A 67 year-old white woman retired school teacher entered the University of California Medical Center with the chief complaint of swelling of the ankles, hips and shoulders. She also reported a 30-pound weight loss and arthritis for 15 years treated with vitamins, calcium tablets and, lately, steroids.

FIGURE 3: Anteroposterior pelvic film.

*Department of Radiology, University of California Medical Center.
Physical examination revealed a wasted elderly white woman with dry skin, numerous nodules on her hands and swelling of her shoulder, hip and ankle joints. In addition, she demonstrated 2+ pitting edema and cardiomegaly. The serum calcium was 6.15 m.Eq./L. and the phosphorus 6.0 mg. per cent. There was albuminuría and the NPN was 185 mg. per cent.

**Diagnosis:** HYPERVITAMINOSIS D WITH CHRONIC RENAL FAILURE AND CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE

Further history revealed that she had taken a total of 300,000 i.u. of vitamin D a day each winter for ten years and in the past five years had taken it during the entire year.

Biopsy of a skin nodule showed a calcified giant cell reaction, and aspiration of a shoulder bursa yielded a pasty yellow-white material which contained calcium crystals.

Roentgenograms also demonstrated widespread calcification of a soft nodular type about the shoulders, scapulae, hips, knees, ankles, and hands (Fig. 3). Multiple vessels and the kidneys were also calcified.

**Discussion**

Since the development of high potency vitamin D preparations and their use in arthritis, many cases of intoxication have been reported. It is interesting to note that only a small number of patients ingesting large amounts of vitamin D, usually as activated ergosterol, develop pathologic changes. Most of them show renal failure, osteoporosis and pathologic calcifications around joints and bursal sacs, and in gouty tophi when these are present. This calcification is quite typical and roentgenographically resembles bunches of grapes.

**REFERENCES**


The Committee on Chest Roentgenology welcomes comments. We would also be pleased to receive x-ray films of exceptional interest with brief history. Please submit material to: Benjamin Felton, M.D., chairman, Department of Radiology, Cincinnati General Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio.

---

**DISTRIBUTION OF INH IN ORGANISM OF GUINEA PIGS**

Cattaneo and his associates studied the distribution of C₃₀ labelled INH in the tuberculous guinea pig. They could demonstrate by detection of radioactivity and chromatographic studies that the INH penetrates normal and caseous lymph nodes.