

Letter to the Editor Response

Response to Letter to the Editor From Speeckaert et al: “Vitamin D Deficiency Is Associated With Higher Hospitalisation Risk from COVID-19: A Retrospective Case-Control Study”

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We thank the authors for their interest in our recent publication, “Vitamin D deficiency Is Associated With Higher Hospitalization Risk From COVID 19: A Retrospective Case-Control Study” (1). We agree that vitamin D binding protein (DBP) polymorphisms may possibly influence both our results and those of others.

Unfortunately, given that DBP polymorphisms are not routinely checked in UK clinical practice and our study participants were collected from a retrospective database of both community patients and COVID-19 hospital admissions, we cannot say for certain whether this is the case. Furthermore, there are no extant samples available for retrospective genotyping.

There may be a case for future studies involving genotyping for DBP polymorphisms in COVID-19 patients to draw more concrete conclusions between serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ levels, underlying genetics, and

COVID-19 severity. However, these conclusions are outside the scope of our study to which Speeckaert et al refers.

Additional Information

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Reference

1. Jude EB, Ling SF, Allcock R, Yeap BXY, Pappachan JM. Vitamin D deficiency is associated with higher hospitalization risk from COVID-19: A retrospective case-control study. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. Published online June 2021. doi: [10.1210/clinem/dgab439](https://doi.org/10.1210/clinem/dgab439)