

## AUTHOR REPLY

# Vitamin D therapy in adults with diabetes mellitus

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We would like to thank Dr Bardini and colleagues for their comment on the clinically important distinction between vitamin D formulations (Vitamin D therapy in adults with diabetes mellitus *Nat. Rev. Endocrinol.* 7, doi:10.1038/nrendo.2010.107-c1). In the Practice point box in the News and Views article (Shining a light: the role of vitamin D in diabetes mellitus *Nat. Rev. Endocrinol.* 6, 478–480; 2010),<sup>1</sup> the dose of vitamin D supplementation refers to the inactive formulations of vitamin D, cholecalciferol (vitamin D<sub>3</sub>) or ergocalciferol (vitamin D<sub>2</sub>). These formulations, which require sequential hydroxylations in the liver and kidney to become active, are used for supplementation in the general population.

The active formulation of vitamin D, 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>2</sub>, is not recommended for usual vitamin D replacement except in special circumstances (for example, kidney failure, hypoparathyroidism).

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### Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

1. Mitri, J. & Pittas, A. G. Shining a light: the role of vitamin D in diabetes mellitus. *Nat. Rev. Endocrinol.* 6, 478–480 (2010).