

Response to Editors:

1) Updated Manuscript attached:

Answer to COMMENT by reviewer: The results did not change when the cutoffs were moved for the Monte Carlo simulations from 15 to 20 or 30. The forest plots are attached. We changed the sentence in the methods saying: The odds ratio for severe fibrosis comparing vitamin D levels with a cutoff of 15 ng/ml was estimated for each simulated dataset. A sensitivity analysis was also conducted by using thresholds of 20 ng/ml and 30 ng/ml. The sensitivity analysis with different cutoffs for the Monte Carlo simulations showed robustness of the result to the choice of cutoff, with significant effects for all thresholds employed.

2) The manuscript has been updated according to the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision-Systematic Reviews.

3) Audio core file attached.

4) Screen shot of Title Search on Google

5) Files related to academic norms: Added data sharing statement and conflict of interest statement.

6) There was no grant funding.

7) The language of the manuscript is in plain word English and was written by native English speakers in the USA

8) Copyright form attached.