Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors affecting Vitamin D status in different populations in the city of Sao Paulo, Brazil: The Sao PAulo Vitamin D Evaluation Study (SPADES)

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Dear Mr. Editor:

We would like to request the evaluation of the attached manuscript, entitled “Factors affecting Vitamin D status in different populations in the city of São Paulo, Brazil: The São PAulo Vitamin D Evaluation Study (SPADES)” for a possible publication in your journal.

This study was conducted at the Federal University of São Paulo and evaluates 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25OHD) levels in 591 individuals in the city of Sao Paulo belonging to different age groups and showing distinct behavioral patterns (elderly people from nursing homes, elderly people from the community, physically active elderly people and healthy young people). We found very low 25OHD concentrations in the elderly from nursing homes and the community, lower than the values found for the young people and physically active elderly. This finding is possibly due to habit-related differences in sunlight exposure. Our data also demonstrate the existence of a seasonal variation on 25OHD concentration throughout the year. It was possible to observe the correlation that exists between PTH and 25OHD and is expressed by an exponential mathematical equation and we also determined the concentration above which this correlation is not valid, which is 75.0 nmol/L.

We would like to emphasize the expressive number of individuals that compose our groups, since there are few Brazilian and South American studies developed in the same city and using the same laboratory method. We could demonstrate that even for a sunny country like Brazil, hypovitaminosis D is a public health problem.

We believe that this paper presents interesting data, especially because there is a current world-wide discussion concerning the acceptable levels of this hormone.

We are happy to provide more information as you consider necessary, and we thank you for considering our work for publication in your journal.

São Paulo, October 5th, 2012

Sincerely,

Sergio Setsuo Maeda, MD, Ph.D.
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