

# Vitamin D – beyond the bone

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# HISTORY OF VITAMIN D ...

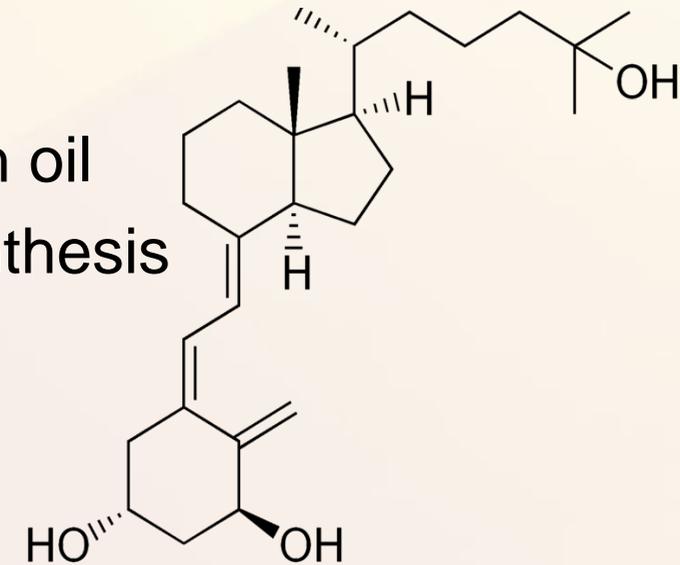
## •17<sup>th</sup> century

- ✓ **Whistler & Glisson** – rickets described

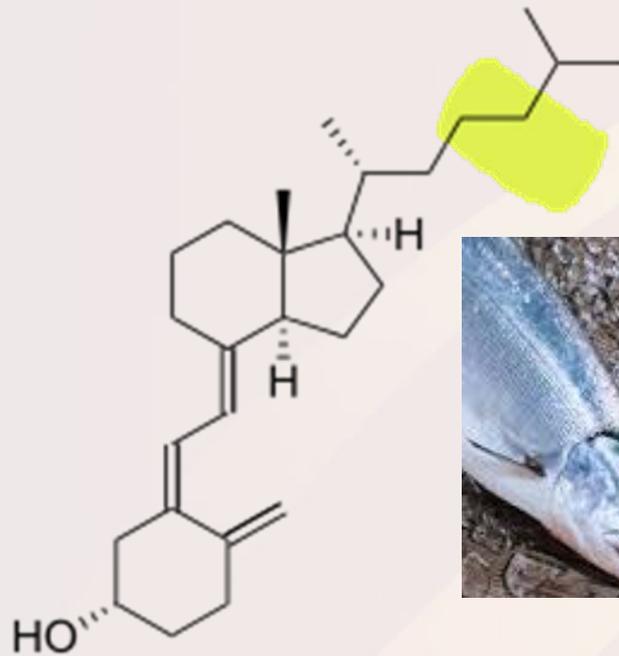
## • 20<sup>th</sup> century

- ✓ **Mellanby** - experimental rickets in dogs
- ✓ **McCollum** – a new fat soluble substance from fish oil
- ✓ **Hess & Goldblatt** - UV light and vitamin D biosynthesis
- ✓ **Windaus** - vitamin D chemical structure
- ✓ **Bessau** - vitamin D in rickets prophylactics
- ✓ **De Luca & Blunt** - vitamin D metabolism
- ✓ **Gets** - vitamin D as a hormone
- ✓ vitamin D receptor (VDR)

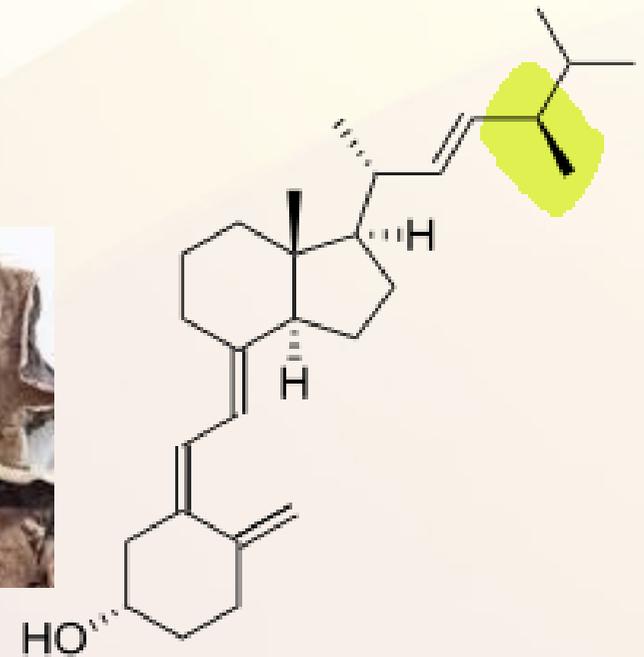
## • Nowadays - vitamin D non-calcemic role



# VITAMIN D IN NATURE

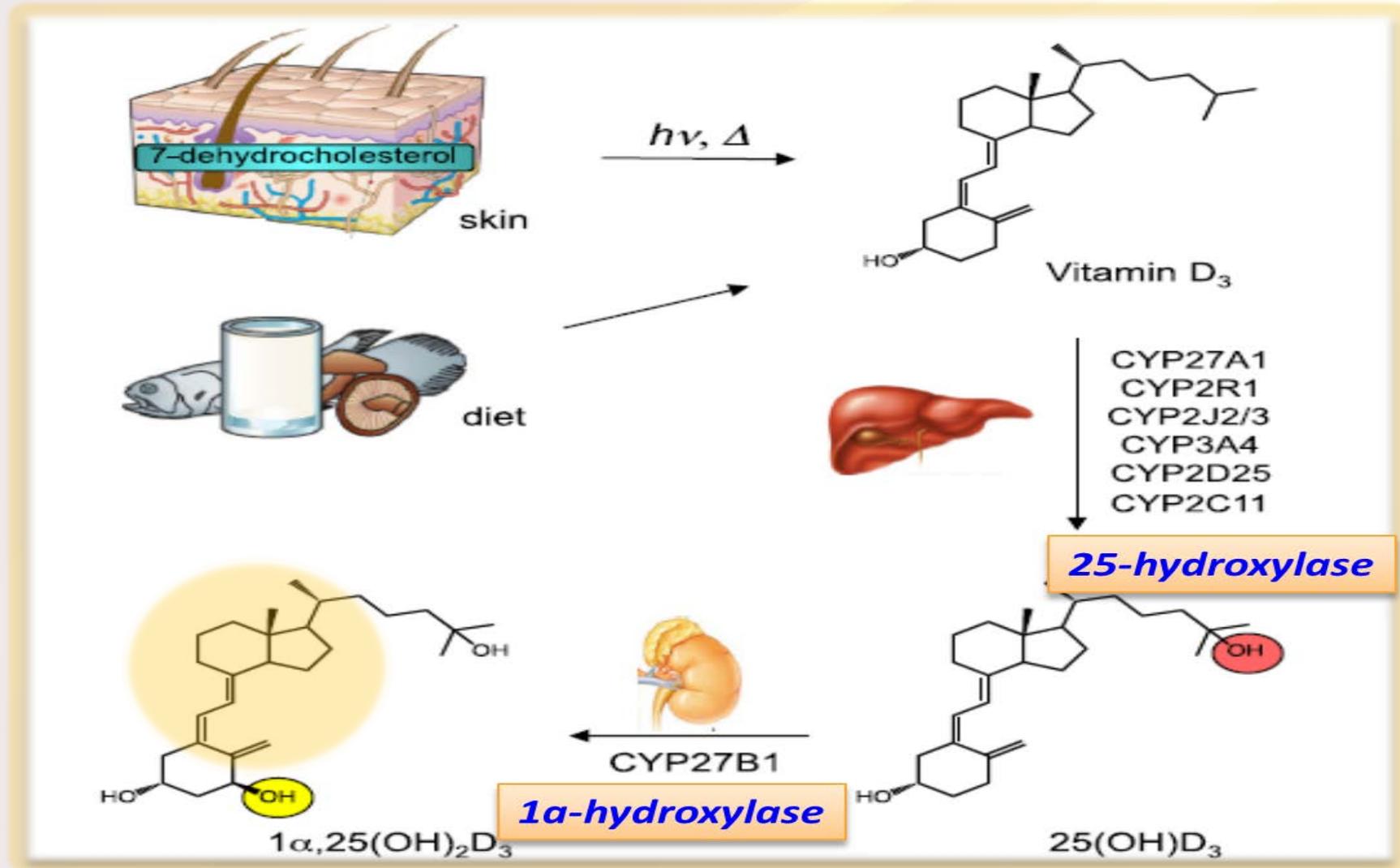


**Cholecalciferol**  
(Vitamin D3)

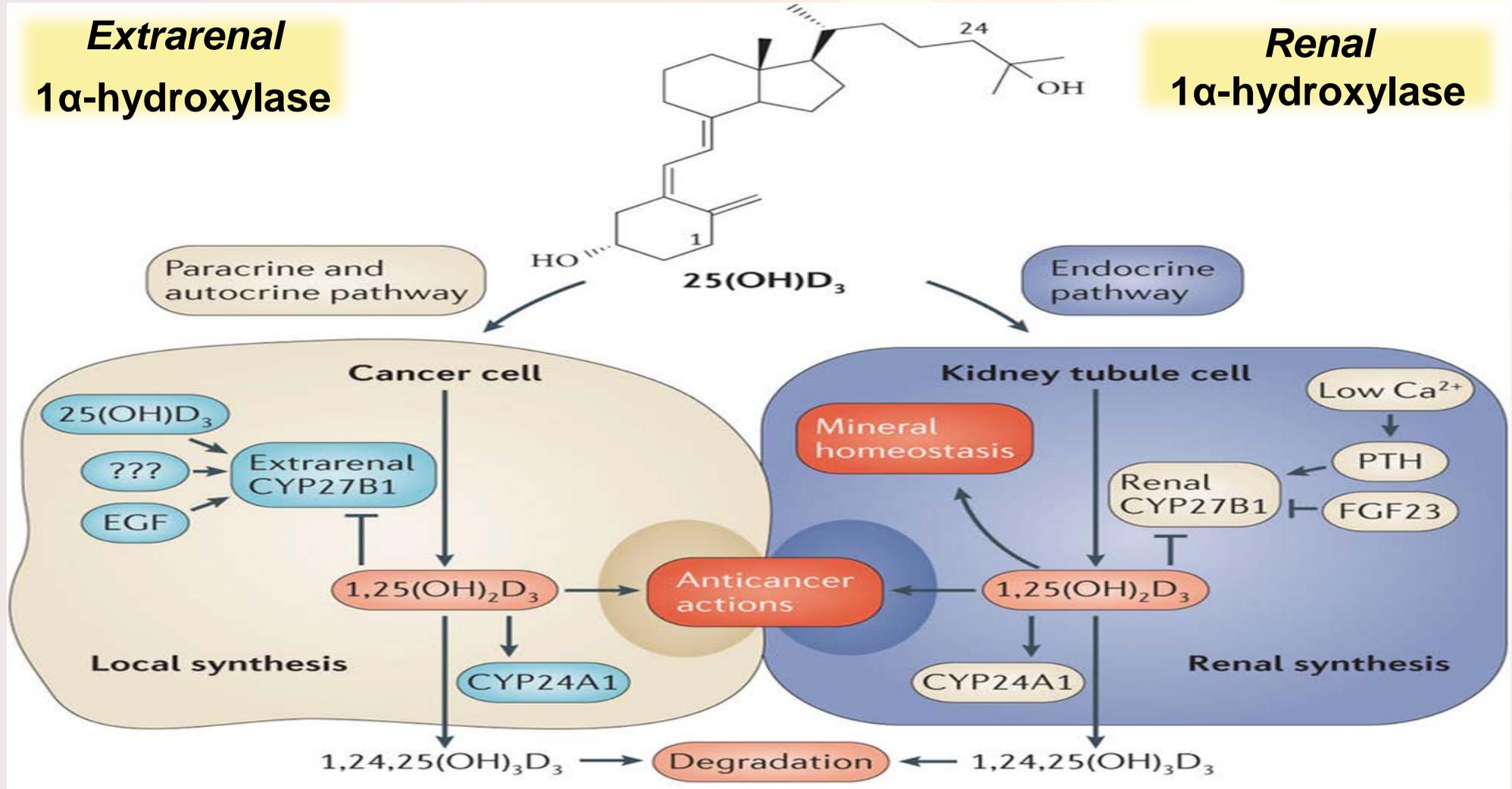


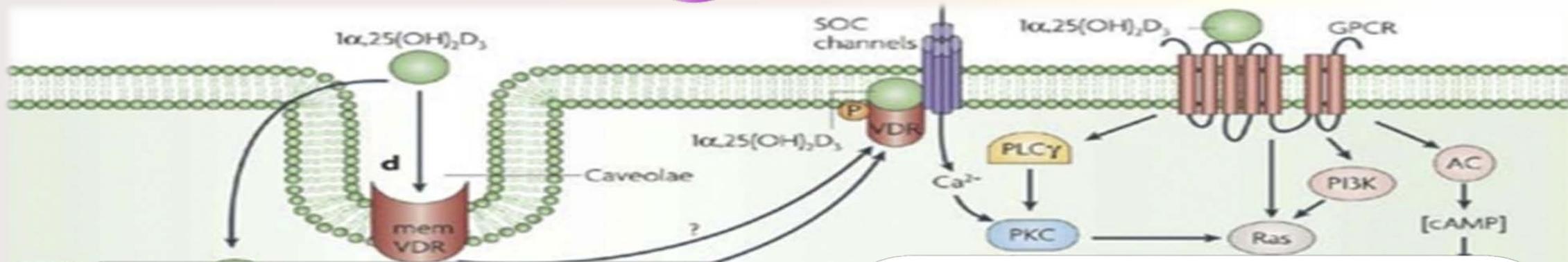
**Ergocalciferol**  
(Vitamin D2)

# BIOSYNTHESIS AND METABOLISM



# 1 $\alpha$ -HYDROXYLASE: REGULATOR OF CALCITRIOL SYNTHESIS





## Slow effects – ~ 3000 genes

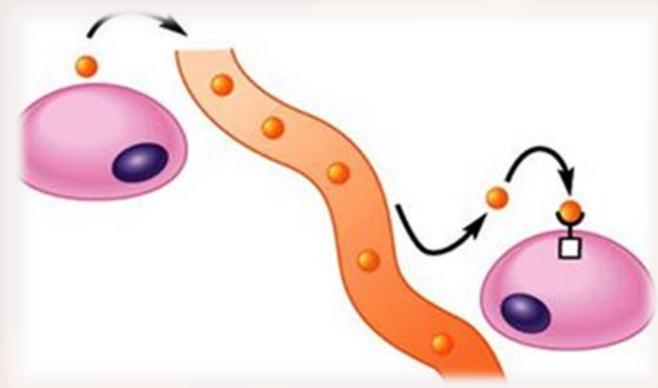
- Bone metabolism
- Mineral homeostasis
- Intestinal  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  transport
- Renal phosphate reabsorption
- Xenobiotic detoxification
- Cell cycle control
- Cell life in mammalian hair cycle
- Immune antimicrobial peptides
- Homocysteine metabolism

## Rapid effects

- Opening voltage-gated Cl/Ca-channels
- Second messengers generation
- Rapid stimulation of Ca absorption
- Insulin secretion from pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells
- Exocytosis

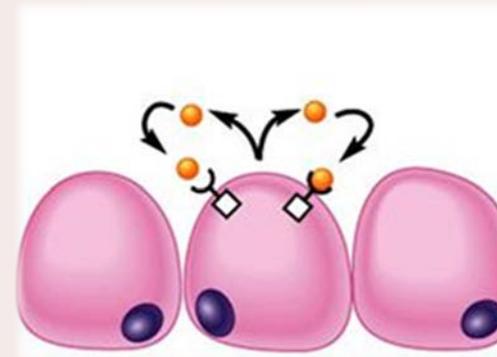
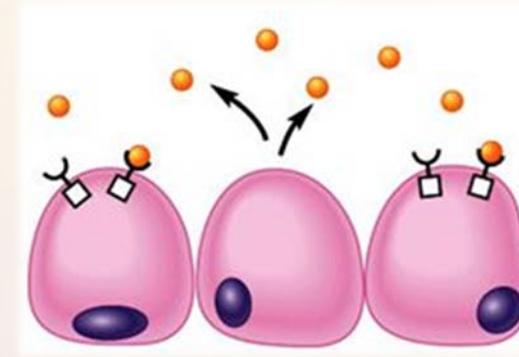
# *CALCITRIOL: CLASSICAL EFFECTS*

- **Classical (endocrine pathway)**
  - regulation of Ca and phosphate plasma levels by its effect on gut, bones and parathyroid glands



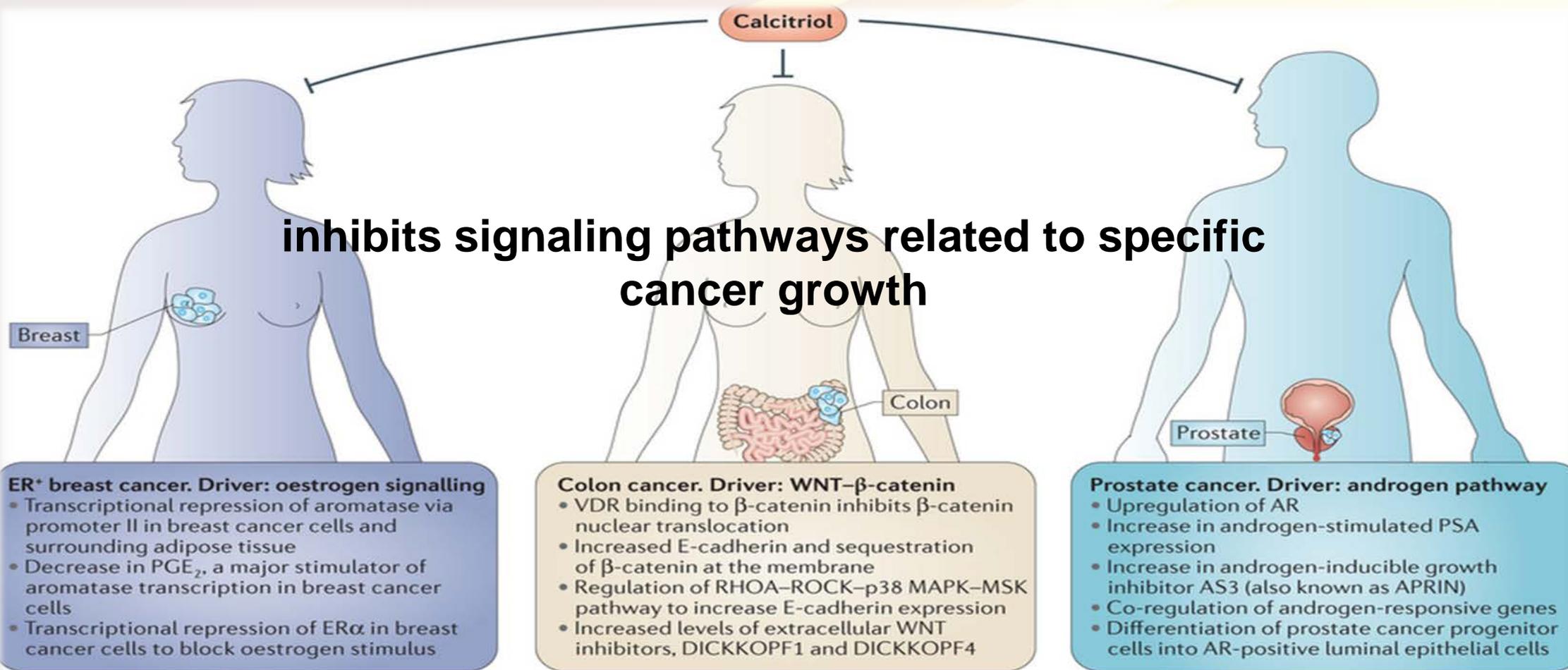
# CALCITRIOL: NON-CLASSICAL EFFECTS

- **Non-classical (paracrine and autocrine pathway)**
  - Cell differentiation
  - Anticancer
  - Antiproliferative
  - Antibacterial
  - Anti-inflammatory
  - Immunomodulatory
  - Antihypertensive...



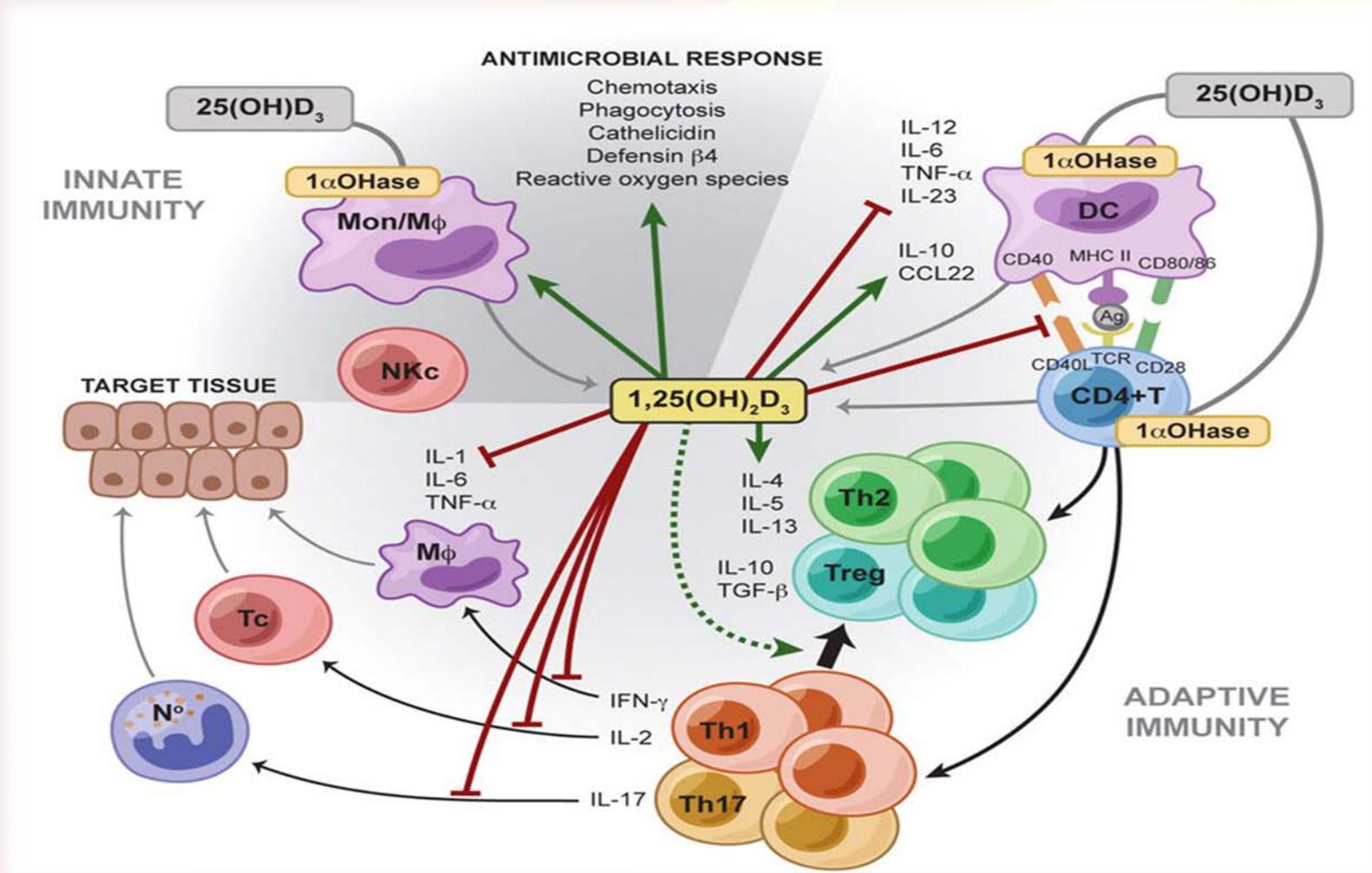
# CALCITRIOL AND NON-SKELETAL HEALTH

## 1. Antiproliferative and antineoplastic activity



# CALCITRIOL AND NON-SKELETAL HEALTH

## 2. Immunomodulatory activity

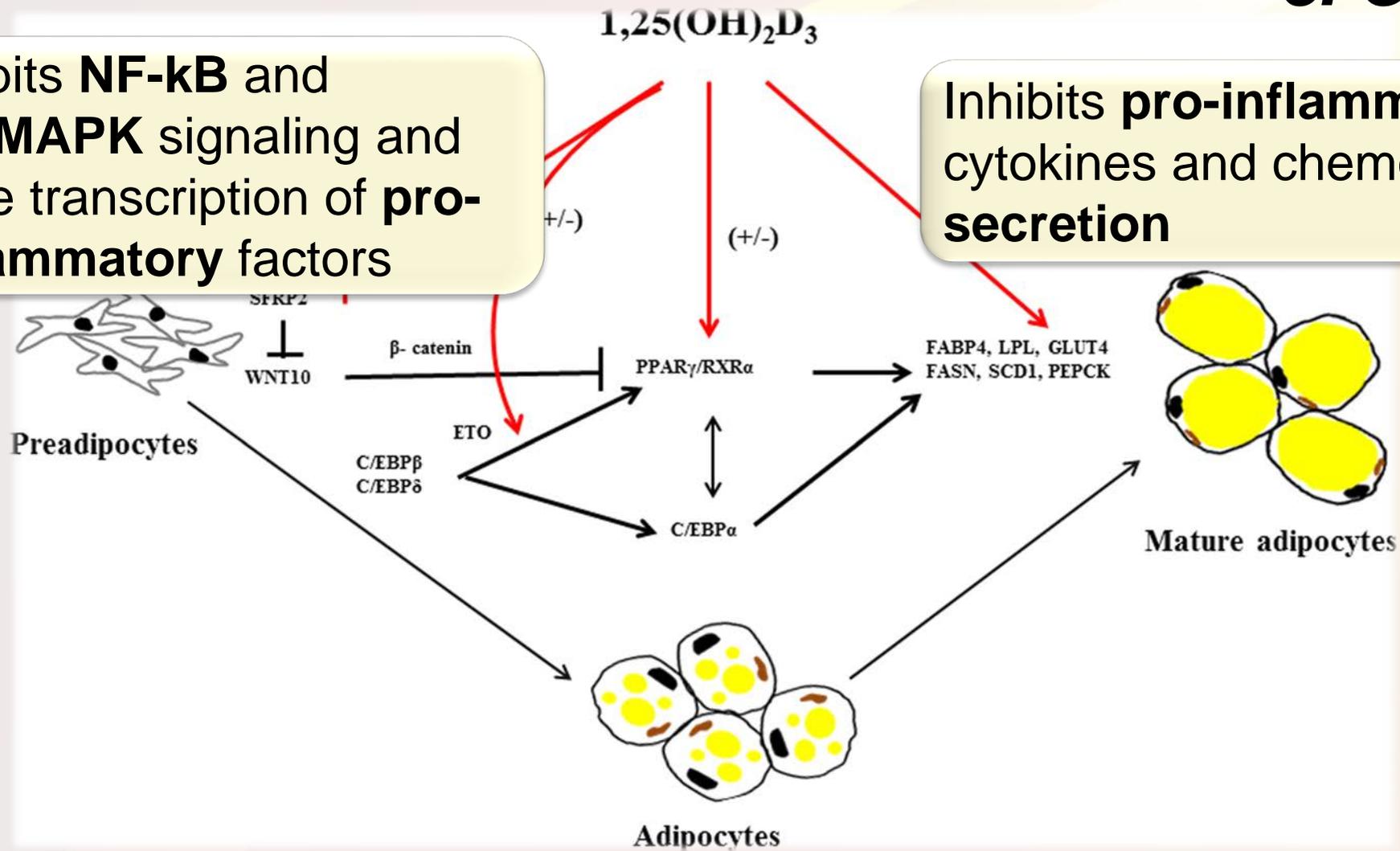


# CALCITRIOL AND NON-SKELETAL HEALTH

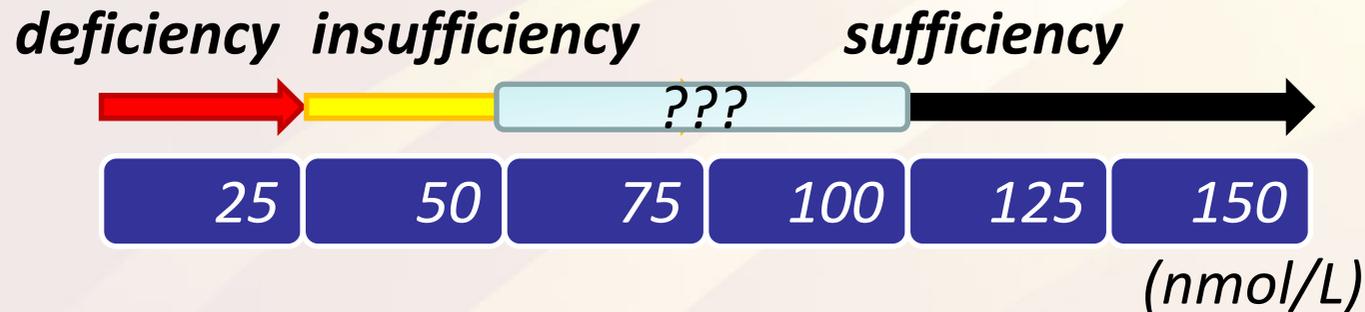
## 3. Obesity

Inhibits **NF-κB** and **P38MAPK** signaling and gene transcription of **pro-inflammatory** factors

Inhibits **pro-inflammatory** cytokines and chemokines **secretion**



# DEFINITION OF VITAMIN D STATUS 25OHD CONTINUUM



- **Vitamin D sufficiency:**

25(OH)D = **75 – 100** nmol/L (30-40 ng/mL)

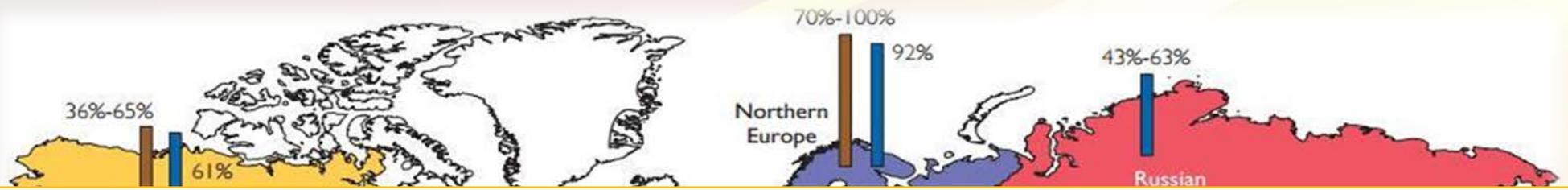
- **Vitamin D insufficiency:**

25(OH)D  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \rightarrow 25 - 50 \text{ nmol/L (10-20 ng/mL) - severe} \\ \rightarrow 50 - 75 \text{ nmol/L (20-30 ng/mL) - low} \end{array} \right.$

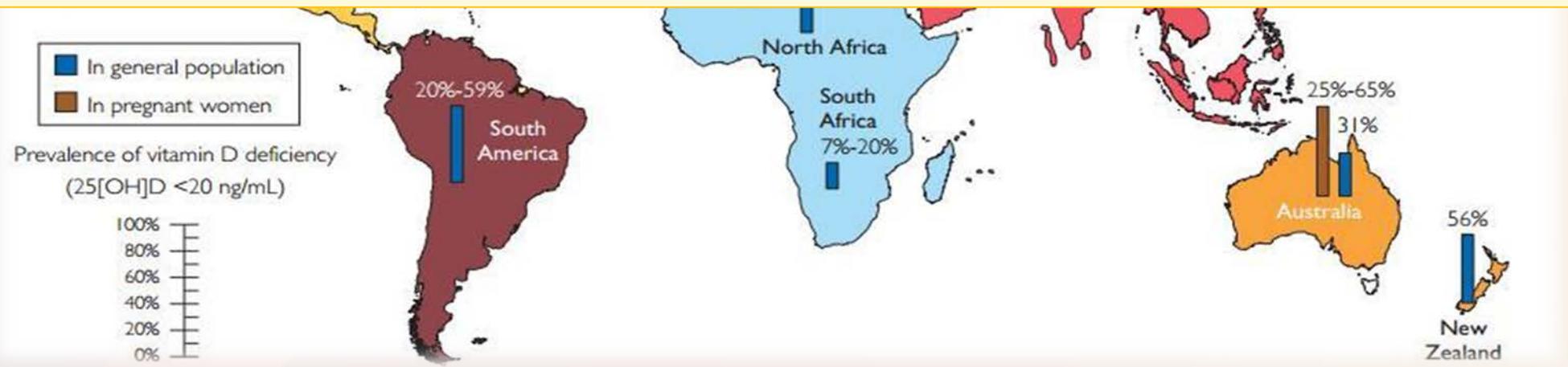
- **Vitamin D deficiency:**

25(OH)D < **25** nmol/L (10 ng/mL)

# VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY BECOMES EPIDEMIC



**Bulgaria: 75.8%** of the Bulgarian population (20–80 years) - 25OHD <50 nmol/L, of them **21.3% - deficient** (<25 nmol/L); **54.5% - insufficient** (25–50 nmol/L). (A.-M. Borissova et al. *Nutrition and Aging* 3 (2015) 107–113)



# VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY

↓ synthesis:

- Melanin
- Sunscreen
- Latitude
- Winter sea

Drugs:

- Antiepileptic
- Glucocorticoids
- Tuberculostatics
- HAART

Liver diseases

Renal failure

Obesity

CAUSES

Malabsorption:

- Crohn's
- Whipple's
- Cystic fibrosis
- Celiac disease
- Cholestasis



CNS:

- Schizophrenia
- Depression

CVS:

- Hypertonia

Infectious diseases:

- TBC
- Flu

CONSEQUENCES

Metabolic syndrome

Skeletal muscles:  
Weakness, pain

Bones:

- Osteoarthritis
- Osteoporosis/osteomalacia
- Rickets

Cancer:

- Breast
- Colon
- Pancreas
- Prostate

# CALCITRIOL AND NON-SKELETAL HEALTH

## **Vitamin D and prostate cancer – our experience**

Clin. Lab. 2015;61:329-335  
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### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## **Serum 25-Hydroxy Vitamin D Levels in Bulgarian Patients with Prostate Cancer: a Pilot Study**

Bistra Galunska<sup>1</sup>, Daniela Gerova<sup>2</sup>, Petar Kosev<sup>3</sup>, Deyan Anakievski<sup>3</sup>, Alexander Hinev<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pharmaceutical Technologies, Medical University, Varna, Bulgaria

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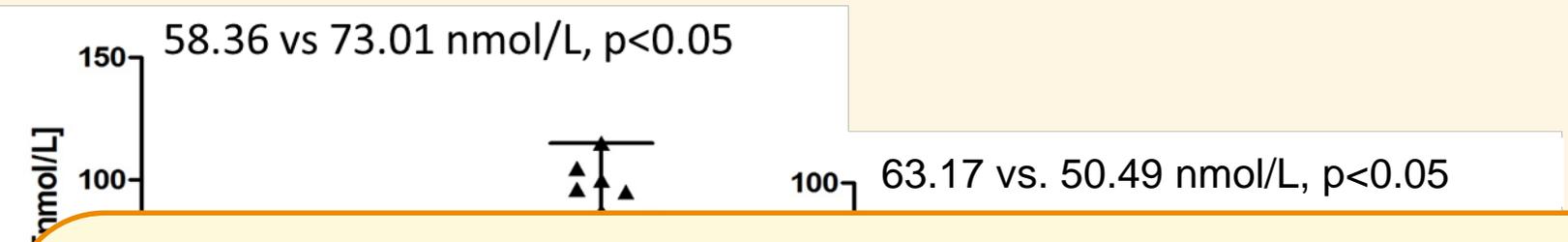
<sup>3</sup>Department of Surgery, Clinic of Urology, "St. Marina" University Hospital, Medical University, Varna, Bulgaria

### SUMMARY

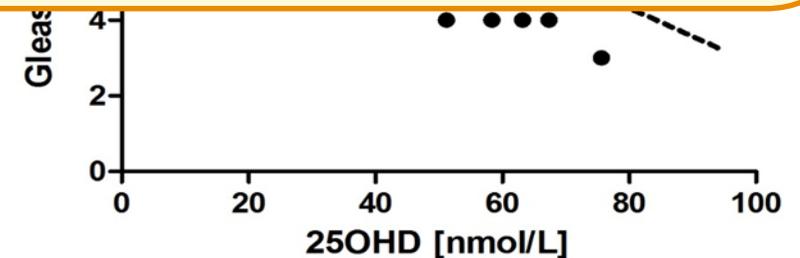
**Background:** The antiproliferative effect of the active form of vitamin D on cancer cells and its ability to induce cell differentiation and suppression of tumor-induced angiogenesis in the last decade has provoked enormous research for the elucidation of its role in the prevention of different types of cancer and in slowing down the malignancy progression. The aim of the present pilot study was to determine the circulating 25-hydroxy vitamin D (25OHD) levels in Bulgarian prostate cancer (PCa) patients and to investigate their relationship with various determinants associated with the severity and progression of the disease.

# CALCITRIOL AND NON-SKELETAL HEALTH

## Vitamin D and prostate cancer – our experience



- Vitamin D **insufficiency** in 80% of the tested PCa and in 64% of BPH patients, regardless the season;
- **Moderate negative correlation** between vitamin D status and clinical laboratory determinants of PCa, such as **PSA** and **Gleason score**.



# CALCITRIOL AND NON-SKELETAL HEALTH

## Vitamin D and chronic hepatitis C viral infection

*Scandinavian Journal of Clinical & Laboratory Investigation*, 2014; 74: 665–672

**informa**  
healthcare

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Prevalence of vitamin D deficiency and insufficiency in Bulgarian patients with chronic Hepatitis C viral infection

DANIELA IVANOVA GEROVA<sup>1</sup>, BISTRA TZANEVA GALUNSKA<sup>2</sup>,  
IRINA IVANOVA IVANOVA<sup>3</sup>, ISKREN ANDREEV KOTZEV<sup>3</sup>,  
TRIFON GEORGIEV TCHERVENKOV<sup>4</sup>, SVETLOZAR PETROV BALEV<sup>4</sup> &  
DOBRIN AVRAMOV SVINAROV<sup>5</sup>

*Departments of <sup>1</sup>Clinical Laboratory, <sup>2</sup>Pharmaceutical Sciences, <sup>3</sup>Internal Medicine – Clinic of Gastroenterology, and <sup>4</sup>Immunology, Medical University – Varna “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov”, Varna, and <sup>5</sup>Central Laboratory of Therapeutic Drug Management and Clinical Pharmacology, Alexandrovska University Hospital, Medical University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria*

### Abstract

**Aims.** The present pilot study aimed to determine vitamin D status in Bulgarian patients with chronic HCV infection in respect to the severity of liver disease and response to interferon-ribavirin therapy. **Methods.** The study encompassed 296 patients: 161 males (54.4%) aged  $42.08 \pm 14.87$  years, 135 females (45.6%) aged  $45.72 \pm 14.34$  years, 86.5% of them infected with HCV genotype 1. Total 25-hydroxyvitamin-D (25OHD) was determined by liquid chromatography/

# CALCITRIOL AND NON-SKELETAL HEALTH

## Vitamin D and HCV infection – our experience

- More than **80%** of HCV-infected patients were vitamin D **deficient** and **insufficient**;
- **Inverse relationship** between **25OHD** levels and **viral load, liver fibrosis and treatment outcomes**;

... remained negative for HCV RNA at the end of therapy,  $n = 83$ ; NR, non-responders (patients who did not achieve at least  $2 \log_{10}$  reduction of HCV RNA at week 12 of therapy),  $n = 8$ ; Relapsers, patients negative for HCV RNA at the end of therapy and with recurrence of HCV RNA during the 6 month follow-up,  $n = 31$ . Data are given as median and 25th–75th percentile. Mann-Whitney test was used for statistical analysis,  $p < 0.01$ .

... viral load. Cut-off value for HCV RNA was set to  $100,000$  IU/mL ( $5.6 \log_{10}$  IU/mL);  $n = 184$  for HCV RNA  $< 5.6 \log_{10}$  IU/mL and  $n = 112$  for HCV RNA  $> 5.6 \log_{10}$  IU/mL. Data are given as a median and 25th–75th percentile. Mann-Whitney test was used for statistical analysis. 25OHD for HCV RNA  $< 5.6 \log_{10}$  IU/mL vs. 25OHD for HCV RNA  $> 5.6 \log_{10}$  IU/mL,  $p < 0.01$ .

# CALCITRIOL AND NON-SKELETAL HEALTH

## Vitamin D and acute diarrhea in toddlers – our experience

Integrative Food, Nutrition and Metabolism



Research Article

ISSN: 2056-8339

## Vitamin D<sub>3</sub> status in children with acute diarrhea

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<sup>1</sup>Department of Infectious Diseases, Medical University of Varna, Bulgaria

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<sup>3</sup>Department of General Medicine, Medical University of Varna, Bulgaria

<sup>4</sup>Central Laboratory of TDM and Clinical Pharmacology, Alexander Hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria

### Abstract

Vitamin D deficiency is highly prevalent among children worldwide. It includes impaired immune response to infection and decreased activity of gut antimicrobial peptides. Elucidating the impact of vitamin D deficiency for the severity of acute diarrhea among children may be helpful for the disease management. Determination of vitamin D status in toddlers with acute diarrhea and evaluation the relationship with diarrhea severity. 77 children (1.0–3.5 years) with acute diarrhea, hospitalized in the Department of Infectious diseases were enrolled in the study. The patients were divided into 2 groups: with risk factors for severe diarrhea (group A, n=30) and group B without risk factors (n=47). The severity of diarrhea was assessed by the number of stools. The levels of circulating vitamin D were assayed by liquid chromatography with tandem mass-spectrometric detection. One way ANOVA and Kruskal Wallis statistics were used for statistical analysis. Patients in group A were vitamin D insufficient (median 53,63 nmol/L), compared to group B (median 66,09 nmol/L), p<0.05. Vitamin D deficiency (median 49,20 nmol/L) was detected in children with severe diarrhea (>20 stools) vs vitamin D in children (median 64,93 nmol/L) with less intensive diarrhea, p<0.05. An inverse relationship

# CALCITRIOL AND NON-SKELETAL HEALTH

## Vitamin D status and acute diarrhea in toddlers – our experience

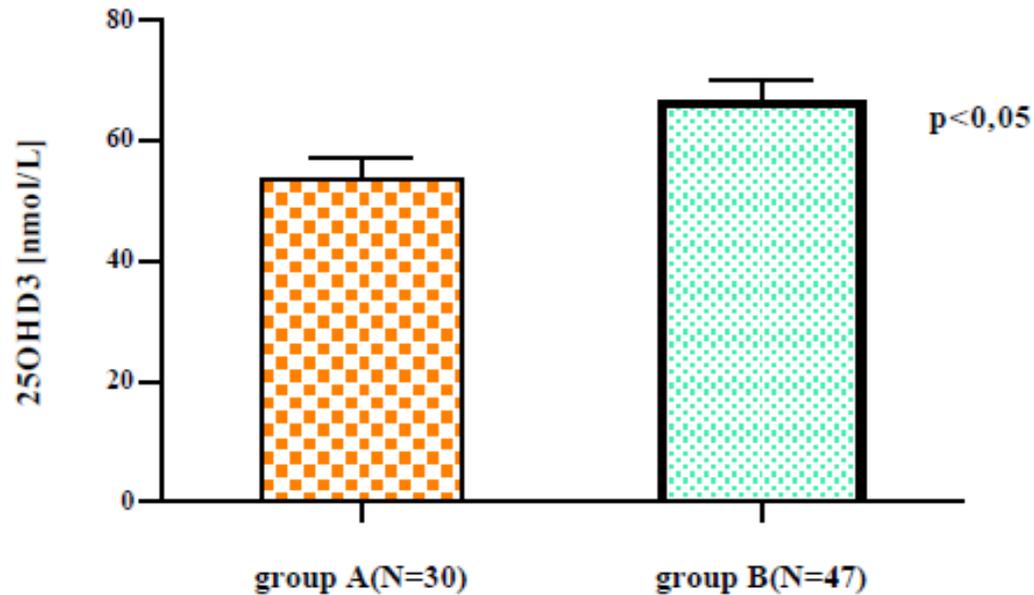


Figure 1. Mean 25OHD3 levels in patients with (group A) and without risk factors for severe diarrhea (group B).

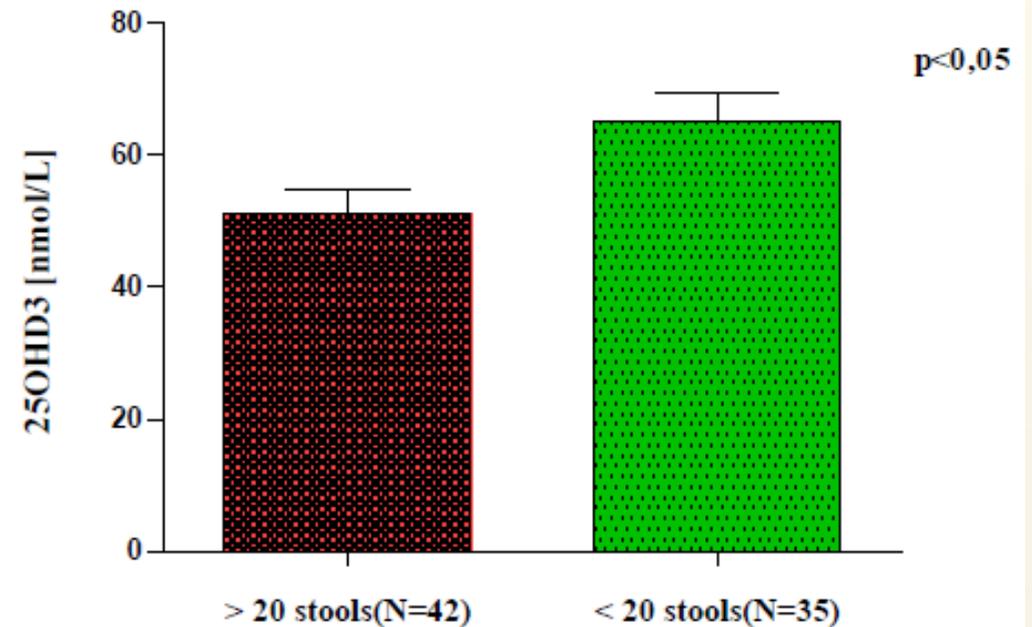


Figure 3. Mean serum 25OH vitD3 in patients with different diarrhea intensity.

# CALCITRIOL AND NON-SKELETAL HEALTH

## *Vitamin D status and obesity in children – our experience*

International Journal of Research in Medical Sciences  
Galunska BT et al. *Int J Res Med Sci.* 2016 Feb;4(2):361-368  
www.msjonline.org

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### Research Article

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18203/2320-6012.ijrms20160284>

### Association between vitamin D status and obesity in Bulgarian pre-pubertal children: a pilot study

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#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** It is considered that obesity and metabolic syndrome are accompanied with vitamin D deficiency. We aimed to examine the interrelations between vitamin D status and biomarkers for metabolic syndrome in Bulgarian pre-pubertal children.

**Methods:** The study enrolled 51 pre-pubertal children (29 boys, 22 girls) examined for serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D, and routine parameters for metabolic syndrome. Obesity was evaluated by body mass index and waist circumference.

**Results:** More than half (57.1%) of the studied children were vitamin D deficient, prevalent in girls than in boys (65.0% vs. 51.7% respectively). A tendency for worse metabolic status in the vitamin D-deficient group, expressed by higher fasting insulin, total cholesterol, total cholesterol/HDL-ratio and Homeostasis Model Assessment (HOMA)-index was observed. A trend for negative correlation was established between 25-hydroxyvitamin D and waist circumference, HOMA-index, and fasting insulin.

**Conclusions:** Vitamin D deficiency and inverse relationships between 25-hydroxyvitamin D and waist circumference, HOMA-index, and insulin were found amongst studied children.

**Keywords:** 25-hydroxyvitamin D, Pre-pubertal children, Obesity, Insulin resistance

# *CALCITRIOL AND NON-SKELETAL HEALTH*

## *Vitamin D status and obesity in children – our experience*

- **57.1%** of tested children were vitamin D **deficient**, more prevalent in **girls** than in boys (65.0% vs. 51.7%);
- **Worse metabolic status** in the **vitamin D deficient** group - higher fasting insulin, total cholesterol, total cholesterol/HDL ratio and HOMA-index;
- **Negative associations** between 25OHD and WC, HOMA-index, iPTH, and fasting insulin.

## SUMMARY

- Vitamin D **insufficiency/deficiency** in risk groups of patients PCa, Hepatitis C viral infection, acute diarrhea, overweight/obesity;
- **Moderate linear correlation** with clinical determinants and biochemical parameters related to disease;
- **Improvement** of vitamin D status may have beneficial effect for prevention and course of disease of these risk groups of patients.

## *Vitamin D Deficiency Contributed to Mozart's Death?*



- Mostly composed at **night**;
- Latitude of Vienna, **48° N** - **impossible** to make vitamin D from solar UVB for **6 months** of the year;
- Died on **December 5, 1791** - into the vitamin D winter;
- 1762 - 1783, October - May suffered **many infectious diseases**;
- 4 to 6 weeks half-life of 25OHD - **his serum 25OHD levels** would have been **very low**;
- Low serum 25OHD - **risk factor** for many of the **diseases, causing death** for **that period in Vienna**.

## *Research team*

- Department of Biochemistry  
Molecular medicine and  
Nutrigenomics
- Department of General medicine  
and Clinical Laboratory
- University Hospital “St. Marina”
  - Clinic of Urology
  - Clinic of Internal Diseases
  - Clinic of Pediatrics
  - Clinic of Infectious diseases

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Medical University - Varna



*I can no other  
answer make but  
thanks,  
and thanks;  
and ever thanks.*

**- William Shakespeare  
(Twelfth Night, Act 3, Scene 3)**

