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**Supplementary Table S2 List of studies included in the subgroup meta-analyses of circulating C-reactive protein and breast cancer risk**

	<b>Studies included in the overall and stratified meta-analysis</b>			
	<b>All studies</b>		<b>Post-menopausal women studies</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>Study references</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Study references</b>
<b>Overall</b>	12	Wang, 2015 (22); Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Prizment, 2013 (20); Touvier, 2013 (21); Allin, 2009 (31); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2007 (39); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	9	Wang, 2015 (22); Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2008 (40); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Early years of follow-up</b>				
<b>Excluded</b>	3	Prizment, 2013 (20); Zhang, 2007 (39); Siemes, 2006 (35);	1	Siemes, 2006 (35)
<b>No change</b>	7	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Touvier, 2013 (21); Allin, 2009 (31); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	5	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Not excluded</b>	5	Wang, 2015 (22); Prizment, 2013 (20); Zelenluch- Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2007 (39); Siemes, 2006 (35)	4	Wang, 2015 (22); Zelenluch- Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2008 (40); Siemes, 2006 (35)
<b>Length of FU</b>				
<b>&lt; 10 years</b>	8	Wang, 2015 (22); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Prizment, 2013 (20); Touvier, 2013 (21); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	6	Wang, 2015 (22); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>≥ 10 years</b>	4	Dossus, 2014 (17); Allin, 2009 (31); Zhang, 2007 (39); Siemes, 2006 (35)	3	Dossus, 2014 (17); Zhang, 2008 (40); Siemes, 2006 (35)
<b>Location</b>				
<b>Asia</b>	1	Wang, 2015 (22)	1	Wang, 2015 (22)
<b>Europe</b>	5	Dossus, 2014 (17); Touvier, 2013 (21); Allin, 2009 (31); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Siemes, 2006 (35)	3	Dossus, 2014 (17); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Siemes, 2006 (35)
<b>North America</b>	6	Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Prizment, 2013 (20); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2007 (39); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	5	Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2008 (40); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Study design</b>				
<b>NCC</b>	5	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Touvier, 2013 (21); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38)	4	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38)
<b>PC</b>	7	Wang, 2015 (22); Prizment, 2013 (20); Allin, 2009 (31); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zhang, 2007 (39); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	5	Wang, 2015 (22); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zhang, 2008 (40); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Number of cases</b>				
<b>&lt;500</b>	9	Wang, 2015 (22); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Prizment, 2013 (20); Touvier, 2013 (21); Allin, 2009 (31); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	6	Wang, 2015 (22); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>≥500</b>	3	Dossus, 2014 (17); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Zhang, 2007 (39);	3	Dossus, 2014 (17); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Zhang, 2008 (40)
<b>Publication year</b>				
<b>&lt;2010</b>	6	Allin, 2009 (31); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2007 (39); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	5	Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2008 (40); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>≥2010</b>	6	Wang, 2015 (22); Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet,	4	Wang, 2015 (22); Dossus, 2014 (17);

		2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Prizment, 2013 (20); Touvier, 2013 (21);		Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19)
<b>CRP assay</b>				
<b>ELISA</b>	3	Gaudet, 2013 (18); Touvier, 2013 (21); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	2	Gaudet, 2013 (18); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Other assays</b>	9	Wang, 2015 (22); Dossus, 2014 (17); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Prizment, 2013 (20); Allin, 2009 (31); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2007 (39); Siemes, 2006 (35);	7	Wang, 2015 (22); Dossus, 2014 (17); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2008 (40); Siemes, 2006 (35);
<b>Blood sample</b>				
<b>Plasma</b>	6	Wang, 2015 (22); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Prizment, 2013 (20); Touvier, 2013 (21); Allin, 2009 (31); Zhang, 2007 (39)	3	Wang, 2015 (22); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Zhang, 2008 (40)
<b>Serum</b>	5	Dossus, 2014 (17); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	5	Dossus, 2014 (17); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Fasting status</b>				
<b>Fasting</b>	4	Wang, 2015 (22); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Touvier, 2013 (21); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	3	Wang, 2015 (22); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Non-fasting</b>	3	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Siemes, 2006 (35)	3	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Siemes, 2006 (35)
<b>Acute inflammation</b>				
<b>Not excluded</b>	9	Wang, 2015 (22); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Prizment, 2013 (20); Touvier, 2013 (21); Allin, 2009 (31); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2007 (39); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	6	Wang, 2015 (22); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2008 (40); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Excluded</b>	4	Dossus, 2014 (17); Wang, 2015 (22); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Siemes, 2006 (35)	3	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Siemes, 2006 (35)
<b>Confounder adjustments</b>				
<b>BMI</b>				
<b>No</b>	4	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	4	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Yes</b>	10	Wang, 2015 (22); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Prizment, 2013 (20); Touvier, 2013 (21); Allin, 2009 (31); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2007 (39); Siemes, 2006 (35)	7	Wang, 2015 (22); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2008 (40); Siemes, 2006 (35)
<b>Smoking</b>				
<b>No</b>	5	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	5	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Yes</b>	7	Wang, 2015 (22); Prizment, 2013 (20); Touvier, 2013 (21); Allin, 2009 (31); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zhang, 2007 (39); Siemes, 2006 (35)	4	Wang, 2015 (22); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zhang, 2008 (40); Siemes, 2006 (35)
<b>NSAIDs use</b>				
<b>No</b>	10	Wang, 2015 (22); Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Touvier, 2013 (21); Allin, 2009 (31); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2007 (39); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	8	Wang, 2015 (22); Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2008 (40); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Yes</b>	2	Prizment, 2013 (20); Heikkila, 2009 (33);	1	Heikkila, 2009 (33)
<b>Socioeconomic status</b>				
<b>No</b>	9	Wang, 2015 (22); Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Allin, 2009 (31); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang,	8	Wang, 2015 (22); Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Zhang, 2008

		2007 (39); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)		(40); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Yes</b>	3	Prizment, 2013 (20); Touvier, 2013 (21); Heikkila, 2009 (33);	1	Heikkila, 2009 (33);
<b>HRT use</b>				
<b>No</b>	5	Wang, 2015 (22); Dossus, 2014 (17); Touvier, 2013 (21); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	4	Wang, 2015 (22); Dossus, 2014 (17); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Yes</b>	6	Ollberding, 2013 (19); Prizment, 2013 (20); Allin, 2009 (31); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zhang, 2007 (39); Siemes, 2006 (35)	4	Ollberding, 2013 (19); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zhang, 2008 (40); Siemes, 2006 (35)
<b>Physical activity</b>				
<b>No</b>	8	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Prizment, 2013 (20); Allin, 2009 (31); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	6	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Yes</b>	4	Wang, 2015 (22); Touvier, 2013 (21); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zhang, 2007 (39)	3	Wang, 2015 (22); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zhang, 2008 (40)
<b>Alcohol use</b>				
<b>No</b>	8	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Prizment, 2013 (20); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)	7	Dossus, 2014 (17); Gaudet, 2013 (18); Ollberding, 2013 (19); Heikkila, 2009 (33); Zelenluch-Jacquotte, 2008 (38); Siemes, 2006 (35); Il'yasova, 2005 (34)
<b>Yes</b>	4	Wang, 2015 (22); Touvier, 2013 (21); Allin, 2009 (31); Zhang, 2007 (39)	2	Wang, 2015 (22); Zhang, 2008 (40)