

Researchers find link between specific vitamin D levels and heart problems

November 9 2015



A lack of vitamin D can result in weak bones. Recent studies also show that vitamin D deficiency is linked to more serious health risks such as coronary artery disease, heart attacks, and strokes.

And now, a new study shows what level of deficiency puts someone at risk of developing these [heart](#) problems.

Researchers at the Intermountain Medical Center Heart Institute in Salt Lake City have found that patients are fine from a heart standpoint, and may need no further treatment, if their vitamin D level is anywhere above 15 nanograms per milliliter.

"Although vitamin D levels above 30 were traditionally considered to be normal, more recently, some researchers have proposed that anything above 15 was a safe level. But the numbers hadn't been backed up with

research until now," said J. Brent Muhlestein, MD, co-director of cardiovascular research at the Intermountain Medical Center Heart Institute, and lead researcher of the study.

"Even if any level above 15 is safe, one out of 10 people still have vitamin D levels lower than that. This equates to a very large percentage of our population. The best way to determine one's vitamin D level is by getting a blood test," he said.

Dr. Muhlestein and his team will present their findings from the study at the 2015 American Heart Association Scientific Session in Orlando on Monday, Nov. 9, at 2 p.m., EST.

The body naturally produces vitamin D as a result of exposure to the sun, and it's also found in a few foods—including fish, fish liver oils, and egg yolks as well as some dairy and grain products.

Those who don't have enough exposure to sunlight or vitamin D producing foods often have low vitamin D levels. Low levels are also attributed to race because people with dark skin have a natural protectant against ultraviolet light.

Dr. Muhlestein and his team have studied the effects of vitamin D on the heart for several years, looking at smaller numbers of patients. In this study, thanks to Intermountain Healthcare's vast clinical database, they were able to evaluate the impact of vitamin D levels on more than 230,000 patients.

The 230,000 patients were split up into four groups (

Citation: Researchers find link between specific vitamin D levels and heart problems (2015, November 9) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-11-link-specific->

vitamin-d-heart.html

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.