

62506-Answering Reviewers.

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: In this paper, data from the Worldometer has been analyzed to understand the role of vitamin-D European population status in the COVID-19 pandemic. Linear regression has been employed to find the correlation between published representative-standardized population vitamin-D concentrations and the number of total cases/M, recovered/M, deaths/M, and serious-critically ill/M from COVID-19 for 26 European countries. Life expectancy has also been analyzed with semi-parametric regression. Considering the ongoing pandemic situation, the presented results are suitable for publication and useful for public health systems to advise their populations to enhance their immune system by improving their vitamin D.

A: We thank Reviewer 1 for his honoring comments. English language polishing has been performed by a native English speaker medical instructor (Dr David Fretwell).

(1) Science editor: 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes an "Evidence-Based Medicine" of the population vitamin D status and COVID-19 disease. The topic is within the scope of the WJV. (1) Classification: Grade B; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: In this paper, data from the World has been analyzed to understand the role of vitamin-D European population status in the COVID-19 pandemic. Considering the ongoing pandemic situation, the presented results are suitable for publication and useful for public health systems to advise their populations to enhance their immune system by improving their vitamin D; and (3) Format: There is 1 table and 1 figure. A total of 86 references are cited, including 47 references published in the last 3 years. There are 13 self-citations. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade B. 3 Academic norms and rules: The authors provided the Biostatistics Review Certificate, and the PRISMA 2009 Checklist. No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an unsolicited manuscript. The topic has not previously been published in the WJV. The corresponding author has not published articles in the BPG. 5 Issues raised: (1) I found the authors did not provide the original figures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor; (2) I found the authors did not write the "article highlight" section. Please write the "article highlights" section at the end of the main text; and (3) There are 13 self-citations. Authors should not cite their own unrelated published articles. Please check and remove any references not relevant to this study. 6 Re-Review: Not required. 7 Recommendation: Conditionally accepted.

A: We thank the Science editor for his honoring comments. English language polishing has been performed by a native English speaker medical instructor (Dr David Fretwell). Original figures are now provided as requested. The "article highlights" section has been added. Only the necessary to the presented argumentation self-citations have being retained. Specifically, just 1 for the 1st author and 7 for the chief author Pr. Holick MF (not counting of course the Endocrine Society practice guidelines), who has published over 509 papers in PUBMED indexed journals on vitamin D. The number of references has been now reduced to 79.