Dear Editor,

We would like to ask you to consider the enclosed manuscript for publication in your journal. The manuscript has not been published elsewhere and has been approved by all authors.

Already much is known concerning osteomalacia and rickets in the literature. Nevertheless, the disease is still largely undiagnosed, especially in young female immigrants. In a prospective observational study, we show that in immigrant women from Somalia and the Balkans, somatisation disorder must not be diagnosed before hypovitaminosis D3 has been excluded. In this vulnerable population, treatment reduces the use of medical services and the prescription of analgesic drugs. We therefore emphasize in our study the importance of a prompt diagnosis and treatment of hypovitaminosis D3 in this population.

Yours, faithfully,

Gabrielle de Torrente de la Jara, Bernard Favrat