

# Vitamin D and its Metabolites in Animal Health

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## meat production

Growth, livability, and feed conversion of 1957 vs. 1991 broilers when fed typical 1957 and 1991 broiler diets.

Havenstein et al. Dept. of Poultry Science, North Carolina State University, USA

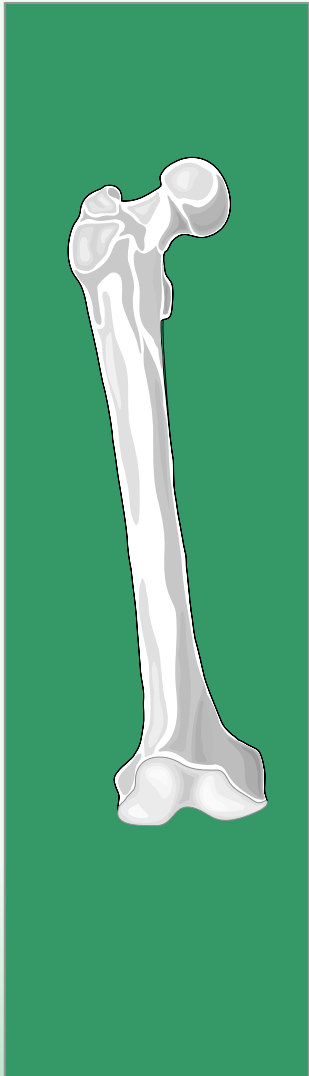
Breed	Diet	Weight [g]		Feed Conv.	M[%]	TD [%] (1991diet)	TD [%] (1957diet)
		Day 42	Day 84				
1957	1957	<b>508</b>	1400	<b>3.00</b>	3.3	<b>1.2</b>	1.2
1991	1991	<b>2132</b>	4498	<b>2.04</b>	9.1	<b>48.6</b>	25.6

1957 Athens-Canadien Random breed (a typical 1957 breed)

1991 Arbor Acres (a typical 1991 breed)

M Mortality

TD Tibial Dyschondroplasia



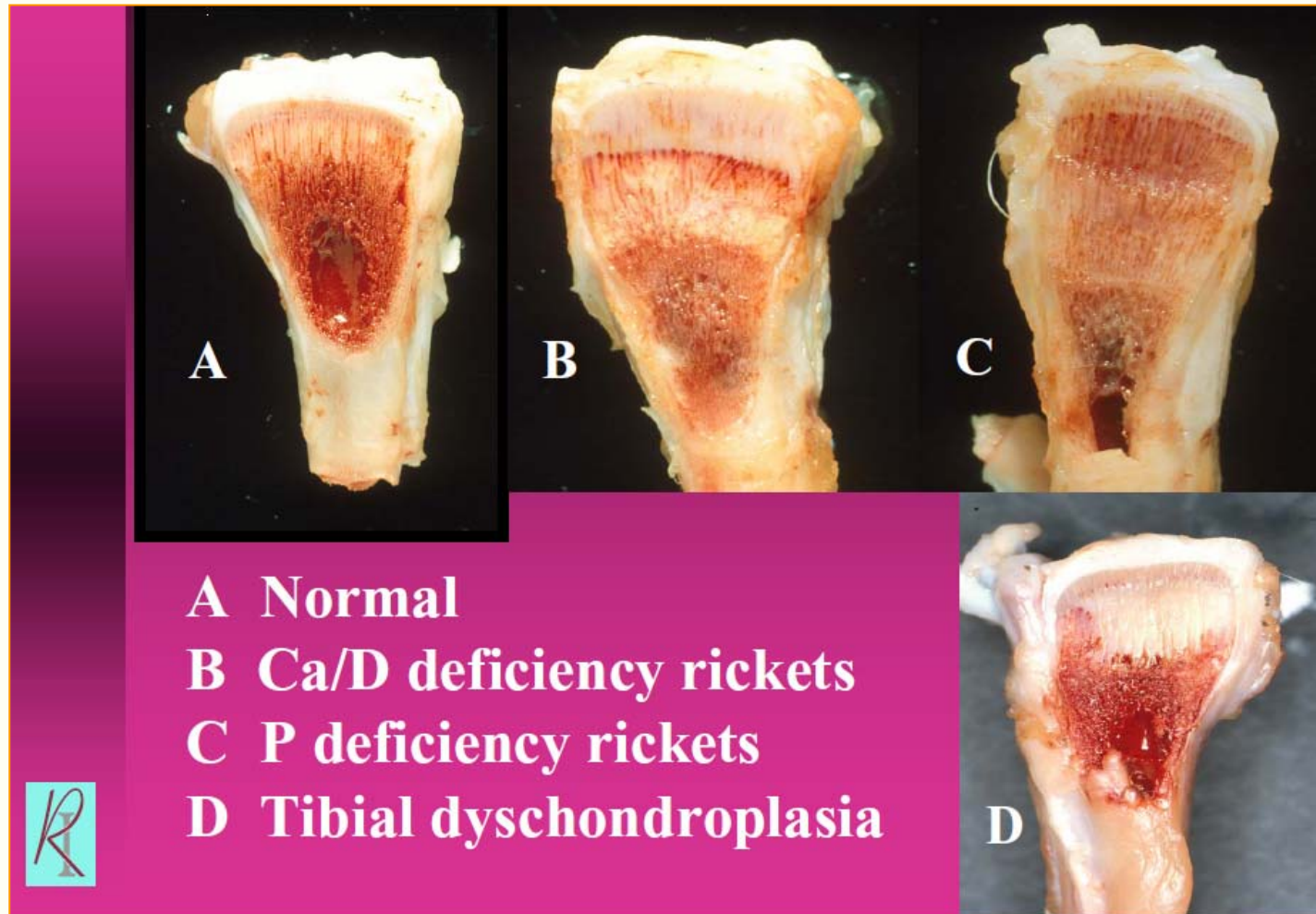
## Calcium and its importance in bone quality

- Cortical and trabecular bone: Support function
- Medullar Bone: Mineral-pool with high turnover

## Leg weaknesses

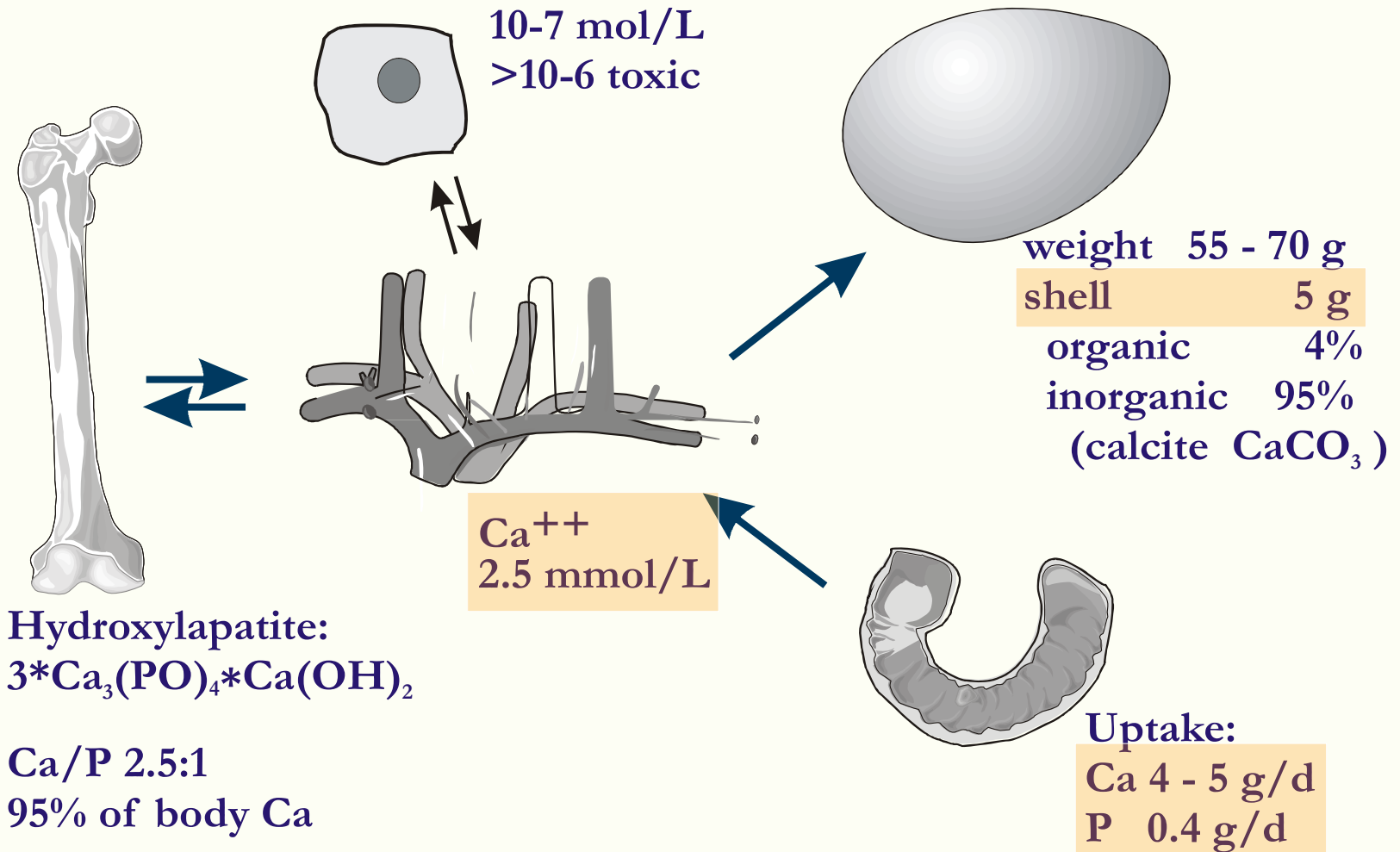
- different causes (genetics, feed, environment)
  1. Bone growth disorders in young fast growing poultry, tibial dyschondroplasia as example
  2. Osteoarthritis (bone and joint disorders caused by degenerative processes)
  3. Fractures because of osteoporosis in laying hens

# leg problems in poultry rearing

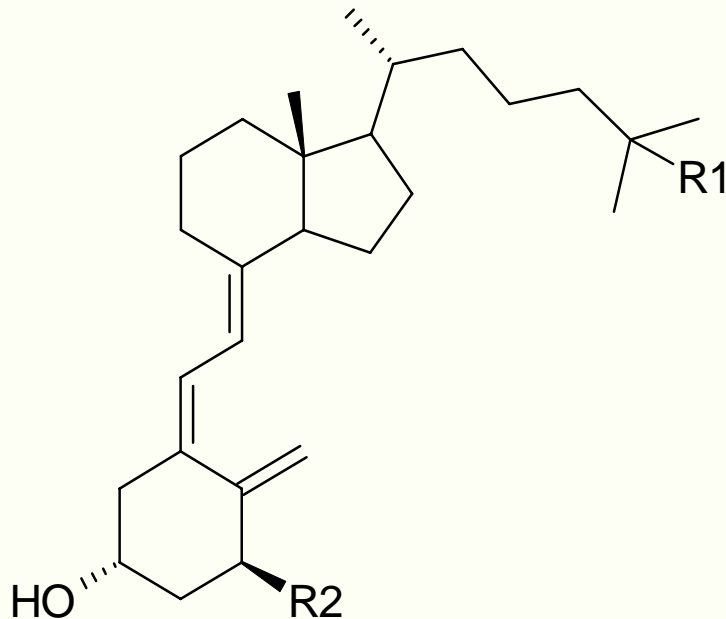


Courtesy by Prof. C. Whitehead

# calcium turnover in the laying hen



# definitions



R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	
H	H	Vitamin D <sub>3</sub> ; Cholecalciferol
OH	H	25(OH)D <sub>3</sub> , Calcidol
OH	OH	1 $\alpha$ ,25(OH) <sub>2</sub> D <sub>3</sub> , Calcitriol
OH	O-[Gly] <sub>n</sub>	Calcitriol-glycosides (n = 1 - 10)

## Activity:

**Cholecalciferol (Vitamin D<sub>3</sub>)**

**25-Hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>**

(biosassay)

**1,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>**

(biosassay)

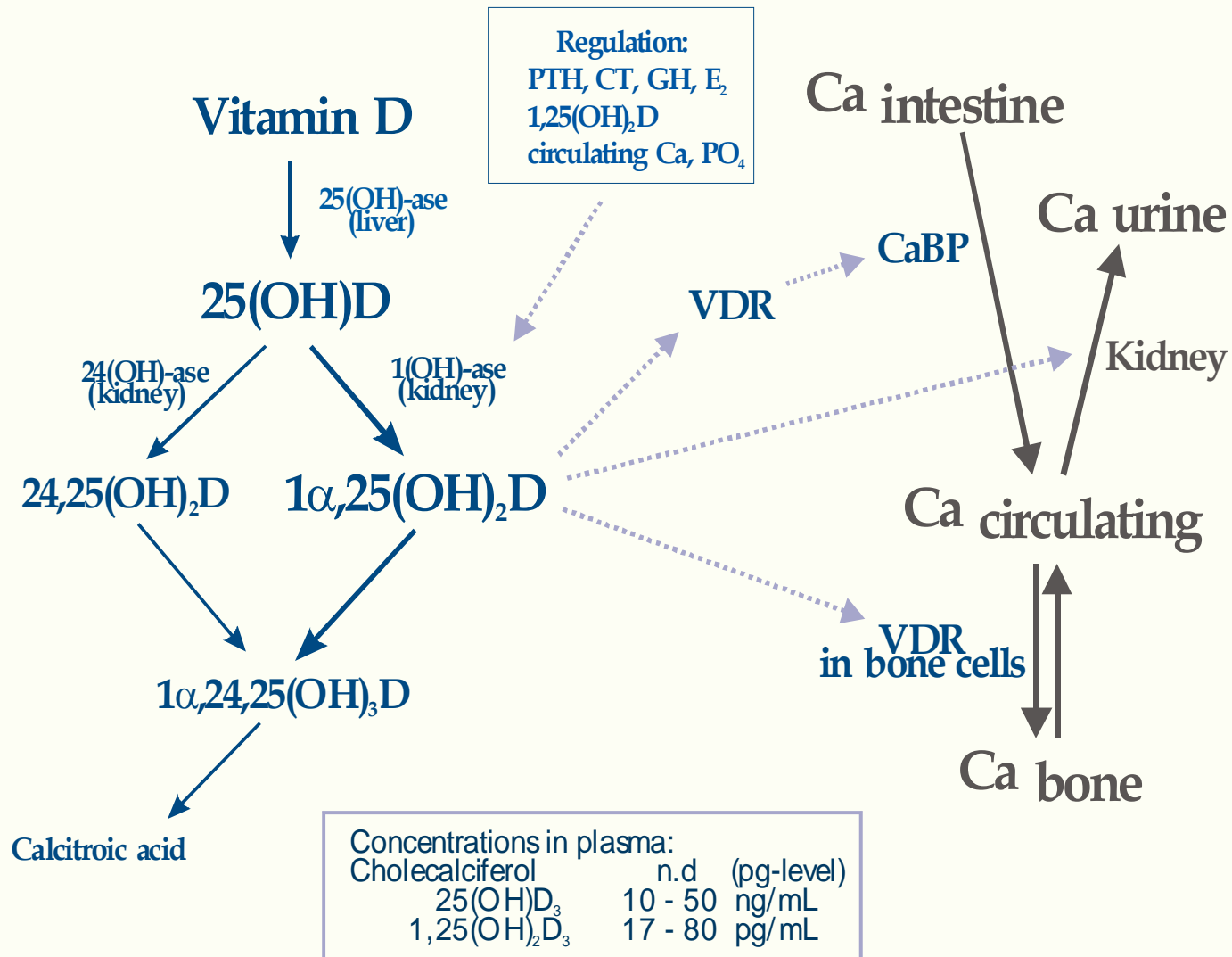
**Ergocalciferol (Vitamin D<sub>2</sub>)**

**1 IU = 25 ng** official mass – activity relation  
12 ng (2x more active, depending on

5 ng (5x more active, depending on

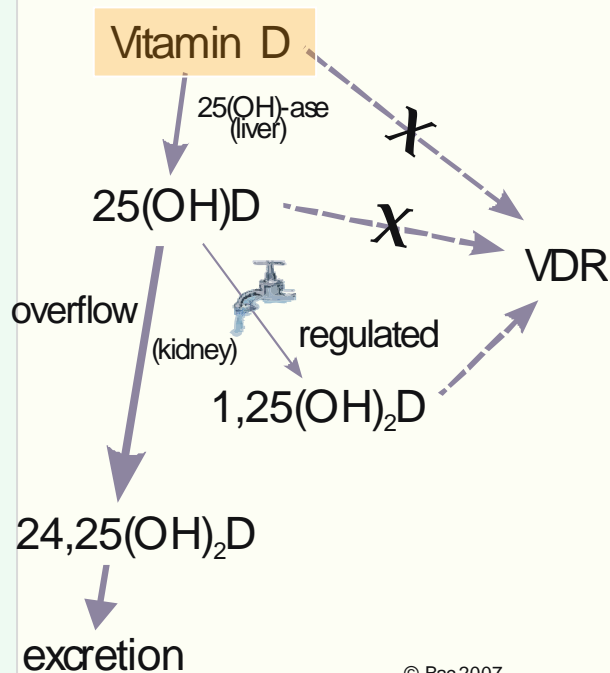
(10x less active in birds)

# metabolism of vitamin D

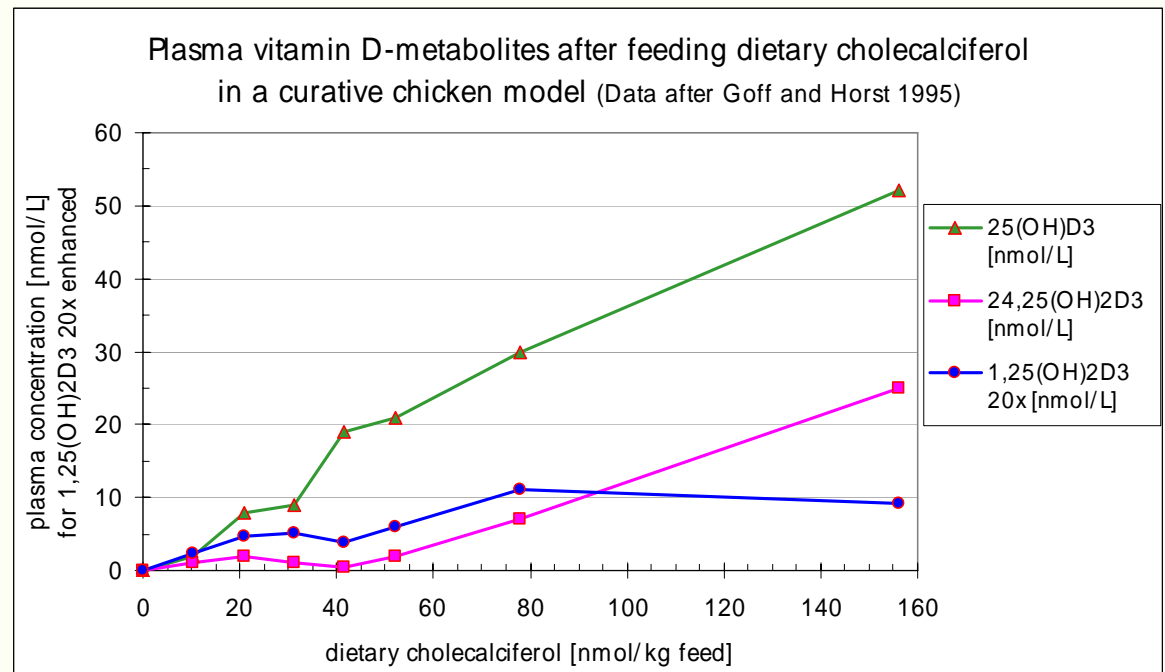


## Vitamin D<sub>3</sub>

- prevents and cures rickets
- but not tibial dyschondroplasia



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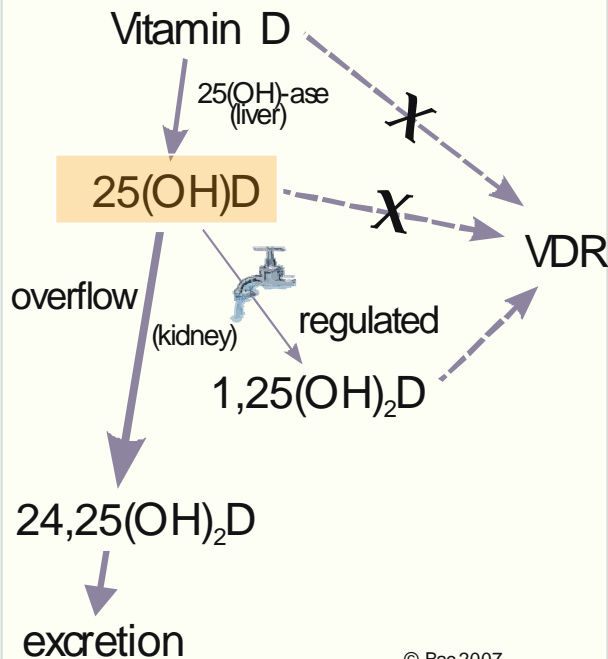




the storage form

## 25-Hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> (storage form)

- prevents and cures rickets
- improves performance
- **tibial dyschondroplasia only partially**
- Published experiments in peer reviewed journals
  - 75µg/kg is equipotent to 2µg/kg 1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D<sub>3</sub> (lowers incidence from 64% to 10%)
  - trials without effect



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Fig. 3: Plasma levels of 25-hydroxy vitamin D (trial C0195)

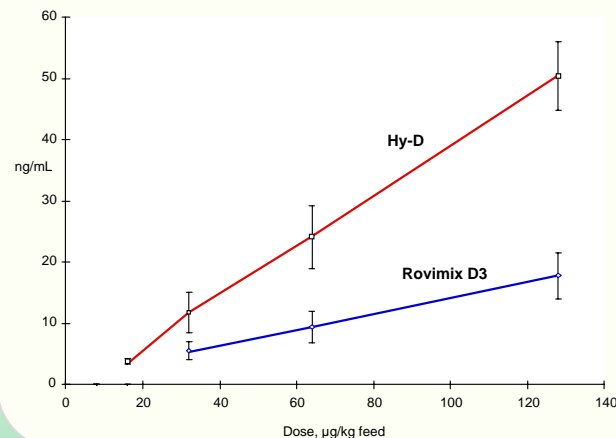
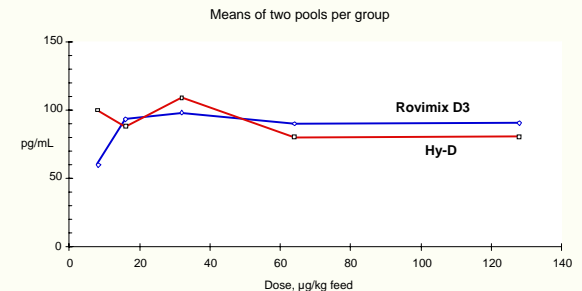


Fig. 4: Plasma levels of 1,25-dihydroxy vitamin D (trial C0195)



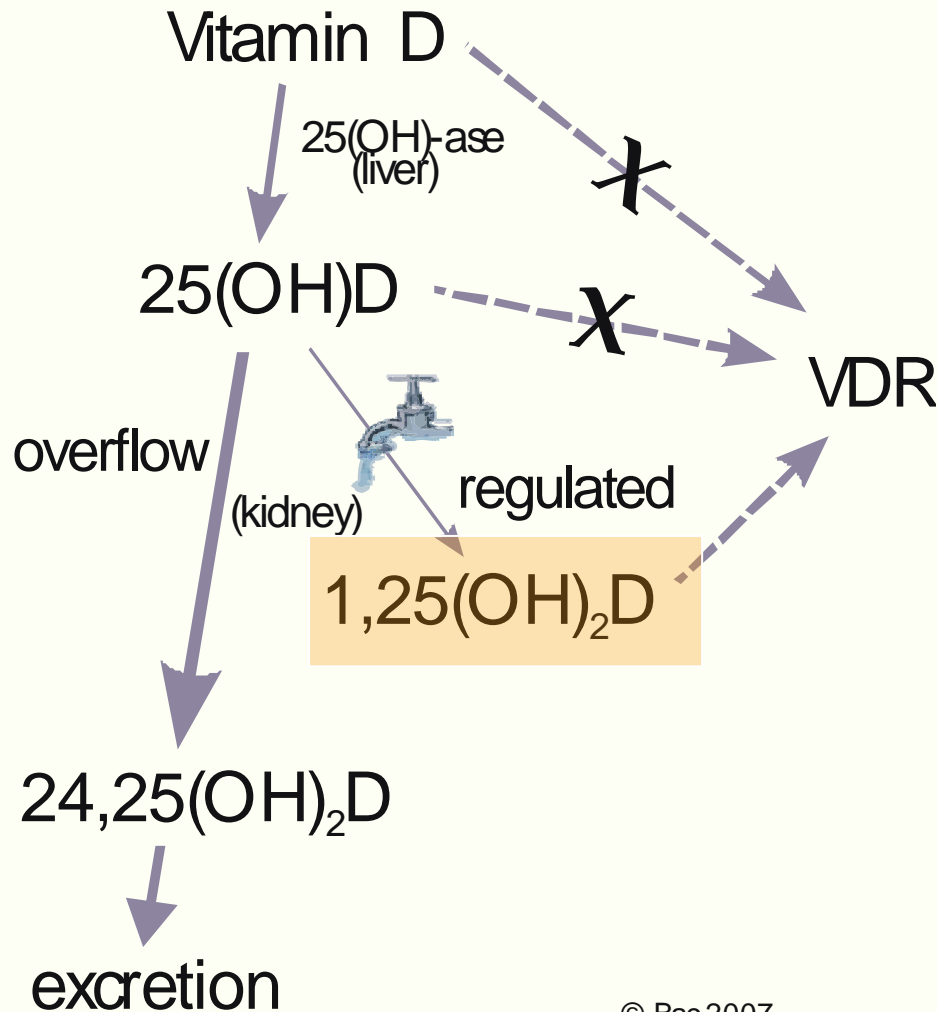
## 1,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> (synthetic Calcitriol)

most active VDM, strictly controlled formation  
genomic action through VD-Receptor in intestine  
non-genomic (“fast”) action in muscle and other tissue

- Cures rickets
- Most active compound in curing and preventing TD
  - Edwards et al. 10 µg/kg prevents TD
  - Whitehead et al. 2 µg/kg lowers TD from 25% -> 0%
- Active in improving egg shell strength
- Active in layer fatigue and osteoporosis (Whitehead et al.)

⇒ no product available for animal nutrition

the active form



Prevention of  
tibial  
dyschondroplasia or  
osteoporosis,  
Egg shell quality

Slow processes may not  
be recognized by the  
calcium homeostatic  
regulation

$1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ , the  
active metabolite has a  
different quality of  
action

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### Vitamin D from natural sources:

Sparse, fish liver oil is one of the richest source, because vitamin D is produced under the influence of sunlight by zoo- and phyto-plankton, the basis of the marine food chain.

Others (found in the 1980ties):

*Solanum glaucophyllum*

*Cestrum diurnum*

*Nicotiana sp.*

*Nierembergia veichtii*

*Solanum lycopersicum*

*Trisetum flavescens*

*alfaalfa*

most

10-50 times less

traces

not in textbook: the natural alternative

*Solanum glaucophyllum* from the wild





## cultivation



## *Solanum glaucophyllum*

Wild forms and a cultivated variety, selected for high and uniform active content: Hervit<sup>®</sup> (non-GMO)

Active content: wild: VDM 0–20 ppm (as 1,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>)  
cultivation: VDM 25-30 ppm  
>90% in glycosidic bound form  
<5% free 1,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>  
<5% 25(OH)D<sub>3</sub>; vitamin D<sub>3</sub>

Inactive content: Primary plant metabolites,  
flavonoids

Toxic components: Jain et al.: alkaloid Solasodine

⇒ Hervit is controlled for a low alkaloid content and pesticides, heavy metals, microbial purity

### Product characterization:

Active content: 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> specs; CoA

Inactive content: Weende analysis specs; CoA

Specific components: pesticide

residues

by HPLC

heavy metals

by AA

microbial contamination

bacteriol.

alkaloids

HPTLC,

HPLC/MS

others

HPTLC



## Panbonis – Herbal Vitamin D<sub>3</sub>

Standardized, formulated product for adding to feed

Content 10 ppm (as 1,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>)

### Product properties:

Light green powder, particle size 100-500 µm (92%)

Good miscibility with feed

Storage stability (0 / 20 / 40 °C): 36mt >90%

Thermo stability at extruding, pelleting: >90%

Non-GMO product, controlled for heavy metals, pesticide residues and microbial contamination

Legal status: CH Registered as FA 'Herbal Vitamin D'  
EU Notified as under Regulation EC767/2009 as SG standardized leaves  
Asia (Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan) as 'herbal FA'  
SA Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico as 'herbal FA'

## Solbone-A-cws

A standardized, formulated extract with good cold water solubility

Content: 50 ppm (as 1,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>)

Application: via drinking water in poultry and swine rearing

Properties: Light brown powder with a malty taste

particle size 60-300 µm (90%)

Freely soluble in water to maximal 30% w/v

Storage stability: 0/20/40 °C: 24mt >90%

Thermo stability: 100°C >90%

Stability in water: 20°C (5 %), 3 days >90%

Thermo stability solution 1g/L 120°C/3 min  
>80%

Registration:	CH	registration as FA in progress
	EU	registration as FA in preparation
	Asia	registered in Japan, Thailand others in progress
	SA	registered in Brazil

# Biological effects

## product characterization

herbal vitamin D<sub>3</sub> (1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D<sub>3</sub>-glycosides)

- stable (storage, temperature)
- water soluble (Solbone-A-

cws)



in the Intestinal tract - 'slow release'  
by digestive enzymes - broader tolerance

free active Vitamin D

- natural active VDM
- fast onset of action



resorption without overloading liver and

kidneys



direct action on bones

- better Ca + P utilization

## Poultry

- leg weaknesses in fast growing broiler chickens
- eggshell quality and osteoporosis of old laying hens

## Swine

- calcium-related problems at farrowing
  - lactating sow
  - piglet survival

## Ruminants

- calcium-related problems during calving
  - milk fever
  - meat quality

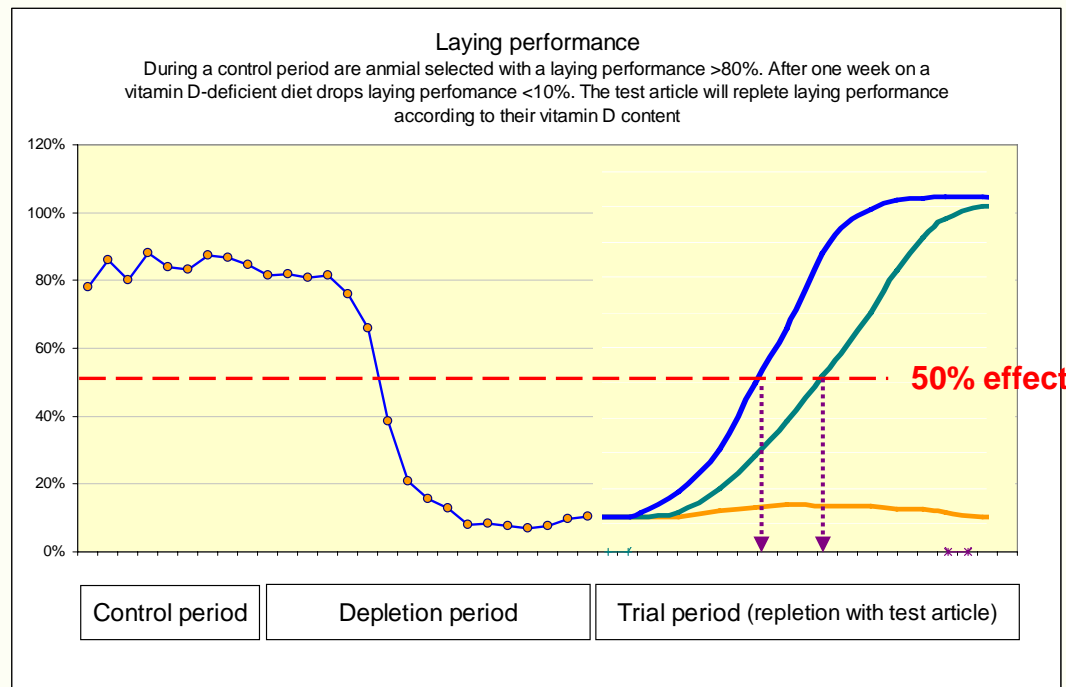
**Others**   **pets, horses** (bone growth, osteoporosis, kidney insufficiency)

effects: vitamin D activity

## Bioassay for Vitamin D activity:

### Japanese quail egg shell assay

Principle: Egg-laying quails are given vitamin D-depleted diet until laying performance drops to <10 %. Animals are then given the test diet for 3 weeks (LMU Munich, Germany)



Vitamin D

Solbone  
A

Liver

$25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$

Kidney

$1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$

Bone

Bone



48 – 72 hours



24 hours



effects: leg weaknesses

## Broiler trial: Preventing leg anomalies

Location: Roslin Institute, Edinburgh, Scotland, Whitehead C et al.

Title: Effects of vitamin D metabolites on bone

Objective: Compare effectiveness of different vitamin D metabolite preparations on bone development

Procedure: 240 male day-old broilers (Ross 308). Basal (control) diet was set on all-vegetable broiler starter diet containing 8 g Ca, 6g available P and 1000 IU vitamin D/kg. Other diets obtained with appropriate supplements.

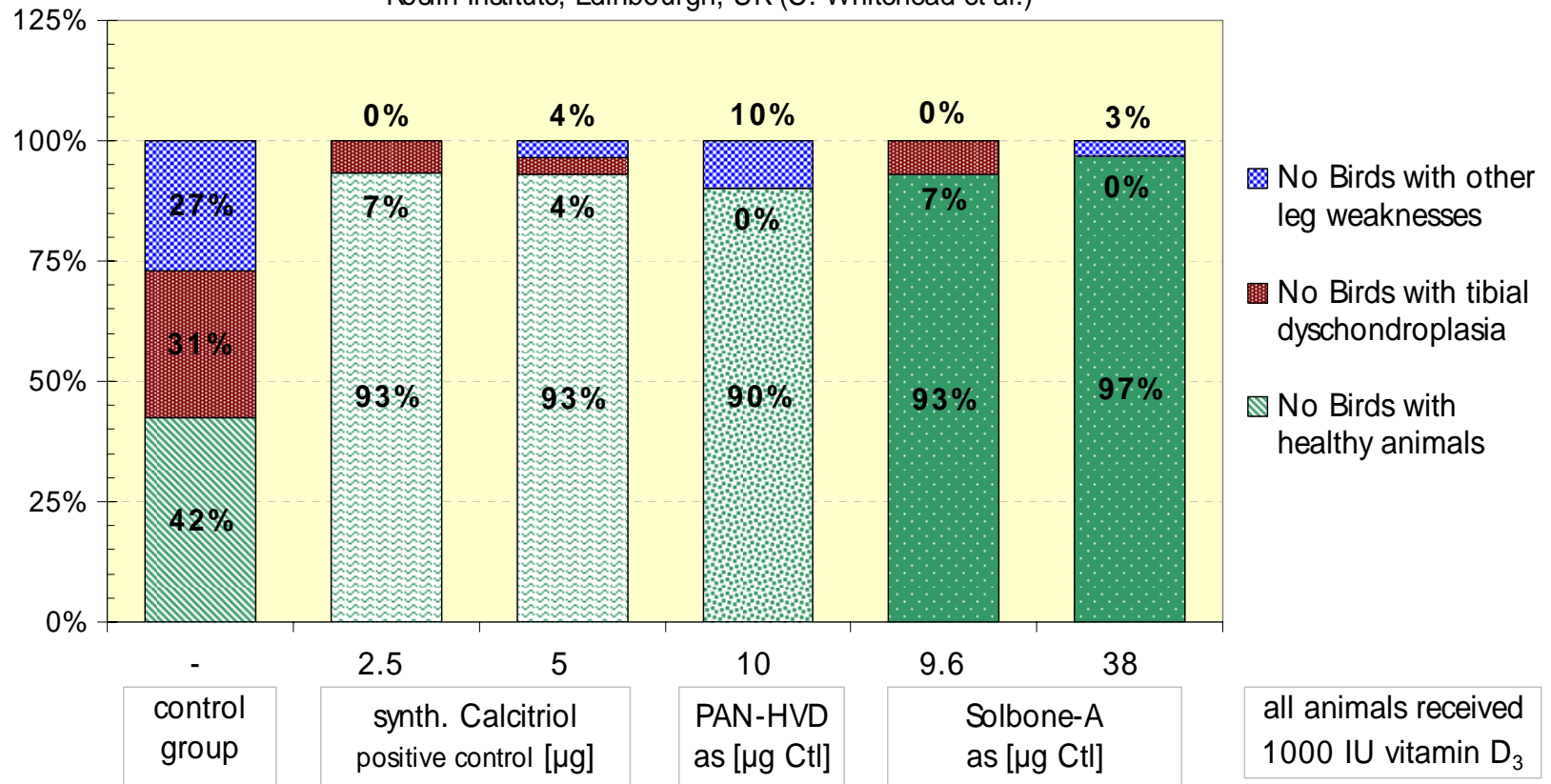
Birds were fed on diets from one day old. At 14 days, proximal tibias were dissected for determination of TD incidence and severity and tibia breaking strength was measured.



# effects: leg weaknesses

## Reduction of Leg Problems in Broiler Chickens

Model for tibial dyschondroplasia in unsexed Ross 308 chicks from day 1 to 14. Trial performed at Roslin Institute, Edinburgh, UK (C. Whitehead et al.)



## phosphorous utilization

### P and Ca balance trial in broiler chickens. Days 12-17 / 17-22

treatment	Ca % digest	P % digest	Ca % excret	P % excret
Control normal ( $P_{\text{tot}} = 0.66\%$ )	0.51 <sup>a</sup>	0.43 <sup>a</sup>	0.47 <sup>a</sup>	0.40 <sup>a</sup>
Control $P_{\text{red}}$ ( $P_{\text{tot}} = 0.50\%$ )	0.37 <sup>b</sup>	0.47 <sup>b</sup>	0.46 <sup>a</sup>	0.22 <sup>b</sup>
$P_{\text{red}}$ ( $P_{\text{tot}} = 0.50\%$ )+ Panbonis 75 g/ft	0.43 <sup>c</sup>	0.42 <sup>c</sup>	0.42 <sup>b</sup>	0.20 <sup>b</sup>

treatment	Ca <sub>ret</sub> g/kg f	P <sub>ret</sub> g/kg f	Pyt-P <sub>ret</sub> g/kg f	diff
Control normal ( $P_{\text{tot}} = 0.66\%$ )	4.55 <sup>a</sup>	2.83 <sup>a</sup>	1.29 <sup>a</sup>	
Control $P_{\text{red}}$ ( $P_{\text{tot}} = 0.50\%$ )	3.32 <sup>b</sup>	2.37 <sup>b</sup>	1.46 <sup>a</sup>	-
$P_{\text{red}}$ ( $P_{\text{tot}} = 0.50\%$ )+ Panbonis 75 g/ft	3.87 <sup>c</sup>	2.62 <sup>c</sup>	1.52 <sup>b</sup>	11%

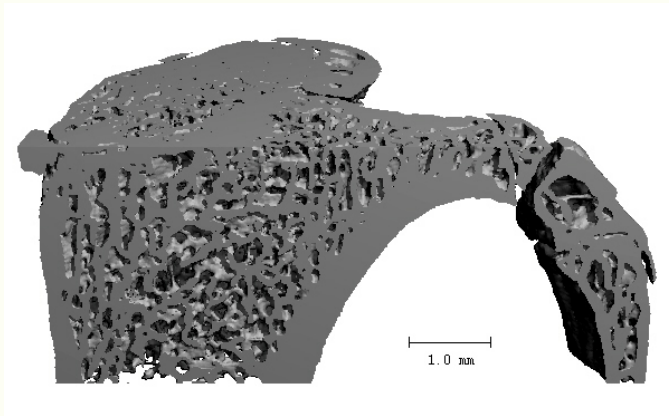
Different letters  $p < 0.05$

Same effect also published by Cheng et al. 1996

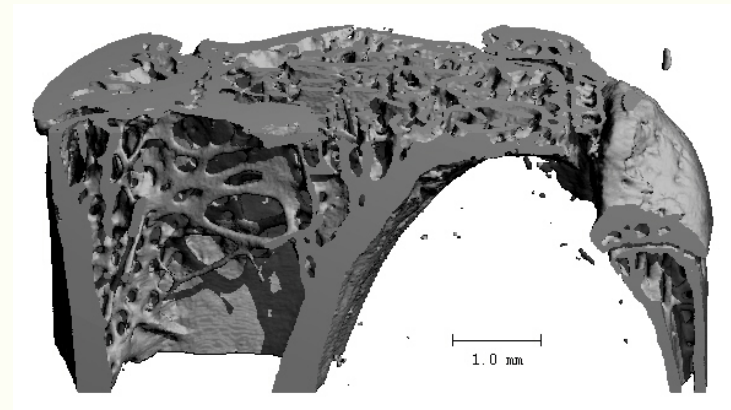
## Other animal models

Herbal vitamin D<sub>3</sub> in a rat model for osteoporosis:

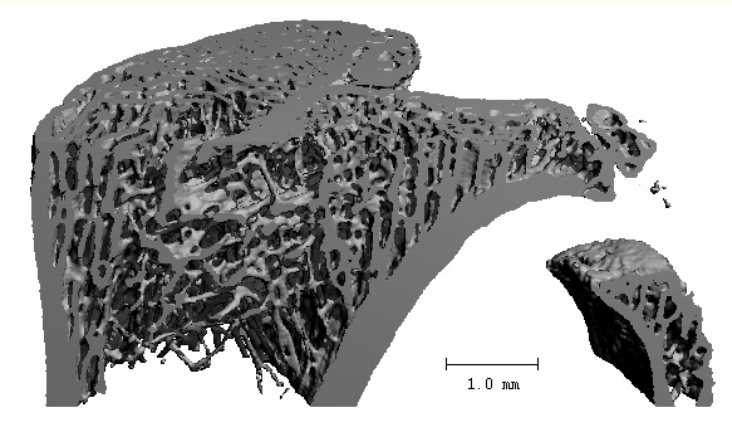
Normal (sham operated)



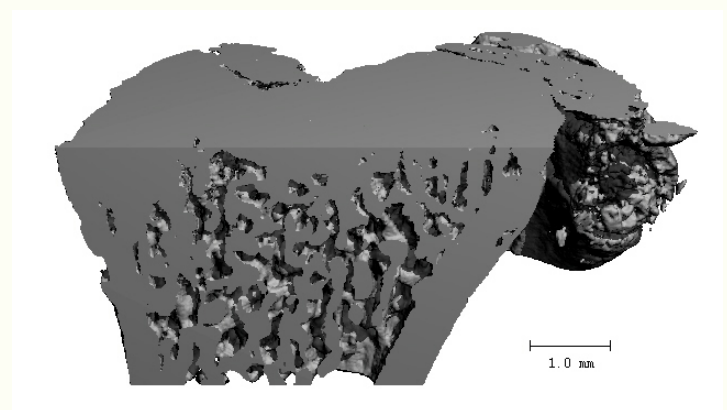
ovariectomized



Fosamax



Solbone



# Safety

## Herbal Vitamin D<sub>3</sub>' safety:

In broilers:

Recommended dose: on top of usual Vitamin D<sub>3</sub>:

<2'000 IUD/kg: 0.2 to 0.5 g/kg feed

>2'000 IUD/kg: 0.1 to 0.2 g/kg feed

5 g/kg no adverse effect

12 g/kg adverse effect level

- after day 14: reduced weight gain in half of animals

- at day 25: hypercalcemia

blood calcium +38%

animal weight -36%

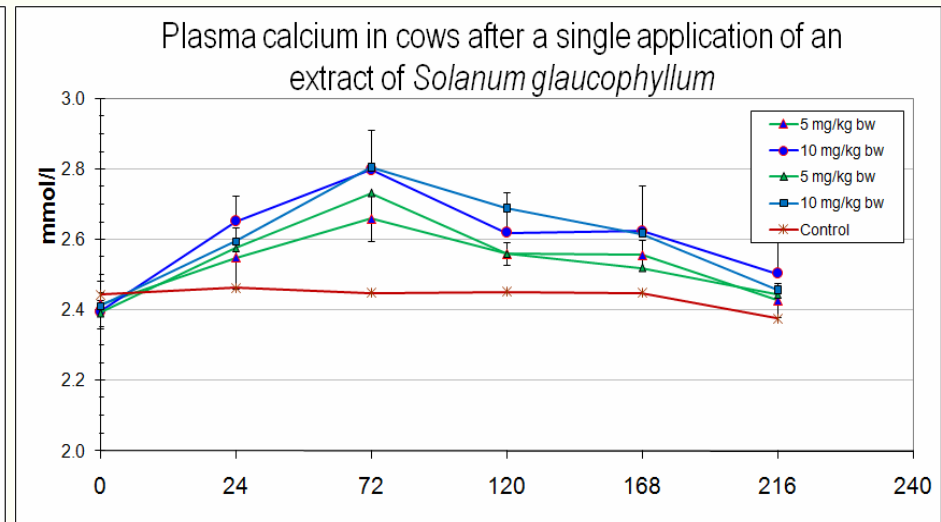
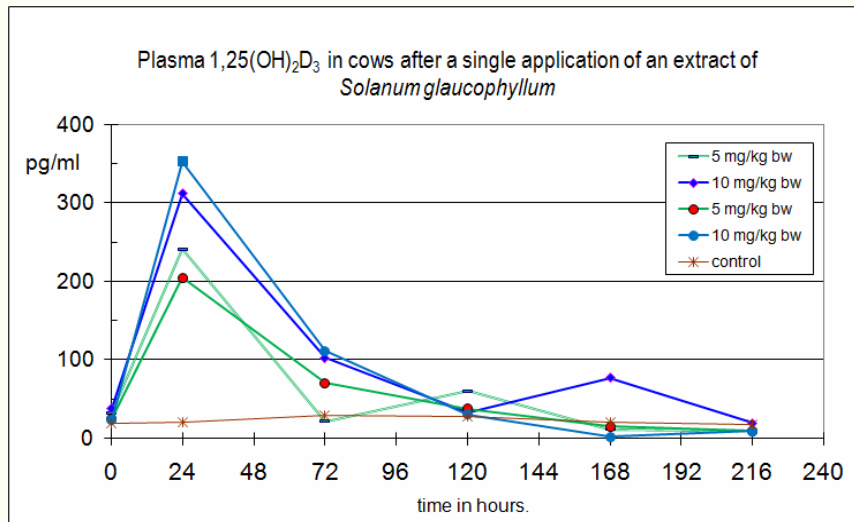
mortality 1.4 ⇒ 5.7%

- at day 38: recovery, normal blood calcium and growth curve after change to normal feed

# Plasma kinetics after a single dose of an extract of *Solanum glaucophyllum* to cows

1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D<sub>3</sub>

Ca



	Biological actions				Molecular properties				Safety
	VD activity	R	TD <sup>1)</sup>	OP <sup>2)</sup>	Chem stab <sup>6)</sup>	Lipo <sup>3)</sup>	Tissue acc <sup>4)</sup>	Half-life <sup>5)</sup>	Tolerance <sup>7)</sup>
Vitamin D <sub>3</sub>	full	Y	-	-	med	high	high	2 mt	20-50x
25(OH)D <sub>3</sub>	full	Y	-	-	med	med	med	2 wk	5-10x
1,25(OH) <sub>2</sub> D <sub>3</sub>	full	Y	Y	Y	low	low	low	16 hr	5x
Herbal active VD	full	Y	Y	Y	high	low	low	16 hr	10-25x

- 1) TD: tibial dyschondroplasia
- 2) OP: osteoporosis
- 3) Lipophilicity: a measure for the fat-solubility - is the opposite of water-solubility.
- 4) Tissue accumulation: the tendency of a lipophilic molecule to dissolve in fat-rich tissue and thus accumulates in the body.
- 5) Half-life: time measure by which half of the applied compound is cleared from the body
- 6) Chemical stability: determines the storage stability and reactivity with feed components and heat stability at feed processing
- 7) Tolerance: the factor at which toxicity starts. Based on recommended doses of 2500 IU/kg for VD<sub>3</sub>, 69µg/kg for 25(OH)D<sub>3</sub>, 5µg/kg 1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D<sub>3</sub> and 250, resp. 100mg/kg feed for Panbonis.)

## Herbal active Vitamin D<sub>3</sub>

Active agent is 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>, the most active natural VDM <sup>1)</sup> in man and animal with proven activity in:

### Bone-related effects

- Cures vitamin D-deficiency (rickets) faster

- Prevents leg weakness (tibial dyschondroplasia)

### Other benefits

- Improves phosphorous absorption

- Improves performance (1-8 %, weight gain and feed conversion)

- Improves meat tenderness (in beef, data by Foote et al. 2004)

The present glycosidic form of the active vitamin D<sub>3</sub> shows a better safety profile than free 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>,

The standardized and formulated product has a good stability (up to 3 years)

<sup>1)</sup> In glycosylated form, a naturally stabilized form



In conclusion,  
you have the choice of 3 different forms of  
vitamin D<sub>3</sub>  
each with it's merits:

Vitamin D <sub>3</sub>	cheap; covers normal conditions, rickets
25-Hydroxyvitamin D <sub>3</sub>	advantage in specific conditions: performance, mineral supply, rickets
Herbal active vitamin D <sub>3</sub>	advantage in specific conditions: calcium uptake, bone health, phosphorus utilization, rickets

Thank you