



## Study showing the assessment with correlation of 25-hydroxy Vitamin D and HbA1c in type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

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### Abstract

**Background:** Vitamin D deficiency reportedly is associated with type 2 diabetes (T2DM). We aim to examine whether 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25OHD) has clinically significant influence on hemoglobin glycation (HbA1c) in T2DM subjects.

**Aim:** To assess the serum levels of 25-Hydroxy Vitamin D and HbA1c as well as to study the correlation of these parameters in Known Patients of type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

**Material and Methods:** This hospital-based study was conducted on 45 diagnosed type 2 Diabetes mellitus patients and 25 non-diabetic age and gender matched controls. Blood sample were collected in plain vial as well as EDTA vial and serum 25-hydroxy vitamin D levels and HbA1c were evaluated. Results were collected and analyses statically.

**Results:** Vitamin D deficiency was seen in 35.6% and 32.6% of T2DM cases and control subjects respectively. There was no association of serum 25OHD deficiency on HbA1c in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus patients with  $r$  value of  $-0.171$  and  $-0.237$  in study and control group respectively.

**Conclusion:** Our findings suggests that though vitamin D deficiency is prevalent in T2DM and non-diabetic subjects, its role in hemoglobin glycation could not be established.

**Keywords:** Diabetes, Vitamin D, HbA1c.

### Introduction

Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) is the commonly seen endocrine disorder characterized by hyperglycemia.<sup>[1]</sup> The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) estimates around 61.3 million diabetic individuals (2011) in India that is further set to increase to 101.2 million with a global estimate of 552 million by the year 2030.<sup>[2]</sup> There are several factors that seem to play a role in its development including genetic, lifestyle, environmental and nutritional conditions. Amongst nutritional factors, vitamin D is likely to have an important role either in glycemic control

or in attenuating diabetic complications.<sup>[3,4]</sup> The probable mechanisms indicating the role of vitamin D in glucose homeostasis is likely to be through beta cell dysfunction and insulin resistance in cases with vitamin D deficiency.<sup>[5,6]</sup> A negative correlation between serum glucose and insulin levels with 25OHD and a positive correlation with insulin sensitivity has been observed in several human and animal model studies.<sup>[6-8]</sup> It has also been observed that vitamin D supplementation can improve insulin secretion and reduce insulin resistance in T2DM and non-diabetic subjects.<sup>[7]</sup> Thus, accumulating the

evidence from several studies, vitamin D is likely to have a role in T2DM and Hb-glycation.<sup>[9]</sup> Hence, present study was proposed to examine the association of vitamin D (25OHD) levels with HbA1c along with evaluating the serum levels of 25-Hydroxy Vitamin D in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus patients.

### Material and Methods

A Hospital based cross-sectional study was carried out in Department of Biochemistry, Rajindra Hospital Patiala on 70 subject including 45 diagnosed cases of type-2 diabetes mellitus and 25 healthy age and gender matched subjects as control. Our study, 25-Hydroxyvitamin D and glycosylated haemoglobin levels were evaluated in 45 cases and 25 controls. Prior Permission from ethical committee was taken.

**Inclusion Criteria** included Patients of type II diabetes mellitus on diet modification /or oral hypoglycemic agents treatment and Patients aged between 35-80 years.

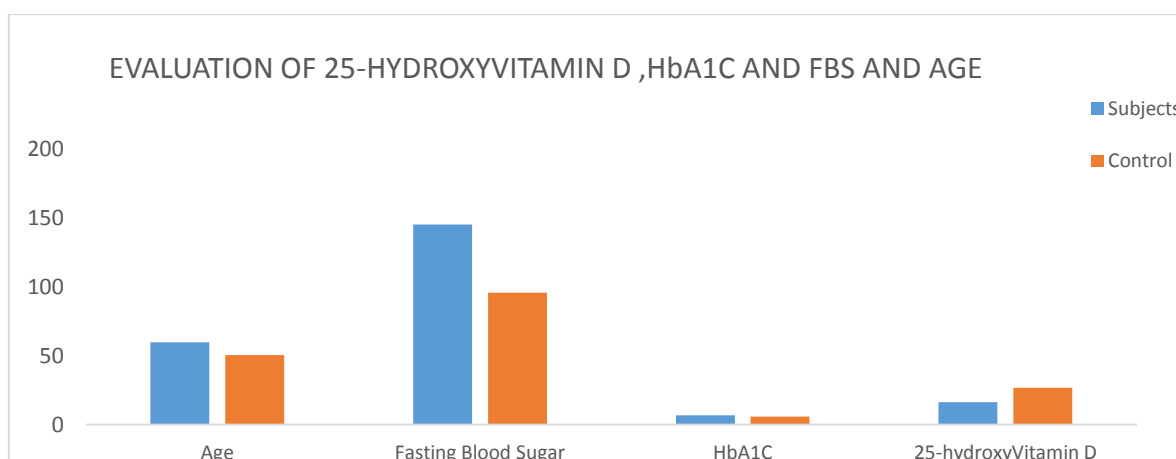
**Exclusion Criteria** included Insulin therapy, Consumption of Vitamin D or Calcium, Renal failure, nephrotic syndrome Liver disorder with Ascites, Hypoalbuminemia, Coagulation disorders

### Results

The general characteristics of the individuals have been described in [Table]. Student t test was used to evaluate the results.

Parameter	Subjects	Control	P Value	Significance
Age	59.60 ± 9.05	50.48 ± 10.77	<0.001	HS
Fasting Blood Sugar	145.22 ± 44.37	95.72 ± 11.68	0.000	HS
HbA1C	6.86 ± 0.85	5.80 ± 0.66	0.000	HS
25-hydroxyVitamin D	16.31 ± 14.03	26.63 ± 16.54	<0.007	S

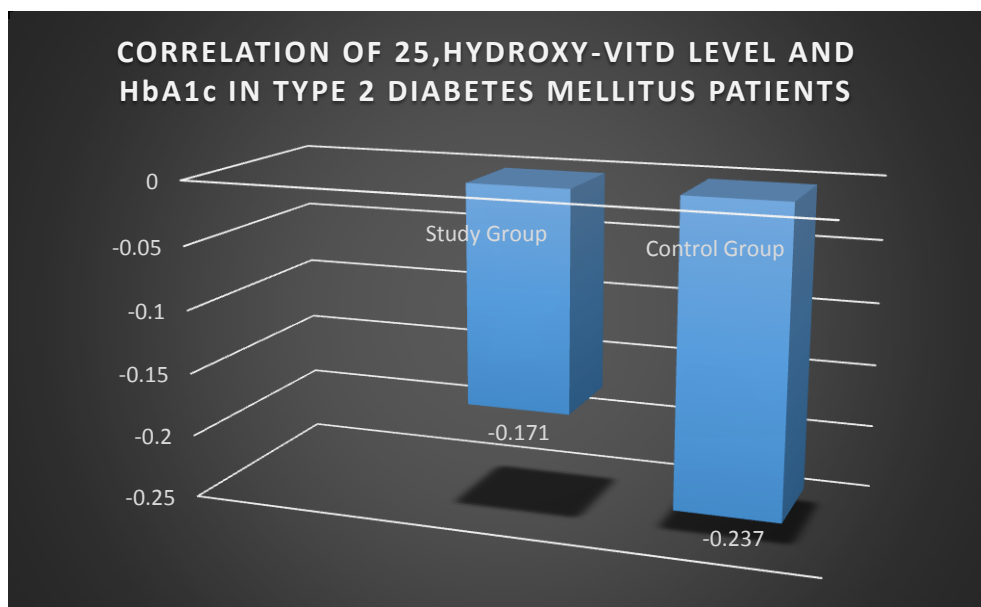
\*HS (Highly Significant), S (Significant)



In the study group of diabetes mellitus type 2 patients, 25(OH)D3 levels were lower than in the control group. Mean value of 25(OH)D3 levels being  $16.31 \pm 14.03$  ng/ml and  $26.63 \pm 16.54$  ng/ml in the study and control group, respectively ( $p < 0.007$ ).

In the study group about 16 people with T2DM of 45 (35.6%) were Vitamin D deficient as opposed to 7 of 25 (32.9%) in control non diabetic group.

Parameter	STUDY GROUP		CONTROL GROUP	
	Mean±S.D	r value	Mean±S.D	r value
25-Hydroxyvitamin D	16.31±14.03		26.63±16.54	
HbA1c	6.86±0.85	-0.171	5.80±0.66	-0.237



The r value between 25-hydroxyvitamin D and HbA1c in study group was -0.171 and that of control group was -0.237. So there was no significant association found between these 2 parameters in diabetic patients.

**Discussion**

The increasing incidence of T2DM is taking a great toll of health resources. The diverse effect of vitamin D on glucose and calcium homeostasis.<sup>(10)</sup> has made it an ideal contender to know its role in glycemic control in T2DM. India being a vast tropical country geographically spreading from 8.4° N latitude to 37.6° N latitude, it is expected that sufficient sunlight is received throughout the year.<sup>(11,12)</sup> Regardless of this vitamin D deficiency has been observed more commonly in earlier studies from India.<sup>(13)</sup> The present study has also shown a higher incidence (35.6%) of vitamin D deficiency in overall recruited subjects indicating

that both T2DM (91.4%) subjects and non-diabetic control subjects (32.9%) were equally deficient. This is likely to be due to increased skin pigmentation, low exposure to direct sunlight, obesity and malabsorption, as has been observed by several studies from India.<sup>(14)</sup> been argued by Lo et al. that to meet an adequate requirement of vitamin D, people in India require sun exposure almost double than Caucasians due to increased skin pigmentation.<sup>(15)</sup> Although in a review by Pittas et al. an association between T2DM and low vitamin-D levels has been demonstrated.<sup>(9)</sup> Nonetheless, vitamin-D supplementation was not found to be effective in reducing HbA1c as stated by Melville in his news report.<sup>(16)</sup> Luo et al. also showed that within T2DM subjects, regardless of a common finding of vitamin D deficiency, low vitamin D is associated neither with increased prevalence of the metabolic syndrome, nor is there any association with glycemic control.<sup>(10)</sup> Several

mechanisms like activation of vitamin D receptor and calcium homeostasis involving impaired pancreatic- $\beta$  cell function and insulin resistance in T2DM have been suggested.<sup>(9)</sup> Also a number of studies have shown a consistent inverse association between vitamin D level or vitamin D intake on the incidence of T2DM,<sup>(3)</sup> but our study could not demonstrate such relationship. Similar observation has been made in studies from New Zealand overweight adult population and British Caucasians demonstrating a weak relationship between HbA1c and vitamin D levels.<sup>(17,18)</sup>

### Limitation

Firstly we took only one sample in one season for analysis and because of sunshine duration difference in each season level of vitamin D may undulate during the year, so this study cannot predict the condition of hypovitaminosis in this area. In addition, 25(OH)D<sub>3</sub> was chosen as a marker of vitamin D deficiency, as currently recommended. However, vitamin D circulates in several forms in the blood and its active form is 1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D<sub>3</sub>.

### Conclusion

Though vitamin D deficiency is prevalent in T2DM and non-diabetic control subjects, its relationship in glycation control or insulin resistance in T2DM subjects could not be confirmed in our population. This is potentially an important finding for public health, demonstrating that improvement in vitamin D status is not the only factor responsible for better health of the individuals but lifestyle and dietary changes seem to play a role which will improve the overall health including hemoglobin glycation and insulin resistance along with vitamin D levels.

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