

Vitamin D levels in children with familial Mediterranean fever

Sirs,

To date, only few studies have investigated vitamin D deficiency in patients with familial Mediterranean fever (FMF). Our study (1), first to include considerably large number of patients and controls, showed that vitamin D levels were lower in children with FMF than in healthy controls.

In a recent study, Hendy *et al.* (2) considered the role of CaSR (the calcium-sensing receptor) as a responder to proinflammatory cytokines released as part of the innate immune response to inflammation. They suggested that proinflammatory cytokines interleukin-1 β and interleukin-6 upregulate CaSR gene expression in

parathyroid glands and kidney. They further suggested that the decreased serum PTH and 1,25-dihydroxy vitamin D and calcium levels could be the result of this regulation (2). It is too not far fetched to hypothesise that the lower Vitamin D levels we described in FMF could be do this mechanism, as well.

Kelesoglu *et al.* suggest (3) that what we described in FMF is not clinically significant. It is rather obvious that only future work will scientifically test this contention.

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References

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