (13/120) vs.			
		for 12 months of		7.4% (9/122); RR, 1.47			
		treatment)		(95% CI, 0.65 to 3.31)			
				Time to first fall at			
				month 12: 27%			
				reduction in those using			
				vitamin D + calcium vs.			
				calcium; RR, 0.73 (95%			
				CI, 0.54 to 0.96)			
				Time to first fall at			
				month 20: 39%			
				reduction in those using			
				vitamin D + calcium vs.			
				calcium; RR, 0.61 (95%			
				CI, 0.34 to 0.76) Patients with fractures:			
				5.7% (7/122) vs. 10%			
				(12/120) (text says 13);			
				RR, 0.57 (95% CI, 0.23 to 1.41) <sup>†</sup>			
				Total fractures: 12 vs.			
				19; p=NS			

Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

		Intervention	Determination of	Clinical Health Outcomes: Vitamin D	Adverse Events/Harms:	Quality	
Author, Year, Title*	UV Exposure	Fidelity	Outcomes	vs. Control	Vitamin D vs. Control	Rating	Sponsor
Dose response to vitamin D supplementation among postmenopausal African American women  Aloia et al, 2005 <sup>175</sup> A randomized controlled trial of vitamin D <sub>3</sub> supplementation in African American	NR	levels	Hypercalcemia: measured serum calcium, collected at baseline and after 3, 5, 12, 18, 24, 27, 30, and 36 months	NR	SAE: 8 vs. 7; not deemed related to treatment Total AEs: 222 Study-related AEs Mild hypercalcemia: 6 vs. 3 (resolved on repeat fasting sample); RR, 2.00 (95% CI, 0.51 to 7.78) <sup>†</sup> Transient hypercalciuria: 3 vs. 1 (2/3 in vitamin D group resolved spontaneously); RR, 3.00 (95% CI, 0.32 to 28.37) <sup>†</sup> Persistent hypercalciuria (resolved with stopping calcium): 1 (group NR) Kidney stones: 0 vs. 0		National Institute of Aging
women Wood et al, 2012 <sup>136</sup> Vitamin D <sub>3</sub> supplementation has no effect on conventional cardiovascular risk factors: a parallelgroup, double-blind, placebo-controlled RCT	Baseline and followup during January to March Baseline UVB exposure (weekly standard erythemal dose): 0.5	Assessed followup levels Capsules were reported to be analyzed but results NR Participants told not to take any dietary supplements containing vitamin D for duration of study	after 4 weeks of treatment		Vitamin D 400 vs. 1000 IU vs. control Total AEs: 17 vs. 15 vs. 20; RR for 400 IU vs. control, 0.85 (95% CI, 0.47 to 1.53) <sup>†</sup> ; RR for 1000 IU vs. control, 0.76 (95% CI, 0.41 to 1.39) <sup>†</sup> GI symptoms: 3 vs. 1 vs. 0; RR for 400 IU vs. control, 7.00 (95% CI, 0.37 to 133.83) <sup>†</sup> ; RR for 1000 IU vs. control, 3.0 (95% CI, 0.1 to 73.5) <sup>†</sup> Hypercalcemia: 0 vs.1 vs. 0; RR for 1000 IU vs. control, 3.0 (95% CI, 0.12 to 73.50) <sup>†</sup> Joint pain: 1 vs.1 vs. 0; RR for 400 IU vs. control, 3.00 (95% CI, 0.12 to 72.79) <sup>†</sup> ; RR for 1000 IU vs. control, 3.03 (95% CI, 0.12 to 73.50) <sup>†</sup> SAEs: 7 vs. 8 vs. 4; none were deemed to be related to treatment; RR for 400 IU vs. control, 1.75 (95% CI, 0.53 to 5.80) <sup>†</sup> ; RR for 1000 IU vs. control, 2.02 (95% CI, 0.63 to 6.50) <sup>†</sup>		U.K. Department of Health

<sup>\*</sup> All studies are RCTs unless otherwise specified.

<sup>†</sup> Calculated.

<sup>‡</sup> Characteristics are for participants included in intention-to-treat analysis (n=583).

<sup>§</sup> Estimated from limited information.

Il Proportion of deaths reported in results differs from that described as reason for drop outs (17.1%† vs. 22.4%) and estimated from limited data.

### Appendix C1. Evidence Table of Included Studies of Benefits and Harms of Treatment of Vitamin D Deficiency

- ¶ Unclear if those who dropped out were still included for AE count.
- \*\* Cohort study.
- †† Study provided proportion attrition per group, n values calculated, do not sum to 33 for overall attrition reported by study.
- ## Open RCT.
- §§ 30% of participants refused to have blood drawn.
- III Received some care, but not as much as nursing home.
- ¶¶ Characteristics only reported for those who finished study (n=131).
- \*\*\* Includes 9 persons screened but not randomized.
- ††† 122 persons reported for falls/fractures outcome analyses in the vitamin D + calcium group, which is 1 more than was enrolled for that group.
- ‡‡‡ Total number of participants with a fall does not sum to the number of participants who fell by number of falls.

Abbreviations: 25(OH)D = 25-hydroxyvitamin D; AB = Aktiebolag; AE = adverse event; AG = Aktiengesellschaft; BID = twice a day; BMD = bone mineral density; BMI = body mass index; BP = blood pressure; CHF = congestive heart failure; CI = confidence interval; COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; CVD = cardiovascular disease; DEQAS = Vitamin D External Quality Assurance Scheme; DBP = diastolic blood pressure; EVO = Engineering Virtual Organization; FIQ = Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire; GI = gastrointestinal; GP = general practitioner; HPLC = high performance liquid chromatography; HR = hazard ratio; HRT = hormone replacement therapy; HTN = hypertension; ITT = intention-to-treat; MI = myocardial infarction; n = number; NHS = National Health Service; NR = not reported; NS = not significant; OR = odds ratio; OSTPRE = Osteoporosis Risk Factor and Prevention Study; OSTPRE-FPS = Osteoporosis Risk Factor and Prevention Fracture Prevention Study; PTH = parathyroid hormone; RCT = randomized, controlled trial; RR = risk ratio; SAE = serious adverse event; SBP = systolic blood pressure; SD = standard deviation; SPPB = Short Physical Performance Battery; TB = tuberculosis; UV = ultraviolet; UVB = ultraviolet B.

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Appendix C2. Evidence Table of Nested Case-Control Studies From the Women's Health Initiative Trial

Author, Year,				Definition of Deficiency/	Baseline 25(OH)D	25(OH)D Level
Title	Population Characteristics	Eligibility Criteria	Assay	Insufficiency	Level (ng/mL)	Attained (ng/mL)
	Mean age (years): 62* Female: 100% Race: 83.1% white; 9.1% black; 4.2% Hispanic; 0.42% American Indian or Native American; 2.0% Asian or Pacific Islander; 1.2%	Inclusion: Postmenopausal women in the WHI hormone therapy and dietary modification trials ages 50 to 70 years with predicted survival of >3 years and no safety, adherence, or retention risks.  Exclusion: History of hypercalcemia, kidney stones; current use of corticosteroids, calcitriol, and ≥600 IU/day of vitamin D.		NR	NR	NR for all participants; after 2 years, in subsample (selected without regard to nonstudy supplement use or adherence to medication) of 227 women assigned to vitamin D and 221 women assigned to placebo, vitamin D levels were 28% higher (9 ng/mL) in women taking vitamin D
Jackson et al, 2006 <sup>164</sup> Calcium plus vitamin D supplementation and the risk of fractures	Number of cases (annualized %) of hip fracture in vitamin D vs. control by baseline characteristics Age group at screening (years); HR all NS 50 to 59: 29 (0.06) vs. 13	Cases: All adjudicated cases of hip, spine, and lower arm or wrist fracture.  Controls: Free of fracture for the duration of study; individually matched to cases by age, latitude of clinical center, race or ethnic group, and date of venipuncture.	As above	NR	90% <31; outcomes presented in quartiles of baseline 25(OH)D level as >24, 18 to 24, 13 to 18, and <13 ng/mL	As above

Appendix C2. Evidence Table of Nested Case-Control Studies From the Women's Health Initiative Trial

Author, Year, Title	Population Characteristics	Eligibility Criteria	Assay	Definition of Deficiency/ Insufficiency	Baseline 25(OH)D Level (ng/mL)	25(OH)D Level Attained (ng/mL)
and the risk of colorectal cancer	Number of cases (annualized %) of invasive colorectal cancer in vitamin D vs. control by baseline characteristics Age group at screening (years); HR all NS 50 to 59: 33 (0.07) vs. 32 (0.07) 60 to 69: 81 (0.14) vs. 78 (0.14) 70 to 79: 54 (0.25) vs. 44 (0.21) Race or ethnic group; HR all NS White: 145 (0.14) vs. 129 (0.12) Black: 13 (0.11) vs. 16 (0.14) Hispanic: 5 (0.09) vs. 4 (0.08) American Indian/Alaskan Native: 2 (0.37) vs. 0 (0) Asian or Pacific Islander: 2 (0.08) vs. 3 (0.13) Unknown or not identified: 1 (0.07) vs. 2 (0.13)	Cases: Women with confirmed invasive colorectal cancer and adequate stored serum for analysis.  Controls: Women free of colorectal cancer for the duration of study with adequate stored serum for analysis; individually matched to cases according to age, latitude of clinical center, race or ethnic group, and date of venipuncture.	As above		NR; outcomes presented in quartiles of baseline 25(OH)D level as ≥23, 17 to 23, 12 to 17, and <12 ng/mL	As above
2008 <sup>167</sup> Calcium plus vitamin D supplementation and the risk of breast cancer	Number of cases (annualized %) of invasive breast cancer in vitamin D vs. control by baseline characteristics Age group at screening	Cases: Women diagnosed with invasive breast cancer. Controls: Women who were breast cancer free; matched to cases on age, latitude of clinical center, race/ethnicity, date of blood collection.	As above		NR; outcomes presented in quintiles of baseline 25(OH)D level as ≥27, 22 to 27, 18 to 22, 13 to 18, and <13 ng/mL	As above

Appendix C2. Evidence Table of Nested Case-Control Studies From the Women's Health Initiative Trial

Author, Year, Title	Population Characteristics	Eligibility Criteria	Assay	Definition of Deficiency/ Insufficiency	Baseline 25(OH)D Level (ng/mL)	25(OH)D Level Attained (ng/mL)
de Boer et al, 2008 <sup>169</sup> Calcium plus vitamin D supplementation and the risk of incident diabetes in the Women's Health Initiative	Number of cases (annualized %) of incident diabetes in vitamin D vs. control by baseline characteristics Age group at screening (years); HR all NS 50 to 59: 431 (0.91) vs. 426 (0.91) 60 to 69: 535 (1.01) vs. 518 (0.98) 70 to 79: 188 (0.95) vs. 193 (0.98) Race/ethnic group; HR=NS White: 846 (0.84) vs. 855 (0.85) Black: 166 (1.66) vs. 163 (1.66)	Cases and controls: Women with prevalent diabetes at baseline were excluded; selected from controls used in case-control study of fracture (Jackson 2008), in which participants were free of fracture for the duration of study and were individually matched to fracture cases by age, latitude of clinical center, race or ethnic group, and date of venipuncture. Cases: Women with new physician diagnosis of diabetes treated with oral hypoglycemic agents or insulin.  Controls: Women with no physician diagnosis of diabetes treated with oral hypoglycemic agents or insulin.		NR	<32 for 89% of participants; <20 for 61% of participants; outcomes presented in quartiles of baseline 25(OH)D level as >24, 17 to 24, 13 to 17, and <13 ng/mL	As above
Initiative calcium- vitamin D randomized controlled trial	%) of death in vitamin D vs. control by baseline characteristics Race/ethnic group; HR=NS, except where noted White: 607 (0.57) vs. 679 (0.64); HR, 0.89 (95% CI, 0.80 to 0.99) Black: 79 (0.68) vs. 89 (0.78) Hispanic: 23 (0.42) vs. 11	<u>Cases:</u> Women who died and had baseline vitamin D levels from their involvement in previous WHI case-control studies of fracture and colorectal cancer (Jackson 2008; Wactawski-Wende 2006). <u>Controls:</u> Living participants from previous WHI case-control studies of fracture and colorectal cancer (Jackson 2008; Wactawski-Wende 2006).	As above	NR	NR; outcomes presented in tertiles of baseline 25(OH)D level as ≥21, 14 to 21, and <14 ng/mL	As above

Appendix C2. Evidence Table of Nested Case-Control Studies From the Women's Health Initiative Trial

Author, Year, Title	Number Approached, Screened, Eligible, Enrolled, Analyzed	Country and Setting	UV Exposure	Duration of Followup	Attrition
Overall WHI Trial Fair	Approached: 68,132 Screened: 68,132 Eligible: 36,282	population- based Institutionalized: NR	Solar irradiance of region for entire trial (Langley): Mean, 382±60 (controls matched to cases on this parameter)	Mean, 7.0 years (SD, 1.4)	Overall: 7.0% (2531/ 36,282) Vitamin D vs. control: 6.8% (1240/18,176) vs. 7.1% (1291/18,106)
the risk of fractures	controls, 357 pairs for hip fracture, 1491 pairs for total fracture in case-control study <sup>†</sup> Analyzed: 357 (95%) pairs for hip fracture, 1491 (80%) pairs for total fracture in case-control study		Number of cases (annualized %) of hip fracture in vitamin $D_3$ vs. control by solar irradiance (Langley); HR=NS 300 to 325: 46 (0.12) vs. 53 (0.14) 350: 37 (0.14) vs. 49 (0.18) 375 to 380: 25 (0.18) vs. 17 (0.12) 400 to 430: 25 (0.12) vs. 37 (0.17) 475 to 500: 42 (0.16) vs. 43 (0.16)	As above	As above
Wactawski-Wende et al, 2006 <sup>168</sup> Calcium plus vitamin D supplementation and the risk of colorectal cancer	Enrolled: 634 (317 pairs for	As above	As above	As above	As above
Chlebowski et al, 2008 <sup>167</sup> Calcium plus vitamin D supplementation and the risk of breast cancer	Eligible: 1074 Enrolled: 1067 cases, 1067 controls Analyzed: 895 cases, 895 controls	As above	As above	As above	As above
diabetes in the Women's Health Initiative	Eligible: 1699 controls from previous case-control study (Jackson 2008) <sup>‡</sup> Analyzed: 3097	As above	Vitamin D vs. control Number of events/at risk (annualized %) by solar irradiance of region (Langley); HR=NS 400 to 500: 459/6455 (1.02) vs. 435/6431 (0.97) 350 to 380: 414/5475 (1.08) vs. 423/5467 (1.10) 300 to 325: 281/5069 (0.77) vs. 279/5054 (0.77)	As above	As above
supplementation and mortality in postmenopausal women: the Women's	Eligible: 3594 (2982 from fracture case-control study, 612 from colorectal case-control study) Enrolled: 2285 (323 cases, 1962 controls) Analyzed: 2285 (323 cases, 1962 controls)	As above	As above	As above	As above

Appendix C2. Evidence Table of Nested Case-Control Studies From the Women's Health Initiative Trial

Author, Year,		Calcium and Other		Clinical Health Outcomes: Vitamin D	
Title	Interventions	Nutrients	<b>Determination of Outcomes</b>	vs. Control	Sponsor
Fair	Vitamin D: 200 IU of vitamin D₃ BID (total, 400 IU/day) + 500 mg of calcium carbonate BID (total, 1000 mg/day) Control: Identical placebo BID	Personal use of ≤1000 mg/day calcium and ≤600 IU/day vitamin D allowed. Vitamin D allowance increased to ≤1000 IU/day during trial. At baseline, 39% of participants had intake ≥1200 mg and 43% were using ≥400 IU/day vitamin D. At year 6, nonprotocol vitamin D use reported by 52% of participants and nonprotocol calcium intake increased by about 100 mg/day in both groups.	See individual studies below	See individual studies below	National Institutes of Health
Jackson et al, 2006 <sup>164</sup> Calcium plus vitamin D supplementation and the risk of fractures	As above	As above	Fractures: Verified by review of radiology, magnetic resonance imaging, or operative reports by blinded physician adjudicators at each clinical center. Final adjudication of hip fractures performed centrally.	Incidence and risk for hip fracture (number of cases/controls) by baseline vitamin D level (ng/mL) ≥24: 32/49 vs. 42/40; OR, 0.61 (95% CI, 0.32 to 1.15) 18 to 24: 44/40 vs. 52/39; OR, 0.86 (95% CI, 0.48 to 1.15) 13 to 18: 43/48 vs. 48/49; OR, 0.92 (95% CI, 0.53 to 1.62) <13: 47/44 vs. 49/48; OR, 1.06 (95% CI, 0.60 to 1.86) p=0.64 for interaction Incidence and risk for total fracture (number of cases/controls) by baseline vitamin D level (ng/mL) ≥24: 178/185 vs. 177/201; OR, 1.09 (95% CI, 0.81 to 1.47) 18 to 24: 170/179 vs. 205/191; OR, 0.89 (95% CI, 0.66 to 1.18) 13 to 18: 179/183 vs. 204/181; OR, 0.87 (95% CI, 0.66 to 1.16) <13: 196/167 vs. 182/204; OR, 1.32 (95% CI, 0.99 to 1.76) p=0.15 for interaction	investigators supported by industry

Appendix C2. Evidence Table of Nested Case-Control Studies From the Women's Health Initiative Trial

Author, Year,		Calcium and Other		Clinical Health Outcomes: Vitamin D	
Title	Interventions	Nutrients	<b>Determination of Outcomes</b>	vs. Control	Sponsor
Wactawski- Wende et al, 2006 <sup>168</sup> Calcium plus vitamin D supplementation and the risk of colorectal cancer	As above	As above	Invasive colorectal cancer: reported cases verified in a blinded fashion by local and central physician adjudicators. Tests for colorectal cancer screening were not part of the protocol and were ordered by each participant's personal physician.	Incidence and risk for colorectal cancer (number cases/controls) by baseline vitamin D level (ng/mL) ≥23: 33/48 vs. 27/45; OR, 1.15 (95% CI, 0.58 to 2.27) 17 to 23: 44/41 vs. 34/32; OR, 1.12 (95% CI, 0.59 to 2.12) 12 to 23: 35/32 vs. 45/41; OR, 0.99 (95% CI, 0.51 to 1.91) <12.4: 46/39 vs. 42/28; OR, 0.75 (95% CI, 0.39 to 1.48) p=0.54 for interaction	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute General Clinical Research Center Program of the National Center for Research Resources; several investigators supported by industry
Chlebowski et al, 2008 <sup>167</sup> Calcium plus vitamin D supplementation and the risk of breast cancer	As above	As above	Invasive breast cancer: Confirmed by both local and central medical record and pathology report review by trained adjudicators who were blinded to group allocation.		National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; one author supported by industry

Appendix C2. Evidence Table of Nested Case-Control Studies From the Women's Health Initiative Trial

Author, Year,		Calcium and Other		Clinical Health Outcomes: Vitamin D	
Title	Interventions	Nutrients	<b>Determination of Outcomes</b>		Sponsor
	As above	As above	Diabetes: Case-identification	Incidence and risk for diabetes (number	
2008 <sup>169</sup>			by self-report of a doctor		Lung, and Blood
Calcium plus			prescribing medication or	level (ng/mL)	Institute; National
vitamin D			insulin for diabetes. Study	(	Institutes of
supplementation			states that accuracy of self-	CI, 0.32 to 1.20)	Health Roadmap
and the risk of			reported treated diabetes in		for Medical
incident diabetes			WHI previously assessed	(	Research
in the Women's			using medication and	13 to 17: 17/371 vs. 30/394; OR, 0.66	
Health Initiative			laboratory data.	(95% CI, 0.36 to 1.23)	
				<13: 30/381 vs. 33/391; OR, 1.07 (95%)	
				CI, 0.62 to 1.82) p=0.59 for interaction	
LaCraix at al	An above	A a abaya	Martality Farmanan who	p order to the management	National Llagat
LaCroix et al, 2009 <sup>152</sup>	As above	As above	Mortality: For women who could not be contacted.	Incidence and risk for death (number of cases/controls) by baseline vitamin D	National Heart,
			information about vital status		Lung, and Blood Institute
Calcium plus vitamin D			was sought from previously	<u>level (ng/mL)</u> ≥21: 53/404 vs. 50/425; aOR, 1.04	Institute
supplementation			identified proxy informants,	(95% CI, 0.69 to 1.59)	
and mortality in			National Death Index	14 to 21: 57/301 vs. 59/296; aOR, 0.96	
postmenopausal			searches, and obituary	(95% CI, 0.64 to 1.45)	
women: the			notices. Causes of death	<14: 47/270 vs. 57/266; aOR, 0.79	
Women's Health			were determined based on	(95% CI, 0.51 to 1.23)	
Initiative calcium-			available medical records,	p=0.65 for interaction	
vitamin D			autopsy reports, and the	aOR=stratified by age group,	
randomized			death certificate in a blinded	randomization to hormone therapy or	
controlled trial			fashion by local and central	diet modification and adjusted for age,	
			physician adjudicators.	ethnicity, latitude of clinical center,	
			,	season of blood draw, and treatment	
				assignment	

<sup>\*</sup> Population characteristics are of all WHI trial participants (n=36,282), not the subgroup with serum vitamin D levels.

**Abbreviations:** aOR = adjusted odds ratio; BMI = body mass index; BID = twice a day; CI = confidence interval; HR = hazard ratio; NR = not reported; NS = not significant; OR = odds ratio; SD = standard deviation; UV = ultraviolet; WHI = Women's Health Initiative.

<sup>†</sup> Text states 357 case-control pairs included for hip fracture and 1491 pairs included for total fracture, which is less than the sum of numbers noted above for eligible fractures; unclear why these numbers do not match.

<sup>‡</sup> Discrepancy between the number of controls enrolled as cited in this case-control study (n=1699) and the number that were eligible from previous case-control study based on that study's publication (n=1491); unclear how the number analyzed was computed.

Author, Year	Randomization Adequate?	Adequate?	Baseline?	Eligibility Criteria Specified?	Outcome Assessors Masked?	Care Provider Masked?	Masked?	Reporting of Attrition, Crossovers, Adherence, and Contamination
Aloia et al, 2008 <sup>174</sup>	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arvold et al, 2009 <sup>170</sup>	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Berlin et al, 1986 <sup>178</sup>	No	No	Unclear	Yes	No	No	No	No
Bischoff et al, 2003 <sup>165</sup>	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brazier et al, 2005 <sup>157</sup>	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear, described as double-blind	Unclear, described as double-blind	Unclear, described as double blind	Yes
Chapuy et al, 2002 <sup>122</sup>	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gallagher et al, 2012 <sup>156</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gallagher et al, 2013 <sup>160</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gallagher et al, 2014 <sup>159</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grimnes et al, 2011 <sup>158</sup>	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Harris et al, 1999 <sup>176</sup>	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Honkanen et al, 1990 <sup>128</sup>	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Janssen et al, 2010 <sup>127</sup>	Unclear	Yes	Yes (small difference in age)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kärkkäinen et al, 2010 <sup>153</sup> Kärkkäinen et al,	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Kärkkäinen et al, 2010 <sup>166</sup>								
Kjaergaard et al, 2012 <sup>171</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Krieg et al, 1999 <sup>154</sup>	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Knutsen et al, 2014 <sup>132</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lehmann et al, 2013 <sup>115</sup>	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lips et al, 1996 <sup>161</sup> Ooms et al, 1995 <sup>120</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lips et al, 2010 <sup>155</sup>	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear, described as double-blind	Yes
Martineau et al, 2007 <sup>179</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pfeifer et al, 2000 <sup>162</sup>	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes
Pfeifer et al, 2009 <sup>163</sup>	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes
Talwar et al, 2007 <sup>177</sup> Aloia et al, 2005 <sup>175</sup>	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes

Author, Year	Randomization Adequate?			Eligibility Criteria Specified?	Outcome Assessors Masked?	Care Provider Masked?	Patient Masked?	Reporting of Attrition, Crossovers, Adherence, and Contamination
Wamberg et al, 2013 <sup>125</sup> Wamberg et al, 2013 <sup>133</sup>	Yes	Yes	yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Womens' Health Initiative Jackson et al, 2003 <sup>146</sup> Jackson et al, 2006 <sup>164</sup> Wactawski-Wende et al, 2006 <sup>168</sup> Chlebowski et al, 2008 <sup>167</sup> de Boer et al, 2008 <sup>169</sup> LaCroix et al, 2009 <sup>152</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NR	Yes	Yes
Wood et al, 2012 <sup>136</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Author, Year	and Difference	People Analyzed in the Groups in Which They Were Randomized?		Outcomes Prespecified?	Fidelity to Intervention?	Quality Rating	External Validity*
Aloia et al, 2008 <sup>174</sup>	Yes	Yes	OK	Yes	Yes	Fair	1. University hospital 2. None 3. 53% 4. Good
Arvold et al, 2009 <sup>170</sup>	No (differential)	Yes	ОК	Yes	Yes	Fair	1. Outpatient clinic 2. None 3. 16% 4. Fair, one clinic
Berlin et al, 1986 <sup>178</sup>	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes: Levels	Poor	University hospital     Unclear     NR     Unclear, not much reported about population
Bischoff et al, 2003 <sup>165</sup>	No (high)	Yes	OK	Yes	Yes: Levels	Fair	<ol> <li>Long-stay geriatric clinic</li> <li>None</li> <li>NR</li> <li>Fair, elderly (age ≥60 years), institutionalized</li> </ol>
Brazier et al, 2005 <sup>157</sup>	Yes	Yes	ОК	Yes	Yes: Levels Compliance >90%	Fair	<ol> <li>50 centers</li> <li>None</li> <li>Unclear</li> <li>Fair, only women</li> </ol>

	Acceptable Attrition and Difference	People Analyzed in the Groups in Which They	Post-	Outcomes	Fidelity to	Quality	
Author, Year		Were Randomized?		Prespecified?			
Chapuy et al, 2002 <sup>122</sup>	Yes	Yes	ОК	Yes	Yes: Levels Compliance 95%	Fair	<ol> <li>Homes for the elderly</li> <li>None</li> <li>NR</li> <li>Fair, elderly (age ≥64 years), institutionalized</li> </ol>
Gallagher et al, 2012 <sup>156</sup>	Yes	Yes	ОК	Yes	Yes: Levels Compliance >90%	Good	University medical center     None     8%     Fair, only women
Gallagher et al, 2013 <sup>160</sup>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Fair**	University medical center     None     3. 36%     4. Fair, only women
Gallagher et al, 2014 <sup>159</sup>	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Fair	University medical center     None     3. 35%     Fair, only women
Grimnes et al, 2011 <sup>158</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes: Levels	Fair	1. Community 2. None 3. 31% 4. Good
Harris et al, 1999 <sup>176</sup>	Yes	Yes	Some post- randomization exclusions	Unclear	Yes: Levels	Poor	Tufts University     Unclear recruitment     NR     Unclear
Honkanen et al, 1990 <sup>128</sup>	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes: Levels	Fair	1. City hospital 2. None 3. 62% 4. Fair, only women
Janssen et al, 2010 <sup>127</sup>	No	Yes	ОК	Yes	Yes: Levels Compliance >90%	Fair	<ol> <li>Outpatient clinics</li> <li>None</li> <li>NR</li> <li>Fair, elderly (age &gt;65 years), institutionalized</li> </ol>
Kärkkäinen et al, 2010 <sup>153</sup> Kärkkäinen et al, 2010 <sup>166</sup>		Yes	ОК	Yes	Yes: Levels Compliance 79%	Fair	Population-based     None     Unclear; reports numbers for subsample, not full screened group     Fair, only women
Kjaergaard et al, 2012 <sup>171</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes (6 subjects)	Yes	Yes	Good	1. Community 2. None 3. 18% 4. Good

	and Difference	People Analyzed in the Groups in Which They	Post- Randomization		Fidelity to	Quality	
	Between Groups?	Were Randomized?	Exclusions?	Prespecified?		Rating	External Validity*
Krieg et al, 1999 <sup>154</sup>	No (high)	Yes	OK	No	Yes: Levels	Fair	<ol> <li>Nursing homes</li> <li>NR</li> <li>NR</li> <li>Fair, elderly (age ≥62 years), institutionalized</li> </ol>
Knutsen et al, 2014 <sup>132</sup>	Yes	Yes	ОК	Unclear; no specification whether AEs were prespecified outcome; no clear description of how outcome was collected	Yes: Pill count Compliance 80% consumed ≥80%		<ol> <li>Immigrants' activity centers</li> <li>None</li> <li>83%</li> <li>Fair, immigrants in Northern Europe</li> </ol>
Lehmann et al, 2013 <sup>115</sup>	Yes	Yes	ОК	Unclear	Yes: Levels	Fair	Healthy community population     None     NR     Good
Lips et al, 1996 <sup>161</sup> Ooms et al, 1995 <sup>120</sup>	No (high)	Yes	Some post- randomization exclusions	Yes	Yes: Levels Compliance 85%	Fair	<ol> <li>Community</li> <li>None</li> <li>NR</li> <li>Fair, elderly (age ≥70 years), institutionalized</li> </ol>
Lips et al, 2010 <sup>155</sup>	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes: Levels Compliance 100%	Fair	<ol> <li>Medical centers and nursing homes</li> <li>None</li> <li>38%</li> <li>Fair, elderly (age ≥70 years)</li> </ol>
Martineau et al, 2007 <sup>179</sup>	No (high)	Yes	Yes	Unclear (for AEs)	Yes: Levels	Fair	TB contact clinics     Recruited from TB clinics     53%     Poor, TB clinics
Pfeifer et al, 2000 <sup>162</sup>	Yes	Yes	OK	Yes	Yes: Levels	Fair	<ol> <li>Population-based</li> <li>None</li> <li>90%</li> <li>Fair, elderly (age ≥70 years)</li> </ol>
Pfeifer et al, 2009 <sup>163</sup>	Yes	Yes	OK	Yes	Yes: Levels	Fair	<ol> <li>Population-based</li> <li>None</li> <li>NR</li> <li>Fair, elderly (age ≥70 years)</li> </ol>
Talwar et al, 2007 <sup>177</sup> Aloia et al, 2005 <sup>175</sup>	Yes	Yes	OK	Unclear (for AEs)	Yes: Levels Compliance ~87%	Fair	<ol> <li>Population-based</li> <li>None</li> <li>54%</li> <li>Fair, only women</li> </ol>

		People Analyzed in the	Post-				
	and Difference	Groups in Which They			Fidelity to	Quality	
Author, Year	Between Groups?	Were Randomized?		Prespecified?	Intervention?	Rating	External Validity*
Wamberg_et	Yes	Yes	OK	Yes	Yes: Levels	Fair	University hospital
al, 2013 <sup>125</sup>					Compliance		2. None
Wamberg					>90%		3. 59%
al, 2013 <sup>133</sup>							4. Good
Womens'	Yes	Yes	OK	Yes	No	Fair	Population-based
Health							2. None
Initiative							Case-control studies of subsamples of WHI
Jackson et al,							trial
2003 <sup>146</sup>							4. Fair, only women
Jackson et al,							
2006 <sup>164</sup>							
Wactawski-							
Wende et al, 2006 <sup>168</sup>							
Chlebowski et al, 2008 <sup>167</sup>							
de Boer et al,							
2008 <sup>169</sup>							
LaCroix et al,							
2009 <sup>152</sup>							
Wood et al.	Yes	Yes	OK	Unclear (for	Yes: Levels	Fair	1. Community
2012 <sup>136</sup>				AEs)	Compliance	-	2. None
				,	>90%		3. 72%
							4. Good

<sup>\* 1 =</sup> Setting; 2 = Unusual techniques used to recruit; 3 = Proportion of screened actually enrolled; 4 = Applicability to a screened population.

**Abbreviations:** AE = adverse event; NR = not reported; TB = tuberculosis.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Protocol for recruitment into trial arms was changed post hoc during the study.