

Survey

Vitamin D deficiency rickets

Vitamin D deficiency rickets has been a problem in Canada despite guidelines on vitamin D supplementation. The definition of a child with vitamin D deficiency rickets OR severe, symptomatic vitamin D deficiency is as follows:

- **Vitamin D deficiency rickets: Low serum 25(OH)D levels (< 25 nmol/L) AND radiographic signs of rickets**
- **Severe, symptomatic vitamin D deficiency without radiographic evidence of rickets: Low serum 25(OH)D levels (< 25 nmol/L) AND symptoms consistent with vitamin D deficiency (i.e., seizures, hypocalcemia, inability to ambulate) in the absence of any other identified causes.**

The Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program is conducting a one-time survey to assess the extent to which paediatricians are still encountering vitamin D deficiency rickets, and what barriers exist to the proper implementation of supplementation guidelines. **Your contribution is greatly appreciated.**

1. Are you aware of the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) guidelines* on the prevention of vitamin D deficiency rickets through vitamin D supplementation to infants? **Yes** ___ **No** ___
2. Do you have a specialty or subspecialty practice that would not include these patients? **Yes** ___ **No** ___
3. Given the definitions above, over the past 12 months, have you assessed infants/children/youth ≤ 18 years who meet the above case definition of vitamin D deficiency rickets OR severe, symptomatic vitamin D deficiency? **Yes** ___ **No** ___

If you have not seen any cases or have a specialty/subspecialty practice that does not include these patients, we thank you for participating in this survey.

If yes, specify number of cases in each age range:

Rickets: 0–2 years ___ 3–4 years ___ 5–8 years ___ 9–12 years ___ 13–18 years ___

Severe symptomatic vitamin D deficiency without rickets:

0–2 years ___ 3–4 years ___ 5–8 years ___ 9–12 years ___ 13–18 years ___

4. Were **you** the health professional most responsible for their care? **Yes** ___ **No** ___
If no, indicate type of health professional most responsible for their care (e.g., paediatrician, family physician, etc.):

5. Of the cases noted above, which clinical features and/or risk factors did patients with this diagnosis have? (Check all that apply.)

• **Clinical features:** failure to thrive ___ fractures ___ irritability ___ limpness ___
cardiomyopathy ___ respiratory distress ___ skeletal deformity ___ delayed motor milestones ___
poor dentition ___ delayed dentition ___ hypotonia/weakness ___

• **Risk factors:** medium or dark skin ___ family recently immigrated to Canada (last 5 years) ___
family refugee status in Canada ___ lack of sun exposure ___ dairy-free diet ___
breast-feeding: exclusive ___ or partial ___ lack of vitamin D supplementation ___

• **Other clinical feature or risk factor**, specify: _____

6. Have you seen any infant/child with rickets who received vitamin D supplementation? **Yes** ___ **No** ___
If yes, was 400 IU of vitamin D provided daily? **Yes** ___ **No** ___

7. In your opinion, why are infants/children not receiving adequate vitamin D supplementation? (Check all that apply.)
Lack of awareness of the CPS recommendations ___ Inability to afford vitamin D supplementation ___
Missed doses of vitamin D 400 IU/day ___ Vitamin D 400 IU/day given but spit out ___
Disagreement with the need for supplementation ___, specify: _____
Other, specify: _____

* www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/vitamin-d

Please return this survey with your monthly reporting form.

Thank you for your participation.

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