

## Supplement 2

### Supplemental Online Content

Brunvoll SH, Nygaard AB, Ellingjord-Dale M et al; Prevention of covid-19 and other acute respiratory infections with cod liver oil supplementation, a low-dose vitamin D supplement: quadruple blinded, randomised placebo controlled trial

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The authors have provided this supplement to give readers additional information about the trial.

**sTable 1.** Analysed levels of the vitamin A, D and E in the cod liver oil and the placebo (corn oil).

	<b>Vitamin A<sup>a</sup></b> <b>(µg/ml)</b>	<b>Vitamin D<sup>b</sup></b> <b>(µg/ml)</b>	<b>Vitamin E<sup>c</sup></b> <b>(mg/ml)</b>
Cod liver oil batches			
SN202484	59	2,4	0,6
SN202472	57	2,3	0,6
SN202462	60	2,4	0,6
SN202444	61	2,4	0,6
Placebo (corn oil) batches			
SN202432	3,9	0	0,732
SN202422	3,5	0	0,742
SN202412	3,3	0	0,771
SN202402	1,9	0	0,808

<sup>a</sup>The content of vitamin A (retinol OH) was determined in the unsaponifiable fraction by the use of HPLC and UV detection.

<sup>b</sup>The content of vitamin D (cholecalciferol) was determined by the use of HPLC and UV detection.

<sup>c</sup>The content of vitamin E was determined by the use of HPLC and UV detection.

**sTable 2.** Randomisation round, date, and the number of participants.

Round	Date	Randomisation
		Number (%) of participants
1	19 November 2020	25 577 (73.6)
2	6 December 2020	5 396 (15.5)
3	23 February 2021	2 627 (7.6)
4	13 April 2021	1 141 (3.3)

**sAppendix 1**The questions of the baseline and reporting questionnaires

Translation of the enrolment questionnaire, baseline questionnaire and reporting questionnaires

*Translation of enrolment questionnaire*

**Check all the boxes which are relevant to you**

I have had, or have, one of the following conditions or diseases: kidney failure or dialysis, hypercalcemia (elevated levels of calcium), severe liver disease (cirrhosis), sarcoidosis or other granulomatous diseases (Wegener)

I am intolerant to fish oil or corn oil

I have trouble swallowing cod liver oil or other oils

I am pregnant or planning to become pregnant within the next year

None of the above

*Translation of relevant parts of the baseline questionnaires*

*General information about the participant*

**Sex**

Male

Female

Other

**Enter your age:**

(Open number field)

**What is your height in centimetres?**

(Open number field)

**What is your weight in kilos?**

(Open number field)

**Are you a smoker?**

Yes

No, I have never smoked

Yes, I was a smoker before

Yes, I vape

Don't know

**Check off any illnesses or conditions you have.**

**You can tick one option per condition.**

*Chronic heart disease including congenital heart disease (not high blood pressure)*

Yes

No

Don't know

*High blood pressure*

Yes

No

Don't know

*Chronic lung disease (other than asthma)*

Yes

No

Don't know

*Asthma*

Yes

No

Don't know

*Diabetes*

Yes

No

Don't know

On immunosuppressive treatment

Yes

No

Don't know

*Cancer (being treated)*

Yes

No

Don't know

**I would say my physical condition is:**

Poor

Average

Good

**What is the ethnical background of your parents?**

**Multiple answers are possible, if other please specify in the next question.**

Europe

Africa

Asia

Other

**If other ethnical background, please specify**

(Open text field)

*Sun exposure and vitamin D*

**What is your skin type?**

Will easily turn red and rarely if ever tanned. I have light, sensitive skin and sometimes freckles.

Will almost always turn red and sometimes tanned.

Will be red sometimes, but always tanned after a while.

Will never be red, always tanned.

Naturally black/tanned skin.

**How many hours have you spent in the sun during the months of July-October 2020?**

**The number of hours in the sun in total with the arms or other parts of the body uncovered by clothing.**

0 hours

1-10 hours

11-30 hours

31-50 hours

Over 50 hours

**Do you use cod liver oil?**

Yes, all year

Yes, but only in the winter

No

**How often do you take cod liver oil?**

Every day

5-6 days a week

3-4 days a week

1-2 days a week

Less than 1 day a week

**Do you take any supplements containing vitamin D?**

**Some examples are supplements containing only vitamin D, multi-vitamin supplements or a combined supplement with vitamin D and omega-3 fatty acids.**

**Cod liver oil is NOT to be included here.**

Yes, all year

Yes, only in the winter

No

**How often do you take supplements containing vitamin D?**

Every day

5-6 days a week

3-4 days a week

1-2 days a week

Less than 1 day a week

**How often do you eat fatty fish?**

**Fatty fish includes salmon, trout, halibut, mackerel, herring, and eel.**

Never/rarely

1-3 times per month

1-2 times per week

3-4 times per week

5 times or more per week

**How many slices of bread with fatty fish do you eat per week**

**Fatty fish includes salmon, trout, halibut, mackerel, herring, and eel.**

Less than 1

1-3 slices

4-7 slices

8-14 slices

15 slices or more

**How many live in your household?**

**Number of people, including yourself (the ones you share a bathroom and/or kitchen with).**

1 (I live alone)

2

3

4

5

6

More than 6

**How many children (below the age of 18 years old) live in your household?**

0

1

2

3

4

5

More than 5 children

**What is your highest completed level of education?**

Primary school (up to 10 years "grunnskole", 7 years "folkeskole" or similar)

High school or vocational training

College or university, less than 4 years

College or university, 4 years or more

Other

**What is your highest completed level of education?**

Open text field

**What is the estimated total income of your household, before taxes?**

Less than 300 000 NOK

300 000 - 600 000 NOK

600 000 – 1 000 000 NOK

More than 1 million NOK



**What is your current employment situation?**

**More than one answer is possible.**

Employed

Stay at home

Unemployed

Retired (due to age)

On sick leave/social security benefits

Student

Temporarily laid off

*Vaccination, covid-19 testing and respiratory tract infections*

**I have been tested for coronavirus in the throat and/or nose**

**Complete this question even if you have stated to have tested positive previously.**

Yes, and at least one test was positive, and I have/ have had coronavirus

Yes, but the test(s) is/are negative

Yes, and I am waiting for the results

No, I have not been tested.

**Are you, or have you been, hospitalised due to coronavirus?**

Yes

No

**How many days have you been admitted?**

(Open number field)

**Are/were you admitted to the intensive care ward?**

Yes

No

I don't know

*Translation of the reporting questionnaires*

*(The reporting questionnaire was distributed up to six times during the trial in slightly different versions.)*

*Vaccination, covid-19 testing and respiratory tract infections*

**I have been tested for coronavirus in the throat and/or nose**

**Complete this question even if you have stated to have tested positive previously.**

Yes, and at least one test was positive, and I have/ have had coronavirus

Yes, but the test(s) is/are negative

Yes, and I am waiting for the results

No, I have not been tested.

**Are you, or have you been, hospitalised due to coronavirus?**

Yes

No

**How many days have you been admitted?**

(Open number field)

**Are/were you admitted to the intensive care ward?**

Yes

No

I don't know

**Check off all the symptoms you had in the period you got tested (in the nose and/or throat) for coronavirus.**

**State how long each symptom lasted.**

**This can be before or after the sampling of the nose and/or throat. Check the boxes for the symptoms you had/did not have in the period you were tested for coronavirus**

*Fever*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*High fever (measure to be higher than 39 °C)*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*Heavy breathing (dyspnoea)*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*Cough*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*Fatigue*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*Muscle aches*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*Sore throat*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*Impaired sense of smell/taste*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*Stuffy or runny nose*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*Headache*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*Stomach pain/nausea/diarrhoea*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*Memory issues*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*Issues concentrating or thinking*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*Other symptoms*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

*No symptoms*

I did not have this symptom

1-7 days

8-21 days

More than 21 days

I still have this symptom

**Expand on what other symptoms you experienced when you had covid-19:**

(Open text field)

**Have you been vaccinated against covid-19?**

Yes

No

**If you answered yes, how many times have you received the covid-19 vaccine?**

1

2

3, or more

**Estimate the date of your last dose of vaccine**

(Date field, DD.MM.YYYY)

**How many times have you had light infections in the last 6 months?**

**For instance, a cold, the flu and urinary tract infections without hospitalisation. Covid-19 is NOT to be included here.**

0

1-2

3-4

5-6

More than 6 times

**How many of these were upper respiratory tract infections?**

**For instance, a cold, cough or sore throat without hospitalisation.**

0

1-2

3-4

5-6

More than 6 times

**How many times have someone in your household had an upper respiratory tract infection in the past 6 months?**

**For instance, a cold, cough or sore throat without hospitalisation. The total number of the household, including yourself.**

0

1-5

6-10

11-15

More than 15 times

*Compliance with the trial*

**Use of cod liver oil or placebo**

**Approximately how long have you taken cod liver oil/placebo?**

**Give an estimate. If you have had pauses, sum up the total time you have been taking the oil.**

0-1 Months

2-3 Months

4-5 Months

6 Months

I have not taken the oil

I took the oil in a period, but have now quit

**Which date did you start taking the cod liver oil/placebo?**

Date field

**During the past two weeks, how many days have you taken cod liver oil/placebo?**

**Think of the past two weeks. If you have doubled the dose the day after you have forgotten a dose then count the dose as taken.**

Every day

Forgotten 1 day

Forgotten 2 days

Forgotten 3 days

Forgotten 4-5 days

Forgotten 6-7 days

Forgotten 8-9 days

Forgotten 10 days or more

**Which date did you stop taking the cod liver oil/placebo?**

Date field

**During the period you did take cod liver oil or placebo. How often did you take it?**

Every day

5-6 days per week

3-4 days per week

1-2 days per week

I did not take it

**Have you remembered to take cod liver oil or placebo on the weekends?**

Yes, both Saturday and Sunday

Yes, but I forget sometimes

Yes, usually at least one day

No, usually I forget during the weekends

**Do you take cod liver oil/placebo at the same time every day?**

Yes, every day

Yes, mostly

No

**How many bottles of cod liver oil/placebo have you received in total?**

1

2

3

4

5

6



**How much was left in your bottles at the end of the trial?**

**Sum up the volume left in all bottles that you have not taken.**

1 deciliter (dl)

2-3 dl

4-5 dl

6-7 dl

8-9 dl

10-12 dl

13-15 dl

16 dl or more

**If you have to guess, what do you think you received in the trial?**

Cod liver oil

Placebo

I don't know

*Side effects of the use of cod liver oil or placebo*

**Have you experienced side-effects when using the cod liver oil/placebo in the trial?**

Yes

No

I have not yet begun taking cod liver oil/placebo

**What sort of side-effects do you experience/did you experience?**

**Preferably use keywords**

Open text field

2020 - 2021

# Certificate of Proficiency

This is to certify that

*Dr Thomas Gundersen  
Vitas AS  
Oslo Innovation Center  
Gaustadalleen 21  
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has participated in the international  
25 Hydroxyvitamin D EQAS  
and has met the performance target\*  
set by the DEQAS Advisory Panel

\* 75% or more results fell within  $\pm 25\%$  of the Target Value

**Advisory Panel**

Glennville Jones • Etienne Cavalier  
Ramon Durazo-Arvizu • Annemieke Heijboer  
Karen Phinney • Christopher Sempos • Patrick Twomey

*EC Walker*

Dr Emma Walker FRCPath  
DEQAS Organiser



VITAMIN D EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCHEME

DEQAS

**sTable 3.** QC batches, 25(OH)D analyses of dried blood spots.

QC batch <sup>a</sup>	Type	Mean nmol/l	CV %
QC146	DBS	85.8	11.0
QC172	DBS	282.6	10.3
QC181	DBS	106.6	14.2

<sup>a</sup>Six QC samples for each sequence, three QC before and three QC after each sequence (96-well plates). In addition, the three QC before were reinjected in the middle of the sequence.

**sTable 4.** Ad-hoc subgroup analyses; Relative risk and CI<sup>a</sup> for the first and second co-primary endpoints (covid-19), according to randomised assignment to cod liver oil or placebo.

<b>Co-primary endpoint, covid-19</b>	<b>Overall (n = 34 601)</b>	<b>Cod liver oil group (n = 17 278)</b>	<b>Placebo group (n = 17 323)</b>	<b>Relative Risk (CI<sup>a</sup>)</b>	<b>p<sup>b</sup></b>
<i>number (%) of participants with event</i>					
First: SARS-CoV-2 positive test result					
Sex					0.98
Women	292 (1.31)	150 (1.34)	142 (1.27)	1.06 (0.82, 1.36)	
Men	163 (1.33)	77 (1.26)	86 (1.40)	0.90 (0.64, 1.26)	
Age <sup>c, d</sup>					<0.001*
<45 years	266 (1.59)	135 (1.62)	131 (1.56)	1.04 (0.80, 1.35)	
≥45 years	189 (1.06)	92 (1.03)	97 (1.09)	0.95 (0.69, 1.29)	
Body mass index <sup>d</sup>					1.00
≤25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	224 (1.32)	111 (1.30)	113 (1.34)	0.97 (0.73, 1.30)	
>25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	231 (1.31)	116 (1.33)	115 (1.30)	1.02 (0.77, 1.36)	
Sun exposure Jul–Oct 20 <sup>d</sup>					0.97
≤30 hours	184 (1.33)	100 (1.44)	84 (1.23)	1.17 (0.85, 1.62)	
>30 hours	271 (1.30)	127 (1.23)	144 (1.38)	0.89 (0.69, 1.16)	
Vitamin D supplement use <sup>e</sup>					0.97
No	351 (1.31)	181 (1.34)	170 (1.27)	1.06 (0.84, 1.33)	
Yes	104 (1.34)	46 (1.21)	58 (1.48)	0.82 (0.53, 1.25)	
Fatty fish consumer <sup>f</sup>					0.51
No	180 (1.42)	96 (1.50)	84 (1.33)	1.13 (0.82, 1.57)	
Yes	270 (1.27)	130 (1.23)	140 (1.31)	0.94 (0.72, 1.22)	
Vaccinated study period <sup>c,g</sup>					<0.001**
No	362 (1.63)	178 (1.61)	184 (1.64)	0.98 (0.78, 1.23)	
Yes	93 (0.75)	49 (0.79)	44 (0.72)	1.09 (0.70, 1.71)	
Strict compliance <sup>h</sup>					0.30
No	164 (1.45)	72 (1.35)	92 (1.55)	0.87 (0.62, 1.22)	
Yes	291 (1.25)	155 (1.30)	136 (1.20)	1.09 (0.84, 1.40)	
Second: Serious covid-19 <sup>i</sup>					
Sex					0.26
Women	150 (0.67)	90 (0.81)	60 (0.54)	1.50 (1.01, 2.23)	
Men	72 (0.59)	31 (0.51)	41 (0.67)	0.76 (0.43, 1.33)	
Age <sup>j,k</sup>					0.04
<45 years	123 (0.73)	71 (0.85)	52 (0.62)	1.38 (0.90, 2.12)	
≥45 years	99 (0.55)	50 (0.56)	49 (0.55)	1.02 (0.63, 1.63)	
Body mass index <sup>j,k</sup>					0.07
≤25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	95 (0.56)	57 (0.67)	38 (0.45)	1.49 (0.91, 2.44)	
>25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	127 (0.72)	64 (0.73)	63 (0.71)	1.03 (0.68, 1.56)	
Sun exposure Jul–Oct 20 <sup>k</sup>					0.27
≤30 hours	95 (0.69)	54 (0.78)	41 (0.60)	1.30 (0.80, 2.12)	
>30 hours	127 (0.61)	67 (0.65)	60 (0.57)	1.13 (0.74, 1.72)	
Vitamin D supplement use <sup>e</sup>					0.19
No	165 (0.61)	91 (0.68)	74 (0.55)	1.22 (0.85, 1.77)	
Yes	57 (0.74)	30 (0.79)	27 (0.69)	1.14 (0.61, 2.14)	

**sTable 4.** Ad-hoc subgroup analyses; Relative risk and CI<sup>a</sup> for the first and second co-primary endpoints (covid-19), according to randomised assignment to cod liver oil or placebo.

<b>Co-primary endpoint, covid-19 continued</b>	<b>Overall (n = 34 601)</b>	<b>Cod liver oil group (n = 17 278)</b>	<b>Placebo group (n = 17 323)</b>	<b>Relative Risk (CI)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>b</sup></b>
	<i>number (%) of participants with event</i>				
Second: Serious covid-19 <sup>h</sup>					
Fatty fish consumer <sup>f,j</sup>					0.04
No	98 (0.77)	58 (0.91)	40 (0.63)	1.44 (0.89, 2.34)	
Yes	123 (0.58)	63 (0.59)	60 (0.56)	1.06 (0.69, 1.62)	
Vaccinated study period <sup>g,j</sup>					<0.001 <sup>†</sup>
No	179 (0.80)	93 (0.84)	86 (0.77)	1.10 (0.77, 1.56)	
Yes	43 (0.35)	28 (0.45)	15 (0.25)	1.83 (0.86, 3.89)	
Strict compliance (yes) <sup>h</sup>	154 (0.66)	79 (0.66)	75 (0.66)	1.00 (0.69, 1.47)	0.55

Data were missing for 1.7–5.4% of the participants.

<sup>a</sup>First co-primary and second co-primary endpoints (covid-19) 97.0% and 98.2% confidence interval (CI), respectively

<sup>b</sup>The logistic procedure test of the global hypothesis Wald test, significance criterion  $\alpha=0.03$  and 0.018 for the first and second co-primary endpoints, respectively.

<sup>c</sup>Further details are found in sTable 7 and sFigure 1

<sup>d</sup>These results are supported using logistic regression with Age, Body mass index and Sun exposure observed individual values. Treatment type 3 effect p-value are all >0.91 and explanatory effect type 3 p-values are <0.001, 0.40, and 0.53, respectively.

<sup>e</sup>Taking vitamin D supplements (including cod liver oil)  $\geq 5$  days/week was an exclusion criterion, but those with a lower frequency of usage were included.

<sup>f</sup>Consuming fatty fish  $\geq 1-2$  days/week and/or  $\geq 1-3$  slices of bread with fatty fish/week.

<sup>g</sup>Reported having  $\geq 1$  SARS-CoV-2 vaccines during the intervention period.

<sup>h</sup>Strict compliance (n=11 959 cod liver oil group, n=11 412 placebo group): reported cod liver oil/placebo consumed >0.5 L or consuming cod liver oil/placebo >2-3 months

<sup>i</sup>SARS-CoV-2 positive test and self-reported dyspnoea (n=222) and/or hospitalisation (n=17, 8 in the cod liver oil group and 9 in the placebo group) or death (n=0).

<sup>j</sup>Further details are found in sTable 8 and sFigure 2.

<sup>k</sup>These results are supported using logistic regression with Age, Body mass index and Sun exposure observed individual values. Treatment type 3 effect p-value are 0.17, 0.16, and 0.16 and explanatory effect type 3 p-values are <0.001, 0.06, and 0.30, respectively.

<sup>\*</sup>The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Age factor (<45 years versus  $\geq 45$  years) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.99.

<sup>\*\*</sup>The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Vaccinated study period factor (No versus Yes) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.97.

<sup>†</sup>The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Vaccinated study period factor (No versus Yes) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.16.

**sTable 5.** Ad-hoc subgroup analyses; Relative Risk and 99.9% CI for the third and fourth co-primary endpoints (acute respiratory infections), according to randomised assignment to cod liver oil or placebo.

<b>Co-primary endpoint, acute respiratory infections</b>	<b>Overall (n = 34 601)</b>	<b>Cod liver oil group (n = 17 278)</b>	<b>Placebo group (n = 17 323)</b>	<b>Relative Risk (99.9% CI)</b>	<b>p<sup>a</sup></b>
	<i>number (%) of participants with event</i>				
<b>Third: SARS-CoV-2 negative test result</b>					
Sex					<0.001*
Women	11 564 (51.75)	5 769 (51.69)	5 795 (51.81)	1.00 (0.96, 1.04)	
Men	5 547 (45.27)	2 777 (45.40)	2 770 (45.14)	1.01 (0.94, 1.07)	
Age <sup>b</sup>					<0.001**
<45 years	9 938 (59.32)	4 960 (59.47)	4 978 (59.18)	1.01 (0.96, 1.05)	
≥45 years	7 173 (40.19)	3 586 (40.12)	3 587 (40.25)	1.00 (0.94, 1.06)	
Body mass index <sup>b</sup>					<0.001†
≤25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	8 742 (51.46)	4 414 (51.76)	4 328 (51.16)	1.01 (0.96, 1.06)	
>25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	8 369 (47.51)	4 132 (47.22)	4 237 (47.81)	0.99 (0.94, 1.04)	
Sun exposure Jul–Oct 20 <sup>b</sup>					0.19
≤30 hours	6 743 (48.85)	3 403 (48.98)	3 340 (48.72)	1.01 (0.95, 1.06)	
>30 hours	10 368 (49.85)	5 143 (49.79)	5 225 (49.91)	1.00 (0.95, 1.04)	
Vitamin D supplement use <sup>c</sup>					0.17
No	13 214 (49.18)	6 603 (49.03)	6 611 (49.33)	0.99 (0.95, 1.04)	
Yes	3 897 (50.39)	1 943 (50.97)	1 954 (49.82)	1.02 (0.95, 1.10)	
Fatty fish consumer <sup>d</sup>					<0.001††
No	6 547 (51.49)	3 298 (51.68)	3 249 (51.30)	1.01 (0.95, 1.07)	
Yes	10 259 (48.20)	5 103 (48.14)	5 156 (48.26)	1.00 (0.95, 1.05)	
Vaccinated study period <sup>e</sup>					<0.001†
No	11 561 (51.91)	5 703 (51.63)	5 858 (52.18)	0.99 (0.95, 1.03)	
Yes	5 550 (45.01)	2 843 (45.61)	2 707 (44.40)	1.03 (0.96, 1.10)	
Strict compliance <sup>f</sup>					<0.001#
No	5 995 (53.07)	2 828 (52.85)	3 167 (53.27)	0.99 (0.94, 1.05)	
Yes	11 116 (47.70)	5 718 (47.94)	5 398 (47.44)	1.01 (0.97, 1.06)	
<b>Fourth: Acute respiratory infections</b>					
Sex					<0.001‡
Women	5 269 (23.58)	2 677 (23.99)	2 592 (23.17)	1.04 (0.96, 1.12)	
Men	2 529 (20.64)	1 287 (21.04)	1 242 (20.24)	1.04 (0.93, 1.17)	
Age <sup>g</sup>					<0.001‡‡
<45 years	4 409 (26.32)	2 253 (27.01)	2 156 (25.63)	1.05 (0.97, 1.15)	
≥45 years	3 389 (18.99)	1 711 (19.14)	1 678 (18.83)	1.02 (0.92, 1.13)	
Body mass index <sup>g</sup>					0.06
≤25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	3770 (22.19)	1954 (22.92)	1816 (21.47)	1.07 (0.97, 1.17)	
>25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	4028 (22.87)	2010 (22.97)	2018 (22.77)	1.01 (0.92, 1.11)	
Sun exposure Jul–Oct 20 <sup>g</sup>					0.18
≤30 hours	3 126 (22.65)	1 610 (23.17)	1 516 (22.12)	1.05 (0.94, 1.16)	
>30 hours	4 672 (22.46)	2 354 (22.79)	2 318 (22.14)	1.03 (0.95, 1.12)	
Vitamin D supplement use <sup>c</sup>					0.002
No	5 958 (22.18)	3 026 (22.47)	2 932 (21.88)	1.03 (0.95, 1.11)	
Yes	1 840 (23.79)	938 (24.61)	902 (23.00)	1.07 (0.94, 1.22)	

**sTable 5.** Ad-hoc subgroup analyses; Relative Risk and 99.9% CI for the third and fourth co-primary endpoints (acute respiratory infections), according to randomised assignment to cod liver oil or placebo.

<b>Co-primary endpoint, acute respiratory infections continued</b>	<b>Overall (n = 34 601)</b>	<b>Cod liver oil group (n = 17 278)</b>	<b>Placebo group (n = 17 323)</b>	<b>Relative Risk (99.9% CI)</b>	<b>p<sup>a</sup></b>
	<i>number (%) of participants with event</i>				
Fourth: Acute respiratory infections					
Fatty fish consumer <sup>d</sup>					<0.001 <sup>s</sup>
No	3 075 (24.19)	1 539 (24.12)	1 536 (24.25)	0.99 (0.90, 1.10)	
Yes	4 689 (22.03)	2 405 (22.69)	2 284 (21.38)	1.06 (0.97, 1.16)	
Vaccinated study period <sup>e</sup>					<0.001 <sup>ss</sup>
No	4 880 (21.91)	2 454 (22.22)	2 426 (21.61)	1.03 (0.95, 1.12)	
Yes	2 918 (23.67)	1 510 (24.23)	1 408 (23.09)	1.05 (0.94, 1.17)	
Strict compliance (yes) <sup>f</sup>	6 824 (29.28)	3 531 (29.61)	3 293 (28.94)	1.02 (0.96, 1.09)	0.79

Data were missing for 1.7–5.4% of the participants.

<sup>a</sup>The logistic procedure test of the global hypothesis Wald test, significance criterion  $\alpha=0.001$ .

<sup>b</sup>These results are supported by using logistic regression with Age, Body mass index and Sun exposure observed individual values. Treatment type 3 effect p-values are all >0.53, and explanatory effect type 3 p-values are <0.001, <0.001 and 0.37, respectively.

<sup>c</sup>Taking vitamin D supplements (including cod liver oil)  $\geq 5$  days/week was an exclusion criterion, but those with lower frequency of usage were included.

<sup>d</sup>Consuming fatty fish  $\geq 1-2$  days/week and/or  $\geq 1-3$  slices of bread with fatty fish/week.

<sup>e</sup>Reported having  $\geq 1$  SARS-CoV-2 vaccines during the intervention period.

<sup>f</sup>Strict compliance (n=11 959 cod liver oil group, n=11 412 placebo group): reported cod liver oil/placebo consumed >0.5 L or consuming cod liver oil/placebo >2-3 months

<sup>g</sup>These results are supported by using logistic regression with Age, Body mass index and Sun exposure observed individual values. Treatment type 3 effect p-values are all between 0.07 and 0.09, and explanatory effect type 3 p-values are <0.001, 0.04 and 0.66, respectively.

\*The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Sex factor (Women versus Men) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.98.

\*\*The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Age factor (<45 years versus  $\geq 45$  years) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.89.

†The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Body mass index factor (<25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> versus  $\geq 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 1.00.

††The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Fatty fish consumer factor (No versus Yes) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.90.

‡The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Vaccinated study period factor (No versus Yes) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.88.

#The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Strict compliance factor (No versus Yes) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.71.

‡The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Sex factor (Women versus Men) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.07.

‡‡The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Age factor (<45 years versus  $\geq 45$  years) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.06.

<sup>s</sup>The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Fatty fish consumer factor (No versus Yes) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.09.

<sup>ss</sup>The type 3 analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Vaccinated study period factor (No versus Yes) of <0.001, p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.08.

**sTable 6.** Ad-hoc subgroup analyses; the third and fourth co-primary endpoints (acute respiratory infections), according to skin type and assignment to cod liver oil or placebo.

<b>Co-primary endpoint, acute respiratory infections</b>	<b>Cod liver oil group (n = 17 278)</b>		<b>Placebo group (n = 17 323)</b>		<b>p<sup>a</sup></b>
	<i>number (%) of participants with event</i>				
Third: SARS-CoV-2 negative test result	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Skin type					<0.001*
Easily burnt, rarely tan	648 (7.80)	701 (8.56)	613 (7.37)	685 (8.41)	
Easily burnt, sometimes tan	918 (11.04)	1 003 (12.25)	881 (10.59)	1 004 (12.33)	
Sometimes burnt, always tan	5 699 (68.56)	5 563 (67.96)	5 694 (68.46)	5 494 (67.49)	
Never burnt, always tan	879 (10.57)	754 (9.21)	945 (11.36)	781 (9.59)	
Naturally tan	169 (2.03)	165 (2.02)	184 (2.21)	177 (2.17)	
Fourth: Acute respiratory infections	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Skin type					<0.001**
Easily burnt, rarely tan	987 (7.82)	362 (9.34)	982 (7.73)	316 (8.43)	
Easily burnt, sometimes tan	1 417 (11.23)	504 (13.00)	1 385 (10.90)	500 (13.34)	
Sometimes burnt, always tan	8 633 (68.39)	2 629 (67.83)	8 651 (68.07)	2 537 (67.67)	
Never burnt, always tan	1 300 (10.30)	333 (8.59)	1 382 (10.87)	344 (9.18)	
Naturally tan	286 (2.27)	48 (1.24)	309 (2.43)	52 (1.39)	

<sup>a</sup>The logistic procedure test of the global hypothesis Wald test, significance criterion  $\alpha=0.001$ .

\*The joint tests analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Skin type factor <0.001, the p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.47.

\*\*The joint tests analysis of effects resulted in p-value for the Skin type factor <0.001, the p-value for the treatment (cod liver oil/placebo) 0.31.



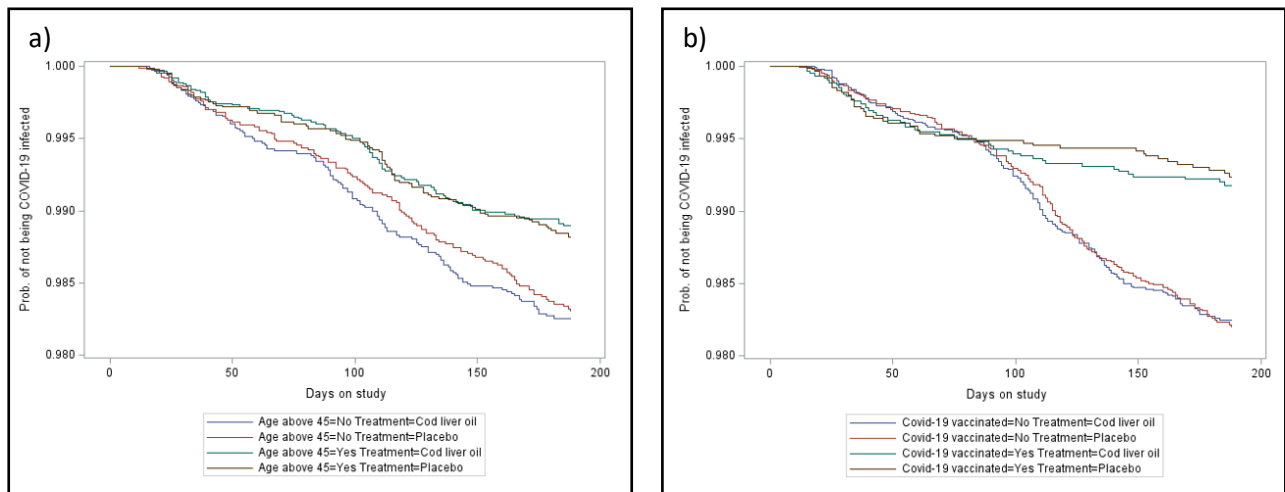
**sTable 7.** Logistic regression with explanatory variables, positive SARS-CoV-2 test result

Summary of Stepwise Selection								
Step	Effect		DF	Number In	Score Chi-Square	Wald Chi-Square	Pr > ChiSq	Variable Label
	Entered	Removed						
1	Cov19_VaccineYN		1	1	48.2679		<0.001	Covid-19 vaccinated (No versus Yes)
2	gen_age_above45		1	2	5.8448		0.02	Age (<45 years versus ≥45 years)

**sTable 8.** Logistic regression with explanatory variables, serious covid-19

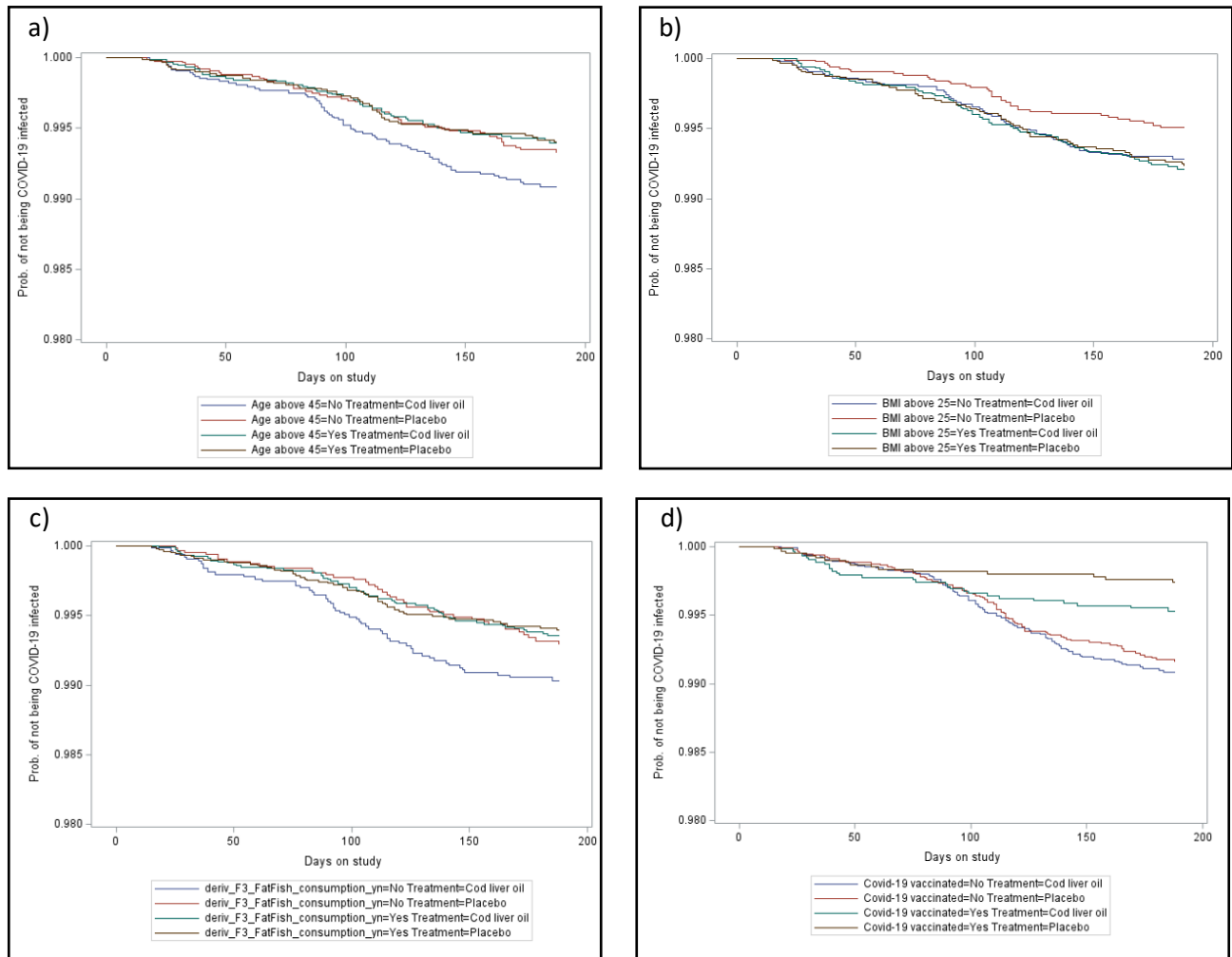
Summary of Stepwise Selection								
Step	Effect		DF	Number In	Score Chi-Square	Wald Chi-Square	Pr > ChiSq	Variable Label
	Entered	Removed						
1	Cov19_VaccineYN		1	1	26.4426		<0.001	Covid-19 vaccinated (No versus Yes)
2	BMI_Above25		1	2	4.4747		0.03	Body mass index (≤25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> versus >25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )
3	deriv_F3_FatFish_con		1	3	3.1783		0.07	Fatty fish consumer (No versus Yes)
4	gen_CLOC_compliance_		1	4	2.1361		0.14	Strict compliance (Yes)
5	Treatment		1	5	1.5609		0.21	Cod liver oil versus Placebo
6	deriv_F3_VitaminD_us		1	6	1.2593		0.26	Vitamin D supplement use (No versus Yes)

**Figure 1** Positive SARS-CoV-2 test result over the intervention period



The Kaplan-Meier curve demonstrates the probability of a SARS-CoV-2 positive test result stratified by a) Age (<45 years versus  $\geq 45$ ), and b) Vaccinated study period (No versus Yes) for the cod liver oil and the placebo groups over the intervention period ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Figure 2** Serious Covid-19 over the intervention period



The Kaplan-Meier curve demonstrates the probability of serious covid-19 stratified by a) Age (<45 years versus ≥45), b) Body mass index (BMI, ≤25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> versus >25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), c) Fatty fish consumer (No versus Yes), and d) Vaccinated study period (No versus Yes) for the cod liver oil and the placebo groups over the intervention period (p<0.05).