With more and more research highlighting the importance of maintaining healthy vitamin D levels, patients require a form that is bioavailable, easy-to-take and in a clinically useful dosage. Bio-DK Caps™ and Bio-DK-Mulsion™ both deliver an impressive 125 ug (5000 IU) of vitamin D₃, with vitamins K₁ (as phytonadione) and K₂ (as MK-7, menaquinone-7) in a micro-emulsified formula.

Vitamins D and K work synergistically to optimize bone and heart health. More specifically, vitamin K activates the matrix Gla-protein (MGP), a vitamin K dependent protein (VKDP) that helps direct calcium to bones and teeth, and away from the arteries. Both osteocalcin (responsible for putting calcium into bones) and MGP (preventing calcium deposits in arteries and soft tissues) are vitamin K dependent.

Biotics Research Corporation was one of the first companies to launch an emulsified form of vitamin D in a liquid. Both Bio-D-Mulsion® and Bio-D-Mulsion Forte® are oil-in-water micro-emulsions, where the vitamin D oil has been dispersed into microscopic particles to aid in absorption and assimilation. Implementing this principle of emulsion to a dry form, Biotics Research first used this proprietary process in its CoQ10 formulation.

- Micro-Emulsified for Greater Absorption
- Easy-to-Take Capsules or Liquid
- 125 ug (5000 IU) Vitamin D₃
- Added Vitamins K₁/K₂
- Backed by Clinical Data

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. These products are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.
Clinical data shows this emulsified form increases bioavailability over 200% compared to the non-emulsified form. In addition, **Bio-DK Caps™** and **Bio-DK-Mulsion™** are absorbed first through the lymphatic system, the body’s preferred route of administration, and then transported to the blood circulation.

Vitamin D, a nutrient synthesized in our skin when exposed to sunlight, can also be found in some foods such as oily fish, beef liver, egg yolks, mushrooms and some fortified foods such as milk and breakfast cereal. Surprisingly, however, nearly half of the American population is deficient in vitamin D,⁽¹⁾ with serum of 25-hydroxy vitamin D concentrations less than 20 ng/mL (50 nmol/L).

While we are familiar with the importance of vitamin D in calcium absorption and bone metabolism, many may not be aware of burgeoning research on vitamin D, and the widening range of applications available for cholecalciferol, which can be classified as both a vitamin and a pro-hormone.⁽²⁾

**Vitamin D Deficiency and Musculoskeletal Health**

Vitamin D deficiency is associated with dull, achy musculoskeletal pain that is incompletely responsive to both pharmacologic and manual therapies. The pain may be widespread or confined to a particular area, most commonly the lower back and lumbar spine. The process by which this occurs has been clearly defined:

1. Vitamin D deficiency causes a reduction in calcium absorption.
2. Production of parathyroid (PTH) hormone is increased to maintain blood calcium levels.
3. Increase PTH results in increased urinary excretion of phosphorous, which leads to hypophosphatemia.
4. Insufficient calcium phosphate results in deposition of unmineralized collagen matrix on the endosteal (inside) and periosteal (outside) surface of bones.
5. When the collagen matrix hydrates and swells, it causes pressure on the sensory-innervated periosteum resulting in pain.⁽³⁾

Several clinical investigations have shown vitamin D deficiency to be particularly common among people with musculoskeletal pain.⁽⁴⁽⁵⁾ In addition, a study on patients with osteoarthritis (OA), a chronic degenerative disease of articular cartilage, shows vitamin D to have a positive influence on healthy inflammatory pathways.⁽⁶⁾

**Clinical Applications**

- Healthy Calcium Balance
- Bone Health
- Cardiovascular Support
- Immune Function
- Neurological Benefits
- Healthy Weight Management
- Blood Sugar Regulation

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This occurs via multiple pathways including direct genomic/nutrigenomic effect where vitamin D reduces gene expression for inflammatory pathways; the modulation of the microbiome; and, also, via the mitochondria.⁽⁷⁾

Because vitamin D may modulate inflammatory responses, preliminary evidence suggests vitamin D deficiency may also be particularly common among patients with inflammatory and autoimmune disorders.⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾⁽¹₀⁾

**Non-Musculoskeletal Manifestations of Hypovitaminosis D**

Vitamins D and K are best known for their role in optimal bone and arterial health. As stated earlier, vascular calcification, a cause of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, is an actively regulated process involving VKDPs, with MGP playing a major role in the process of vascular calcification. A recent study highlights that vitamin K₂ activates the soft tissue calcification inhibitor MGP offering beneficial cardiovascular effects.⁽¹¹⁾

Vitamins D and K also help to keep the immune system in proper balance.

Mounting evidence suggests that vitamin D deficiency may be linked to several chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease and cancer. Of particular interest is that vitamin D deficiency was found to be common in children with Type I Diabetes Mellitus (T1DM).⁽¹²⁾ Helping sensitize the cells to insulin, vitamin D is also strong associated with weight loss. According to research⁽¹³⁾, vitamin D status is linked to body mass index (BMI). Vitamin D deficiency may be linked to metabolic syndrome through inflammatory pathways and, because vitamin D has an anti-inflammatory effect (increasing IL-10 and decreasing TNF alpha, among other changes in inflammatory markers), supplementation with vitamin D can be critical to a healthy weight management program.

Current research also indicates the role of vitamin D in neuronal health. Both the peripheral and central nervous systems have multiple sites of action for vitamin D. Vitamin D plays a role in the modulation of serotonin and melatonin synthesis and metabolism. Alterations in vitamin D levels appear to explain, at least in part, the adverse psychological effects of sunlight deprivation that occur due to geographic location and climate.⁽¹⁴⁾ Vitamin D modulates neurodevelopment, neuroprotection, and immunomodulation through its interaction with receptor (VDR) and related enzymes (CYP27B1, CYP24A1). An imbalance in the vitamin D processing pathway (or a vitamin D deficiency) has been implicated with neuronal dysregulation.⁽¹⁵⁾

In addition to emulsified forms of vitamins D and K, **Bio-DK Caps™** contains superoxide dismutase (SOD) and catalase. SOD is an enzyme that aids in cell repair and provides antioxidant protection against cellular damage from free radicals and environmental toxins. Catalase in an enzyme that converts hydrogen peroxide into oxygen and water, also showing strong antioxidant properties.

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Finally, in a study conducted at the Children’s Hospital in Boston, the micro-emulsified form of vitamin D was found to be safe and effective in infants and children. Conservative regimens increased 25(OH)D concentrations in vitamin D deficient children 202% in six weeks, essentially tripling blood levels, without increased risk of hypercalcemia commonly associated with large dose therapies.⁽¹⁶⁾

References