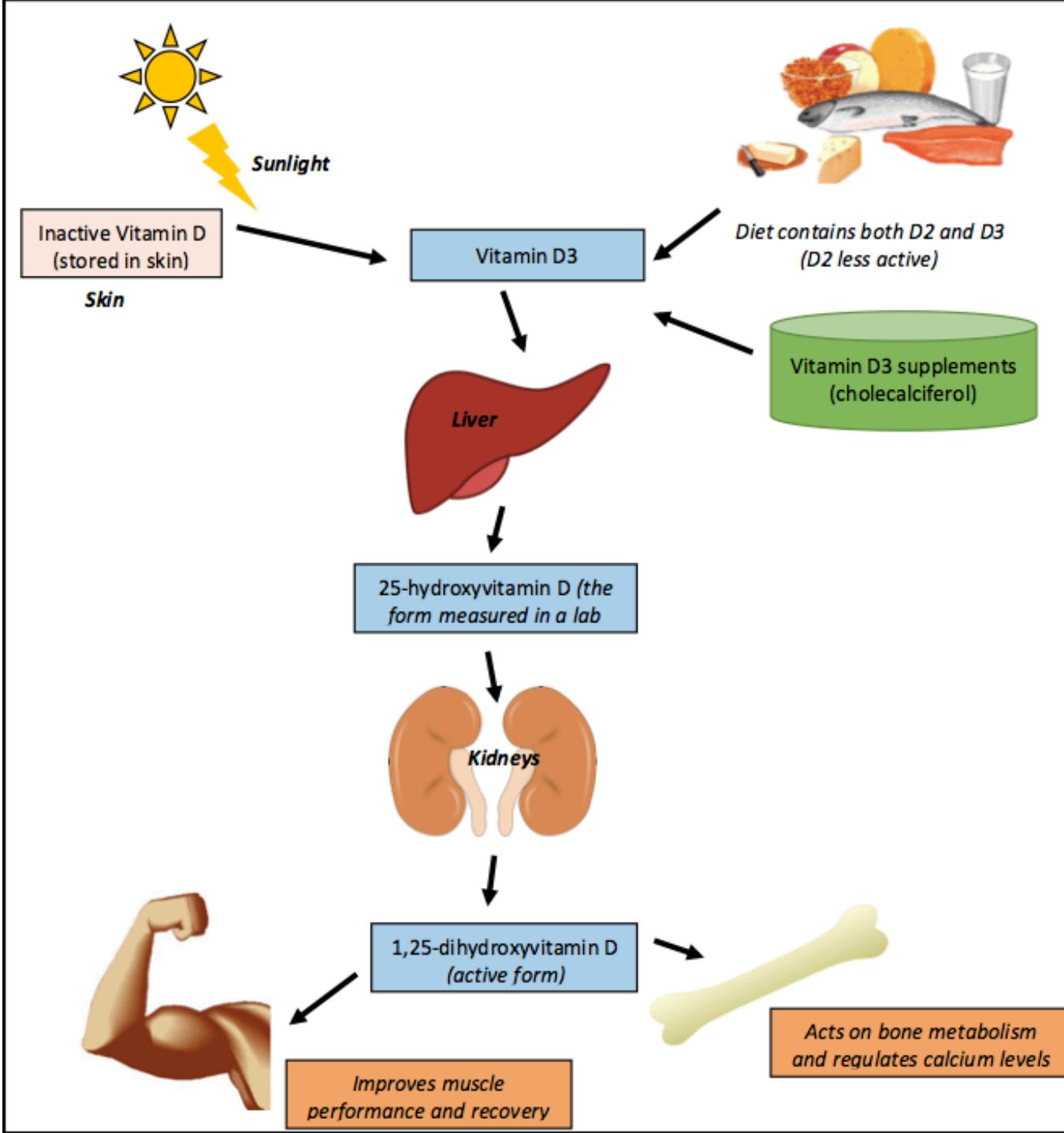


# Vitamin D testing

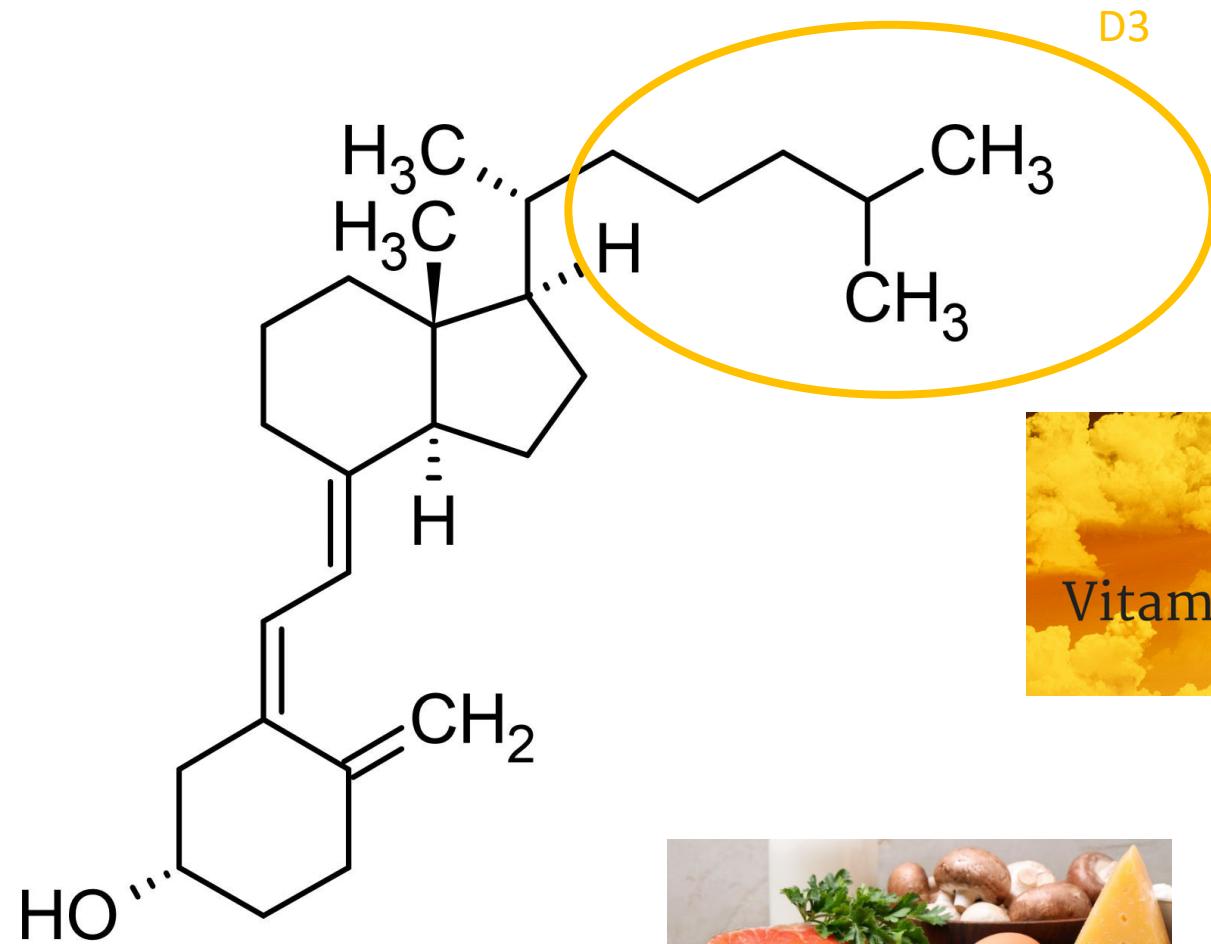
*Quo vadis?*

Dr. Jaak Billen  
Dr. Nick Narinx

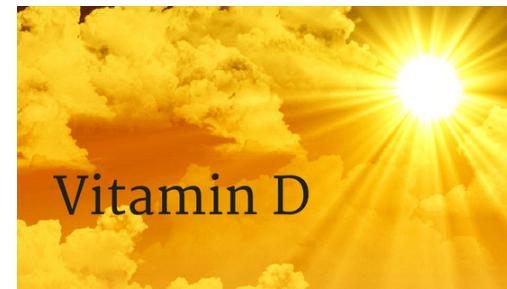
*Klinische Biologie  
UZ Leuven*



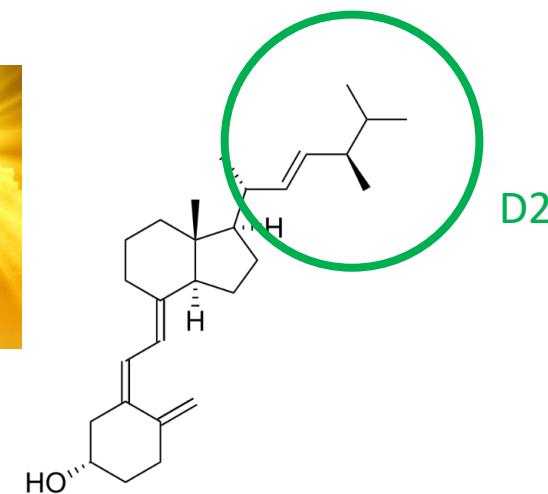
Vit D: metabolites



Cholecalciferol  
Vitamin D<sub>3</sub>

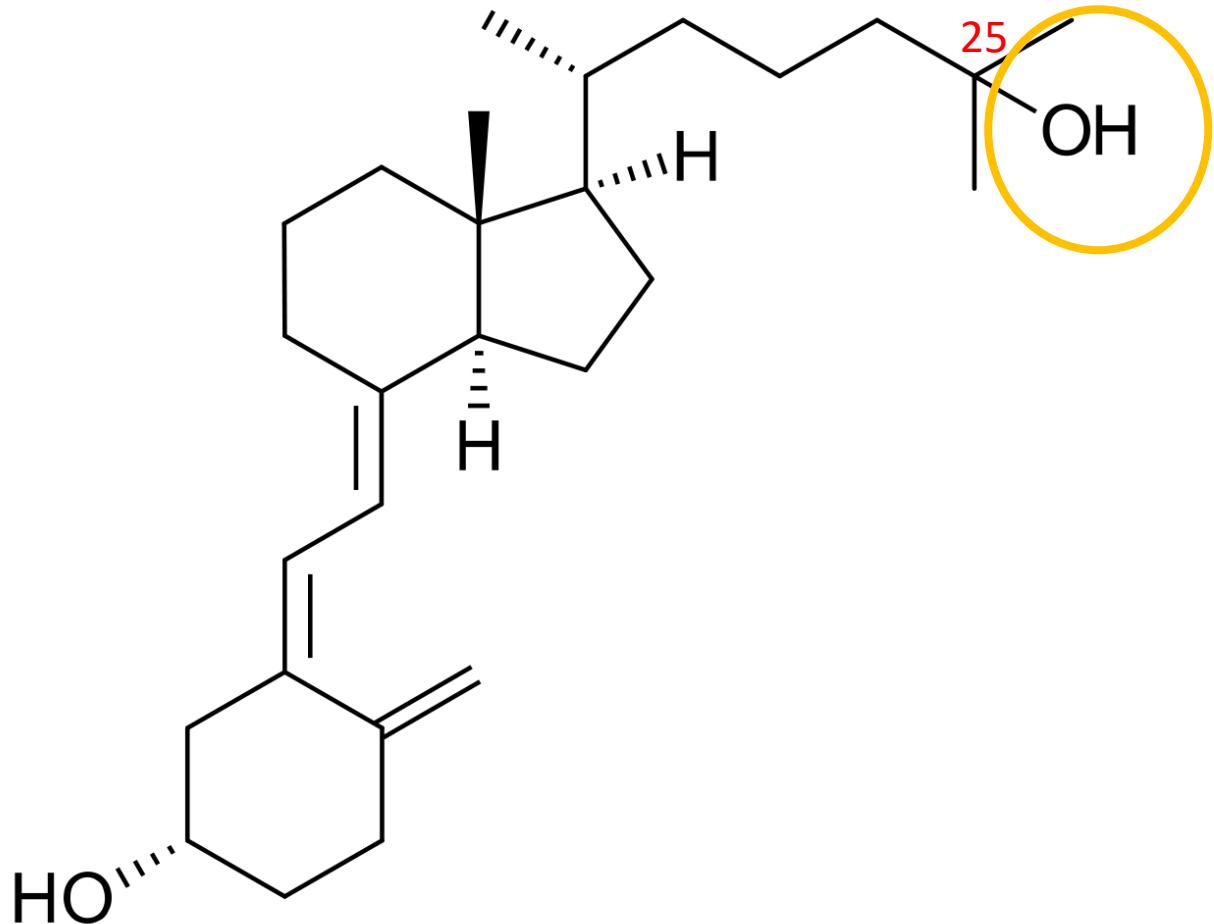


Vitamin D

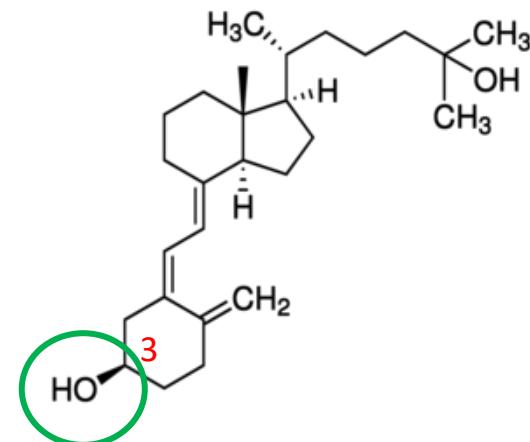


Ergocalciferol  
Vitamine D<sub>2</sub>

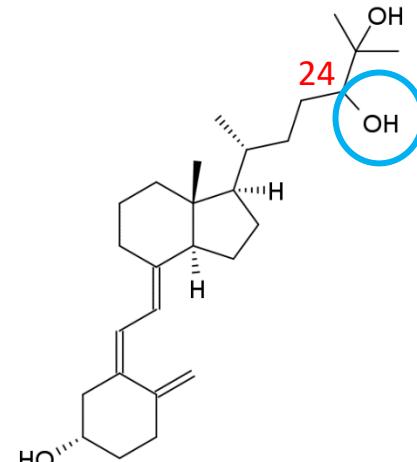




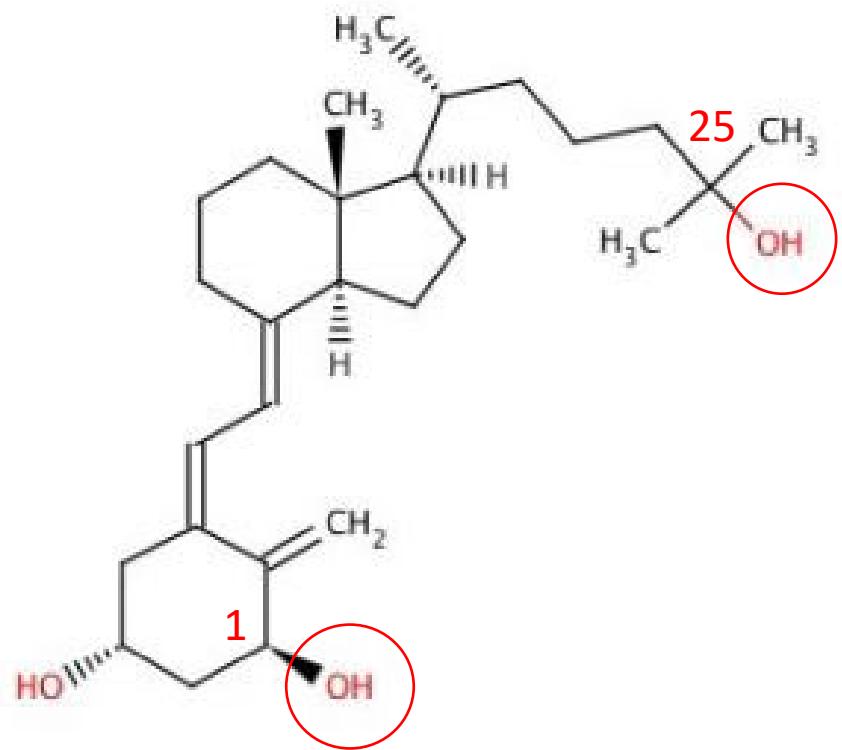
**25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>  
calcifediol**



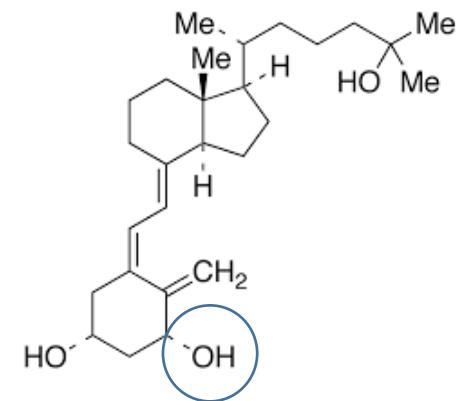
**3-epi,25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>**



**24,25-dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>**



**1 $\alpha$ ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D  
calcitriol**



**1 $\beta$ ,25 vit D**

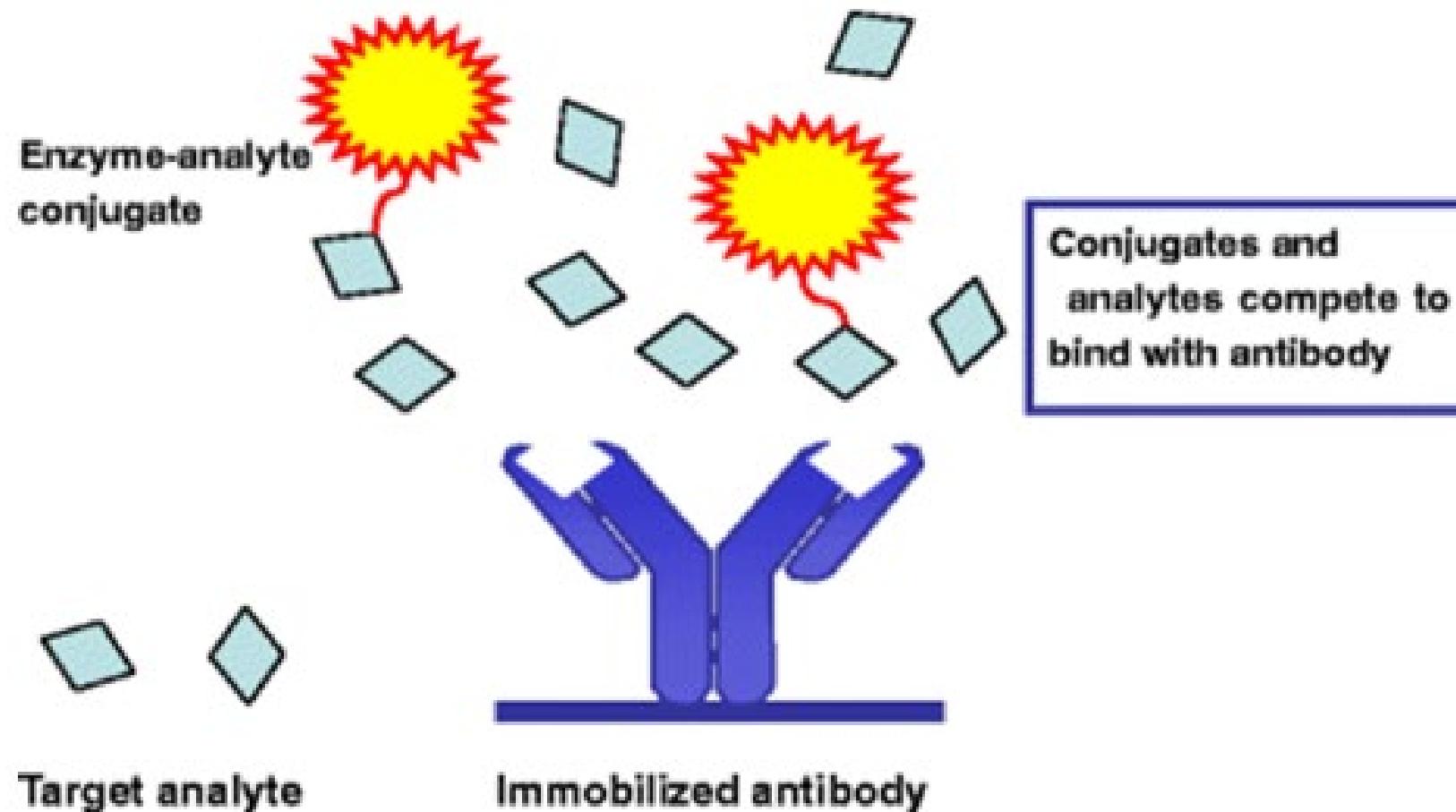


# Vit D: assays

Immunoassays

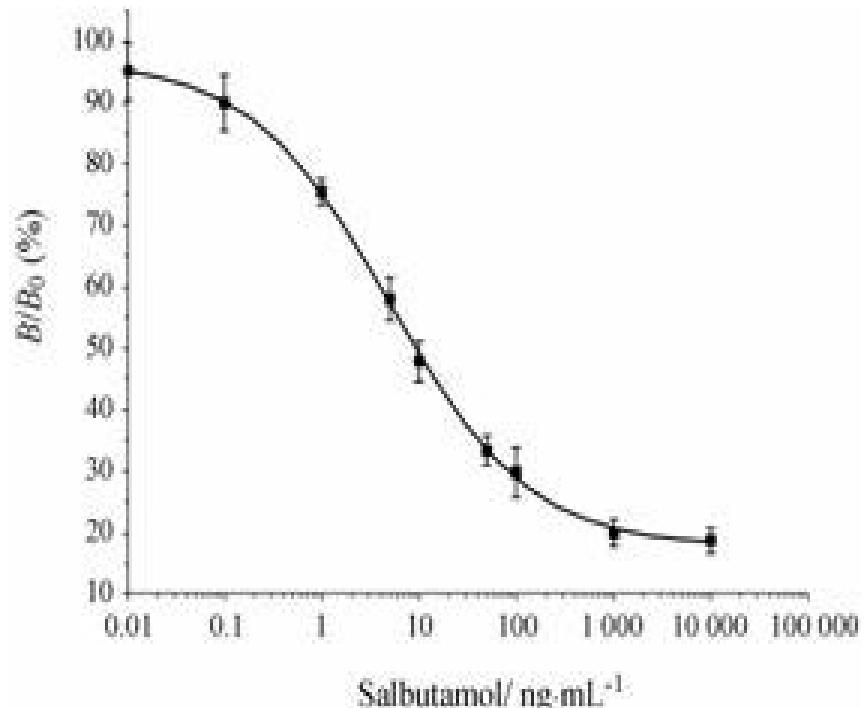
LC-MS/MS

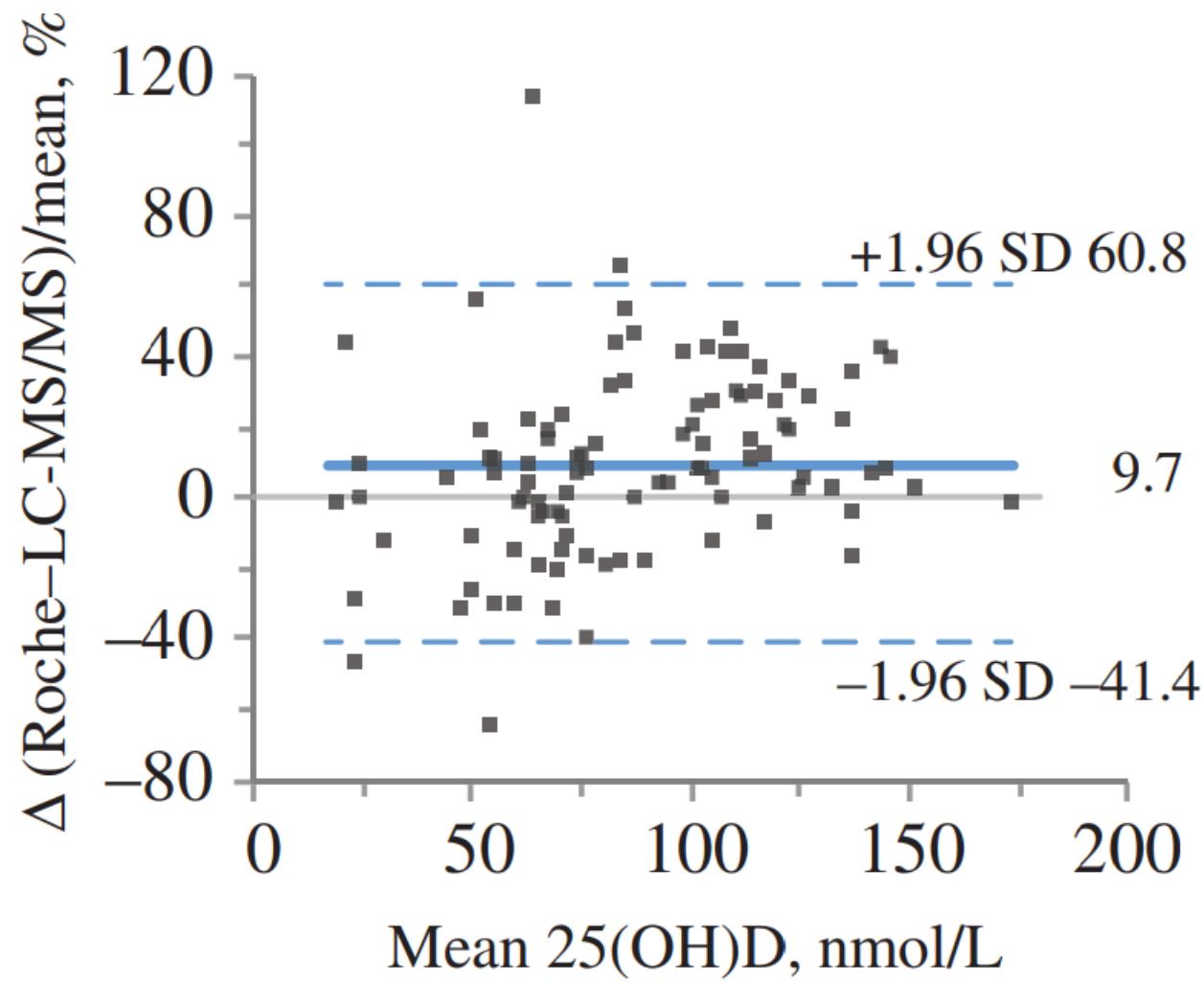
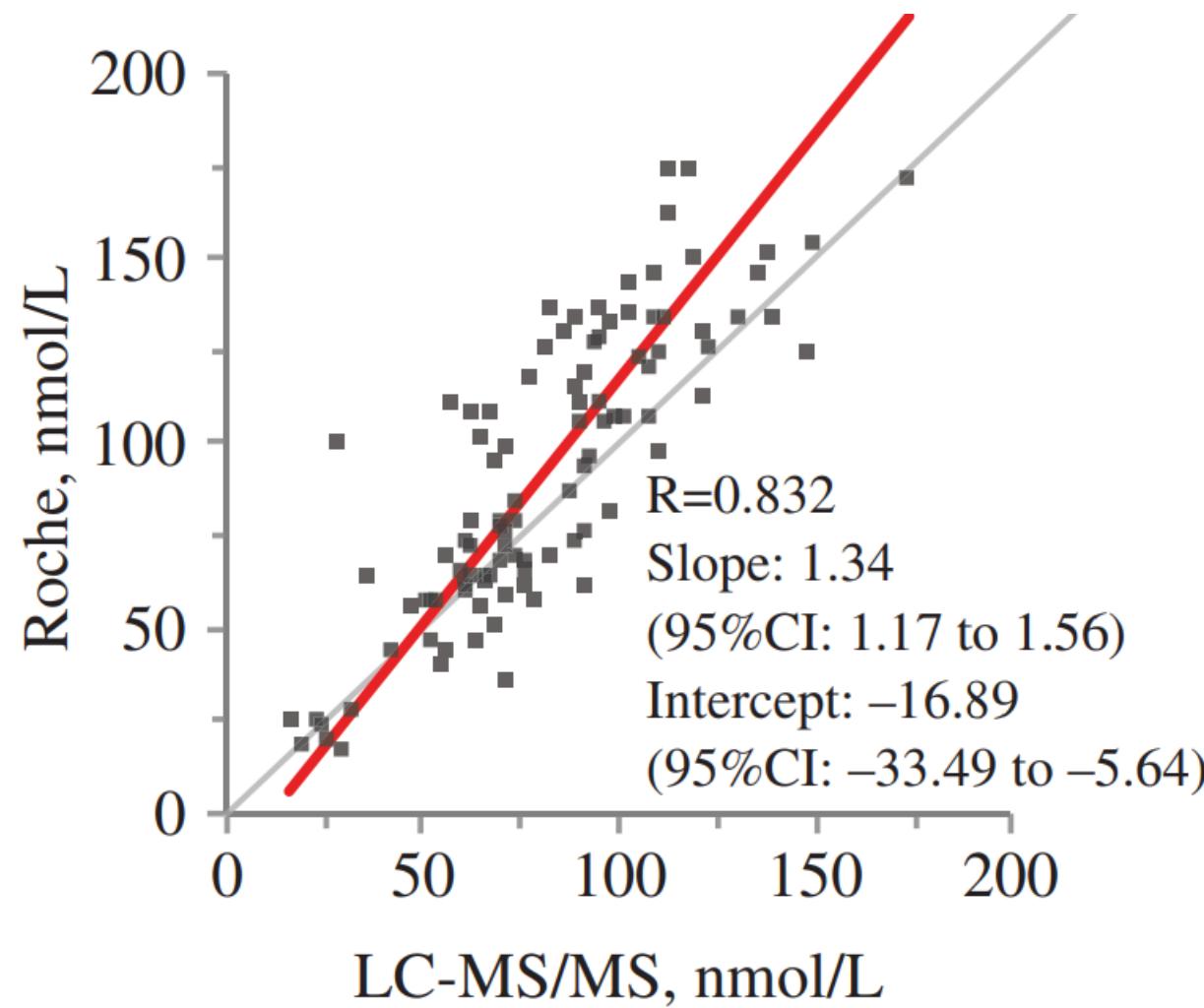
# Direct Competitive ELISA



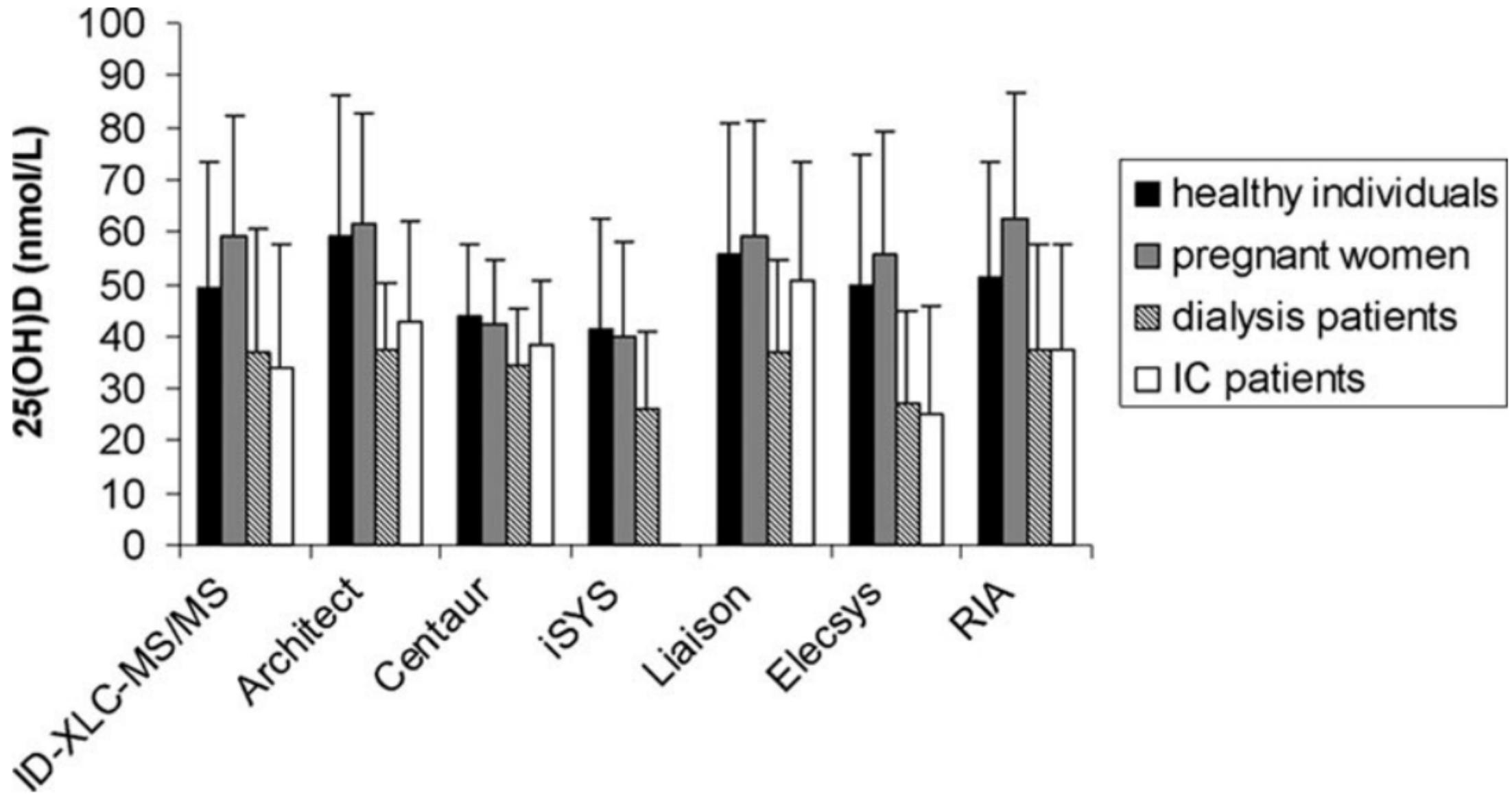
# Competitive immunoassay

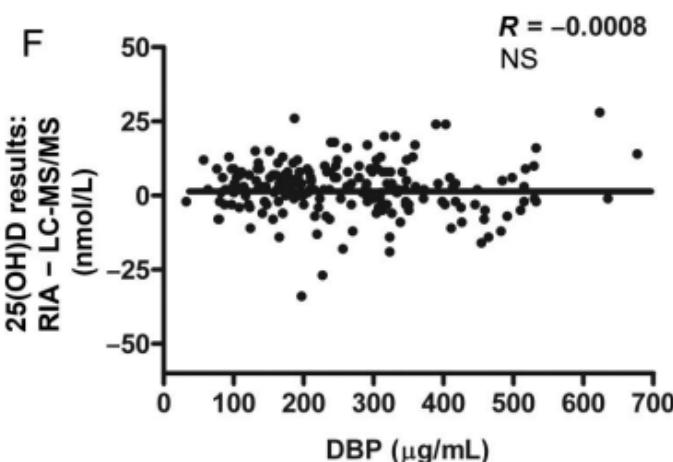
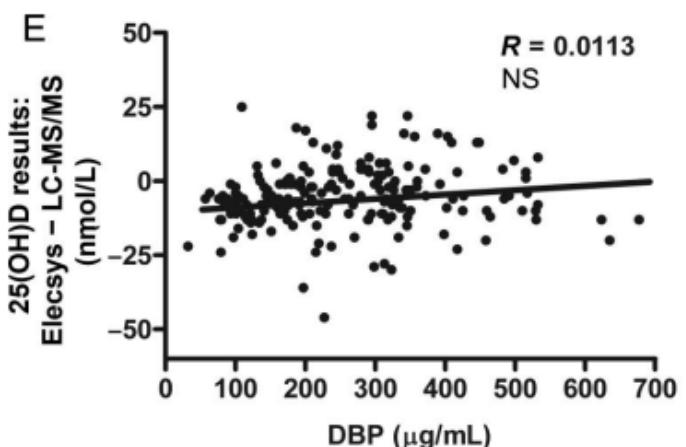
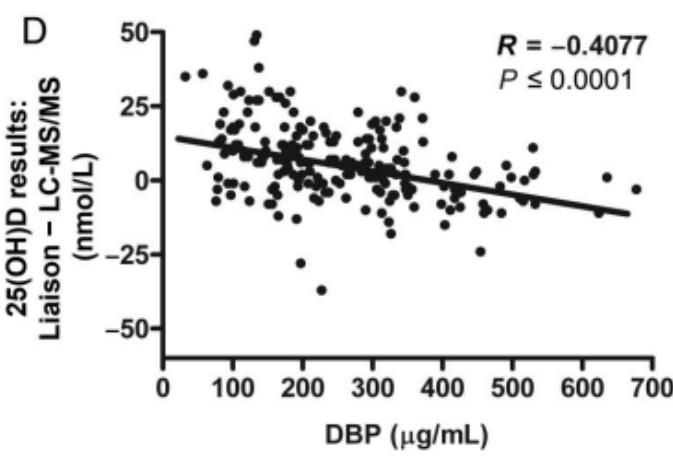
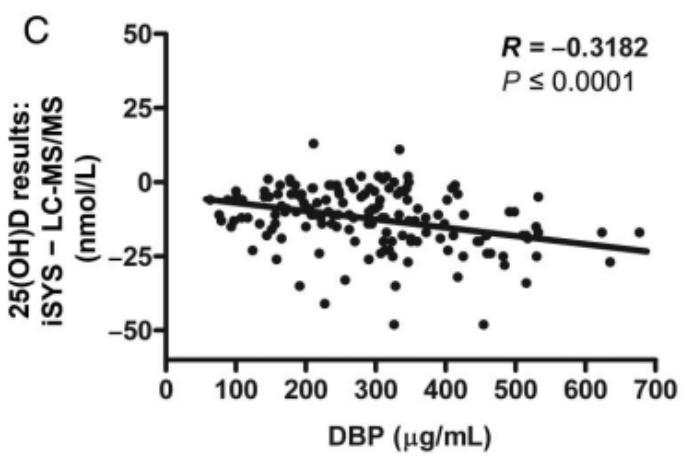
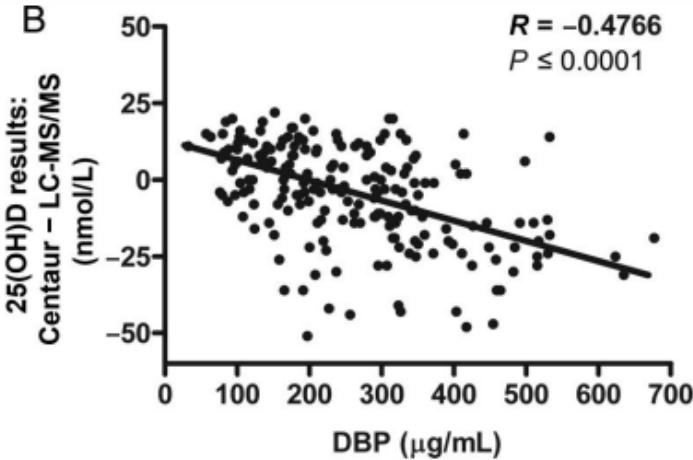
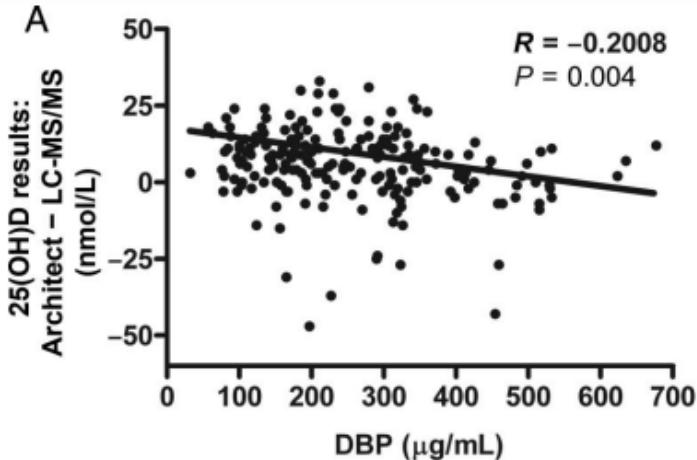
- Only one epitope
- One antibody
- Competition for antibody
- Not very sensitive
- Not very specific
- Small dynamic range



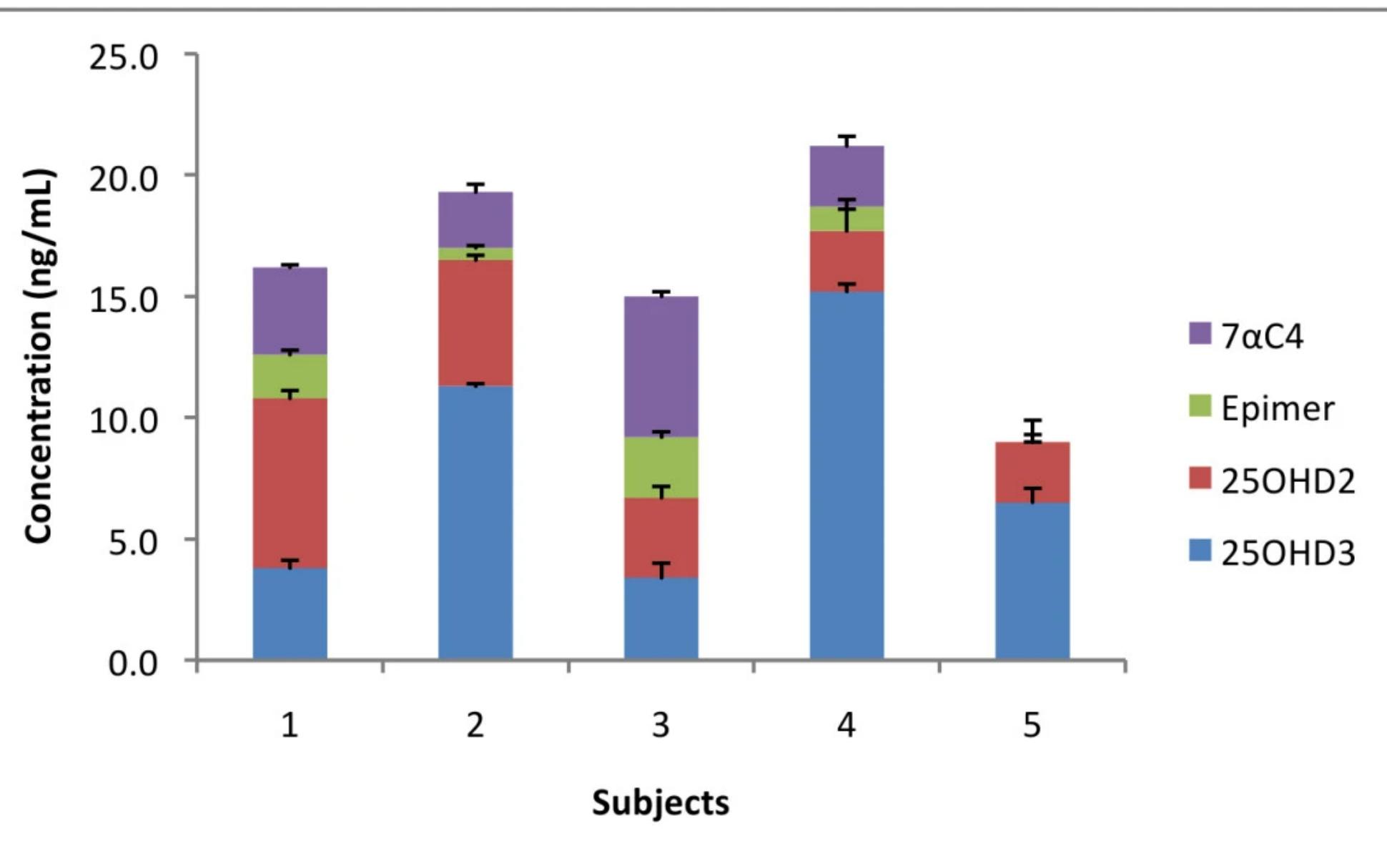


Immuno-assay = D2 + D3



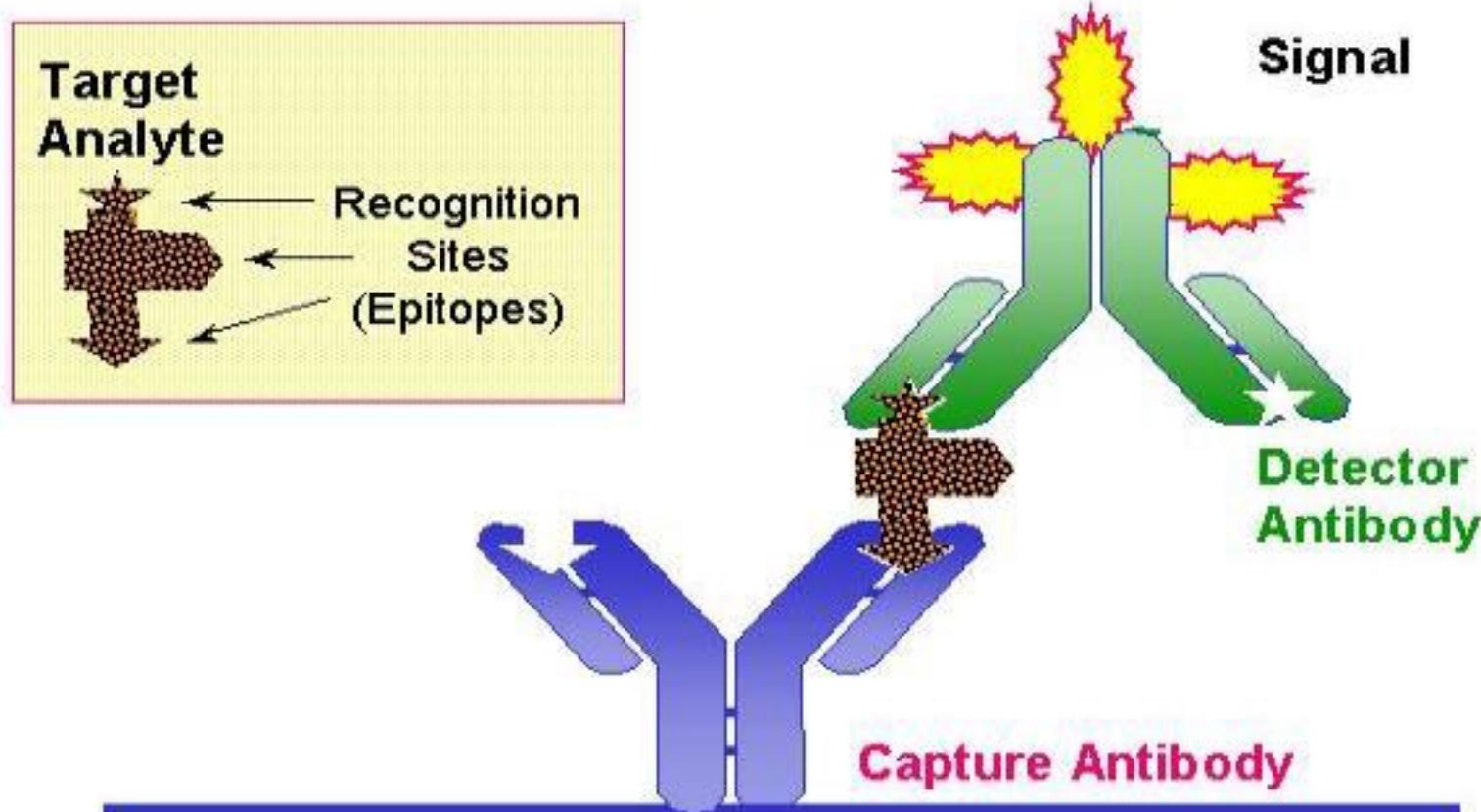


| Metabolites                             | ADVIA<br>(Siemens) | ARCHITECT<br>(Abbott) | COBAS<br>(Roche) |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 25-hydroxy-vitamin D <sub>2</sub>       | 106.2%             | 82.0%                 | 92.0%            |
| 25-hydroxy-vitamin D <sub>3</sub>       | 97.4%              | 105.0%                | 100.0%           |
| 3-epi-25-hydroxy-vitamin D <sup>3</sup> | 1.0%               | 2.7%                  | 91.0%            |



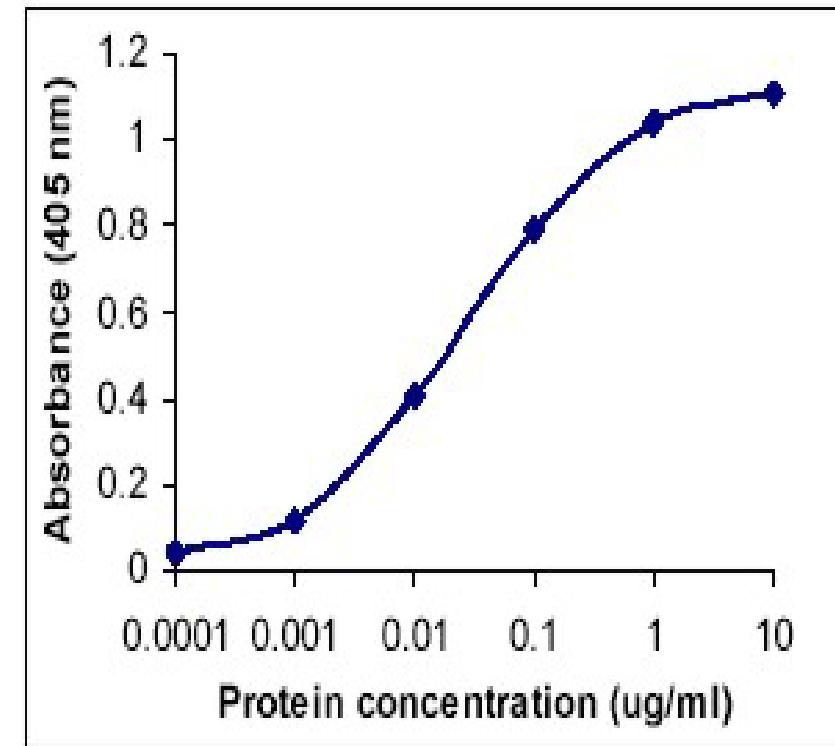
Vitamin D levels and co-eluting epimers and isobars in five volunteers.

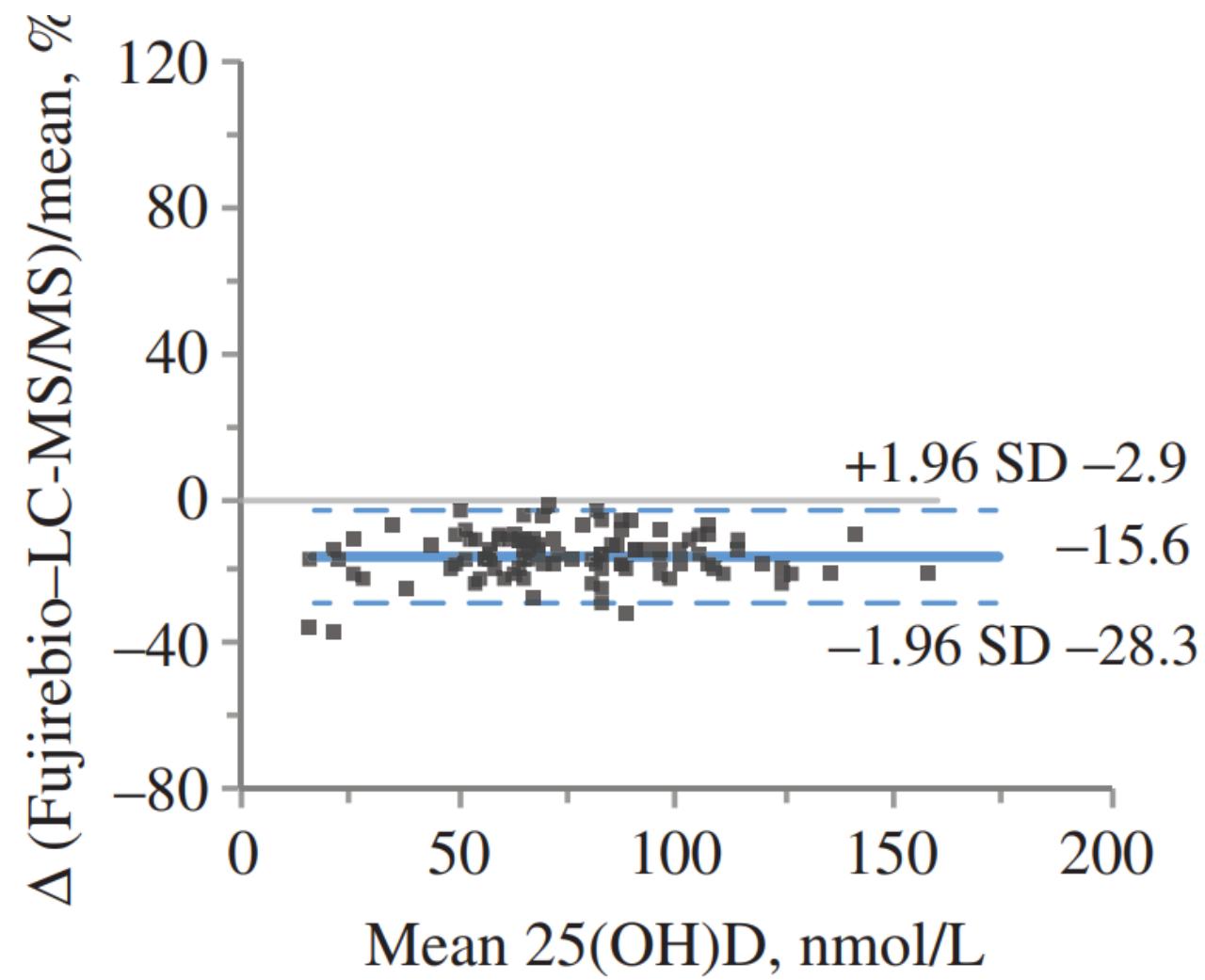
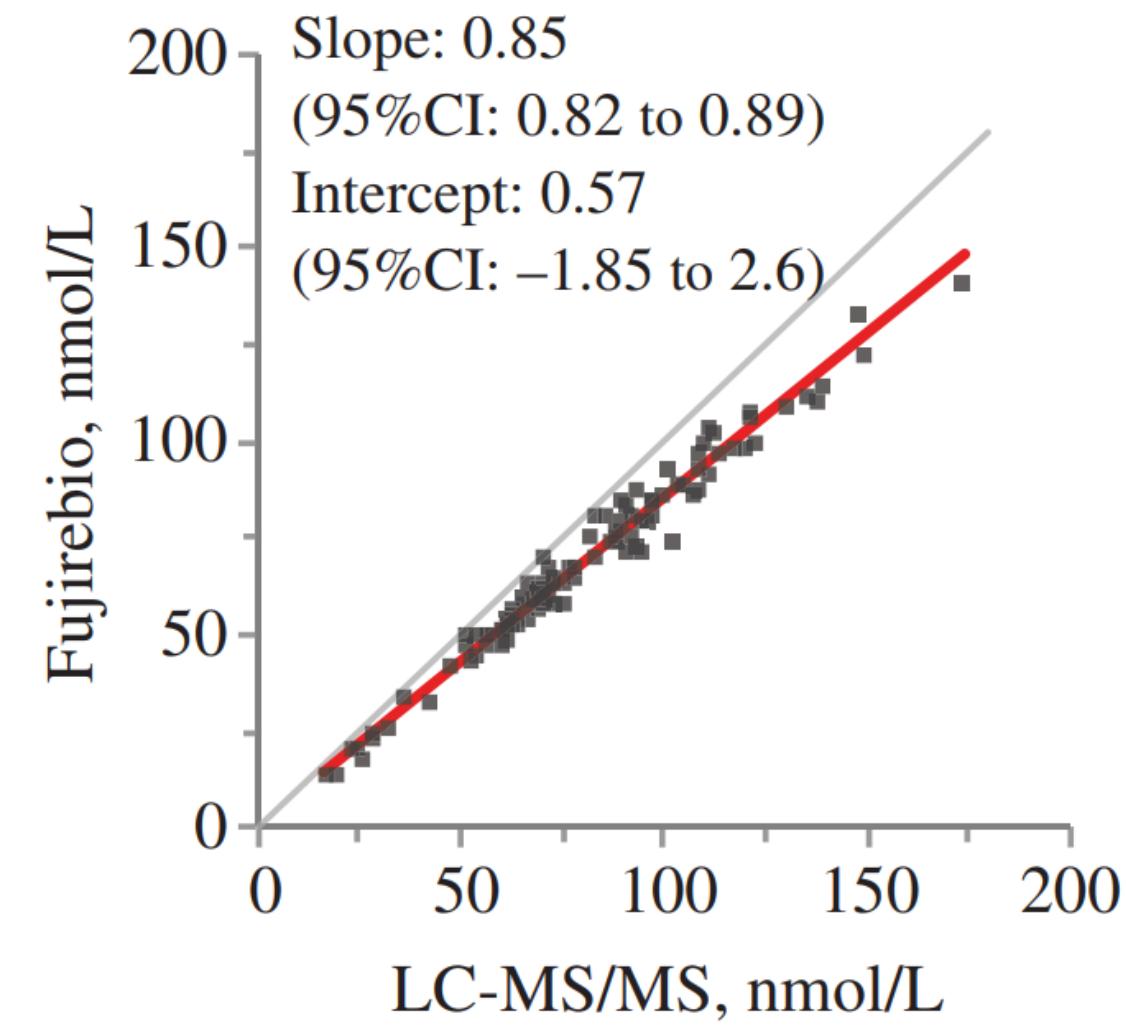
# Double Antibody Sandwich Immunoassay

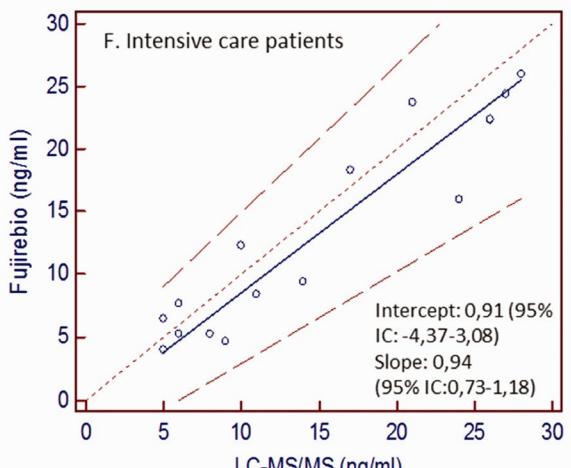
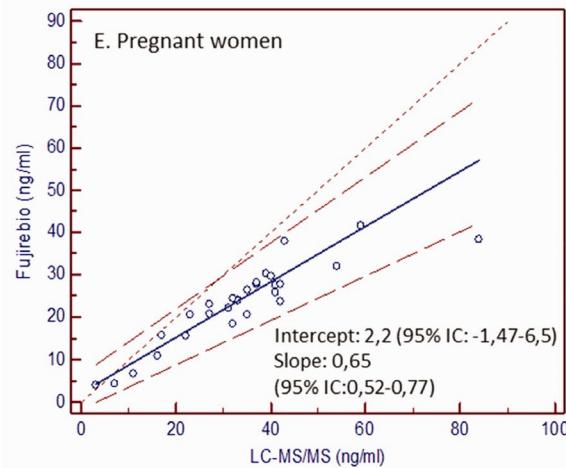
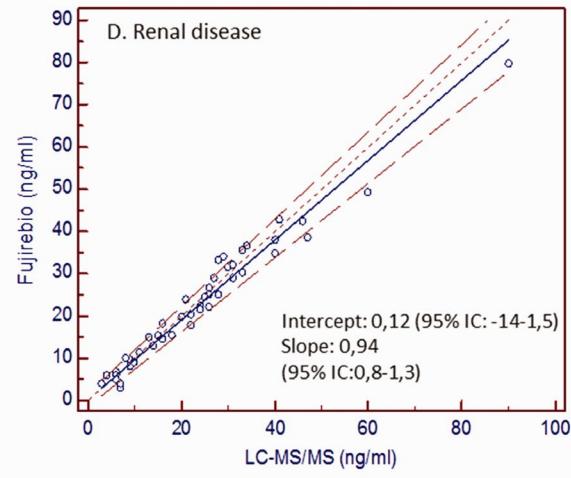
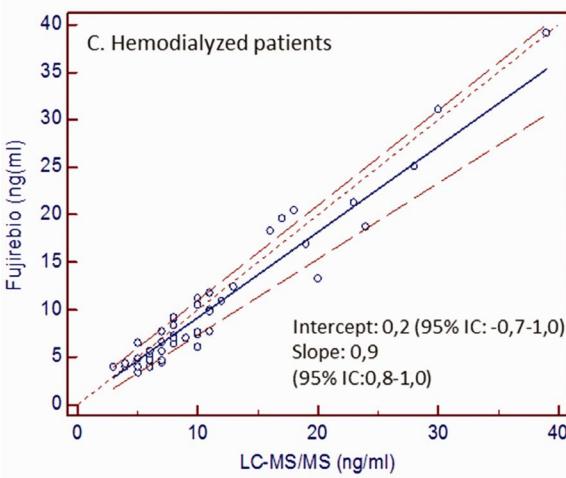
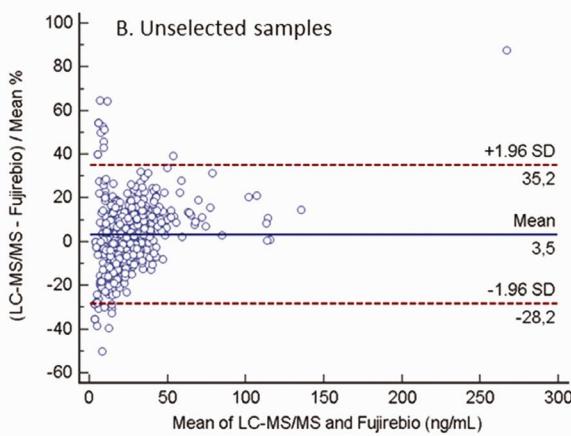
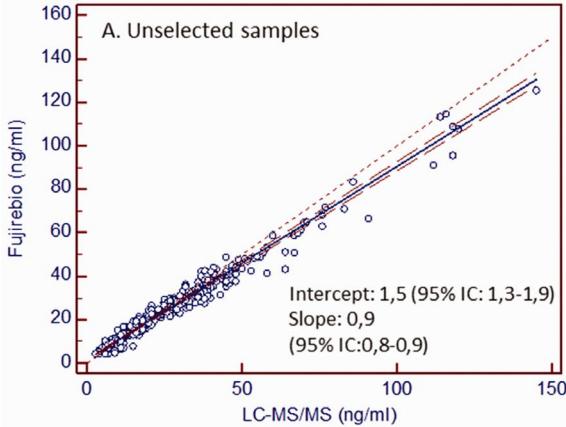


# Sandwich assay

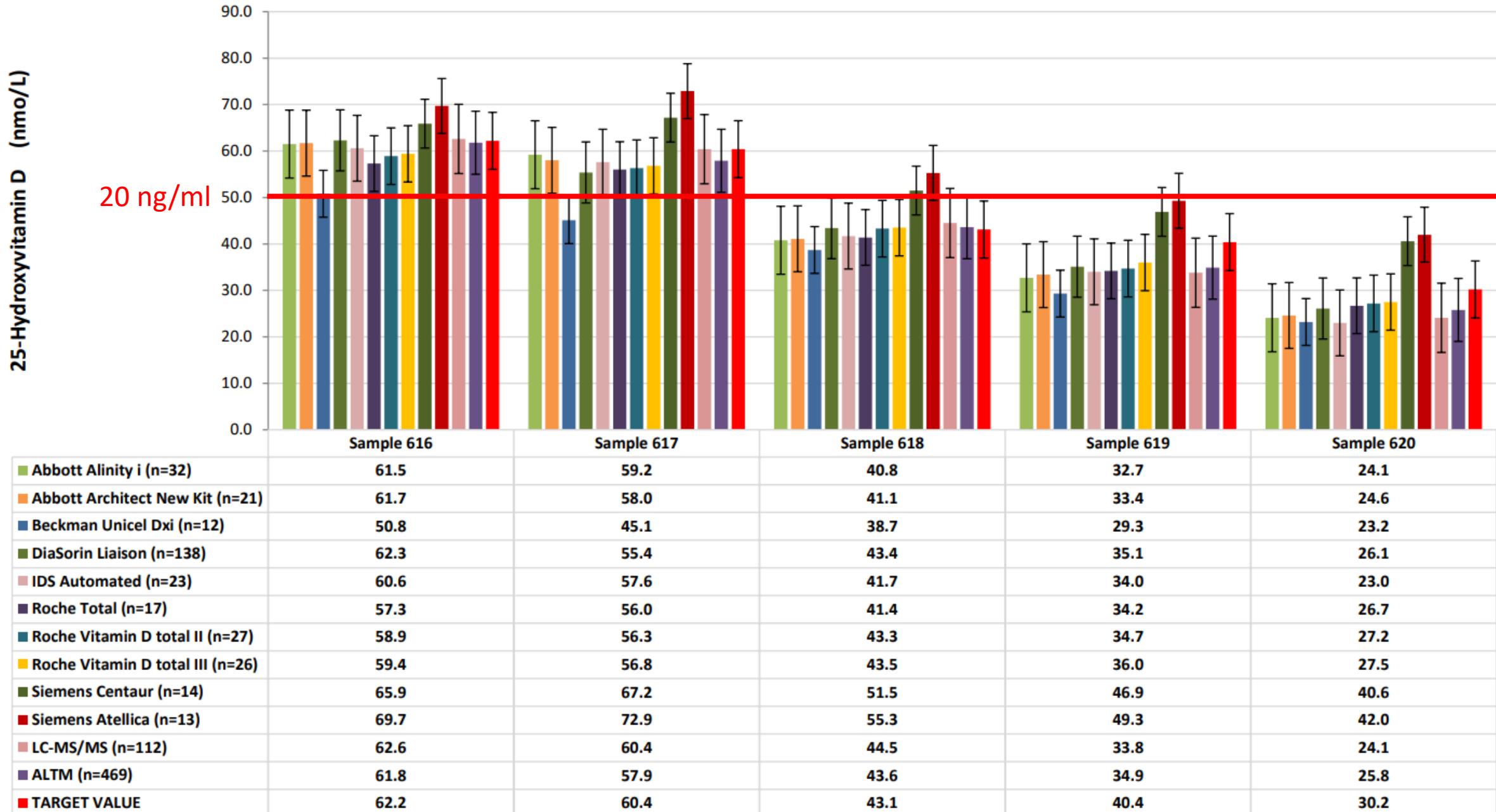
- Two epitopes
- Excess capture antibody
- Excess detection antibody
- Most sensitive immunoassays
- Large dynamic range
- High specificity





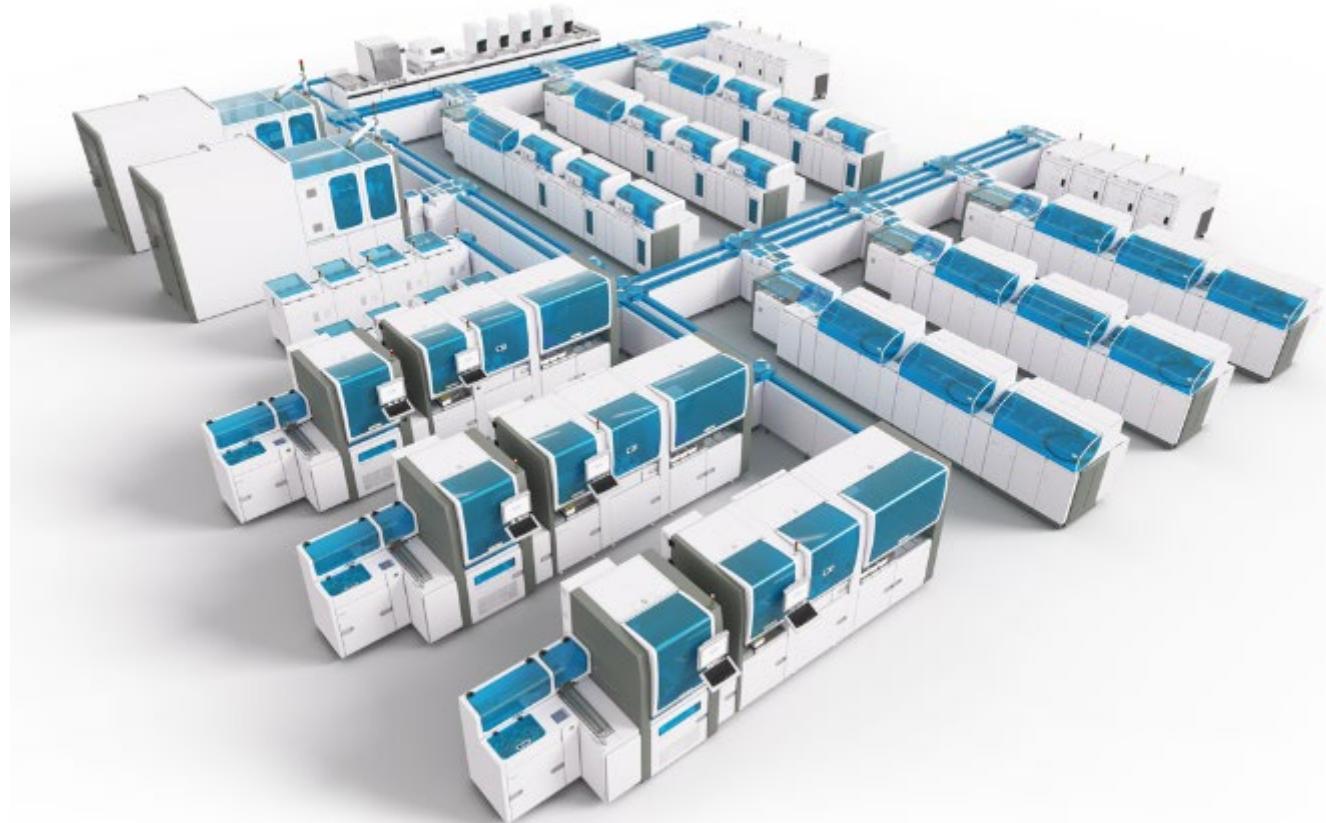


# DEQAS July 2022 - 25-OHD Method Means (+/-1SD) for Major Method Groups\*



\* Methods with 10 or more results returned

## Grote platformen:



+ SNELHEID  
- Monopolie Roche/Abbott/Beckman

## Middelgroot platform: ABBOTT



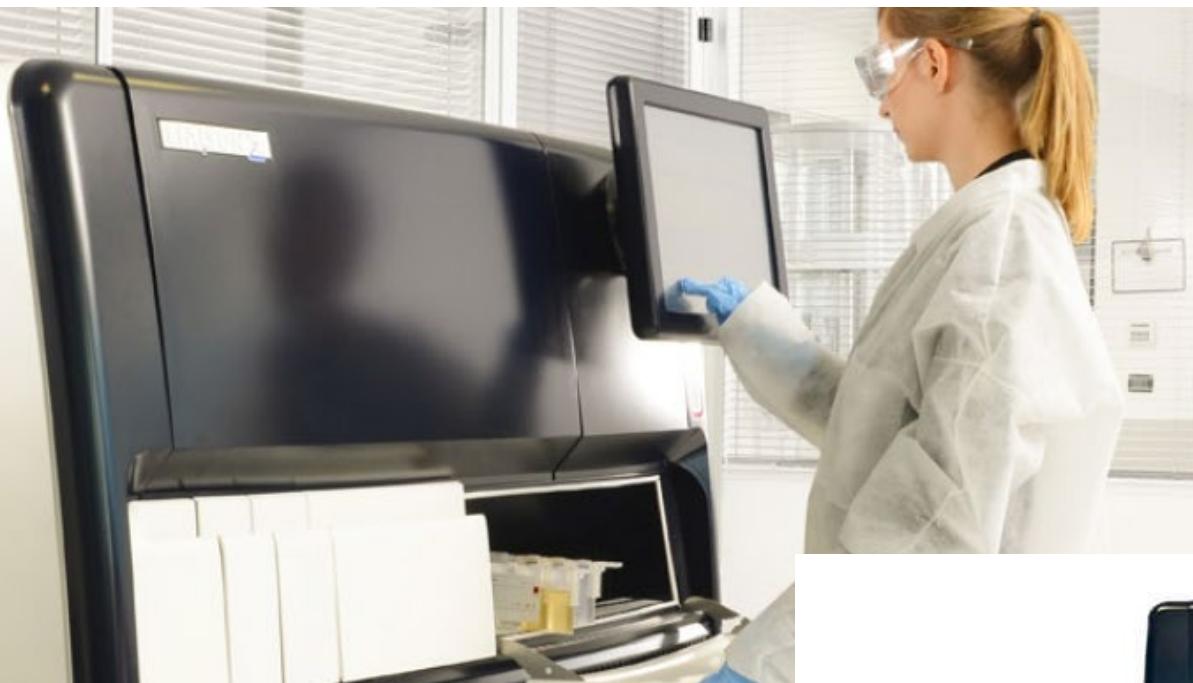
**Alinity c**  
Clinical Chemistry



**Alinity ci-series**  
Integrated Clinical Chemistry  
and Immunoassay



**Alinity i**  
Immunoassay



Niche parameters (bv. BOT)

25 vit D

1,25 vit D

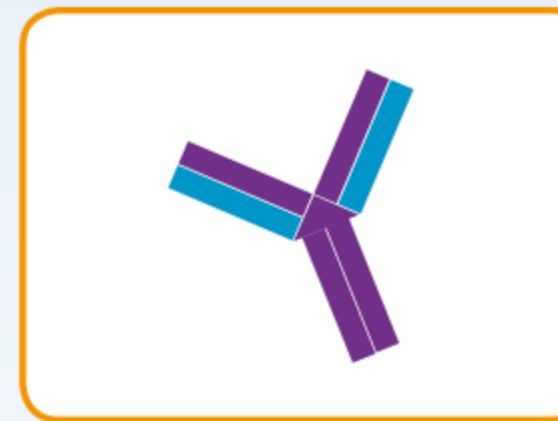
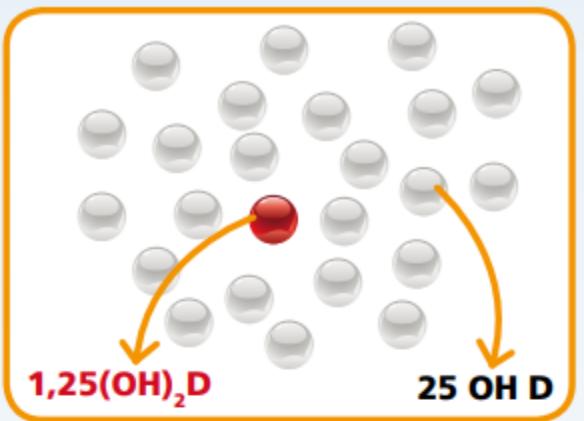
(Diasorin, IDS iSys, Fujerebio...)



1,25 vit D

fully automated

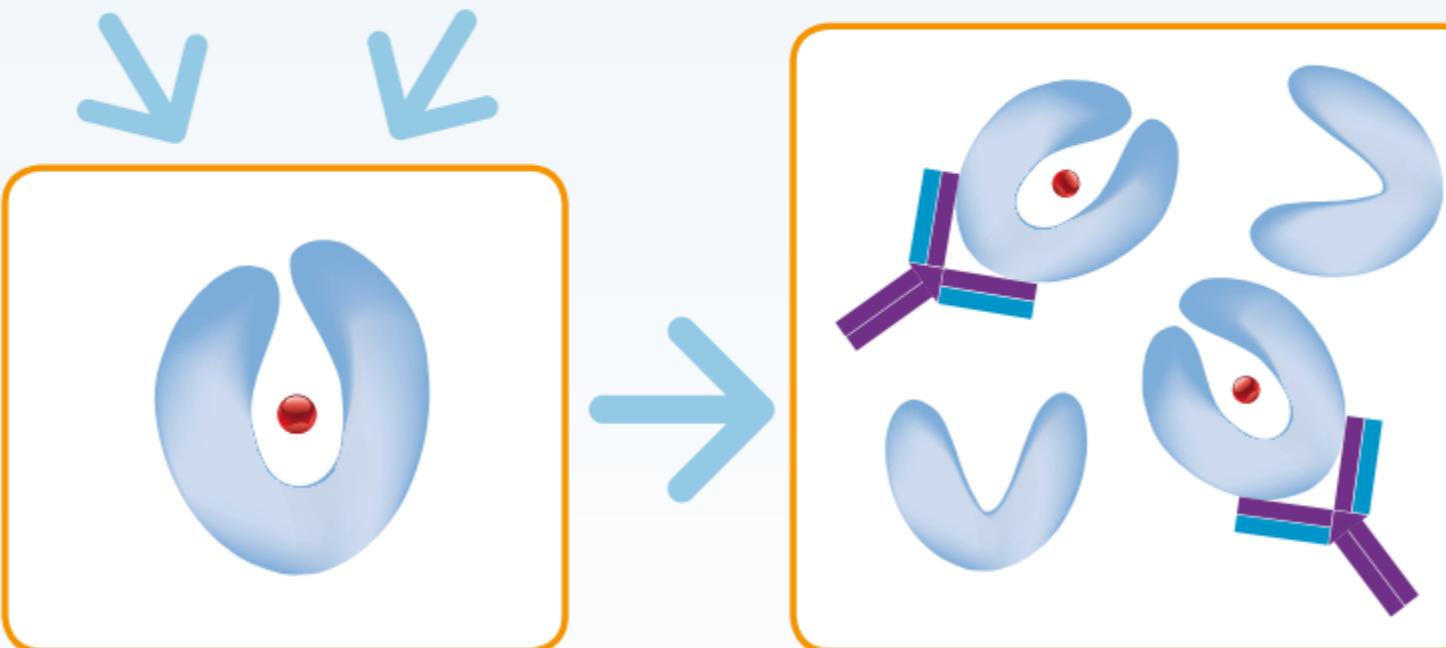
DIASORIN patent



Concentrations of **1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D** are normally about 1000-fold lower than the precursor compound 25(OH)D

Recombinant Fusion Protein (**RFP**)

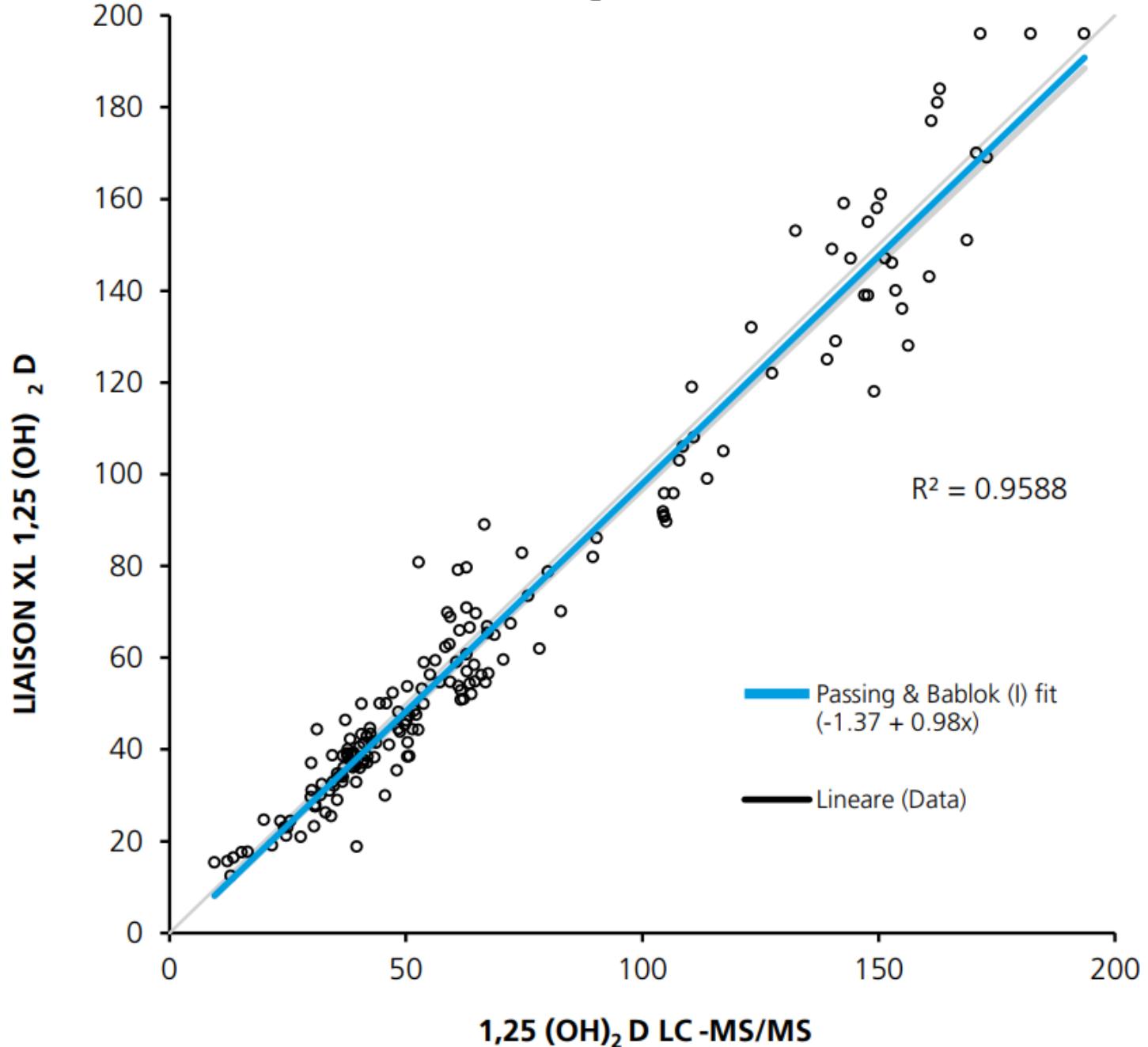
Specific murine monoclonal antibody (**MAB**) which only recognizes the RFP Complex

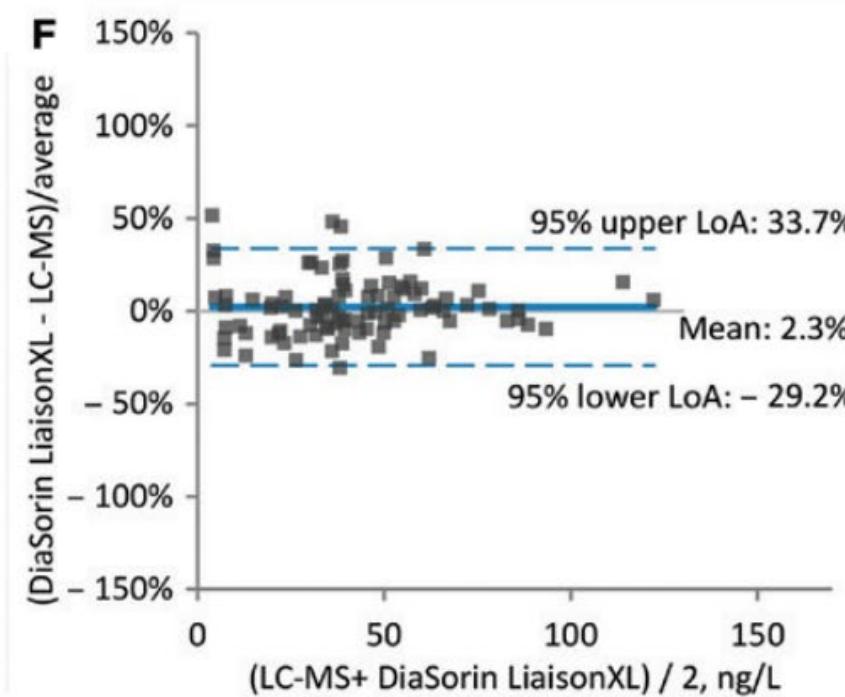
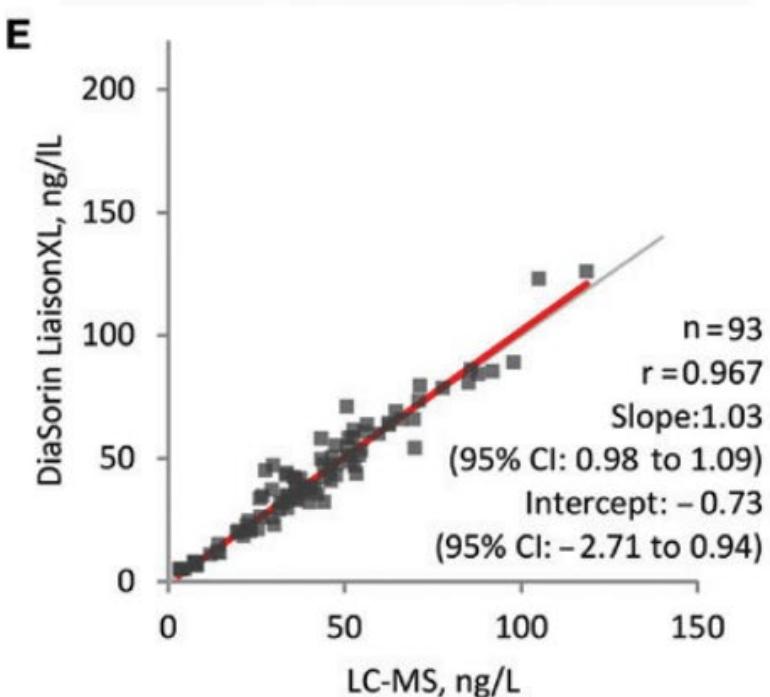
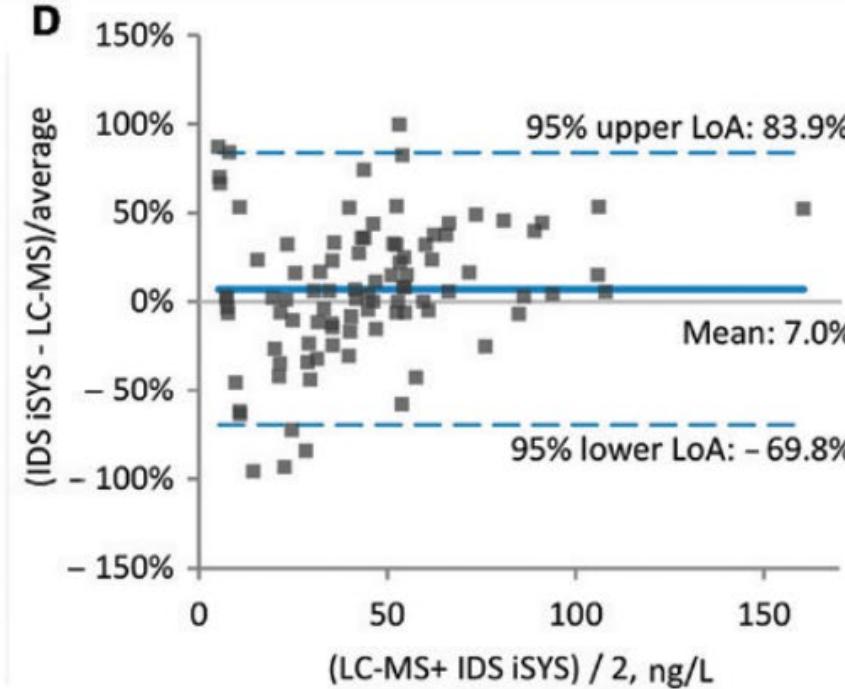
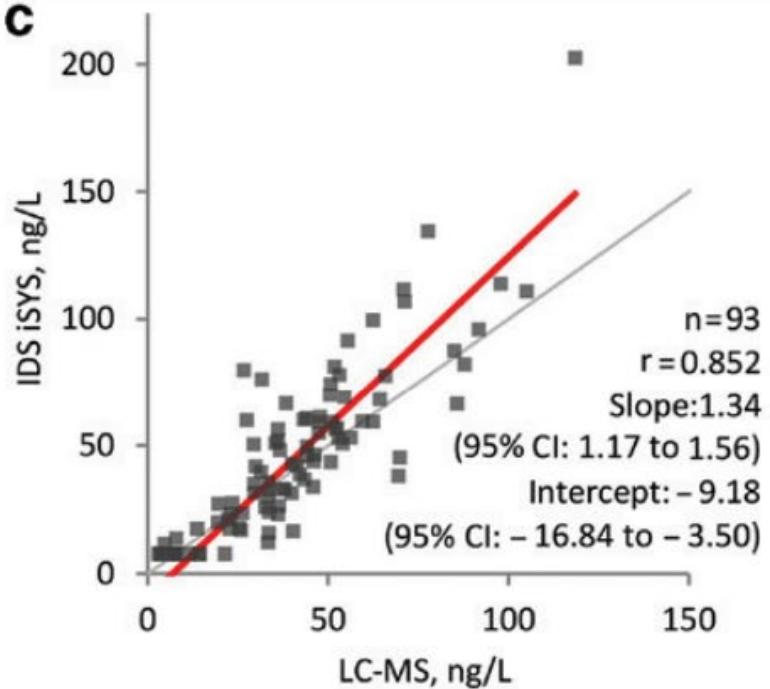


RFP changes conformation after capturing 1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D and forms the **RFP Complex**

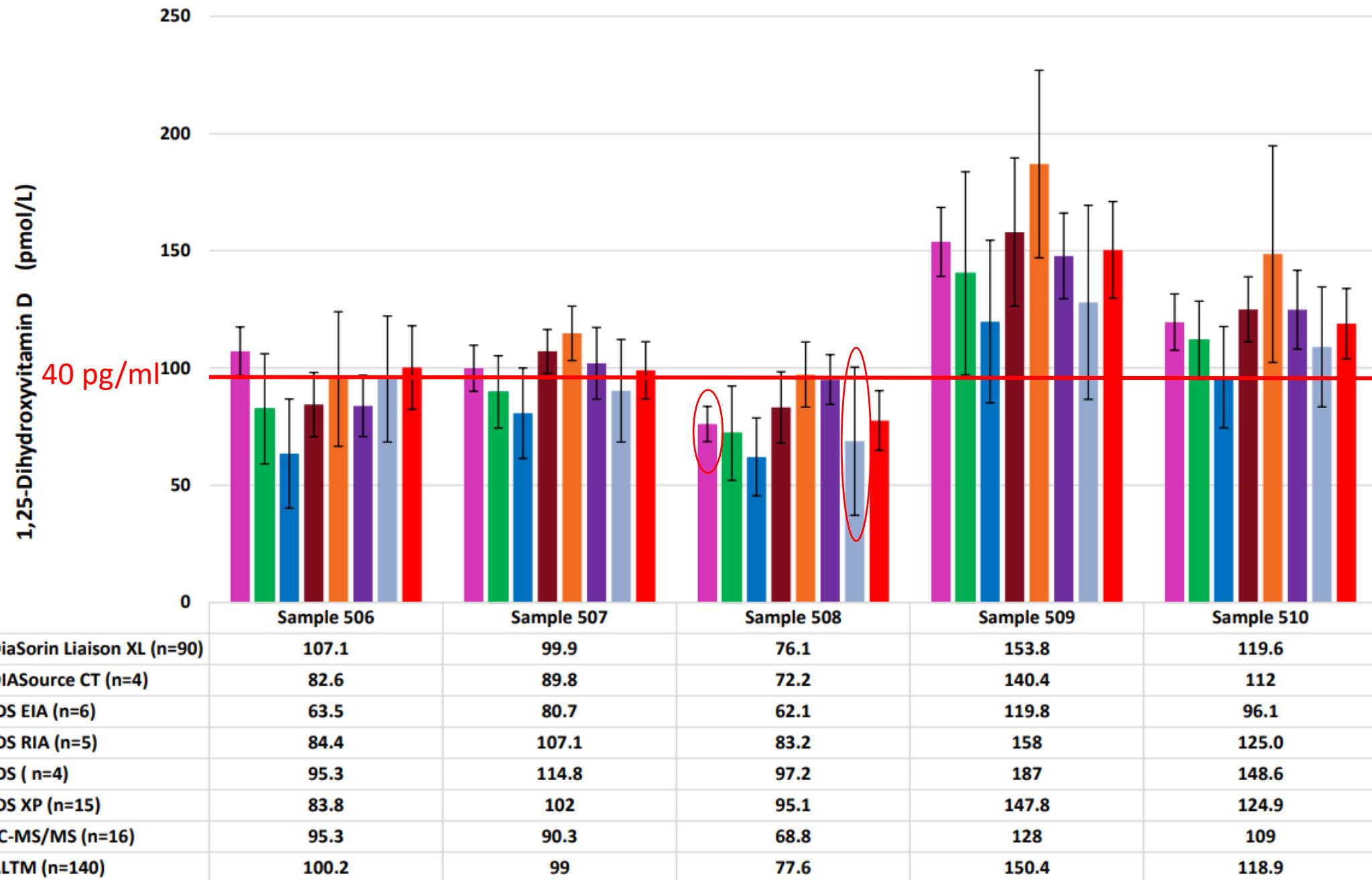
RFP Complex is selectively recognized by the MAB

### LIAISON XL 1,25 (OH)<sub>2</sub>D vs Comparator LC -MS/MS





# DEQAS July 2022 - 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D Method Means \* (+/- 1 SD)



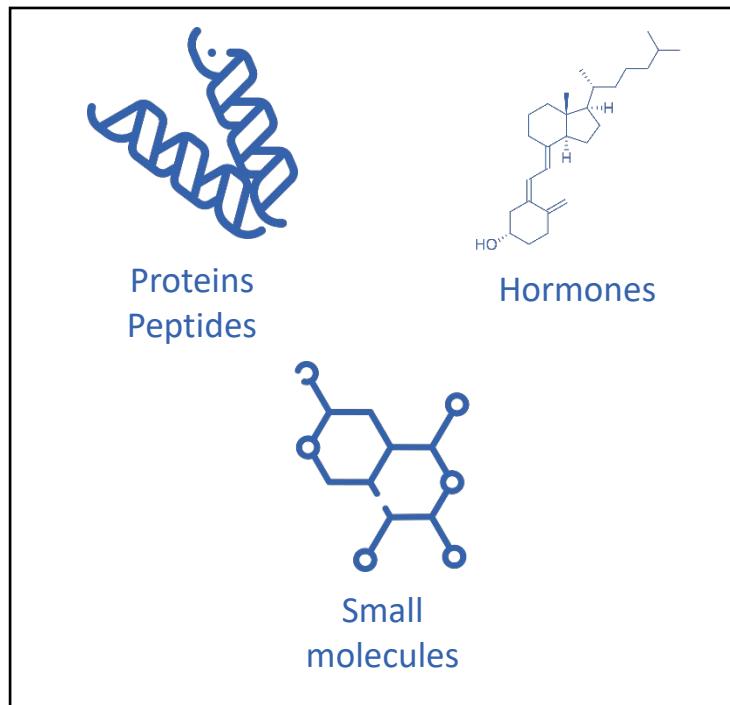
# Mass spectrometry

# Mass spectrometry (MS)

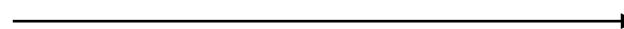
Theoretical concepts: 19<sup>th</sup> century

1919

First mass spectrometer  
Discovery & identification of isotopes



Biological matrix



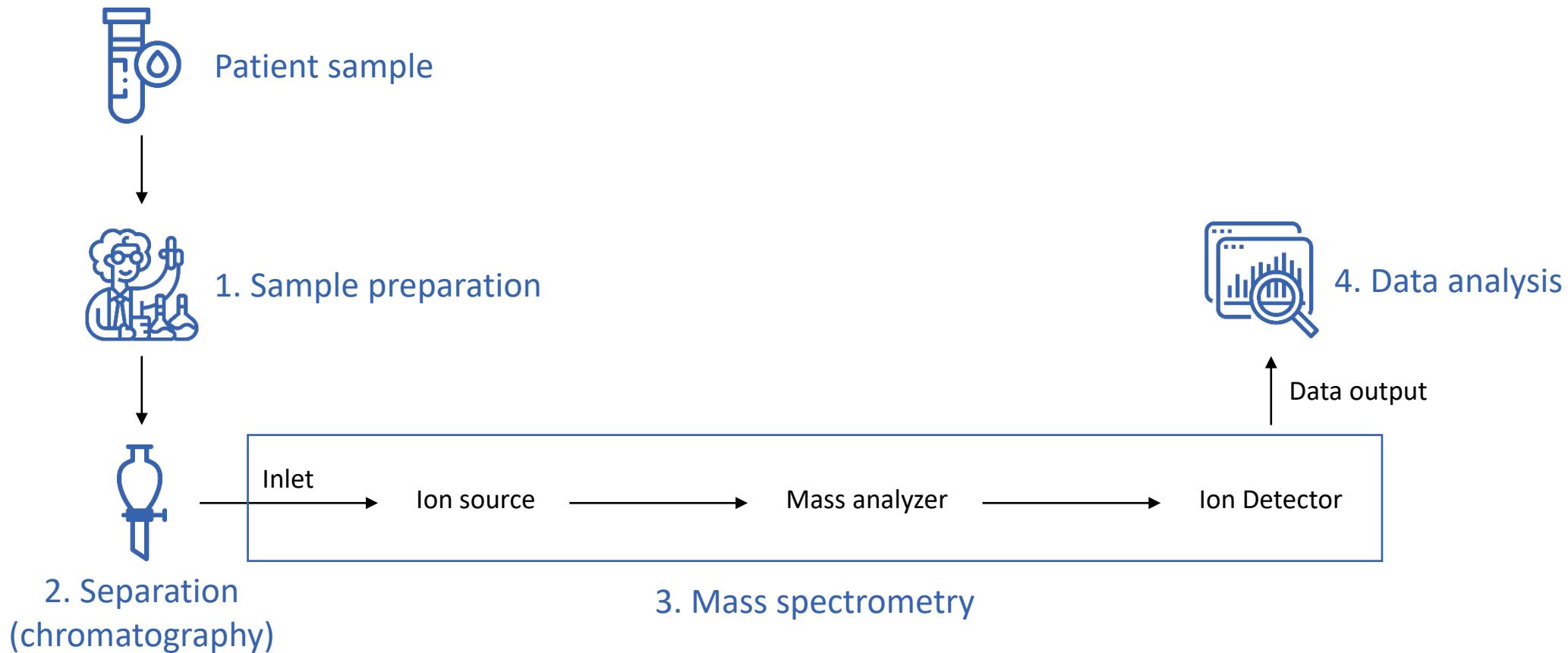
Identify (qualitative analysis)



Quantify (quantitative analysis)

Applications  
Scientific  
Industrial  
Clinical

# MS technique overview



# Sample preparation



Removal of contaminants  
Isolate analyte of interest

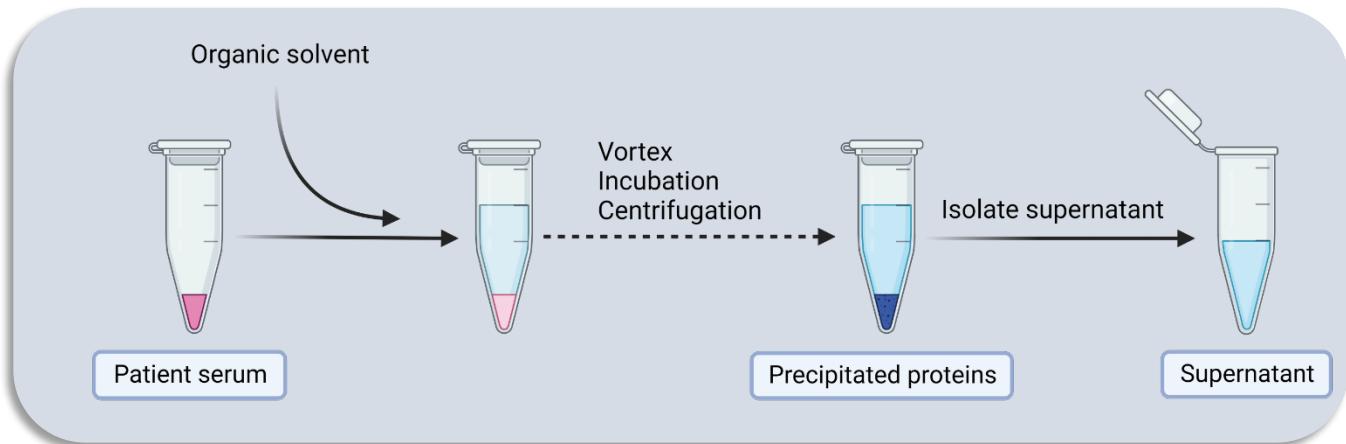
→ Increase method performance

Dilution, centrifugation

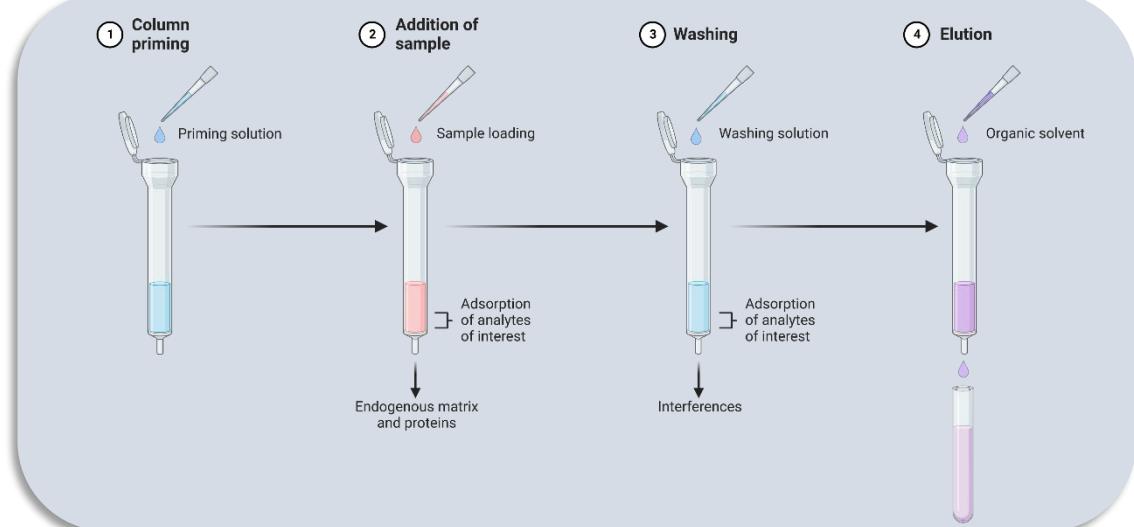
Homogenization, filtration

Dialysis, desalting, buffer exchange

Protein precipitation



## Solid phase extraction



## Liquid-liquid extraction

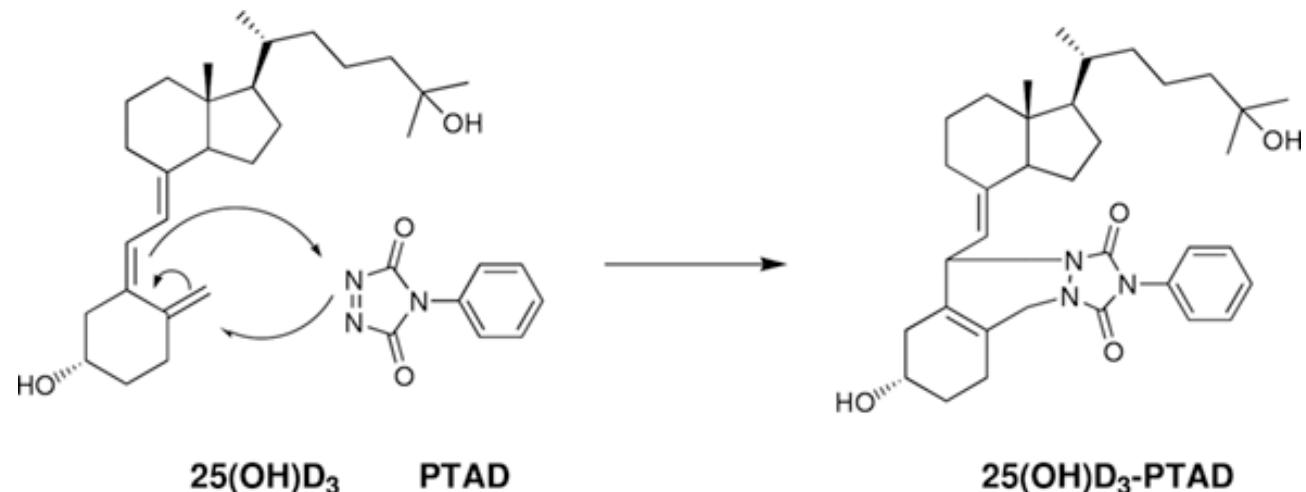
# Sample preparation



Derivatization → Attachment of functional group

- └→ Improvement of selectivity
- Enhancing ionization efficiency
- Removal of endogenous interference

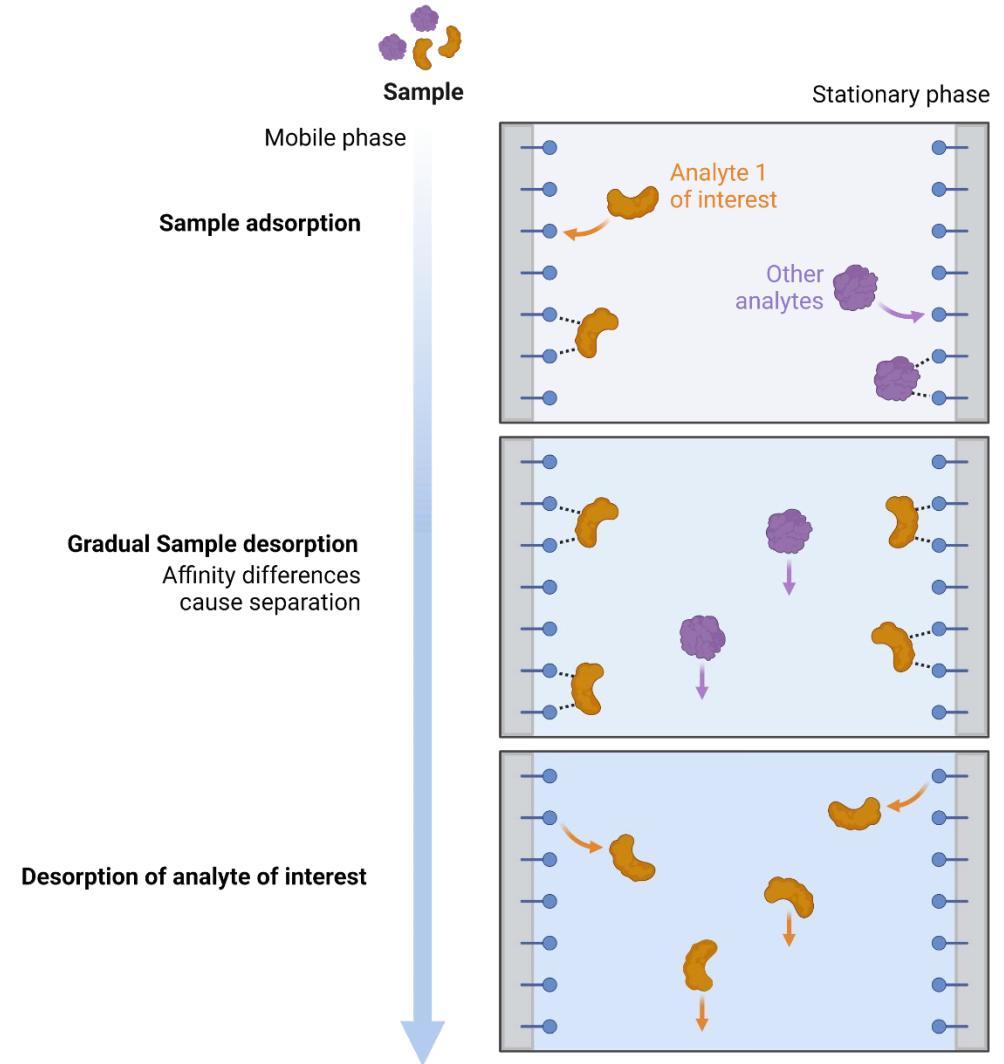
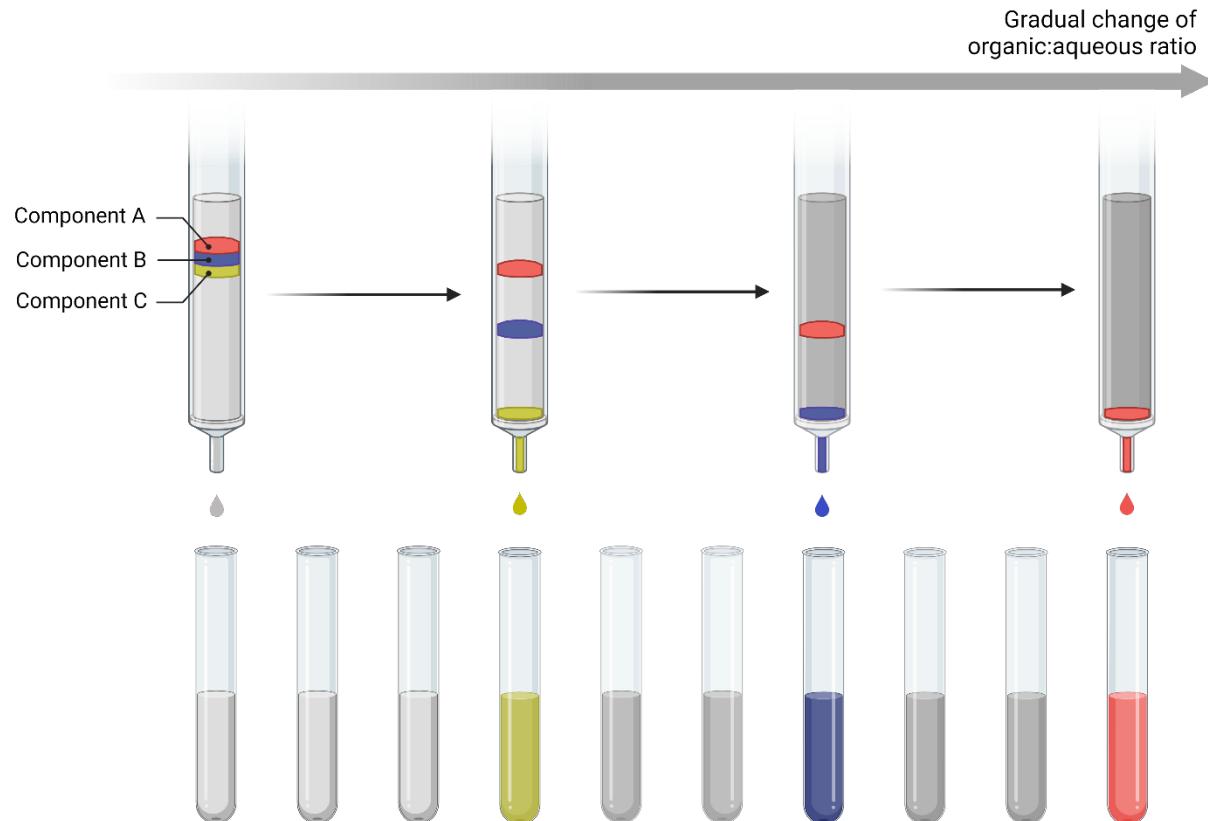
4-phenyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione (PTAD)



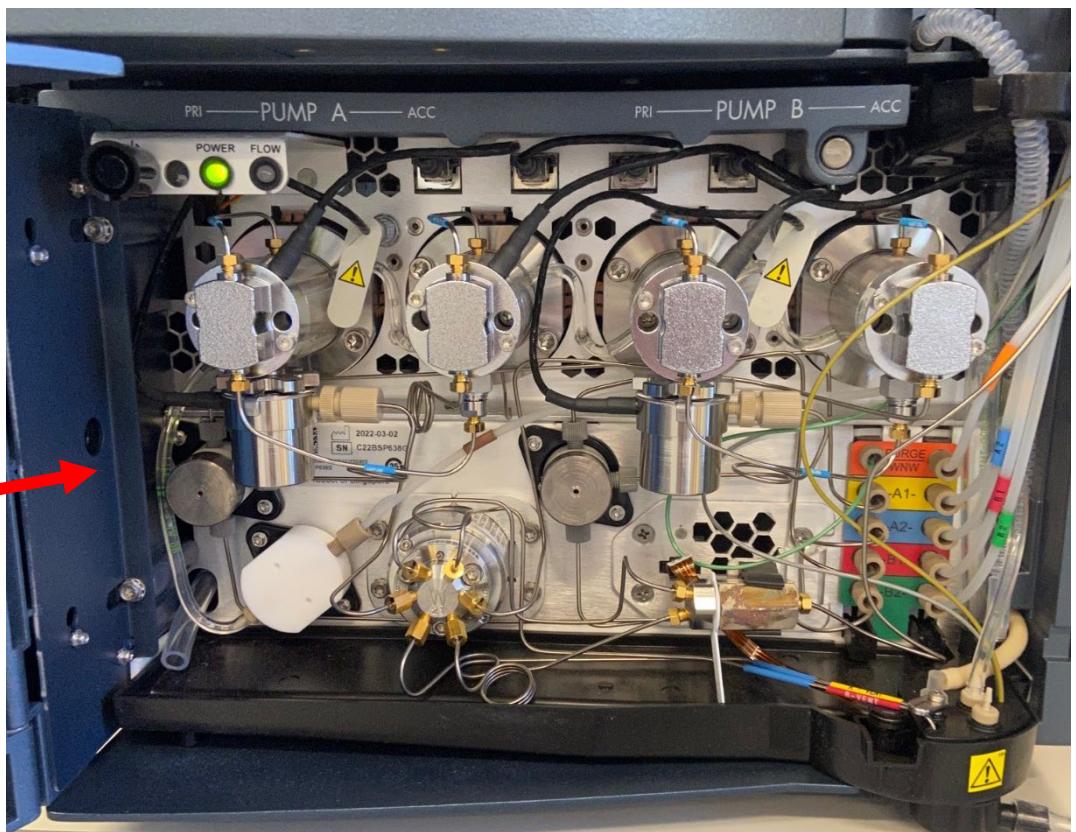
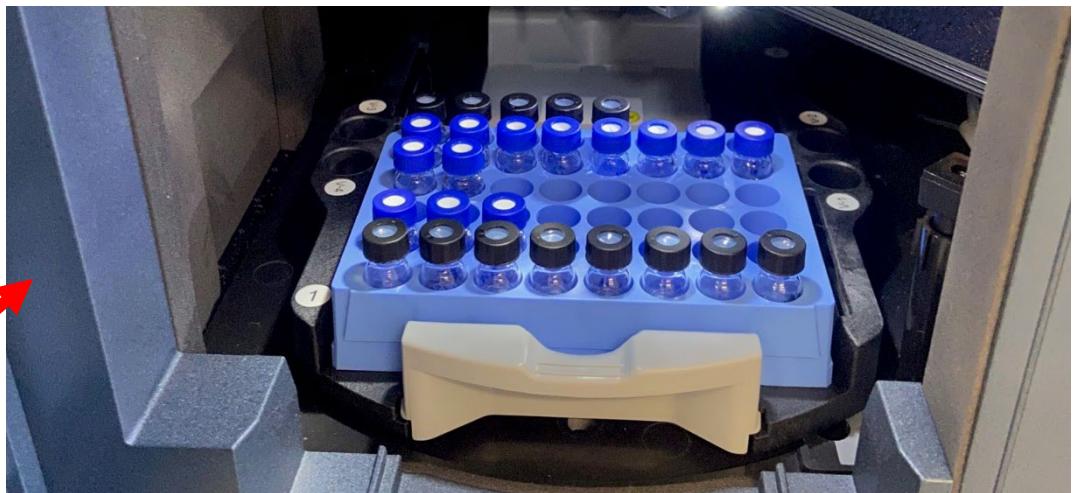
# Chromatography



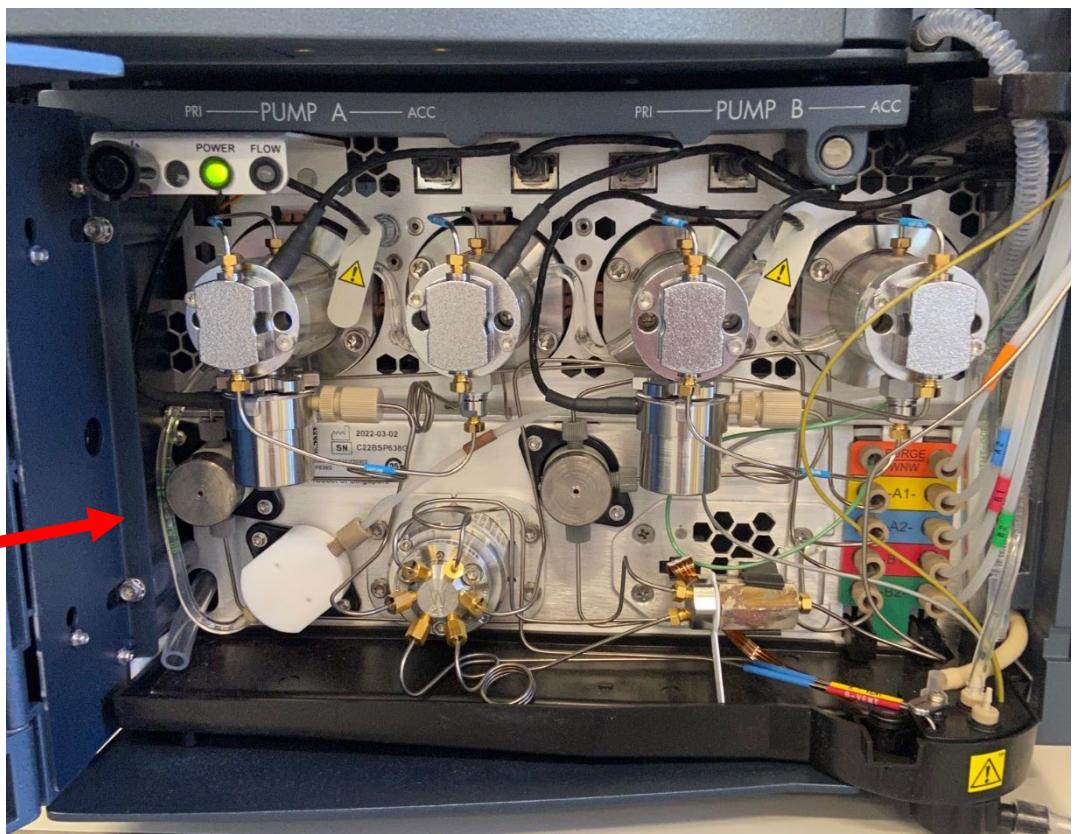
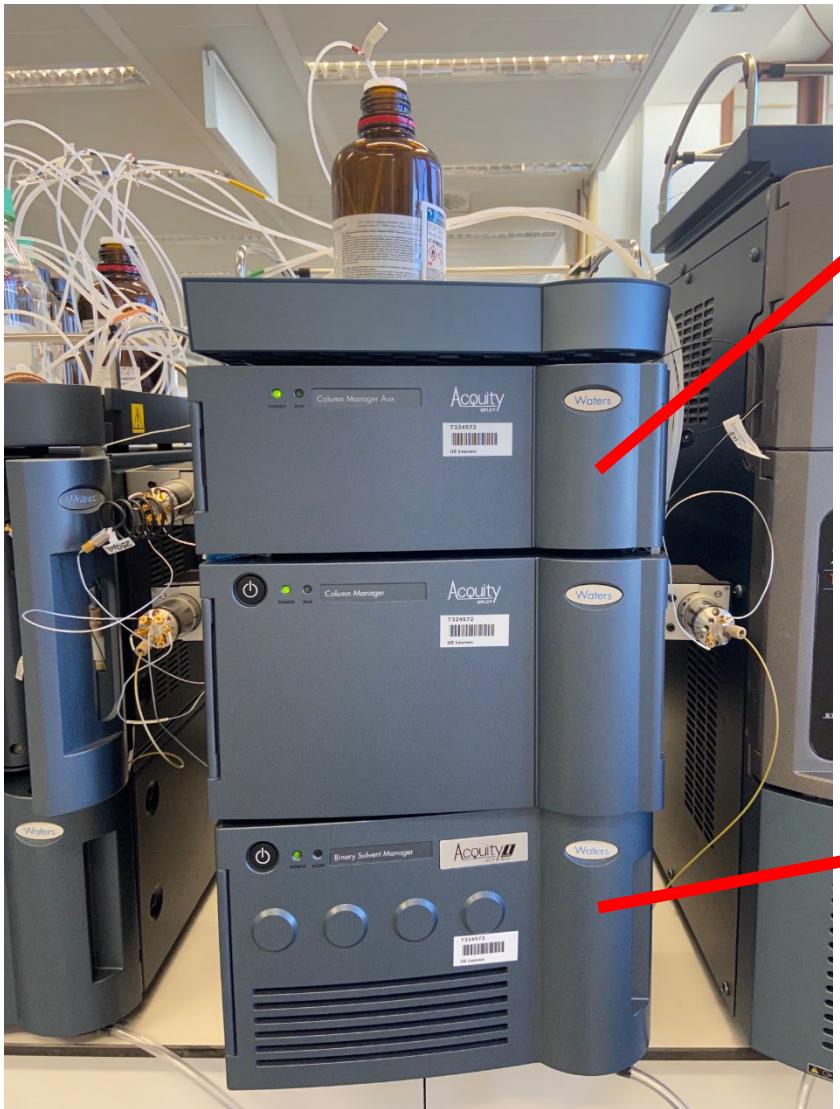
High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC): separation of analytes



# Chromatography



# Chromatography



# Mass spectrometry

Ionization

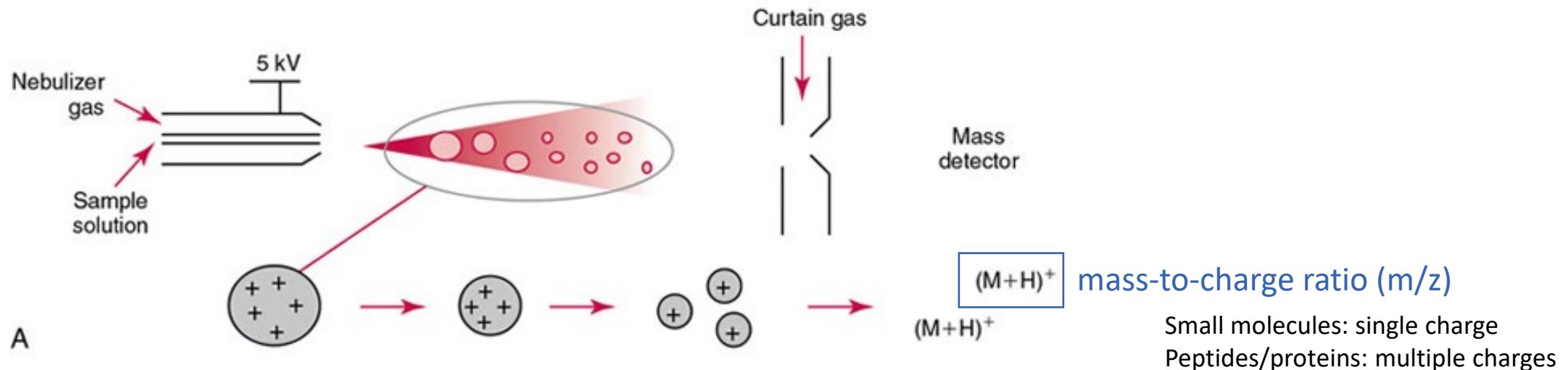
Many different options

Electron ionization (EI)

Chemical ionization (CI)

Matrix-assisted laser desorption (MALDI)

Electrospray ionization (ESI)



# Mass spectrometry

Ionization

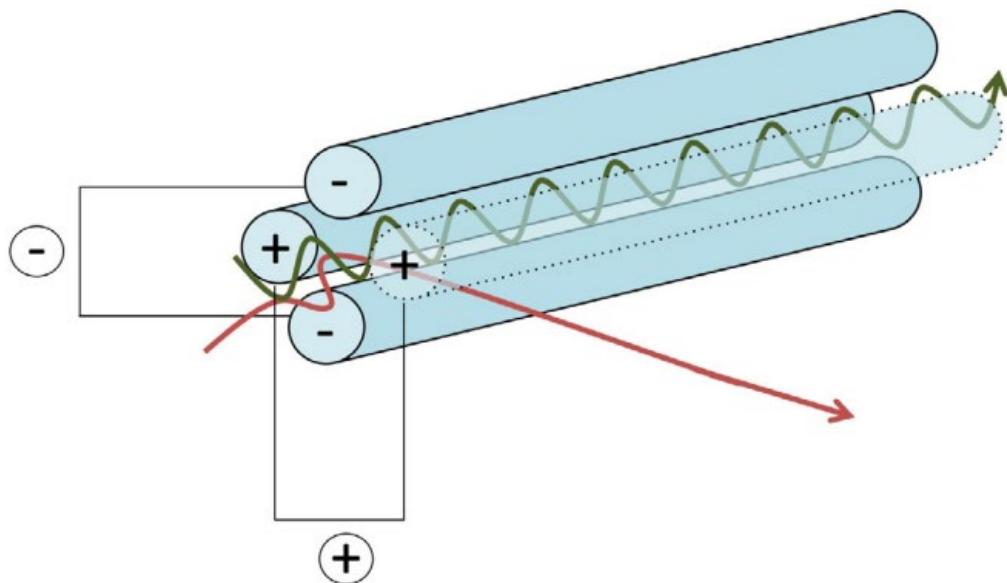
First quadrupole (Q1)

Selection → Quantitative

Screening → Qualitative

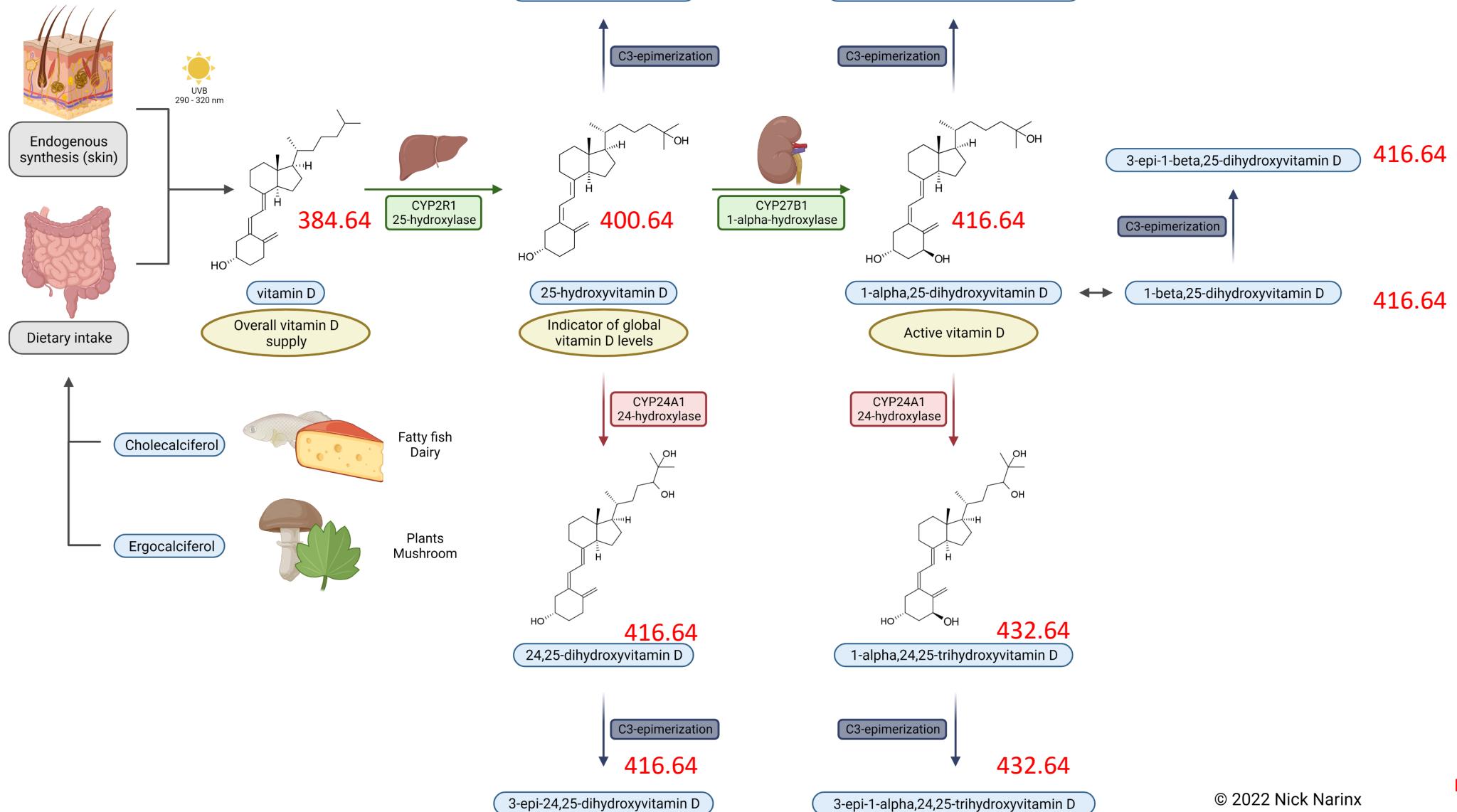
Specific m/z

Variable m/z



| Molecule                              | m/z    |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Cholecalciferol (Vitamin D3)          | 384.64 |
| Calcidiol (25-hydroxyvitamin D3)      | 400.64 |
| Calcitriol (1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D3) | 416.64 |

# Vitamin D



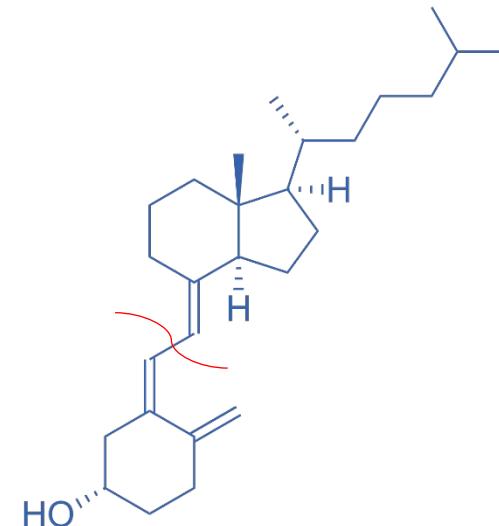
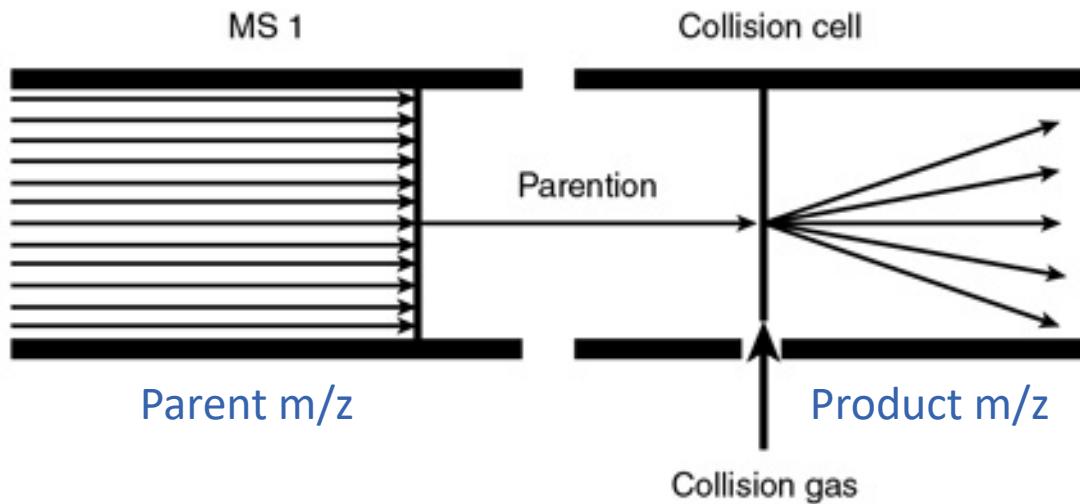
# Mass spectrometry

Ionization

First quadrupole (Q1)

Second quadrupole (Q2)

Collision cell —————> Fragmentation to product ions



# Mass spectrometry

Ionization

First quadrupole (Q1)

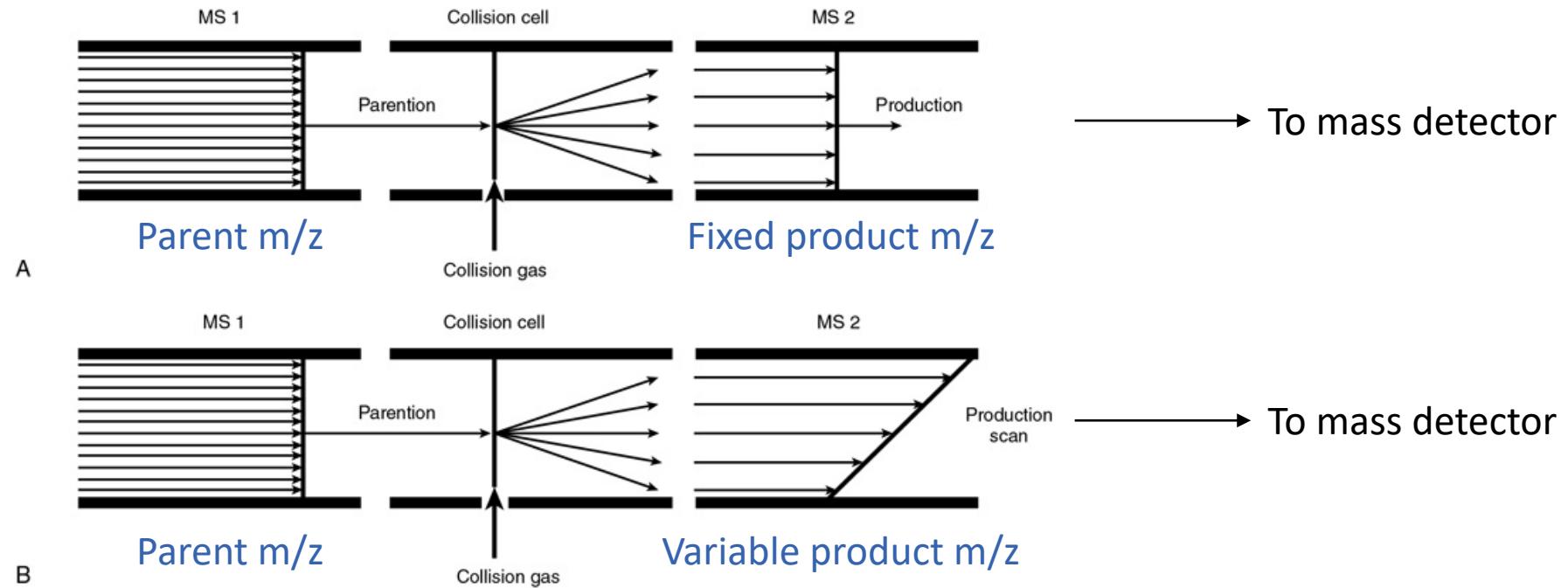
Second quadrupole (Q2)

Third quadrupole (Q3)

Product selection

Product scan

| Compound | MRM (m/z)             |
|----------|-----------------------|
| 25OHD3   | 558.4 > 298.2 (161.2) |
| 25OHD2   | 570.4 > 298.2 (280.2) |



# Vitamin D MRM on MS

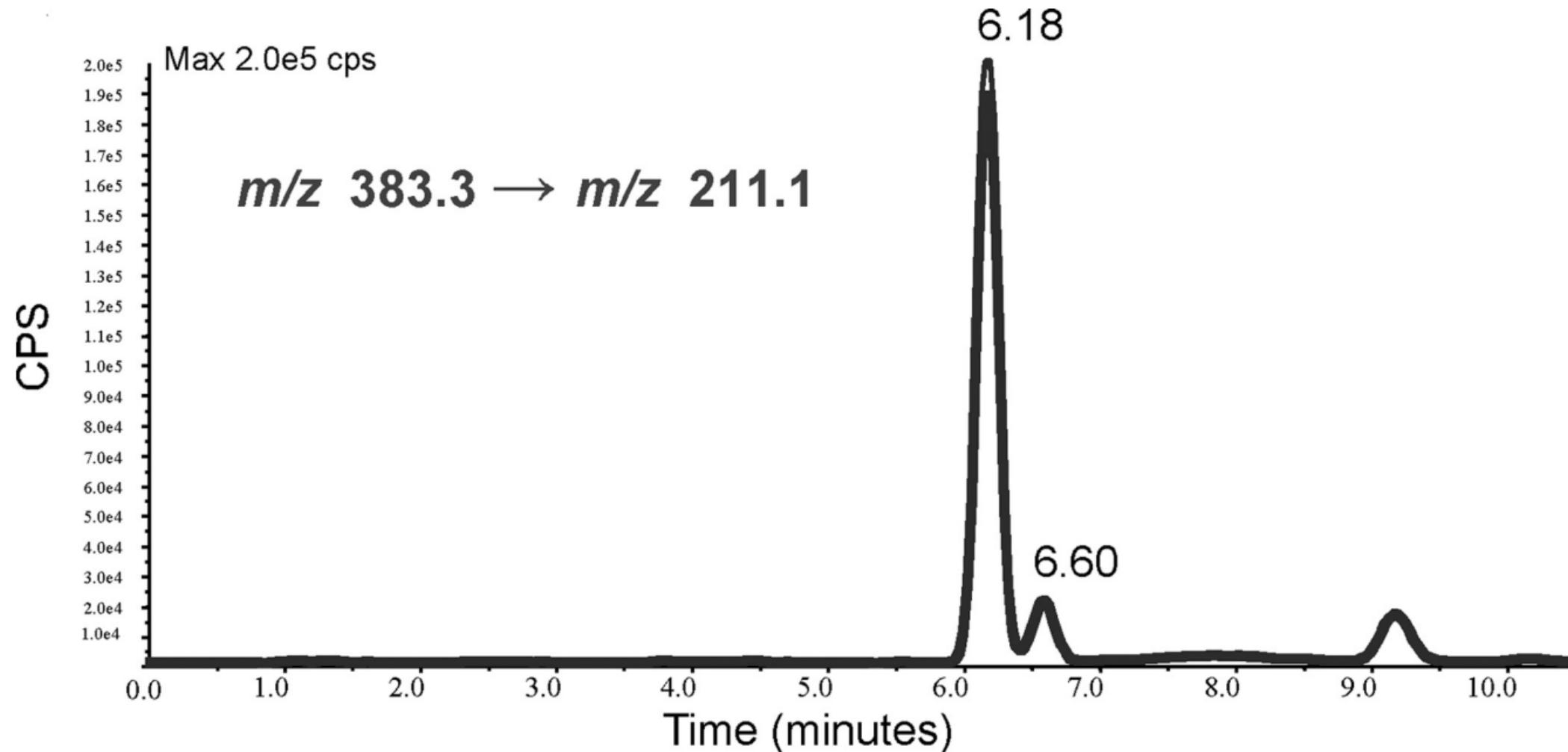
MRM transitions, collision energies and cone voltages of vitamin D metabolites.

| Compound                              | Abbrev.                               | MRM transitions                                 | Collision energy (eV) | Cone voltage (V) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| 25-Hydroxyvitamin D3                  | 25OHD3                                | 383.2 > 91.0<br>383.2 > 107.0                   | 52<br>32              | 28<br>28         |
| 3-Epi-25-hydroxyvitamin D3            | 3-Epi25OHD3                           | 383.2 > 95.4<br>383.2 > 107.0                   | 36<br>32              | 26<br>26         |
| 1 $\alpha$ ,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D3    | 1 $\alpha$ ,25(OH) <sub>2</sub> D3    | 399.2 > 105.1<br>399.2 > 151.1                  | 46<br>24              | 22<br>22         |
| 23R,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D3            | 23R,25(OH) <sub>2</sub> D3            | 417.4 > 325.3<br>417.4 > 343.3                  | 12<br>10              | 12<br>12         |
| 24R,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D3            | 24R,25(OH) <sub>2</sub> D3            | 417.4 > 121.1<br>417.4 > 381.4                  | 14<br>10              | 14<br>14         |
| 25-Hydroxyvitamin D2                  | 25OHD2                                | 395.3 > 91.0<br>395.3 > 119.0                   | 54<br>22              | 26<br>26         |
| 24-Hydroxyvitamin D2                  | 24OHD2                                | 395.3 > 340.9<br>395.3 > 119.0                  | 36<br>26              | 66<br>30         |
| 3-Epi-25hydroxyvitaminD2              | 3-Epi-25OHD2                          | 395.3 > 91.0<br>395.3 > 119.0                   | 50<br>26              | 26<br>26         |
| 1 $\alpha$ ,25-DihydroxyvitaminD2     | 1 $\alpha$ ,25(OH) <sub>2</sub> D2    | 411.3 > 133.0<br>411.3 > 151.0                  | 30<br>22              | 26<br>26         |
| 1 $\alpha$ ,24-DihydroxyvitaminD2     | 1 $\alpha$ ,24(OH) <sub>2</sub> D2    | 411.3 > 133.0<br>411.3 > 151.0                  | 30<br>20              | 26<br>26         |
| Ergocalciferol                        | Vitamin D2                            | 397.4 > 69.0<br>397.4 > 107.1                   | 22<br>28              | 16<br>16         |
| Cholecalciferol                       | Vitamin D3                            | 385.4 > 107.0<br>385.4 > 259.3                  | 30<br>16              | 20<br>20         |
| 7 $\alpha$ -Hydroxy-4-cholesten-3-one | 7 $\alpha$ C4                         | 401.4 > 97.0<br>401.4 > 117.1                   | 26<br>24              | 34<br>32         |
| 1 $\alpha$ ,25-DihydroxyvitaminD3-d3  | 1 $\alpha$ ,25(OH) <sub>2</sub> D3-d3 | 402.4 > 138.0<br>402.4 > 154.1                  | 18<br>20              | 22<br>22         |
| 3-Epi-hydroxyvitamin-d3               | 3-Epi-25OHD3-d3                       | 404.4 > 107.2<br>404.4 > 109.4<br>404.4 > 368.4 | 40<br>22<br>12        | 40<br>22<br>12   |
| 25 Hydroxyvitamin D3                  | 25OHD3 d3                             | 386.4 > 95.1<br>386.4 > 109.3                   | 26<br>24              | 26<br>26         |
| Ergocalciferol-d3                     | Vitamin D2-d3                         | 400.3 > 109.8<br>400.3 > 69.02<br>400.3 > 83.02 | 24<br>30<br>22        | 16<br>16<br>16   |

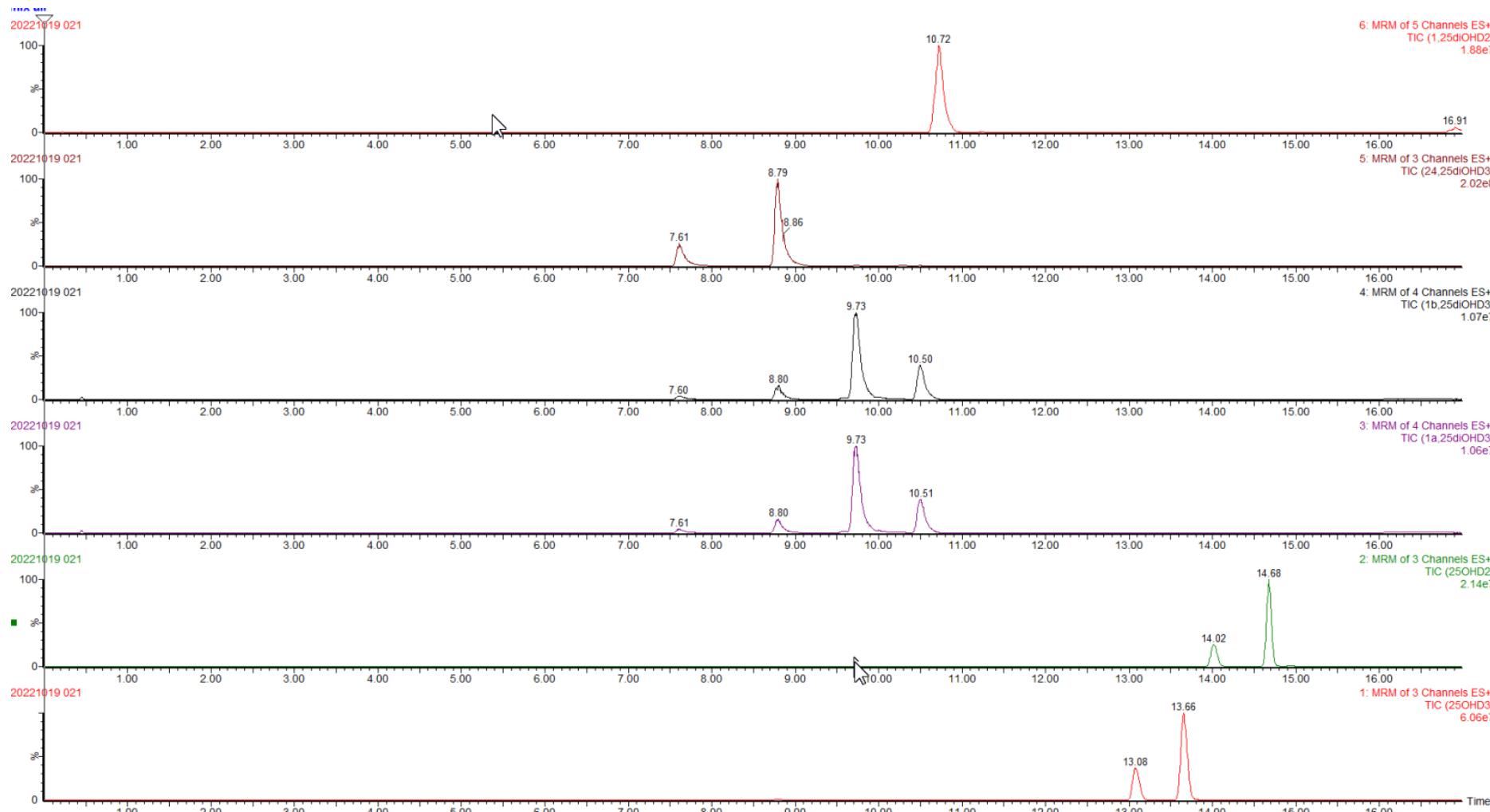
# Mass spectrometry



# Mass spectrometry data analysis



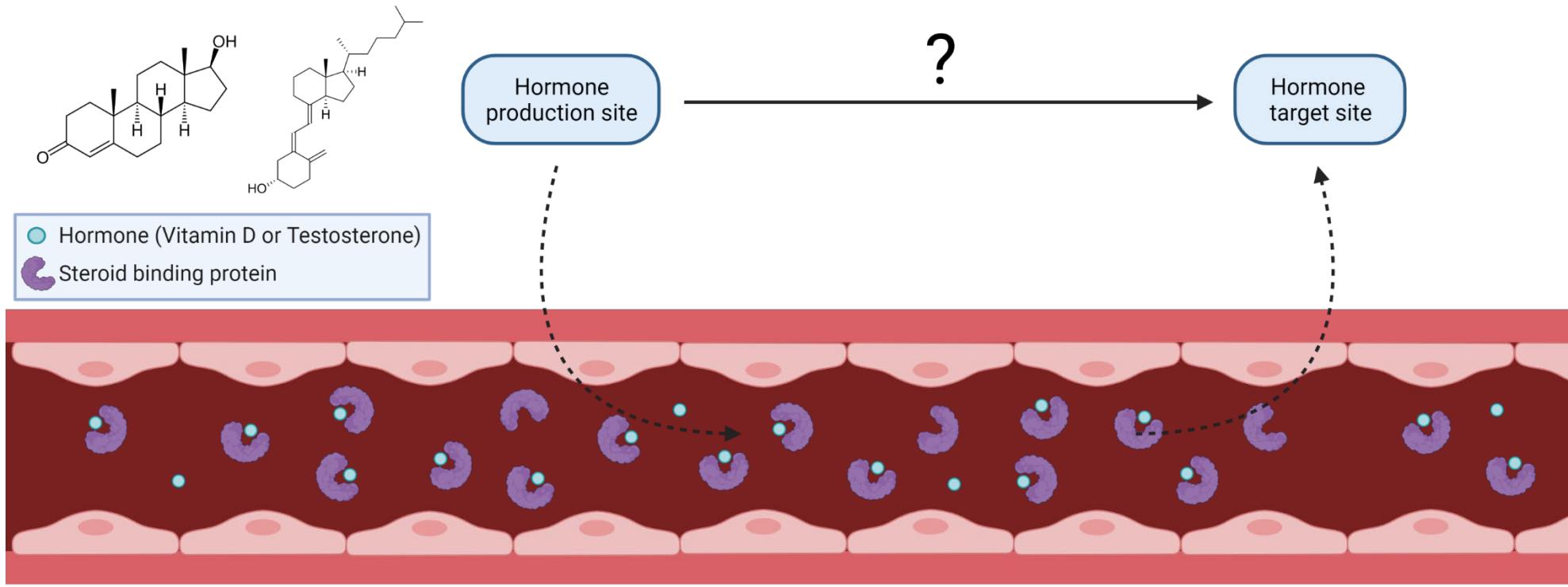
# Mass spectrometry data analysis



# Total and free hormones

Free hormone hypothesis

# Steroid binding proteins



# Steroid binding proteins

Specific carriers

## Vitamin D binding protein (DBP)

*GC/DBP*  
chr4q11-13

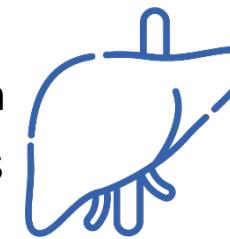
> 120 genetic variants  
GC1s, GC1f and GC2



## Sex hormone-binding globulin (SHBG)

*SHBG*  
chr17p12-13

Genetic variability through SNPs



52-58 kDa glycoprotein

Binds all vitamin D-metabolites

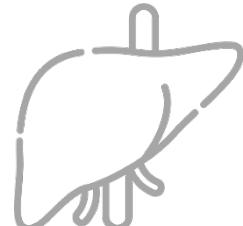
90-100 kDa homodimeric glycoprotein

Binds all androgens,  
except DHEA-sulfate and androstenedione

Aspecific carrier

## Albumin

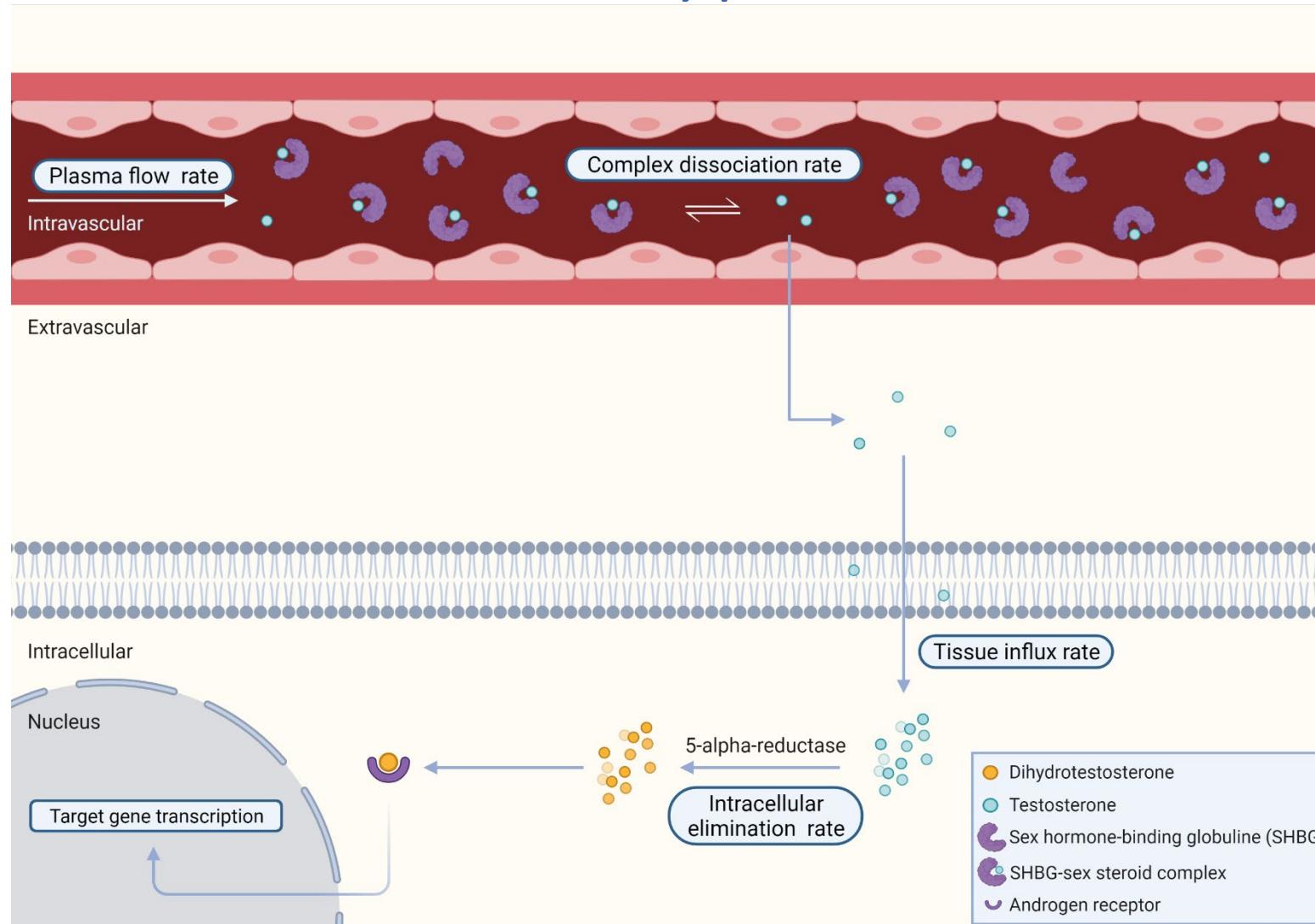
*ALB*  
chr4q13.3



66.5 kDa glycoprotein

Transport (fatty acids, drugs...)  
Homeostasis (calcium ions...)  
Oncotic pressure

# Free hormone hypothesis



Intracellular hormone concentrations (=biological activity) depend on the concentration of free rather than protein-bound hormone in plasma

Only free hormones can cross the cellular membrane.  
 (= free hormone transport hypothesis)

# Steroid protein binding milieu



| Characteristics of binding proteins and fractions per hormone |                  |  |                       |                   |  |                       |                   |
|---|------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
|   | Specific carrier |  |                       | Aspecific carrier |  |                       |                   |
| Hormone   | Binding Protein  | Binding affinity (in M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ) | Bound fraction (in %) | Binding Protein   | Binding affinity (in M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ) | Bound fraction (in %) | Free fraction (%) |
| Testosterone  | SHBG             | 2.0 × 10 <sup>9</sup>                                  | 44.0                  | Albumin           | 4.0 × 10 <sup>4</sup>                                  | 50.0                  | 2.0               |
|   |                  |  |                       | CBG               | 5.3 × 10 <sup>6</sup>                                  | 4.0                   |                   |
| Estradiol   | SHBG             | 7.0 × 10 <sup>8</sup>                                  | 20.0                  | Albumin           | 6.0 × 10 <sup>4</sup>                                  | 78.0                  | 2.0               |
| 25(OH)D   | DBP              | 7.0-9.0 × 10 <sup>8</sup>                              | 88.0                  | Albumin           | 6.0 × 10 <sup>5</sup>                                  | 12.0                  | 0.02 - 0.04       |
| 1,25(OH) <sub>2</sub> D                                       | DBP              | 4.0 × 10 <sup>7</sup>                                  | 85.0                  | Albumin           | 5.4 × 10 <sup>4</sup>                                  | 15.0                  | 0.3 - 0.4         |

Total steroid hormone concentration

Binding protein bound fraction

Albumin bound fraction

Free fraction (FF)

FF %

Bio-available concentration

Total testosterone

CBG  
(4%)

SHBG (44%)

Albumin (50%)

FF 2.0%

Bio-available

Total 25-hydroxyvitamin D

DBP (88%)

Albumin  
(12%)

FF 0.02%

Bio-available

# Diagnostic use of free hormones

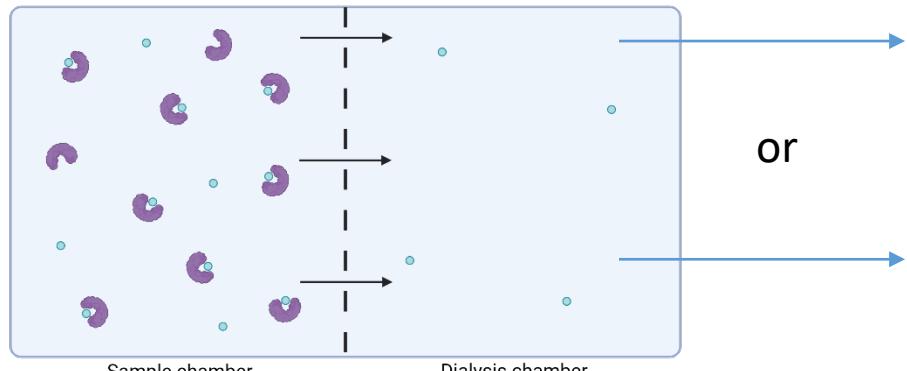
Assessment of free vitamin D

## 1. Measurement

Equilibrium Dialysis (ED)

Ultrafiltration (UF)

Direct ELISA - DIAsource



or

Indirect ED

Radio immunosorbent  
Assay (RIA)

Direct ED

LC-MS/MS



# Diagnostic use of free hormones

Assessment of free vitamin D

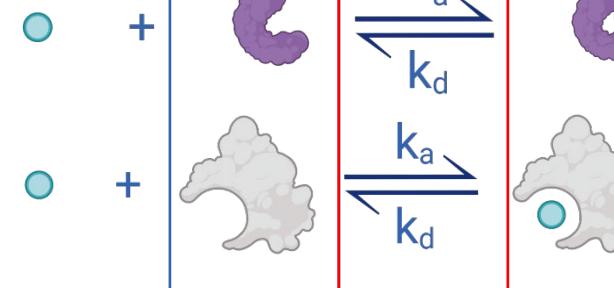
## 2. Calculation

Total vitamin D concentration

Carrier concentration

DBP

+



Albumin

+

Binding affinity

$$\text{free vitamin D metabolite} = \frac{\text{total vitamin D metabolite}}{1 + (K_a_{alb} * \text{albumin}) + (K_a_{DBP} * DBP)}$$

# Methodologic limitations and issues

Why don't we measure free vitamin D directly?



| CON's                   | PRO's                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Technically difficult   | Gold standard                      |
| Labor intensive         | Independent of carrier fluctuation |
| Expensive               |                                    |
| Not routinely available |                                    |
| No reference range      |                                    |

What about calculation of free vitamin D?



| CON's  | PRO's                                     |
|--|---|
| Formula not generally applicable                       | Cheap & Convenient                        |
| Alteration of DBP binding milieu                       | Clinically useful                         |
| DBP Polymorphisms                                      | Correlated with <u>clinical endpoints</u> |
| Dependent on quality of total vitamin D and DBP assays |   |

Valorization of a patient's vitamin D status in clinical settings where DBP levels are altered, such as CKD, obesity and liver problems, has been deemed more appropriate when using free serum 25(OH)D as compared to total serum 25(OH)D.

DD Bikle et al., J Clin Invest **78** (3), 748 (1986).

MS Johnsen et al., Scand J Clin Lab Invest **74** (3), 177 (2014).

O Tsuprykov et al., J Steroid Biochem Mol Biol **190**, 29 (2019).

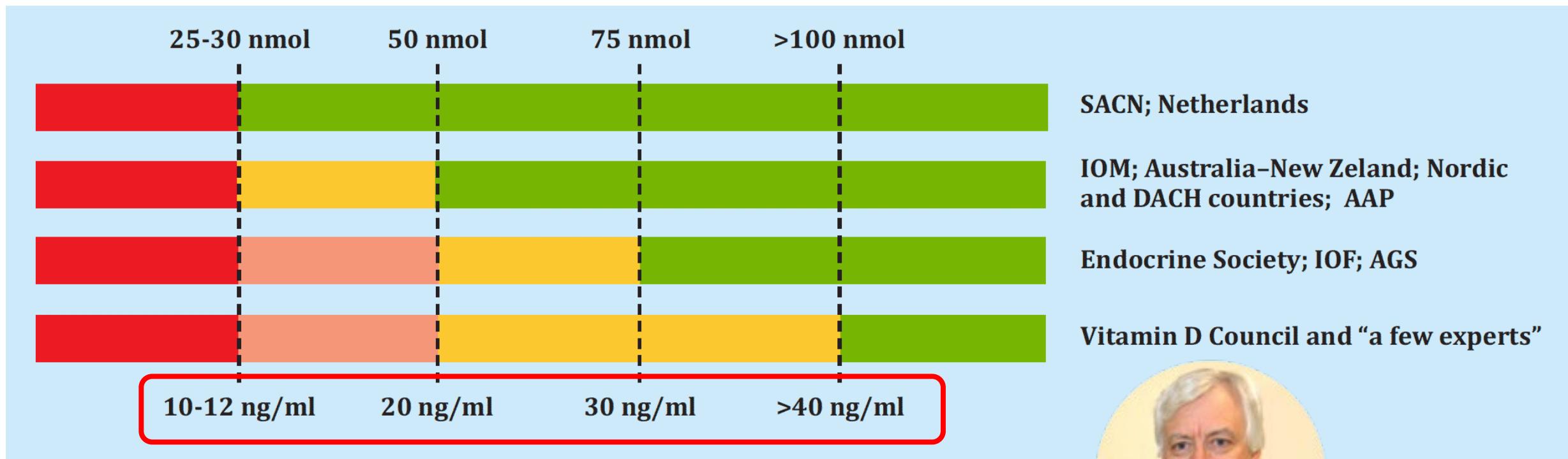
C Yu et al., Circ Res **123** (8), 996 (2018).

→ Clinical use of free vitamin D is hampered!

NO CONSENSUS

"400 – 600 - 800 IU/day"

**Figure 4. Definitions of vitamin D deficiency and sufficiency for bone health**



"3000 IU/day"

# Indications 25vit D testing (adults)

- Osteoporosis and osteomalacia
- Hyperparathyroidism
- Malabsorption (IBD, CF, coeliac disease, bariatric surgery)
- Deeply pigmented skin or lacking sun exposure
- Chronic renal failure
- Obesity

PS: routine screening is NOT recommended

# Indications 25vit D testing (children)

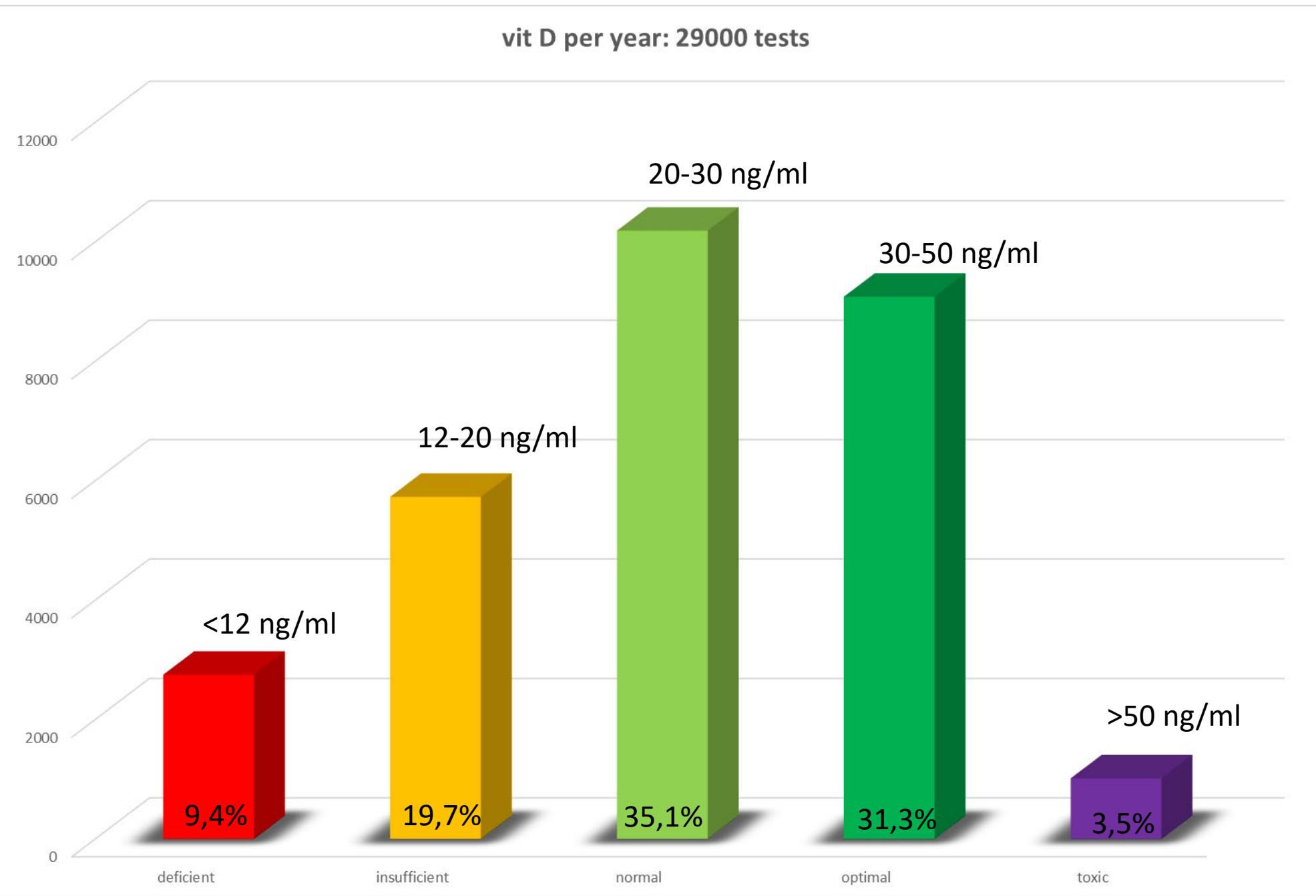
- Rickets
- Infants of mother with vitamin D deficiency
- Exclusively breastfed babies

# Indications for 1,25 vit D testing

- Chronic kidney disease
- Hyper- or hypocalcemia
- Hypercalcemia in granulomatous disease (sarcoidosis, tuberculosis...)
- 1 alpha hydroxylase deficiency, hypophosphatemia
- Vitamin D receptor defect
- NOT for vitamin D reserve

Vit D: Leuven

vit D per year: 29000 tests



<2 ng/ml = 0,1% n=30

> 100 ng/ml = 0,03% n=10

Vit D: terugbetaling RIZIV

**559333-559344 Doseren van 1,25-dihydroxyvitamine D na chromatografie**

**B 1400**

### **Diagnoseregel 98**

De verstrekkingen **1,25 vit D en FGF-23** mogen enkel worden aangerekend wanneer zij worden voorgeschreven:

1. geneesheer-specialist in de inwendige pathologie
2. in geval van **gestoorde calcemie of fosforemie**
3. maximum éénmaal per jaar

# Wel of niet testen

- Gezonde **asymptomatische volwassenen** moeten niet gescreend worden op 25(OH)Vit D.
- Geïnstitutionaliseerde **bejaarden**, bejaarden met een hoog valrisico en alle 75+ moeten geen 25(OH)D gehaltebepaling krijgen. Zij krijgen best standaard een vitamine D- en calcium supplement toegediend.
- Patiënten die gekend zijn met een **osteoporose** (gedaalde BMD/fracturen) moeten een oppuntstelling krijgen met een dosering van 25(OH)D
- Bij de aanwezigheid van ziekten of factoren die het **risico op vitamine D deficiëntie** verhogen, kan het gerechtvaardigd zijn om éénmalig te doseren
- Patiënten met gekende **malabsorptie** (bariatrische chirurgie, chronisch inflammatoir darmlijden, coeliakie, mucoviscidose), chronische **nierinsufficiëntie** vanaf stadium IIIb1 met inbegrip van dialyse en transplantatiepatiënten en **hyperparathyreïdie**

# Motivering voor beperking 25(OH)D

De laatste vijf jaar werd een **verdubbeling** vastgesteld van het aantal aangevraagde 25- hydroxyvitamine D analyses waarvan **75% wordt aangevraagd door huisartsen** en dit vooral bij patiënten tussen de 50 en de 82 jaar met een piek op 68 jaar. 25% van de patiënten wordt meer dan één maal per jaar getest.

Nochtans zijn er belangrijke **beperkingen en hiaten in de huidige kennis** omtrent het nut van vitamine D- en calcium-doseringen.

In tegenstelling tot vele andere biochemische parameters zijn de referentiewaarden voor vitamine D **geen normaalwaarden** voor de gemiddelde bevolking, maar streefwaarden die aangeven welke spiegel allicht voldoende is.

**Diagnoseregel 155**

Van de verstrekkingen 434490-434501 en 559311-559322 (**25 vit D**) mag er één verstrekking **één maal per kalenderjaar** aan de ZIV aangerekend worden

tenzij bij chronische nierinsufficiëntie vanaf stadium IIIb, bij nierdialyse, na niertransplantatie of bij gedocumenteerde malabsorptie (chronisch inflammatoir darmlijden, coeliakie, na bariatrische chirurgie, mucoviscidose) waar de verstrekkingen **3 maal per kalenderjaar** aangerekend mogen worden

# UZ Leuven

Per maand moeten we 130 facturaties van de 2500 blokkeren (100 ambulanten en 30 gehospitaliseerden) omdat er in de loop van het jaar reeds een 25-hydroxy vitamine D gevraagd werd.

Dit komt overeen met 5% van ons totaal aantal 25-hydroxyvitamine D bepalingen (die dus niet aangerekend mogen worden).

Dit aantal weigeringen zal nog verder zakken als we de aanvrager laten beslissen of de patiënt DRIE bepalingen per jaar mag krijgen (wegens malabsorptie, zwaar nierlijden, **hyper- of hypoparathyroïdie, fosfaatdiabetes of IV behandeling met bisfosfonaten**).

Dit leidt tot de voorzichtige conclusie dat er relatief rationeel met de analyse wordt omgesprongen binnen ons ziekenhuis.