

# Lakeview Community Wellness Center Orthopaedic Connection

## The Orthopaedic Surgeon and Vitamin D

By Thomas J. Haverbush, M.D.  
Orthopaedic Surgeon

### ***Transforming patient information into patient understanding.***

What do Orthopaedic Surgeons have to do with Vitamin D? As it turns out - everything.

In the next 2 or 3 weeks you are going to learn lots more than you ever knew about Vitamin D, the Sunshine Vitamin.

Research about how much Vitamin D is needed daily has often been confusing and "how much you need" depends on what you read or who you talk to.

What opened many people's eyes was a report in the highly respected Internal Medicine journal *Archives of Internal Medicine*. A nationwide survey found that there are a huge number of people who are Vitamin D deficient.

41% of men are Vitamin D deficient and 53% of women are Vitamin D deficient.

Three groups of people are particularly prone to deficiency:  
post menopausal women  
Black Americans  
the elderly

In case you are saying, "That's nice, now what's for lunch", please keep reading.

This deficiency is an ominous warning about America's bone health. If that isn't bad enough, Vitamin D is known to have several other critical functions that most patients are completely clueless about.

- Cancer  
Vitamin D has an important role in immune function, cell growth and death, and reducing inflammation. In this way adequate doses of Vitamin D can inhibit cancer cell growth. The strongest evidence for the protective effect of Vitamin D is with colorectal cancer.
- Mental Performance  
Studies in older adults show Vitamin D deficiency is associated with low mood and worsened mental performance as well as greater

severity of dementia. Clear thinking and memory are definitely improved with good Vitamin D levels.

- Immune Function  
Vitamin D deficiency has been connected to increased risk of pneumonia, bacterial infections and gum disease.
- Multiple Sclerosis  
Lower risk of MS with adequate Vitamin D levels.
- Pregnancy  
Good levels of Vitamin D lower the incidence of hypertension in pregnancy.
- Muscle strength, Co-ordination  
Adequate Vitamin D levels help maintain muscle strength and co-ordination in elderly persons
- Insulin  
Vitamin D helps maintain proper insulin levels thereby preventing diabetes.
- Fracture Prevention  
Patients with higher values of Vitamin D have a significantly decreased risk of fracture especially hip fractures in the elderly.
- Heart Attack and Stroke  
Lower incidence of vascular problems if Vitamin D levels are adequate.
- Arthritis  
Inflammation and pain of arthritis are more easily controlled.

I hope we are off to a good start and I have gotten your interest. There is much more to say. Please continue with us next week.

#### **Office Website and Lakeview Area news Archive**

The office website [www.orthopodsurgeon.com](http://www.orthopodsurgeon.com) is a great source for all the Orthopaedic and Musculoskeletal information you need.

All the Orthopaedic problems I treat are contained in the website and Your Orthopaedic Connection.

Lakeview Area News Archive of all past articles can be found on the website. The full text of every article! Check out this tremendous collection of information.

#### **Orthopaedic Clinic**

I appreciate your support of the Orthopaedic Clinic I have at Lakeview Community Wellness Center. All of the Orthopaedic problems I treat can be evaluated there.

Approaching Clinic dates are December 3 and December 17, 2010.

Call 989-463-6092 for an appointment at the Clinic or at the office in Alma.

Our goal is simple - To help people live more pain free, functional lives. I specialize in you.

Good health. Good life. All the best to you.

Be well.

Dr. Haverbush