

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Clinical Pediatrics*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 27277

Manuscript Type: Review

Vitamin D deficiency/insufficiency from childhood to adulthood: Insights from a sunny country

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Please find below our responses to the reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1 (00069139)

The manuscript is a comprehensive review of Vitamin D and health in both adults and children. - The authors stated in the objective section in the abstract that the paper aimed to review Vitamin D deficiency in children. However, the whole picture of the paper seems blurred with other component. On the other hand, there is not enough data on the effect of Vitamin D deficiency and health-disease in the pediatric age group. - I personally recommend the authors to trim out the general review of Vitamin D and health (in the first half of the paper), and provide a review in-depth concerning Vitamin D def. in various population (also make a summary table to show its prevalence), risk factors, effects of Vitamin D def. in children growth, obesity, intellectual, etc., and recommendations from the big societies.

Our response:

The main purpose of the manuscript was indeed a review of vitamin D deficiency in children with some emphasis on the particularities of it in Israel. The title also implied that the review was to cover some aspects in the adult population. In the background introduction we thought it was important to summarize the main roles of vitamin D and a brief overview of the consequences of deficiency in adults.

As rightly stated by the reviewer there are limited data in children and we tried to emphasize this point in the review. We described the effects of vitamin D deficiency in various populations, and its manifestations in various health conditions.

We agree with the reviewer that additional information's should be provided:

1. We have, as suggested by the reviewer, added a new table highlighting the studies in children in various part of the world and added the known prevalence of vitamin D deficiency according to the current consensus definitions of vitamin D deficiency and insufficiency.
2. We have also added a paragraph on page 15 on the current recommendations of vitamin D intake in different age groups according to the guidelines published by the Institute of Medicine in 2000.
3. We have also added a paragraph on risks factors for vitamin D deficiency/insufficiency on page 10.

Reviewer number #2 (00503255)

The authors submitted a comprehensive review article regarding vitamin D deficiency and relevant clinical conditions, especially in Israel. The paper is very well-written and provides important and valuable information regarding this field. A minor revision: 1. page 2, line 15: "vitamin d" should be corrected to "vitamin D".

Our response:

We thank the reviewer for his positive comments and made the minor corrections suggested.

Reviewer number #3 (00742209)

The reviewer suggests the authors enhance the coherence of the manuscript by not highlighting adults as a subheading. In addition, the authors can include a table summarizing the studies on Vitamin D sufficiency in children. The manuscript is focused on children as indicated by the objective statement and findings in the abstract. However, a section is dedicated to adults in the manuscript. The latter item was difficult to read because its relation to children was not well developed by the authors. The authors can consider re-writing this section under the heading of obesity because the majority of the content in this section is about this topic and it would transition easily to the next section in the manuscript.

Our response:

We agree with the reviewer that there were some inconsistencies in the writing of the manuscript and have made the following changes in responses to his comments:

We have reorganized the text to highlight the emphasis on vitamin D deficiency in children and have now incorporated the section entitled "vitamin D deficiency in adults" in the section entitled vitamin D action.

We have also added a short introduction on the current definitions of vitamin D deficiency/insufficiency, risks factors and recommendations as suggested by reviewer #1 and added a new table as recommended by both this reviewer and reviewer #1.

Abstract. Authors can say "we reviewed the extent" instead of "we surveyed" under settings.

Our response:

We made the correction

Please clarify "Vitamin D deficiency is common" by stating the percent reported by the authors in their paper (para 3 under Vitamin D deficiency in Israel).

Our response:

In the new table 1 the prevalence of vitamin D is now stated and we now refer to this table in the revised version.

We thank the reviewers for their helpful comments and trust that this revised version is now suitable for publication.

Sincerely

Dr Motti Haimi

Dr Richard Kremer