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Cover image: These are award-winning images from the 2003 American College of Rheumatology slide contest. On the left are anteroposterior and lateral knee radiographs of a 30-year-old male with vitamin D–dependent rickets, type I. Pseudofractures or Looser zones of the distal femur and proximal tibia are demonstrated. These narrow radiolucent lines are characteristic of rickets or osteomalacia, and may represent stress fractures. They are often present in multiple sites, a condition termed “Milkman’s syndrome.” Vitamin D–dependent rickets, type I, is due to inability to produce 1,25 dihydroxyvitamin D due to an inactivated 1-hydroxylase gene inherited as an autosomal recessive trait. The radiograph on the right is a lateral view of the thoracic spine demonstrating “rugger jersey” spine due to bands of osteosclerosis at the superior and inferior vertebral end plates. This can be seen in rickets as well as renal osteodystrophy and hyperparathyroidism.

Submitted by Howard R. Schwartz, MD
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