Dedication

To my parents

To my husband

To my sisters and brother

To my friends

I dedicate this work

Sara

### Acknowledgements

I would like to convey my gratitude and thanks to my supervisors professor. Abdelrahim Osman Mohamed & Dr. Amar Mohammed Ismail, for their guidance during this research. Their advice in research had motivated all their students, including me.

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Finally my thanks to all females participant who made this study possible.

#### **Abstract**

Background: Vitamin D (VD) status is a modifiable factor that may reduce risk of breast cancer through modulation of cell proliferation, apoptosis, invasion and metastasis via binding to a specific receptor, the vitamin D receptor (VDR). The study aims to asses 25-VD levels and VDR gene polymorphisms (Fok1, Bsm1, Taq1, Apa1) among Sudanese females with breast cancer.

Materials and Methods: This is a case control study conducted during the period, November 2013 to July 2016, in Radio and Isotope Center in Khartoum, Sudan. The subjects were 190 females with breast cancer (patients) and 107 healthy females (controls), matched for age. Blood samples were collected and analyzed for VD levels using ELISA technique, DNA was extracted using guanidine chloroform method, and genotyped for the single nucleotide polymorphisms SNPs of Fok1 (T/C) [rs2228570], Bsm1 (G/A) [rs1544410], Taq1 (C/T) [rs731236] and Apa1 (C/A) [(rs7975232] by polymerase chain reaction and restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) analysis. Genotyping of some samples were confirmed by sequencing (Macrogen Company, Seoul, Korea). BioEdit software was used for multiple sequence alignment.

**Results:** VD deficiency was found in 99.5% of females with breast cancer and 96.3% in the healthy females. There was no significant difference between the two groups p-value = 0.069. Both patients and controls women had severe deficiency of VD. There was significant negative correlation found between BMI and VD levels in patients (p-value < 0.001, r= -0.509), and negative correlation but not significant among controls. Age and parity revealed no associations with vitamin D levels. There was no significant difference between educational level and vitamin D levels in patients and controls. The occupation status revealed nearly significant difference with vitamin D levels in patients and significant in controls (p-value= 0.053, p-value= 0.032) respectively. VDR-Taq1 was significantly associated with low risk of breast cancer (OR=0.5, p-

value = 0.002), while no significant association was observed with VDR-Fok1, Bsm1 and Apa1. Sequence alignment showed consistent change with the rs2228570, rs731236, rs7975232 polymorphic sites. No significant differences in the means of serum vitamin D levels with VDR-SNPs Fok1, Bsm1 and Apa1 genotypes were observed (P>0.05), while there was significant difference in vitamin D levels and VDR-Taq1 when considering dominant genotype model (P-value= 0.016).

**Conclusions:** In conclusion this study has shown that VD deficiency is high in both study groups. Obesity is a risk factor for VD deficiency. Therefore, VD supplementation is recommended. VDR-Taq1 was associated with low risk of breast cancer in Sudanese females.

### مستخلص الدراسة

المقدمة: يعتبر فايتمين د من العوامل التي قد تقال خطر سرطان الثدي من خلال تنظيم تكاثر الخلايا, موت الخلايا المبرمجه والغزو, عن طريق ارتباطه لمستقبلات محدده, مستقبلات فايتمين د. أجريت هذة الدراسة لتعيين مستوي فايتمين د والاشكال الجينيه المتعددة لمستقبلات فايتميين د (Fokl, Bsml, Taql, Apal) في النساء السودانيات المصابات بسرطان الثدي. طرق البحث: اجريت هذه الدراسة خلال الفترة من نوفمبر 2013 وحتي يوليو 2016 في مركز الخرطوم للعلاج بالاشعة والطب النووي, السودان. شملت هذة الدراسة 190 من النساء السودانيات المصابات بسرطان الثدي(المرضي) و 107 من النساء السودانيات الاصحاء (الضوابط), كان هناك تطابق في العمر، تم جمع عينات من الدم من كلا المجموعتين ثم تم قياس مستويات فايتمين د باستخدام فحص الممتز المناعي المرتبط بالانزيم ,ثم تم استخلاص الحمض النووي باستخدام طريقة جواندين كلوروفورم لأداء تقينة تفاعل البوليمريز المتسلسل لتضاعف الحمض النووي واستخدام تقنية تعدد اشكال اطوال الشدف الحصرية للتعرف علي طفرة معينة من الجينات.

النتائج: اظهرت الدراسه أن هناك %99.5 من النساء المصابات بسرطان الثدي لديهم نقص في فايتمين د و %96.3 من النساء الاصحاء. لا توجد فروقات ذات دلاله احصائية معنوية بين المجموعتين, القيمة الاحتماليه =0.069.

 الخلاصة: اظهرت الدراسة ان نقص فايتمين د مرتفع في كل من مجموعتين الدراسة. السمنة هي أحد العوامل الذي يسبب نقص فايتمين د. توجد علاقة بين الاشكال الجينية المتعددة لمستقبل فايتمين د Taq1 وانخفاض سرطان الثدي عند النساء السودانيات.

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### **Abbreviations**

VD Vitamin D

VDR Vitamin D Receptor

BMI Body Mass Index

UV Ultra violet

DBP VD binding protein

CYP Cytochrome P

RXR Retinoid X receptor

HAT Histone acetyl transferase

PTH Parathyroid hormone

FGF23 Fibroblast growth factor 23

LBD Ligand-binding domain

DBD DNA-binding domain

ATP Adenosine triphosphate

SNPs Single nucleotide polymorphisms

DNA Deoxyribonucleic acid

PCR Polymerase chain reaction

RFLP Restriction fragment length polymorphism

ddH2O Double-distilled water

WCLB White cell lysis buffer

RCLB Red cell lysis buffer

RICK Radio and Isotope Center of Khartoum

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