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The effect of vitamin D supplementation on thyroid autoantibody levels in the treatment of autoimmune thyroiditis: a systematic review and a meta-analysis

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Abstract

Purpose: Although observational studies suggested that vitamin D plays a role in autoimmune thyroiditis (AIT), intervention trials yielded inconsistent findings. We therefore conducted a systematic review and a meta-analysis to evaluate the effects of Vitamin D on decreasing autoantibodies in patients with AIT.

Method: We identified all studies that assessed the changes of TPO-Ab and Tg-Ab in patients with AIT under the treatment of vitamin D from PubMed, Embase, The Cochrane Library, Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure, Wanfang, and VIP Database.

Results: Six randomized controlled trials (RCTs) were included in this systematic review representing a total of 344 patients with AIT. The results showed that Vitamin D supplementation significantly dropped TPO-Ab titers [three studies, random effects standardized mean difference (SMD): -1.11, 95% CI -1.52 to -0.70, P < 0.01] at six months, but not at no more than 3 months [random effects SMD: -0.12, 95% CI: -0.69 to 0.44, P = 0.67]. As compared with control group, participants who received vitamin D supplementation demonstrated significantly lower Tg-Ab [random effects SMD: -0.55, 95% CI: -1.05 to -0.04, P = 0.033]. In addition, no serious adverse effect was reported.

Conclusions: The current evidence suggests that vitamin D supplementation could decrease serum TPO-Ab and Tg-Ab titers of patients with AlT in the short-term (about six months). More high quality studies are needed to further confirm the effects, especially the long-term effects of Vitamin D supplementation on thyroid autoantibodies levels in the treatment of AlT.

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