

# Vitamin D supplements to prevent depression and poor physical function in persons over 60 years.

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Depressive symptoms are common in older persons, often associated with poor physical function and vitamin D deficiency (serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D < 50 nmol/l). Simple and cheap interventions to prevent depression are lacking. Vitamin D deficiency...

<b>Ethische beoordeling</b>	Positief advies
<b>Status</b>	Werving gestopt
<b>Type aandoening</b>	-
<b>Onderzoekstype</b>	Interventie onderzoek

## Samenvatting

### ID

NL-OMON24229

### Bron

NTR

### Verkorte titel

D-Vitaal

### Aandoening

depressive symptoms and poor physical functioning in older persons.

depressieve symptomen en matig fysiek functioneren bij ouderen.

### Ondersteuning

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## Onderzoeksproduct en/of interventie

## Uitkomstmaten

### Primaire uitkomstmaten

Change in the CES-D score (depressive symptoms), change in physical performance score, and change in the number of functional limitations as well as change in the degree of functional limitations.

## Toelichting onderzoek

### Achtergrond van het onderzoek

Background of the study:

Depressive symptoms are common in older persons, often associated with poor physical function and vitamin D deficiency (serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D < 50 nmol/l). Simple and cheap interventions to prevent depression are lacking. Vitamin D deficiency occurs in 50% of persons >65 yr and has been associated with an increase in depressive symptoms in many studies, as well as with functional limitations and declining physical performance. A prior randomized placebo-controlled trial on the effect of vitamin D supplementation in overweight persons showed a decrease in depressive symptoms. Vitamin D supplementation also had a positive influence on mobility tests in several clinical trials. A mechanistic explanation is available: the vitamin D receptor is present in muscle cells as well as in brain tissue, especially in the hypothalamus. The hypothesis is that vitamin D decreases depressive symptoms and improves physical performance and functional limitations in older persons. Secondary hypotheses are that vitamin D decreases anxiety, improves cognitive functioning and quality of life, and prevents the development of full-blown depression in older persons.

Objective of the study:

Primary objectives:

1. Does vitamin D supplementation improve depressive symptoms in older persons?
2. Does vitamin D supplementation improve physical performance and functional limitations in older persons?

#### Secondary objectives:

1. Does vitamin D supplementation decrease anxiety and improve cognitive function and quality of life in older persons?
2. Can vitamin D supplementation prevent the development of full-blown depression in older persons?
3. Is vitamin D supplementation a cost-effective strategy in the prevention of increasing depressive symptoms and functional limitations and declining physical performance?

#### Study design:

A randomized double-blind placebo-controlled intervention study on the effect of vitamin D 1200 IU per day versus placebo on depressive symptoms, physical performance and functional limitations. The duration of intervention and follow-up is one year.

#### Study population:

Potential participants are recruited in The Netherlands, aged 60 to 80 years, are recruited in general practices with the Center of Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CES-D). They are eligible when having mild depressive symptoms, i.e. a CES-D score of 16 or higher. Further inclusion criteria are the presence of at least one functional limitation and a serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentration between 15 nmol/l and 50 nmol/l in winter or 70 nmol/l in summer. Patients with a diagnosis of depression are excluded. According to the sample size calculation and drop out, 50 persons per group, i.e. 100 persons are required. Because of uncertainty in the 25-hydroxyvitamin D assay during screening, 70 persons per group will be included, altogether 140 persons..

#### Intervention:

The patients are randomized into two groups: vitamin D 1200 IU (three tablets of 400 IU per day) or placebo (three tablets per day) for one year.

Primary study parameters/outcome of the study:

Change in the CES-D score, change in physical performance score after 12 months, change in the number of functional limitations as well as change of degree of functional limitations.

Secondary study parameters/outcome of the study:

Change in anxiety, cognition, quality of life, incidence of full-blown depression, timed up-and-go-test, costs.

Nature and extent of the burden and risks associated with participation, benefit and group relatedness:

Potential participants are screened with postal questionnaires and a screening visit to their general practice (short questionnaire and blood sample). After screening, they have to come 3 times to the general practice or health center at baseline, after 6 and 12 months. They have to complete questionnaires, perform physical performance tests, and a blood sample is drawn twice at baseline and 6 months. Assessments at 3 weeks, 3 months and 9 months are by telephone. The risk of the vitamin D treatment is negligible.

## **Doel van het onderzoek**

Depressive symptoms are common in older persons, often associated with poor physical function and vitamin D deficiency (serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D < 50 nmol/l). Simple and cheap interventions to prevent depression are lacking. Vitamin D deficiency occurs in 50% of persons >65 yr and has been associated with an increase in depressive symptoms in many studies, as well as with functional limitations and declining physical performance. A prior randomized placebo-controlled trial on the effect of vitamin D supplementation in overweight persons showed a decrease in depressive symptoms. Vitamin D supplementation also had a positive influence on mobility tests in several clinical trials. A mechanistic explanation is available: the vitamin D receptor is present in muscle cells as well as in brain tissue, especially in the hypothalamus. The hypothesis is that vitamin D decreases depressive symptoms and improves physical performance and functional limitations in older persons. Secondary hypotheses are that vitamin D decreases anxiety, improves quality of life and prevents the development of full-blown depression in older persons.

## **Onderzoeksopzet**

Primary outcomes:

1. Change in depressive symptoms (CES-D score) after 12 months;

2. Change in physical performance score after 12 months;
3. Change in number and degree of functional limitations after 12 months.

Secondary outcomes:

1. Change in depressive symptoms (CES-D score), after 6 months;
2. Change in physical performance score after 6 months;
3. Change in number and degree of functional limitations after 6 months;
4. Number of subjects with a full-blown major depressive disorder (CIDI score) after 6 and 12 months;
5. Change in anxiety (Beck Anxiety Index score) after 6 and 12 months;
6. Change in cognition (Stroop Colour-Word Test score) after 6 and 12 months;
7. Change in quality of life (EQ-5D and SF-36 score) after 6 and 12 months.

### **Onderzoeksproduct en/of interventie**

Experimental group: 1200 IU of vitamin D per day, in 3 tablets of 400 IU, for 12 months.  
Active substance: Colecalciferol. Product name: Devaron.

Placebo group: 3 placebo tablets per day for 12 months. (similar to Devaron tablets in size, shape, taste etc., but no active substance).

## **Contactpersonen**

### **Publiek**

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## Wetenschappelijk

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## Deelname eisen

### Belangrijkste voorwaarden om deel te mogen nemen (Inclusiecriteria)

In order to be eligible to participate in this study, a participant must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Age 60-80 yr;
2. At least one functional limitation;
3. Mild depressive symptoms;
4. Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D  $\geq$  15 nmol/l and  $>$  50 nmol/l in winter or  $>$  70 nmol/l in summer;
5. Ability to comply with the study.

### Belangrijkste redenen om niet deel te kunnen nemen (Exclusiecriteria)

A potential participant who meets any of the following criteria will be excluded from participation in this study:

1. Full-blown depressive disorder;
2. Use of antidepressiva;
3. Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D  $<$  15 nmol/l and serum 25 hydroxyvitamin D  $>$  50 nmol/l in

winter or > 70 nmol/l in summer;

4. Vitamin D (more than 400 IU/day) or calcium supplementation (more than 1000 mg/day);

5. Major life-threatening illness;

6. Living in an aged people's home or nursing home.

## Onderzoeksopzet

### Opzet

Type:	Interventie onderzoek
Onderzoeksmodel:	Parallel
Toewijzing:	Gerandomiseerd
Blinding:	Dubbelblind
Controle:	Placebo

### Deelname

Nederland	
Status:	Werving gestopt
(Verwachte) startdatum:	01-03-2013
Aantal proefpersonen:	140
Type:	Werkelijke startdatum

## Ethische beoordeling

Positief advies	
Datum:	06-02-2013
Soort:	Eerste indiening

## Registraties

## Opgevolgd door onderstaande (mogelijk meer actuele) registratie

Geen registraties gevonden.

## Andere (mogelijk minder actuele) registraties in dit register

Geen registraties gevonden.

## In overige registers

Register	ID
NTR-new	NL3675
NTR-old	NTR3845
Ander register	METC VUmc / Wetenschapscommissie EMGO+ Instituut VUmc / CCMO : 2012/354 / 2012/041 / NL41567.029.12;
ISRCTN	ISRCTN wordt niet meer aangevraagd.

## Resultaten

### Samenvatting resultaten

N/A