Special Issue

Vitamin D in Health and Disease

Message from the Guest Editors

Vitamin D (VD) is a lipo-soluble hormone well known for its effects on calcium homeostasis and bone metabolism. Recently there has been growing interest in the extra-skeletal effects of VD. In particular, recent studies have highlighted how VD plays a fundamental role in immunomodulation processes in the context of both innate and adaptive immunity, with consequent anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant effect in different immune-mediated pathologies. Recent evidence has shown that VD is also closely related to other components such as the microbiome, with which it appears to be interconnected in the pathophysiology of many allergic diseases. In addition to the known immunomodulatory effects of VD, several studies have reported that it is also endowed with important antiproliferative, anti-angiogenic and pro-differentiative effects in cancer thanks to its effects on the modulation of the expression of tumor miRNAs through its action at the VD receptor (VDR) level. In view of this, it is clear that VD supplementation represents a safe and valid therapeutic strategy capable of improving the clinical outcome of many diseases.

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