Reviewer's report

Title: Correlation between vitamin D and cardiac natriuretic peptide levels in vitamin D deficient women

Version: 3 Date: 30 September 2008

Reviewer: Thomas J Wang

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

The authors have been responsive to the reviewer comments. Indeed, the additional analyses have led the authors to a different conclusion from their original manuscript. However, the new data do not add clarity to the findings. The authors show additional cross-sectional data between baseline (and follow-up) 25-OH D levels and Nt-proBNP, in lactating and nulliparous women, and also relate baseline Nt-proBNP to the number of days postpartum. They conclude that the fall in Nt-proBNP is most likely related to postpartum changes rather than vitamin D supplementation. One confusing aspect of this conclusion is that Figure 1 implies that Nt-proBNP levels plateau at 14-20 days post-partum, which the authors attribute to post-partum physiologic changes. It is unclear, then, what explains the further decrease in Nt-proBNP 2 months later. This decrease may or may not have anything to do with vitamin D supplementation. The inclusion of a control group would have made this study far more useful.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

Subsequent to the original review, I became a member of the scientific advisory board of Diasorin, Inc.