Inconsistent data in text and tables

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Recently, we compared meta-analyses of vitamin D on falls and fractures [1, 2] and found that different meta-analysts had used different results from a trial by Pfeiffer and colleagues [3]. This was a randomised trial of calcium monotherapy (Ca) or co-administered calcium and vitamin D (CaD) on falls. We reviewed the primary publication and found discrepancies in the text and tables that might explain the different results used in the meta-analyses. It would be helpful if these differences listed here could be explained and corrected.

1. The text and Table 1 reports 121 participants in each treatment group, but Table 3 reports 120 for Ca and 122 for CaD.
2. Table 3 reports that 75 participants fell with Ca and 49 with CaD, but the breakdown of fallers in Table 3 sums to 71 for Ca and 53 for CaD.
3. The text reports the total number of falls as 171 with Ca and 76 with CaD, but Table 3 reports 169 with Ca and 106 with CaD.
4. The breakdown of total falls in Table 3 sums to at least 111 with CaD, which is greater than the total falls for CaD reported in the text (76) and Table 3 (106).
5. The text reports the mean number of falls per group as 1.41 with Ca and 0.63 with CaD which are incompatible

with the reported total number of falls in the text and Table 3.

6. The text reports 13 participants with fracture with Ca whereas Table 3 reports 12.

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Conflicts of interest None.

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