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Diet and risk of breast, endometrial and ovarian cancer: UK Women's Cohort Study

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1 **ABSTRACT**

2 This study aimed to investigate associations between diet and the risk of breast, endometrial and
3 ovarian cancer in the UK Women's Cohort Study. 35,372 women aged 35-69 years were enrolled
4 between 1995 and 1998 and completed a validated 217-item food frequency questionnaire. The
5 individual foods were collapsed into 64 main food groups, compared using Cox proportional models,
6 adjusting for potential confounders. Hazard ratio (HR) estimates are presented per portion increase
7 of food items. After approximately 18 years of follow-up, there were 1822, 294, and 285 cases of
8 breast, endometrial and ovarian cancer respectively. A high consumption of processed meat and total
9 meat was associated with an increased risk of breast and endometrial cancer. High intakes of tomatoes
10 (HR: 0.87, 99% confidence interval (CI): 0.75 to 1.00) and dried fruits (HR: 0.60, 99% CI: 0.37 to
11 0.97) were associated with a reduced risk of breast and endometrial cancer respectively. Mushroom
12 intake was associated with a higher risk of ovarian cancer (HR 1.57, 99% CI: 1.09 to 2.26). Subgroup
13 analysis by pre or post-menopausal cancer further demonstrated an association between processed
14 meat intake and both postmenopausal breast cancer and endometrial cancer. Dried fruits intake was
15 associated with a reduced risk of postmenopausal endometrial cancer (HR: 0.55, 99% CI: 0.31 to
16 0.98). Our findings suggest that while some foods may trigger the risk of these cancers, some foods
17 may also be protective; supporting the call for further randomised controlled trials of dietary
18 interventions to reduce risk of cancer among pre and postmenopausal women.

19 **INTRODUCTION**

20 In the UK, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women accounting for
21 almost one-third of all female cancers. Endometrial and ovarian cancers are the next most frequently
22 diagnosed hormone-related cancers among British women⁽¹⁾. These cancers are all age dependent and
23 are commonly diagnosed post menopausally⁽²⁾. The mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of these
24 cancers are not completely elucidated. Reproductive and hormonal risk factors such as an early age
25 at menarche, late age at menopause, lack of oral contraceptive use, lack of tubal ligation,
26 postmenopausal hormone therapy, nulliparity, all contribute to the lifetime oestrogen exposure^(3,4) as
27 well as a family history have been consistently associated with these reproductive cancers⁽⁵⁾.
28 Moreover, smoking has also been associated with an increased risk of breast and ovarian cancers
29 while it reduces the risk of endometrial cancer^(6,7). In addition, evidence from observational studies
30 have indicated that obesity related metabolic disorders such as diabetes and metabolic syndrome can
31 be linked to the aetiology of these cancers⁽⁸⁾. These metabolic disorders are partly outcomes of poor
32 dietary quality⁽⁹⁾.

33
34 In addition to being one of the triggering factors in the development of obesity, diet also potentially
35 influence the endogenous hormonal milieu, thereby increasing the risk of these hormone related
36 cancers⁽¹⁰⁾. As demonstrated in previous studies, dietary changes have been linked to changes in
37 menstrual cycle length, circulating sex hormone-binding globulin levels, and also oestradiol levels^{(11,}
38 ^{12, 13, 14)}. Even though studies have shown that diet may be related to the risk of breast, endometrial
39 and ovarian cancer, the specific dietary components involved in the aetiology of these cancers remains
40 unclear. For instance, according to the recent World Cancer Research Fund/American Institute for
41 Cancer Research (WCRF/AICR) report⁽¹⁵⁾, there was strong evidence that alcohol consumption
42 increases both the risk of pre- and postmenopausal breast cancers. In addition, there was suggestive
43 evidence demonstrating that a high consumption of non-starchy vegetables, foods sources of
44 carotenoids, dairy products and calcium rich diets were associated with a decreased risk of breast
45 cancer. On the other hand, the link between other foods and risk of breast cancer remains limited and
46 inconclusive. Likewise, the relationship between diet and endometrial as well as ovarian cancer was
47 sparse and conflicting. Therefore, using data from the UK Women's Cohort study (UKWCS), this
48 study aims to investigate the associations between food intake and the risk of breast, endometrial and
49 ovarian cancer.

50
51 The aetiology of these cancers also differ by whether the cancer is pre-or postmenopausal. While
52 evidence suggests a link between endogenous oestrogens and risk of these cancers among
53 postmenopausal women, there is only weak evidence supporting this relationship among

54 premenopausal women^(16, 17). In addition, the menstrual cycle variations in circulating sex hormone
55 levels makes deciphering the aetiology behind premenopausal breast, endometrial and ovarian cancer
56 risk a challenge⁽¹⁸⁾. This study thus also seeks to look into the relationship between diet and risk of
57 the hormone-dependent cancers by menopausal status.

58

59 **METHODS**

60 **Study design, study population and ethical approval**

61 At baseline, the UKWCS involved 35,372 women across England, Wales and Scotland who
62 responded to a postal questionnaire between 1995 and 1998. The recruitment process has been
63 detailed elsewhere⁽¹⁹⁾. Recruited women were aged between 35 and 69 years. Dietary data, lifestyle
64 as well as health related data were collected at baseline. Approximately four years later, further diet,
65 lifestyle and health related data were collected between the years 1999 and 2002 (40.1% response)
66 which formed the follow-up cohort. Reproductive history including menopausal status was also
67 collected at study baseline and follow-up. At its initiation in 1993, ethical approval was obtained from
68 174 local research ethics committees (Research Ethics Committee reference number: 15/YH/0027).

69 **Dietary assessment**

70 A detailed validated⁽²⁰⁾ 217-food item food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) was used to assess dietary
71 intake of the participants over a period of 12 months. Daily intakes of each food item (grams/day)
72 were determined using the frequency categories to estimate the portion size. Using a standard portion
73 size, these were then converted to weights. According to the recent WRCF report, one of the identified
74 critical areas of research included the better characterisation of diet⁽¹⁵⁾ and their cancer prevention
75 recommendations⁽²¹⁾ suggest consumption of a fibre rich diet, limiting consumption of foods high in
76 fat, starches or sugars as well as limiting consumption of red and processed meat. Therefore in this
77 study, the individual food items were collapsed into 64 food groups based on their fibre and fat
78 contents, type of meat or according to their culinary uses. Details on grouping of the foods have been
79 described previously⁽²²⁾. The standard portion sizes were estimated by calculating the average portion
80 size of the individual food items within the food group as per the Food Standards Agency⁽²³⁾.

81 **Case definition**

82 Incident cases of invasive breast carcinomas, endometrial and ovarian cancers were identified through
83 linkage to the National Health Service Central Register⁽²⁴⁾. The International Classification of
84 Diseases 9 and 10 were used to code incident cancer cases. Participants were followed from study
85 entry till diagnosis of the breast cancer (ICD-9 code 174 or ICD-10 code C50), endometrial cancer
86 (ICD-9 code 182 or ICD-10 code C54.1 or C54.9), ovarian cancer (ICD-9 code 183 or ICD-10 code
87 C56), date of death or until the censor date (April 1, 2016) whichever came first.

88 **Statistical analysis**

89 Descriptive statistics were used to describe lifestyle characteristics of participants for breast,
90 endometrial and ovarian cancer separately as well as for women without any incident case of a
91 malignant cancer. Cox proportional hazards regression was used to provide hazard ratios (HRs) and
92 99% confidence intervals (CIs) to account for potential multiple testing, of breast, endometrial and
93 ovarian cancers in relation to diet. For ease of interpretation, the HRs were presented per standard
94 portion size of the food group per day. The proportional hazards assumption was tested graphically
95 as well as using the Cox-Snell residuals for all terms in the model. Time in the study was used as the
96 time variable, calculated from the date of questionnaire receipt until either death or censor date.

97
98 Risk factors for the cancers previously identified in the literature were considered to build a directed
99 acyclic graph. A parsimonious age-adjusted model was firstly used to estimate associations between
100 each individual food groups and risk of the cancers in separate models (model 1). According to the
101 minimal sufficiency set of adjustments, the final models for risk of breast and ovarian cancer were
102 adjusted for age (years), physical activity (h/day)⁽²⁵⁾, ethanol intake (g/day)⁽²⁶⁾, smoking status (never,
103 current or former smoker)⁽²⁷⁾, cumulative duration of breastfeeding (weeks)^(28, 29, 30), menopausal
104 status (pre or post-menopausal),⁽²⁾ and socioeconomic status (professional/managerial, intermediate
105 or routine and manual)⁽³¹⁾ (model 2). For risk of endometrial cancer, history of diabetes⁽³²⁾ and
106 hypertension⁽³³⁾ were also included in model 2. Participants with incomplete data on these variables
107 were excluded.

108
109 Subgroup analyses by pre-menopausal cancer and post-menopausal cancer were also performed. A
110 premenopausal cancer was defined as an incident case diagnosed before the last menstrual period
111 while a postmenopausal cancer case was one diagnosed either at or after the last menstrual period.
112 For premenopausal cancer, cases contributed to person-time from age at baseline until diagnosis of
113 the event. If the participant did not have a premenopausal cancer, the age until last menstrual period
114 was considered as the time variable instead. Women who were already postmenopausal at study entry
115 were excluded from the model (adjusted for model 2). For postmenopausal cancer, cases contributed
116 to person-time from age at last menstrual period until diagnosis of the event. Women who were
117 incident cases of premenopausal cancer and those who were still premenopausal at censor date were
118 excluded from the model (adjusted for model 2).

119
120 Age at natural menopause was further explored as an effect modifier for the foods that were
121 significantly associated with the risk of the cancers. Previous studies have also demonstrated an
122 increased risk of these cancers with a later age at natural menopause due to longer exposure to
123 oestrogen⁽³⁴⁾. Age at last period was self-reported at both baseline and phase 2. This variable was

124 grouped as having a menopause either between 40-49 years (n= 10,505) or 50-65 years (n= 6,295).
125 In order to include only postmenopausal women with a natural menopause, those who had a
126 hysterectomy or bilateral oophorectomy as well as those who reported current or ever use of hormone
127 replacement therapy (HRT) prior to their last period were excluded from the analyses. In addition,
128 women who had their last period before the age of 40 years were also excluded as this could be due
129 to other treatments or surgical procedures which could not be ascertained in this study. All statistical
130 analyses were conducted using Stata version 15 statistical software.

131

132 Sensitivity analysis was also conducted using model 2, further adjusting for both family history of
133 any cancer and family history of breast cancer in first-degree relatives to estimate the associations
134 between food groups and the risk of breast cancer. To estimate associations for the risk of endometrial
135 cancer, family history of endometrial cancer was included in the model, and for the risk of ovarian
136 cancer, a family history of ovarian cancer and breast cancer was adjusted for in addition to model 2.
137 Sensitivity analyses also involved adjusting for total energy intake (kcal/day) to account for under
138 and over reporters (model 3). Adjustments were also made for current HRT use^(35, 36), use of oral
139 contraceptive pills, and parity^(37, 38) (model 4) in addition to model 3 as these are known risk factors
140 of breast, endometrial and ovarian cancers.

141

142 **RESULTS**

143 **Baseline characteristics according to cancer type**

144 Of the 35,372 women at baseline, 695 women who were not flagged on the NHS digital, 2,340 women
145 reporting history of any previous malignant cancer at baseline (except for non-melanoma of the skin)
146 and women who were diagnosed with breast (n=68), endometrial (n=7) and ovarian (n=12) cancer
147 within 1 year of baseline were excluded. After the exclusions, 32,228 women were eligible for the
148 breast cancer analysis, 32,289 for the endometrial cancer analysis and 32,284 for the ovarian cancer
149 analysis.

150

151 Baseline characteristics of the participants according to cancer type are summarised in Table 1. After
152 approximately 18 years of follow-up, there were 1,822 incident cases of breast cancer, 294 and 285
153 incident cases of endometrial and ovarian cancer respectively. Women with endometrial and ovarian
154 cancer were on average overweight at baseline with a BMI of 27.3 and 25.1 kg/m² respectively while
155 women with breast cancer were borderline overweight (24.8 kg/m²) and women without any cancer
156 had a normal weight (24.4 kg/m²). Women with endometrial cancer were less likely to be current
157 smokers and had lower ethanol intake in comparison to those with breast and ovarian cancer as well
158 as those without any cancer. A majority of women with incident breast cancer were current users of

159 HRT at baseline (58.3%). Women without any cancer had an earlier natural menopause (mean=47.5
160 years) as compared to women with breast, endometrial and ovarian cancer. Around 42-46% of women
161 with breast, endometrial and ovarian cancer had a family history of any cancer at baseline as
162 compared to 38.4% for the non-cancer cases. Total energy intake and fibre intake was quite similar
163 between the cases of cancer and non-cases.

164

165 **Diet and risk of breast, endometrial and ovarian cancer**

166 For the association between food intake and risk of breast cancer, in both the age-adjusted model and
167 fully adjusted model, a standard portion of 83g of tomato consumption was associated with a
168 significant risk reduction (HR: 0.87, 99% CI: 0.75 to 0.999). In the fully-adjusted model, a standard
169 portion of processed meat and total meat intake were both associated with higher risk of breast cancer,
170 36% and 17%, respectively (HR: 1.36, 99% CI: 1.02 to 1.81; HR: 1.17, 99% CI: 1.00 to 1.36) (Table
171 2). According to the subgroup analysis by pre and post-menopausal breast cancer, consumption of
172 tomatoes reduced the risk postmenopausal breast cancer but not premenopausal breast cancer.
173 Consumption of processed meat and total meat were both associated with a significant higher risk of
174 postmenopausal breast cancer only. In addition, intake of 15g of biscuits per day was associated with
175 a 17% higher risk of premenopausal breast cancer (Table 3).

176

177 Similarly, an increased risk of endometrial cancer was observed in the fully adjusted model with
178 consumption of a standard portion of processed and total meat per day (HR: 2.19, 99% CI: 1.34 to
179 3.60; HR: 1.53, 99% CI: 1.04 to 2.24). Consumptions of 28g of dried fruits per day and 85g of high
180 breakfast cereals were associated with a 40% and 26% reduced risk of endometrial cancer
181 respectively (HR: 0.60, 99% CI: 0.37 to 0.97; HR: 0.74, 99% CI: 0.55 to 0.998) (Table 2). In the
182 subgroup analysis, a standard portion of processed meat per day was associated with a higher risk of
183 post-menopausal endometrial cancer. Consumption of dried fruits was associated with a significant
184 reduced risk of only postmenopausal endometrial cancer (HR: 0.55, 99% CI: 0.31 to 0.98) while a
185 higher intake of low calorie/diet soft drinks was positively associated with the risk of postmenopausal
186 endometrial cancer (HR: 1.27; 99% CI: 1.00 to 1.61). For ovarian cancer, 34g of mushroom intake
187 per day was associated with a significantly higher risk (HR: 1.57, 99%: 1.09 to 2.26). Furthermore, it
188 was found that a higher mushroom intake was associated with an increased risk of postmenopausal
189 ovarian cancer. A higher consumption of citrus fruits and total fruits were associated with an 87%
190 and 37% reduced risk of premenopausal ovarian cancer respectively.

191

192 After further adjustment for family history of the respective cancers similar results were obtained to
193 those reported above. In addition, a significantly higher risk of breast and endometrial cancer was

194 observed with frequent consumption of a standard portion of potatoes with added fat (i.e. chips/roast
195 potatoes) (Supplementary Table 1). The associations between diet and risk of breast, endometrial and
196 ovarian cancer after further adjustments for total energy intake and current HRT use, oral
197 contraceptive use and parity were also in agreement with the study's main associations
198 (Supplementary Table 2). We also found that the risk of breast, endometrial and ovarian cancer
199 significantly increased with an increase in age at natural menopause (Supplementary Table 3).
200 Subgroup analysis by age at natural menopause demonstrated that the diet of women with either an
201 earlier or later age at natural menopause did not change the risk of the cancers (Supplementary Table
202 4).

203

204 **DISCUSSION**

205 In this prospective investigation of the consumption of food groups in relation to the risk of breast,
206 endometrial and ovarian cancers, we consistently found that consumption of processed meat and total
207 meat was associated with a significantly higher risk of breast and endometrial cancer. In addition,
208 frequent consumption of a standard portion of tomatoes and dried fruits were associated with a
209 reduced risk of breast and endometrial cancer respectively. A higher consumption of mushroom was
210 found to be weakly associated with a higher risk of ovarian cancer. Subgroup analysis showed similar
211 associations between these food items and cancer risk, when differentiating between a pre and post-
212 menopausal cancer as well as when further adjustments for family history of cancer, total energy
213 intake, current HRT use, oral contraceptive use and parity were accounted for in the different models.

214

215 Previous studies have also reported an increased risk of breast and endometrial cancer with a higher
216 consumption of processed meat and total meat. According to the recent UK Biobank cohort study⁽³⁹⁾,
217 a 6% higher risk of breast cancer was reported in relation to processed meat consumption. Similarly
218 to our results, they also found only a significant increased risk for post-menopausal breast cancer.
219 The EPIC⁽⁴⁰⁾ and NutriNet-Santé⁽⁴¹⁾ prospective cohort studies have also reported an increased risk
220 of breast cancer associated with the consumption of processed meat. Our findings are further
221 supported by a prospective randomised control trial conducted over a period of 8 years⁽⁴²⁾. Studies
222 investigating the association between processed meat and the risk of endometrial cancer are limited
223 and conflicting. While a case-control study⁽⁴³⁾ including 274 participants with endometrial cancer
224 found that intake of processed meats such as boiled ham, salami and sausages, and canned meat were
225 associated with an increased risk of endometrial cancer, findings from a cohort study, the National
226 Institutes of Health (NIH-AARP) Diet and Health Study⁽⁴⁴⁾ including 1,486 incident cases reported
227 no evidence of an association. Another cancer multisite study from the NIH-AARP Diet and Health

228 Study also reported no association between processed meat consumption and risk of both breast and
229 endometrial cancer⁽⁴⁵⁾.

230

231 The underlying mechanisms for the pathogenesis of breast cancer are heterogeneous. High levels of
232 nitrates, nitrites and amines, which are precursors of N-nitroso compounds, added in processed meat
233 to enhance its colour and flavour have been consistently reported to be one of the causes of
234 carcinogenicity⁽⁴⁶⁾. In addition, cooking especially at high temperatures (e.g. frying, grilling or
235 barbecuing) can lead to the formation of heterocyclic aromatic amines which are also potent mutagens
236 and carcinogens⁽⁴⁷⁾. The N-nitro compounds, heterocyclic amines along with other compounds (heme
237 iron, saturated fat and oestradiol) present in meats can directly cause DNA damage and have been
238 associated with mammary tumour development as demonstrated in both animal and human studies^{(46,}
239 ⁴⁸⁾. We also found that processed meat consumption was positively associated with postmenopausal
240 breast cancer though not for premenopausal breast cancer. Disparities could be due to differing
241 oestrogen metabolism pathways between the two groups. These results could suggest that processed
242 meat influences breast cancer risk by interacting with oestrogen metabolism in scenarios where
243 the levels of circulating oestrogens are lower⁽²⁰⁾.

244

245 Endometrial cancer is a hormone-driven cancer, with approximately 80% potentially arising due to
246 either an excess of oestrogen or a lack of progesterone. In the normal endometrium, the proliferative
247 effects of oestrogen are normally countered by progesterone but in the absence of progesterone,
248 oestrogen can induce oncogenesis, an effect that is amplified in situations of excess oestrogen⁽⁴⁹⁾. In
249 addition to being a source of N-nitroso compounds, processed meat is also rich in cholesterol, which
250 can be converted to androgens and oestrogens through varying metabolic pathways⁽⁵⁰⁾.

251

252 Our study further demonstrated that consumption of a standard portion of tomatoes per day was
253 associated with a reduced risk of breast cancer. The protective association was mainly observed
254 among women with postmenopausal breast cancer. Lycopene, a carotenoid widely available in
255 tomatoes has a very high antioxidant potential, and can thus protect the DNA from damage. In a large
256 pooled analysis which included more than 3000 breast cancer cases, Eliassen et al.⁽⁵¹⁾ also found an
257 inverse association between lycopene and risk of breast cancer. The antiproliferative effect of
258 lycopene has also been demonstrated in mammary cancer cell lines by its inhibitory effect on insulin-
259 like growth factor-I-stimulated cell multiplying^(52, 53). The observed inverse association could also be
260 due to the high flavonol content of tomatoes which also confers enhanced antioxidant capacity.

261

262 Consumption of dried fruits and high fibre breakfast cereals such as porridge, muesli and bran flakes
263 were inversely associated with risk of endometrial cancer, in particular among women who were
264 incident cases of post-menopausal endometrial cancer. Dried fruits reportedly have a higher total
265 phenolic content, flavonoids and total antioxidant capacity compared to fresh fruits making dried
266 fruits a potential candidate as a chemopreventive food^(54, 55). Previous studies have similarly reported
267 an inverse association between wholegrain cereal consumption and endometrial cancer^(56, 57). Dietary
268 fibre has been found to interact with metabolism of oestrogen, causing a reduced bioavailability of
269 the hormone⁽⁵⁸⁾. High fibre cereals and dried fruits are also good sources of dietary lignans. Lignans,
270 a type of phyto-oestrogens are plant compounds having structural similarity to 17-oestradiol. They
271 can lower endogenous oestrogen levels by potentially binding to oestrogen receptors⁽⁵⁹⁾, hence
272 reducing the risk of endometrial cancer.

273

274 Contrary to a previous case-control study undertaken in Chinese women which demonstrated an
275 inverse association between white button mushroom and risk of ovarian cancer⁽⁶⁰⁾, our findings
276 showed weak evidence of an increased risk in relation to consumption of a standard portion of
277 mushroom per day. Furthermore according to a study among Korean women, high mushroom intake
278 was reportedly associated with a lower risk of breast cancer among premenopausal women and a
279 stronger association was reported among premenopausal women with oestrogen receptor positive and
280 progesterone receptor positive tumours⁽⁶¹⁾. However, in this study we do not have this level of detail
281 in terms of types of mushroom consumption and breast cancer by hormone receptor type. This
282 difference could also be attributed to the fact that Chinese cohorts most commonly consume fresh
283 mushrooms while in Europe use of canned mushrooms are more widespread. In addition, in the UK,
284 there is no other evidence suggesting that mushrooms can increase or decrease risk of cancer⁽⁶²⁾.

285

286 Strengths of this study include the prospective study design, a long follow-up time and large sample
287 size. This is also the first study in the UK looking at multiple food groups in relation to the risk of
288 breast, endometrial and ovarian cancers. We were also able to study the associations with specific
289 types of meat, cereal products (wholegrain or refined), and dairy products (high-fat or low-fat). We
290 adjusted for a wide range of confounders including sociodemographic, and lifestyle using a consistent
291 method (DAG). However, as in any observational study residual confounding is still possible. A
292 limitation of our study was the inability to determine whether the associations varied according to the
293 hormone receptor status of tumours, due to lack of these data at the time in this cohort. The UKWCS
294 will soon be expanding to include details additional details on the tumour types. Moreover, the use
295 of a FFQ for dietary assessment could be also prone to low accuracy due to recall bias. However, the
296 FFQ is a useful tool in providing a snapshot of the dietary habit over a longer period of time.

297 Regression dilution might also be an issue given participants' diets may have changed over time,
298 potentially introducing further measurement error. This study also does not take in account the use of
299 pesticides which is also a potential carcinogen influencing cancer risk of the women. Our sample was
300 also more health conscious given the high number of vegetarians in our sample population and more
301 well off participants than the general population. However, our still include women from a range of
302 different background which implies that findings of this study may be extrapolated to other countries.

303

304 Primary prevention of cancer is important and a matter of consideration in public health. While factors
305 such as parity, age at onset of natural menopause and family history are well established to have a
306 link with the risk of breast, endometrial ad ovarian cancer, they are non-modifiable factors. On the
307 contrary, diet which has been shown to either increase or decrease risk of carcinogenesis makes focus
308 on diet an interesting opportunity in cancer prevention.

309

310 To summarise, this study suggests a link between specific foods: processed meat, total meat,
311 tomatoes, dried fruits and wholegrain products and the risk of breast as well as endometrial cancer
312 while a relationship between diet and risk of ovarian cancer is less evident. These findings support
313 the call for further randomised controlled trials of dietary interventions to reduce risk of cancer among
314 pre and postmenopausal women.

315

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318 managed and processed information of the cohort as well as the participants of the UKWCS.

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325 publication.

326

327 **Conflict of Interest**

328 JEC is a director of the University of Leeds spin out company Dietary Assessment Ltd.

329

330 **Authorship**

331 JEC initiated and developed the cohort. YD was primarily responsible for data analysis and writing
332 the manuscript. All authors were involved in the study design, interpretation of findings, editing and
333 approving the article.

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Table 1. Baseline characteristics according to cancer type from the UKWCS

Characteristics	Breast cancer cases n= 1,822	Endometrial cancer cases n= 294	Ovarian cancer cases n=285	No cancer n=28,929
Demographic characteristics				
Age (years), mean (SD)	53.2 (9.0)	54.1 (8.3)	55.7 (9.0)	51.7 (9.3)
BMI (kg/m ²), mean (SD)	24.8 (4.3)	27.3 (6.3)	25.1 (4.5)	24.4 (4.2)
Professional/managerial SES, n (%)	1,105 (62.1)	182 (63.4)	171 (61.3)	18262 (63.6)
Medical history				
Family history of any cancer, n (%)	755 (43.7)	127 (46.0)	112 (42.6)	10577 (38.4)
Family history of breast cancer, n (%)	172 (10.0)	23 (8.3)	25 (9.5)	2145 (7.8)
Family history of endometrial cancer, n (%)	17 (1.0)	6 (2.2)	1 (0.4)	274 (1.00)
Family history of ovarian cancer, n (%)	15 (0.9)	6 (2.2)	6 (2.3)	284 (1.0)
Lifestyle characteristics				
Current smoker, n (%)	185 (10.4)	24 (8.4)	40 (14.3)	3093 (10.9)
Physical activity, mean (SD)	0.25 (0.55)	0.24 (0.44)	0.19 (0.34)	0.26 (0.49)
Reproductive history				
Current hormone replacement therapy use, n (%)	433 (58.3)	61 (51.7)	69 (53.1)	5309 (53.2)
Parous, n (%)	1370 (78.1)	227 (79.9)	214 (78.7)	21443 (79.3)
Postmenopausal, n (%)	1,003 (55.5)	160 (54.6)	189 (66.3)	13892 (50.1)
Age last natural menopause, mean (SD)	48.1 (4.5)	50.0 (4.4)	49.1 (3.4)	47.3 (4.5)
Energy and food intake				
Total energy intake (kcal/day), mean (SD)	2291 (783)	2222 (715)	2260 (694)	2291 (793)
Fibre intake (g/day), mean(SD)	25.5 (11.2)	24.2 (10.3)	25.4 (10.1)	25.6 (10.9)
Ethanol (g/day), mean(SD)	9.1 (10.1)	7.5 (8.7)	9.3 (11.4)	8.7 (10.4)
Total vegetable intake (g/day), mean(SD)	314.7 (208.7)	305.0 (174.7)	322.8 (190.6)	317.7 (191.6)
Total fruit intake (g/day), mean(SD)	319.1 (225.5)	292.4 (198.3)	307.2 (207.7)	316.1 (243.3)
Total meat intake (g/day), mean(SD)	69.1 (61.2)	72.5 (59.5)	66.3 (69.3)	64.5 (63.5)

Table 2. Hazard ratios (99% confidence intervals) of breast, endometrial and ovarian cancer by food groups

Daily intake/ standard portion size	Breast Cancer Cases				Endometrial cancer cases				Ovarian cancer cases			
	Model 1 n=1796/32,228 ^a		Model 2 n=1625/29,183 ^b		Model 1 n=285/32,289 ^a		Model 2 n=238/27,338 ^c		Model 1 n=274/32,284 ^a		Model 2 n=251/29,229 ^b	
	HR	99% CI	HR	99% CI	HR	99% CI	HR	99% CI	HR	99% CI	HR	99% CI
Starchy food sources												
Wholegrain products/ 33g	0.99	0.96 to 1.02	0.99	0.96 to 1.03	0.95	0.88 to 1.03	0.92	0.84 to 1.01	1.02	0.94 to 1.10	1.00	0.93 to 1.09
Refined grain products/ 51g	1.03	0.96 to 1.10	1.03	0.95 to 1.11	1.11	0.95 to 1.30	1.15	0.98 to 1.35	1.04	0.87 to 1.24	1.02	0.84 to 1.24
Low fibre breakfast cereals/ 40g	1.00	0.83 to 1.20	1.04	0.85 to 1.26	0.83	0.50 to 1.37	0.76	0.43 to 1.37	1.16	0.76 to 1.75	1.08	0.67 to 1.74
High fibre breakfast cereals/ 85g	1.00	0.92 to 1.08	1.01	0.92 to 1.10	0.82	0.64 to 1.06	0.74	0.55 to 0.998	0.89	0.70 to 1.13	0.89	0.69 to 1.15
Plain Potatoes/ 210g	0.93	0.81 to 1.06	0.94	0.81 to 1.09	0.92	0.66 to 1.30	0.94	0.64 to 1.38	0.79	0.54 to 1.15	0.83	0.56 to 1.23
Potatoes with added fat/ 127g	1.13	0.94 to 1.37	1.28	0.96 to 1.71	1.28	0.97 to 1.68	1.90	1.00 to 3.60	0.78	0.35 to 1.70	0.80	0.35 to 1.84
Refined pasta and rice/ 210g	0.99	0.78 to 1.25	0.94	0.72 to 1.22	0.99	0.55 to 1.78	1.05	0.54 to 2.05	0.69	0.34 to 1.42	0.73	0.34 to 1.54
Wholegrain pasta and rice/ 197 g	1.07	0.82 to 1.40	1.14	0.84 to 1.55	0.72	0.31 to 1.67	0.60	0.23 to 1.60	0.58	0.23 to 1.49	0.70	0.27 to 1.83
Protein and fat food sources												
Low fat dairy products/ 118g	1.01	0.98 to 1.03	1.01	0.98 to 1.03	1.04	0.98 to 1.10	1.03	0.97 to 1.10	0.95	0.90 to 1.02	0.95	0.89 to 1.02
High fat dairy products/ 93g	1.00	0.97 to 1.03	1.00	0.97 to 1.04	0.96	0.88 to 1.04	0.98	0.90 to 1.07	1.05	0.98 to 1.12	1.06	0.99 to 1.13
Butter and hard margarine/ 10g	0.99	0.93 to 1.06	0.98	0.92 to 1.05	0.98	0.83 to 1.16	1.00	0.83 to 1.20	0.92	0.76 to 1.10	0.86	0.69 to 1.06
Margarine/ 9g	0.97	0.91 to 1.03	0.99	0.92 to 1.05	0.95	0.81 to 1.12	0.93	0.77 to 1.11	1.06	0.91 to 1.22	1.03	0.88 to 1.21
Low fat spreads/ 7g	1.03	0.96 to 1.09	1.03	0.96 to 1.10	1.02	0.87 to 1.19	0.98	0.82 to 1.17	0.94	0.79 to 1.13	0.95	0.78 to 1.15
High fat dressing/ 23g	1.00	0.81 to 1.23	0.98	0.78 to 1.22	0.72	0.39 to 1.32	0.77	0.40 to 1.50	0.92	0.53 to 1.61	0.72	0.38 to 1.38
Low fat dressing/ 30g	0.98	0.70 to 1.36	1.02	0.72 to 1.45	0.88	0.37 to 2.08	0.86	0.32 to 2.29	1.02	0.46 to 2.30	1.09	0.47 to 2.54
Soybean products/ 62g	0.97	0.90 to 1.04	0.97	0.90 to 1.05	0.98	0.82 to 1.17	0.98	0.81 to 1.19	0.94	0.75 to 1.16	0.93	0.73 to 1.19
Textured vegetable protein/ 130g	0.44	0.03 to 6.93	0.16	0.01 to 3.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulses/ 91g	1.00	0.87 to 1.14	1.03	0.89 to 1.19	0.87	0.60 to 1.28	0.81	0.52 to 1.25	1.08	0.79 to 1.48	1.17	0.83 to 1.64
Eggs/eggs dishes/ 88g	0.99	0.76 to 1.27	0.98	0.73 to 1.31	1.29	0.82 to 2.02	1.63	0.88 to 2.99	1.21	0.74 to 1.96	1.21	0.62 to 2.37
Fish and fish dishes/ 140g	1.04	0.76 to 1.43	1.01	0.68 to 1.51	0.90	0.36 to 2.24	0.96	0.34 to 2.71	0.99	0.43 to 2.24	0.86	0.30 to 2.43
Oily fish/ 90g	0.98	0.64 to 1.50	0.98	0.62 to 1.54	0.45	0.12 to 1.68	0.52	0.13 to 2.13	1.06	0.39 to 2.89	1.06	0.36 to 3.14
Shell fish/ 60g	1.17	0.66 to 2.07	1.44	0.56 to 3.70	0.52	0.04 to 6.83	0.72	0.04 to 11.69	0.85	0.11 to 6.65	0.65	0.04 to 10.06
Red meat/ 189g	1.20	0.97 to 1.49	1.28	0.95 to 1.72	1.33	0.87 to 2.02	1.90	0.92 to 3.94	0.91	0.45 to 1.88	0.85	0.38 to 1.92
Processed meat/ 74g	1.34	1.03 to 1.73	1.36	1.02 to 1.81	1.81	1.16 to 2.83	2.19	1.34 to 3.60	1.22	0.62 to 2.42	1.27	0.60 to 2.69
Poultry/ 143g	1.30	0.90 to 1.87	1.32	0.86 to 2.03	1.35	0.55 to 3.32	1.76	0.60 to 5.18	0.63	0.19 to 2.07	0.62	0.17 to 2.21
Offal/ 100g	2.19	0.44 to 10.89	2.27	0.41 to 12.55	2.70	0.05 to 138.5	-	-	0.10	0.00 to 12.00	0.07	0.00 to 12.00
Total meat/150g	1.12	1.01 to 1.24	1.17	1.00 to 1.36	1.19	0.98 to 1.45	1.53	1.04 to 2.24	0.94	0.65 to 1.37	0.92	0.61 to 1.39

Vegetables

Vegetable dishes/ 214g	0.97	0.82 to 1.14	0.91	0.75 to 1.10	0.74	0.45 to 1.22	0.67	0.38 to 1.19	1.02	0.70 to 1.49	1.03	0.64 to 1.67
Allium/ 39g	0.98	0.82 to 1.17	0.99	0.82 to 1.20	1.02	0.67 to 1.57	0.97	0.58 to 1.61	0.81	0.49 to 1.33	0.77	0.44 to 1.33
Fresh legumes/ 75g	1.01	0.86 to 1.18	0.96	0.80 to 1.15	1.12	0.80 to 1.56	1.14	0.75 to 1.72	1.03	0.71 to 1.51	1.08	0.73 to 1.60
Mediterranean vegetables/ 60g	0.98	0.87 to 1.10	0.96	0.84 to 1.09	0.98	0.73 to 1.32	0.85	0.58 to 1.23	1.17	0.93 to 1.47	1.18	0.90 to 1.56
Salad vegetables/ 43g	0.97	0.87 to 1.08	0.97	0.87 to 1.09	0.84	0.62 to 1.12	0.84	0.61 to 1.17	0.98	0.76 to 1.28	0.99	0.74 to 1.32
Cruciferous vegetables/ 75g	1.01	0.95 to 1.07	0.99	0.91 to 1.06	0.94	0.78 to 1.14	0.94	0.76 to 1.16	1.01	0.87 to 1.18	1.04	0.88 to 1.24
Tomatoes/ 83g	0.88	0.77 to 1.00	0.87	0.75 to 0.999	0.81	0.57 to 1.15	0.77	0.52 to 1.16	0.94	0.69 to 1.29	0.97	0.70 to 1.35
Mushrooms/ 34g	0.98	0.79 to 1.22	0.96	0.76 to 1.22	1.19	0.77 to 1.85	1.29	0.78 to 2.12	1.40	0.98 to 1.99	1.57	1.09 to 2.26
Roots and tubers/ 66g	0.94	0.83 to 1.05	0.94	0.83 to 1.06	0.96	0.74 to 1.25	0.90	0.66 to 1.25	1.06	0.83 to 1.34	1.12	0.88 to 1.43
Total vegetables/150g	0.98	0.94 to 1.03	0.97	0.91 to 1.02	0.95	0.84 to 1.09	0.93	0.80 to 1.08	1.02	0.91 to 1.14	1.04	0.92 to 1.18

Fruits

Stone fruits/ 49g	1.00	0.96 to 1.04	1.03	0.86 to 1.23	0.84	0.49 to 1.42	0.94	0.55 to 1.62	0.63	0.32 to 1.22	0.66	0.32 to 1.33
Deep orange & yellow fruits/ 118g	1.03	0.90 to 1.18	1.08	0.92 to 1.26	0.67	0.39 to 1.15	0.75	0.42 to 1.32	0.97	0.65 to 1.44	0.98	0.62 to 1.54
Grapes/ 100g	0.98	0.86 to 1.11	0.96	0.84 to 1.10	0.92	0.66 to 1.29	0.91	0.61 to 1.34	0.84	0.57 to 1.23	0.91	0.62 to 1.32
Citrus family fruits/ 92g	1.03	0.93 to 1.14	1.02	0.92 to 1.14	0.81	0.60 to 1.11	0.77	0.54 to 1.10	0.85	0.63 to 1.15	0.88	0.64 to 1.21
Rhubarb/ 130g	0.96	0.76 to 1.22	0.93	0.71 to 1.24	0.59	0.24 to 1.45	0.74	0.30 to 1.82	1.04	0.61 to 1.77	1.07	0.57 to 2.00
Berries/ 48g	1.02	0.93 to 1.11	1.03	0.94 to 1.14	0.85	0.62 to 1.15	0.85	0.60 to 1.21	0.84	0.61 to 1.15	0.82	0.57 to 1.17
Bananas/ 100g	1.04	0.94 to 1.158	1.07	0.95 to 1.19	0.87	0.65 to 1.18	0.88	0.63 to 1.22	1.10	0.85 to 1.42	1.21	0.92 to 1.59
Pomes/ 116g	0.97	0.90 to 1.04	0.98	0.91 to 1.06	0.97	0.80 to 1.16	0.92	0.75 to 1.15	0.91	0.74 to 1.11	0.97	0.79 to 1.19
Total fruits/150g	1.00	0.96 to 1.04	1.01	0.97 to 1.05	0.91	0.81 to 1.02	0.90	0.79 to 1.03	0.95	0.85 to 1.06	0.98	0.88 to 1.10
Dried Fruits/ 28g	1.03	0.96 to 1.11	1.04	0.98 to 1.13	0.67	0.46 to 0.99	0.60	0.37 to 0.97	1.02	0.86 to 1.22	1.06	0.89 to 1.26

Other food groups

Sauces/ 83g	1.05	0.63 to 1.74	1.07	0.62 to 1.87	1.46	0.48 to 3.40	1.29	0.31 to 5.37	1.48	0.49 to 4.49	1.78	0.48 to 6.65
Pickles/Chutneys/ 35g	0.90	0.70 to 1.17	0.89	0.68 to 1.18	1.16	0.68 to 1.97	0.96	0.49 to 1.91	0.72	0.35 to 1.48	0.65	0.29 to 1.44
Soups/ 163g	0.98	0.82 to 1.18	0.98	0.79 to 1.22	0.93	0.57 to 1.51	0.90	0.50 to 1.61	0.95	0.60 to 1.50	1.03	0.62 to 1.70
Confectionary & spreads/ 44g	0.98	0.92 to 1.04	0.99	0.92 to 1.05	0.94	0.79 to 1.12	0.88	0.71 to 1.09	0.98	0.83 to 1.15	0.96	0.81 to 1.15
Nuts and seeds/ 24g	1.01	0.93 to 1.10	1.03	0.94 to 1.13	1.03	0.85 to 1.25	0.77	0.53 to 1.13	1.02	0.83 to 1.25	1.02	0.80 to 1.30
Savoury snacks/ 26g	1.05	0.87 to 1.26	1.06	0.87 to 1.29	1.21	0.79 to 1.85	1.12	0.68 to 1.86	1.05	0.63 to 1.73	1.06	0.63 to 1.81
Biscuits/ 15g	1.00	0.94 to 1.06	1.01	0.94 to 1.08	0.97	0.83 to 1.14	0.97	0.81 to 1.17	0.95	0.80 to 1.13	0.95	0.80 to 1.15
Cakes/ 66g	0.89	0.68 to 1.16	0.88	0.65 to 1.19	0.85	0.43 to 1.68	0.84	0.38 to 1.87	1.01	0.55 to 1.83	0.95	0.47 to 1.92
Pastries and Puddings/ 84g	1.05	0.89 to 1.24	1.12	0.92 to 1.36	0.85	0.51 to 1.43	1.00	0.58 to 1.73	0.78	0.45 to 1.35	0.71	0.37 to 1.34

Drinks and beverages

Tea/ 260g	0.98	0.95 to 1.02	0.98	0.95 to 1.02	1.04	0.96 to 1.12	1.02	0.93 to 1.11	0.98	0.91 to 1.07	0.98	0.90 to 1.07
Herbal tea/ 260g	0.97	0.90 to 1.04	0.99	0.91 to 1.06	0.96	0.80 to 1.16	0.89	0.71 to 1.12	0.94	0.77 to 1.15	0.93	0.75 to 1.16
Coffee/ 190g	1.01	0.98 to 1.04	1.01	0.97 to 1.04	1.03	0.95 to 1.12	1.03	0.94 to 1.13	1.04	0.96 to 1.13	1.04	0.95 to 1.13
Other hot beverages/ 23g	1.02	0.92 to 1.12	1.03	0.93 to 1.14	1.03	0.81 to 1.31	1.01	0.77 to 1.33	0.99	0.77 to 1.28	1.04	0.80 to 1.35

Juices/ 145g	1.00	0.93 to 1.07	1.01	0.93 to 1.08	0.97	0.80 to 1.16	0.95	0.76 to 1.17	0.95	0.78 to 1.15	0.97	0.79 to 1.18
Soft drinks/ 111g	1.00	0.89 to 1.10	1.00	0.90 to 1.12	1.05	0.83 to 1.33	1.00	0.74 to 1.34	1.03	0.80 to 1.33	1.02	0.78 to 1.33
Low calorie/diet soft drinks/ 161g	1.01	0.91 to 1.12	1.03	0.93 to 1.14	1.10	0.87 to 1.38	1.03	0.79 to 1.35	0.96	0.72 to 1.28	0.98	0.73 to 1.31
Wines/ glass*	1.03	0.94 to 1.12	1.03	0.94 to 1.13	0.90	0.70 to 1.14	0.90	0.69 to 1.17	1.06	0.86 to 1.32	1.06	0.85 to 1.32
Beer and cider/ half pint*	1.09	0.93 to 1.28	1.10	0.93 to 1.29	1.13	0.77 to 1.68	0.81	0.42 to 1.56	1.11	0.71 to 1.72	1.10	0.72 to 1.69
Port, sherry, liqueurs/ glass*	0.97	0.75 to 1.26	0.98	0.74 to 1.29	0.93	0.47 to 1.82	1.11	0.57 to 2.17	1.17	0.72 to 1.92	1.20	0.74 to 1.95
Spirits/ measure*	1.11	0.97 to 1.27	1.10	0.95 to 1.27	0.51	0.25 to 1.02	0.54	0.26 to 1.12	1.27	0.97 to 1.67	1.26	0.96 to 1.66

^a Model 1: adjusted for age; ^b Model 2: adjusted for age, ethanol intake, duration of breastfeeding, physical activity, smoking, social class, menopausal status; ^c Model 2 (endometrial cancer): adjusted for age, ethanol intake, duration of breastfeeding, physical activity, smoking, social class, menopausal status, history of diabetes and history of hypertension; * not adjusted for ethanol intake

Table 3. Associations between various food groups and risk of breast, endometrial and ovarian cancer by incidence of premenopausal and postmenopausal cancer cases

Daily intake/ standard portion size	Breast Cancer Cases ^a				Endometrial Cancer Cases ^b				Ovarian Cancer Cases ^a			
	Premenopausal n=291/3,178		Postmenopausal n=1,030/23,806		Premenopausal n=35/3,024		Postmenopausal n=175/24,118		Premenopausal n=44/3,030		Postmenopausal n=163/24,115	
	HR	99% CI	HR	99% CI	HR	99% CI	HR	99% CI	HR	99% CI	HR	99% CI
Starchy food sources												
Wholegrain products/ 33g	1.01	0.93 to 1.10	0.98	0.94 to 1.02	1.21	0.84 to 1.76	0.91	0.81 to 1.01	1.21	0.94 to 1.56	1.01	0.91 to 1.12
Refined grain products/ 51g	0.99	0.83 to 1.18	1.06	0.97 to 1.16	1.06	0.55 to 2.03	1.16	0.95 to 1.42	1.31	0.90 to 1.91	0.84	0.63 to 1.13
Low fibre breakfast cereals/ 40g	0.90	0.60 to 1.34	1.02	0.80 to 1.30	0.29	0.06 to 1.50	0.75	0.38 to 1.50	0.68	0.17 to 2.80	1.02	0.55 to 1.86
High fibre breakfast cereals/ 85g	1.06	0.87 to 1.29	1.00	0.90 to 1.12	1.34	0.41 to 4.42	0.86	0.62 to 1.17	1.28	0.63 to 2.58	0.86	0.62 to 1.19
Plain Potatoes/ 210g	0.98	0.61 to 1.56	0.95	0.79 to 1.14	0.58	0.09 to 3.69	0.98	0.63 to 1.51	0.97	0.27 to 3.47	0.86	0.53 to 1.40
Potatoes with added fat/ 127g	1.05	0.49 to 2.27	1.31	0.90 to 1.91	0.33	0.03 to 3.29	1.96	0.89 to 4.31	9.87	0.87 to 111.5	0.54	0.17 to 1.70
Refined pasta and rice/ 210g	1.10	0.60 to 2.01	1.00	0.71 to 1.40	1.04	0.13 to 8.14	1.28	0.62 to 2.63	2.91	0.37 to 22.9	0.72	0.28 to 1.88
Wholegrain pasta and rice/ 197 g	1.15	0.49 to 2.70	1.29	0.88 to 1.88	4.90	0.51 to 47.3	0.44	0.12 to 1.56	0.06	0.00 to 3.08	1.32	0.51 to 3.42
Protein and fat food sources												
Low fat dairy products/ 118g	1.03	0.97 to 1.10	1.02	0.99 to 1.05	0.96	0.81 to 1.14	1.04	0.97 to 1.12	1.02	0.85 to 1.22	0.96	0.89 to 1.04
High fat dairy products/ 93g	1.00	0.93 to 1.08	1.00	0.96 to 1.04	0.94	0.73 to 1.20	0.93	0.82 to 1.05	1.05	0.89 to 1.23	1.04	0.95 to 1.13
Butter and hard margarine/ 10g	1.00	0.82 to 1.21	0.99	0.91 to 1.09	1.04	0.50 to 2.17	1.02	0.83 to 1.26	0.90	0.57 to 1.43	0.76	0.57 to 1.03
Margarine/ 9g	1.08	0.91 to 1.28	0.98	0.90 to 1.06	0.75	0.42 to 1.33	0.93	0.75 to 1.15	1.06	0.67 to 1.68	1.08	0.90 to 1.31
Low fat spreads/ 7g	1.03	0.90 to 1.18	0.98	0.90 to 1.07	1.15	0.64 to 2.06	0.98	0.80 to 1.21	1.46	0.84 to 2.55	0.94	0.74 to 1.19
High fat dressing/ 23g	1.39	0.69 to 2.82	1.00	0.76 to 1.33	0.25	0.01 to 4.55	0.84	0.40 to 1.78	0.34	0.05 to 2.49	0.99	0.48 to 2.02
Low fat dressing/ 30g	1.06	0.41 to 2.71	0.99	0.64 to 1.53	0.64	0.02 to 24.3	0.87	0.29 to 2.62	3.31	0.06 to 175.2	1.26	0.49 to 3.23
Soybean products/ 62g	0.90	0.69 to 1.17	0.99	0.90 to 1.08	0.84	0.42 to 1.65	1.02	0.84 to 1.25	-	-	0.91	0.66 to 1.25
Textured vegetable protein/ 130g	-	-	0.04	0.00 to 2.55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulses/ 91g	1.04	0.71 to 1.53	1.06	0.88 to 1.27	0.82	0.23 to 2.90	0.90	0.55 to 1.48	1.31	0.44 to 3.89	1.28	0.84 to 1.94
Eggs/eggs dishes/ 88g	0.92	0.44 to 1.95	0.94	0.65 to 1.37	1.18	0.07 to 18.4	1.64	0.84 to 3.21	0.70	0.14 to 3.64	0.86	0.33 to 2.22
Fish and fish dishes/ 140g	0.84	0.29 to 2.38	1.01	0.61 to 1.67	1.88	0.07 to 51.3	0.81	0.23 to 2.91	0.56	0.01 to 31.7	1.04	0.30 to 3.58
Oily fish/ 90g	0.46	0.11 to 1.81	0.93	0.52 to 1.63	0.46	0.00 to 104.8	0.27	0.04 to 1.64	0.21	0.01 to 6.52	0.95	0.24 to 3.82
Shell fish/ 60g	0.83	0.04 to 17.7	2.06	0.64 to 6.61	-	-	0.25	0.01 to 11.5	-	-	1.39	0.06 to 33.7
Red meat/ 189g	0.91	0.40 to 2.05	1.37	0.94 to 1.98	0.44	0.04 to 5.37	1.86	0.80 to 4.30	2.55	0.66 to 9.77	0.62	0.21 to 1.80
Processed meat/ 74g	1.36	0.66 to 2.80	1.50	1.01 to 2.22	0.65	0.03 to 12.1	3.05	1.34 to 6.91	2.13	0.84 to 5.40	0.71	0.23 to 2.18
Poultry/ 143g	1.08	0.33 to 3.55	1.33	0.78 to 2.28	-	-	1.29	0.35 to 4.81	-	-	0.54	0.11 to 2.66
Offal/ 100g	-	-	3.67	0.49 to 27.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.05	0.00 to 30.6
Total meat/150g	1.03	0.69 to 1.56	1.22	1.00 to 1.47	0.94	0.27 to 3.26	1.50	0.95 to 2.35	1.67	0.89 to 3.13	0.75	0.44 to 1.29

Vegetables

Vegetable dishes/ 214g	1.00	0.60 to 1.67	1.00	0.79 to 1.27	1.73	0.39 to 7.72	0.77	0.40 to 1.48	0.36	0.08 to 1.70	1.23	0.72 to 2.10
Allium/ 39g	0.81	0.46 to 1.42	1.12	0.91 to 1.37	1.28	0.33 to 5.03	0.95	0.53 to 1.72	0.32	0.08 to 1.33	0.96	0.53 to 1.74
Fresh legumes/ 75g	0.87	0.49 to 1.56	1.09	0.89 to 1.33	1.91	0.39 to 9.24	1.23	0.79 to 1.90	0.54	0.12 to 2.40	1.21	0.78 to 1.87
Mediterranean vegetables/ 60g	0.98	0.65 to 1.50	1.04	0.89 to 1.22	1.24	0.51 to 3.00	0.93	0.61 to 1.42	0.54	0.21 to 1.35	1.23	0.88 to 1.72
Salad vegetables/ 43g	0.99	0.68 to 1.44	1.04	0.91 to 1.20	1.34	0.37 to 4.87	0.88	0.61 to 1.28	0.61	0.28 to 1.31	1.00	0.70 to 1.43
Cruciferous vegetables/ 75g	0.94	0.74 to 1.20	1.03	0.94 to 1.12	1.09	0.46 to 2.60	0.97	0.77 to 1.23	1.06	0.58 to 1.93	1.10	0.93 to 1.30
Tomatoes/ 83g	0.96	0.62 to 1.48	0.88	0.74 to 1.04	1.85	0.61 to 5.62	0.76	0.48 to 1.22	1.16	0.54 to 2.49	0.91	0.59 to 1.39
Mushrooms/ 34g	0.94	0.51 to 1.75	1.03	0.77 to 1.38	2.13	0.26 to 14.7	1.24	0.66 to 2.31	0.29	0.06 to 1.43	1.84	1.21 to 2.79
Roots and tubers/ 66g	0.86	0.60 to 1.22	0.98	0.85 to 1.12	0.69	0.20 to 2.38	0.97	0.69 to 1.37	0.64	0.26 to 1.60	1.20	0.94 to 1.53
Total vegetables/150g	0.94	0.79 to 1.13	1.01	0.94 to 1.08	1.18	0.71 to 1.96	0.96	0.81 to 1.14	0.82	0.58 to 1.18	1.09	0.95 to 1.25

Fruits

Stone fruits/ 49g	0.60	0.31 to 1.16	1.13	0.97 to 1.33	8.93	0.38 to 207.5	1.11	0.72 to 1.70	0.14	0.01 to 3.50	0.98	0.52 to 1.87
Deep orange & yellow fruits/ 118g	0.70	0.44 to 1.11	1.12	0.93 to 1.35	0.65	0.15 to 2.90	0.78	0.41 to 1.49	0.09	0.01 to 1.07	1.20	0.79 to 1.81
Grapes/ 100g	0.91	0.64 to 1.29	0.95	0.80 to 1.13	1.11	0.20 to 6.05	0.93	0.60 to 1.42	1.08	0.21 to 5.62	1.04	0.73 to 1.49
Citrus family fruits/ 92g	1.02	0.76 to 1.37	1.06	0.93 to 1.21	0.89	0.16 to 4.97	0.85	0.58 to 1.25	0.13	0.02 to 0.81	1.06	0.76 to 1.48
Rhubarb/ 130g	0.80	0.29 to 2.17	0.93	0.64 to 1.33	0.26	0.01 to 11.2	0.83	0.31 to 2.21	0.47	0.06 to 3.88	1.19	0.59 to 2.38
Berries/ 48g	0.87	0.68 to 1.14	1.06	0.95 to 1.18	1.46	0.30 to 7.13	0.89	0.61 to 1.29	0.71	0.37 to 1.36	0.88	0.59 to 1.31
Bananas/ 100g	0.94	0.72 to 1.24	1.09	0.94 to 1.25	0.65	0.24 to 1.81	0.96	0.67 to 1.39	0.44	0.15 to 1.31	1.32	0.97 to 1.80
Pomes/ 116g	0.90	0.71 to 1.14	0.99	0.90 to 1.09	1.25	0.60 to 2.61	0.93	0.73 to 1.19	0.62	0.24 to 1.61	1.03	0.82 to 1.30
Total fruits/150g	0.94	0.84 to 1.05	1.02	0.97 to 1.07	0.97	0.64 to 1.47	0.93	0.80 to 1.08	0.63	0.40 to 0.99	1.06	0.94 to 1.19
Dried Fruits/ 28g	1.06	0.96 to 1.16	1.04	0.94 to 1.15	0.99	0.25 to 3.93	0.55	0.31 to 0.98	0.35	0.04 to 2.86	1.14	0.99 to 1.31

Other food groups

Sauces/ 83g	2.52	0.38 to 16.7	1.30	0.66 to 2.58	-	-	1.91	0.40 to 9.12	8.89	0.37 to 215.9	1.28	0.22 to 7.49
Pickles/Chutneys/ 35g	1.35	0.79 to 2.30	0.85	0.60 to 1.22	2.31	0.23 to 22.9	1.01	0.46 to 2.21	2.35	0.18 to 30.5	0.68	0.25 to 1.82
Soups/ 163g	0.87	0.41 to 1.83	1.08	0.84 to 1.38	-	--	1.00	0.54 to 1.85	1.01	0.32 to 3.17	1.05	0.57 to 1.91
Confectionary & spreads/ 44g	0.95	0.84 to 1.08	1.00	0.92 to 1.09	0.89	0.51 to 1.55	0.93	0.74 to 1.17	0.89	0.55 to 1.45	0.99	0.80 to 1.23
Nuts and seeds/ 24g	1.03	0.90 to 1.18	1.04	0.92 to 1.16	1.13	0.54 to 2.36	0.70	0.43 to 1.14	0.39	0.10 to 1.51	1.02	0.76 to 1.38
Savoury snacks/ 26g	0.85	0.47 to 1.52	1.06	0.82 to 1.38	1.64	0.25 to 10.8	1.31	0.75 to 2.27	1.01	0.19 to 5.34	1.24	0.67 to 2.28
Biscuits/ 15g	1.17	1.00 to 1.38	1.00	0.93 to 1.09	0.93	0.45 to 1.93	1.01	0.84 to 1.23	1.40	0.75 to 2.60	0.93	0.74 to 1.18
Cakes/ 66g	0.83	0.45 to 1.52	0.84	0.57 to 1.22	0.06	0.00 to 1.82	0.95	0.41 to 2.21	0.24	0.01 to 5.17	1.06	0.48 to 2.37
Pastries and Puddings/ 84g	1.47	0.98 to 2.19	1.08	0.83 to 1.39	0.26	0.01 to 4.75	1.16	0.64 to 2.11	1.12	0.06 to 22.0	0.76	0.35 to 1.61

Drinks and beverages

Tea/ 260g	0.98	0.90 to 1.06	0.99	0.95 to 1.03	1.14	0.84 to 1.55	1.02	0.92 to 1.13	0.98	0.77 to 1.24	0.94	0.84 to 1.04
Herbal tea/ 260g	1.06	0.87 to 1.29	1.00	0.91 to 1.09	1.49	0.71 to 3.11	0.89	0.68 to 1.16	0.76	0.34 to 1.72	0.96	0.74 to 1.25
Coffee/ 190g	1.03	0.95 to 1.11	1.01	0.97 to 1.06	1.03	0.76 to 1.39	1.01	0.91 to 1.13	1.16	0.87 to 1.54	1.07	0.96 to 1.19
Other hot beverages/ 23g	1.02	0.79 to 1.31	1.01	0.89 to 1.15	0.25	0.04 to 1.47	1.05	0.79 to 1.42	1.18	0.54 to 2.58	1.08	0.80 to 1.46

Juices/ 145g	0.89	0.72 to 1.10	0.99	0.90 to 1.09	1.09	0.51 to 2.33	0.96	0.76 to 1.23	0.65	0.31 to 1.35	1.02	0.81 to 1.29
Soft drinks/ 111g	1.04	0.87 to 1.23	1.03	0.90 to 1.19	0.98	0.36 to 2.67	1.15	0.88 to 1.50	1.52	0.80 to 2.88	1.09	0.80 to 1.48
Low calorie/diet soft drinks/ 161g	1.00	0.78 to 1.29	1.03	0.90 to 1.18	0.34	0.05 to 2.18	1.27	1.00 to 1.61	1.70	0.64 to 4.50	1.01	0.70 to 1.45
Wines/ glass*	0.98	0.81 to 1.18	1.03	0.92 to 1.15	1.24	0.40 to 3.79	0.85	0.61 to 1.18	0.89	0.50 to 1.59	1.01	0.75 to 1.36
Beer and cider/ half pint*	1.09	0.65 to 1.83	1.15	0.94 to 1.42	4.11	0.44 to 38.4	1.26	0.81 to 1.97	1.81	0.93 to 3.53	1.05	0.56 to 1.97
Port, sherry, liqueurs/ glass*	1.23	0.59 to 2.60	1.01	0.73 to 1.39	-	-	0.95	0.42 to 2.15	0.58	0.16 to 2.14	1.31	0.77 to 2.21
Spirits/ measure*	1.07	0.80 to 1.43	1.05	0.87 to 1.28	0.76	0.01 to 76.3	0.49	0.20 to 1.21	1.21	0.51 to 2.86	1.12	0.74 to 1.71

^a Fully adjusted for age, ethanol intake, duration of breastfeeding, physical activity, smoking, social class, menopausal status; ^b Fully adjusted for age, ethanol intake, duration of breastfeeding, physical activity, smoking, social class, menopausal status, history of diabetes and history of hypertension; * not adjusted for ethanol intake