One-Carbon Metabolic Factors and Risk of Renal Cell Cancer: A Meta-Analysis

Bijing Mao¹, Yafei Li², Zhimin Zhang¹, Chuan Chen¹, Yuanyuan Chen¹, Chenchen Ding¹, Lin Lei¹, Jian Li¹, Mei Jiang¹, Dong Wang¹, Ge Wang¹*

¹ Cancer Center, Institute of Surgical Research, Daping Hospital, Third Military Medical University, Chongqing, 400042, China, ² Department of Epidemiology, College of Preventive Medicine, Third Military Medical University, Chongqing, 400038, China

* wangge70@hotmail.com

Abstract

Background
Nutrients related to one-carbon metabolism were previously shown to be significantly associated with the risk of cancer. The aim of this meta-analysis was to evaluate potential relationships between one-carbon metabolic factors and renal cell cancer (RCC) risk.

Methods
PubMed, EMBASE, and Cochrane Library databases were searched through March 2015 for observational studies of quantitative RCC risk estimates in relation to one-carbon metabolic factors. The relative risks (RRs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) measured the relationship between one-carbon metabolic factors and RCC risk using a random-effects model.

Results
Of the 463 citations and abstracts identified by database search, seven cohorts from five observational studies reported data on 133,995 individuals, and included 2,441 RCC cases. Comparing the highest with the lowest category, the pooled RRs of RCC were 0.72 (95%CI: 0.52–1.00; P = 0.048) for vitamin B12. In addition, an increase in folic acid supplementation of 100 μg/day was associated with a 3% lower risk of RCC (RR, 0.97; 95%CI: 0.93–1.00; P = 0.048). Similarly, an increase of 5 nmol/L of vitamin B2 was associated with a reduced risk of RCC 0.94 (95%CI: 0.89–1.00; P = 0.045). Sensitivity analyses suggested that a higher serum vitamin B6 might contribute to a reduced risk of RCC (RR, 0.83; 95%CI: 0.77–0.89; P < 0.001).

Conclusions
Higher levels of serum vitamin B2, B6, B12, and folic acid supplementation lowered the risk of RCC among the study participants.
**Introduction**

Renal cell cancer (RCC) is diagnosed in more than 120,000 patients in the USA and Europe, annually, resulting in nearly 60,000 deaths [1]. A third of patients with RCC are diagnosed in stage IV, with a 5-year survival rate of 15% approximately [2, 3]. Therefore, more effective preventive strategies to reduce the risk of RCC are needed. Recent studies have shown that several lifestyle factors such as high physical activity, alcohol, and intake of fruits and vegetables are associated with a lower incidence of RCC [4–11]. B vitamins are the main coenzyme precursors involved in the transfer of one-carbon groups and are essential for DNA methylation and DNA repair mechanisms [12]. Therefore, B vitamins have been linked with the risk of cancer [13]. Several meta-analyses [14–18] have evaluated the relationship between one-carbon metabolism and multiple cancers, but the relationship between one-carbon metabolic factors and the risk of RCC is not established.

Previous meta-analysis [9] indicated that protein or fat intake including red meat, poultry, and seafood might not be associated with the risk of RCC. Further, the dietary intake of fruits and vegetables has been closely related to the risk of gastric [19], prostate [20], colorectal [21], ovarian [22], and breast cancer [23]. Finally, another important study [24] suggested that consumption of cruciferous vegetables may be associated with reduced RCC risk. Among the supplemental nutrient subtypes, one-carbon metabolic factors may inhibit carcinogenesis and reduce the risk of RCC. However, data correlating one-carbon metabolism and subsequent incidence of RCC is limited.

Although a series of studies have evaluated the association between one-carbon metabolic factors and RCC risk, the results are controversial or inconclusive. Results of the present meta-analysis elucidate the relationship between one-carbon metabolism and the risk of RCC.

**Methods**

**Data Sources, Search Strategy, and Selection Criteria**

PubMed, EMBASE, and the Cochrane library were searched for articles published up to March 2015, using the search terms “renal cell carcinoma” OR “renal cell cancer” and “one-carbon metabolism biomarkers” or “folate” or “folic acid” or “vitamin B6” or “pyridoxine” or “cobalamin” or “vitamin B12” or “cysteine” or “riboflavin” or “thiamine” or “homocysteine”. The search was limited to articles that were published in English. We also manually searched reference lists from all the relevant original research and review articles to identify additional potentially eligible studies. The literature search was performed in duplicate by two independent reviewers.

Inclusion criteria were: (1) observational studies investigating the relationship between one-carbon metabolism and the risk of RCC; and (2) those specifying the number of participants in each category of one-carbon metabolic factors. For studies without adequate data, we contacted the authors or searched the articles that reported a similar database. Studies without the necessary data were excluded.

**Data Collection and Quality Assessment**

Data extraction and assessment were conducted independently by two authors. Publication information (i.e., first author’s name, and publication year), characteristics of the studies (i.e., country, study design, study quality, and adjusted factors), characteristics of participants (i.e., sample size, mean age, gender, educational background, body mass index [BMI], smoking, alcohol consumption, and history of hypertension), and the number of cases and participants in each category were extracted. Disagreement was resolved by consensus with a third reviewer.
Two reviewers independently evaluated the quality of the studies using the Newcastle—Ottawa Scale (NOS) (S1 Table) [25]. The NOS assessment is based on essential points of an observational study, i.e., selection (4 scores), comparability (2 scores), and outcome (3 scores). The three-point questionnaire produced a total score that ranged from 0 (the worst) to 9 (the best). In cases of a disagreement, a consensus was reached after a group discussion.

Statistical Analysis
Effect estimate (RR, OR, or HR) and its 95% confidence interval (CI) were used to examine the relationship between one-carbon metabolic factors and the risk of RCC. Further, the risk estimates with maximal adjustment for potential confounders were used. Risk ratios (RRs) combined with the random-effects model were used as the summary statistic [26, 27].

The RRs were significant when the 95% CI did not include 1.00. First, the random-effects model was used to calculate summary RRs and 95% CIs for the high versus low one-carbon metabolic factors [27]. Second, category-specific risk estimates were transformed into estimates of the risk ratio (RR), which were associated with an increase in the level of one-carbon metabolic factors using the generalized least-squares method for trend estimation [28, 29]. The summary RRs for an increase in the level of one-carbon metabolic factors were calculated using random-effects meta-analysis [27]. Statistical heterogeneity among studies was evaluated using Q and I-square statistics, and P values < 0.10 indicated significant heterogeneity [30, 31]. Sensitivity analysis was used to explore potential sources of heterogeneity and to evaluate the influence of the included individual model in our meta-analysis [32]. In the plan stage, subgroup analyses were used to explore the relationship between one-carbon metabolic factors, and the incidence of RCC risk in specific sub-populations. However, subgroup analyses were not conducted under conditions involving small number of trials.

In the planning stage, potential publication bias was evaluated by Egger [33] and Begg [34] tests. However, few studies reported the relationship between several one-carbon metabolic factors and the risk of RCC. All P values were two-sided and alpha values of P < 0.05 were considered statistically significant for all included studies. Statistical analyses were performed with STATA software (v. 12.0; Stata Corporation, College Station, TX, USA).

Results
Literature Search
The primary search produced 463 records. After scanning titles and abstracts, 451 irrelevant articles were excluded. Twelve full-text articles were reviewed, and finally five studies [35–39] with seven cohorts were included in this meta-analysis (Fig 1). A manual search of the reference lists within these studies did not yield any new eligible studies. The general characteristics of the included studies and participants are presented in Table 1.

Study Characteristics
Three of the included studies were case studies [35, 37], two were cohorts [39], one was a nested case control study [38], and the remaining study was a case cohort [36]. These studies were published between 2006 and 2014, which comprised 133,995 individuals, and contained 2,441 RCC cases. Four cohorts were conducted in Europe [35–38], two were performed in the U.S. [39], and the remaining one was carried out in Australia [37]. IMRCC [35] and EPIC cohorts [37] reported education, BMI, and alcohol intake status. Similarly, three cohorts reported a history of smoking [35–37] and hypertension status [37, 39]. The quality of a study
was evaluated using NOS, and one cohort scoring 9 [37], four cohorts scoring 8 [36, 38, 39], and the remaining two cohorts scoring 7 [35, 37].

High versus Low One-Carbon Metabolic Factors

Fig 2 shows the RRs within the meta-analyses according to high versus low one-carbon metabolic factor levels. The summary RRs were 0.88 (95% CI: 0.66–1.19; P = 0.395) for vitamin B2 supplementation, 0.86 (95% CI: 0.70–1.06; P = 0.167) for vitamin B6 supplementation, 0.87 (95% CI: 0.72–1.05; P = 0.143) for folic acid supplementation, 1.24 (95% CI: 0.90–1.70; P = 0.194) for vitamin B12 supplementation, and 1.29 (95% CI: 0.93–1.78; P = 0.123) for methionine. Similarly, no significant associations were seen among plasma vitamin B2, plasma vitamin B6, plasma folate, plasma methionine, and plasma homocysteine levels. Further, compared with the lowest plasma category of vitamin B12, the pooled RR for RCC was 0.72 (95% CI: 0.52–1.00; P = 0.048). Finally, according to a sensitivity analysis, the highest category of plasma vitamin B6 was associated with a reduced risk of RCC (RR, 0.44; 95% CI: 0.31–0.62; P < 0.001) when excluding the ATBC study [38], which specifically included male participants and were aligned to a nested case control design.

Dose-Response Analysis

The findings of the dose-response meta-analysis suggested a significant association between increase (100 μg/day) in folic acid supplementation and the risk of RCC (RR, 0.97; 95% CI: 0.93–1.00; P = 0.048). Furthermore, the summary RR of RCC for an increase in plasma vitamin B2 levels per 5 nmol/L was 0.94 (95% CI: 0.89–1.00; P = 0.045). In addition, the sensitivity analysis indicated that an increase in vitamin B6 by 15 nmol/L was associated with a reduced risk of RCC (RR, 0.83; 95% CI: 0.77–0.89; P<0.001) [38]. Finally, no significant associations were found between one-carbon metabolic factor increments and the risk of RCC (Fig 3).
Discussion

Previous observational studies [35–39] correlating one-carbon metabolic factors with the risk of RCC have been inconclusive. EPIC and MCSS studies [37] found a decreased risk of RCC with high plasma vitamin B6 or vitamin B12. Several other studies failed to find any significant

Table 1. Baseline characteristic of studies included in the systematic review and meta-analysis.

| Variable                      | IMRCC [35] | NLCS [36] | EPIC [37] | ATBC [38] | NHS [39] | HPFS [39] |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Country                       | Italy      | Netherlands | 10 countries in Europe | Finland | USA     | USA      |
| Study design                  | Case control | Case cohort | Case control | Nested case control | Cohort   | Cohort   |
| Assessment of exposure        | FFQ        | FFQ       | Plasma samples | Plasma samples | FFQ     | FFQ     |
| Study quality                 | 7          | 8         | 9          | 8         | 8        | 8        |
| Sample size                   | 767        | 1534      | 314        | 4438      | 556      | 556      |
| Mean age (years)              | 62.0       | 62.0      | 61.9       | 61.4      | 56.9     | 56.9     |
| Sex (percentage male)         | 64.4       | 64.4      | 65.9       | 49.4      | 56.0     | 56.0     |
| Education (<7 years)          | 48.5       | 55.3      | -          | -         | 41.0     | 37.0     |
| Education (7–11 years)        | 27.6       | 29.8      | -          | -         | 22.0     | 25.0     |
| Education (>11 years)         | 23.9       | 14.9      | -          | -         | 37.0     | 39.0     |
| BMI (<25)                     | 36.8       | 36.7      | Mean: 25.5 | Mean: 25.0 | 32.0     | 40.0     |
| BMI (25–30)                   | 45.4       | 49.1      | Mean: 26.7 | Mean: 25.9 | -        | -        |
| BMI (>30)                     | 17.8       | 14.2      | Mean: 23.0 | Mean: 16.0 | -        | -        |
| Smoking (never)               | 41.1       | 41.7      | 24.8       | 35.8      | 41.0     | 44.0     |
| Smoking (current)             | 30.8       | 30.4      | 36.3       | 28.3      | 30.0     | 23.0     |
| Smoking (ex-smokers)          | 28.1       | 27.9      | 38.9       | 35.9      | 29.0     | 32.0     |
| Alcohol (never)               | 17.1       | 15.1      | 7.0        | 4.0       | Mean: 7.4 | Mean: 11.2 |
| Alcohol (current)             | 74.7       | 77.5      | 92.0       | 95.0      | Mean: 6.0 | Mean: 6.0 |
| Alcohol (ex-drinkers)         | 8.2        | 7.4       | 2.0        | 1.0       | Mean: 11.0 | Mean: 11.0 |
| History of hypertension (yes) | 35.0       | 25.0      | -          | -         | 37.0     | 37.0     |
| History of hypertension (no)  | 50.0       | 59.0      | -          | -         | 63.0     | 63.0     |

Adjusted factors:
- Period of interview, education, BMI, smoking, alcohol intake and family history of kidney cancer
- Age, sex, smoking, BMI and history of hypertension
- Waist-to-hip ratio, hypertension, educational attainment, smoking status, plasma cotinine, alcohol intake at recruitment and alcohol intake.
- Age, BMI and smoking; folate additionally adjusted for protein and fat; vitamin B6, riboflavin and homocysteine additionally adjusted for serum folate; vitamin B12 additionally adjusted for protein, leisure-time physical activity and serum folate.
- Age, smoking status, BMI, history of hypertension, history of diabetes, physical activity, fruit and vegetable intake, alcohol intake, and parity
- Age, smoking status, BMI, history of hypertension, history of diabetes, physical activity, fruit and vegetable intake, and alcohol intake

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0141762.t001
association with RCC, although most of the observed RRs were below unity [35, 36, 38, 39]. Further, the cut-off value of each category for one-carbon metabolism differed among studies. Finally, the incidence of RCC was lower than the expected value in individual studies, and always required broad confidence intervals, i.e., values exhibited no statistically significant differences. We therefore performed a comprehensive, quantitative meta-analysis to evaluate any potential relationship between one-carbon metabolic factors and the incidence of RCC risk.

This meta-analysis including published observational studies explored the potential correlations between one-carbon metabolic factors and the incidence of RCC. We found a statistically significant inverse association between folic acid supplementation, plasma vitamin B2 levels and the risk of RCC. Further, analyses of high versus low one-carbon metabolic factors indicated that plasma vitamin B12 was associated with a reduced risk of RCC. Finally, according to sensitivity analysis, vitamin B6 might play an important role in the risk of RCC.

Most of our findings were consistent with a recently published case control study that was conducted in ten European countries [37]. This study included 556 cases and 556 control subjects, which suggested that participants with higher plasma concentrations of vitamin B6 were associated with a lower risk of RCC. However, on the contrary, the other plasma biomarkers did not display any significant association with the incidence of RCC. In addition, a replication study that was conducted in Australia [37] suggested that the high plasma vitamin B6 levels were associated with a reduced risk of RCC (OR, 0.47; 95% CI: 0.23–0.99). Further, we used the generalized least-squares method for trend estimation and found that an increase in plasma
vitamin B6 levels per 15 nmol/L, might be a protective factor for RCC. Finally, an ATBC study [38] indicated that participants with the lowest serum folate levels (< 6.64 nmol/L) had a 68% increase in the risk of RCC (OR, 1.68; 95% CI: 1.06–2.65) and a 22% increase in the risk of RCC per 100 μg, which was comparable to those with higher serum folate levels. Variables including study design, gender and source populations might play an important role in these associations. The ATBC study [38] included participants within a homogeneous population for randomization; however, EPIC and MCCS [37] were population-based observational studies. Furthermore, the biochemical measurements of vitamin B6 were performed with different methodologies. For example, the ATBC study [38] used tyrosine decarboxylase assay, and the EPIC and MCCS studies used chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry. Finally, we also conducted a sensitivity analysis excluding the ATBC study, which concluded that higher serum vitamin B6 was associated with a lower RCC risk.

Our current study also indicated that an inverse association remained statistically significant for folic acid supplementation (RR, 0.97; 95% CI: 0.93–1.00; P = 0.048). This result was consistent with IMRCC [35], which suggested that an increase in folic acid supplementation by 100 μg per day was associated with a reduced risk of RCC (RR, 0.94; 95% CI: 0.88–1.00). The other nutrients related to one-carbon metabolic supplementation were not associated with RCC. Studies on folic acid supplementation found that a higher intake was related to a reduced risk of oral, pharyngeal [40], breast [15], bladder [16], esophageal and pancreatic cancer [41]. However, the relationship between folic acid supplementation and the risk of RCC was unknown. Due to limited evidence supporting this association, and multiple nutrients related
to one-carbon metabolism as demonstrated in this analysis, we conclude that the inverse association with folic acid, might be due to chance.

Our current meta-analysis has several strengths. First, the large sample size allowed us to quantitatively assess the association between one-carbon metabolic factors and the risk of RCC. Thus, our findings were potentially more robust than those of any individual study. Second, the dose-response analysis included a wide range of one-carbon metabolic factors, which allowed an accurate assessment of the relationship between per unit increments of one-carbon metabolic factors and the risk of RCC.

The study limitations were as follows: (1) the adjusted models differed across the included studies, with variable factors playing an important role in the development of RCC; (2) we could not differentiate the effects of one-carbon metabolic factors from confounding factors including BMI, smoking, alcohol status, and history of hypertension due to limited evidence; (3) publication bias and restricted cubic splines cannot available due to few studies reported the relationship between one-carbon metabolic factors and the risk of RCC; (4) publication bias; and finally (5) pooled data, which restricted a more detailed and comprehensive analysis.

The findings of our study indicated that serum vitamin B2, vitamin B6, vitamin B12, and folic acid supplementation were inversely associated with the risk of RCC. Large prospective cohort studies are needed to verify these associations.

Supporting Information
S1 Checklist. PRISMA Checklist.
(DOC)
S1 Table. Quality scores of prospective cohort studies using the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale.
(DOC)

Author Contributions
Conceived and designed the experiments: BJM GW. Performed the experiments: BJM YFL GW. Analyzed the data: BJM YFL. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: YFL GW. Wrote the paper: BJM. Literature search: ZMZ ZMZ CC YYC CCD LL JL MJ DW.

References
1. Ferlay J, Autier P, Boniol M, Heanue M, Colombet M, Boyle P. Estimates of the cancer incidence and mortality in Europe in 2006. Ann Oncol. 2007; 18: 581–592. PMID: 17287242
2. DeVita V, Hellman S, Roseberg S (2001) Cancer: Principles & practice of oncology, 6th edn. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
3. Motzer RJ, Bander NH, Nanus DM. Renal-cell carcinoma. N Engl J Med. 1996; 335: 865–875. PMID: 8778606
4. Mahabir S, Leitzmann MF, Pietinen P, Albanes D, Virtamo J, Taylor PR. Physical activity and renal cell cancer risk in a cohort of male smokers. Int J Cancer. 2004; 108: 600–605. PMID: 14696127
5. Tavani A, Zucchetto A, Dal Maso L, Montella M, Ramazzotti V, Talamini R, et al. Lifetime physical activity and the risk of renal cell cancer. Int J Cancer. 2007; 120: 1977–1980. PMID: 17266025
6. Moore SC, Chow WH, Schatzkin A, Adams KF, Park Y, Ballard-Barbash R, et al. Physical activity during adulthood and adolescence in relation to renal cell cancer. Am J Epidemiol. 2008; 168: 149–157. doi: 10.1093/aje/kwn102 PMID: 18468990
7. Song DY, Song S, Song Y, Lee JE. Alcohol intake and renal cell cancer risk: a meta-analysis. Br J Cancer. 2012; 106: 1881–1890. doi: 10.1038/bjc.2012.136 PMID: 22516951
8. Belluco R, Pasquali E, Rota M, Bagnardi V, Tramacere I, Scotti L, et al. Alcohol drinking and risk of renal cell carcinoma: results of a meta-analysis. Ann Oncol. 2012; 23: 2235–2244. doi: 10.1093/annonc/mds022 PMID: 22396178
9. Lee JE, Spiegelman D, Hunter DJ, Albanes D, Bernstein L, van den Brandt PA, et al. Fat, protein, and meat consumption and renal cell cancer risk: a pooled analysis of 13 prospective studies. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2008; 100: 1695–1706. doi: 10.1093/jnci/djn386 PMID: 19033572

10. Lee JE, Giovannucci E, Smith-Warner SA, Spiegelman D, Willett WC, Curhan GC. Intakes of fruits, vegetables, vitamins A, C, and E, and carotenoids and risk of renal cell cancer. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2006; 15: 2445–2452. PMID: 17164369

11. Weikert S, Boeing H, Pischon T, Olsen A, Tjonneland A, Overvad K, et al. Fruits and vegetables and renal cell carcinoma: findings from the European prospective investigation into cancer and nutrition (EPIC). Int J Cancer. 2006; 118: 3133–3139. PMID: 16425278

12. Lee JE, Mannisto S, Spiegelman D, Hunter DJ, Bernstein L, van den Brandt PA, et al. Intakes of fruit, vegetables, and carotenoids and renal cell cancer risk: a pooled analysis of 13 prospective studies. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2009; 18: 1730–1739. doi: 10.1186/1055-9965-EPI-09-0045 PMID: 19505906

13. Kim YI. Folate and colorectal cancer: an evidence-based critical review. Mol Nutr Food Res. 2007; 51: 267–292. PMID: 17295418

14. Zhang YF, Zhou L, Zhang HW, Hou AJ, Gao HF, Zhou YH. Association between folate intake and the risk of lung cancer: a dose-response meta-analysis of prospective studies. PLoS One. 2014; 9: e93465. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0093465 PMID: 24713629

15. Chen P, Li C, Li X, Li J, Chu R, Wang H. Higher dietary folate intake reduces the breast cancer risk: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Br J Cancer. 2014; 110: 2327–2338. doi: 10.1038/bjc.2014.155 PMID: 24667649

16. He H, Shui B. Folate intake and risk of bladder cancer: a meta-analysis of epidemiological studies. Int J Food Sci Nutr. 2014; 65: 286–292. doi: 10.3109/09637486.2013.866641 PMID: 24328495

17. Wu W, Kang S, Zhang D. Association of vitamin B6, vitamin B12 and methionine with risk of breast cancer: a dose-response meta-analysis. Br J Cancer. 2013; 109: 1926–1944. doi: 10.1038/bjc.2013.438 PMID: 23907430

18. Collin SM, Metcalf C, Rejsum H, Lewis SJ, Zuccolo L, Smith GD, et al. Circulating folate, vitamin B12, homocysteine, vitamin B12 transport proteins, and risk of prostate cancer: a case-control study, systematic review, and meta-analysis. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2010; 19: 1632–1642. doi: 10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-10-0180 PMID: 20501771

19. Bertuccio P, Rosato V, Andreano A, Ferraroni M, Decarli A, Edefonti V, et al. Dietary patterns and gastric cancer risk: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Ann Oncol. 2013; 24: 1450–1458. doi: 10.1093/annonc/mdt108 PMID: 23524862

20. Meng H, Hu W, Chen Z, Shen Y. Fruit and vegetable intake and prostate cancer risk: a meta-analysis. Asia Pac J Clin Oncol. 2014; 10: 133–140. doi: 10.1111/ajco.12067 PMID: 23551391

21. Aune D, Lau R, Chan DS, Vieira R, Greenwood DC, Kampman E, et al. Nonlinear reduction in risk for colorectal cancer by fruit and vegetable intake based on meta-analysis of prospective studies. Gastroenterology. 2011; 141: 106–118. doi: 10.1053/j.gastro.2011.04.013 PMID: 21600207

22. Hu J, Hu Y, Hu Y, Zheng S. Intake of cruciferous vegetables is associated with reduced risk of ovarian cancer: a meta-analysis. Asia Pac J Clin Oncol. 2014; 10: 133-140. doi: 10.1111/ajco.12067 PMID: 23524862

23. Jung S, Spiegelman D, Baglietto L, Bernstein L, Boggs DA, van den Brandt PA, et al. Fruit and vegetable intake and risk of breast cancer by hormone receptor status. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2013; 105: 219–236. doi: 10.1093/jnci/djs635 PMID: 23349252

24. Brock KE, Ke L, Gridley G, Chiu BC, Ershow AG, Lynch CF, et al. Fruit, vegetables, fibre and micronutrients and risk of US renal cell carcinoma. Br J Nutr. 2012; 108: 1077–1085. doi: 10.1017/S0007114511006489 PMID: 22186835

25. Wells G, Shea B, O’Connell D, Peterson J, Welch V, Losos M, et al. The Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS) for assessing the quality of nonrandomised studies in meta-analyses.[WWW document]. Available: http://www.ohri.ca/programs/clinical_epidemiology/oxford.htm. Accessed 29 January 2013. 2001.

26. DerSimonian R, Laird N. Meta-analysis in clinical trials. Control Clin Trials. 1986; 7: 177–188. PMID: 3602833

27. Ades AE, Lu G, Higgins JP. The interpretation of random-effects meta-analysis in decision models. Med Decis Making. 2005; 25: 646–654. PMID: 16282215

28. Orsini N, Bellocco R, Greenland S. Generalized least squares for trend estimation of summarized dose-response data. Stata Journal. 2006; 6: 40.

29. Greenland S, Longnecker MP. Methods for trend estimation from summarized dose-response data, with applications to meta-analysis. Am J Epidemiol. 1992; 135: 1301–1309. PMID: 1626547
30. Deeks JJ, Higgins J, Altman DG. Analysing Data and Undertaking Meta-Analyses. Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions: Cochrane Book Series. 2008: 243–296.

31. Higgins JP, Thompson SG, Deeks JJ, Altman DG. Measuring inconsistency in meta-analyses. BMJ: British Medical Journal. 2003; 327: 557. PMID: 12958120

32. Tobias A. Assessing the influence of a single study in the meta-analysis estimate. Stata Technical Bulletin. 1999;8.

33. Egger M, Smith GD, Schneider M, Minder C. Bias in meta-analysis detected by a simple, graphical test. BMJ. 1997; 315: 629–634. PMID: 9310563

34. Begg CB, Mazumdar M. Operating characteristics of a rank correlation test for publication bias. Biometrics. 1994: 1088–1101. PMID: 7786990

35. Bosetti C, Scotti L, Maso LD, Talamini R, Montella M, Negri E, et al. Micronutrients and the risk of renal cell cancer: a case-control study from Italy. Int J Cancer. 2007; 120: 892–896. PMID: 17131347

36. van Dijk BA, Schouten LJ, Oosterwijk E, Hulsbergen-van de Kaa CA, Kiemeney LA, Goldbohm RA, et al. Carotenoid and vitamin intake, von Hippel-Lindau gene mutations and sporadic renal cell carcinoma. Cancer Causes Control. 2008; 19: 125–134. PMID: 17992578

37. Johansson M, Fairti A, Muller DC, Bassett JK, Midttun O, Vollset SE, et al. Circulating biomarkers of one-carbon metabolism in relation to renal cell carcinoma incidence and survival. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2014;106.

38. Gibson TM, Weinstein SJ, Mayne ST, Pfeiffer RM, Selhub J, Taylor PR, et al. A prospective study of one-carbon metabolism biomarkers and risk of renal cell carcinoma. Cancer Causes Control. 2010; 21: 1061–1069. doi: 10.1007/s10552-010-9534-5 PMID: 20383577

39. Cho E, Giovannucci E, Joh HK. Nutrients related to one-carbon metabolism and risk of renal cell cancer. Cancer Causes Control. 2013; 24: 373–382. doi: 10.1007/s10552-012-0123-7 PMID: 23242637

40. Galeone C, Edefonti V, Barpini M, Leoncini E, Matsuo K, Talamini R, et al. Folate intake and the risk of oral cavity and pharyngeal cancer: a pooled analysis within the International Head and Neck Cancer Epidemiology Consortium. Int J Cancer. 2015; 136: 904–914. doi: 10.1002/ijc.29044 PMID: 24974959

41. Larsson SC, Giovannucci E, Wolk A. Folate intake, MTHFR polymorphisms, and risk of esophageal, gastric, and pancreatic cancer: a meta-analysis. Gastroenterology. 2006; 131: 1271–1283. PMID: 17030196