

# Vitamin D Deficiency Screening and Monitoring in Pediatric Patients

Olivia ZB Ginnard<sup>1,3</sup> and Stephanie R Sisley<sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Diabetes and Endocrinology, Department of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, Texas.

<sup>2</sup>Division of Nutrition, Department of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas.

<sup>3</sup> Children's Nutrition Research Center, Houston, TX



### Introduction

- Vitamin D deficiency is a common concern worldwide.
- Approximately 50% of pediatric patients in the U.S. have vitamin D deficiency.
- Vitamin D deficiency is associated with vitamin Ddependent rickets, developmental delay, hypertension, diabetes, obesity, depression, autism, asthma, multiple cancers, and autoimmune diseases among other conditions.
- Controversies exist regarding definitions and monitoring of various vitamin D states:

American Academy of Pediatrics Vitamin D Status in Relation to 25(OH)-D Levels			
<b>Vitamin D Status</b>	25(OH)-D Level (ng/mL)		
Deficiency	≤ 15		
Insufficiency	15-20		
Sufficiency	> 20		
Monitoring	Timing		
Initial	3 months		
Repeat	Annual		

Endocrine Society Vitamin D Status in Relation to 25(OH)-D Levels			
Vitamin D Status	25(OH)-D Level (ng/mL)		
Deficiency	< 20		
Insufficiency	21-29		
Sufficiency	> 30		
Monitoring	Timing		
Initial	6-8 weeks		
Repeat	Per Physician		
Tables 1 and 2. Vitamin D Guidelines			

### Methods

- **Study Span:** Retrospective, observational chart analysis of charts from 2009 to 2020 at all Texas Children's Hospitals and Clinics that had 25(OH)-D level < 20 ng/mL.
- Inclusion Criteria: Children age 18 years or younger with at least one 25(OH)-D level.
- **Definition:** Children without vitamin D deficiency were defined as having 25(OH)-D level > 20 ng/mL.
- Data Collection: age at initial screen, gender, race/ethnicity, BMI data available at the time of testing, initial deficient 25(OH)D level, and all subsequent 25(OH)D levels within one year of the initial abnormal value.

## Results

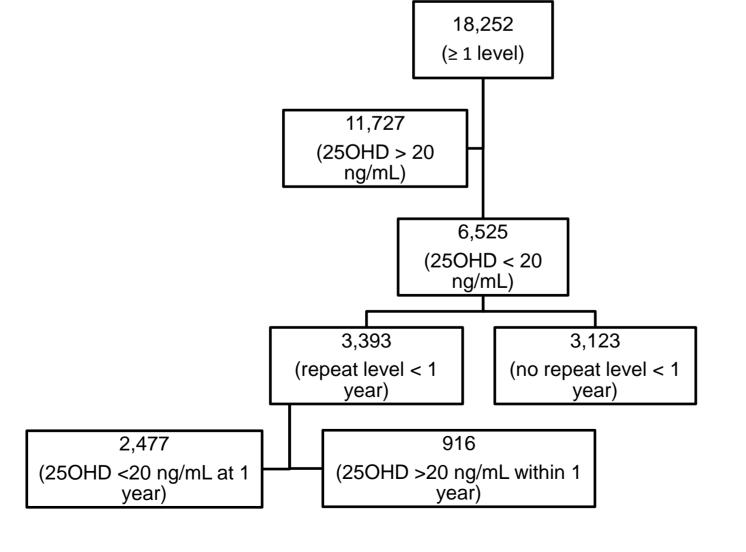


Figure 1. Subject Attrition for Analysis

### **Results Continued**

		Percent or
Characteristics	N	Mean (SD)
Age (years)	6525	10.3 (5)
Gender		
Female	3458	53%
Male	3067	47%
BMI (%ile)		
Female		22.3 (11.9)
Male		20.7 (8.7)
Race/Ethnicity		
Hispanic	2933	45%
African-American	1667	26%
Non-Hispanic White	1363	21%
Asian	366	6%
American Native or		
Pacific Islander	22	0.4%
Unknown	174	3%

**Table 3. Population Characteristics** 

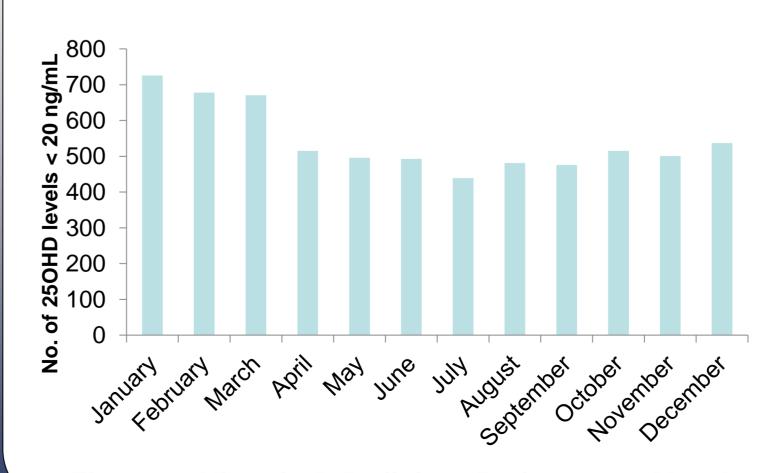


Figure 2. Vitamin D Deficient Patients per Month

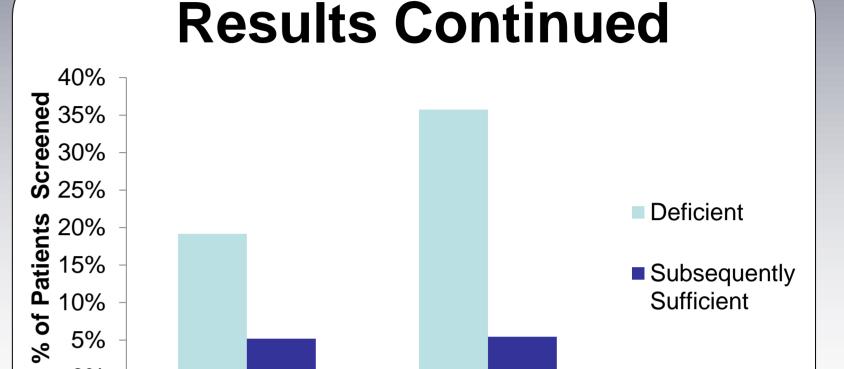


Figure 3. Deficiency and Subsequent Sufficiency per Guideline Definitions

**Endocrine Society** 

American Academy of

**Pediatrics** 

#### Conclusions

- About half of pediatric patients with 25(OH)-D levels of < 20 ng/mL did not have repeat levels drawn within 1 year
- Majority did not achieve 25(OH)-D levels > 20 ng/mL within one year
- More pediatric patients were identified as having vitamin D deficiency using Endocrine Society Guidelines
- Regardless of guideline, majority of patients with vitamin D deficiency did not achieve sufficiency
- Future studies should implement and evaluate the use of a standardized protocol in screening and monitoring treatment efficacy of vitamin D deficiency in pediatric patients