

Spain, Convincing Therapeutic Evidence Dr. John Campbell – 13 Feb 2021 https://youtu.be/oYK9-zvJF_k

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Effect of calcifediol treatment and best available therapy versus best available therapy on intensive care unit admission and mortality among patients hospitalized for COVID-19: A pilot randomized clinical study (October 2020)

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7456194/

n = 76, Calcifediol treatment 50 patients treated with calcifediol One required admission to ICU (2%) No deaths 26 untreated patients 13 required admission to ICU (50 %) 2 deaths Calcifediol treatment and COVID-19-related outcomes (22nd January) Barna-COVIDIOL Barcelona https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3771318 Effect of calcifediol treatment In admitted patients On ICU admission and mortality N = 930 Randomly assigned Calcifediol treatment group n = 551Day one, 532 ug (21,000 iu) Days, 3, 7, 15, 30, 266 ug (10,640 iu) No adverse effects reported Required ICU, 30 (5.4%) Deaths, 36 (6.5%) Death RR = 0.3664% reduced chance of death Control group n = 379Required ICU, 80 (21.1%), p less than 0.0001 Deaths, 57 (15%), p = 0.001 Adjusted for Age Sex Comorbidities

Treated patients

Reduced risk to require ICU

RR 0.18

Baseline 25(OH)D levels

Inversely correlated with the risk of ICU

Linearized 25(OH)D levels at baseline

Predictors of reduced mortality

Higher baseline 25(OH)D levels

Predictors on increased mortality

Age

Obesity

Interpretation

In patients hospitalized with COVID-19, calcifediol treatment at the time of hospitalization significantly reduced ICU admission and mortality.

Early calcifediol after admission

Prior to ARDS development, is critical for mortality reduction

Initiation of calcifediol during ICU admission did not modify patient survival

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00:01 you're almost welcome to this talk and 00:02 i'm going to give you the bottom line 00:03 straight away in case you haven't got 00:05 time to listen and it's a really 00:07 important study it's on calcifidiol the 00:10 vitamin d derivative 00:11 it's been done in barcelona in spain now 00:14 these 00:15 researchers they admitted 930 people and 00:18 recruited them into the trial that is a 00:20 good 00:20 size 930 people in the trial now the 00:23 treatment group were given the calcified 00:25 eye or the vitamin d derivative 00:27 the control group were given exactly the 00:28 same treatment but they were not 00:30 given the calcified diet so what were 00:32 the results 00:33 well in the treatment group 5.4 percent 00:36 were admitted to the itu 00:38 in the control group it was 21 admitted 00:41 to the itu 00:43 big difference so 5.4 went to itu in the 00:45 treatment group 00:46 21.1 percent went to itu in the uh 00:50 control group 00:51 in the treatment group the death rate 00:53 and these are people that were already 00:54 admitted to hospital of course so 00:56 they're already poorly 00:57 in the treatment group 6.5 percent of 01:00 patients died in the control group 01:02 15 of patients died so it's 6.5 01:06 versus 15. this is massive this is a 01:09 huge result 01:10 all of these results were highly 01:12 significant 01:13 there was either one chance in a 01:15 thousand the results could have risen by 01:16 chance or one chance in ten thousand 01:18 that those results could have risen by 01:20 chance and 01:22 to be quite honest if national 01:24 regulators and 01:25 people that decide clinical policy 01:26 around the world don't start listening 01:29 to this data now 01:30 i think they're in breach of their duty 01:31 of care so that's the bottom line 01:34 massively significant study very 01:36 positive result 01:38 if you want to stick around we'll now go 01:39 into the detail 01:42 now you might remember that back in 01:44 october last year we reported on this 01:47 paper here 01:49 uh now this paper here is uh 01:52 is that this one the effect of a 01:54 calcifidiol treatment 01:56 versus best available therapy but it was 01:58 a pilot study now it was a randomized 02:00 clinical study so it was good 02:03 um but the number was only 76 patients 02:06 so 02:07 pretty small number of patients but the 02:09 results were impressive 02:10 50 patients treated with calcifidiol and 02:14 one that's two percent 02:15 required admission to the itu no deaths 02:18 in the treatment group in the 26 02:21 untreated 02:22 patients 13 that's 50 were admitted to 02:25 the itu 02:26 two deaths so that was um 02:30 really guite a a seminal paper really 02:33 that was a bit of a turning point 02:35 that was the first clinical trial data 02:38 and we covered that extensively at the 02:40 time and rightly so 02:42 but that stimulated a lot of interest 02:46 throughout spain and throughout spain 02:48 there's about a dozen centers now 02:49 researching this 02:51 now that was based in cordova in the 02:53 south of spain and andalucia 02:54 and they've been coordinating in close 02:57 collaboration with other universities 02:59 academics doctors and researchers 03:01 uh they're studying this all over spain 03:03 now and this is the first one to come 03:05 out so there are more to come out we 03:06 believe this is being done in 03:08 in 12 centres in spain already so it 03:11 it and the results as we've seen are are 03:14 totally convincing 03:16 now this wasn't quite a clinical trial 03:18 they described this as as a clinical 03:21 cohort study but i've read this paper 03:24 i'll by the way this paper here um 03:28 that this first one is peer-reviewed 03:30 this second one that we're looking now 03:32 is in lansing preprint so it's not 03:35 peer-reviewed 03:36 so i think it's important to emphasize 03:38 that the pilot study we looked at in 03:39 october is now fully pre-reviewed 03:41 what we're going to look at now is not 03:43 peer-reviewed but i've looked at it 03:45 and i i think it's a very high quality 03:48 study and it will be 03:49 it will be a pass for uh for full 03:52 publication pretty soon 03:54 and i suspect with minimal or no 03:56 modifications 03:58 because it is a very convincing study 04:00 and it's well conducted and the stats 04:02 are 04:02 really good um so this is the name of 04:06 the study here calcified dial so 04:08 do look at it for yourself always worth 04:10 going to the original source don't take 04:11 my word for things 04:13 you can download that's the abstract 04:15 there you can download the full 04:16 paper 04:18 so it's all there now in the public 04:20 domain 04:21 now actually published on the 22nd of 04:23 january but i didn't 04:24 couldn't get access to this until 04:26 yesterday so i think the full paper 04:28 has just been put into the public domain 04:30 so this is pretty um 04:32 pretty new stuff calciferol treatments 04:34 and covered 19 related outcomes as the 04:36 title of the paper 04:37 22nd of january and it's the the banner 04:40 cover dial 04:42 study that's the this is the name of the 04:43 study 04:45 and this particular branch of the study 04:46 was conducted and i think it's called 04:48 the hospital by the sea 04:50 in barcelona northern spain of course 04:54 right pre-prints with the lancet um 04:57 now effects of calcified oil treatment 04:59 now these are patients that were already 05:01 admitted to hospital 05:03 so that's important to grasp these 05:05 patients were ready 05:07 poorly enough to be admitted to the 05:08 hospital and this was all during the 05:11 first wave 05:12 during the first wave of the pandemic 05:14 and this date is only just getting 05:15 fully assimilated and crunched now pity 05:17 has taken so long because the results 05:19 are so significant 05:21 so admitted patients already poorly 05:24 patients 05:25 is the point to grasp there so in 05:28 admitted patients 05:30 what difference did the calcified dial 05:32 have on icu admission 05:35 what difference did it have on mortality 05:37 what was what they were looking at and 05:38 the number in the study was 930 05:41 and they were randomly assigned either 05:43 into the treatment group 05:47 to get the actual calcifidiol or into 05:51 the control 05:52 group not to get the calcifidiol 05:56 in every other way these groups were 05:59 treated 05:59 in exactly the same way as per hospital 06:02 protocol so the only difference between 06:04 the two groups was the calcify dial 06:06 we call that the independent variable 06:09 and 06:10 these are the dependent variables the 06:12 question is were these dependent 06:13 variables i see your admission 06:15 and mortality dependent on the 06:17 independent variable 06:19 which was giving the calcify dial 06:22 so this is the way these clinical trials 06:25 and cohort studies clinical cohorts that 06:27 is in this case 06:29 work now just before we go on to the 06:32 details of the paper itself i just want 06:33 to give you a quick 06:35 um quick revision really so this 06:39 is um this is just one of my diagrams 06:41 that i do for for students 06:43 so here we have the skin and the uh 06:46 the calciferol which is the vitamin d3 06:49 is going to be synthesized mostly in the 06:51 lower parts of the 06:52 skin and the skin as you might remember 06:55 is in two parts this top part is the 06:57 epidermis this lower part is the dermis 06:59 so the uh the cholecalciferol the 07:02 vitamin d3 is synthesized in the 07:05 dermis when it's exposed to ultraviolet 07:07 b 07:09 radiation then this coley 07:12 uh this cholecalciferol that's been 07:14 synthesized 07:15 goes off in the blood to the liver the 07:18 biochemical factory of the body 07:20 and in the liver it's converted to 07:22 calcifidiol 07:24 now this is the form that is circulating 07:26 in the blood so this goes off into the 07:28 blood 07:31 so this is the form of the vitamin d 07:33 that when we're doing the blood levels 07:35 this is the form that we're looking at 07:37 but it's not actually the final form the 07:39 body uses now it's the best bio marker 07:41 to use 07:42 so when we're analyzing vitamin d levels 07:44 this is the best one to use 07:46 for quite a few reasons for example it's 07:47 got a long half-life 07:49 it stays in the circulation for weeks 07:51 the half-life is about 12 to 21 days so 07:54 it let's stick around sticks around for 07:55 a long time 07:56 and it's in much higher concentrations 07:58 than the final one but the final product 08:00 here is calcitrol 08:01 so it goes from the blood uh into the 08:04 kidneys 08:05 and in the kidneys it's converted into 08:08 calcitrol 08:09 which is the active hormone and then 08:12 it's this calcitrol hormone 08:14 that goes out to all of the tissues of 08:15 the body such as the immune system 08:18 and all the tissues in the body with 08:19 vitamin d receptors which is basically 08:21 most of the cells or indeed all of the 08:23 cells 08:24 in the body so that's the way it works 08:26 so this is important 08:28 because this keeps the liver supplied 08:30 with the calcifidiol 08:31 to convert into calcitrol which is the 08:33 active form 08:34 but obviously there's not enough of that 08:36 you can't make enough of that 08:38 but if you give more of that then you 08:40 end up with more of that so you end up 08:42 more of the active hormone which is what 08:45 we want 08:49 if we give if we give more now 08:53 if we give vitamin d of course this is 08:55 vitamin d made from the skun its sun if 08:57 we give vitamin d via the 08:58 gastrointestinal tract 09:00 um that will of course uh go to the 09:01 liver the colon calcium will go to the 09:03 liver to be converted to calcifidial 09:05 but this process of converting that 09:09 into that in the liver takes uh quite a 09:12 bit of time 09:13 um it's not like um a week or two to 09:16 convert it so there's always a delay 09:19 that's why when we give this in clinical 09:21 practice it's working straight away 09:24 so i think that's important to realize 09:26 anyway 09:28 let's get back to the back to the study 09:32 um so calcifidiol treatment group now 09:36 there was a 09:38 551 went into the treatment group 09:41 now on day one this is the first day of

09:43 admission to hospital so remember 09:45 poorly patients admitted to hospital 09:48 soon as they came into hospital 09:49 they started the treatment as soon as 09:51 they're admitted so day one 09:53 they gave them 532 micrograms that's 21 09:57 000 international units of calcified io 10:00 and then they gave 266 micrograms that's 10:04 10 10:06 640 international units of calcifidiol 10:09 on day 3 and day 7 10:12 and day 15 and day 30 if they were still 10:15 in hospital 10:16 so they had a total of one two three 10:19 four five doses of high doses it must be 10:23 said reasonably high doses of the 10:24 calcifidiol 10:26 the reason they use the calcified diol 10:28 as we've said 10:29 is it is absorbed very efficiently 10:31 through the gastrointestinal tract 10:32 100 of it's absorbed straight into the 10:34 blood it will stay in the blood for 10:37 several weeks it will be measurable it's 10:39 got a long half-life 10:40 and it means there's any amount of 10:43 calcifidiol 10:44 in the blood that the kidneys can 10:46 convert to the active form of calcitrol 10:49 so we'll get the effect of the active 10:51 hormone 10:52 in the blood so if we gave this first 10:55 we'd have to wait for a couple weeks to 10:57 get to this stage so by giving this we 10:59 save all that time 11:01 and convert this into this will just 11:03 take a matter of hours 11:05 rather than a matter of uh a week or 11:08 many days or a week and of course if 11:10 patient patients are already poorly 11:12 the whole point is we don't have a week 11:14 to wait they could die in that week 11:16 after they've been admitted to hospital 11:17 we certainly don't have a fortnight we 11:18 have to give the kalki for dial 11:20 to be quick acting and the spanish seem 11:23 to have realized this when everyone else 11:25 doesn't now let me ask you why don't 11:27 people get this is that is that is what 11:29 i've just told you they're complicated 11:31 you know is that is that hard to 11:33 understand it really is 11:35 why don't people get this and why isn't 11:36 everyone doing it really is 11:39 a bit of a mystery anyway back to the 11:41 study keep the emotion out of it 11:44 um now no adverse effects reported now 11:48 this is 11:48 staggering this is staggering 11:52 this appears to have no side effects 11:57 i mean every every every time you learn 11:59 about a drug you learn about the 12:00 indications contraindications and side 12:02 effects 12:02 this is we would memorize this like 12:04 parrots so you know you you give a drug 12:07 you learn what it's for the indication 12:09 the contraindications is when you must 12:10 not give it and all drugs have side 12:12 effects 12:12 so you have to memorize the side effects 12:14 nausea vomiting dry mouth whatever it 12:16 happens to be 12:18 um but this calcified diol had no 12:20 reported adverse effects 12:22 it appears to be completely safe 12:26 so that really alters the risk benefit 12:28 analysis 12:29 you know there's no identified risk from 12:31 this in in these hospitalized patients 12:33 from this study 12:35 no identified risks identified in this 12:37 study so 12:39 um you know if we can have some benefit 12:42 and you're taking essentially as far as 12:44 we know 12:44 essentially no risk at all what what's 12:47 not to like why not why not do it 12:50 because it's safe according to this 12:53 study no adverse effects reported 12:56 now the calciferol treatment group um 13:00 30 patients so 30 patients of the 13:04 551 had to go to the intensive care 13:07 that's 5.4 percent 13:10 now if we go down to the control group 13:12 uh there was uh 13:14 379 in the control group who did not 13:17 did not have the calcific aisle then 80 13:21 of those that's 21 13:23 had to go to the intensive care and the 13:25 chances of that difference arising by 13:27 chance are not one in 13:28 10 not 100 not one in a thousand but one 13:31 in ten thousand so there's a one in ten 13:33 thousand chance 13:35 that is not a genuine result but 13:38 uh it looks like it is a genuine result 13:41 so it's nine thousand nine hundred and 13:43 ninety nine out of ten thousand 13:44 likely to be a genuine result 13:48 greatly reduced admission to the 13:50 intensive care unit 13:52 now what about deaths well out of the 13:54 551 13:56 admitted patients already poorly 13:59 who were given the calcifidiol given the 14:01 treatment 14:04 36 of the 551 died 14:08 so 36 out of 551 died 14:12 giving a death rate of 6.5 percent 14:17 in the uh control group who were treated 14:19 in exactly the same way 14:21 but uh were not given the calcific dial 14:26 then uh 57 of those out of the 379 died 14:30 that's 14:31 15 died and the probability of that 14:35 arising by chance were one in a thousand 14:39 again massively significant 14:42 results these sort of results don't 14:45 happen by chance very often well they 14:48 happen when out of 10 000 times i think 14:50 we know that that happens one out of a 14:51 thousand times 14:52 so i'm happy that these are genuine 14:54 results 14:56 so the death relative risk was a 36 14:59 percent or to put it another way 15:01 64 reduced 64 reduced 15:04 chance of death that's the chance of 15:07 death 15:08 that's the likely adverse effects of the 15:09 drug why don't we use it it 15:12 really is quite incredible that this is 15:15 not widely adopted so that's the 15:16 difference between the 15:17 calcification treatment group 551 15:22 and the control group 379 15:26 huge difference between the two 15:29 groups massive uh massive difference 15:33 between the groups 15:35 um now they went on and did more more 15:38 analysis than this is pretty pretty 15:40 thorough study actually 15:41 um 15:45 now the they went back and they took the 15:46 data and they adjusted for 15:49 age sex comorbidities and this is quite 15:52 a clever bit 15:54 most of the people that were admitted 15:55 had relatively low vitamin d levels but 15:58 they uh they were able to linear 16:00 linearize that in other words they could 16:02 take account whether it was uh 16:04 very low levels or medium levels or 16:06 medium high levels or higher 16:08 levels and they're able to put that in a 16:10 linear structure to to account for that 16:13 now the treated patients another way 16:15 they worked it out was reduced risk to 16:17 itu the relative risk was 18 16:19 it was 0.18 so that means 16:22 if you're treated you've got 18 of the 16:24 chance of going to intensive care 16:26 compared to uh someone who's not treated 16:30 so massively reduced chance of going to 16:32 intensive care 16:33 and the other thing i like about this 16:35 they also so the this is calcify dial as 16:38 a treatment 16:39 but of course they measured calcified 16:41 levels in the patients they were 16:42 admitted 16:43 and the the calcified io levels in the 16:45 patients that were admitted would be as 16:46 a result of vitamin d they'd taken in 16:48 the weeks 16:49 before they were admitted so they looked 16:52 at that as well 16:52 the baseline levels of calcifidiol based 16:55 on the person's vitamin d 16:57 either sun exposure or dietary exposure 16:59 or supplement exposure 17:00 over the past few weeks and they found 17:02 an inverse correlation with the risk of 17:04 intensive care 17:07 in other words in other words as the 17:10 levels of vitamin d rose the probability 17:14 of going to intensive care 17:15 decreased whereas people with lower 17:18 levels of intensive care 17:20 low levels of lower levels of vitamin d 17:22 on admission were 17:23 more likely to go to intensive care they 17:25 were inversely 17:27 related so high levels of vitamin d less 17:30 likelihood to go to intensive care this 17:32 inverse 17:33 correlation was detected as well 17:39 predictions of reduced mortality 17:42 higher baseline levels so in in other 17:46 words um mortality was inversely related 17:48 as well 17:49 so to predict reduce mortality those 17:52 with higher baseline levels of vitamin d 17:55 were less likely to die 17:58 um but the reason to put that like that 18:01 is there was also predictors of 18:03 increased mortality 18:05 and the people that were more likely to 18:07 die were the older people 18:09 and the more obese people so high levels 18:13 of vitamin 18:14 d on admission less likely to die 18:17 greater age 18:18 greater body mass index uh 18:22 more more likely to die during the study 18:24 less likely to die 18:26 more likely to die in the study now 18:30 we've gone over this sort of fairly 18:32 quickly really but i 18:34 just want to just want to go back and 18:35 reflect on something really 18:37 in the control group 18:40 that didn't get the treatment there were 18:42 there was 57 18:43 deaths so in a sense that's 18:46 57 people that have given their lives 18:49 for us to have this information 18:51 this is how precious this information 18:55 is if those people have been given the 18:57 calcify dial which to be quite honest 18:59 the doctor suspected would work 19:02 um a lot less of them we believe from 19:05 this data 19:06 would have died and yet 19:09 with great nobility that they agreed to 19:11 take part in this trial so 19:14 uh we know we just read through these 19:15 numbers but these are human beings that 19:17 have sacrificed themselves essentially 19:19 for this data 19:21 and i think that gives us a real moral 19:23 responsibility 19:26 um to use this data to help 19:30 the rest of the human race to be quite 19:31 honest without being too melodramatic 19:33 about it 19:36 right the interpretation of this study 19:40 um direct quote 19:45 in patients hospitalized with covered 19 19:47 calcifidiol treatment 19:49 at the time of hospitalization that's 19:51 got to be given at the time of 19:51 hospitalization 19:53 reduces significantly reduces very 19:56 significantly reduces 19:58 intensive care admission and mortality 20:02 and as i said at the start i really feel 20:04 now 20:06 that groups like the nice in this 20:09 country and 20:10 whoever makes the rules around the world 20:13 now are going to fail in their duty of 20:16 care 20:17 if they don't take cognizance of this 20:20 safe treatment now how it's working is a 20:23 bit of a separate matter i mean 20:24 basically these people are already 20:26 admitted so they could have still some 20:27 of them could have still been in the 20:28 viral phase 20:30 and we know that vitamin d is important 20:31 for immunity but we also know that 20:33 vitamin d is an immunomodulator so it 20:35 would damp down the inflammation 20:38 in the inflammatory phase and the people 20:40 with the higher levels of calcifidiol 20:42 would have less acute respiratory 20:43 distress syndrome 20:45 the alveoli wouldn't be filling up with 20:47 fluid in the same way 20:49 therefore less likely to be admitted to 20:50 intensive care and less likely to 20:53 die so that seems to be the way that 20:55 this is uh 20:57 this is working now the calcific diol 20:59 treatment had to be early after 21:01 admission 21:03 these people were given the council for 21:05 dial as soon as they were admitted 21:07 and this is important because if you 21:10 waited 21:12 until these people deteriorated and went 21:14 on to intensive care 21:15 it was too late it didn't alter the 21:17 outcome 21:18 like many things in covered the the 21:21 treatment is 21:22 specific to a particular time 21:26 so early calciferol dial treatment was 21:28 necessary after admission 21:30 prior to the development of acute 21:32 respiratory distress syndrome 21:34 it's critical for mortality reduction so 21:36 if you wait for the ards 21:38 if you wait for the cytokine storm to 21:40 cause the acute respiratory distress 21:42 syndrome 21:43 if you wait for the alveoli to fill up 21:45 with fluid 21:46 the fluids already there it's too late 21:49 it needs to prevent the inflammation 21:51 it needs to promote the immunity and 21:52 prevent the inflammation as the immuno 21:54 modulated before 21:56 the alveoli fill up with inflammatory 21:58 fluid and you can't get the oxygen out 22:00 and you can't get the carbon dioxide 22:02 back in 22:03 needs to happen before that 22:06 phase indication 22:10 of calcifidiol diol so initiation of 22:12 calcifidiol during intensive care 22:14 admission did not modify patient 22:16 survival 22:17 so it needs to be done 22:20 so ideally ideally vitamin d 22:24 is going to be given at a much earlier 22:27 stage 22:27 so when patients are admitted if they 22:29 are admitted they've already got high 22:30 levels of calcifidiol in the blood 22:34 if they haven't it's not too late it can 22:36 be topped up the calcifidar can be 22:38 topped up 22:39 when they're first admitted but if you 22:41 wait for them to deteriorate then it 22:42 doesn't have a benefit it is too 22:45 late so i think that is just an 22:49 absolutely massive finding 22:51 treatment group 5.4 admitted to the itu 22:56 control group um so 22:59 treatment group 5.4 admitted to the itu 23:01 control group 21.1 23:03 admitted to the itu 5.4 versus 21 23:08 treatment group 6.5 deaths control group 23:12 15 deaths 23:17 those figures are now there in the 23:19 literature that will be peer reviewed 23:20 soon 23:21 more data will be coming out shortly to 23:23 be quite honest we've been anticipating 23:26 this on 23:27 this channel for example for a year now 23:30 over a year now actually um literally 23:33 over 12 months now 23:34 and um i really feel strongly now that 23:38 if international um bodies are not 23:41 taking cognizance of this 23:42 um well they're failing in their duty of 23:46 care and 23:46 that's the mildest way i can put it so 23:49 we call on the 23:50 the national institute for health and 23:52 care excellence in the uk to review this 23:54 data 23:56 urgently and other people around the 24:00 world this this treatment is 24:01 uh very cheap when i say it costs 24:04 pennies literally 24:06 it costs pennies it probably costs about 24:08 10 cents per tablet or something if that 24:10 um it's off license 24:14 pharmaceutical companies won't make any 24:15 money from it 24:17 because it's off license but it's freely 24:19 available to 24:20 to the world this is this is a gift to 24:22 the world it's a really really cheap 24:25 and from this we believe highly 24:27 efficacious 24:30 intervention and uh i look forward to 24:34 rapid um review of these results 24:38 but by national bodies as you and me 24:40 have just done 24:41 on this video um 24:45 given past performance i'm not too 24:48 hopeful but the data now is so strong i 24:50 really feel 24:51 they will start to have to act uh soon 24:55 okay well that's us it's a weekend so uh 24:57 we'll leave it there for today now i 24:58 don't want to dilute that that's such an 25:00 important message so um 25:02 so we'll leave it there so thank you for 25:04 watching and have a great

25:05 rest of your weekend