

### Are children with familial Mediterranean fever really vitamin D deficient?

Sirs,

We read with interest the study by Onur *et al.* (1) suggesting vitamin D levels are lower in children with familial Mediterranean fever (FMF). The authors reported that compared with male children, female children have lower levels of vitamin D. The reported difference between vitamin D levels of the patients and controls was very small (~4 ng/ml) and clinically irrelevant. Although the authors reported that the controls were age- and sex-matched, the female/male ratio was 1.17:1 in the patient group, while 1:1 in the control group. Thus, this non-significant discordance in the sex ratio may explain the small difference between vitamin D levels. Further-

more, a high parathyroid hormone level is a very good measure of true vitamin D deficiency (2). However, parathyroid hormone levels were mostly normal in the patients and controls in this study. We suggest that a multivariate analysis for vitamin D levels or vitamin D deficiency could provide a more accurate interpretation of the results of this study.

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### References

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