



**Answers to the  
questions**

**Vitamin D Therapy for  
Autoimmunity**

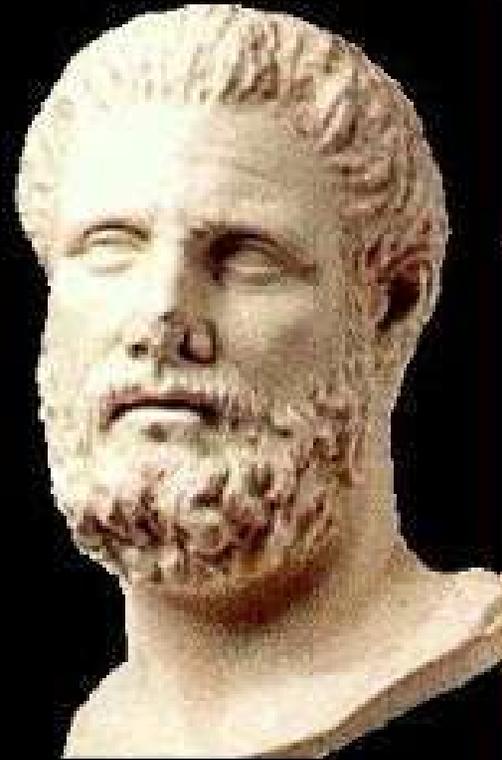
**Dr. Renu Mahtani MD FMNM**

**[www.renumahtani.com](http://www.renumahtani.com)**

# The Doctor's Oath Father of Medicine

**The first commandment of  
a doctor: do  
no harm**

~ Hippocrates ~



# DISORDERS OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

\*

## Immunodeficiency

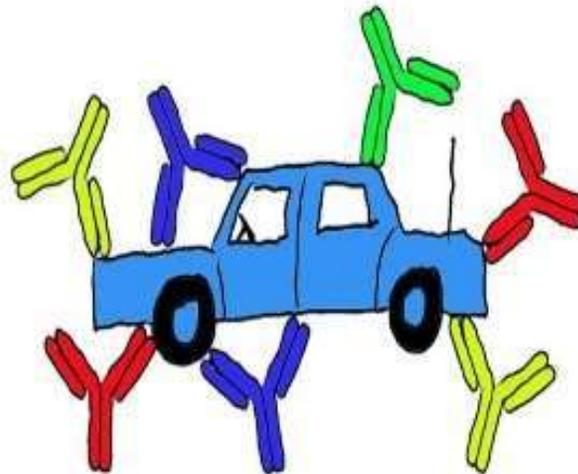
- **Too little**

\* Hypersensitivity

- **Too much**

\* **Autoimmunity**

- **Misdirected**



*Autoimmunity*

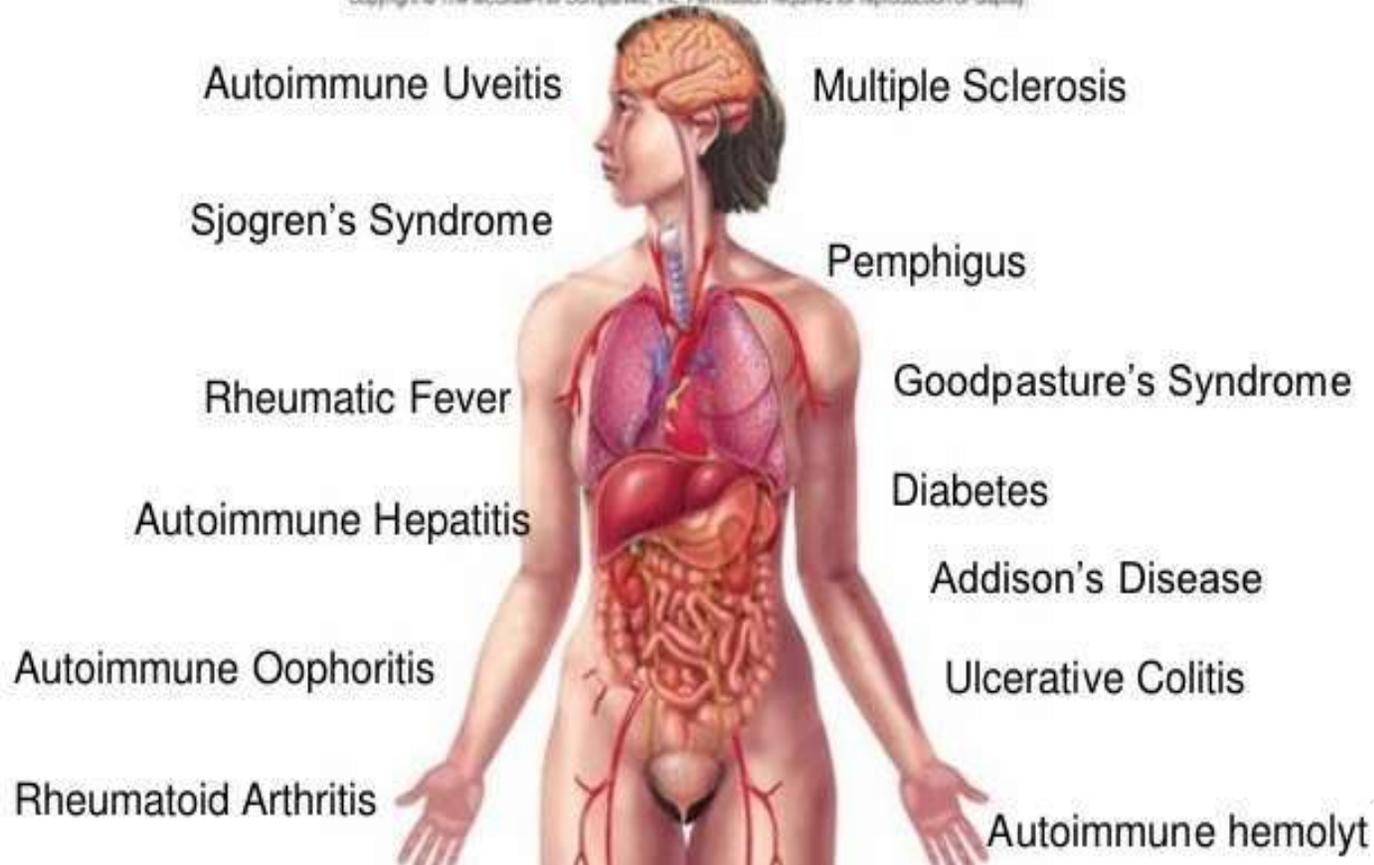
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ADRENOCORTICAL  
NUCLEOPROTEINS  
SCLEROSING PURPURA ANKYLOSING  
MELLITUS RECEPTOR  
APOPTOSIS NEUTROPHILIC  
PATHOGENESIS ATTENUATES PROPOSED  
IMMUNODEFICIENCY DISEASE NEOPLASTIC  
SYSTEMIC ANTIBODY  
LYMPHOCYTE ANTIGENIC  
**AUTOIMMUNITY**  
IMMUNOLOGICAL IMMUNE  
SINOCLONAL T CELL RECEPTOR CHRONIC  
CORRELATE ANTIGEN  
RESPONSE CELL LUPUS  
CHOLANGITIS LYMPHOID MECHANISM DIABETES  
EPITOPE RHEUMATOID PUTATIVE  
TOLERANCE ACTIVATION AUTOIMMUNE SCLERODERMA  
HYPOPARATHYROIDISM NEMOIMMUNE  
ARTHRITIS GRANULOMATOUS  
ERYTHEMATOSUS

# Pick an organ, any organ . . .

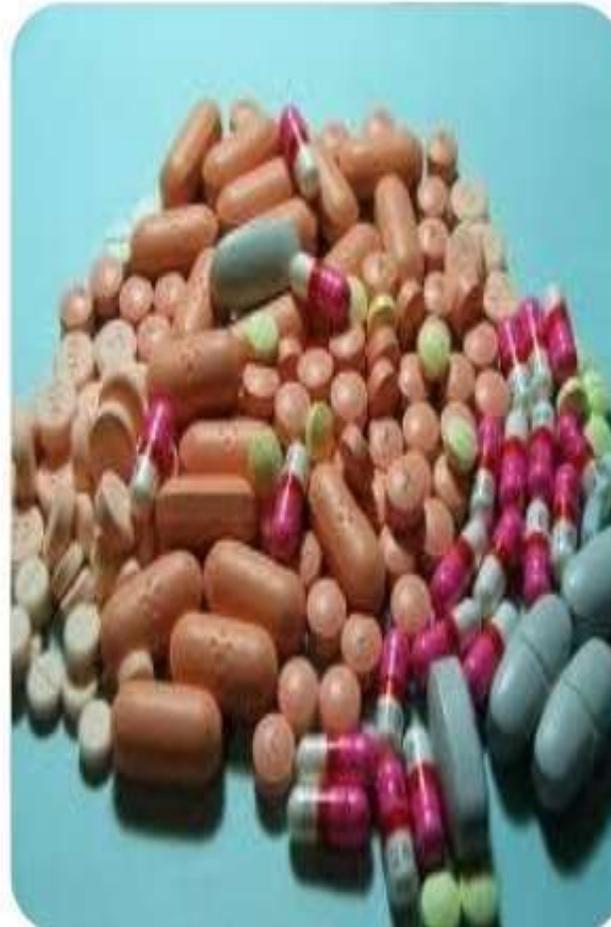
Autoimmunity can affect ANY organ/organ system in the human

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# Treatment Options

- Anti-inflammatory drugs
  - NSAIDs, Corticosteroids
- Immunosuppressant drugs
  - Methotrexate
- Radiation
- Plasmapheresis
- Cell Blocking Reagents
  - aCD20 (Rituxan)
  - aCD3 (Teplizumab)
- Cytokine Blocking Reagents
  - TNF (Humira, Enbrel)



# Conventional Therapies

Steroids, Anti-inflammatory,  
Immunosuppressants, Biologicals...

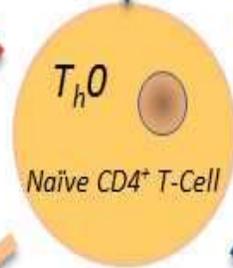
- ▶ Suppress the manifestations
- ▶ Help to slow down the progression of disease but do not control it
- ▶ Do not help correct the root cause - deviant immune system

# Pro-Inflammatory



- Extracellular bacteria
- Fungi
- Autoimmunity

IL-17, IL-21, IL-22



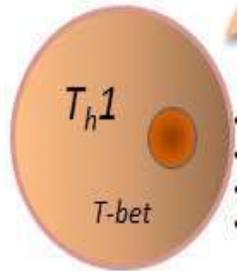
Naïve CD4<sup>+</sup> T-Cell



- Immune Tolerance
- Lymphocyte Homeostasis
- Regulation of Immune responses

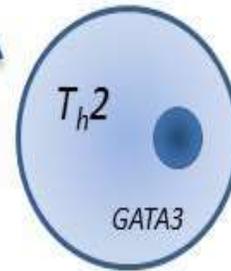
TGF-β, IL-10, IL-35

# Anti-Inflammatory



- Cell-Mediated Immunity & Inflammation
- Intracellular Pathogens
- Autoimmunity
- Inflammation

IL-2, IFN-γ, TNF-α



- Antibody-Mediated Immunity
- Extracellular Parasites
- Asthma, Allergy

IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-10, IL-13

Promote activation,  
expansion and  
phenotype stability



Inhibit Th1/2 responses  
Consume IL-2  
Provide TGFβ



Promote differentiation  
and function



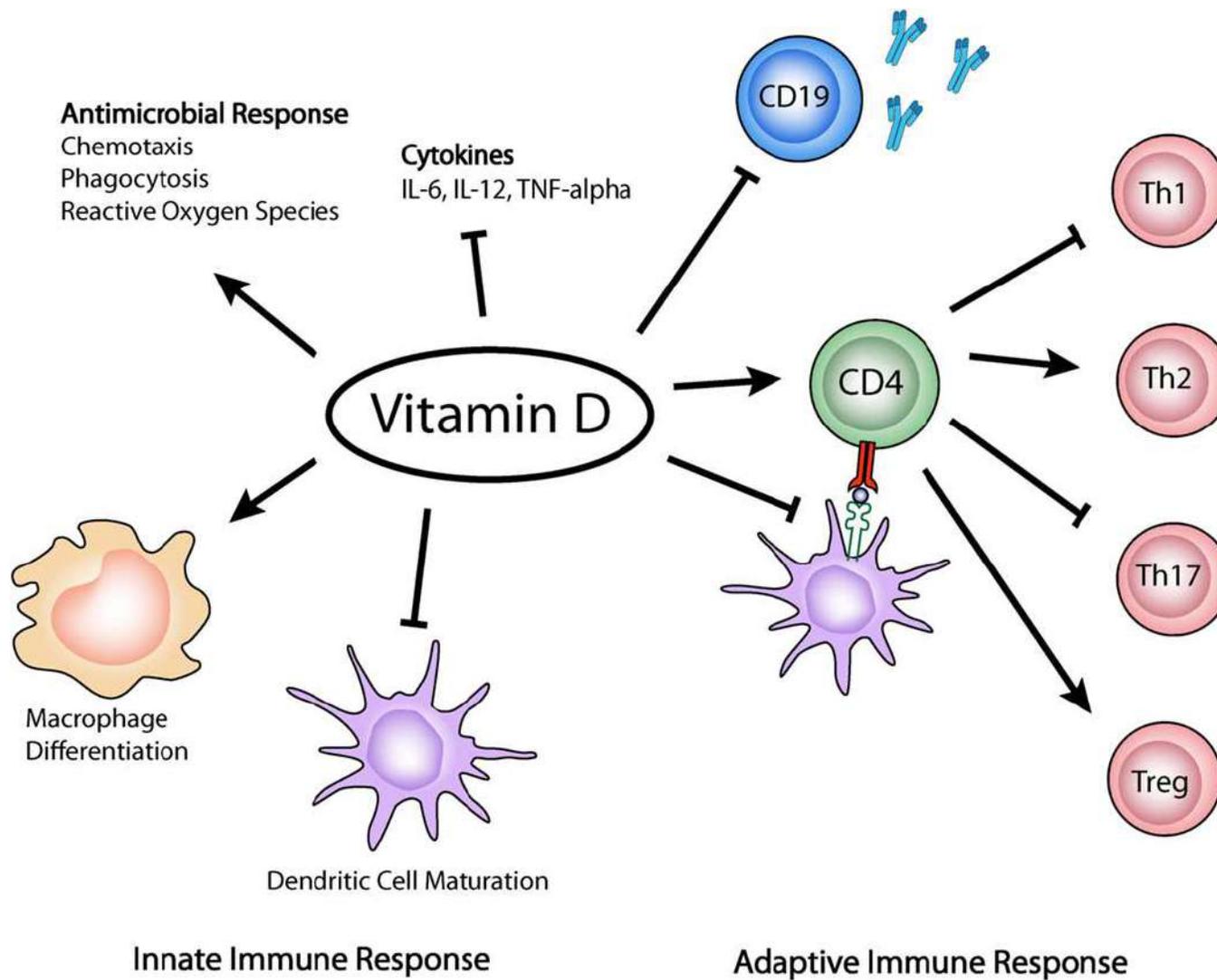
Provide TNF, IL-2...

Immune tolerance

Inflammation



# Vitamin D as Immune-modulator



# Vitamin D Suppresses Interleukin-17 Production

## **REPORT**

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### **Vitamin D Suppresses Th17 Cytokine Production by Inducing C/EBP Homologous Protein (CHOP) Expression\***

Received for publication, September 16, 2010, and in revised form, October 22, 2010  
Published, JBC Papers in Press, October 25, 2010, DOI 10.1074/jbc.C110.185777

**Seon Hee Chang, Yeonseok Chung<sup>1</sup>, and Chen Dong<sup>2</sup>**

*From the Department of Immunology and Center for Inflammation and Cancer, The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas 77054*

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**“THE JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY  
VOL. 285, NO. 50, pp. 38751–38755, December 10,  
2010”**

# VDR

## Vitamin D Receptors



# Autoimmune Disorders

**Vitamin D Deficiency**

**and/or**

**Vitamin D Resistance**

**due to genetic  
polymorphism of Vit D  
Receptors (VDR)**

## Vitamin D Receptor Polymorphism is Associated with Psoriasis

Byung-Soon Park, Jeong-Soo Park,\* Dong-Youn Lee, Jai-Il Youn, and In-Gyu Kim\*

Departments of Dermatology and \*Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

Vitamin D receptor is a trans-acting transcriptional factor that mediates  $1\alpha,25$ -dihydroxyvitamin  $D_3$  action in the regulation of target gene expression. Recent studies have shown that clinical response of psoriasis to  $1\alpha,25$ -dihydroxyvitamin  $D_3$  is correlated with the vitamin D receptor mRNA expression level, which may be influenced by the genotype of the vitamin D receptor. In this study, we have explored a possible association between psoriasis and the polymorphism in the gene encoding the vitamin D receptor. We examined the allelic frequencies of the vitamin D receptor in psoriasis patients ( $n = 104$ ) and in healthy controls ( $n = 104$ ) by analyzing the restriction pattern of the polymerase chain reaction products. A significant increase in the frequency of the A allele (absence of the restriction site at intron 8) by *Apa*I restriction

fragment length polymorphism was observed in psoriasis patients compared with that of the control group, and the tendency was more accentuated in early onset psoriasis. Odds ratios (95% confidence interval) for psoriasis of AA and Aa genotypes were 5.0 (1.3–19.1) and 2.4 (1.3–4.3), and odds ratios for early onset of AA and Aa genotypes were 6.4 (1.6–25.0) and 3.1 (1.7–5.9), respectively. Allele frequencies for A and a alleles were 0.317 and 0.683 in the psoriasis group and 0.168 and 0.832 in the control group ( $p = 0.001$ ). A significant association between vitamin D receptor genotypes and the mean age at onset was observed ( $p < 0.05$ ). Our findings suggest that allelic variance in the vitamin D receptor gene itself or other genes in linkage disequilibrium with this gene, could predispose to the development of psoriasis. *J Invest Dermatol* 112:113–116, 1999

# VDR resistance in Multiple Sclerosis



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Autoimmunity Reviews

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/autrev](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/autrev)



## The relevance of vitamin D receptor gene polymorphisms for vitamin D research in multiple sclerosis

Joost Smolders<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Evelyn Peelen<sup>a,b</sup>, Mariëlle Thewissen<sup>b</sup>, Paul Menheere<sup>c</sup>,  
Jan Willem Cohen Tervaert<sup>a,b</sup>, Raymond Hupperts<sup>a,d</sup>, Jan Damoiseaux<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School for Mental Health and Neuroscience, Maastricht University Medical Center, Maastricht, the Netherlands

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 8 January 2009

Accepted 6 February 2009

Available online 11 February 2009

#### Keywords:

Vitamin D receptor

Genetic Polymorphisms

Vitamin D

25-hydroxyvitamin D

Multiple Sclerosis

### ABSTRACT

A poor vitamin D status has been associated with several autoimmune diseases, including multiple sclerosis (MS). The receptor for the biologically active metabolite of vitamin D appears to be a key player in these associations, not only as a mediator of the biological effects of vitamin D, but also as a mediator of the regulation of vitamin D metabolism itself. In this concise review, we will discuss the mostly investigated genetic polymorphisms of the vitamin D receptor (VDR), and their consequences for VDR functionality and immune regulation. Next, we will discuss the association of these polymorphisms with MS, and their relation with vitamin D metabolism. We conclude that polymorphisms of the VDR have major effects on vitamin D function and metabolism, and should therefore be assessed in studies on vitamin D and MS.

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# VDR Resistance in thyroid disorders & type 1 Diabetes

European Journal of Endocrinology (2002) 146 777–781

ISSN 0804-4643

CLINICAL STUDY

## Vitamin D 1 $\alpha$ -hydroxylase (CYP1 $\alpha$ ) polymorphism in Graves' disease, Hashimoto's thyroiditis and type 1 diabetes mellitus

Michael A Pani, Karoline Regulla, Maria Segni<sup>1</sup>, Maren Krause, Stefan Hofmann<sup>3</sup>, Michael Hübner<sup>3</sup>, Jürgen Herwig<sup>2</sup>, Anna Maria Pasquino<sup>1</sup>, Klaus-H Usadel and Klaus Badenhoop

*Department of Internal Medicine I, Division of Endocrinology, University Hospital Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, <sup>1</sup>Department of Paediatrics, Endocrinology Unit, University 'La Sapienza', Rome, Italy, <sup>2</sup>Department of Paediatrics, University Hospital Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main, Germany and <sup>3</sup>Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, University Hospital Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany*

*(Correspondence should be addressed to K Badenhoop, Department of Internal Medicine I, Division of Endocrinology, University Hospital Frankfurt, Theodor-Stern-Kai 7, D-60596 Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Email: badenhoop@em.uni-frankfurt.de)*

# Prof. Dr. Cícero Galli Coimbra

MD, PHD Neurologist, Internal medicine  
Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil



# Coimbra Protocol Team (120 doctors) Autoimmune diseases practice



“Replenishing vitamin D in the doses required to achieve its beneficial effects implies restoring a natural mechanism, which allows patients to resume a normal life. It’s a mechanism that nature took millions of years to develop, and even if the pharmaceutical industry spent 400 years working on this issue, they would not get close to the benefits that vitamin D can provide to these patients.”

Dr. Cicero Coimbra, Neurologist, PhD.

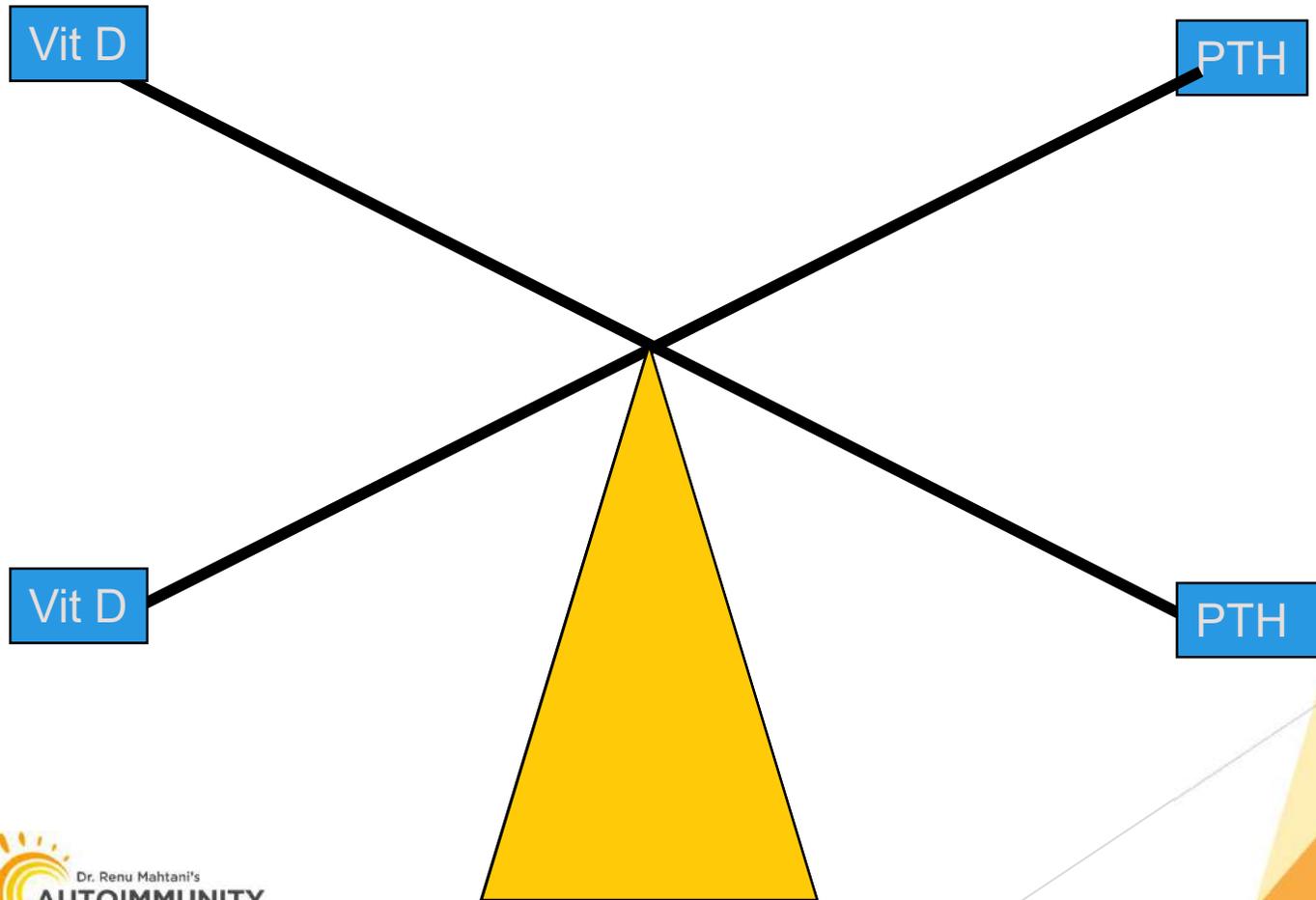
- On the comparison between conventional drugs for autoimmune diseases and Vitamin D.



# Coimbra Protocol

- ▶ Vitamin D has a potent immune regulatory role
- ▶ Autoimmunity is found to be associated with resistance to effects of vitamin D due to genetic polymorphism
- ▶ To compensate for the resistance to its effects-
  - ▶ Higher levels of Vitamin D needed
  - ▶ Has to be taken on daily basis
- ▶ Individual requirement of Vitamin D varies based on the degree of vitamin D resistance
  - ▶ Vit D & PTH (Parathyroid Hormone)
  - ▶ Ionised Calcium

# Individual tailoring of doses based on the extent of PTH inhibition



# PTH suppression by Vitamin D: Index of vitamin D utilisation

- ▶ How much vitamin D is used by the body is important rather than how much is supplemented
- ▶ If PTH levels are not dropping – the body is not making proper use of vitamin D due to vit D resistance
- ▶ Shows the individual level of Vitamin D resistance

Medical Laboratory

RENU MAHTANI  
Tel No : 9823167200  
PID NO: P116180005366  
Age: 54.1 Year(s) Sex: Female

Reference: Dr.SELF  
Sample Collected At:  
Aloveda Clinic (Dr. Rachana Abhijit Baldota)  
1st Floor Flat No 1/2, Lav Khunsh Apts,-  
Next to Seasons Hotel Near Anand Park -  
Aundh  
411007

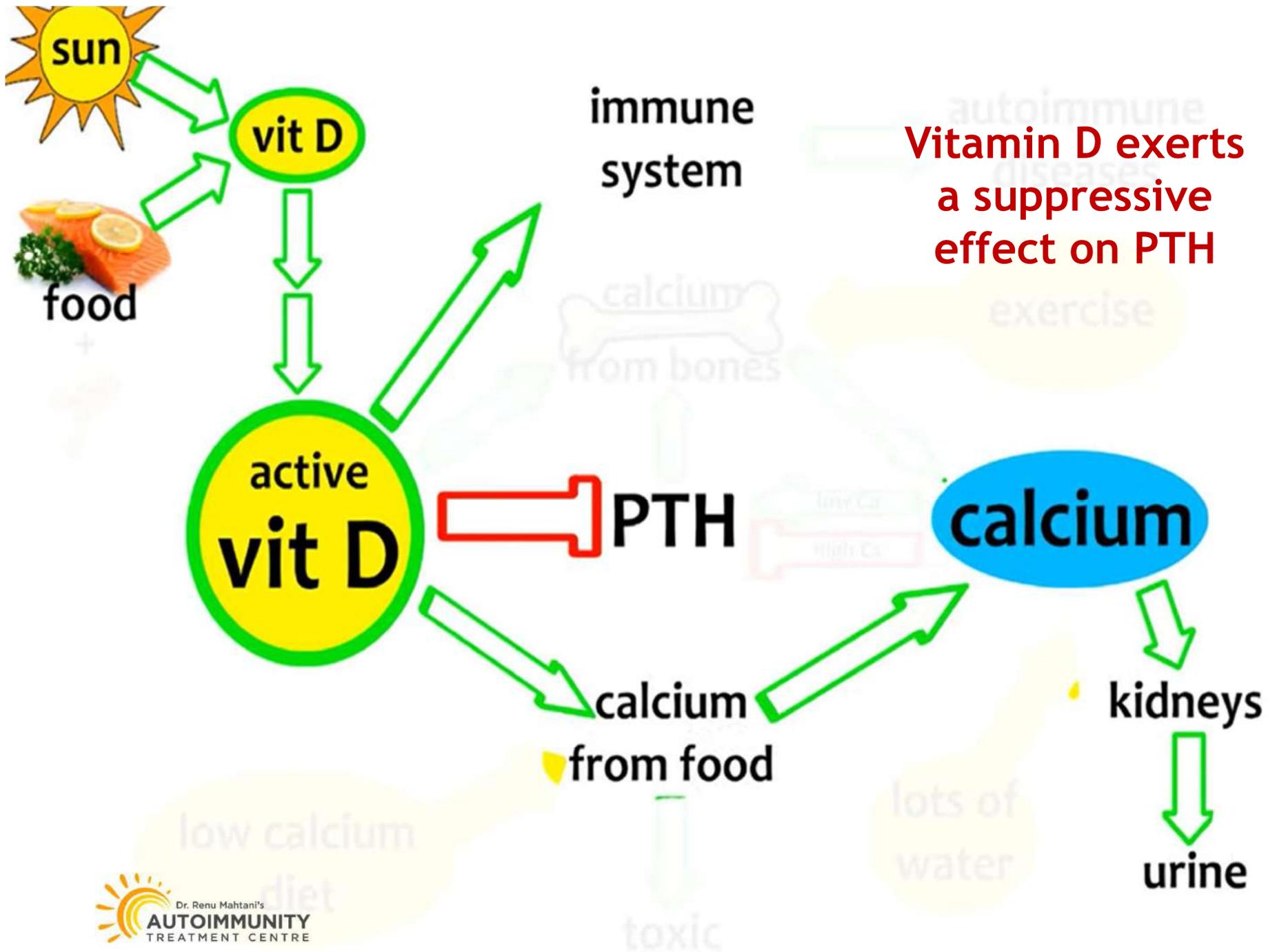
VID: 116180005366  
31/07  
31/07  
01/08

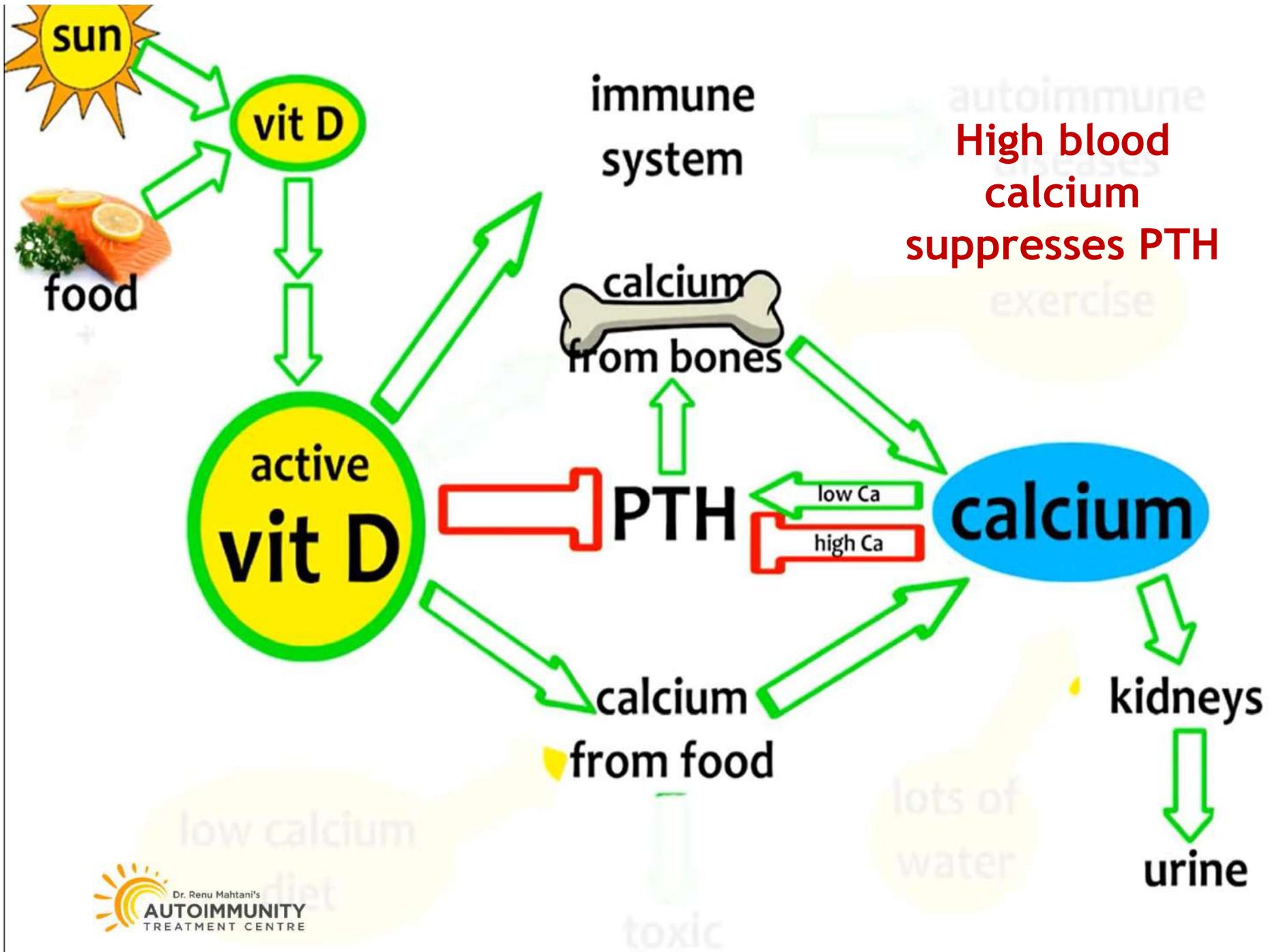
Investigation	Observed Value	Unit	Biological Reference
25 Hydroxy (OH) Vit D (Serum,CMIA)	138.9	ng/mL	Deficiency: < Insufficiency: Sufficiency: 3 Hypervitaminosis
PTH-(Intact Molecule) (Serum,CMIA)	27.8	pg/mL	15-68.3

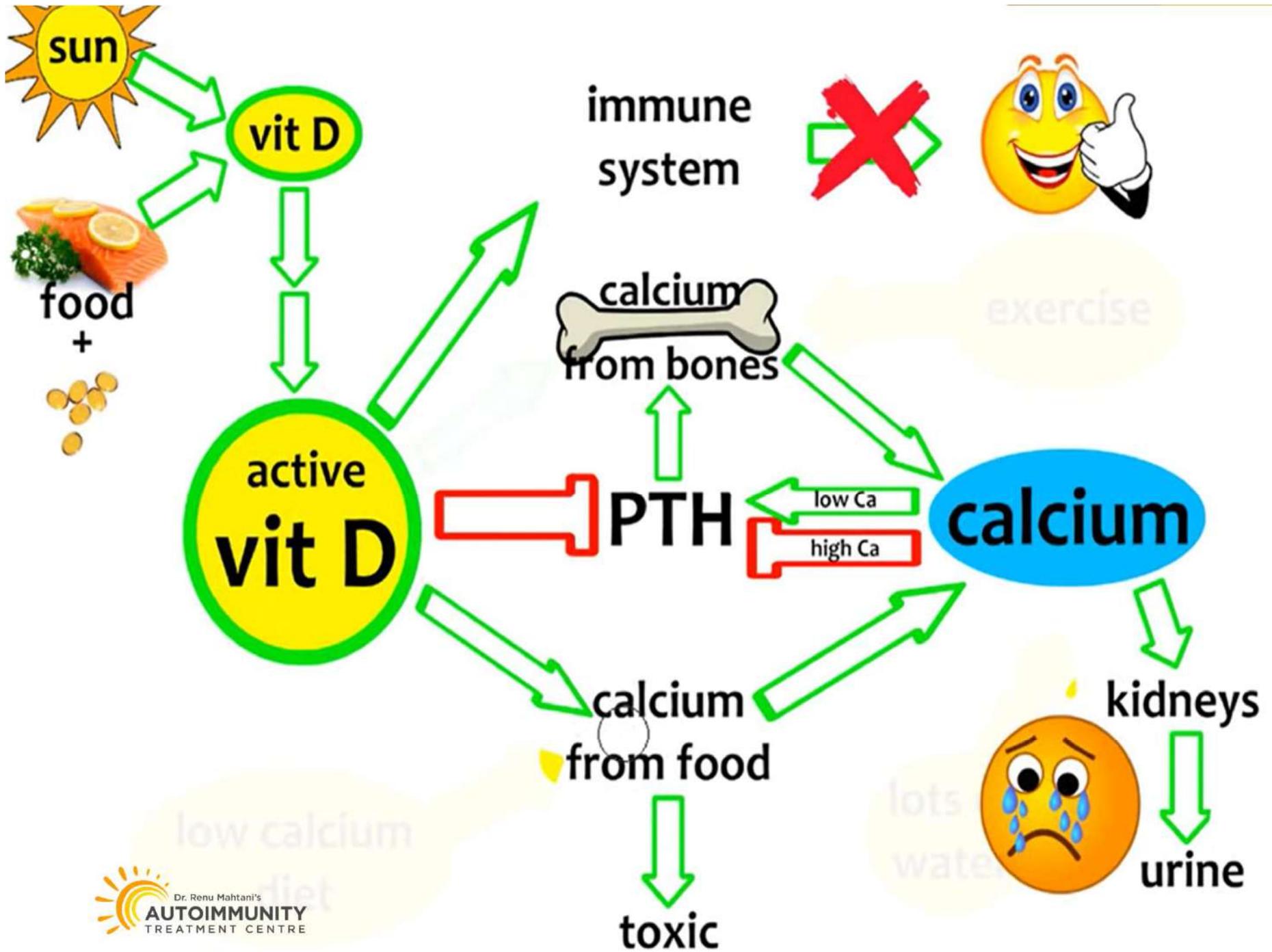
**Interpretation :**  
Intact PTH has been demonstrated to be labile and is susceptible to fragmentation. This instability depends on temperature. In room temperature EDTA sample stability is 8 hours and serum is for 4 hours. At 4degree C. EDTA sample stability is 72 hours and serum is for 48 hours.

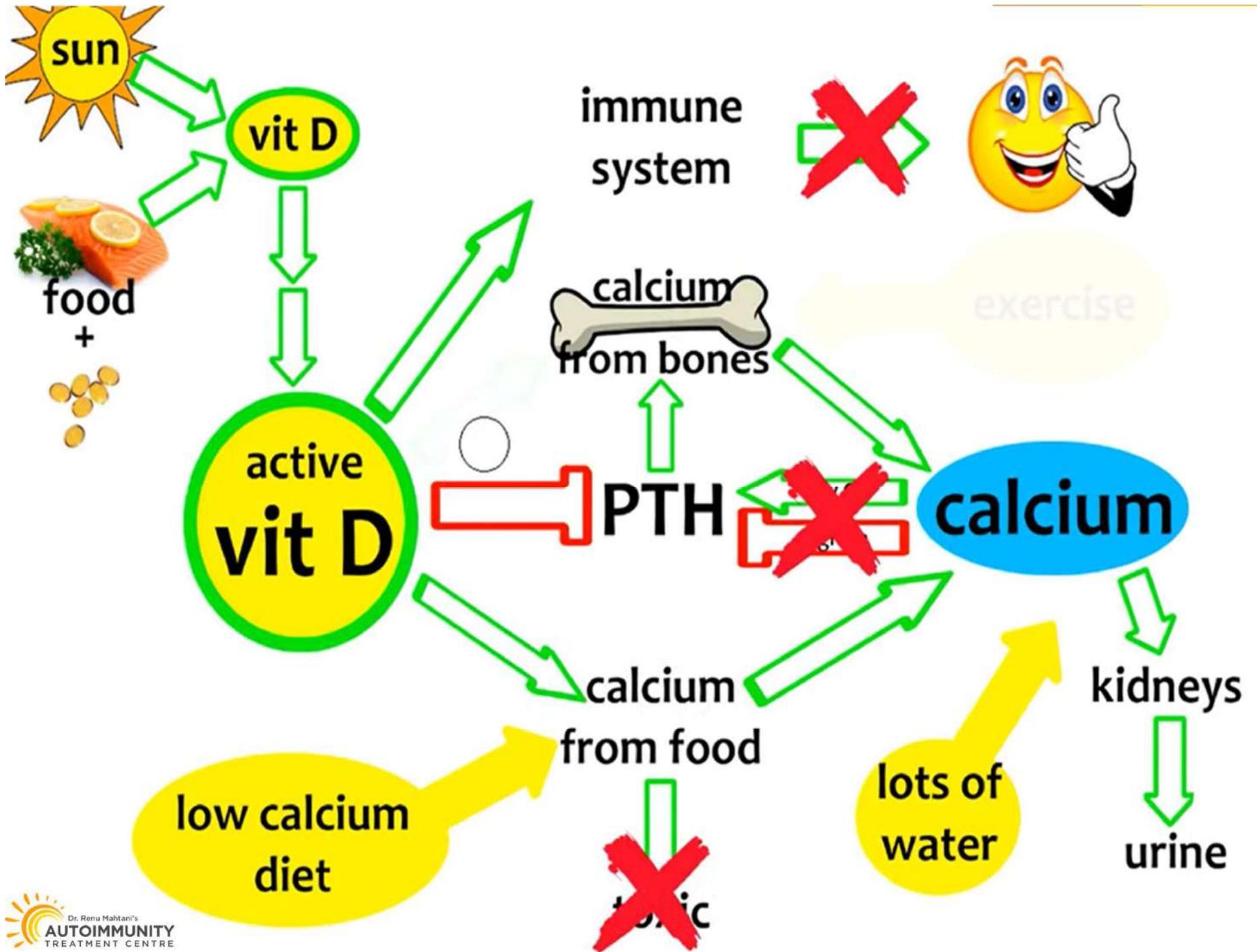
# PTH level monitoring

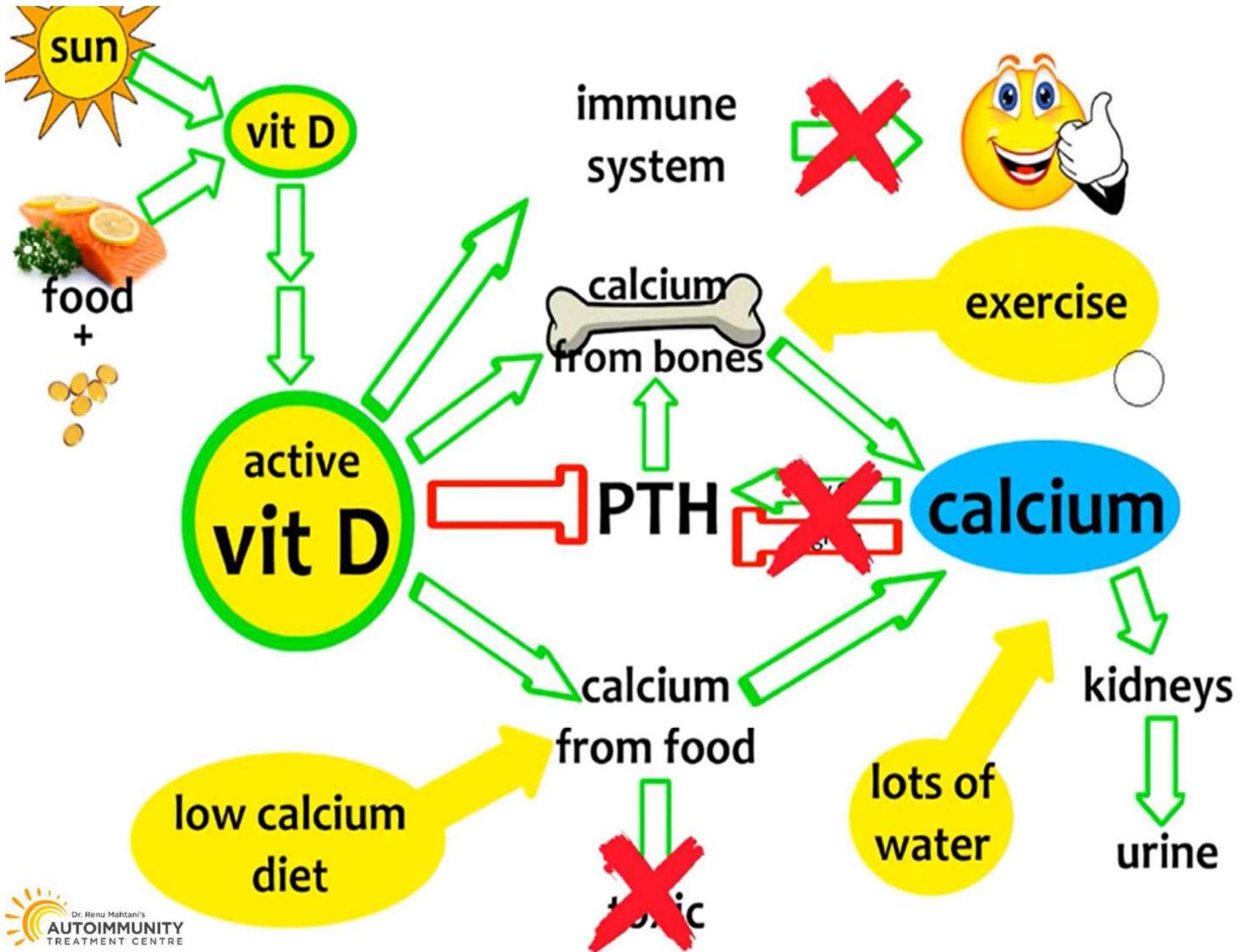
- ▶ Within the reference range but not yet at the lowest value - vit D dose can be increased
- ▶ At the lowest value but still within the reference range - maintain the same dose of vit D
- ▶ Dropped to below the normal lowest reference value - vit D dose should be reduced











# Vitamin D Toxicity

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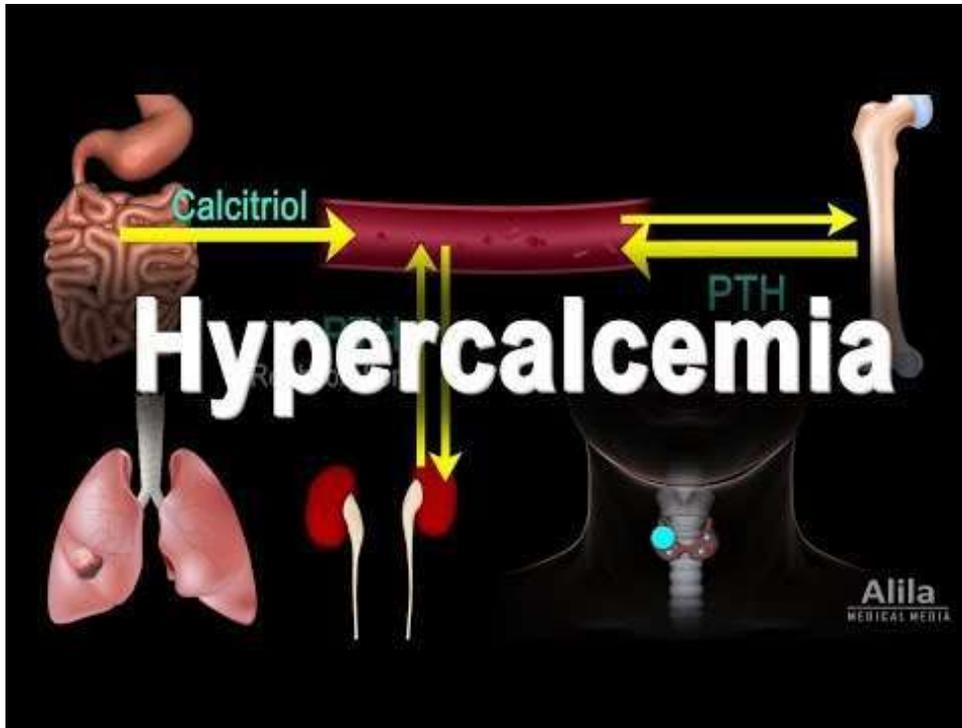
**"WORRYING ABOUT VITAMIN D TOXICITY IS LIKE WORRYING ABOUT DROWNING WHEN YOU'RE DYING OF THIRST."**

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-DR. JOHN CANNELL,  
VITAMIN D RESEARCHER

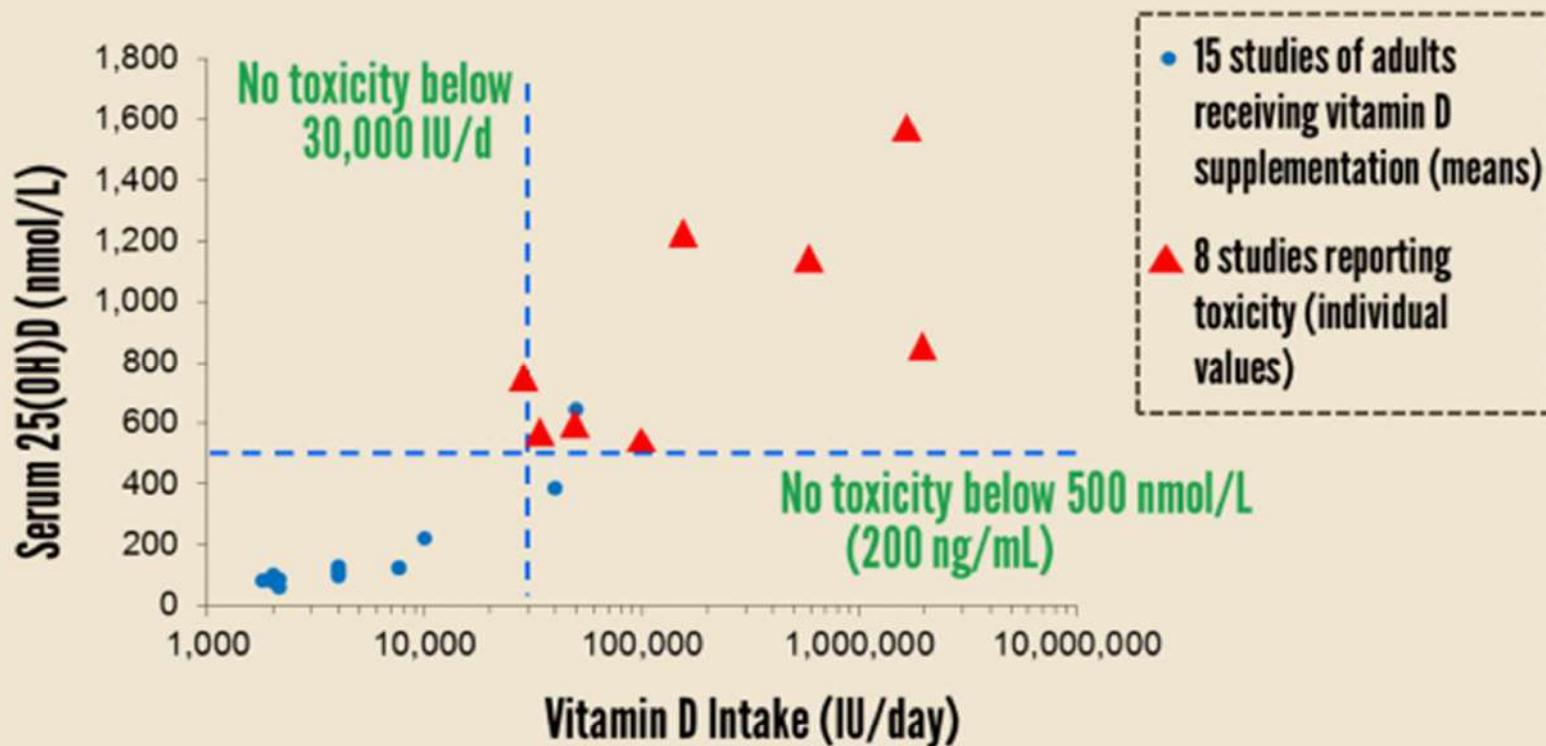
# FEAR OF VITAMIN D TOXICITY IS UNMERITED



Elevated levels of 25(OH)D do not correlate with clinical vitamin D toxicity

**Blood levels above 100 or 150 ng/ml alone do not mean Vitamin D Toxicity**

# VITAMIN D INTAKE & TOXICITY\*



\* Hathcock JN et al. *Am J Clin Nutr.* 2007;85:6-18.





May 2015  
Volume 90  
Number 5

# MAYO CLINIC 2015 PROCEEDINGS

## Vitamin D Is Not as Toxic as Was Once Thought: A Historical and an Up-to-Date Perspective

In the current issue of *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, *See also page 577*

...in the current issue of *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, *See also page 577*

There is enough evidence that vitamin D toxicity is one of the **rarest medical conditions** and is typically due to intentional or inadvertent intake of extremely high doses of vitamin D (usually in the range of >50,000-100,000 IU/d for months to years) without monitoring for hypercalcemia

# To Avoid Toxicity

## Monitoring -

- ▶ PTH

- ▶ Should not be below its lowest limit

- ▶ Ionised Calcium

- ▶ Should be within limits

## Balancing -

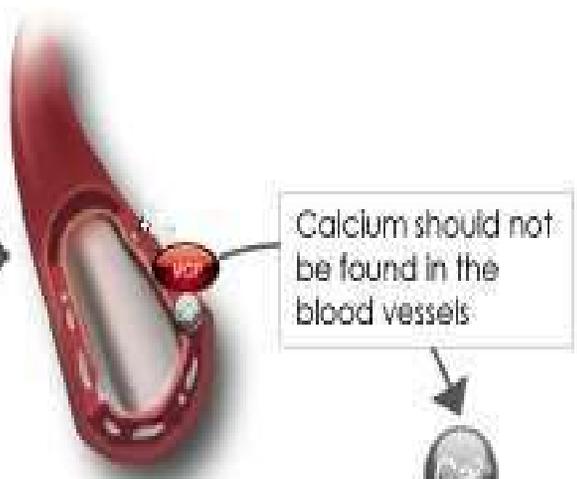
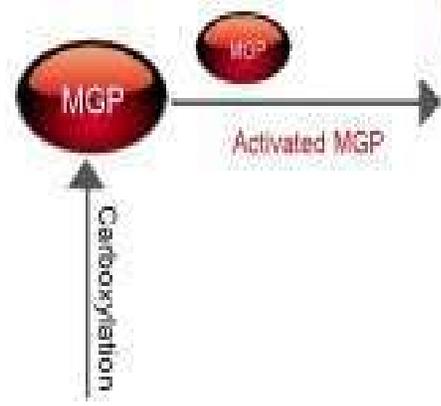
- ▶ Magnesium

- ▶ K2

- ▶ Hydration

- ▶ Limited dietary calcium intake

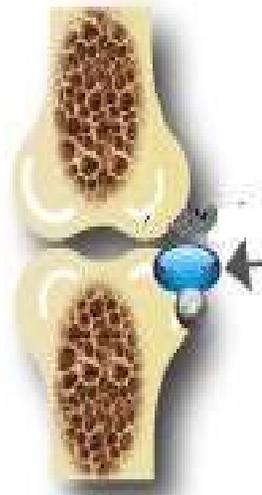
# Prevents vascular calcification



**MK7**



**MK7**

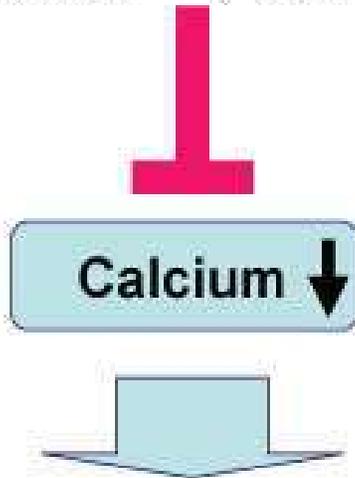


# Enhances bone mass

## Vitamin K

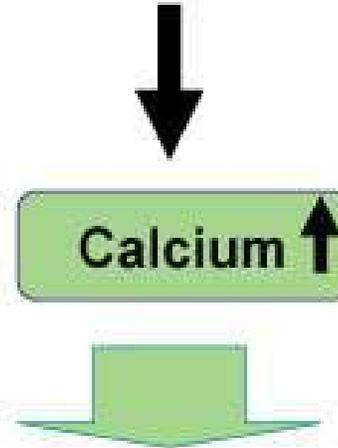
(e.g. menaquinones)

Matrix GLA Protein  
ucMGP → cMGP



Inhibition of vascular  
calcification

Osteocalcin  
ucOc → cOc



Promotion of bone  
mineralization

# Micronutrients to improve efficacy of vitamin D and dose reduction

- ▶ Vital Minerals ( raw material )
  - ▶ Magnesium
  - ▶ Selenium
  - ▶ Zinc
- ▶ Riboflavin B2
- ▶ Methyl-cobalamin - B12
- ▶ Omega 3 Fatty Acid

# Remission of AID with Vitamin D

- ▶ Permanent remission - 60 - 70% patients provided that keep taking the appropriate, person specific dose of vitamin D
- ▶ Remaining get partial relief
- ▶ The worst that can happen is control of
  - ▶ progression
  - ▶ reoccurrences (frequency and intensity)

# Why partial / poor response

- ▶ Older damages already present
- ▶ Steroids, immuno-suppressants
- ▶ Infections & inflammation
- ▶ Poor gut health
- ▶ Lifestyle factors - alcohol, smoking, certain foods
- ▶ Individual attitude and mindset
- ▶ Emotional balancing skills

# Why dont doctors agree / use this effective method which is safe too?

**Renu Mahtani** <paramhealth@gmail.com>

to Bharati ▾

Thu, Oct 29, 3:59 PM (21 hours ago)



THis challenge is everywhere. As long as you know the scientific fundamentals, it does not matter.

If you want to stop the vitamin D, its your decision, but we take care and know and share the actual facts and treat the root cause rather than just the manifestations.

Sincerely  
DRM

\*\*\*

**Bharati Bhagnari**

to me ▾

12:25 PM (39 minutes ago)



Good day doctor / Renu maam

No way am I stopping without your consultation, as mentioned earlier I have been my savior which no dermatologist could do ..  
just a challenge I have with other doctors what do we tell them.

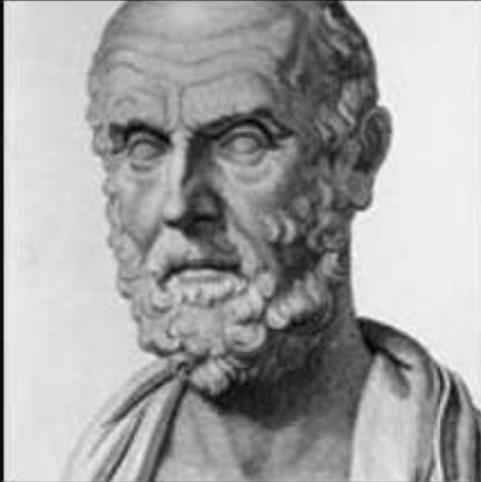
Hope u understand my predicament.

Thank you

And waiting for this travel to get easier to come and meet u.

Kind regards

Bharati / Komal



Wherever the art of Medicine is  
loved, there is also a love of  
Humanity.

~ Hippocrates

**Dr. Renu Mahtani**

MD FMNM

**Autoimmunity Treatment Centre**

[www.renumahtani.com](http://www.renumahtani.com)