

Correspondence

Exogenous vitamin D might contribute to geographic variations in epinephrine prescriptions

To the Editor:

Camargo et al¹ introduce a very interesting hypothesis—that vitamin D from sunlight exposure might protect against allergy—and use epinephrine prescription data to show that there is some correlation between higher latitudes (and hence less sun) and increased EpiPen (Dey L.P., Napa, Calif) prescriptions. Although the authors correctly point out that population studies have shown vitamin D status to be worse in more northern climates, the question remains as to whether exogenous vitamin D during infancy might contribute to the risk seen. Several studies, including 2 conducted in cohorts from higher latitudes where infant vitamin D supplementation is quite prevalent, have shown that supplementation in infancy with vitamins is associated with increased incidence for allergies,²⁻⁴ whereas other experimental data suggest that vitamin D could contribute to allergy, T_H2 pathology, or both.^{5,6} Perhaps some of the geographic differences in allergy incidence could be explained by too much, versus too little, serum vitamin D.

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