



Meeting 3

# Cancer - Primary Prevention

**Chair: Anne McTiernan**

Members: Peter Katzmarzyk, Ken Powell

# Experts and Consultants



- Invited experts:
  - None
- Consultants:
  - Christine Friedenreich, PhD  
Alberta Health Services

# Subcommittee Questions



1. What is the relationship between physical activity and cancer incidence?
  - What is the dose-response?
  - Does the relationship differ by gender, race, or ethnicity?
  - Does the relationship differ by specific cancer subtypes?
  - Is the relationship present in persons at high risk, such as those with familial predisposition to cancer?
2. What is the relationship between sedentary behavior and cancer incidence?

# Question 1 – Breast & Colorectal Cancers

- What is the relationship between physical activity & cancer incidence?
- Source of evidence to answer question:
  - Systematic reviews
  - Meta-analyses
  - Pooled analyses

# Analytical Framework

## **Systematic Review Question**

What is the relationship between physical activity and cancer incidence?

## **Target Population**

Adults, 18 years and older

## **Exposure**

All types and intensities of physical activity, including lifestyle activities/leisure activities

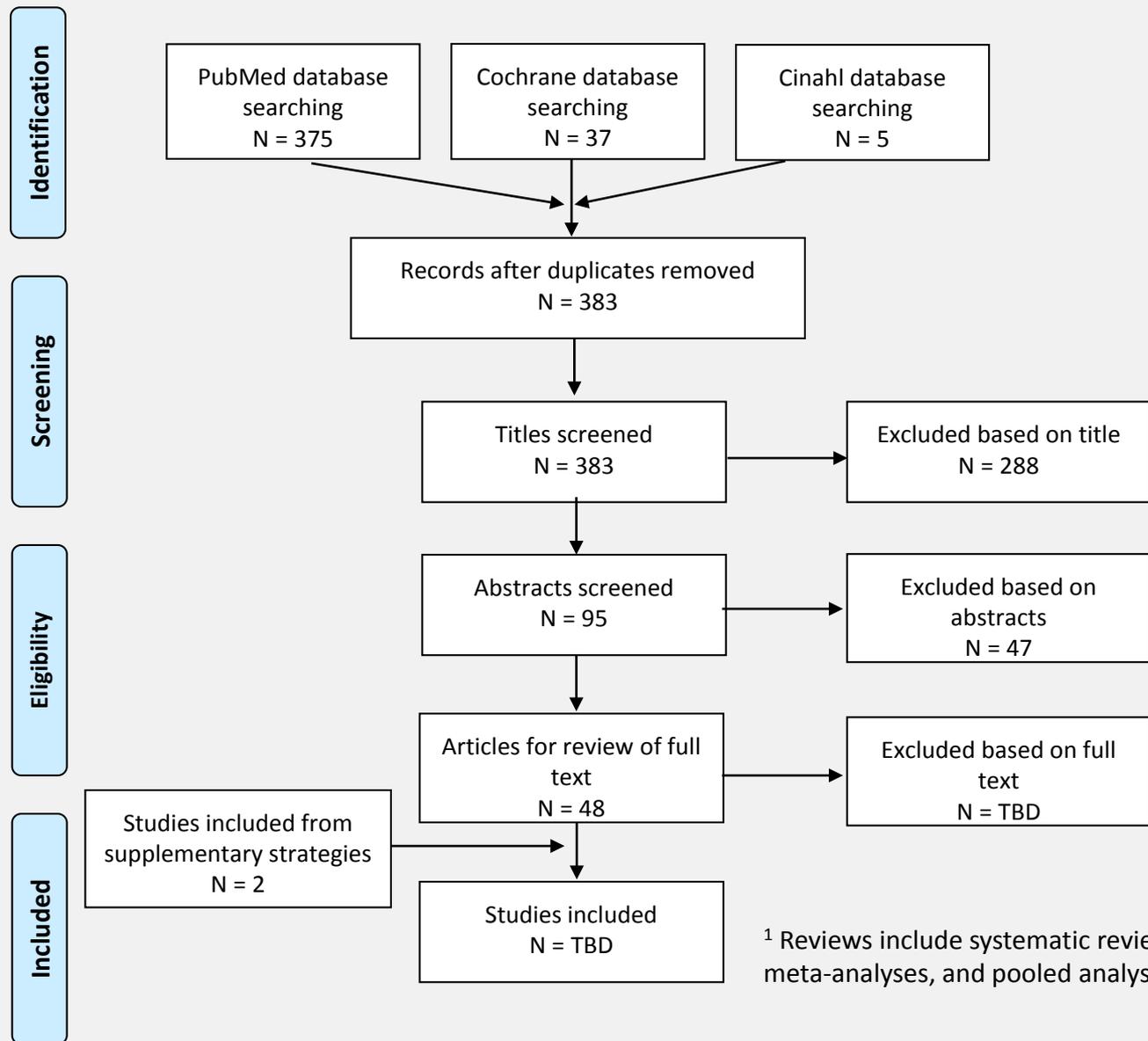
## **Comparison**

Adults who participate in varying levels of physical activity

## **Endpoint Health Outcome**

Incidence of cancer

# Search Results (All Cancers): High-Quality Reviews<sup>1</sup> and Reports



<sup>1</sup> Reviews include systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and pooled analyses.

# Search Results: High-Quality Reviews<sup>1</sup> & Reports for

- Bladder
- Brain
- **Breast**
- **Colorectal/colon/rectal**
- Endometrial
- Esophageal
- Gastric
- Gastroesophageal
- Head and Neck
- Hematologic
- Lung
- Lymphoma
- Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Ovarian
- Pancreatic
- Prostate
- Renal
- Thyroid

<sup>1</sup> Reviews include systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and pooled analyses.

# Search Results (Breast & Colorectal Cancers): High-Quality Reviews<sup>1</sup> & Reports

- **Breast cancer**
  - Among the articles for full text review 9 reported risk of breast cancer
    - 3 were excluded during full text review
    - 6 were included
- **Colorectal cancer**
  - Among the articles for full text review 6 reported risk of colorectal cancer
    - No articles were excluded during full text review
    - 2 reviews from supplementary strategies were included
    - 8 were included

<sup>1</sup> Reviews include systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and pooled analyses.

# Description of the Evidence – Breast Cancer

- Breast Cancer
  - All included reviews were published between 2014-2016
  - N=4 to 80 individual studies
  - 4 of 6 reviews included cohort studies only
  - Mainly considered leisure time PA
  - All examined dose-response effects
  - Several examined sub-group effects

# Draft Key Findings – Breast Cancer

- Breast cancer
  - 10-20% reduced risk of breast cancer in “highest” vs “lowest” category of PA
  - Evidence for a dose-response effect found in 4 of 6 reviews
  - Sub-groups considered by: age, race/ethnicity, tumor sub-type, and several breast cancer risk factors
  - Increased lifetime PA most beneficial
  - Effect seen in both pre- and post-menopausal women
  - Statistically significant risk reductions in White, White-Hispanic, and Asian groups (non-significant reductions in Blacks and Hispanics)
  - Greater reductions in: BMI<25; no family history of breast cancer; never used menopausal hormone therapy
  - No clear pattern of risk reduction by tumor sub-type, grade, geographic region, other parameters of activity or other lifestyle factors

# Draft Conclusion Statement – Breast Cancer

- **Conclusion Statement: Breast Cancer**
  - There is strong and consistent evidence from over 65 studies conducted worldwide that physical activity reduces breast cancer risk by 10-20% when comparing the most to least physically active
  - There is also evidence for a clear dose-response effect that is linear to about 20-30 MET-hours/week of moderate-vigorous physical activity particularly among post-menopausal women
- **Grade: Strong**

# Draft Implications – Breast Cancer

- Breast cancer
  - Moderate-vigorous physical activity can be recommended as a means of reducing breast cancer risk to women of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds
  - There is a particular benefit observed with sustained activity over lifetime, higher intensity and duration of activity

# Description of the Evidence – Colorectal Cancer

- Colorectal Cancer
  - 1 included review was published between 2014-2016
  - N=4 to 80 individual studies
  - 2 of 6 reviews included cohort studies only
  - Mainly considered leisure time PA
  - Some examined dose-response effects
  - Several examined sub-group effects

# Draft Key Findings – Colorectal Cancer

- ~ 25% reduced risk of colon cancer in “highest” vs. “lowest” category of leisure-time PA
- Similar effects proximal & distal colon
- No effect on rectal cancer
- Effect lower in women than men
- Dose-response analysis (10 studies) vs. 0 leisure-time PA\*:
  - 10 MET-hours/week RR = 0.92
  - 20 MET-hours/week RR = 0.85
  - 30 MET-hours/week RR = 0.86
  - P non-linearity = 0.002

\*Liu et al. Leisure time physical activity and cancer risk: evaluation of the WHO’s recommendation based on 126 high-quality epidemiological studies. *Br J Sports Med* 2016;50:372–378.

# Draft Conclusion Statement – Colorectal Cancer

- **Conclusion Statement: Colorectal Cancer**
  - Physical activity is associated with reduced risk for colon, but not rectal, cancer
  - Dose-response analysis (10 studies) indicates that a dose of 20 MET-hours/week in leisure-time PA provides maximal risk reduction
- **Grade: Strong**

# *Draft* Implications – Colorectal Cancer

- Colorectal cancer
  - Physical activity equivalent to at least 10 MET-hours/week can be recommended as a means of reducing colon cancer risk in men and women
  - 20 MET-hours/week provides maximal benefit

# Draft Research Recommendations – Breast & Colorectal Cancers

- Dose-response relations should be investigated further to clarify the effect of very high levels of moderate-vigorous activity
- Direct measurement of activity, rather than self-report, would reduce measurement error
- No randomized controlled exercise intervention trials have been conducted of physical activity and breast or colon cancer incidence, hence evidence is based on observational data only

# Committee Discussion

What is the relationship between physical activity and cancer incidence?

# Additional Prioritized Questions



2. What is the relationship between sedentary behavior and cancer incidence?

– Note: Question 2 will be answered by the Sedentary Subcommittee's Question 4