

Breast Cancer Prevention & Nutrition: A Review of the Dose-Response Relationship between Various Foods/Nutrients & Risk for Breast Cancer

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Determinants of Risk for Breast Cancer

75%

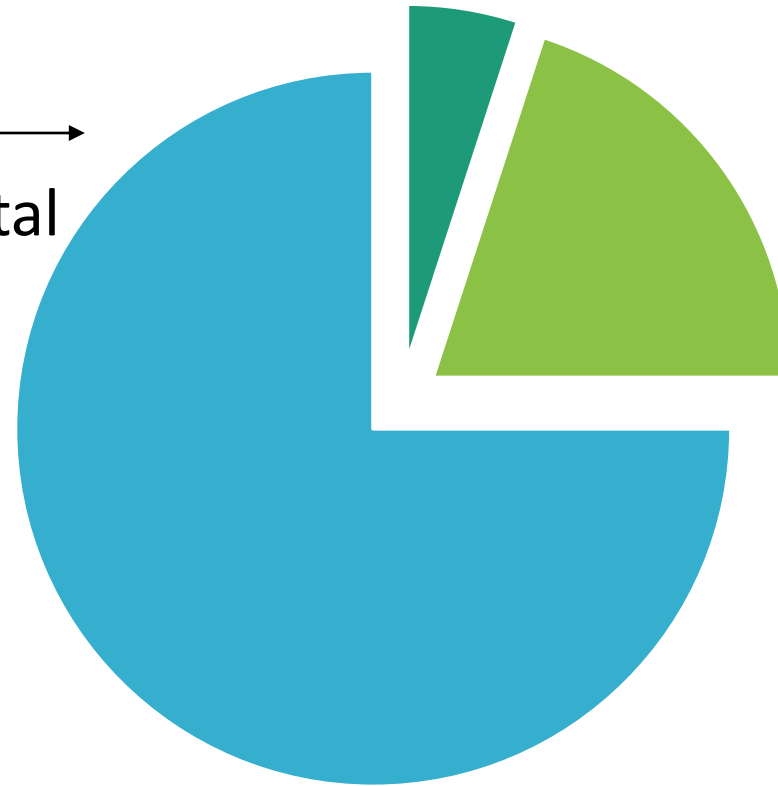
Lifestyle /
Environmental
Exposures

5%

Single Gene (ex. BRCA)

20%

Family History



LIFESTYLE &
ENVIRONMENTAL
FACTORS THAT
INFLUENCE
BREAST CANCER

NUTRITION

Toxins

Obesity

Sedentary
Lifestyle

Not

Breastfeeding

Alcohol

Radiation

Stress

Environmental
Estrogens



Mediterranean Diet prevents Breast Cancer

Randomized Controlled Trial, Toledo et al, JAMA IM, 2015

JAMA Internal Medicine | [Original Investigation](#)

Mediterranean Diet and Invasive Breast Cancer Risk Among Women at High Cardiovascular Risk in the PREDIMED Trial A Randomized Clinical Trial

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IMPORTANCE Breast cancer is the leading cause of female cancer burden, and its incidence has increased by more than 20% worldwide since 2008. Some observational studies have suggested that the Mediterranean diet may reduce the risk of breast cancer.

OBJECTIVE To evaluate the effect of 2 interventions with Mediterranean diet vs the advice to follow a low-fat diet (control) on breast cancer incidence.

DESIGN, SETTING, AND PARTICIPANTS The PREDIMED study is a 1:1:1 randomized, single-blind, controlled field trial conducted at primary health care centers in Spain. From 2003 to 2009, 4282 women aged 60 to 80 years and at high cardiovascular disease risk were recruited after invitation by their primary care physicians.

INTERVENTIONS Participants were randomly allocated to a Mediterranean diet supplemented with extra-virgin olive oil, a Mediterranean diet supplemented with mixed nuts, or a control diet (advice to reduce dietary fat).

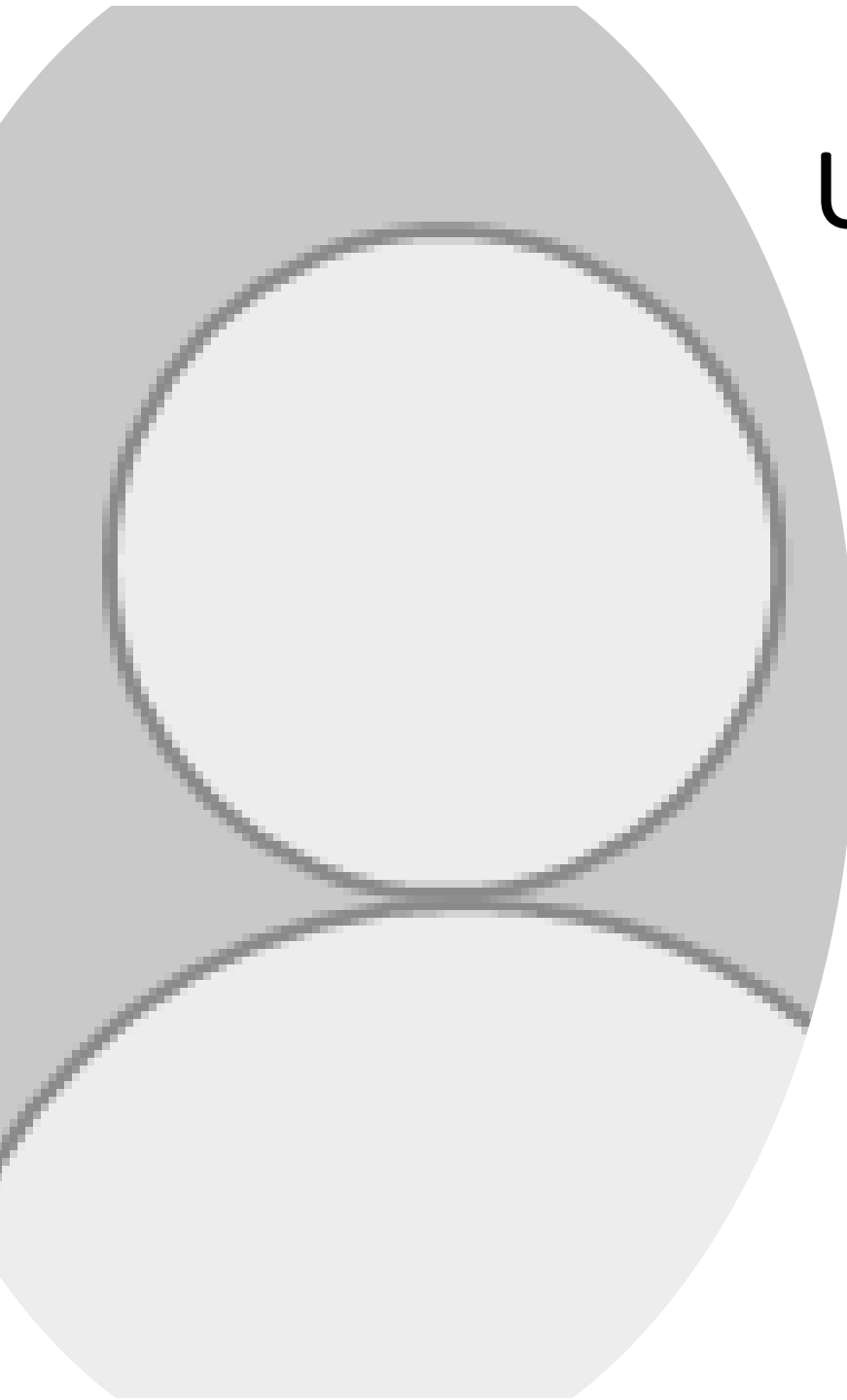
[← Editor's Note page 1760](#)

[+ Supplemental content at
jamainternalmedicine.com](#)



So what do we tell our patients?

“Adopt a Mediterranean Diet” =
Not Ideal Messaging



Umbrella Review – Buja et al, 2020

- Review of Meta-Analyses & Systematic Reviews
 - Cohort
 - Case Control
- Identified a **13 foods/nutrients** associated with increased/decreased risk for breast cancer

Foods that Increase Risk:

- Red/processed meat
- High Glycemic Index Foods
- Eggs

Foods that Decrease Risk:

- Vegetables
- Citrus Fruit
- Mushrooms
- Calcium
- Folate
- Vitamin D
- Lignans
- Carotenoids
- Soy
- Fiber



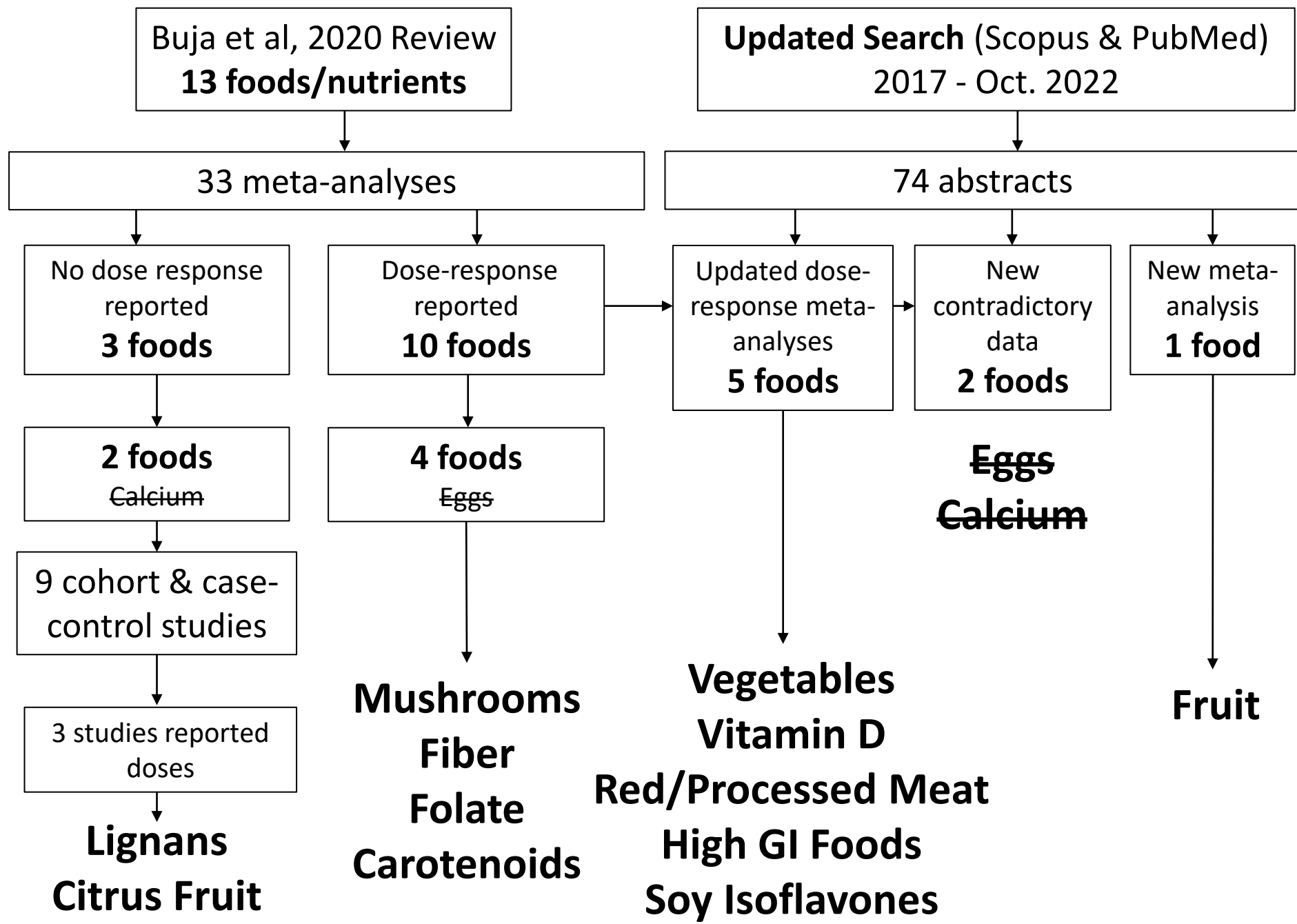
Research Gap

- Buja et al did not report quantities of consumption
- Patients wants to know
 - What to eat?
 - How much?
 - How often?



Objective

- To re-examine and **update** Buja et al's 2020 review in order to extract data regarding the **quantity** of the foods/nutrients that are associated with breast cancer
- To **compare** the evidence-based quantities **with established dietary recommendations** (ex. Dietary Reference Intake Levels)
- To **translate the findings** into dietary advice for patients



Study Characteristics

9 meta-analyses, 2 prospective cohorts, 1 case-control

| Author | Type of Study | Studies Included/sample size (if applicable) | Food/Nutrient |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Aune et al, 2012 | Meta-analysis | 16 cohort studies | Fiber |
| Chen et al, 2014 | Meta-analysis | 16 cohort studies, 23 case-control studies | Folate |
| Guo et al, 2015 | Meta-analysis | 14 cohort/nest-case control studies | Red & Processed Meat |
| Hu et al, 2012 | Meta-analysis | 6 cohort studies, 6 case control studies | Carotenoids |
| Li et al, 2014 | Meta-analysis | 2 cohort, 8 case-control studies | Mushrooms |
| Malin et al, 2003 | Case-Control | 1459 cases | Citrus Fruit |
| Suzuki et al, 2008 | Prospective cohort | 51823 participants | Lignans |
| Touillaud et al, 2007 | Prospective cohort | 58049 participants | |
| Kazemi et al, 2021 | Meta-analysis | 14 cohort studies | Vegetables and Fruits |
| Schlesinger et al, 2017 | Meta-analysis | 19 cohort studies | Glycemic Index |
| Hossain et al, 2019 | Meta-analysis | 22 cohort studies | Vitamin D |
| Wei et al, 2020 | Meta-analysis | 9 cohort studies | Soy Isoflavones |

Fruits & Vegetables

Kazemi et al, 2021
Meta-Analysis of
14 Cohort Studies

- 100 g/day
↓RR 3%



What does 100 g of fruits/veg look like?



$\frac{1}{2}$ Apple =
100 g



1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups
broccoli =
100 g



Banana =
120 g



$\frac{1}{2}$ cup
cooked
spinach =
90 g



$\frac{3}{4}$ cup
Blueberries =
113 g



1.5 carrots =
91 g

Mushrooms

Li et al, 2014

Meta-Analysis

2 Cohort + 8 Case-Control Studies

- 1 g/day ↓RR 3%



Mushrooms

Li et al, 2014

Meta-Analysis

2 Cohort + 8 Case-Control Studies

- 1 g/day ↓RR 3%

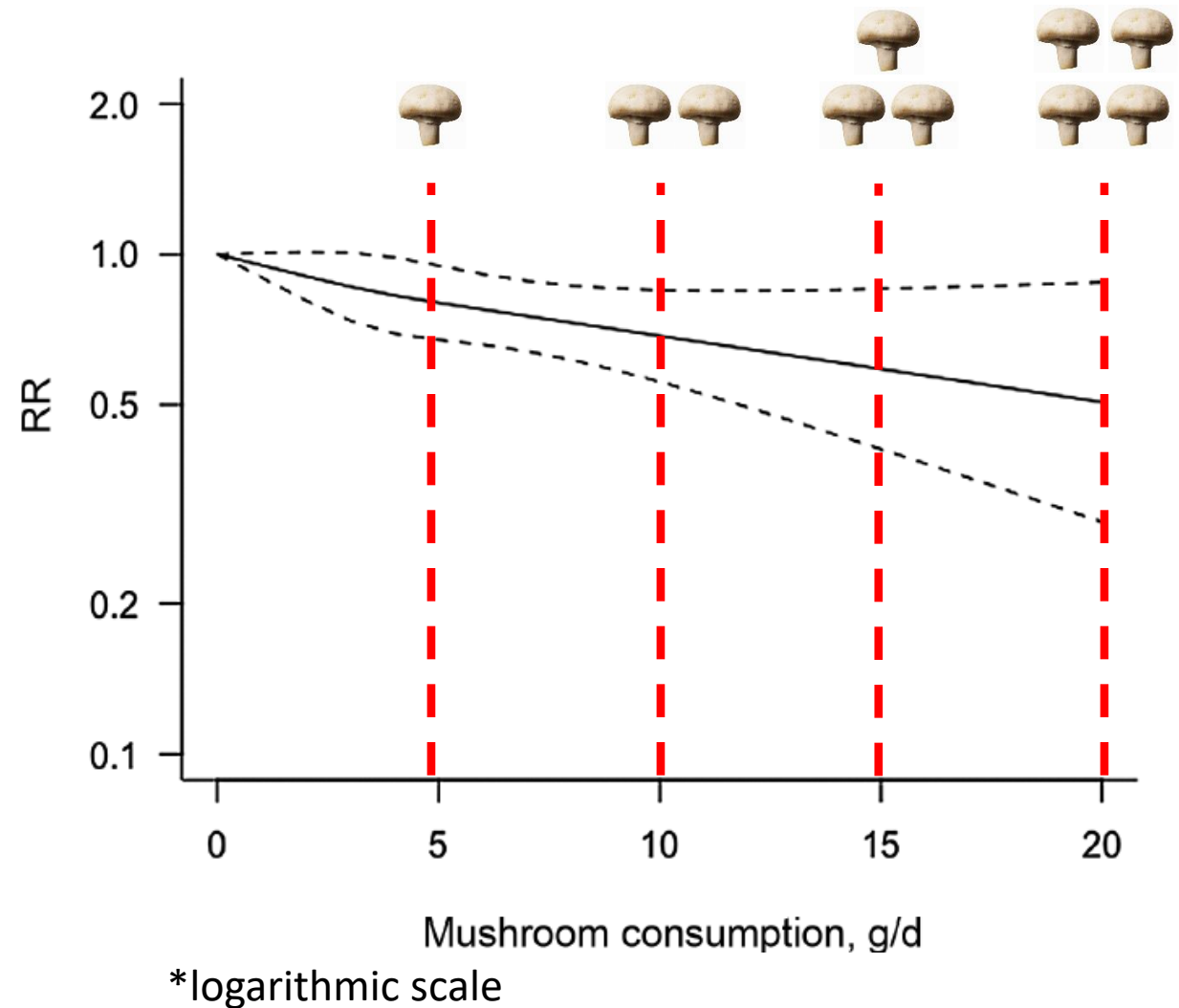


1 mushroom
=
5 g



Dose Response: Mushrooms & Breast Cancer

Li et al, 2014



Dietary Folate = Vitamin B9

Chen et al, 2014

Meta-Analysis

16 Cohort Studies +

23 Case-Control Studies

- 100 ug/day

↓RR 5%



Dietary Folate = Vitamin B9

Chen et al, 2014

Meta-Analysis

16 Cohort Studies +

23 Case-Control Studies

- 100 ug/day

↓RR 5%



½ cup beans
= >100 ug

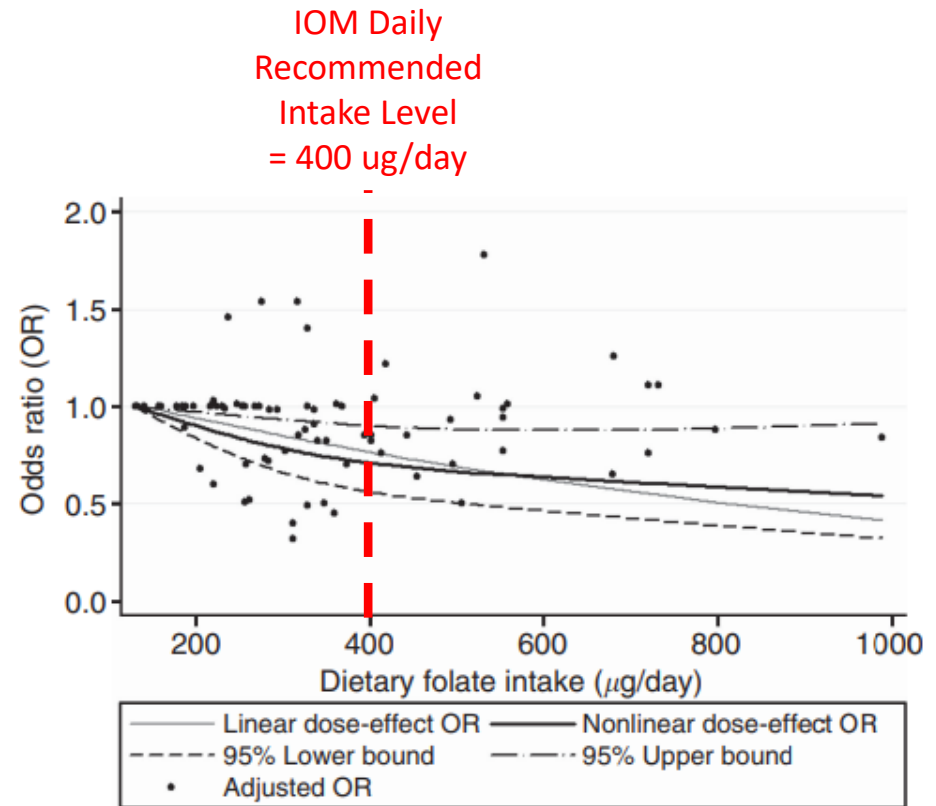


2 cups of raw dark
green leafy veg or ½
cup if cooked =
>100 ug



Dose Response: Dietary Folate & Breast Cancer

Chen et al, 2014



Fiber

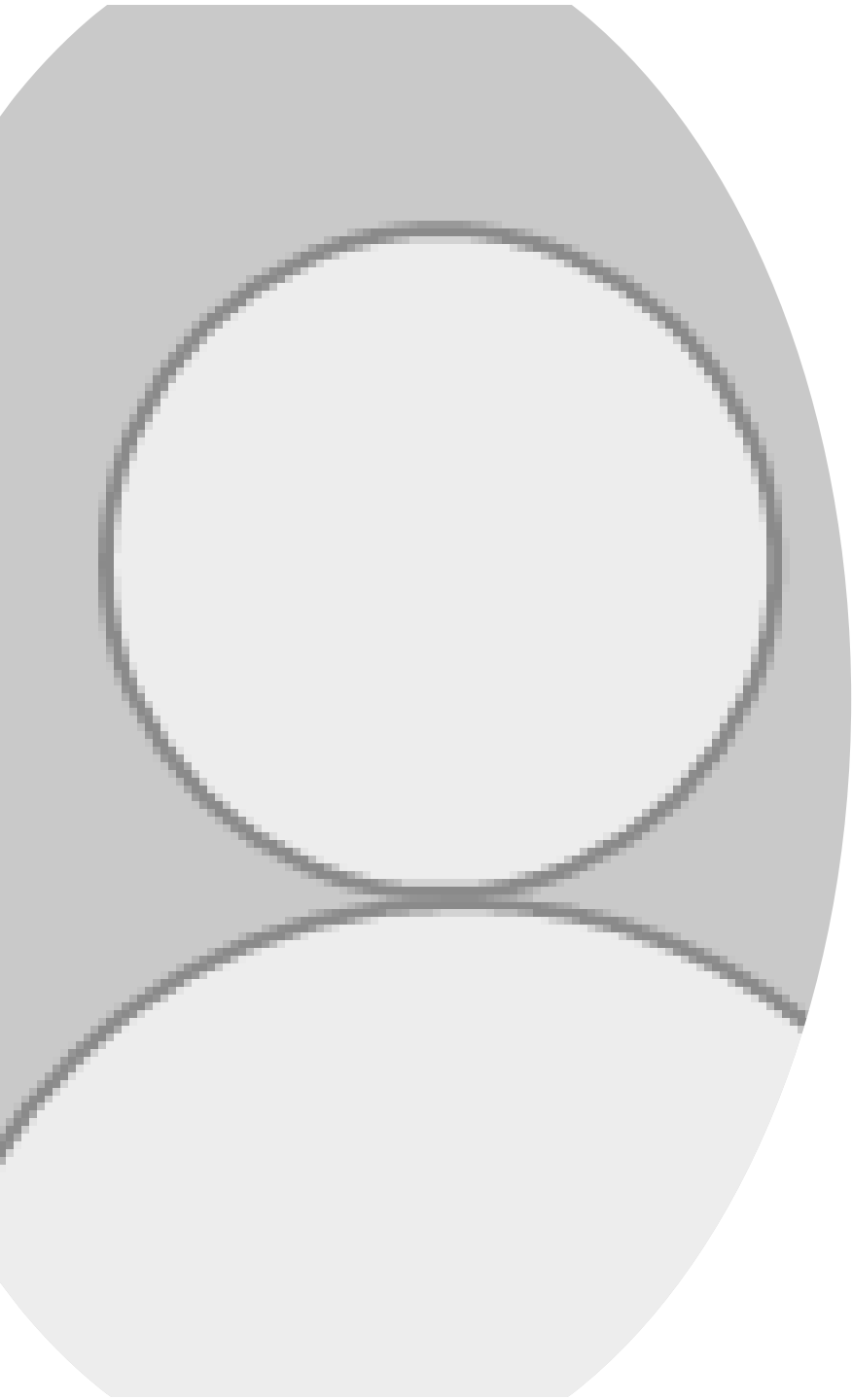
Aune et al, 2012

Meta-Analysis

16 Cohort Studies

- 10 g/day

↓RR 5%



Fiber

Aune et al, 2012
Meta-Analysis
16 Cohort Studies

- 10 g/day
↓RR 5%



½ cup beans =
10 g



Apple + Pear =
10.5 g

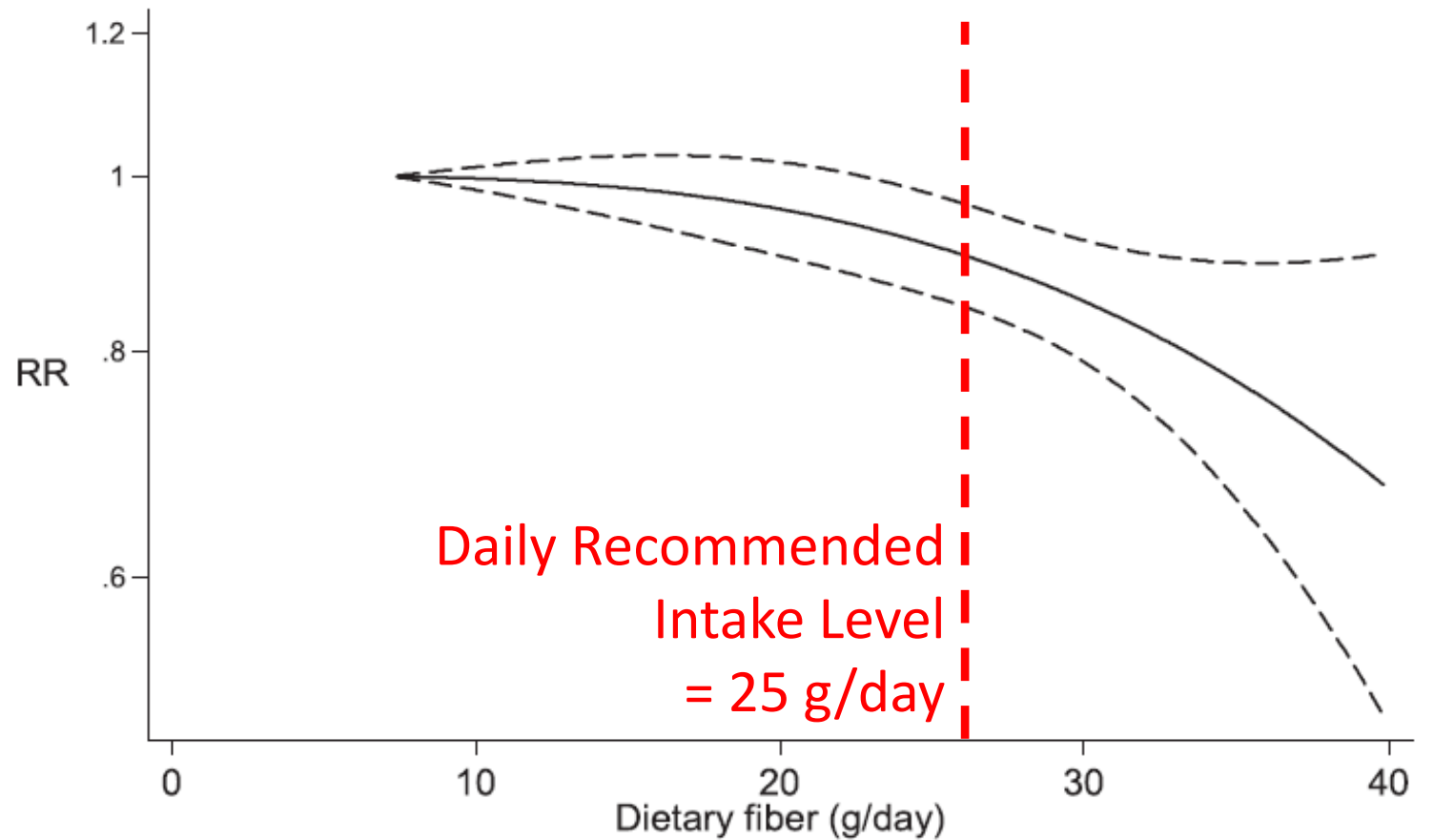


¾ cup Pistachios =
9.75 g



Dose Response: Fiber & Breast Cancer

Aune et al, 2012



Beta-Carotene

Hu et al, 2012

Meta-Analysis

6 Cohort + 6 Case-Control Studies

- 5 mg/day ↓RR 7%

No dose response graph was reported



Beta-Carotene

Hu et al, 2012

Meta-Analysis

6 Cohort + 6 Case-Control Studies

- 5 mg/day ↓RR 7%



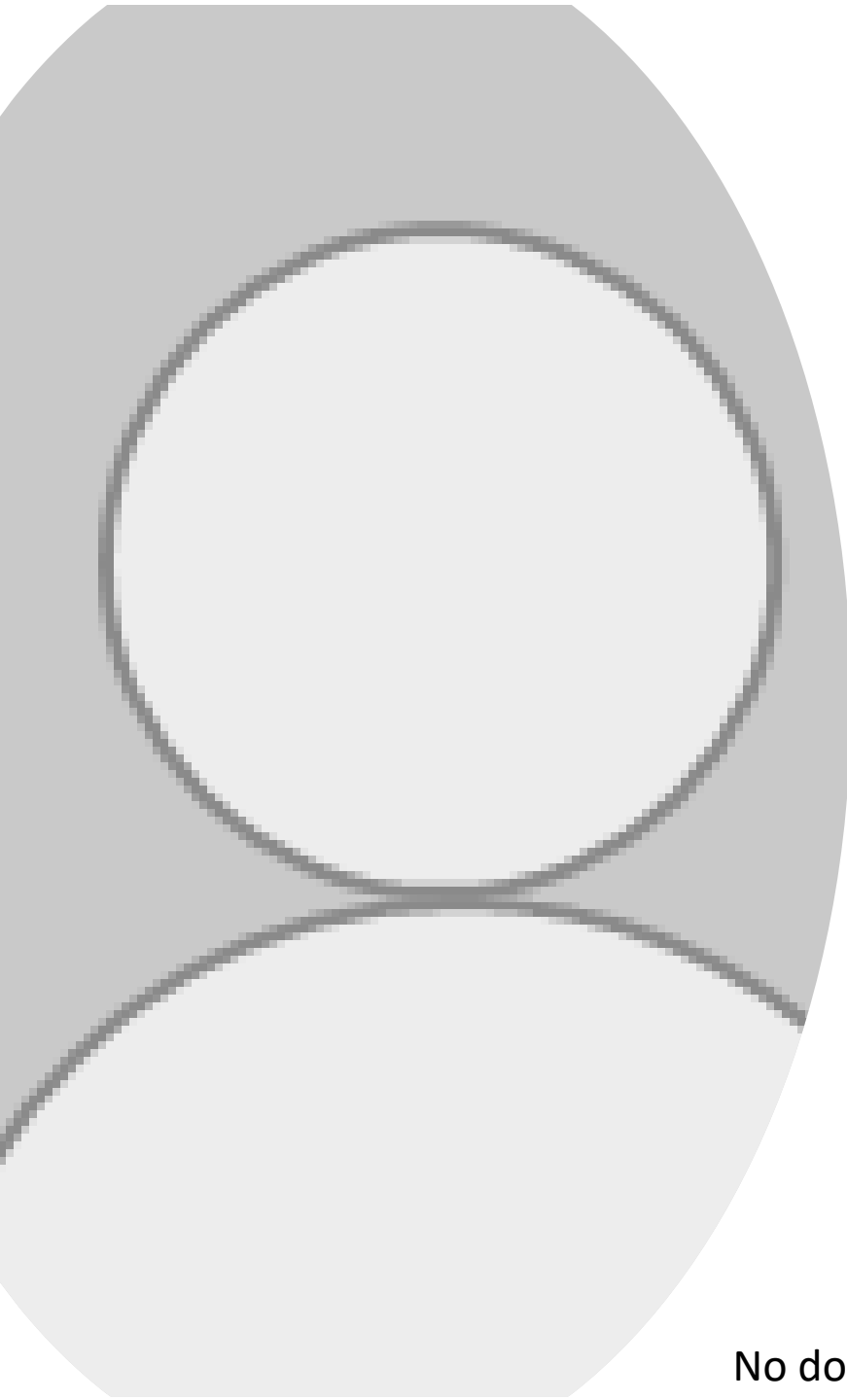
<½ Sweet Potato =
7 mg



<½ cup raw leafy
green vegetables =
5.5 mg

No dose response graph was reported





Lignans = a
type of
phytoestrogen

Suzuki et al 2008 &
Touillard et al 2007
Cohort Studies

- 1.2 mg/day
OR 0.85



No dose response graph was reported

**Lignans = a
type of
phytoestrogen**

Suzuki et al 2008 &
Touillard et al 2007
Cohort Studies

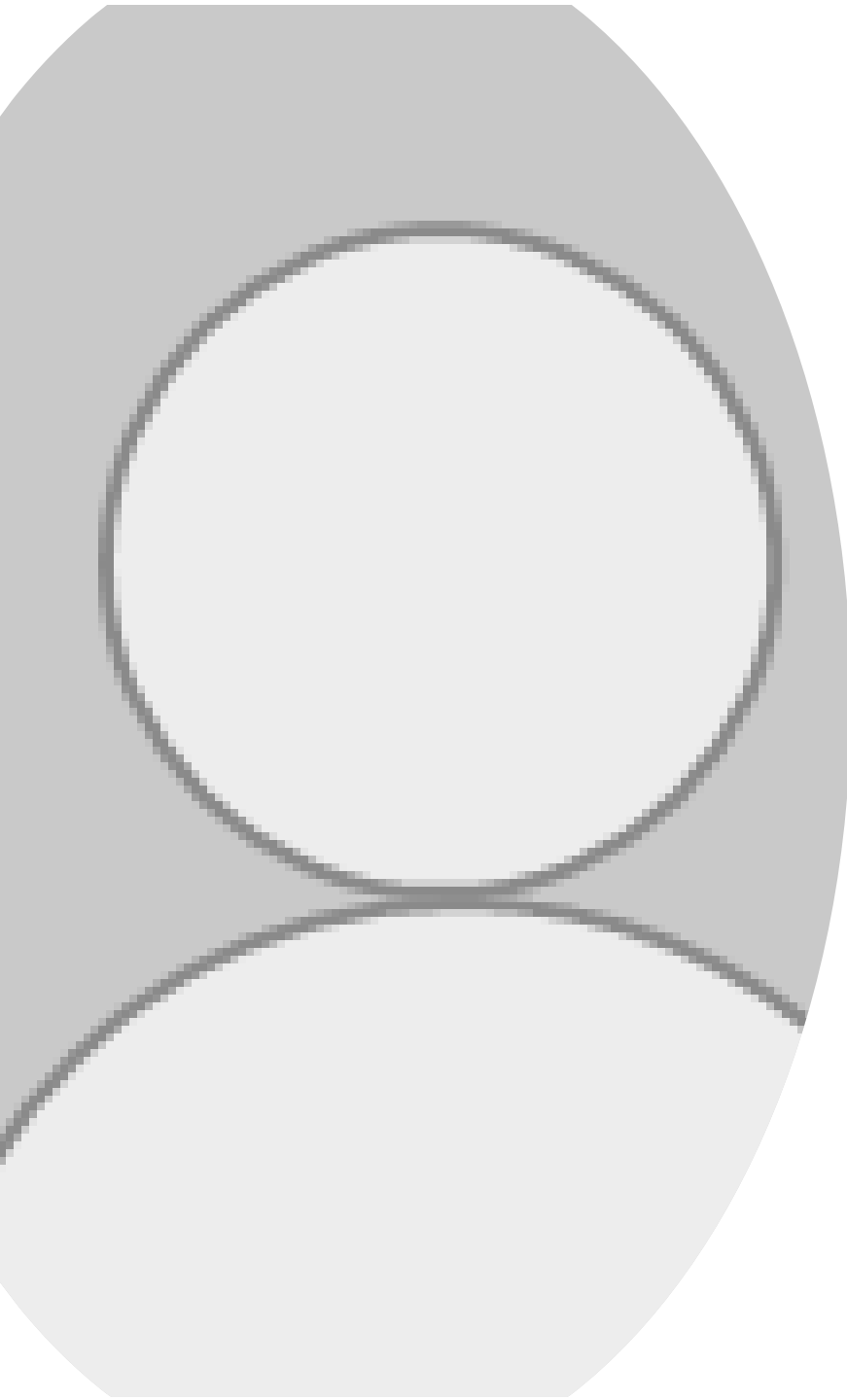
- 1.2 mg/day
OR 0.85



1 tbsp crushed
flaxseeds =
30 mg lignans

No dose response graph was reported





Soy Isoflavones = a type of phytoestrogen

Wei et al, 2020
Meta-Analysis
9 Cohort Studies

- 10 mg/day
↓RR 3%



Soy Isoflavones = a type of phytoestrogen

Wei et al, 2020
Meta-Analysis
9 Cohort Studies

- 10 mg/day

↓RR 3%



1/8 cup soybeans
= 10 mg



1/2 cup edamame
= 16 mg



~1/4 cup tofu
= 10 mg

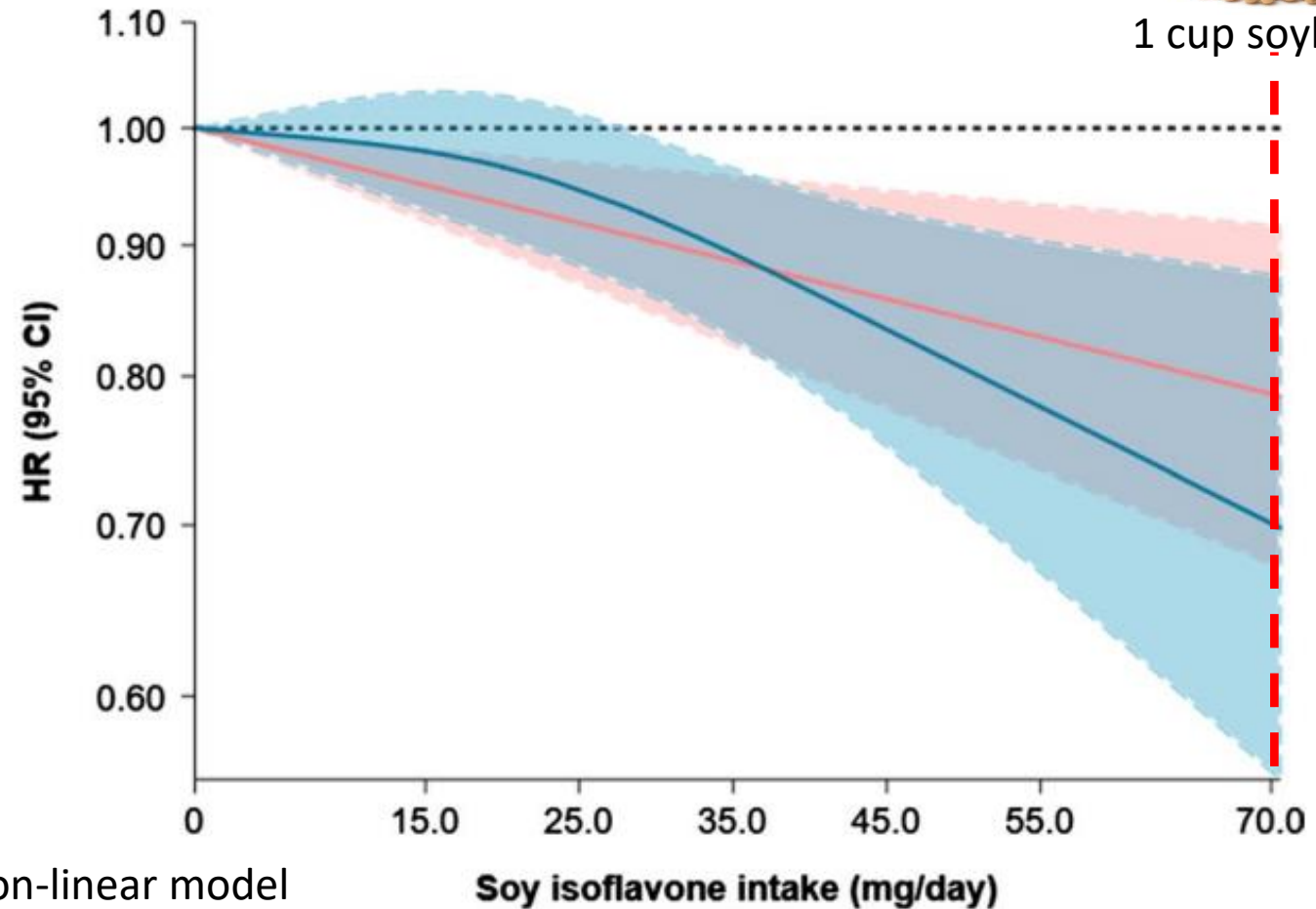


Dose Response: Soy Isoflavones & Breast Cancer

Wei et al, 2020

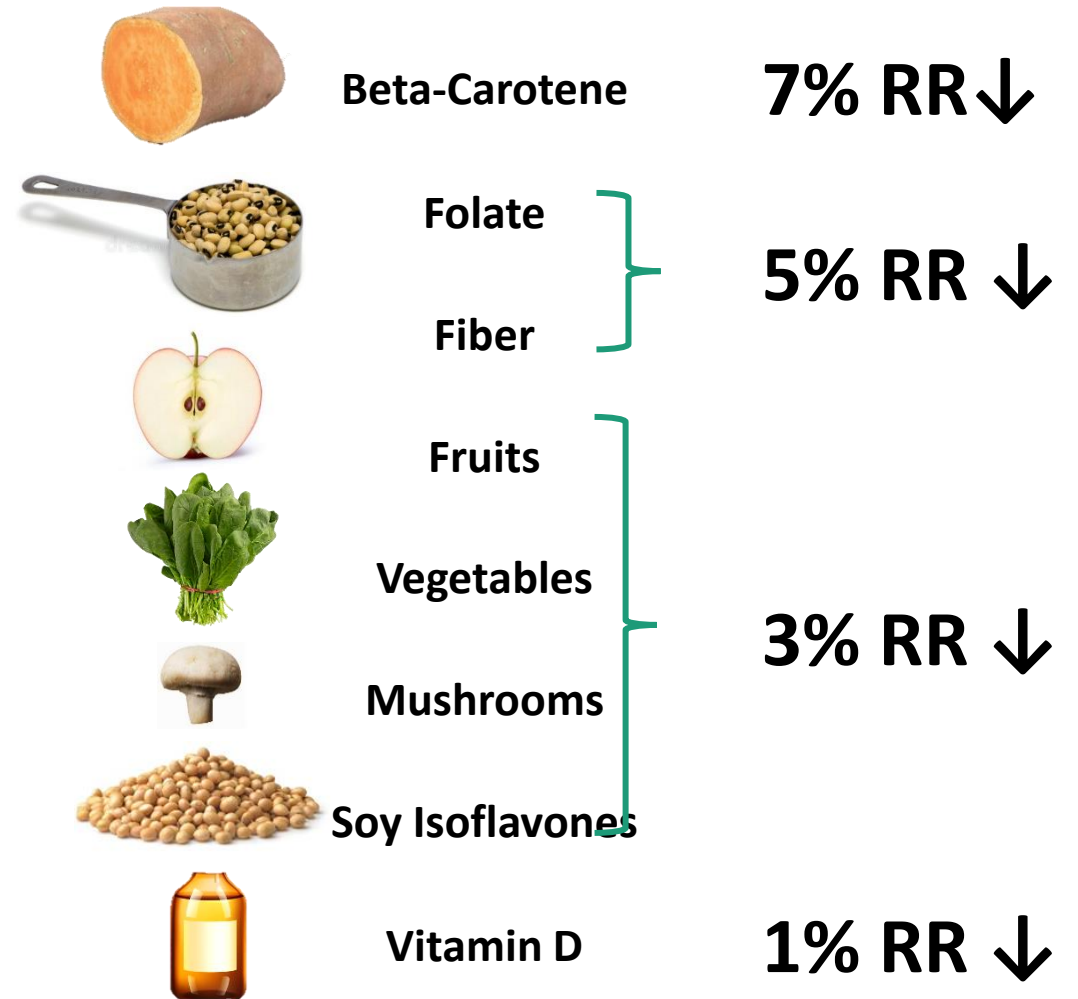


1 cup soybeans










Blue = non-linear model
Red = linear model

Relative Risk Comparison

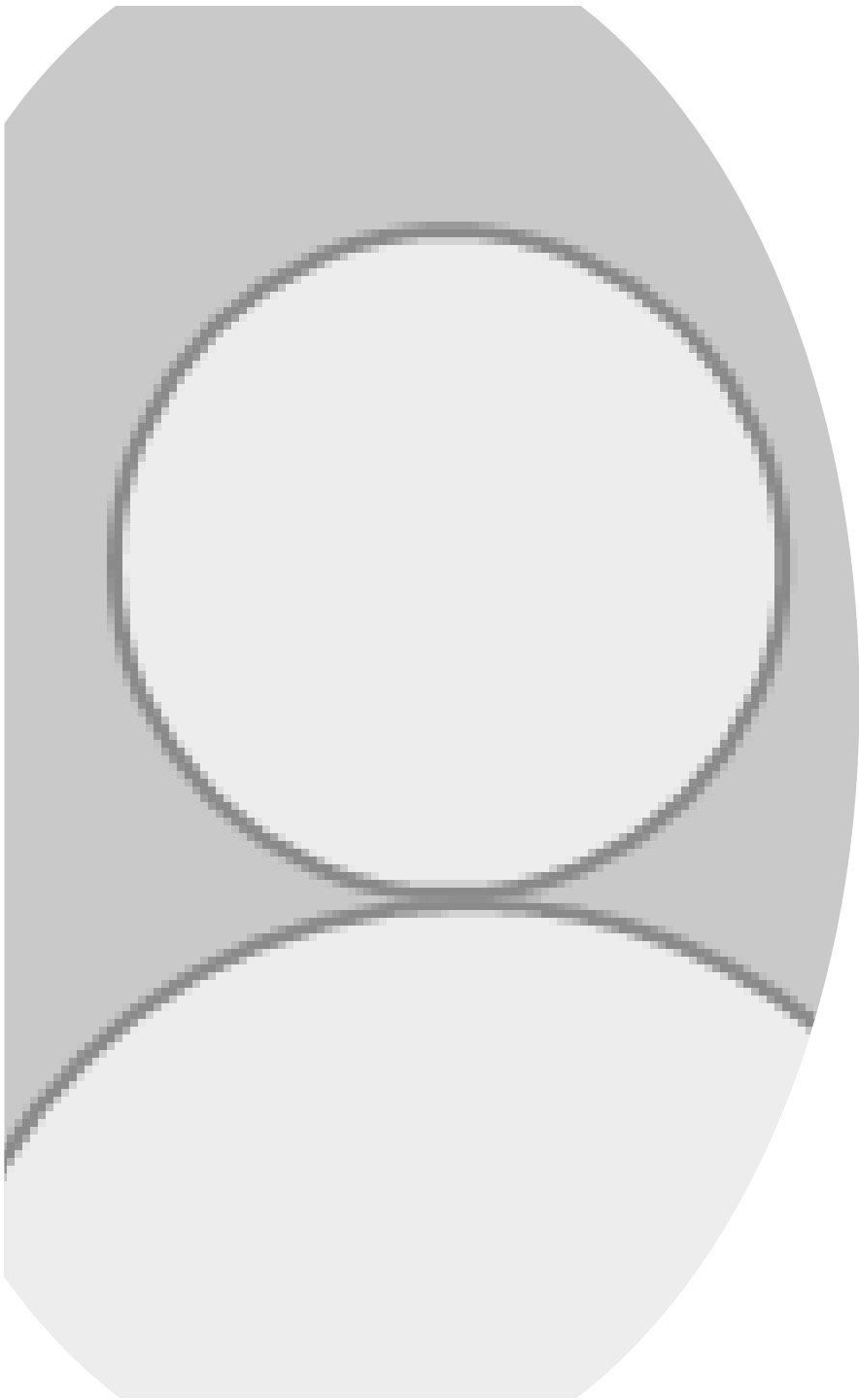


Lignans exempt due to odds ratio (vs RR) reported

Relative Risk Comparison

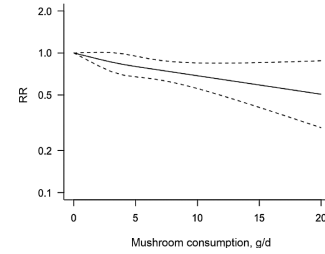
| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|---------|
| < ½ cup sweet potato < ½ cup leafy greens |  | Beta-Carotene | 7% RR ↓ |
| ½ cup beans |  | Folate | 5% RR ↓ |
| | | Fiber | |
| ½ apple |  | Fruits | 3% RR ↓ |
| ½ cup spinach |  | Vegetables | |
| 1/5 of a mushroom |  | Mushrooms | |
| < ¼ cup soybeans |  | Soy Isoflavones | |
| 100 IU |  | Vitamin D | 1% RR ↓ |

Lignans exempt due to odds ratio (vs RR) reported



Maximal risk reduction?

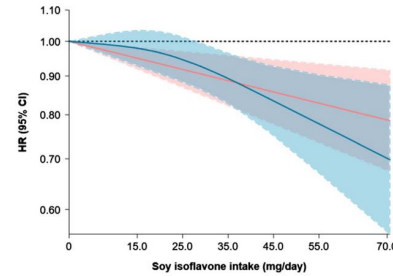
Beta-carotene,
lignans, vitamin D
did not provide
dose-response
graphs



Mushrooms
4 mushrooms/day



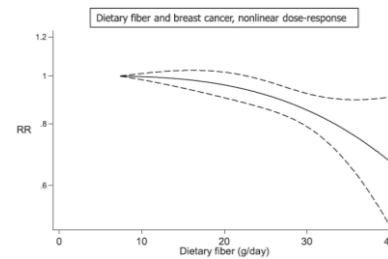
45% RR↓



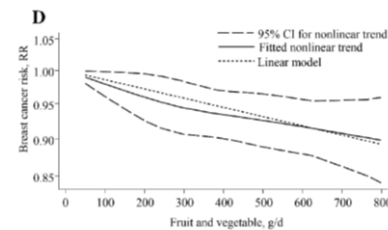
Soy Isoflavones
>1 cup/day soybeans



30% RR↓



Fiber
2 cups beans/day



F&V
8 servings/day



10% RR↓

Foods that Increase Risk for Breast Cancer



Red Meat



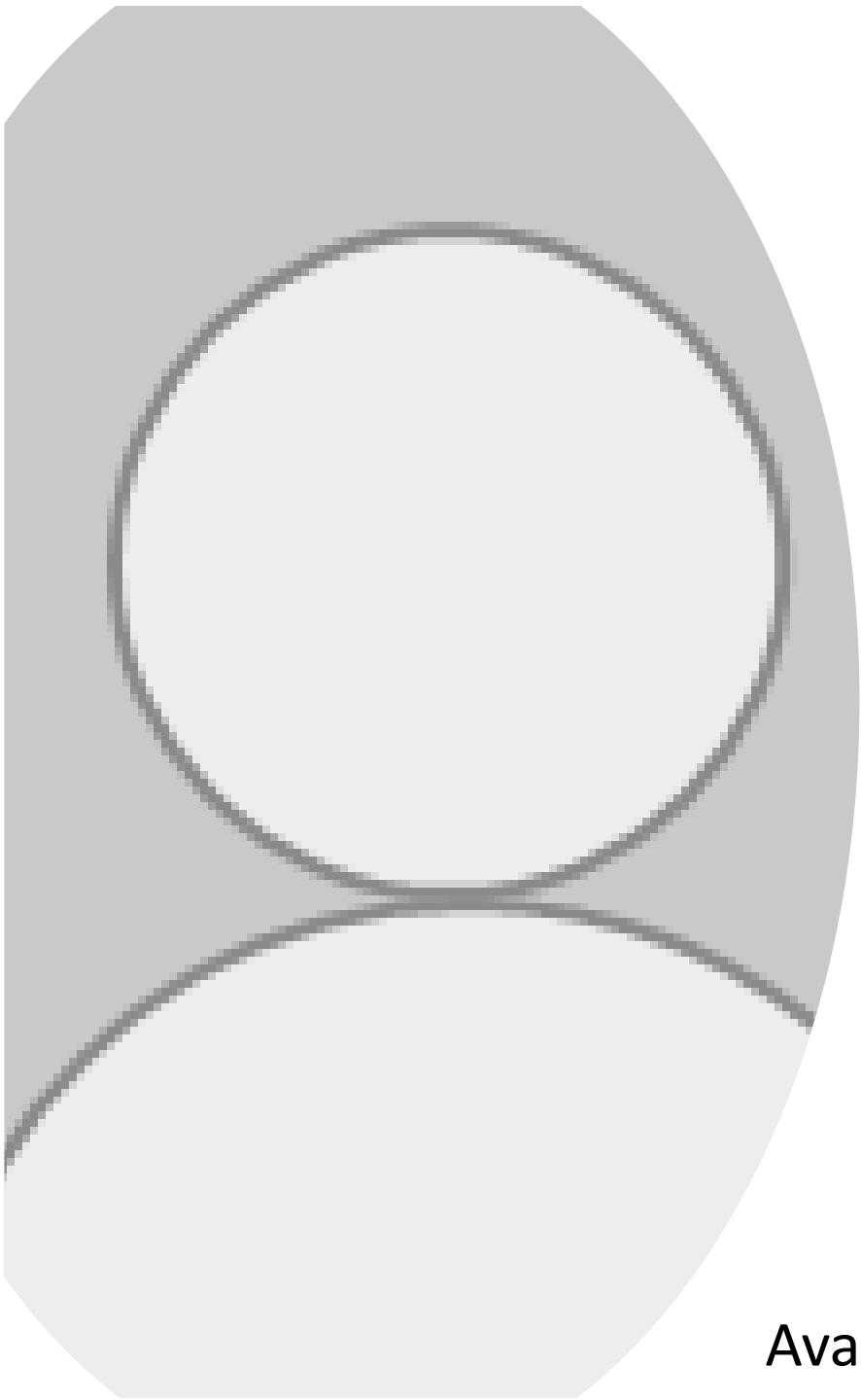
Processed
Meat

9% RR ↑



High GI
Foods

4% RR ↑



Knowledge Translation Product

Available From:

www.nutrition-prescriptions.com

Nutrition & Breast Cancer

Nutrition is only one of many factors that can influence risk for breast cancer. Nevertheless, numerous studies have demonstrated that certain foods/nutrients are associated with increased or decreased risk.

Foods that DECREASE risk for Breast Cancer

Mushrooms¹

As little as one mushroom per day makes a difference, and more is better



Crushed Flaxseed^{2,3}

1-4 tablespoons per day



Vegetables & Fruits⁴

Aim for 7-10 servings per day



Nutrients that DECREASE risk for Breast Cancer

Beta-Carotene⁵ - aim for 5 mg per day,

examples include:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ of a sweet potato
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cooked spinach
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cooked carrots
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raw green leafy vegetables
- 1 cup squash/pumpkin



Soy Isoflavones⁷ - aim for 10 mg per day,

examples include:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup mature (beige) soybeans
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup edamame
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup tofu/tempeh



Folate⁸ - aim for 400 ug per day

- Lentils [180 ug/ $\frac{1}{2}$ cup]
- Beans [150 ug/ $\frac{1}{2}$ cup]
- Asparagus [134 ug/ $\frac{1}{2}$ cup]
- Cooked spinach [131 ug/ $\frac{1}{2}$ cup]



Fiber⁶ - aim for at least 25 grams per day

- Beans [15g/cup]
- Oats [8g/cup]
- Nuts [6g/half cup]
- Avocado [9g]
- Pear [5.5g]
- Apple [4g]



Vitamin D⁹

-1000-2000 IU of supplemental Vit D per day



Foods That INCREASE Risk for Breast Cancer

Red Meat¹⁰

- Beef
- Pork
- Veal
- Lamb
- Goat

Processed Meat¹⁰

- Deli meats
- Hot dogs
- Canned meats

Sugar¹¹

- Baked Goods
- Candy
- Desserts
- Processed cereals

Refined Carbs¹¹

- White bread
- White Rice
- Jasmine, Arborio & Sticky rice
- Crackers
- Bagels

Alcohol¹²

Very light drinking (less than half of a standard drink per day) can increase risk for breast cancer

www.nutrition-prescriptions.com

Resident Academic Project Created By: Dr. Mary Sco. & Dr. Melinda Wu ©2023

1-11, PloS one, 2014; 2-Suzuki, Br J Cancer, 2008; 3-Thompson, Clin Cancer Res, 2005; 4-Kazemi, Adv Nutr, 2021; 5-Hu, Breast Cancer Res Treat, 2012; 6-Aune, Ann Oncol, 2012; 7-Wei, Eur J epidemiol, 2020; 8-Chen, Br J Cancer, 2014; 9-Hossain, Clin Nutr ESPEN, 2019; 10-Guo, Breast Cancer Res Treat, 2105; 11-Schlesinger, Nutr Rev, 2017; 12-Choi, Can Res Treat, 2018.



Limitations

- **Observational data (cohort & case-control studies)**
 - Self-reported data/recall bias
 - Dietary assessment inaccuracies
- **Association \neq causation**
 - Impossible to do a 30 year RCT (CIHR cannot afford this!)
- **Breast Cancer is not one entity**
 - Pre versus post menopausal
 - ER+/-, PR+/-, HER2+/-, inflammatory
- **Additive effects for maximal risk reduction??**
- **Primary Prevention vs Secondary Prevention**



Conclusion

- Meta-analyses demonstrate that a large number of foods & nutrients are associated with increased/decreased risk for breast cancer
- Quantities associated with decreased/increased risk were consistent with reasonable/standard portions that can easily recommended to patients