

## Correspondence

### **Authors' response**

Sir,

The answers to the queries are as follows:

1. The most surprising element is the lower vitamin D levels in controls as compared to patients. The only explanation which we could think of is that in our population where we do not take vitamin D fortified food and where sun exposure is the main source of vitamin D, the patients could be having higher levels as they were coming for treatment in the sun while the controls who were mainly hospital staff were vitamin D deficient as they had poorer sun exposure. As can be seen in Table I the duration of sun exposure in the patient group was significantly higher than in controls.
2. The mean age in the two groups was similar and not significantly different as pointed out.
3. The signs \* and \*\* have been explained clearly in the footnote of Table I.

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