

What I Want My Mommy to Know About Vitamin D

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I guess, the first thing I want Mommy to know is that vitamin D is necessary for my proper growth, for my neurological development, and for defense against disease . . . and it must be in adequate supply or you can just go ahead and place me in that box filled with other vitamin D deficient babies who will struggle as they stumble through this life. It is a very big box.

The next thing I want my Mommy to know is that she will have to do things a little differently from now on if she plans on making me vitamin D sufficient and better able to deal with what life has to throw at me. It takes thousands of International Units (IU) of vitamin D, taken or created per day, for adequate amounts to appear in her breast milk. I'm relying on her for this. She is my best and only real hope. But, I'm afraid she is listening to the voices of others.

The current recommendations for vitamin D supplementation for nursing mothers are clearly not up to the task. Only 400, perhaps 600 IU per day! *Are*

you kidding me?!! Without any significant amount of sunlight exposure—the way mommies and babies have been making vitamin D throughout the ages—I am sure to stay inside the great big box of struggling babies who are vitamin D deficient. Some of them will die, traceable to vitamin D deficiency. (With respect to my vitamin D status, I would probably be better off living the life of a third-world baby—basically naked, playing in the dirt, but creating generous amounts of vitamin D. But don't tell Mom I said this.) Have you noticed how much time I spend indoors? And Mommy, she is just too busy to get outdoors during the time of day when she would generate enough vitamin D to make us both vitamin D sufficient. I doubt if she knows that she can only make relative amounts of vitamin D between the hours of 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM, and only during the days between mid-Spring and early Fall—I don't even know this!

Please tell Mommy (before it is too late) that if she can't make it, I'll have to take it. Do you think she knows how much vitamin D I'll need to protect me from type I diabetes, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, schizophrenia, and unbelievable amounts of snot and an ear ache or two? I think not. Let's give her an idea of what it will take.

Some 50 years ago, an experiment was conducted. Lots of cute little babies (like me) were given 2,000 IU vitamin D per day during their first year of life. They were followed for 30 years. Surprisingly, this group of babies, turned into adults, had an 80% less chance of contracting type I diabetes. And the boys had a 77% less chance of developing schizophrenia.

Multiple sclerosis is another disease I need to be protected from. Mommy is not concerned; she just can't imagine I would come down with this dreadful disease! But I can—particularly so if I live the vitamin D deficient life. Until very recently, multiple sclerosis is practically nonexistent in populations who near the equator, a place where generous amounts of sunshine create generous amounts of vitamin D. Perhaps not surprisingly, the chance of contracting multiple sclerosis progressively increased the further one lives from the equator. Clearly, vitamin D deficiency makes one more vulnerable to this dreadful disease. Of course, things are changing. With the increased availability of air conditions worldwide, people living near the equator stay indoors a lot more than they used to, generate less vitamin D as a result, and are more at risk of contracting multiple sclerosis.

Speaking of dreadful diseases, Crohn's disease is no picnic. My risk of contracting this disease is greatly elevated if I remain vitamin D deficient. Do I look like I need this disease? Of course not. Please tell Mom I don't need this disease. She loves me. I know she will do her best to protect me from this one.

I certainly want my Mommy to know that she will probably need at least 6,000 IU of vitamin D, taken daily in addition to what can be found in her multivitamin, for her breast milk to satisfy my need for vitamin D. Alternatively, I'm thinkin' (and so are the scientists) I will need at least 1,000 IU, perhaps 2,000 IU per day, of vitamin D to meet my needs—but I'll be glad to take the 400 IU of supplemental vitamin D currently recommended for nursing infants, this is certain to help. Of course, she'll need to run any level of vitamin D supplementation by my wellness doctor to make sure there are no contradictions.

Finally, tell Mommy I love her. I don't want the bad things in life to happen to her. The bad things in life, such as diabetes, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease autoimmune thyroid disease, breast cancer, and so on, happen much more frequently in those who are vitamin D deficient. (Tell her before it is too late.)

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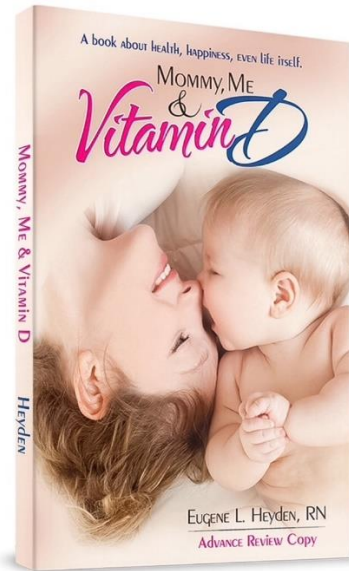
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