

## Comparative Study of Salivary and Serum Levels of Vitamin D in Patients with a History of High Blood Pressure and Healthy People

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Vitamin D deficiency is a major public health problem. Low vitamin D levels associated with adverse health consequences such as musculoskeletal health, cognitive decline and progression of cancer and death. The lack of vitamin D associated with major risk factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD) includes hypertension is considered. The ability to assess the general health, disease and treatment outcomes through saliva as a non-invasive, inexpensive and simple method of interest is located. The aim of this study was a comparative study of salivary and serum levels of vitamin D3 in patients with a history of developing high blood pressure and a healthy person.

**Methods:** This study was a case - control survey, in which 40 patients with high blood pressure were examined. The control group including 40 healthy subjects. Both groups were matched in terms of age and gender. After collecting samples of serum and saliva, the amount of vitamin D level samples were measured using ELISA method by electrochemiluminescence (ELC), and then analyzed the results using software SPSS 16 and statistical test including Chi Square Test, Independent-Samples, linear regression model, the Mann-Whitney Test and Spearman correlation coefficient.

**Results:** There was no significant difference in the mean serum levels of vitamin D among patients and healthy subjects ( $p= 0.588$ ). In addition, there was no significant difference in the mean salivary levels of vitamin D between patients and healthy subjects ( $p= 0.833$ ). There was no significant relationship between salivary and serum level of vitamin D in healthy individuals ( $p= 0.095$ ). As well as there was no significant correlation between salivary and serum level of vitamin D in patients ( $p= 0.5$ ).

**Conclusions:** This study showed that vitamin D is a measurable marker in saliva, but its analysis in saliva, may not be a reliable tool for determining the vitamin D levels.

**Keywords:** hypertension; vitamin D; saliva

### 1. Introduction

Vitamin D deficiency is a public health problem that affects 58-33 percent of the population of the United States (Deng et al., 2013; Hossein-nezhad & Holick, 2013). Low levels of vitamin D status are associated with adverse health consequences such as musculoskeletal health (Holick 2007; Souberbielle et al., 2010), cognitive decline (van der Schaft et al., 2013) and cancer progression and death (Freedman, Looker, Chang, & Graubard, 2007). More recently, the relationship between vitamin D deficiencies are the major risk factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD) including hypertension (Motiwala & Wang, 2012; Souberbielle et al., 2010; Vimalaewaran et al., 2014).

Vitamin D by acting on the renin-angiotensin system plays an important role in controlling blood pressure. According to the results of the studies, there is an inverse relationship between vitamin D deficiency and increased risk of high blood pressure. The results of the studies have shown that with the placement of people with high blood pressure exposed to UVB rays of sunlight, vitamin d levels are increased; reduced systolic and diastolic blood pressure, as well as the results of another study showed that adding vitamin D food leads to lower diastolic blood pressure in patients with high blood pressure. In general, the usual diet containing insufficient amounts of vitamin D, and without supplements, Sunlight to reach sufficient levels of vitamin D for humans is necessary. The synthesis of vitamin D in the skin depends on several factors such as geographical location, altitude, latitude, season, day length, color, age and obesity (Naesgaard et al., 2012). Lack of vitamin D from different directions, causing cardiovascular disease that includes vascular smooth cell proliferation, hypertrophy of myocardial cells, vascular calcification, the renin-angiotensin system disorders, pancreatic beta cells disorders and insulin resistance that they have playing role in the blood pressure disorders (Hosseinpanah et al., 2011). Saliva is a complex combination of water and organic and inorganic components that are the major and minor salivary glands. The majority of compounds can be produced locally within the glands and other parts of the systemic circulation moves (Glick, 2015 ). The ability of the public health assessment to determine the onset of the disease and treatment outcomes through saliva as a non-invasive method, the most important goal in the progress towards the use of salivary markers can be taken in to account. Very good reasons for the use of saliva as a diagnostic fluid for evaluation of health and disease. Interest in faster and less invasive diagnostic tests has grown in the past decade, that extensive research has resulted in saliva as liquid bio clinical diagnosis (Sun & Reichenberger, 2014). So the diagnosis of disease based on collecting the saliva is very more accessible, more accurate and cheaper would be superior to the other methods are the least risk for the patient and can also be a cost-effective and non-invasive methods in large populations provide screening (Lawrence, 2002). The aim of this study was to compare the salivary and serum levels of vitamin D<sub>3</sub> in the case Group (includes patients with a history of hypertension, they visit) versus healthy subjects (without any history of heart and vascular disease and without any known systemic disease requires long-term treatment).

## 2. Methods

This is a case-control study. The statistical community selected including 40 patients referred to clinic of farshchian heart hospital of Hamadan from September 2016 to March 2017, who were suffering from high blood pressure. The control group comprised 40 healthy subjects that matched in terms of age and sex were observed. Inclusion criteria to select patients, patients with a history of hypertension greater than 140/90 mmHg in patients greater than 30 years. Inclusion criteria (including all subjects, including control and monitoring) are as follows: Everyone is at least 30 years of age. There is no chronic kidney disease (men Cr <1.8 in women Cr <1.5). Calcium levels were in the normal range. During the past four months had not received any calcium supplements. None of these patients had autoimmune inflammatory disease such as infection and active disease. Also not treated with corticosteroids. Eventually to participate in the study were completely satisfied. Exclusion criteria included age less than 30 years, taking vitamin D and calcium has over 4 months before the study. Creatinine level higher than 1.8 for men and 1.5 for women. Patients with chronic inflammatory diseases and infection in patients treated with systemic corticosteroids. Levels less than 20 ng / mL (50 nmol / L) 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> as shortages; Levels of 29-21 ng / ml (52- 72 nmol / L) as insufficient, and the level greater than 30 ng / ml is considered to be a sufficient amount of vitamin D (Holick, 2009). According to JNC 8 normal blood pressure is less than 120/80 mmHg blood pressure (pre-hypertension blood pressure; Systolic 120-139 mmHg and diastolic pressure between 89-80 mmHg. stage 1 hypertension, systolic 140-159 mmHg and diastolic blood pressure 90-99 mmHg. finally, stage 2 hypertension, systolic blood pressure over 160 mmHg and diastolic pressure over 100 mmHg (Paul et al., 2014). Blood samples taken from the brachial vein with 5 ml syringe. Saliva sampling of all the participants in the study using the method of "navazesh" preparation (Navazesh & Kumar, 2008). Unstimulated saliva samples was taken between 8-11 am and all the volunteers in the study were asked for 90 minutes before collecting samples avoid eating, drinking and brushing. Then people sitting while the head is bent slightly forward, For 5 minute's saliva poured into a graduated tube. Serum and saliva samples stored in the icebox 4 ° C, and immediately Within 20 minutes sent to a laboratory. Where they were stored in a freezer at - 30 ° C. To describe the data collected from the indicators such as average, standard deviation, and charts used to determine the relationship between demographic variables and Regression models to examine the relationship between levels of vitamin D in serum and saliva and blood pressure used. The significance level of less than 0.05, and for statistical analysis software SPSS 16 considered.

### 3. Findings

There was no significant relationship between salivary and serum level of vitamin D in healthy individuals ( $P=0.095$ ). As well as there was no significant correlation between salivary and serum level of vitamin D in patients ( $P=0.5$ ) (table 1). Considering that, healthy and patient groups in terms of age were the same, so in order to dampen the effect of the two-group comparison of regression model used. Serum levels of vitamin D in healthy and patient groups show that there was no significant relationship between the two groups ( $P=0.588$ ) (table 2). Comparison of salivary levels of vitamin D in healthy and patient groups shows that there was no significant relationship between the two groups ( $P=0.833$ ). Two groups of healthy and sick in terms of gender distribution had no significant differences ( $P=0.247$ ) (table 3). In this study, healthy and patient groups did not differ in terms of mean age ( $P<0.001$ ). However, the BMI is not a significant difference between healthy and sick people ( $P=0.55$ ) (table 4). There was no significant difference in the mean serum vitamin D levels among healthy men and women. ( $P=0.627$ ). There was no significant difference in the mean salivary levels of vitamin D, between men and women ( $P=0.537$ ). There was no significant difference between the average serum levels of vitamin D for healthy men and women ( $P=0.537$ ). There was no significant difference in the mean serum levels of vitamin D, between male and female patients ( $P=0.44$ ) (table 5). There was no significant in the mean salivary levels of vitamin D difference between male and female patients ( $P=0.044$ ). There was no significant relationship between the serum levels of vitamin D and age in healthy individuals ( $P=0.108$ ). There was no significant relationship between salivary levels of vitamin D and age in healthy individuals ( $P=0.13$ ). There was no significant relationship between serum vitamin D levels, and the age of the people. ( $P=0.119$ ). There was no significant relationship between the salivary levels of vitamin D and the patient's age in people ( $P=0.903$ ) (table 6). There was no significant relationship between serum vitamin D levels and BMI in normal individuals ( $P=0.987$ ). There was no significant relationship between serum vitamin D levels and BMI in patients ( $P=0.718$ ). There was no significant relationship between the salivary levels of vitamin D and BMI in normal individuals ( $P=0.462$ ). There was no significant relationship among the salivary levels of vitamin D and BMI in patients ( $P=0.798$ ) (table 7). There was no significant difference in the Serum levels of vitamin D among smokers and non-smokers healthy group ( $P=0.409$ ). There was no significant difference in Salivary levels of vitamin D among smokers and non-smokers healthy group ( $P=0.537$ ). There was no significant difference in Serum levels of vitamin D among smokers and non-smokers patient group ( $P=0.959$ ). There was no significant difference in Serum vitamin D levels between smokers and nonsmokers patient group ( $P=0.108$ ) (table 8). There was no significant relationship between the serum level of calcium (Ca) with serum levels of vitamin D in the healthy group ( $P=0.533$ ). There was no significant relationship between the serum level of calcium (Ca) with serum levels of vitamin D in the patient group ( $P=0.849$ ) (table 9).

Table 1. Comparison of salivary and serum levels of vitamin D (VD3) in healthy and patient groups

Group	Healthy		Patient	
	Spearman correlation coefficient	P-value	Spearman correlation coefficient	P-value
Serum levels of VD3 with Salivary levels of VD3	264.-0	095.0	04.-0	5.0

Table 2. Compares the average level of vitamin D (VD3) in both saliva and serum of healthy and patient group

group	Healthy mean±sd	Patient mean±sd	Linear regression model
			B= 2.279
Salivary VD3 level	86.52±49.54	77.85±19.13	Std.error= 10.768 P*= 0.833
			B= -14.381
Serum VD3 level	88.85±98.73	80.7±67.48	Std.error= 26.452 P*= 0.588

\* - significant levels of salivary and serum samples for comparison with the implementation of the (adjust) age was conducted.

Table 3. Comparison between healthy and patient groups in terms of gender

Sex	Healthy	Patient	Chi-Square Tests
Female	30 (73.2%)	27 (61.4%)	$X^2= 1.339a$ df= 1
Male	11 (26.8%)	17 (38.6%)	$P= 0.247$

Table 4. Comparison of two groups of healthy and sick in terms of age and BMI

group	Healthy	Patient	Independent Samples Test
Age (year)	43.78±9.53	60.84±9.52	T= -8.254 df= 83 $P< 0.001$
BMI	26.12±4.53	26.63±4.53	T= -0.6 df= 83 $P< 0.55$

Table 5. Comparison of salivary and serum level of vitamin D in men and women in each of the two groups of healthy and sick

Group		Sex		Mann-Whitney Test
		man mean±sd	woman mean±sd	
Healthy	Salivary level	73.98±30.62	91.12±54.6	Mann-Whitney U= 0.144 $P= 0.537$
	Serum level	93.39±112.78	87.18±95.13	Mann-Whitney U= 148.5 $P= 0.627$
Sick	Salivary level	70.41±16.85	82.53±19.28	Mann-Whitney U= 146 $P= 0.044$
	Serum level	57.81±69.69	73.57±87.65	Mann-Whitney U= 197.5 $P= 0.44$

Table 6. The relationship between salivary and serum vitamin D levels with age

Group	Vitamin D levels	Spearman correlation coefficient	p- value
Healthy	Serum levels with age	0.255	0.108
	Salivary levels with age	-0.241	0.13
Sick	Serum levels with age	0.239	0.119
	Salivary levels with age	-0.019	0.903

Table 7. The relationship between salivary and serum vitamin D levels with BMI

Group	sick		Healthy	
	Spearman correlation coefficient	P- value	Spearman correlation coefficient	P- value
Serum levels with BMI	-0.058	0.718	-0.004	0.987
Salivary levels with BMI	-0.041	0.798	0.114	0.462

Table 8. Comparison of salivary and serum vitamin D levels in smokers in each of the groups of healthy and sick

Group	Vitamin D levels	Smoker mean±sd	Non-smoker mean±sd	Mann-Whitney Test
Healthy	Serum levels	121.32±128.05	76.94±85.12	Mann-Whitney U= 137 P= 0.409
	Salivary levels	88.6±41.15	85.76±52.9	Mann-Whitney U= 144 P= 0.537
Sick	Serum levels	63.64±78.77	69.1±82.72	Mann-Whitney U= 199.5 P= 0.959
	Salivary levels	69.25±18.45	81.46±18.52	Mann-Whitney U= 139 P= 0.108

Table 9. The relationship between serum levels of calcium (Ca) with vitamin D serum levels in healthy and sick

Group	Healthy			Sick	
correlation coefficient	Spearman correlation coefficient	P- value	Spearman correlation coefficient	P- value	
Serum Ca with serum vitamin D	-0.101	0.533	0.03	0.849	

#### 4. Conclusion

The findings of this study between serum levels of vitamin D and salivary levels of vitamin D in people with high blood pressure compared to healthy subjects did not find a significant relationship. The study of RCT that Pilz and colleagues did in 1981 showed that in patients who are suffering from high blood pressure and low levels of 25 (OH) D, vitamin D supplementation on blood pressure and several other risk factors, there was no significant effect. Of course, a significant increase in the plasma triglyceride group there was vitamin D (Pilz et al., 2015). Higashi and colleagues (2008) stated that a reliable comparison between concentrations of 25 (OH) D serum and saliva. As a result, the proposed method for the evaluation of 25 (OH) D saliva non-invasive alternative for measuring serum vitamin D status provides assessment (Higashi, Shibayama, Fuji, & Shimada, 2008). It seems, this discrepancy results due to differences in the method of measurement of vitamin D serum and saliva. (Skaaby, 2015). Park and colleagues (2015) in his study of 535 n Korean people over 60 years showed that genetic changes in CYP1A1 and CYP1B1 and serum level of 25 (OH) D synergy effects on blood pressure, especially in people who are currently under the treatment of high blood pressure (Park et al., 2015). This difference may seem due to the difference in the age range chosen in the statistical society that we studied over the age of 30 years, or the method of measuring vitamin D, and perhaps the difference in geographical location. Wang et al (2013) in their prospective cohort study based on the evidence suggested that between 25 (OH) D plasma and the risk of high blood pressure, there is an inverse relationship (Wang et al., 2013). This difference in results can be caused by a difference in the method of measurement of plasma vitamin D, geographic location or a different way of life subjects. Another study by Karimi Hassan Abad and his colleagues in 2014 aimed at investigating the prevalence of vitamin D deficiency and its association with the obesity index (BMI) and abdominal obesity in adolescent girls aged 14 to 17 years. The concentration of vitamin D was measured by ELISA method (Vitamin D Kit ERUIMMUN Germany). It was reported that vitamin D had no significant correlation with waist circumference (central obesity index) (Karimi- Hasanabad, Rafraf, & Asghari-Jafarabadi, 2014), but in our study, there was no significant relationship between serum salivation levels of vitamin D and BMI in healthy subjects. This difference could be due to differences in the age group of the target group or the choice of measuring kit by two studies.

#### 5. Conclusion

The results of this study showed that, there was no significant relationship between high blood pressure and salivary and serum vitamin D level. Vitamin D is measurable in saliva But given the absence of significant relation between serum and saliva, saliva analysis of vitamin D, May not be a reliable tool for determining the vitamin D levels.

## 6. Suggestions

Recommended that research in the future by employing more advanced laboratory techniques and monitoring, including the use of modern laboratory methods based on Nano technology as well as the salivary and vitamin D Kit build tools with more sensitivity to salivary samples collected.

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