

DiaSorin Position Paper on Institute of Medicine's Document "Dietary Reference Intakes for calcium and Vitamin D"

The IOM released a report on Tuesday, November 30, 2010, which assessed the Daily Reference Intakes (DRIs) for Vitamin D. IOM's conclusions, along with reports from several media sources, have prompted DiaSorin to comment on the IOM report.

1. The IOM tripled the Daily Reference Intakes (DRIs) to 600 IU for all life stage groups, except infants (400 IU) and adults > 70 yrs (800 IU).

The IOM report focused on dosing rather than the attainment of adequate serum levels of Vitamin D. Certainly, a "one size fits all" DRI can not assure that targeted serum levels of Vitamin D are realized in individual subjects. Dosages of Vitamin D (from supplementation or dietary intake) may generate different levels of serum Vitamin D in each person, depending upon genetic and environmental factors. Genetic polymorphisms in key enzymes, which are involved in Vitamin D biosynthesis and Vitamin D Binding Protein, affect Vitamin D availability in the body. Moreover, individual variability of Vitamin D bioavailability depends on differences in ethnicity, age, body mass index, wide ranges of geographic location, seasonality, sunscreen usage and several drugs (steroids). Thus, Vitamin D doses need to be individualized in order to reach and maintain adequate serum levels of Vitamin D.

2. The IOM report recommends a cut-off of 20ng/ml for Vitamin D sufficiency.

DiaSorin shares the opinion of the larger medical community, as corroborated by numerous reports published in recent top-tier, peer-reviewed scientific journals, which states that persons with serum levels of Vitamin D below 20ng/ml are "deficient" and below 30ng/ml are "insufficient". Several major medical groups, including the Endocrine Society and the International Osteoporosis Foundation, have concluded that a level of 30ng/ml is necessary for optimal bone health. The opinion of many medical experts, regardless of where consensus places a proper cutoff, is that the actual measurement of serum Vitamin D levels is required to direct sound medical practice.

3. The IOM reviewed over 1000 studies to assess the impact of Vitamin D on health.

DiaSorin agrees with the IOM Committee that, although there is still limited evidence on the benefits beyond bone health, continued research to investigate these potential benefits is valuable and should be encouraged. Several current clinical trials, including the NIH sponsored VITAL study (www.vitalstudy.org), are designed to assess the impact of vitamin D levels on cancer, heart disease and stroke in 20,000 volunteers. DiaSorin is currently sponsoring high quality, interventional, Randomized Controlled Trials to assess the benefits of targeted Vitamin D sufficiency.

DiaSorin believes that the conclusions of the IOM Committee, on this “undoubtedly essential nutrient” Vitamin D, promote the importance of monitoring an individual’s serum levels. To implement and promote effective, personalized medical care, physicians need accurate serum Vitamin D measurements.

About DiaSorin

DiaSorin S.p.A., an international player in the market for in vitro diagnostics, develops, produces and markets reagent kits for clinical laboratory diagnostics. The DiaSorin Group is comprised of 23 companies based in Europe, North, Central and South America, Africa and Asia. It has about 1,500 employees, including more than 110 research and development specialists, and operates six manufacturing and research facilities in Saluggia (Vercelli, Italy), Dietzenbach (Germany), Stillwater (USA), Dublin (Ireland), Dartford (UK) and Kyalami (SA). The last two were part of the Murex business operations, recently acquired from the Abbott Group. Thanks to its direct sales organization and an international network of over 80 independent distributors, the Group is present in more than 60 countries, offering a broad array of high quality products that includes comprehensive lines for each of the clinical segments in which the Group operates: infectious and viral diseases, management of bone and calcium related diseases, thyroid pathologies, oncology and fertility testing.

For additional information, please visit our website: www.DiaSorin.com

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