Perspective



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# DESCRIPTION

Vitamin D deficiency in children can lead to growth failure and rickets, among other problems. The American Academy of Pediatrics raised the daily vitamin D intake recommendation for newborns, children, and adolescents to 400 IU in 2008. Breastfed infants, children and adolescents who ingest less than 1 liter of vitamin D-fortified milk per day will almost certainly require vitamin D supplementation to obtain 400 IU per day. Expert opinion and current clinical investigations evaluating vitamin D biomarkers have led to this suggestion. It's also based on the success of using 400 IU of vitamin D to prevent and treat rickets. In addition to food sources, ultraviolet B sunshine delivers additional vitamin D to children and adults. Despite the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendation to keep babies out of direct sunshine, less sunlight exposure may raise the risk of vitamin D insufficiency in children. On widespread vitamin D supplementation, no randomized controlled studies with patient-oriented results have been conducted. Vitamin D, on the other hand, may lower the risk of certain infections and chronic disorders. Physicians should assist parents in selecting the best vitamin D supplement for their children.

### Vitamin D in health and disease

Vitamin D plays a key role in the body's mineral metabolism and absorption. Vitamin D is necessary for calcium metabolism and bone mineralization, as well as phosphate and magnesium metabolism. It also promotes calcium absorption by stimulating protein expression in the gut mucosa. Vitamin D deficiency causes the release of parathyroid hormone, which causes calcium to be mobilized from the bones. Rickets can develop as a result of severe bone resorption over time.

Vitamin D deficiency can also increase the risk of autoimmune diseases, infections, and type2 diabetes. Vitamin D supplementation appears to reduce the risk of type 1 diabetes in newborns and children, according to observational studies. Despite the fact that observational studies suggest vitamin D may protect against certain malignancies, a randomized controlled trial of calcium and vitamin D supplementation in 36,282 women found no evidence of a protective effect against breast cancer.

#### Guidelines for vitamin D intake

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) established a guideline in 2003 advising that all children over the age of two months take 200 IU of vitamin D supplementation daily. Studies of breastfed children in the United States, Norway, and China corroborated this expert consensus statement, which suggested that newborns who ingested 100 or 200 IU of extra vitamin D daily were less likely to develop rickets. There have been worries that these dosages may be insufficient since then. Studies reveal that vitamin D deficiency can arise early in life, that blood 25hydroxyvitamin D concentrations are lower in breastfed infants, and that 400 IU of vitamin D supplementation maintains greater 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentrations in these infants. Furthermore, research have discovered that teenagers consume insufficient amounts of vitamin D in their diets, and that supplementation enhances 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels and bone mineral density.

#### Vitamin D and sunlight

Vitamin D is obtained by children and adults via ultraviolet B sunshine in addition to food sources. In just 10 to 15 minutes of direct sunlight, 10,000 to 20,000 IU of vitamin D can be produced. Many factors, such as skin pigmentation, latitude, and the area of skin exposed, influence vitamin D synthesis, making it impossible to predict how much vitamin D will be generated from solar exposure. When compared to children with lighter pigmentation, infants and children with darker pigmentation require five to ten times the amount of solar exposure to get the same amounts of 25-hydroxyvitamin D. The American Academy of Pediatrics, on the other hand, advises that newborns under the age of six months be kept out of direct sunlight. Despite the fact that the purpose of limiting sunlight exposure is to protect the skin, It may reduce the incidence of skin cancer while simultaneously increasing the risk of vitamin D insufficiency in youngsters. Because the acceptable degree of sunshine exposure required for vitamin D conversion is unknown, supplementing with vitamin D is a viable option.

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