Reviewer's report

Title: Reduction of Parathyroid Hormone with Vitamin D Supplementation in Blacks: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Version: 3 Date: 29 September 2015

Reviewer: Anne Sumner

Reviewer's report:

I have no competing interests.

I am going to abstain from voting for acceptance or rejection. I have never previously done this in a review but I believe that there are very real risks from providing vitamin D in the absence of biochemical deficiency (increased PTH) or clinical deficiency (low bone density—which is rare in blacks). This is often known as the Vitamin D paradox in Blacks.

But, if this manuscript is accepted for publication, there should be a required change in the following sentence:

"In conclusion, this study highlights a dose-dependent decrease in PTH in Blacks with vitamin D supplementation confirming correction of vitamin D deficiency, but whether reduction of PTH it is safe to do is unproven."

The Reviewer objects to the statement that lowering PTH with vitamin D supplementation confirms correction of "vitamin D deficiency". As stated above, the word "deficiency" can be used in the presence of biochemical deficiency or clinical deficiency, neither of which occurred in this study. Therefore, what has been confirmed by lowering PTH with vitamin D supplementation is the feedback relationship between vitamin D and PTH. This is a mandatory change. The word "deficiency" has to be removed.