

Supplemental data: Methods

Serum creatinine was determined by the Jaffe alkaline picrate method for the Hitachi 917 system (F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.). The total imprecision was 3.6 %. Plasma MMA and tHcy were analyzed by a modification of a gas chromatographic-mass spectrometry method [Husek, 1995 #17]. The CVs for the MMA and tHcy assays were 3.2 % and 1.5 %, respectively. Serum and WB-folate were determined by a *Lactobacillus casei* microbiologic assay [O'Broin, 1992 #364], and serum cobalamin was determined by a *Lactobacillus leichmannii* microbiological assay [Kelleher, 1991 #118] on a microtitre plate platform [Molloy, 1997 #112], adapted to a robotic workstation (Microlab AT plus 2; Hamilton Bonaduz AG). The total imprecisions of the analyses for folate and WB-folate were 6.3 % and 17 %, respectively, and for cobalamin 6.7 %. Plasma holoTC was measured by holoTC RIA (Axis-Schield ASA) [Ulleland, 2002 #97]. The total imprecision was 12 % at a mean plasma concentration of 14 pmol/L, and 6 % at a mean plasma concentration of 67 pmol/L.