

# Crystallized Vitamin D Analog "F-24"

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## Technology description

The hormonally active form of vitamin D, known as calcitriol or 1,25 dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>, has shown promise for treating diseases ranging from osteoporosis to cancer to psoriasis. However, the hormone mobilizes calcium from bones and increases intestinal absorption of dietary calcium. Effective therapeutic concentrations can lead to hypercalcemia; a condition characterized by elevated blood calcium levels, alterations in mental status, muscle weakness and calcification of soft tissues and organs such as the heart and kidneys. Therefore, a need exists for non-calcemic compounds that provide desirable therapeutic effects without causing dose-limiting hypercalcemia.

UW–Madison researchers previously developed a vitamin D analog, (20R)-2-methylene-19-nor-24-difluoro-1 $\alpha$ ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>, also known as F-24, which binds the vitamin D receptor with slightly less affinity than the native hormone. F-24 shows little to no activity on intestinal calcium transport and bone calcium mobilization as compared to vitamin D *in vivo*, making it less likely to cause hypercalcemia. However, it must be purified before it can be used as a pharmaceutical. UW–Madison researchers now have developed a method using a mixture of 2-propanol and hexane to crystallize F-24. This efficient process removes most of the contaminants from the synthetic F-24, resulting in a highly pure product.

The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) is seeking commercial partners interested in developing a vitamin D analog known as F-24 for pharmaceutical use.

## Application area

Production of highly pure F-24 for use as a pharmaceutical

## Advantages

Crystallization process occurs easily and efficiently.

Solvent mixture is easy to remove.

Precipitated crystals are large enough to be recovered via filtration or other means.

## Institution

[Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation](#)

## Inventors

[James Thoden](#)

[Hazel Holden](#)

[Agnieszka Flores](#)

[Hector DeLuca](#)

## 联系我们



叶先生

电话 : 021-65679356

手机 : 13414935137

邮箱 : yeyingsheng@zf-ym.com