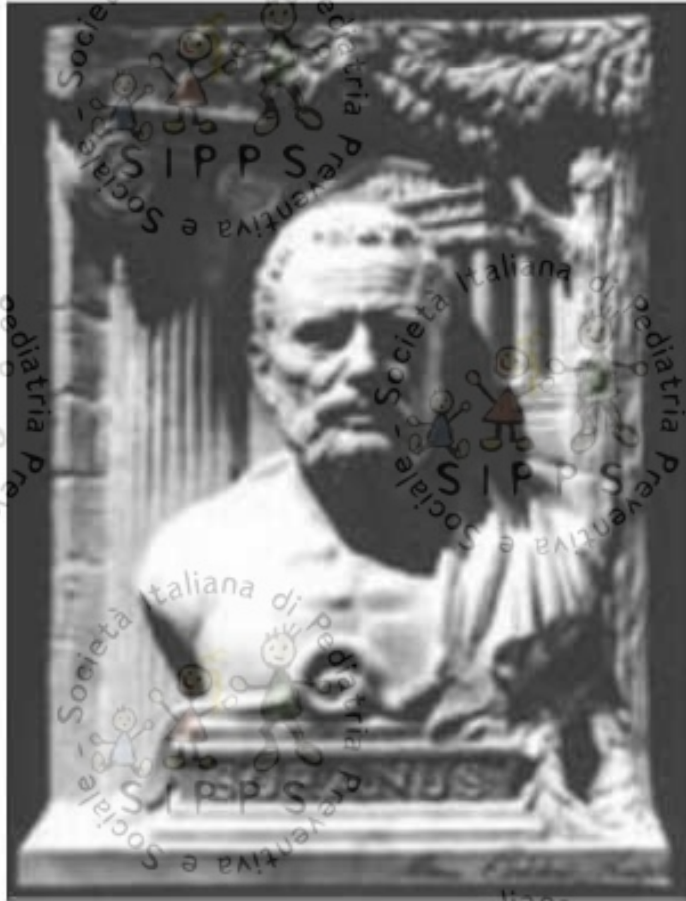




# La Vitamina D ieri, oggi e domani

Giuseppe Saggese  
Professore Ordinario di Pediatria  
Università di Pisa

# HISTORY OF RICKETS AND OF DISCOVERY OF VITAMIN D



Sorano di Efeso  
(98-138 d.C.)



Galeno di Pergamon  
(129-200 d.C.)



# Children in ancient Rome had vitamin D deficiency, study says

*More than 1 in 20 children had rickets*

By: ASHLEY STRICKLAND, CNN

Posted: Aug 20, 2018 01:32 AM PDT Updated: Aug 20, 2018 01:32 AM PDT

CNN

BREAKING NEWS AUG 2018

(CNN) - A new analysis of skeletons from ancient Roman cemeteries across Europe has revealed that vitamin D deficiency was a problem for children 2,000 years ago.

Researchers compared bones from ancient cemeteries spread from northern England to southern Spain, dating from the first to the sixth centuries, with those from Industrial Revolution-era cemeteries.

They expected to see rickets, a condition caused by vitamin D deficiency, in children living during and after the Industrial Revolution because of pollution and cramped living situations in urban areas. But when the researchers studied 2,787 skeletons of children and adults in 18 Roman Empire cemeteries, they realized that a lack of vitamin D is a longstanding issue for Europeans.





# 1634: compare per la prima volta il termine “rickets” nel registro dei decessi della città di Londra

**A generall Bill for this present yeere,**  
ending the 18. of *December* 1634. according to  
the report made to the Kings most excellent Ma<sup>ty</sup>  
By the Company of Parish Clerkes of London, &c.

*The Diseases and Casualties this yeere.*

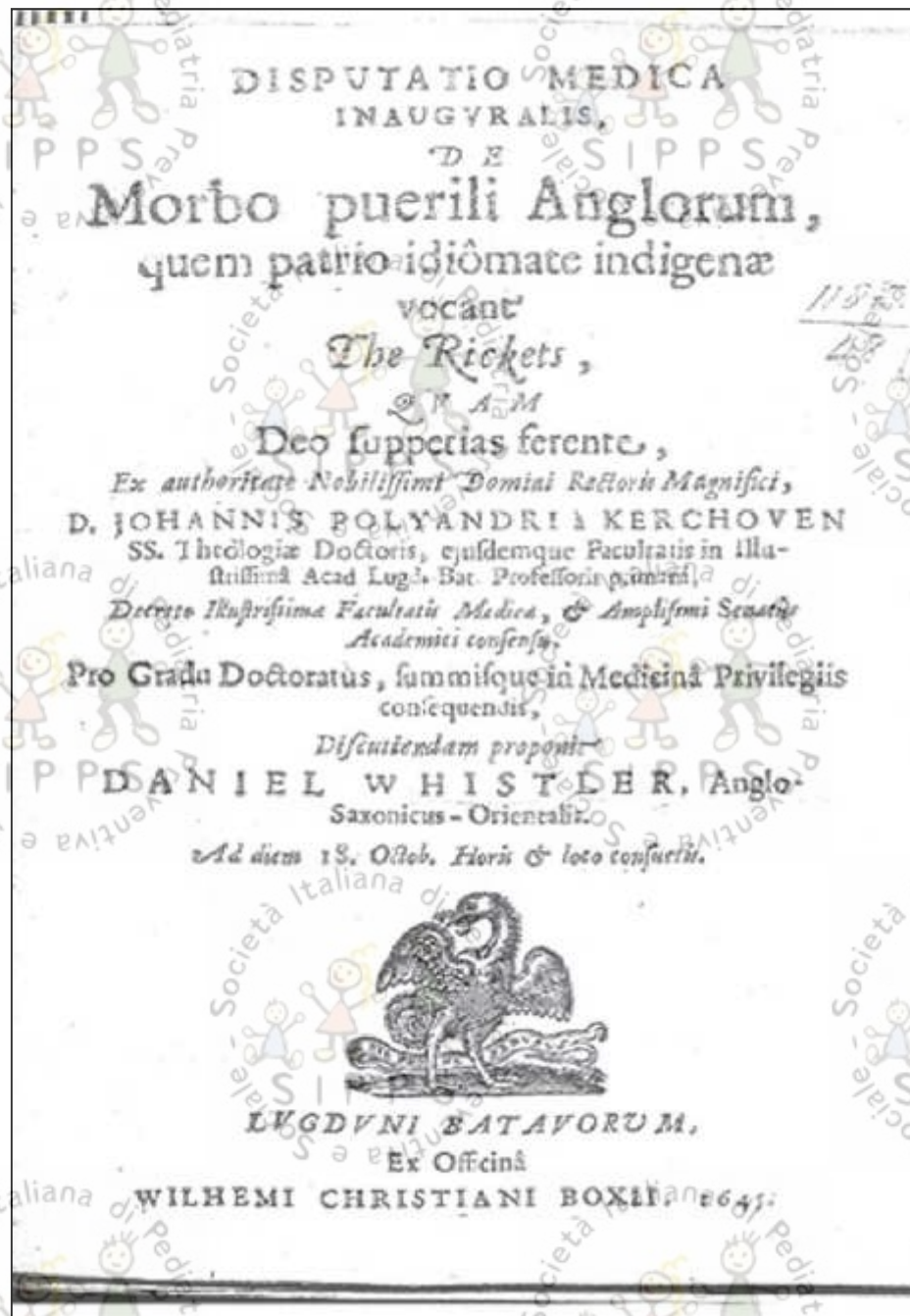
<b>A</b> Bortive and Stilborne— 475	Falling Sicknesse — 5	Plague — 1
Aged — 612	Feaver — 1279	Plannet — 4
Ague — 11	Fistula — 11	Phitisie and Spleene — 21
Appoplexian & Meagrome — 35	Flocks and small Pox — 1354	Poysoned — 2
Bit with a mad dogge — 1	French Pox — 17	Purples and spotted Feaver — 125
Bleeding — 3	Gangrene — 10	Quinsie — 4
Bloody flux scowering & flux — 512	Goute — 5	<b>Rickets</b> — 14
Burnt and scalded — 3	Greene sicknes — 2	Rising of the lights and Mother — 84
Cancer and Canker — 9	Griefe — 15	Rupture — 3
Childbed — 143	Hanged themselves — 3	Scurvey, Swine Pox and Bleach — 9
Chrisomes and Infants — 2315	laundies and Yellowes — 45	Sores, broken and bruised Limbes — 19
Cold and Cough — 54	lawfallne — 10	Suddenly — 63
Collicke Stone & Strangury — 49	Impostume — 62	Surfet — 114
Consumption — 1955	Kild by severall accidents, — 41	Teeth — 454
Convulsion and Crampe — 386	Kings Evill — 20	Thrush and Sore mouth — 31
Cut of the Stone — 5	Livergrowne — 77	Timpany — 17
Dead in the streete & fields, and flayed — 8	Lunatique — 2	Tiflike — 15
Dropsie and Swelling — 233	Measles — 33	Vomiting — 5
Drowned — 32	Murtherd — 6	Wormes — 28
Executed — 13	Over-laid & starved at nurse — 14	
	Palfie — 21	
	Piles — 1	

Christened Males — 5055	Buried Males — 5676	Whereof, of the Plague — 1
Females — 4820	Females — 5224	
In all — 9875	In all — 10900	

Increased in the Burials in the 122 Parishes & at the Pesthouse this yeere. — 2508  
Increased of the Plague in the 122 Parishes and at the Pesthouse this yeere. — 1.





1645



1650

Francis Glisson (1597-1677)  
Professor of Anatomy at the  
University of Cambridge.



# Rickets in a High Social Class of Renaissance Italy: the Medici children

## Exploration of the Medici Chapels in the Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence

Burials of 9 juvenile members  
of the Medici family  
(16th–17th centuries).

Documentary sources &  
 $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{15}\text{N}$  bone collagen analysis



**weaning around 2 years old**  
**prolonged breastfeeding**

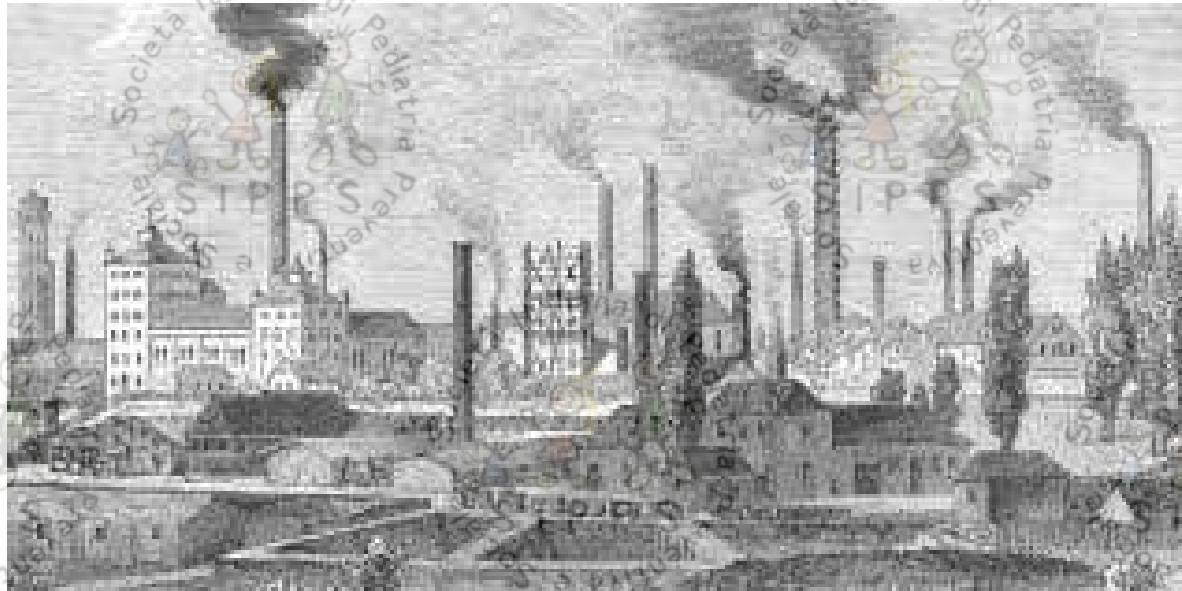
*Don Filippino, son of Joan of Austria: antero-posterior  
X-ray projection of the skull (increased biparietal  
diameter, high frontal bone and frontal bossing, wide  
coronal suture), deformed tibia and fibula*

*(Giuffra V. et al. Int. J. Osteoarcheol 2013)  
(Watson T, Nature News 2013)*



# Industrial Revolution

**The Industrial Revolution marked a period of development in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century that transformed largely rural, agrarian societies in Europe and America into industrialized, urban ones.**



**In that period rickets increased dramatically: in some cities up to 90% of children was affected by rickets.**



Nel 1919 Kurt Huldshinsky, pediatra tedesco, cura bambini con rachitismo con raggi ultravioletti prodotti artificialmente da una lampada a mercurio



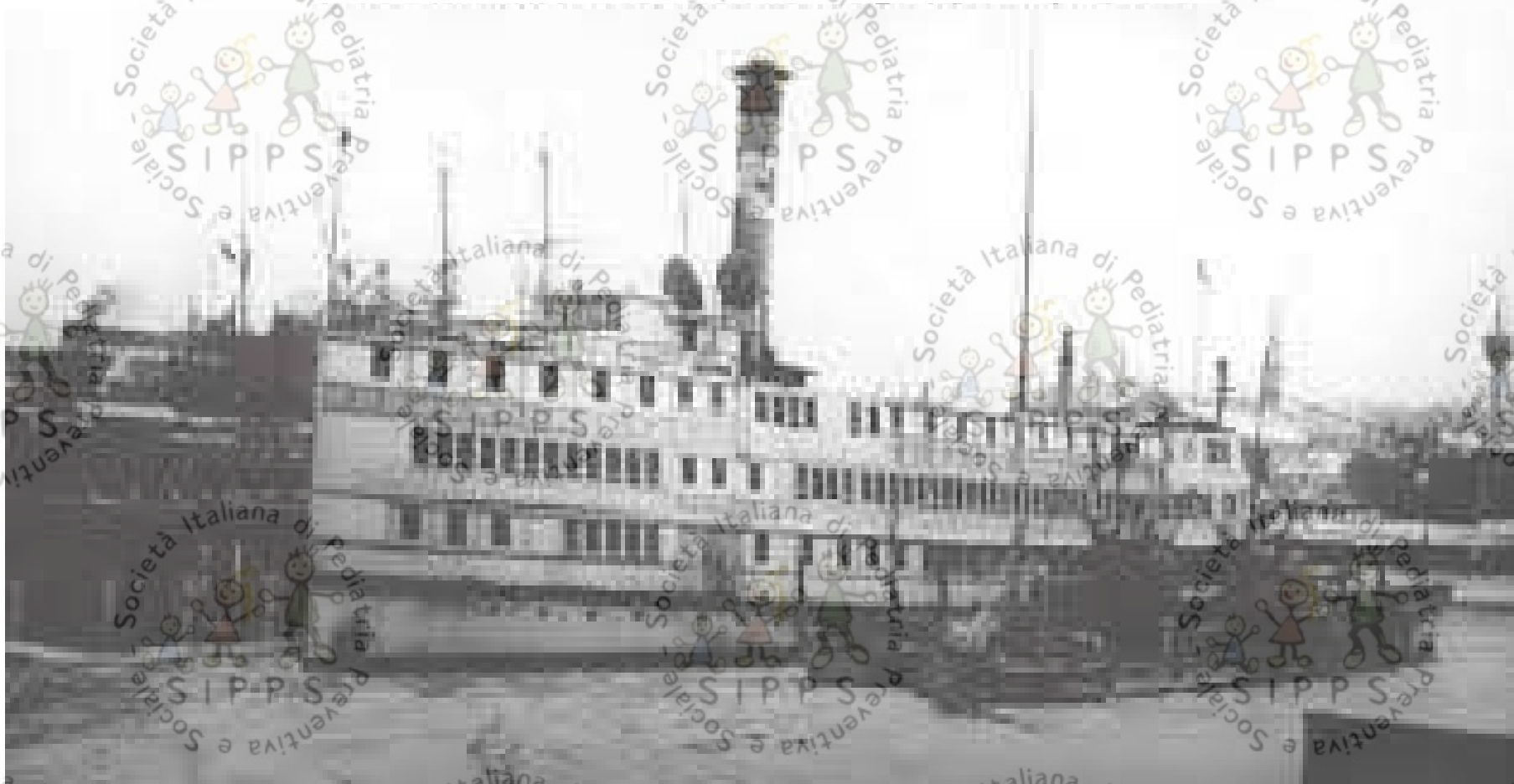


*prime decadi 1900*  
**prevenzione/trattamento del rachitismo  
mediante irradiazione solare**



*Istituto di cure marine – Calambrone (Pisa)*

# *USS Boston floating hospital, 1918*





*first decades of 20<sup>th</sup> century*

# Treatment of rickets – Meidling Hospital, Wien

*(Rickets before the discovery of Vitamin D. O’Riordan JL et al, Sept 2014)*



**outdoor treatment  
in the shadow**

**outdoor treatment  
in the sun**



# first decades of 20<sup>th</sup> century prevention & treatment of rickets



cod liver oil



# La scoperta della Vitamina D

1919

**Sir Edward Mellanby**, medico e scienziato inglese, ipotizzò una carenza alimentare nell'eziopatogenesi del rachitismo. Con esperimenti sui cani, dimostrò per primo che alimenti "ricchi di vitamina A", come l'olio di fegato di merluzzo, contenevano un "fattore antirachitico".



1921

**Elmer McCollum**, biochimico dell'Università del Wisconsin, dopo distruzione della vitamina A, identificò questo fattore antirachitico come una nuova vitamina liposolubile, la quarta sino ad allora scoperta, per questo chiamata **vitamina "D"**.



1924. Irradiation of animals or parts, substances and foods conferred antirachitic properties (Steenbock, Hess, Goldblatt)

## *America in the 30s and 40s*

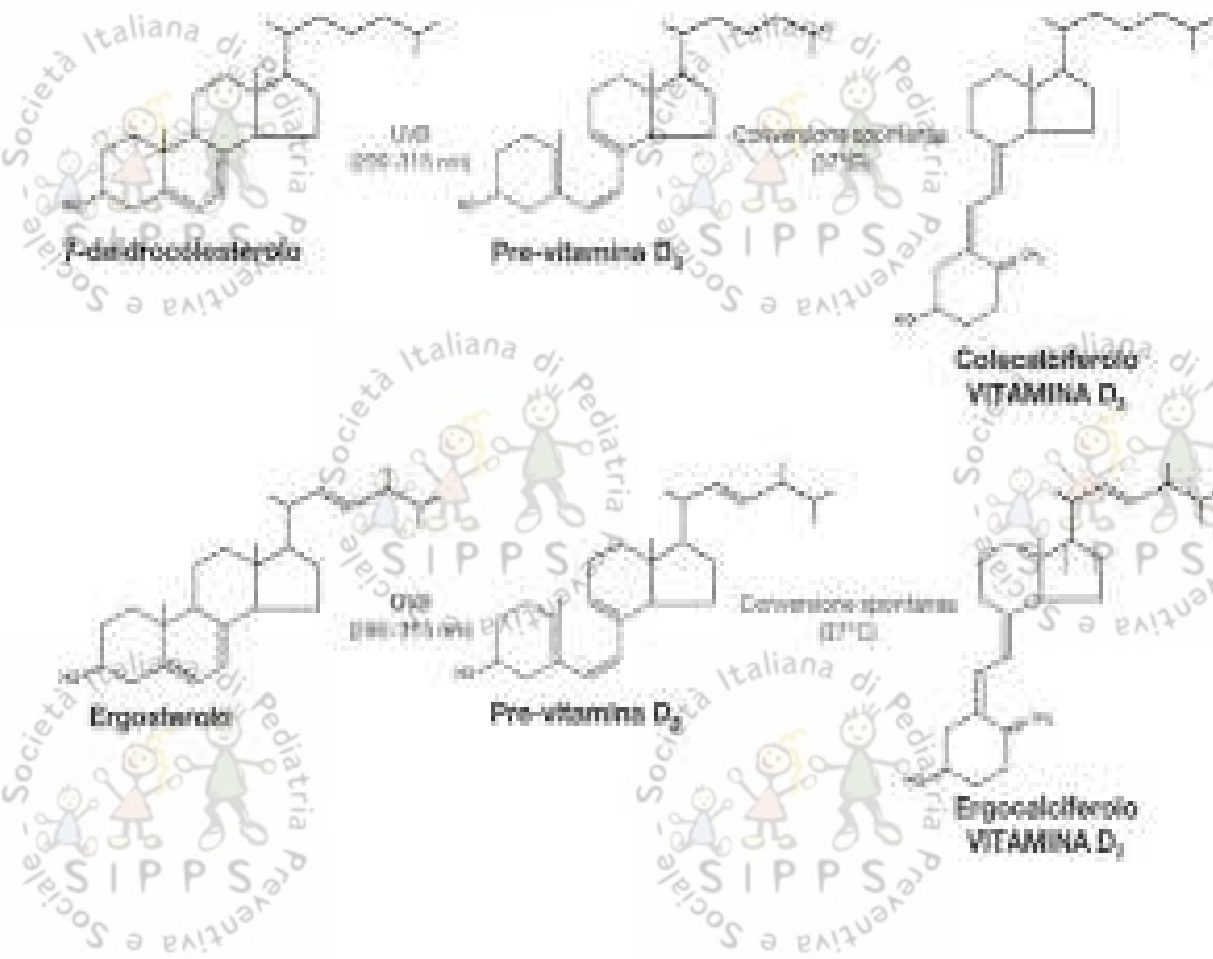


*Near eradication of rickets in the United States*



# Adolf Windaus

by the irradiation of a mixture of plant sterols isolated a substance with antirachitic properties (tachisterol=Vitamin D2) and by the irradiation of vertebrates skin isolated 7-dehydrocholesterol whose irradiation gave Vitamin D3.



**Adolf Windaus**

Adolf Otto Wilhelm Windaus (17. dicembre 1876 in Duisburg, 17. luglio 1959 in Berlino), è stato un chimico e fisiologo tedesco. Nel 1928 vinse il premio Nobel per la chimica.

**Nobelpreis 1928:  
für den Zugang zum Vitamin D**

**Leben und Leistungen**

Nach seinem Studium am Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut in Berlin wurde er zunächst ab 1903 Mediziner in Freiburg und in Berlin, wurde 1907 jedoch nach einer Promotion als Chemiker an die Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft in Berlin berufen. Er arbeitete dort bis 1928 an der Erforschung der Vitamine. 1928 erhielt er den Nobelpreis für die Entdeckung der Vitamine D<sub>2</sub> und D<sub>3</sub>.

Er war Professor und ab 1928 Direktor des Kaiser-Wilhelm-Instituts für Ernährung in Berlin. 1933 wurde er zum Mitglied der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften ernannt. 1935 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1937 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1938 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1939 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1940 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1941 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1942 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1943 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1944 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1945 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1946 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1947 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1948 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1949 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1950 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1951 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1952 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1953 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1954 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1955 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1956 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1957 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1958 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt. 1959 wurde er zum Mitglied der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft ernannt.

www.wikipedia.de

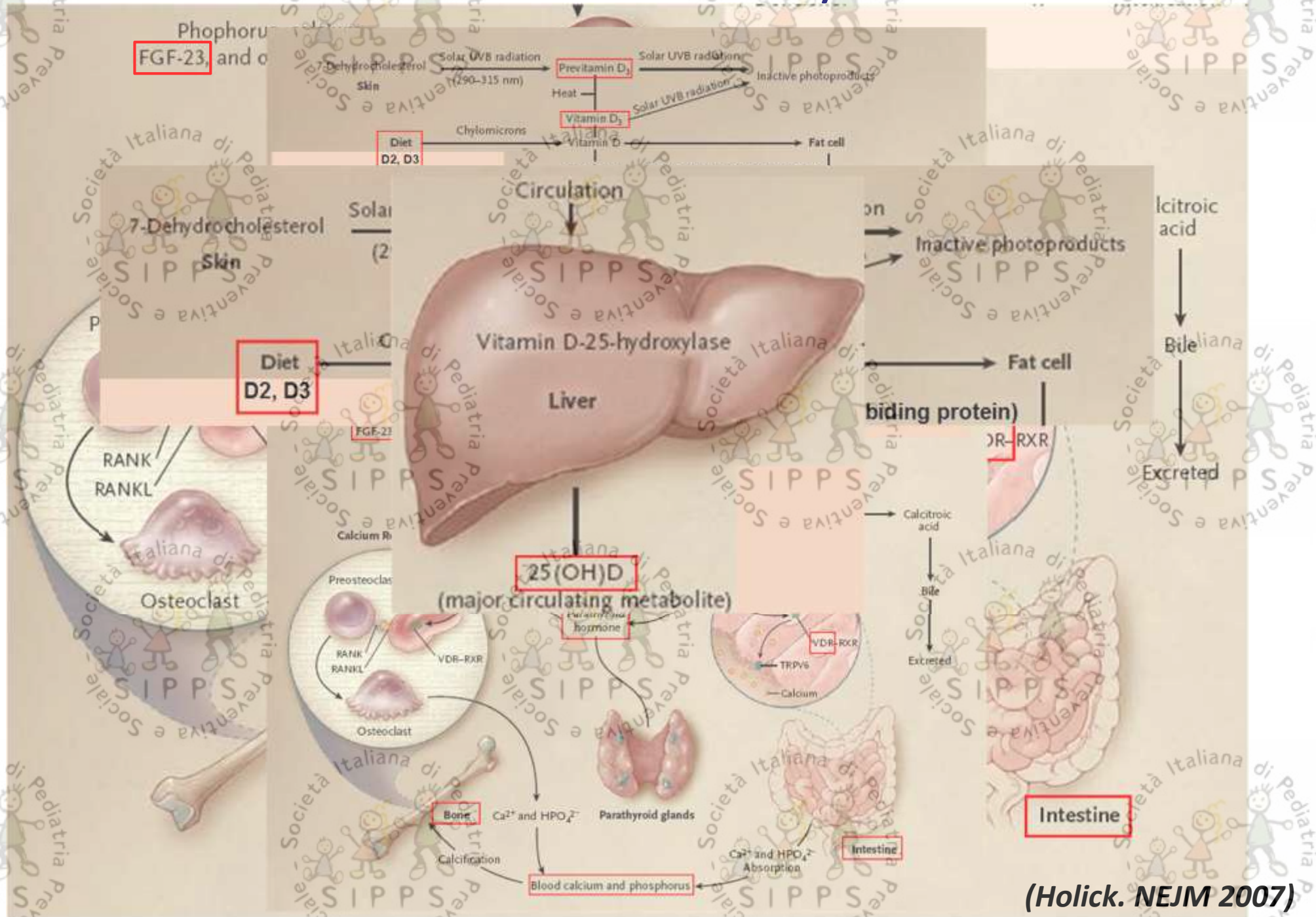
Bearbeitet unter: [www.VitaminD3.de](http://www.VitaminD3.de)

## ..verso la scoperta dell'ormone - Vitamina D

- **anni 30-60: disponibili forme sintetiche di vitamina D;**
- **anni 50: disponibili derivati radioattivi di vitamina D per studiarne il metabolismo;**
- **1968: isolato e sintetizzato il 25-OH-D (*calcidiolo*)**
- **1971: isolato e sintetizzato (Holick e De Luca)  
l'1,25-OH<sub>2</sub>-D (*calcitriolo*), l'ormone della vitamina D**



# Vitamin D endocrine system



**IN CIRCOLO**

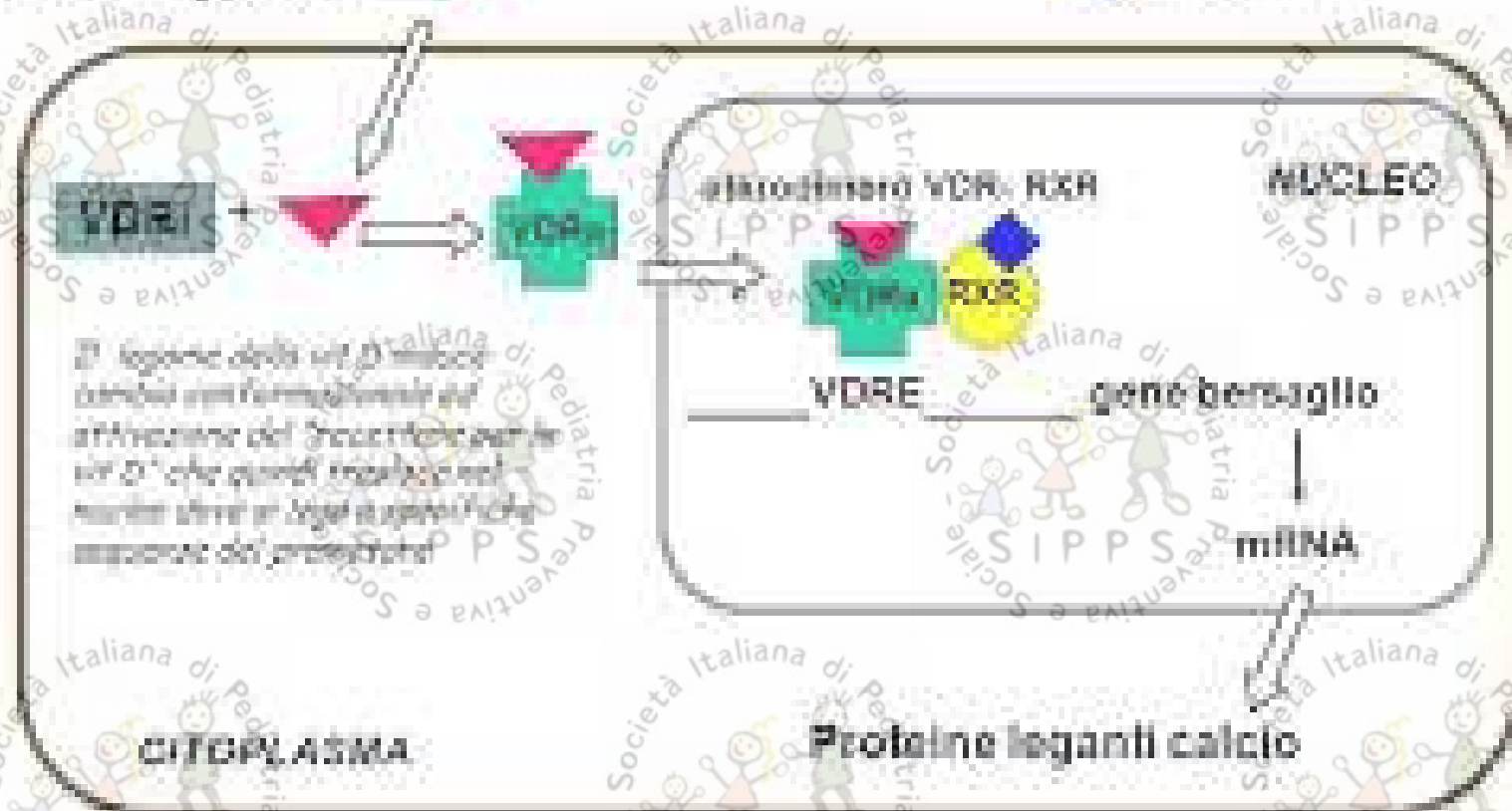
Legale a

VLD binding protein

**125I-OH-D**

**125I-OH-D**

125I-OH-D



Il legame della 1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D<sub>3</sub> con il recettore VDR porta alla formazione del complesso VDR-1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D<sub>3</sub> che si lega al DNA e promuove la trascrizione del gene bersaglio.

**VDR** - Recettore Vit D

**VDRE** - Vit D Response Element

**RXR** - Recettore Acido Retinoico (derivato vitamina A)

(Haussler MR., J Bone Miner Res , 1998)

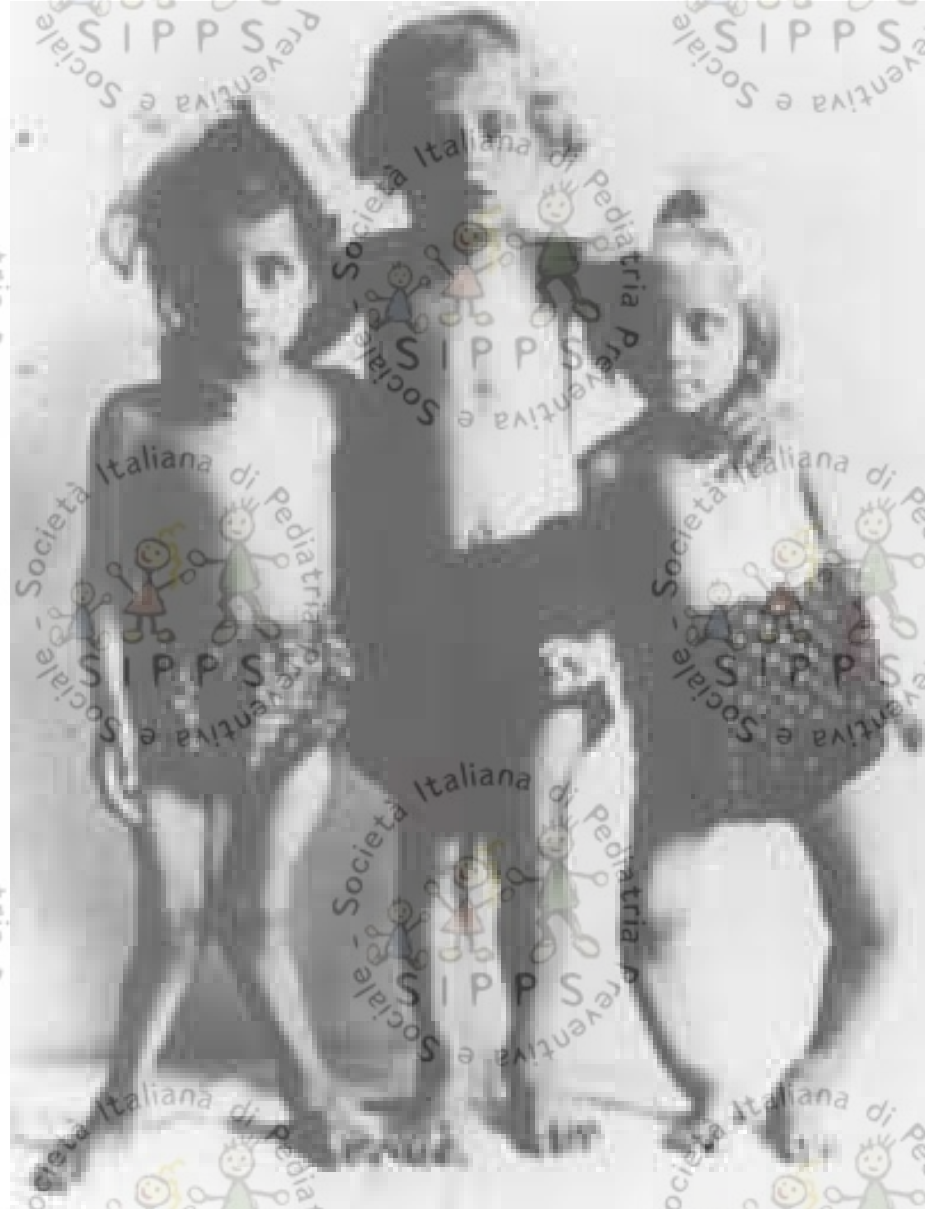


The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of the SIPPSS logo. Each logo is circular and contains three stylized figures (a blue one on the left, a yellow one in the middle, and a green one on the right) holding hands. The text 'SIPPSS' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the figures. The full name 'Società Italiana di Pediatria Preventiva e Sociale' is written in a smaller font around the perimeter of the circle.

# Vitamina D

## azioni scheletriche

# London, children with rickets



*photo from the end of the 1800s*

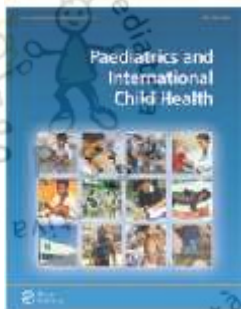


# Vitamin D testing and treatment: a narrative review of current evidence

Pilz S. et al 2019



Importantly, rickets is still a worldwide public health problem causing morbidity and mortality and is even increasing in Europe with immigrants from Middle East, Africa and Asia being at particularly high risk



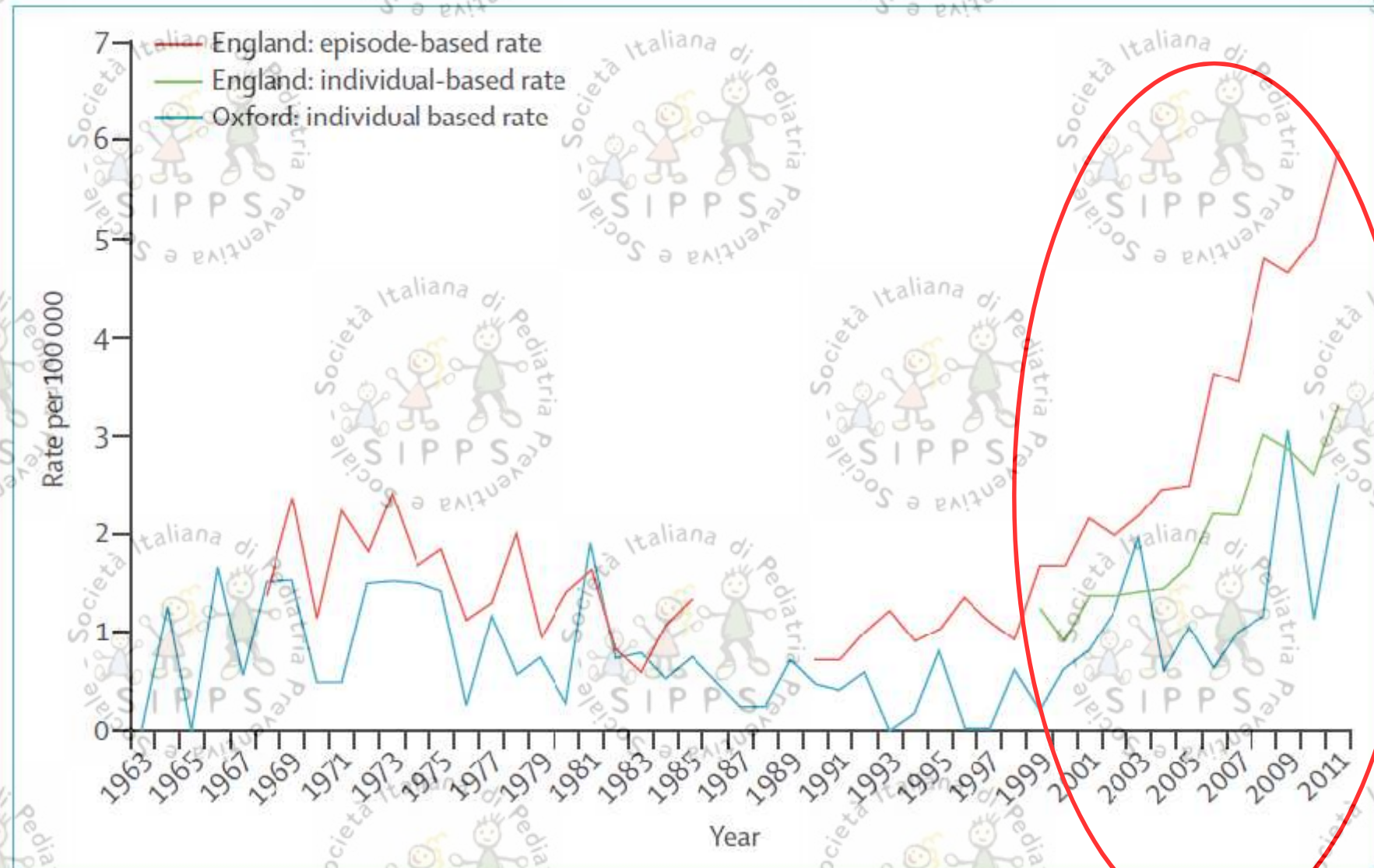
## Nutritional rickets around the world: an update Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA 2017

Ana L. Creo, Tom D. Thacher, John M. Pettifor, Mark A. Strand & Philip R. Fischer

“Nutritional rickets continues to be an important health problem.

The prevalence is greatest in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Immigration from these region probably account for the increased prevalence in Europe, North America and Australasia”.

# Hospitalization for children with rickets in England: a historical perspective



(Goldacre et al. Lancet 2014)



2018

# Prevention of rickets and osteomalacia in the UK: political action overdue

Suma Uday,<sup>1,2</sup> Wolfgang Högl<sup>1,2</sup>

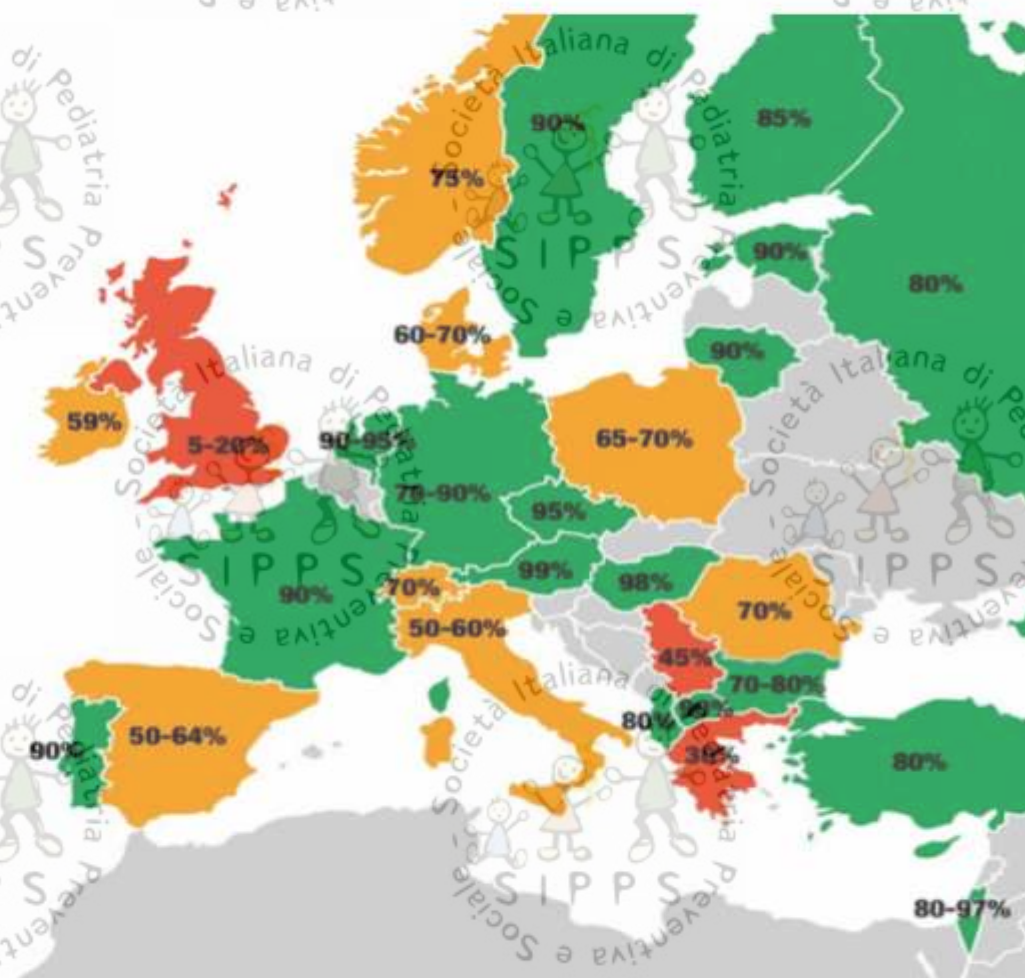
**Table 1** Rickets overall is a rare disease in high-income countries.

Country	Overall incidence (per 100 000)	Incidence in dark-skinned (per 100 000)
UK	8	95
USA	24	220
Australia	5	2300
Denmark	3	60

The vast majority of cases in these countries are from the BAME community, where rickets is a common disease.<sup>16</sup>

European Union definition of a rare disease: affecting <50 in 100 000 of the general population.

BAME, bBlack, Asian and Minority Ethnic.

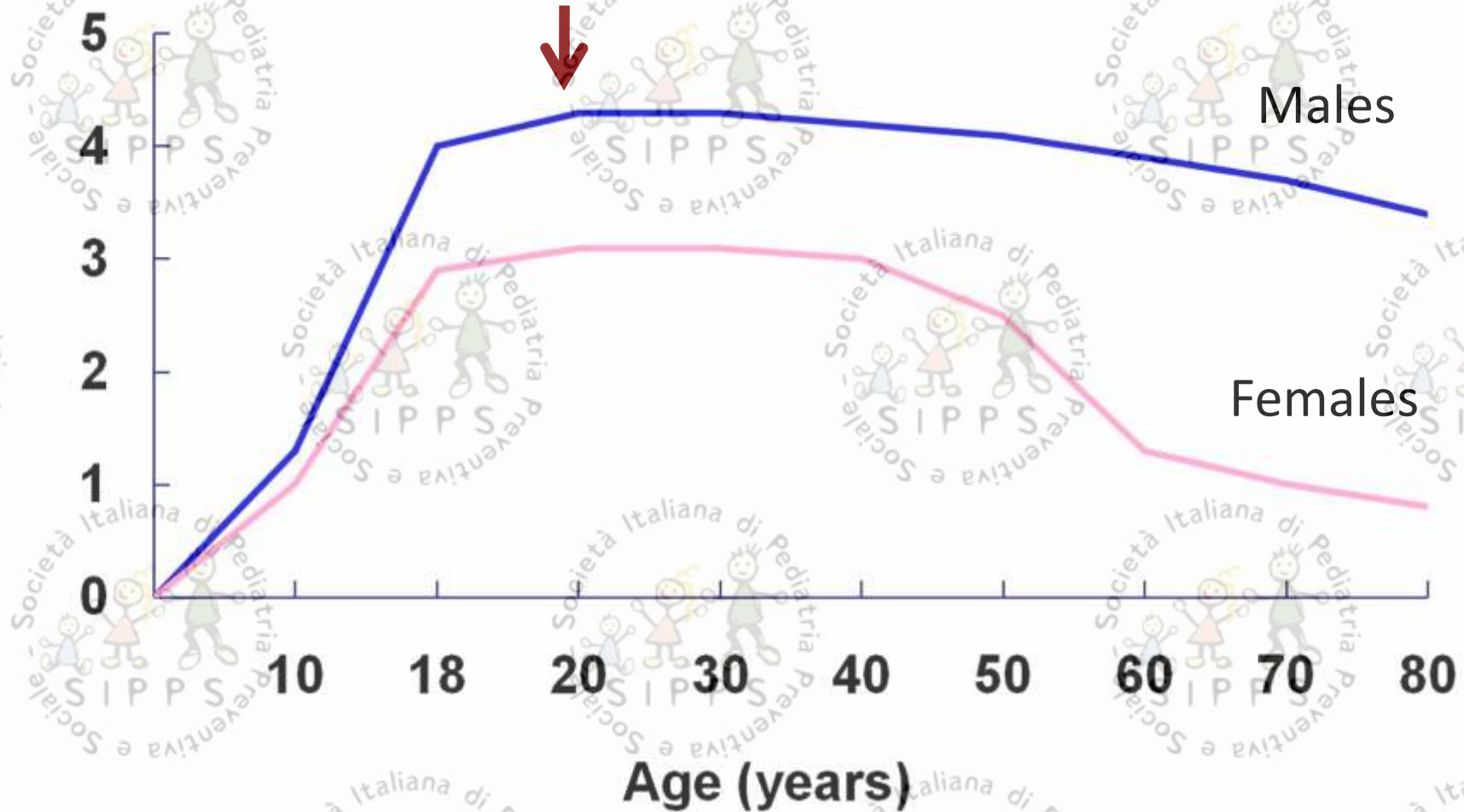


**Figure 3** Adherence rates for infant vitamin D supplementation in the first year of life in Europe, with UK reporting the lowest rates.<sup>13</sup> Good adherence (≥80% of infants supplemented) is indicated in green, moderate adherence (79%–50%) in orange and low adherence (<50%) in red.

# Changes in bone mass with age

## PEAK BONE MASS

**Bone Mass  
(Arbitrary Units)**



Males

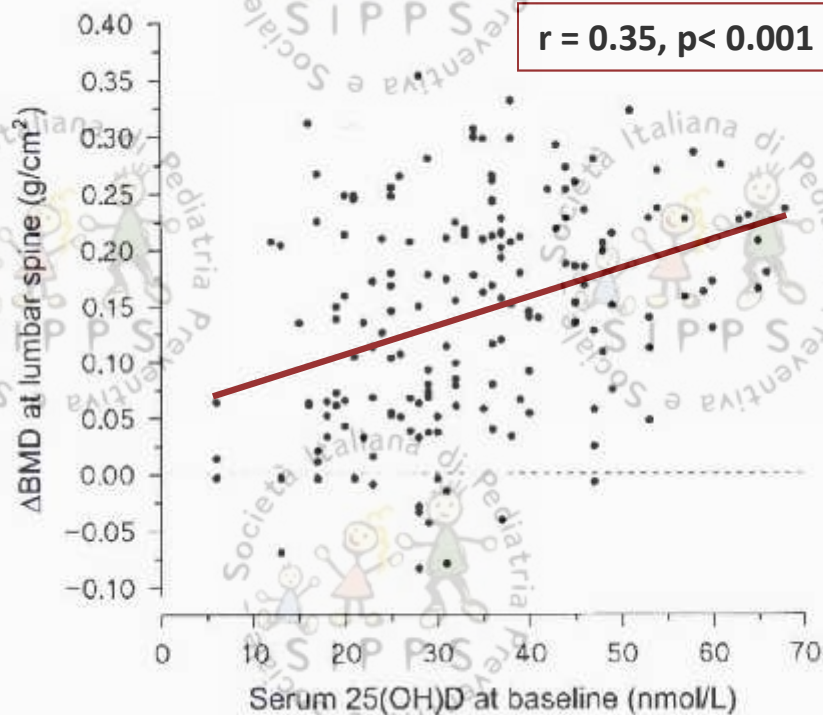
Females

(Cooper C. 1990)



# Vitamin D status as a determinant of peak bone mass

**Relationship between  $\Delta$  change (3-y) of lumbar BMD and serum 25-OH-D levels in peripubertal girls (n = 171, age 9 - 15 y).**



**Median serum 25-OH-D at baseline: 13.6 ng/ml**

*(Lehtonen-Veromaa et al. Am J Clin Nutr 2002)*

**Relationship between peak bone mass and 25-OH-D levels in young Finnish men (n = 220, age 18.3 - 20.6 y)**

***Skeletal site***

***p***

**Lumbar spine BMD**

**0.04**

**Femoral neck BMC**

**0.04**

**Trochanter BMC**

**0.01**

**Total hip BMC**

**0.03**

**Median serum 25-OH-D at baseline: 17.6 ng/ml**

*(Valimaki et al. JCEM 2004)*

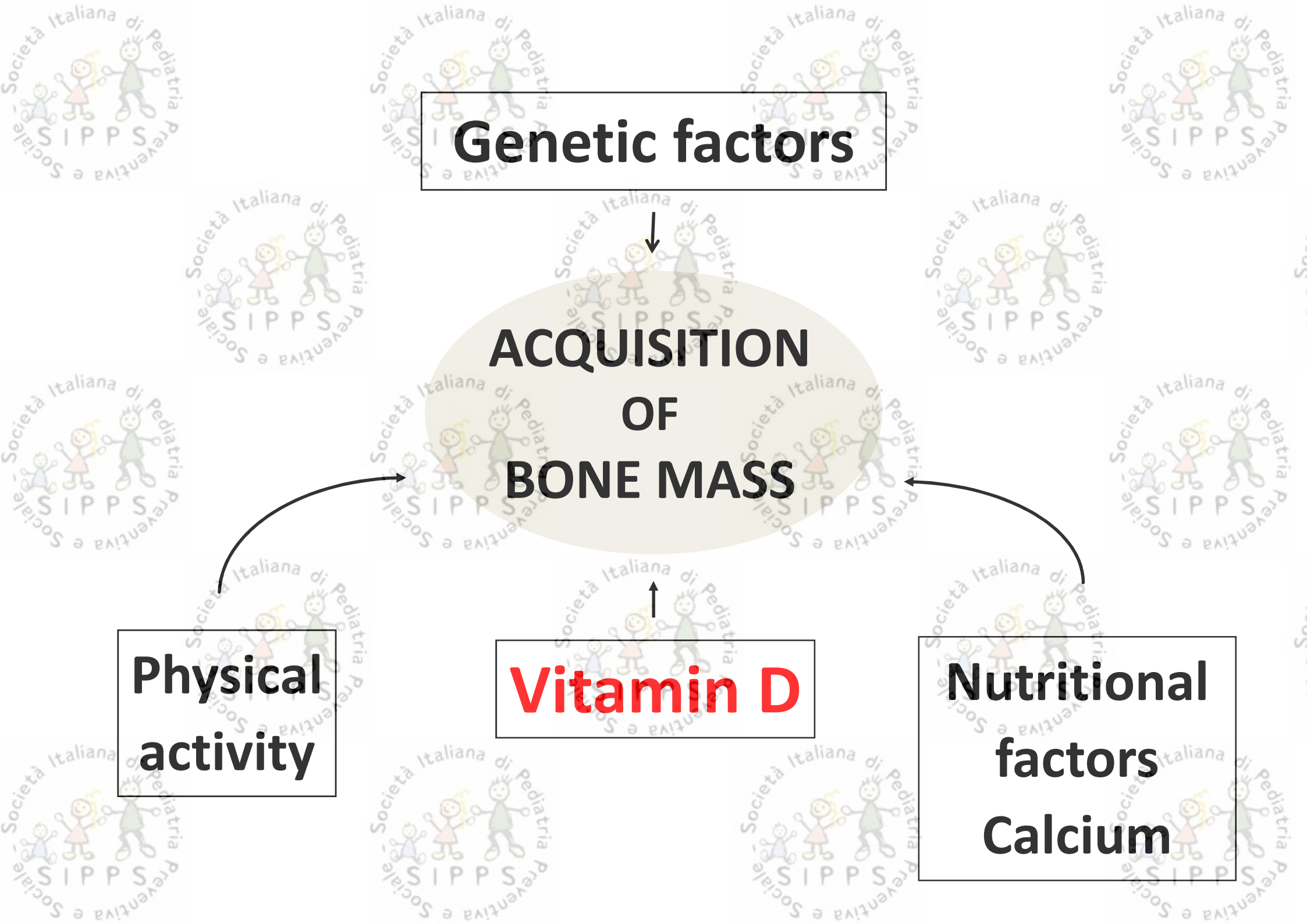
**Genetic factors**

**ACQUISITION  
OF  
BONE MASS**

**Physical  
activity**

**Vitamin D**

**Nutritional  
factors  
Calcium**







Vitamina D

azioni extrascheletriche

# Extraskeletal actions of vitamin D

**1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D:**

- controls directly or indirectly up to 1,250 genes;
- reduces cellular proliferation

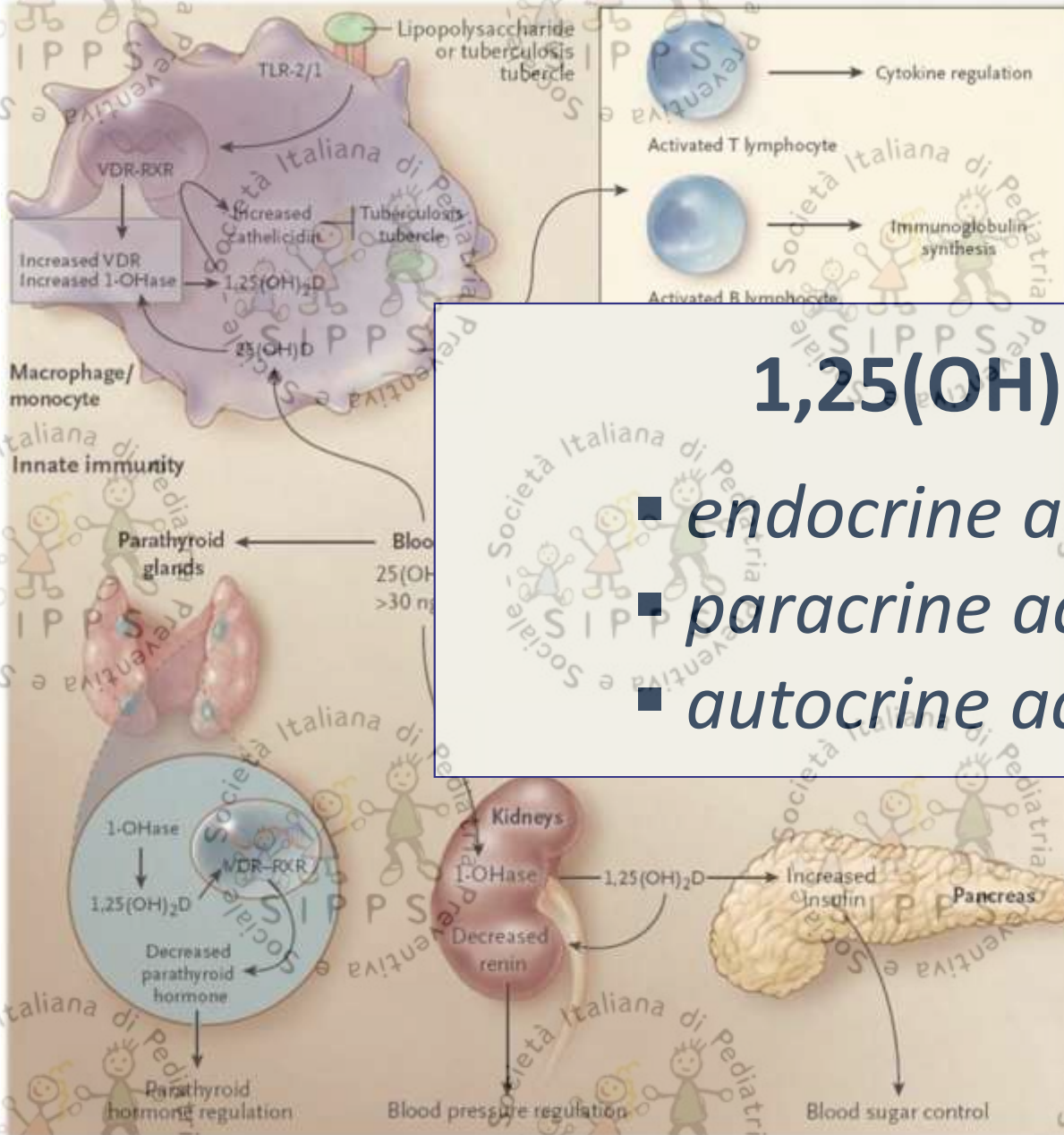
**1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D**

- *endocrine action*
- *paracrine action*
- *autocrine action*

immunomodulatory action, reducing risk of autoimmune diseases;

- promotes innate immunity, reducing risk of recurrent infections.

(Holick MF. NEJM 2007)







BMJ

# Vitamin D: drug of the future

*(Gueli N et al, 2016)*

# Heliotherapy for pulmonary tuberculosis



*The Texas Building of the Relief Society, 1923*



# Psoriasis

28-year old man with a more than 20-year history of psoriasis.



(Courtesy dr. Holick MF. 1979)

*European Journal of Pediatrics, 2017, E. Basatemur et al.*

## Costs of Vitamin D testing and prescribing among children in primary care

**Source: records of 722,525 : electronic healthcare children and adolescents aged 0-17 years held in the England Health Network database.**

### ➤ **Combined costs of Vitamin D tests and prescriptions:**

**- in 2008: 1,647 pounds per 100,000 person-years**

**- in 2014: 28,913 pounds per 100,000 person-years**

**TOTAL COSTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL IN ENGLAND IN 2014:  
4.31 MILLION POUNDS**



# Vitamin D testing and treatment: a narrative review of current evidence

Clinicians are confronted with an overwhelming testing for 25(OH)D concentrations and self-supplementation of vitamin D in the general population. It is therefore recommended that vitamin D testing should not be misused as a universal population-wide screening tool, but rather be applied only in selected individuals at high risk of vitamin D deficiency.

S. Pilz et al, 2019



# Azioni extra-scheletriche della Vitamina D

*Condizioni pediatriche che possono essere associate a ipovitaminosi D*

- **Infezioni**  
(influenza, bronchiolite, polmonite, TBC)
- **Asma**
- **Dermatite atopica**
- **Allergia alimentare**
- **Malattie autoimmuni**  
(diabete mellito tipo 1, artrite idiopatica giovanile)
- **Obesità, Sindrome Metabolica, Diabete Mellito Tipo 2**



**Vitamin D in pediatric age:  
Consensus of the Italian Society of Pediatrics  
jointly with the Italian Society of Preventive Pediatrics  
and the Italian Federation of Pediatricians**

*Saggese G et al. It J Ped, 44,51,2018*

# Vitamin D and respiratory tract infections (RTI)

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- *Recent studies suggested an effect between Vitamin D deficiency or supplementation on the incidence of respiratory infections in children.*
- *However, because current evidence is weak, we suggest against Vitamin D administration as a therapy for respiratory infections, beyond the correction of a documented Vitamin D deficiency.*

**Vitamin D in pediatric age:**  
**Consensus of the Italian Society of Pediatrics**  
**jointly with the Italian Society of Preventive Pediatrics**  
**and the Italian Federation of Pediatricians**  
*Saggese G et al. It J Ped, 44,51,2018*

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## **Vitamin D and asthma**

*-Low 25(OH)D levels may be associated with a worse asthma control and increased risk of exacerbations.*

*-Effect of vitamin D supplementation confirmed benefits on asthma exacerbations but effects on other asthma-related outcomes are mixed and inconclusive.*

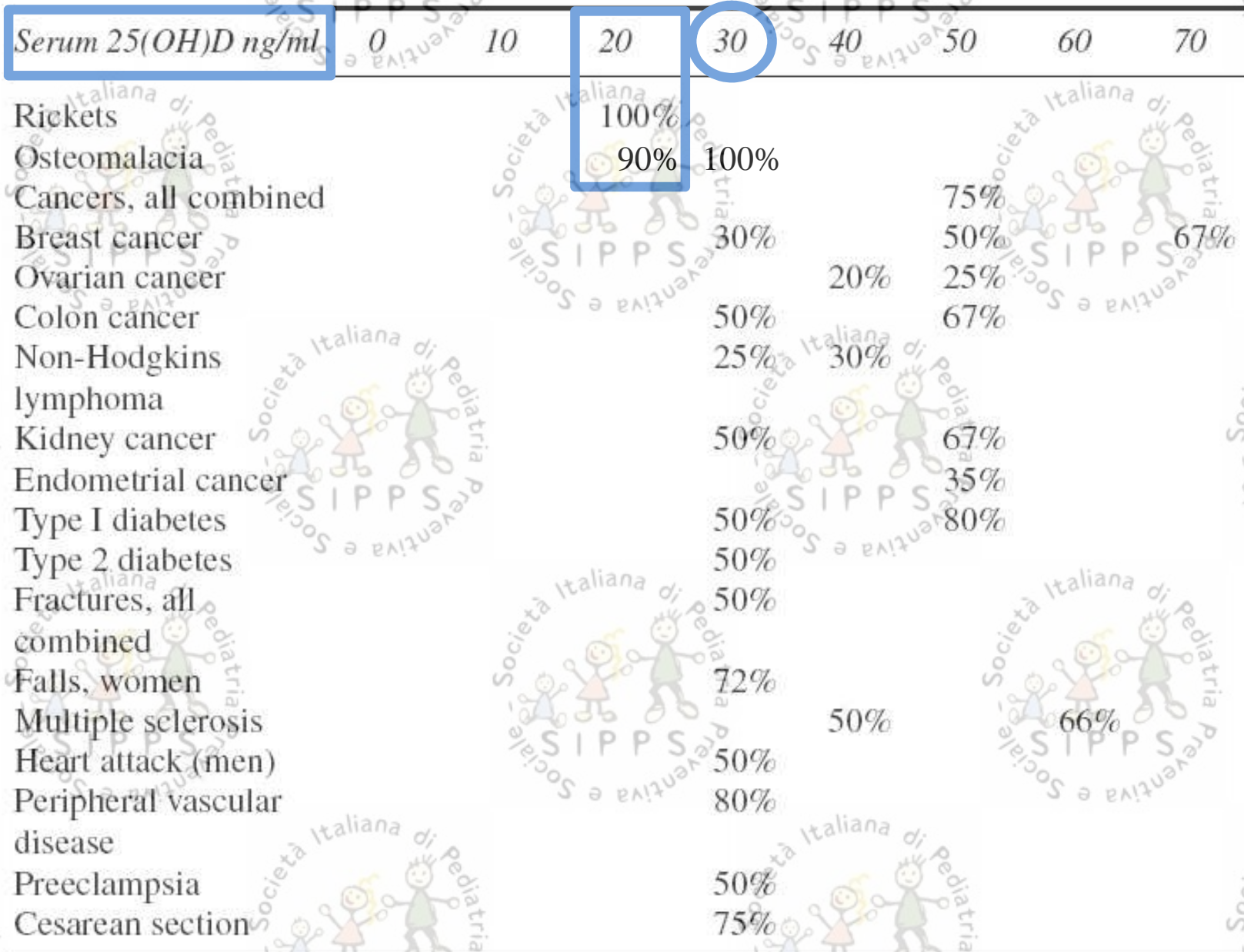


# Skeletal and Extraskeletal Actions of Vitamin D: Current Evidence and Outstanding Questions

Roger Bouillon , Claudio Marcocci, Geert Carmeliet, Daniel Bikle, John H White, Bess Dawson-Hughes, Paul Lips, Craig F Munns, Marise Lazaretti-Castro, Andrea Giustina

***“Intervention studies for extraskeletal health effects are so far inconclusive, but the results of several ongoing randomized clinical trials may help to delineate these effects more clearly in the next future”***

# Health Benefits and Disease Incidence Prevention Related to Serum 25-OH-D Level



(Holick MF. Vitamin D: Physiology, Molecular Biology, and Clinical Applications. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2010)



# Ipovitaminosi D e conseguenze cliniche

## livelli di 25-OH-D

**< 20 ng/ml**  
deficienza

**20-30 ng/ml**  
insufficienza

**≥ 30 ng/ml**  
sufficienza

*azioni scheletriche*

*azioni extra-scheletriche*

**Ipovitaminosi D: fattore modificabile di rischio!**

# Fattori che interferiscono sui livelli di 25-OH-D

- etnia
- indice di massa corporea (BMI)
- latitudine
- stagione
- radiazione UVB
- integrazione vitaminica
- fattori genetici (polimorfismi DBP)
- epimeri 25-OH-D
- metodi di dosaggio (CLIA, RIA, Tandem Mass)



[Clin Chem Lab Med.](#) 2017 .

***Assessment of vitamin D status - a changing landscape.***

[Herrmann M,](#) [et al](#)