Author's response to reviews

Title: VITALE: VITamine D Supplementation in RenAL Transplant Recipients: A Prospective Double Blind Multicentre Randomized Trial of Vitamin D Estimating the Benefit of a Treatment by Vitamin D3 at the Dose of 100,000 UI Compared With a Treatment at the Dose of 12,000 UI in Renal Transplant Recipients.

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

We would like to submit our manuscript, entitled “VITALE: VITamine D Supplementation in RenAL Transplant Recipients: A Prospective Double Blind Multicentre Randomized Trial of Vitamin D Estimating the Benefit of a Treatment by Vitamin D3 at the Dose of 100000 UI Compared With a Treatment at the Dose of 12 000 UI in renal transplant recipients.” for publication.

This paper provides information regarding an ongoing clinical trial assessing the role of vitamin D supplementation with regards to non-bone related complications in a renal transplant recipient population.

As it has been recently proposed in a review, a prospective clinical trial on this matter is needed. Research concerning the benefits of vitamin D supplementation in renal transplant recipients is clearly still evolving. Although there is epidemiological evidence suggesting an association between Vitamin D status and clinical outcomes, there is no prospective evidence for its usefulness in other clinical situations (McGregor et al. AmJ Transplant, 2014; 14:1259). Furthermore, the transplant recipient population may give interesting clues as to the effects of vitamin D on the general population since the cardiovascular, diabetes mellitus and cancer complications are much more frequent in renal transplant recipients than in the general population.

In the present study, patients are randomly assigned to one of two double-blinded groups (high dose vs. low dose cholecalciferol supplementation). We expect to demonstrate that high dose supplementation will lower the risk of development of cardiovascular, metabolic, and cancer complications in this
population.

The authors of this article have no conflicts of interest to declare.

We hope that this manuscript will be considered suitable for publication.

Yours sincerely.

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