

Systematic review reports

Systematic review report for question PPR1

Clinical Question: *What is the risk-benefit ratio for use of aspirin for prevention of colorectal cancer stratified by risk of colorectal cancer itself? (What is the optimal dose and frequency of administration?)*

PICO Question: *In an asymptomatic population at average risk or increased risk of colorectal cancer, what is the cost-benefit ratio of prophylactic Aspirin use in reducing the mortality and incidence of colorectal cancer?*

Population	Intervention	Comparator	Outcomes	Study Design
- Asymptomatic western population at average risk of colorectal cancer, or - Populations at increased risk of colorectal cancer	Prophylactic aspirin use	Placebo or no Aspirin use	- Colorectal cancer incidence - Colorectal cancer mortality - Adverse effects	Systematic reviews of Level II evidence or randomised controlled trials.

1. Methods

1.1. Guidelines

Relevant recent (2005 onwards) guidelines were identified by scanning the citations identified by the literature search and searching the National Guideline Clearinghouse (<http://guideline.gov/>) and the Guidelines Resource Centre (www.cancerview.ca).

To be considered for adoption guidelines had to meet the pre-specified criteria of scores of greater or equal to 70% for the domains rigour of development, clarity of presentation and editorial independence of the AGREE II instrument (<http://www.agreetrust.org/resource-centre/agree-ii/>).

1.2. Literature Search

PubMed (01/01/2004 - 31/08/2016), Embase (01/01/2004 - 31/08/2016), CINAHL (01/01/2004 - 31/08/2016), PsycINFO (01/01/2004 - 31/08/2016), Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (01/01/2004 - 31/08/2016), Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects and Health Technology Assessment databases (up until 31/08/2016) were searched using text terms and, where available, database specific subject headings. Each database was searched for articles dealing with colorectal cancer. In PubMed, Embase, CINAHL and PsycINFO databases the colorectal cancer search was coupled with a search for aspirin, and database specific filters for identifying randomised controlled trials/ systematic review and meta-analyses then applied. To identify studies which considered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) these searches were then coupled with search

terms for ATSI. A complete list of the terms used for all search strategies are included as Appendix A. Reference lists of all relevant articles were checked for potential additional articles.

Inclusion and exclusion Criteria

Selection criteria	Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
Study type	Intervention studies	
Study design	Systematic reviews of Level II evidence or randomised controlled trials.	In vitro studies or preclinical trials
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asymptomatic western population at average risk of colorectal cancer, or - Populations at increased risk of colorectal cancer due to either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family history of colorectal cancer, or - Previous colorectal cancer or adenomas, or - Familial adenomatous polyposis, or - Lynch Syndrome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - diagnosis of FAP or suspected FAP without genetic testing - genetic or clinical diagnosis of HNPCC, or increased risk - A non-syndromic family history of colorectal cancer - inflammatory bowel disease, chronic ulcerative colitis, or Crohn disease - other hereditary polyposis syndromes - Studies in children (<25 yrs)
Intervention	Prophylactic use of Aspirin for the primary prevention of colorectal cancer, with any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aspirin at ≤ 100mg, 100-325mg, or > 325mg/day - Aspirin at alternate days (any dosage) - Duration of ≤ 2 yrs, $> 2-4$ yrs, or > 4 yrs - Exposure commencing < 50yrs, 50-70yrs, > 70yrs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aspirin in combination therapy (where separate placebo and aspirin only groups were not reported separately) - Studies of aspirin with only cardiovascular endpoint analysis
Comparator	Placebo or no Aspirin use	Long term use of Aspirin or NSAID
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colorectal cancer incidence - Colorectal cancer mortality - Adverse effects, including either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incidence of peptic ulcers - Incidence of GI bleeding - Incidence of intracranial haemorrhage - Incidence of stroke (haemorrhagic or thrombotic) - Incidence of Aspirin hypersensitivity - Incidence of renal impairment - Death due to side effects 	
Language	English	
Publication period	01/01/2004 to 31/08/2016	

2. Results

2.1. Guidelines

Nine potentially relevant guidelines were identified however these were not included as they did not meet the pre-specified criteria.

2.2. Results of Literature Search

Figure 1 outlines the process of identifying relevant articles for the systematic review. The PubMed search identified 971 citations, the Embase search identified 1500 citations, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews search identified 36 citations, the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) search identified 23 citations, the Health Technology Assessment search identified 5 citations, PsycINFO search identified 12 citations, and the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) search identified an additional 166 citations resulting in a total of 2713 citations. Titles and abstracts were examined and 110 articles were retrieved for a more detailed evaluation. An additional 8 potential citations were identified from the reference list of retrieved articles.

A total of 10 clinical trials reported in 17 articles met the inclusion criteria and were included in the review. There were no studies of ATSI that met the inclusion criteria.

The retrieved articles that were not included and the reason for their exclusion are documented in Appendix C. In summary, most articles were excluded because they had used an inappropriate study design, or were review articles.

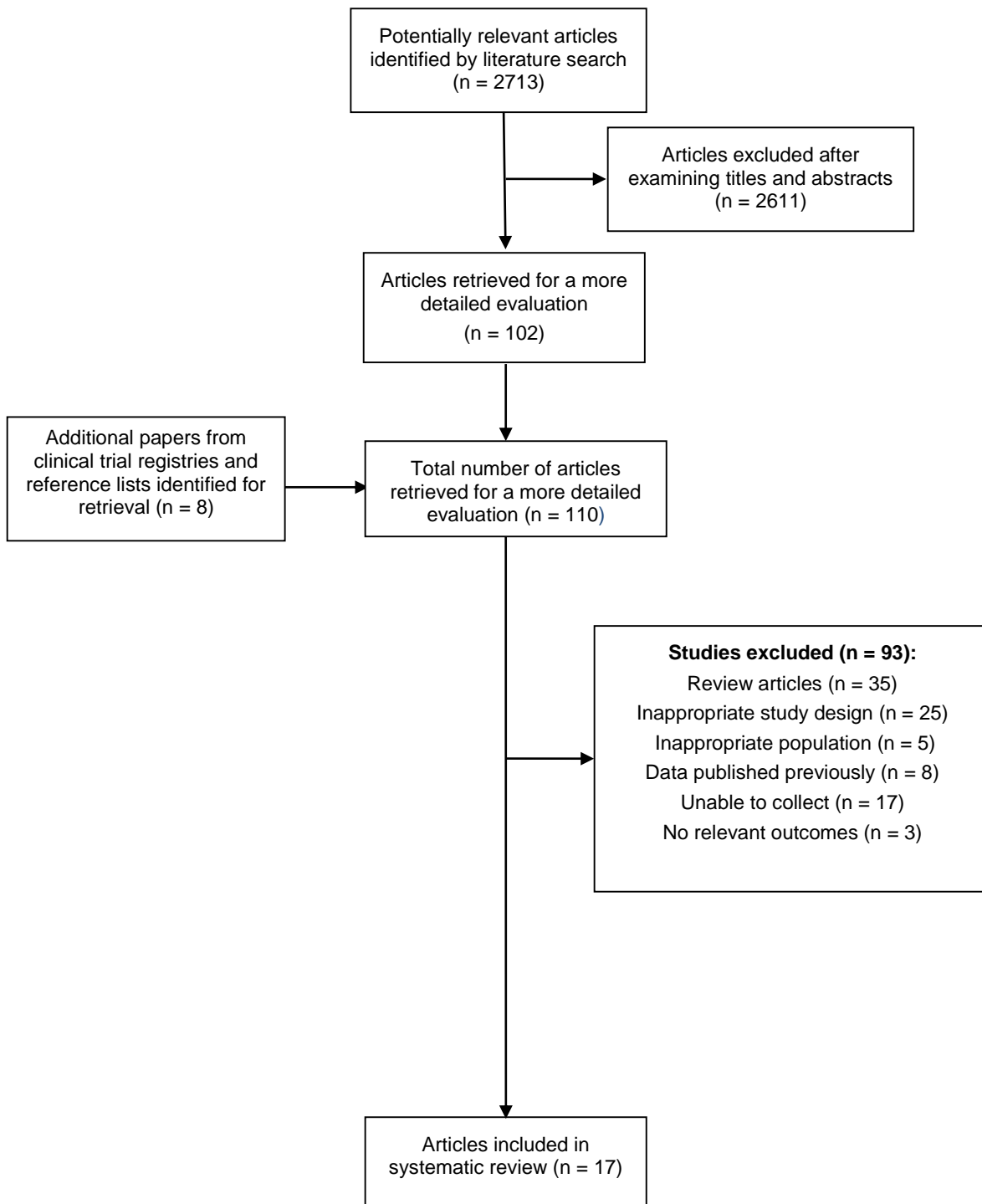


Figure 1. Process of inclusion and exclusion of studies

2.3. Study Characteristics

Characteristics of included studies are described in Tables 1 - 9.

Table 1: Intervention studies examining Aspirin for improving colorectal cancer mortality and incidence: study characteristics

Study	Participants	Design	Intervention	Comparison	Outcomes	Comments
Burn 2008 (UK) Colorectal Adenoma/ Carcinoma Prevention Programme 2 (CAPP2)	Eligible patients were >25 yrs of age and were proven carriers of a pathologic mismatch-repair mutation or members of a family that met the Amsterdam diagnostic criteria and had a personal history of a cured Lynch syndrome neoplasm but an intact colon. Mean age (range): 46 years (25-79) Gender (%) : F/M = 55.0/45.0 Mutation (no/total no (%)) : <i>MLH1</i> 358/614 (58.3%) <i>MSH2</i> 235/614 (38.3%) <i>MSH6</i> 21/614 (3.4%) Follow up mean (range): 29.0 months (7-74) Mean duration of receipt of study drug (range): 26.5 months (1-67) N = 693	RCT (multi centre – 43 international centres)	600 mg Aspirin daily for ≤4 years N=175 patients received resistant starch and N=166 received placebo starch. N=9 received neither.	Placebo daily for ≤4 years N=157 patients received resistant starch and N=176 received placebo starch. N=10 received neither.	Primary: <i>Detection of at least one adenoma or colorectal carcinoma at follow up</i> Secondary: <i>Detection of an adenoma only, colorectal cancer only, adenoma and colorectal cancer and advanced adenoma or colorectal cancer</i>	Double blinded randomisation was done in blocks of 16 in a two-by-two factorial design to aspirin (600 mg), aspirin placebo, resistant starch (30 g) and starch placebo (cornstarch) N=332 received resistant starch, N=342 placebo starch, N=19 received neither resistant or placebo starch
Burn 2011	Follow up mean (range): 66.1 months (2.5-128) N = 671	RCT	600 mg Aspirin daily for ≤4 years N = 342	Placebo daily for ≤4 years N = 329	Primary: <i>Detection of at least one adenoma or colorectal carcinoma at follow up</i> Secondary: <i>Detection of an adenoma only, colorectal cancer only, adenoma and colorectal cancer and advanced adenoma or colorectal cancer</i>	

N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; F = female; M = male; yrs = years; MLH1 = MutL homolog 1; MSH2 = MutS homolog 2; MSH6 = mutS homolog 6; RCT = randomized controlled trial.

Table 2: Intervention studies examining Aspirin for improving colorectal cancer mortality and incidence: study characteristics

Study	Participants	Design	Intervention	Comparison	Outcomes	Comments	
Cook 2005 van Kruijsdijk 2015 (USA) Women's Health Study (WHS)	Healthy female (≥ 45 years old) healthcare professionals were recruited via letters of invitation from 30/4/1993 to 24/1/1996. Mean Age (SD): 54.6 years (7.0) Mean BMI (SD): 26.0 (5.1) Smoking status (n/%): Current: 5235/13.1% Past: 14,265/35.8% Never: 20,340/51.1% Alcohol use (drinks/wk)(n/%): <1: 23,226/58.3% ≥ 1 : 16,640/41.7% Physical activity (Kcal/wk): <1000: 25,994/66.0% ≥ 1000 : 13,383/34.0% Mean follow up: 10.1 years N = 39,876	RCT	100 mg Aspirin on alternate days 50% (N=9966) were randomised to receive Vitamin E	Placebo on alternate days 50% (N=9971) were randomised to receive Vitamin E N = 19,934	N = 19,942	Primary: <i>Incidence of invasive cancer excluding non-melanoma skin cancer.</i> Secondary: <i>Incidence of breast, colorectal and lung cancer.</i> <i>Incidence of gastrointestinal side effects.</i>	Double blinded randomisation was done in blocks of 16 within 5 years age strata in a two-by-two factorial design to compare aspirin (100 mg), aspirin placebo, Vitamin E (600 IU) and Vitamin E placebo. The trial initially contained a beta carotene component which was terminated after an average of 2 yrs of follow up.
Cook 2013	Mean follow up (range): 17.5 years (10.4-18.8) N = 39,876	RCT	100 mg Aspirin on alternate days N = 19,934	Placebo on alternate days N = 19,942	Primary: <i>Incidence of invasive cancer excluding non-melanoma skin cancer.</i> Secondary: <i>Incidence of breast, colorectal and lung cancer.</i> <i>Incidence of gastrointestinal side effects.</i>	A total of 6,194 lost to follow up due to death (N=1875), or opted out of further follow up.	

N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; Kcal = kilo calories; wk = week; BMI = body mass index; SD = Standard deviation; RCT = randomized controlled trial.

Table 3: Intervention studies examining Aspirin for improving colorectal cancer mortality and incidence: study characteristics

Study	Participants	Design	Intervention	Comparison	Outcomes	Comments
Peto 1988	Healthy male British doctors were recruited between 1978-1979.	RCT	300 mg or 500 mg Aspirin daily	No Aspirin or no placebo pill	Primary: <i>Mortality due to cardiovascular, other vascular and non-vascular events including cancer.</i> <i>Incidence of non-fatal cardiovascular, other vascular and non-vascular events including cancer.</i>	Randomisation was done by computer. The trial included 500 mg ordinary soluble or effervescent aspirin or 300 mg enteric coated aspirin. Two-thirds were randomised to aspirin and the other third told to avoid aspirin or products containing aspirin.
Flossman 2007	Mean Age (SD): 61.7 years (7.0)					
Rothwell 2010	Smoking status (n/%): Never: 1254/24.4 Past: 2288/44.6 Current (<20/day): 347/ 6.8 Current (≥20/day): 314/ 6.1 Other/mixed: 932/18.1				During long term follow up: Primary: <i>Incidence of colorectal cancer</i>	
(UK)						
British Doctors Aspirin Trial (BDAT)	Mean trial duration (range): 5.7 years (5–6) Median follow up: 23 years				Secondary: <i>Incidence of other cancers</i>	
	N = 5139		N = 3429	N = 1710		
Meade 1998	Male aged between 45 – 69 years at high risk of ischaemic heart disease were recruited from 108 practices in the UK	RCT (multi centre)	75 mg Aspirin daily	Aspirin placebo daily	Primary: <i>Incidence of all ischaemic heart disease (defined as the sum of all fatal and non-fatal events including coronary death and fatal and non-fatal myocardial infarction)</i>	Two-by-two factorial double blinded designed to compare aspirin (75 mg) to aspirin placebo, or active warfarin to placebo.
Rothwell 2010			50% (N=1277) were randomised to receive active warfarin daily and the other 50% received warfarin placebo daily	50% (N=1268) were randomised to receive active warfarin daily and the other 50% received warfarin placebo daily		
(UK)	Mean Age (SD) 57.5 years (6.7 years)				Secondary: <i>Incidence of stroke. Mortality due to cancer and cancer incidence.</i>	Warfarin was started at 2.5 mg a day and this dose was adjusted once a month depending on the INR.
Thrombosis Prevention Trial (TPT)	Trial duration (mean/range) 6.9 years/4.3-8.6 years					
	Follow up range 17-20 years					The mean warfarin dose was 4.1 mg a day (0.5-12.5 mg)
	N = 5085		N = 2545	N = 2540		

INR = International normalised ratio, WF = Warfarin; N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; yrs = years; SD = standard deviation; RCT = randomized controlled trial.

Table 4: Intervention studies examining Aspirin for improving colorectal cancer mortality and incidence: study characteristics

Study	Participants	Design	Intervention	Comparison	Outcomes	Comments
Norrving 1991 Rothwell 2010 (Sweden) Swedish Aspirin Low Dose Trial (SALT)	Patients who had transient ischaemic attack (including amaurosis fugax), minor ischaemic stroke, or retinal artery occlusion within the previous 3 months Age range 50-79 years Gender (%) F: 34.2 M: 65.8 Smoking Status Current Smoker AS: 26.0 PI: 27.9 Ex-smoker AS: 21.3 PI: 24.7 Never Smoked AS: 52.7 PI: 47.4 Duration of drug treatment: AS: 30.6 mths PI: 27.5 mths Trial duration (median/range) 2.7 yrs/1.0 – 5.3 yrs Follow up range 18 - 23 yrs N = 1360	RCT (16 centres – multicentre)	75 mg Aspirin daily	Placebo daily	Primary: <i>Incidence of stroke (minor or major) or death from any cause</i> Secondary: <i>Incidence of stroke (minor or major); stroke or two or more TIAs within a week of each other necessitating a change of therapy and fatal or non-fatal myocardial infarction. All-cause mortality.</i>	Double blinded randomisation was done in blocks of 8. Aspirin tablets were film coated.
			N = 676	N = 684		

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; mths = months; F = female; M = male; yrs = years; RCT = randomized controlled trial.

Table 5: Intervention studies examining Aspirin for improving colorectal cancer mortality and incidence: study characteristics

Study	Participants	Design	Intervention	Comparison	Outcomes	Comments
UK-TIA Study Group 1988	Patients with a transient ischemic attack or minor ischaemic stroke were recruited between 25/07/1979 and 8/10/1985.	RCT (33 centres)	300 mg aspirin daily (two 150 mg tablets in the morning and two placebo tablets in the evening)	Placebo daily (two placebo tables twice a day)	Primary: <i>Incidence of non-fatal major stroke, non-fatal myocardial infarction, vascular death or non-vascular death</i>	Double blinded randomisation was done by telephone contact with the Clinical Trial Service Unit
Farrell 1991	Mean Age (SD): 59.8 years(9.0)		N = 806		Secondary: <i>Adverse effects, mortality due to colorectal cancer, incidence of colorectal cancer</i>	
Flossman 2007	Gender F/M (%) : 26.9/73.1		OR			
Rothwell 2010	Obesity index (kg/m²) (mean/SD): 1200 mg aspirin: 25.3/3.39 300 mg aspirin: 25.5/3.82 Control: 25.1/3.43		1200 mg aspirin daily (two 300 mg aspirin tables twice a day)			
(UK)	Regular Smokers (n/%) : 1200 mg aspirin: 444/54 300 mg aspirin: 431/53 Control: 417/51					
UK-TIA Trial	Trial duration (mean/range) 4.4 yrs/1.0 – 7.1 yrs					
	Follow up range : 21-27 years					
	N = 2435		N = 1621	N = 814		

N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; F = female; M = male; yrs = years; RCT = randomized controlled trial; SD = standard deviation.

Table 6: Intervention studies examining Aspirin for improving colorectal cancer mortality and incidence: study characteristics

Study	Participants	Design	Intervention	Comparison	Outcomes	Comments
Baron 2003	Recent history of sporadic colorectal adenomas with complete colonoscopy and removal of polyps within 3 months prior to randomisation were recruited between July 1994-March 1998	RCT (9 clinical centres)	81 mg aspirin daily with or without 1 mg folic acid daily	Placebo taken once per day (cellulose-sucrose) with or without 1 mg folic acid daily	Primary: <i>Proportion of patients in whom one or more colorectal adenomas were detected from one year after randomisation through the anticipated surveillance follow-up examination</i>	Blocked randomisation with use of computer-generated random numbers was stratified according to study centre, sex and age (≤60y vs >60y)
Cole 2009			N = 377			
(US, Canada)						
AFPPS Trial			OR			
	Mean age (SD): Placebo: 57.4 (9.9) 81mg/d aspirin: 57.3 (9.9) 325mg/d aspirin: 57.7 (9.1)		325 mg aspirin daily with or without 1mg folic acid daily		<i>Risk of one or more colorectal adenomas after randomisation</i>	Exclusion criteria: Individuals with history of familial colorectal cancer syndrome, invasive large-bowel cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, malabsorption syndromes, those with a clinical need for aspirin, NSAIDs or folate treatment.
	Gender: Male no. (%): Placebo: 233 (62.6) 81mg/d aspirin: 244 (64.7) 325mg/d aspirin: 235 (63.2)		N = 372		Secondary: <i>Number of colorectal adenomas and advanced lesions</i>	
	No. of adenomas before randomisation (mean, SD): Placebo: 2.4 (2.2) 81mg/d aspirin: 2.2 (2.0) 325mg/d aspirin: 2.4 (2.4)				<i>Number of lesions in the left side of the colorectum (descending colon, sigmoid colon, and rectum) and right side of the colorectum (remainder of the bowel)</i>	
	Mean (SD) follow-up months: Placebo: 32.9 (4.2) 81mg/d aspirin: 32.5 (3.4) 325mg/d aspirin: 32.8 (3.7)					
	N = 1121		N = 749	N = 372		

AFPPS = Aspirin/Folate Polyp Prevention Study

Table 7: Intervention studies examining Aspirin for improving colorectal cancer mortality and incidence: study characteristics

Study	Participants	Design	Intervention	Comparison	Outcomes	Comments
Benamouzig 2003	Recent history of sporadic colorectal adenomas with adequately prepared colonoscopy and polyps removed up to three months before initial consultation were recruited between December 1996-February 2000	RCT (49 gastroenterology centres)	160 mg aspirin per day	Placebo taken once per day	Primary: <i>Proportion of subjects in whom at least one new adenoma was detected, new adenoma size and adenomatous polyp burden</i>	Randomisation was balanced every 4 patients – one to 160mg aspirin, one to 300 mg aspirin and two to placebo.
Cole 2009 (France)			N = 73			
APACC Trial	Mean Age (SD): Aspirin: 57.8 (1.5) years Placebo: 57.7 (1.7) years		300 mg aspirin per day		Secondary: <i>None</i>	Exclusion criteria: Individuals with colorectal cancer (unless <i>in situ</i>), familial adenomatous polyposis, bowel resection excluding appendectomy, chronic inflammatory bowel disease or debilitating or life-threatening disease
	Gender F/M (%) Aspirin: 30/70 Placebo: 30.3/69.7		N = 67			
	History of adenomas N (%) Aspirin: 30 (21.9) Placebo: 34 (26.6)					
	Advanced adenomas^a N (%) Aspirin: 111 (79.3) Placebo: 90 (68.2)					
	Follow-up time: 12 months for all arms					
	N = 272		N = 140	N = 132		

APACC = Association pour la Prévention par l'Aspirine du Cancer Colorectal

^a An advanced adenoma was defined as a villous adenoma, adenoma > 10mm, or adenoma with high-grade dysplasia

Table 8: Intervention studies examining Aspirin for improving colorectal cancer mortality and incidence: study characteristics

Study	Participants	Design	Intervention	Comparison	Outcomes	Comments
Logan 2008 Cole 2009 (UK, Denmark) ukCAP Trial	Recent history of sporadic colorectal adenomas with complete colonoscopy or barium enema if incomplete and removal of an initial or recurrent 0.5cm or greater colorectal adenoma 6 months prior were recruited between December 1997-November 2001 Mean age Aspirin: 57.39 years Placebo: 58.00 years Gender F/M (%) Aspirin: 42.37/57.63 Placebo: 39.06/60.94 Mean no. of qualifying baseline adenomas Aspirin: 1.38 Placebo: 1.38 Mean follow-up duration months Aspirin: 40.2 Placebo: 41.04 N = 939	RCT (10 centres)	300mg per day aspirin with or without folate	Placebo taken once per day or folate	Primary: <i>Percentage of patients who developed one or more recurrent colorectal adenomas or cancers during the follow-up period</i> Secondary: <i>Number of adenomas detected during follow-up evaluation</i> <i>Percentage of patients who developed advanced colorectal neoplasia (defined as adenomas that were either 1 cm or larger in diameter, villous or tubulovillous, or showed severe dysplasia)</i>	Randomisation performed centrally where patients were randomised to 1 of 4 treatment arms using a computer generated randomisation list with a block size of 8 with randomisation stratified by centre Exclusion criteria: Individuals with serious medical conditions that might preclude successful completion of the trial, the need for regular treatment with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (including aspirin), known intolerance or sensitivity to aspirin, or active ulcer disease, bleeding disorders, or anticoagulant treatment, previous resection of the large bowel or incomplete adenoma removal. Any colorectal cancer that developed among trial participants were included in the category of advanced neoplasia
			N = 472	N = 467		

ukCAP = United Kingdom Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study

Table 9: Intervention studies examining Aspirin for improving colorectal cancer mortality and incidence: study characteristics

Study	Participants	Design	Intervention	Comparison	Outcomes	Comments
<p>Sandler 2003</p> <p>Cole 2009 (US) CALGB Trial</p>	<p>Previous colorectal cancer with low risk of recurrent disease and adequately prepared colonoscopy with removal of all polyps within four months prior to study entry were recruited between May 1993-January 2000</p> <p>Total age ranges (%) ≤49: 15% 50-59: 24% 60-69: 33% ≥70: 28%</p> <p>Gender F/M (%) Aspirin: 48/52 Placebo: 47/53</p> <p>Cancer stage N (%) <i>Dukes' A or B1</i> Aspirin: 196 (62) Placebo: 121 (38)</p> <p><i>Dukes' B2 or C</i> Aspirin: 200 (63) Placebo: 118 (37)</p> <p>Median (IQR) duration of follow-up months: Aspirin: 30.9 (20.1-35.3) Placebo: 31.6 (19.9-35.3)</p> <p>N = 635</p>	RCT (multi-centre)	325 mg aspirin per day	Placebo taken once per day	<p>Primary: <i>Detection of adenomas in the large bowel by either colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy after randomisation</i></p> <p>Secondary: <i>Comparison of aspirin and placebo group with respect to proportion who had at least one adenoma after randomisation, the size of the largest adenoma among patients who had at least one adenoma, the time to the detection of the first adenoma, the proportion of patients with advanced adenomas (those at least 1 cm in diameter or had villous components)</i></p>	<p>Randomisation was stratified according to the stage of cancer (Dukes' A or B1 vs. Dukes' B2 or C) and sex</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: Familial polyposis, had had invasive cancer other than non-melanoma skin cancer within 5 years before intake appointment, had cardiovascular disease, had received immunosuppressive therapy or had clinically obvious narcotic or alcohol dependence during previous 6 months, had a history of inflammatory bowel disease, had possible contraindications to aspirin administration, had a likelihood of requiring NSAID use, had used NSAIDs including aspirin at any dose on 3 or more days per month during each of the 3 months before enrolment or for a period of 36 days in the previous year, or had a history of stroke, transient ischemic attacks, angina, myocardial infarction, or atherosclerotic peripheral vascular disease</p>
			N = 317	N = 318		

CALGB = Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study [Cancer and Leukemia Group B]

2.4. Study risk of bias

Table 10: Methodological risk of bias of included randomised controlled trials (n = 10)

Risk of bias categories	N (%)
I. Was the allocation sequence adequately generated?	
LOW = a random component in the sequence generation process	9 (90%)
HIGH = a non-random component in the sequence generation process	1 (10%)
UNCLEAR = Insufficient information about the sequence generation process	0 (0%)
II. Was allocation adequately concealed?	
LOW = Participants and investigators could not foresee assignment	10 (100%)
HIGH = Participants and investigators could possibly foresee assignments	0 (0%)
UNCLEAR = Insufficient information to permit judgement	0 (0%)
III. Was knowledge of the allocated interventions adequately prevented during the study?	
LOW = Blinding of participants and key study personnel ensured	9 (90%)
HIGH = No blinding or incomplete blinding	1 (10%)
UNCLEAR = Insufficient information to permit judgement	0 (0%)
IV. Were incomplete outcome data adequately addressed?	
LOW = No missing outcome data (LOW)	10 (100%)
HIGH = Reason for missing outcome data likely to be related to true outcome	0 (0%)
UNCLEAR = Insufficient reporting of attrition/exclusions to permit judgement	0 (0%)
V. Are reports of the study free of suggestion of selective outcome reporting?	
LOW = study protocol is available and all of the study's pre-specified outcome	10 (100%)
HIGH = Not all of the study's pre-specified primary outcomes have been reported	0 (0%)
UNCLEAR = Insufficient information to permit judgement	0 (0%)
VI. Was the study apparently free of other problems that could put it at a risk of bias?	
LOW = study appears to be free of other sources of bias	10 (100%)
HIGH = There is at least one important risk of bias	0 (0%)
UNCLEAR = Insufficient information to assess	0 (0%)

Table 11. Methodological risk of bias of systematic reviews of randomised controlled trials (n=3)

Risk of bias categories	N (%)
1. Studies included in the systematic review or meta-analysis	
a) Was an adequate search strategy used?	
Very thorough – included appropriate search terms and databases	3 (100%)
Adequate – search terms and/or choice of databases could have been improved upon	0 (0%)
No or not described	0 (0%)
b) Were the inclusion criteria appropriate and applied in an unbiased way?	
2 = Yes – pre-specified inclusion criteria applied independently by two people	3 (100%)
1 = Adequate – inclusion criteria were pre-specified and applied by one person	0 (0%)
0 = No – inclusion was decided in an arbitrary fashion or not described	0 (0%)
2. Were the studies assessed for quality (relating to the minimisation of biases)?	
2 = Yes – appropriate quality issues were assessed independently by two people	0 (0%)
1 = Adequate – some problems with quality issues or assessed by one person only	1 (33%)
0 = No – inappropriate, no quality assessment undertaken or not described	2 (66%)
3. Were the characteristics and results of individual studies appropriately	
2 = Yes - summary descriptive tables of subjects, intervention, outcomes etc. are provided and estimates of treatment effect displayed	2 (66%)
1 = Adequate – more information would be desirable	1 (33%)
0 = No The following questions are only relevant for systematic reviews that pooled data	0 (0%)
4. Were the methods used for pooling the data appropriate?	
2 = Yes	3 (100%)
0 = No	0 (0%)
5. If there was heterogeneity, were sources of heterogeneity explored?	
2 = Yes	3 (100%)
1 = Some attempt was made	0 (0%)
0 = No	0 (0%)
N/A No heterogeneity	0 (0%)

Table 12: Risk of bias summary assessment of included randomised controlled trials (n = 10)

Trial/article(s)	Outcome	Random sequence generation	Allocation concealment	Blinding	Incomplete outcome data	Selective outcome reporting	Other sources of bias	Overall risk of bias
CAPP2/Burn 2008	CRC incidence	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
CAPP2/Burn 2011	CRC incidence	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
WHS/Cook 2005	CRC incidence	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
WHS/Cook 2013	CRC incidence	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
WHS/Cook 2013	Adverse effects	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
WHS/van Kruijsdijk 2015	CRC risk	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
BDAT/Flossman 2007	CRC incidence	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	Low	At risk of bias
BDAT/Flossman 2007	CRC mortality	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	Low	At risk of bias
SALT/Rothwell 2010	CRC mortality	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
TPT/Rothwell 2010	CRC mortality	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
UK-TIA/Flossman 2007	CRC incidence	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
UK-TIA/Flossman 2007	CRC mortality	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
UK-TIA/Farrell 1991	Adverse events	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
AFPPS/Cole 2009	Adenoma incidence	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
CALGB/Cole 2009	Adenoma incidence	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
ukCAP/Cole 2009	Adenoma incidence	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias
APACC/Cole 2009	Adenoma incidence	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low risk of bias

Key to overall risk of bias rating

Low risk of bias: A study rated at low risk of bias for all domains

At risk of bias: A study rated at high or unclear risk of bias for one or more domains

Table 13: Risk of bias summary assessment of systematic reviews (n = 3)

Trial/article(s)	Outcome	Search strategy	Inclusion criteria	Quality assessment	Study characteristics	Pooled data	Heterogeneity	Overall risk of bias
BDAT/SALT/TPT/UK-TIA Rothwell 2010	CRC incidence	Very thorough	Yes	Adequate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Moderate risk of bias
BDAT/SALT/TPT/UK-TIA Rothwell 2010	CRC mortality	Very thorough	Yes	Adequate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Moderate risk of bias
BDAT/UK-TIA Flossman 2007	CRC incidence	Very thorough	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	High risk of bias
AFPPS/CALGB/ukCAP/APACC Cole 2009	Adenoma incidence	Very thorough	Yes	No	Adequate	Yes	Yes	Low risk of bias

Key to overall risk of bias rating

Low risk of bias: A review that received a score of 2 for Questions Ia, Ib, II, and III

Moderate risk of bias: A review that received a score of 1 or 2 for Questions Ia, Ib, II, and III

High risk of bias: A review that received a score of 0 for any of the Questions Ia, Ib, II, or III

2.5 OUTCOMES

Table 14: Results of studies examining effects of Aspirin on colorectal cancer outcomes

Study	Outcome	N actual	Aspirin % (n)	Placebo % (n)	Size of effect	CI (95%)	p-value ^a	Follow up (mean)
Burn 2008	Neoplasm Incidence							
Burn 2011 (UK)	<i>The use of 600 mg enteric-coated aspirin vs placebo daily. Participates (N=674) also randomised to receive either 30 g resistant starch vs placebo starch.</i>	693	18.9 (66) N = 350	19.0 (65) N = 343	RR=1.0	0.7-1.4	NS	29 months
	Subgroup analyses (neoplasm incidence)							
CAPP2 Trial								
	Adenoma only	693	16.0 (56) N = 350	16.0 (55) N = 343	NR	NR	0.96	29 months
	Colorectal cancer only	693	1.4 (5) N = 350	2.0 (7) N = 343	NR	NR	0.54	
	Adenoma and colorectal cancer	693	1.4 (5) N = 350	0.9 (3) N = 343	NR	NR	0.45	
	Advanced neoplasms (adenoma or colorectal cancer)	693	7.4 (26) N = 350	9.9 (34) N = 343	NR	NR	0.33	
	Neoplasm Incidence							
	<i>The use of 600 mg enteric-coated aspirin vs placebo daily. Participates only received aspirin or placebo and did not receive resistant starch/placebo starch.</i>	19	44.4 (4) N = 9	20.0 (2) N = 10	NR	NR	NR	29 months
	Subgroup analyses (neoplasm incidence)							
	Adenoma only	19	33.3 (3) N = 9	20 (2) N = 10	NR	NR	NR	29 months
	Colorectal cancer only	19	11.1 (1) N = 9	0 (0) N = 10	NR	NR	NR	
	Adenoma and colorectal cancer	19	0 (0) N = 9	0 (0) N = 10	NR	NR	NR	
	Advanced neoplasms (adenoma or colorectal cancer)	19	11.1 (1) N = 9	10 (1) N = 10	NR	NR	NR	
	Neoplasm incidence (individual events)							
	<i>Neoplasma incidence from all colonoscopies with four time groups. Neoplasms are treated as individual events.</i>	1094	13.3 (71) N = 533	12.7 (71) N = 561	NR	NR	NR	29 months

Subgroup analysis								
Time on study	6-18 months	300	8.2 (12) N = 146	13.6 (21) N = 154	RR=0.6	0.3-1.2	NS	29 months
	19-30 months	546	15.8 (44) N = 278	13.8 (37) N = 268	RR=1.1	0.8-1.7	NS	
	31-42 months	130	11.7 (7) N = 60	10.0 (7) N = 70	RR=1.2	0.4-3.1	NS	
	≥43 months	118	16.3 (8) N = 49	8.7 (6) N = 69	RR=1.9	0.7-5.1	NS	
Colorectal cancer incidence								
<i>Incidence of colorectal cancer measured from the date of randomisation with long term follow up.</i>		671	3.8 (13) N = 342	8.2 (27) N = 329	HR=0.63	0.35-1.13	0.12	66.1 months
Subgroup analysis								
Colorectal cancer incidence	≥2 yrs aspirin vs ≥2 yrs aspirin placebo	NR	NR	NR	HR=0.41	0.19-0.86	0.02	66.1 months
	<2 yrs aspirin vs ≥2 yrs aspirin placebo	NR	NR	NR	HR=1.07	0.47-2.41	0.87	
	<2 yrs aspirin placebo vs ≥2 yrs aspirin placebo	NR	NR	NR	HR=0.62	0.25-1.52	0.30	

N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; g = grams; yrs = years; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; NS = not statistically significantly different; RR = relative risk ratio; HR = hazards ratio; CAPP2 = Colorectal Adenoma/Carcinoma Prevention Programme 2. ^a P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 15: Results of studies examining effects of Aspirin on colorectal cancer outcomes

Study	Outcome	N actual	Aspirin % (n)	Placebo % (n)	Size of effect	CI (95%)	p-value ^a	Follow up (mean)	
Cook 2005	Colorectal cancer incidence <i>The use of 100 mg aspirin vs placebo and 600 IU Vitamin E vs placebo on alternate days for 10 years</i>	39,876	0.67 (133) N = 19,934	0.69 (139) N = 19,942	RR=0.97	0.77 – 1.24	0.83	10.1 years	
Cook 2013	Subgroup analysis (colorectal cancer incidence)								
van Kruijsdijk 2015 (USA)	Sites of colorectal cancer	39,876						10.1 years	
	Colon		0.52 (103) N = 19,934	0.56 (111) N = 19,942	RR=0.92	0.71–1.21	0.57		
	Rectal		0.15 (30) N = 19,934	0.13 (25) N = 19,942	RR=1.20	0.70–2.04	0.50		
WHS Trial	Colorectal cancer incidence <i>Incidence of colorectal cancer measured from the date of randomisation with long term follow up</i>	39,876	1.0 (202) N = 19,934	1.2 (249) N = 19,942	HR=0.80	0.67 – 0.97	0.021	16 years	
	Subgroup analysis (Colorectal cancer incidence)								
	Colon		0.8 (155) N = 19,934	1.0 (195) N = 19,942	HR=0.79	0.64 – 0.97	0.026		
	Sites of colorectal cancer	Site of colon cancer	Proximal cancers	0.4 (88) N = 19,934	0.6 (120) N = 19,942	HR=0.73	0.55 – 0.95	0.022	18 years
Distal cancers			0.3 (59) N = 19,934	0.3 (67) N = 19,942	HR=0.87	0.62 – 1.24	0.45		
Rectal (includes rectosigmoid junction)			0.2 (47) N = 19,934	0.3 (54) N = 19,942	HR=0.86	0.58 – 1.28	0.46		
	Colorectal cancer stage	Duke's stage C or D	0.4 (82) N = 19,934	0.5 (102) N = 19,942	HR=0.80	0.60 – 1.07	0.126	18 years	
		Duke's stage A or B	0.6 (117) N = 19,934	0.7 (142) N = 19,942	HR=0.82	0.64 – 1.04	0.10		
	Adverse Events - Reported cases gastrointestinal side effects and polyps								
	Gastrointestinal bleeding	39,876	8.3 (1645) N = 19,934	7.3 (1452) N = 19,942	HR=1.14	1.06 – 1.22	<0.001	18 years	
	Peptic ulcer		7.3 (1456) N = 19,934	6.2 (1242) N = 19,942	HR=1.17	1.09 – 1.27	<0.001	18 years	
	Colon polyp		26.0 (5187) N = 19,934	25.8 (5151) N = 19,942	HR=1.00	0.96 – 1.04	0.94	18 years	

Colorectal Cancer Predicted Risk

Treatment effect prediction of alternate-day aspirin use at 10 years and 15 years

Total study population	27,939	AR=0.60%	AR=0.61%	ARR=0.01%	NNT= >1000	10 years
		CI=0.48-0.74%	CI=0.49-0.75%	CI=0.00%-32.05%	CI=3 to >1000	
		AR=0.86%	AR=1.01%	ARR=0.14%	NNT= 709	15 years
		CI=0.72-1.03%	CI=0.85-1.18%	CI=0.02%-0.59%	CI=170 to >1000	
Women <65 years	24,971	AR=0.47%	AR=0.51%	ARR=0.05%	NNT= >1000	10 years
		CI=0.36-0.60%	CI=0.40-0.65%	CI=0.00%-0.96%	CI=105 to >1000	
		AR=0.71%	AR=0.88%	ARR=0.17%	NNT= 581	15 years
		CI=0.57-0.87%	CI=0.73-1.06%	CI=0.04%-0.55%	CI=181 to >1000	
Women ≥65 years	2,968	AR=1.71%	AR=1.43%	ARR= -0.27%	NNH= 369	10 years
		CI=1.13-2.47%	CI=0.92-2.15%	CI=-1.17%-0.63%	CI=85 ^{NNH} to 158 ^{NNT}	
		AR=2.17%	AR=2.06%	ARR= -0.11%	NNH= 924	15 years
		CI=1.51-3.01%	CI=1.42-2.89%	CI=-1.15%-0.93%	CI=87 ^{NNH} to 107 ^{NNT}	

AR = absolute risk; ARR = absolute risk reduction; N = number of participants; NNH = Numbers needed to harm; NNT = numbers needed to treat; mg = milligrams; CI = confidence interval; RR = relative risk ratio; HR = hazards ratio; IU = international units; WHS = Women's Health Study. ^a P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 16: Results of studies examining effects of Aspirin on colorectal cancer outcomes

Study	Outcome	N actual	Aspirin % (n)	Control % (n)	Size of effect	CI (95%)	p-value ^a	Follow up (mean)
Peto 1988	Colorectal cancer incidence <i>Incidence of colorectal cancer measured from the date of randomisation with long term follow up</i>	5,139	2.68 (92) N = 3429	3.74 (64) N = 1710	HR=0.70	0.51 – 0.97	0.04	≥20 years
Flossman 2007 (UK)	Subgroup analysis (Colorectal cancer incidence)							
	Incidence of colorectal cancer measured from the date of randomisation	5,139	0.81 (28) N = 3429	0.99 (17) N = 1710	HR=0.82	0.45 – 1.49	0.52	≤9 years
BDAT			1.46 (50) N = 3429	2.22 (38) N = 1710	HR=0.64	0.42 – 0.97	0.05	10-19 years
	Colorectal cancer mortality <i>Effect of 500 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to colorectal cancer</i>	5,139	1.72 (59) N = 3429	2.34 (40) N = 1710	OR=0.73	0.49 – 1.10	NS	22-23 years
Norrving 1991	Colorectal cancer mortality <i>Effect of 75 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to colorectal cancer</i>	1360	1.04 (7) N = 676	1.46 (10) N = 684	OR=0.71	0.27 – 1.86	NS	
Rothwell 2010 (Sweden)	Colorectal cancer mortality <i>Effect of 75 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to colorectal cancer excluding patients with scheduled duration of trial treatment < 2.5 years</i>	912	0.45 (2) N = 444	1.50 (7) N = 468	OR=0.30	0.06 – 1.44	NS	18-23 years
SALT								
Meade 1998	Colorectal cancer mortality <i>Effect of 75 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to colorectal cancer</i>		1.34 (34) N = 2545	2.16 (55) N = 2540	OR=0.61	0.40 – 0.94	SSD	
Rothwell 2010 (UK)	Colorectal cancer mortality <i>Effect of 75 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to colorectal cancer excluding patients with scheduled duration of trial treatment < 2.5 years</i>	5085	1.34 (34) N = 2545	2.16 (55) N = 2540	OR=0.61	0.40 – 0.94	SSD	17-20 years
TPT								

N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; NS = not statistically significantly different; HR = hazards ratio; OR = odds ratio; SSD = statistically significantly different; BDA = British Doctors Aspirin Trial; SALT = Swedish Aspirin Low Dose Trial; TPT = Thrombosis Prevention Trial. ^a P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 17: Results of studies examining effects of Aspirin on colorectal cancer outcomes

Study	Outcome	N actual	Aspirin % (n)	Placebo % (n)	Size of effect	CI (95%)	p-value ^a	Follow up (mean)	
UK-TIA Study Group 1988	Colorectal cancer incidence <i>Incidence of colorectal cancer measured from the date of randomisation with long term follow up</i>	2,449	1.5 (37) N = 1632	2.8 (23) N = 817	HR=0.82	0.49 – 1.38	0.41	≥20 years	
Farrell 1991	Subgroup analysis (Colorectal cancer incidence)								
Flossman 2007 (UK)	Incidence of colorectal cancer measured from the date of randomisation	2,449	0-9 years 1.1 (18) N = 1632	1.0 (8) N = 817	HR=1.14	0.49 – 2.61	0.78	≤9 years	
			10-19 years 0.9 (15) N = 1632	1.8 (15) N = 817	HR=0.51	0.25 – 1.00	0.05	10-19 years	
UK-TIA Trial	Colorectal cancer mortality <i>Effect of 300 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to colorectal cancer</i>	1628	0.99 (8) N = 811	1.96 (16) N = 817	OR=0.50	0.21 – 1.17	NS	21-27 years	
	Colorectal cancer mortality <i>Effect of 1200 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to colorectal cancer</i>	1638	1.34 (11) N = 821	1.96 (16) N = 817	OR=0.68	0.31 – 1.47	NS		
	Adverse events incidence <i>Adverse events reported during follow-up measured from the date of randomisation to 30/9/1986. For each type of adverse effect patients were only counted once.</i>	N	1200mg aspirin	300mg aspirin	Placebo	Size of effect	CI (95%)	p-value	Follow up
	Upper gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting, heartburn)	1,620	-	31 (253) N = 806	26 (209) N = 814	OR=1.32	1.06-1.65	SSD	1-8 years
		1,621	41 (338) N = 815	31 (253) N = 806	-	OR=1.54	1.25-1.89	SSD	
	Constipation	2435	Combined 1200mg + 300mg 6 (104) N = 1621		2 (20) N = 814	OR=2.72	1.68-4.40	SSD	1-8 years
	Gastrointestinal haemorrhage	1,620	-	3 (25) N = 806	1 (9) N = 814	OR=2.57	1.20-5.53	SSD	1-8 years
		1,621	5 (39) N = 815	3 (25) N = 806	-	OR=1.62	0.94-2.79	NS	

N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; CI = confidence interval; SSD = statistically significantly different, NS = not statistically significantly different; HR = hazards ratio; OR = odds ratio; UK-TIA = The United Kingdom Transient Ischaemic Attack Trial. ^a P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 18: Results of studies examining effects of Aspirin on colorectal cancer outcomes

Study	Outcome	N actual	Aspirin % (n)	Placebo % (n)	Size of effect	CI (95%)	p-value ^a	Follow up (median)	
Flossman 2007 (UK)	Colorectal cancer incidence <i>Pooled analysis of data from the BDAT and the UK-TIA on the effect of randomisation to a period of treatment with aspirin on the incidence of colorectal cancer (all patients)</i>	7,588	2.5 (129) N = 5061	3.4 (87) N = 2527	HR=0.74	0.56 – 0.97	0.02	23 years	
BDAT UK-TIA	Colorectal cancer incidence <i>All patients allocated to aspirin for at least 5 years (i.e. all BDAT and first 937 patients in UK-TIA aspirin trial).</i>	6,076	2.5 (100) N = 4051	3.8 (77) N = 2025	HR=0.63	0.47 – 0.85	0.002	23 years	
	Colorectal cancer incidence <i>Incidence of colorectal cancer in all patients in the UK-TIA and the BDAT trials stratified into 10-year follow up periods</i>	7,588	2.5 (129) N = 5061	3.4 (87) N = 2527	HR=0.74	0.56 – 0.97	0.02	23 years	
	Subgroup analysis (Colorectal cancer incidence)								
	Incidence of colorectal cancer measured from the date of randomisation	7,588	0-9 years	0.9 (46) N = 5061	0.9 (25) N = 2527	HR=0.92	0.56 – 1.49	0.73	≤9 years
			10-19 years	1.3 (65) N = 5061	2.1 (53) N = 2527	HR=0.60	0.42 – 0.87	0.007	10-19 years

N = number of participants; *mg* = milligrams; *CI* = confidence interval; *NR* = not reported; *HR* = hazards ratio; *ARR* = absolute risk reduction; *BDAT* = British Doctors Aspirin Trial; *SALT* = Swedish Aspirin Low Dose Trial; *TPT* = Thrombosis Prevention Trial; *UK-TIA* = The United Kingdom Transient Ischaemic Attack Trial. ^a *P*-values derived from two-sided tests, *p*-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 19: Meta-analysis of colorectal cancer incidence in randomised controlled trials comparing Aspirin to placebo.

Study	Outcome	N actual	Aspirin % (n)	Placebo % (n)	Size of effect	CI (95%)	P-value ^a	Follow up (median)		
Rothwell 2010 (UK)	Colorectal cancer incidence <i>Pooled analysis of the effect of low dose (75–300 mg) aspirin on subsequent long-term incidence of colorectal cancer in 4 randomised controlled trials of aspirin vs control: BDAT, SALT, TPT, UK-TIA</i>	8,073	NR	NR	HR=0.75 ARR=1.21%	0.56 – 0.97 0.19 – 2.22	0.02	18.3 years		
BDAT SALT TPT UK-TIA	Subgroup analysis (incidence of colorectal cancer/duration of treatment)									
	Scheduled treatment									
		≥ 2.5 years	7,383	NR	NR	HR=0.69 ARR=1.33%	0.51 – 0.93 0.30 – 2.36	0.003	18.3 years	
		≥ 5 years	5,077	NR	NR	HR=0.62 ARR=1.55%	0.43 – 0.94 0.34 – 2.76	0.003		
	Colorectal cancer incidence <i>Effect of aspirin versus control on long-term risk of colorectal cancer incidence stratified by site of tumour in a pooled analysis of TPT, SALT, UK-TIA and BDAT (75-1200 mg)</i>	14,033	NR	NR	HR=0.76	0.63-0.94	0.01	18.3 years		
		All Colon cancer	14,033	NR	NR	HR=0.76	0.60 – 0.96	0.02	18.3 years	
	Sites of colorectal cancer	Site of colon cancer	Proximal colon		NR	NR	HR=0.45	0.28 – 0.74	0.001	
			Distal colon	14,033	NR	NR	HR=1.10	0.73 – 1.64	0.66	18.3 years
			Site unspecified		NR	NR	HR=0.74	0.51 – 1.07	0.11	
		Rectal cancer	14,033	NR	NR	HR=0.90	0.63 – 1.30	0.58	18.3 years	

ARR = absolute risk reduction; BDAT = British Doctors Aspirin Trial; CI = confidence interval; HR = hazards ratio; mg = milligrams; N = number of participants; NR = not reported; SALT = Swedish Aspirin Low Dose Trial; TPT = Thrombosis Prevention Trial; UK-TIA = The United Kingdom Transient Ischaemic Attack Trial. ^a P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 20: Meta-analysis of colorectal cancer mortality in randomised controlled trials comparing Aspirin to placebo.

Study	Outcome	N actual	Aspirin % (n)	Placebo % (n)	Size of effect	CI (95%)	P-value ^a	Follow up (median)
Rothwell 2010 (UK)	Colorectal cancer mortality <i>Meta-analysis of the effect of aspirin (75-1200 mg) on long-term risk of death due to colorectal cancer in 4 randomised controlled trials of aspirin vs control: BDAT, SALT, TPT, UK-TIA</i>	14,033	1.44 (119) N = 8282	2.10 (121) N = 5751	OR = 0.66	0.51 – 0.85	0.002	18.3 years
BDAT SALT TPT UK-TIA	Subgroup analysis (Effect of aspirin on long-term risk of mortality due to colorectal cancer in RCTs)							
	Doses of aspirin							
	500 – 1200 mg daily (BDAT, UK-TIA)	6,777	1.65 (70) N = 4250	2.22 (56) N = 2527	OR=0.72	0.50 – 1.03	NS	18.3 years
	75 – 300 mg daily (UK-TIA, TPT, SALT)	8,073	1.22 (49) N = 4032	2.00 (81) N = 4041	OR=0.60	0.42 – 0.86	SSD	
	Colorectal cancer mortality <i>Pooled analysis of the effect of low dose (75–300 mg) aspirin on subsequent long-term mortality due to colorectal cancer in 4 randomised controlled trials of aspirin vs control: BDAT, SALT, TPT, UK-TIA</i>	8,073	1.22 (49) N = 4032	2.00 (81) N = 4041	HR=0.61 ARR=1.36%	0.43 – 0.87 0.44 – 2.28	0.005	18.3 years
	Scheduled treatment							
	≥ 2.5 years	7,383	NR	NR	HR=0.54 ARR=1.49%	0.36–0.80 0.55–2.43	0.001	18.3 years
	≥ 5 years	5,077	NR	NR	HR=0.48 ARR=1.76%	0.30–0.77 0.61–2.91	0.001	
	Colorectal cancer mortality <i>Effect of aspirin versus control on long-term risk of mortality due to colorectal cancer stratified by site of tumour in a pooled analysis of TPT, SALT, UK-TIA and BDAT (75-1200 mg)</i>	14,033	NR	NR	HR=0.66	0.52-0.86	0.002	18.3 years
	Sites of colorectal cancer							
	All Colon cancer	14,033	NR	NR	HR=0.65	0.48–0.88	0.005	18.3 years
	Site of colon cancer							
	Proximal colon		NR	NR	HR=0.34	0.18–0.66	0.001	
	Distal colon	14,033	NR	NR	HR=1.21	0.66–2.24	0.54	18.3 years
	Site unspecified		NR	NR	HR=0.61	0.40–0.94	0.02	
	Rectal cancer	14,033	NR	NR	HR=0.80	0.50–1.28	0.35	18.3 years

N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; HR = hazards ratio; OR = odds ratio; ARR = absolute risk reduction; BDAT = British Doctors Aspirin Trial; SALT = Swedish Aspirin Low Dose Trial; TPT = Thrombosis Prevention Trial; UK-TIA = The United Kingdom Transient Ischaemic Attack Trial. ^a P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 21: Benefits and harms of 10 years of aspirin use on the incidence of major events and on mortality by age and sex.

Study	Outcome		50 years		55 years		60 years		65 years	
			Baseline	Reduction	Baseline	Reduction	Baseline	Reduction	Baseline	Reduction
Cuzick 2015	Incidence <i>Benefits of 10 years of aspirin use on incidence of major events</i>	Men	16.97	1.50 (1.22)	25.11	2.29 (1.83)	34.13	3.10 (2.47)	42.97	3.84 (3.09)
		Women	13.74	0.95 (0.68)	18.32	1.32 (0.97)	23.83	1.73 (1.32)	30.53	2.24(1.79)
Subgroup analysis (incidence of major events)										
Cancer		Men	9.70	0.92 (0.65)	15.20	1.52 (1.07)	20.75	2.09 (1.45)	25.39	2.51 (1.75)
		Women	10.41	0.72 (0.48)	13.19	1.03 (0.67)	15.78	1.26 (0.85)	18.08	1.48 (1.03)
Myocardial Infarction		Men	5.13	0.52	6.75	0.68	8.72	0.89	10.92	1.15
		Women	1.62	0.15	2.59	0.23	4.22	0.37	6.69	0.61
Stroke		Men	2.14	0.06	3.16	0.08	4.66	0.12	6.66	0.18
		Women	1.71	0.05	2.54	0.07	3.84	0.10	5.75	0.15
Adverse Events <i>Harms due to major extracranial bleeding after 10 years of aspirin use by age and gender</i>										
		Men	1.12	0.32(0.42)	1.58	0.49 (0.64)	2.00	0.66 (0.85)	2.37	0.81 (1.05)
		Women	0.57	0.16(0.21)	0.81	0.25 (0.32)	1.05	0.34 (0.44)	1.30	0.43 (0.55)
Net Benefit <i>Reduction in major events verse adverse events</i>										
		Men	18.09	1.18 (0.81)	26.70	1.80 (1.19)	36.13	2.44 (1.62)	45.34	3.03 (2.03)
		Women	14.31	0.79 (0.47)	19.13	1.07 (0.65)	24.88	1.39 (0.88)	31.83	1.82 (1.24)
Mortality <i>Benefits of 10 years aspirin use on mortality by age and gender</i>										
		Men	12.53	1.05 (0.86)	19.64	1.60 (1.30)	28.19	2.24 (1.82)	35.66	2.72 (2.22)
		Women	7.92	0.55 (0.40)	12.24	0.82 (0.61)	18.06	1.16 (0.89)	24.60	1.53 (1.20)
Subgroup analysis (mortality due to major events)										
Cancer		Men	7.45	0.99 (0.80)	11.59	1.48 (1.19)	16.40	2.04 (1.62)	20.53	2.41 (1.91)
		Women	6.12	0.53 (0.39)	8.80	0.78 (0.58)	12.04	1.09 (0.82)	15.26	1.39 (1.06)
Myocardial Infarction		Men	5.08	0.07	8.05	0.12	11.80	0.20	15.13	0.31
		Women	1.08	0.02	3.44	0.04	6.02	0.08	9.33	0.14
Adverse events <i>Harms of 10 years of aspirin use on mortality by age and gender</i>										
		Men	1.29	0.11 (0.12)	2.31	0.17 (0.18)	3.93	0.28 (0.30)	5.73	0.54 (0.58)
		Women	0.93	0.09 (0.09)	1.79	0.11 (0.12)	3.42	0.19 (0.21)	5.86	0.41 (0.44)
Subgroup analysis (mortality due to adverse events)										
Stroke		Men	1.03	0.06	1.85	0.09	3.21	0.17	4.83	0.32
		Women	0.74	0.04	1.47	0.06	2.90	0.11	5.12	0.26
GI bleeding		Men	0.19	0.04 (0.04)	0.34	0.05 (0.06)	0.57	0.08 (0.09)	0.74	0.17 (0.19)
		Women	0.12	0.02 (0.03)	0.22	0.03 (0.04)	0.39	0.05 (0.06)	0.59	0.11 (0.13)
Peptic ulcer		Men	0.08	0.02 (0.02)	0.12	0.03 (0.03)	0.15	0.03 (0.04)	0.17	0.05 (0.06)
		Women	0.07	0.02 (0.02)	0.10	0.02 (0.02)	0.13	0.03 (0.03)	0.16	0.04 (0.05)
All-cause mortality										
		Men	18.02	0.94 (0.74)	0.27	1.43 (1.12)	41.99	1.96 (1.52)	58.74	2.18 (1.64)
		Women	11.82	0.47 (0.31)	18.55	0.70 (0.49)	29.86	0.97 (0.69)	47.45	1.12 (0.76)

Baseline probabilities of an event and aspirin-related reductions (per 100 individuals in 15 years) using best (and conservative) estimates for prophylactic use of aspirin for 10 years on the incidence of major events namely cancer, myocardial infarction, stroke and major bleeding according to sex and age at starting use. All estimates are adjusted for inter-current mortality. Baseline '20-year' event-specific mortality probabilities and aspirin-related reductions (per 100 individuals) using best (and conservative) estimates for prophylactic use of aspirin for 10 years on mortality due to cancer, myocardial infarction, stroke and aspirin-related adverse events (peptic ulcer and gastrointestinal bleeding) according to sex and age at starting use. Effects on cardiovascular and bleeding events are assumed to occur only during active treatment (10 years) and those for cancer do not start until

after 3-5 years of use but persist for an additional 5 years after treatment completion. Baseline rates are for the entire 15-20 year period. Figures in parentheses are conservative estimates. The figures in bold represent overall benefits, overall harms and net balance of benefit and harm.

Table 22: Results of studies examining effects of Aspirin on colorectal cancer outcomes in high risk populations

Study	Outcome	N actual	Aspirin % (n)	Placebo % (n)	Size of effect	CI (95%)	p-value ^a	Follow up (median)	
Cole 2009 (UK)	Adenoma incidence <i>Random-effect risk ratio of adenoma incidence comparing any aspirin dose verse placebo in pooled analysis of AFPPS, CALGB, ukCAP, APACC trials</i>	2698	32.9 (507) N=1542	36.7 (424) N=1156	RR=0.83	0.72-0.96	0.012	35.1 months	
AFPPS CALGB ukCAP APACC	Adenoma incidence <i>Random-effect risk ratio of adenoma incidence comparing lower-dose aspirin (81 or 160 mg/day) verse placebo in pooled analysis of AFPPS and APACC trials</i>	913	39.6 (172) N=434	48.6 (233) N=479	RR=0.83	0.71-0.96	0.012	24.2 months	
	Adenoma incidence <i>Random-effect risk ratio of adenoma incidence comparing higher dose aspirin (300 or 325 mg/day) verse placebo in pooled analysis of AFPPS, CALGB, ukCAP, APACC trials</i>	2264	30.2 (335) N=1108	36.7 N=1156	RR=0.85	0.70-1.03	0.099	29.5 months	
Subgroup analysis (Effect of aspirin on risk of adenoma in high risk populations in RCTs)									
		any aspirin dose vs placebo	1084	41.6 (300) N=721	47.1 (171) N=363	RR=0.88	0.77-1.02	NS	32.2 months
	AFPPS	81 mg/day aspirin vs placebo	729	38.3 (140) N=366	47.1 (171) N=363	RR=0.81	0.69-0.96	SSD	
		325 mg/day aspirin vs placebo	718	45.1 (160) N=355	47.1 (171) N=363	RR=0.96	0.82-1.12	NS	
	CALGB	325 mg/day aspirin vs placebo	517	16.6 (43) N=259	27.1 (70) N=258	RR=0.61	0.44-0.86	SSD	31.3 months
	ukCAP	300 mg/day aspirin vs placebo	853	22.8 (99) N=434	28.9 (121) N=419	RR=0.79	0.63-0.99	SSD	37.5 months
		any aspirin dose vs placebo	244	50.8 (65) N=128	53.4 (62) N=116	RR=0.95	0.75-1.21	NS	47.2 months
	APACC	160 mg/day aspirin vs placebo	184	47.1 (32) N=68	53.4 (62) N=116	RR=0.88	0.65-1.19	NS	
		300 mg/day aspirin vs placebo	176	55.0 (33) N=60	53.4 (62) N=116	RR=1.03	0.77-1.37	NS	
		≤54 years	990	28.9 (166) N=574	32.5 (135) N=416	RR=0.84	0.66-1.06	NS	35.1 months
	Age	55-63 years	846	35.0 (175) N=500	34.7 (120) N=346	RR=0.98	0.67-1.42	NS	
		≥64 years	862	35.5 (166) N=468	42.9 (169) N=394	RR=0.73	0.54-1.00	NS	
		Male	1609	37.2 (348) N=935	41.8 (282) N=674	RR=0.84	0.73-0.98	SSD	35.1 months
	Gender	Female	1089	26.2 (159) N=607	29.5 (142) N=482	RR=0.82	0.68-0.99	SSD	
	Body Mass Index (kg/m ²)	<25.0	791	29.2 (129)	33.8 (118)	RR=0.78	0.51-1.18	NS	

		N=442	N=349				
	25.0 to 29.9	1070	36.3 (228) N=628	39.6 (175) N=442	RR=0.86	0.74-1.00	NS
	≥30.0	522	37.1 (111) N=299	39.5 (88) N=223	RR=0.84	0.68-1.04	NS
Family history of colorectal cancer	Yes	591	40.4 (148) N=366	45.3 (102) N=225	RR=0.86	0.71-1.04	NS
	No	1124	35.7 (230) N=644	37.3 (179) N=480	RR=0.89	0.76-1.03	NS
No. of lifetime adenomas at baseline	1	1170	29.1 (199) N=685	30.5 (148) N=485	RR=0.91	0.75-1.09	NS
	≥2	1007	44.3 (264) N=596	49.9 (205) N=411	RR=0.86	0.76-0.98	SSD
Advanced lesion at baseline	Yes	1062	34.2 (203) N=594	35.5 (166) N=468	RR=0.91	0.74-1.12	NS
	No	952	39.5 (234) N=593	44.3 (159) N=359	RR=0.86	0.72-1.03	NS

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; N = number of participants; CI = confidence interval; RR = Relative risk ratio; NR = not reported; NS = not statistically significantly different; SSD = statistically significantly different; AFPPS = Aspirin/Folate Polyp Prevention Study; CALGB = Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study [Cancer and Leukemia Group B]; ukCAP = United Kingdom Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study; APACC = Association pour la Prevention par l'Aspirine du Cancer Colorectal ^a P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 23: Results of studies examining effects of Aspirin on colorectal cancer outcomes in high risk populations

Study	Outcome	N actual	Aspirin % (n)	Placebo % (n)	Size of effect	CI (95%)	p-value ^a	Follow up		
Cole 2009	Adenoma incidence <i>Random-effect risk ratio of adenoma incidence for any aspirin dose verse placebo in pooled analysis of CALGB, ukCAP, APACC trials 0-12 months after randomisation</i>	463	23.2 (51) N=220	37.4 (91) N=243	RR=0.62	0.48-0.81	SSD	0-12 months		
(UK)	Adenoma incidence <i>Random-effect risk ratio of adenoma incidence for any aspirin dose verse placebo in pooled analysis of AFPPS, CALGB, ukCAP, APACC 12-24 months after randomisation</i>	411	25.6 (56) N=219	27.6 (53) N=192	RR=0.86	0.55-1.33	NS	12-24 months		
AFPPS CALGB ukCAP APACC	Adenoma incidence <i>Random-effect risk ratio of adenoma incidence for any aspirin dose verse placebo in pooled analysis of AFPPS, CALGB, ukCAP, APACC trials 24-38 months after randomisation</i>	1659	32.3 (327) N=1012	34.8 (225) N=647	RR=0.84	0.74-0.96	SSD	24-38 months		
	Adenoma incidence <i>Random-effect risk ratio of adenoma incidence for any aspirin dose verse placebo in pooled analysis of AFPPS, CALGB, ukCAP, APACC trials ≥38 months after randomisation</i>	700	27.9 (100) N=359	26.4 (90) N=341	RR=0.99	0.78-1.26	NS	≥38 months		
Subgroup analysis (Effect of aspirin on risk of adenoma in high risk populations in RCTs)										
	Time interval after randomisation	0-12 months ^b	CALGB	252	12.8 (15) N=117	23.0 (31) N=135	RR=0.56	0.32-0.98	SSD	0-12 months
			ukCAP	78	47.2 (17) N=36	71.4 (30) N=42	RR=0.66	0.45-0.98	SSD	
			APACC	133	28.4 (19) N=67	45.5 (30) N=66	RR=0.62	0.39-0.99	SSD	
		12-24 months	AFPPS	51	41.7 (15) N=36	20.0 (3) N=15	RR=2.08	0.71-6.16	NS	12-24 months
			CALGB	185	13.3 (12) N=90	16.8 (16) N=95	RR=0.79	0.40-1.58	NS	
			ukCAP	68	25.7 (9) N=35	48.5 (16) N=33	RR=0.53	0.27-1.03	NS	
		24-38 months ^c	APACC	107	34.5 (20) N=58	36.7 (18) N=49	RR=0.94	0.56-1.56	NS	24-38 months
			AFPPS	1007	40.5 (271) N=669	46.7 (158) N=338	RR=0.87	0.75-1.00	NS	
			CALGB	309	11.8 (18) N=152	17.8 (28) N=157	RR=0.66	0.38-1.15	NS	
		≥ 38 months	ukCAP	343	19.9 (38) N=191	25.7 (39) N=152	RR=0.78	0.52-1.15	NS	≥38 months
			AFPPS	65	47.6 (20) N=42	47.8 (11) N=23	RR=1.00	0.59-1.69	NS	
			CALGB	60	15.6 (5) N=32	17.9 (5) N=28	RR=0.88	0.28-2.71	NS	
			ukCAP	400	19.9 (38) N=191	20.6 (43) N=209	RR=0.97	0.65-1.43	NS	
			APACC	175	39.4 (37) N=94	38.3 (31) N=81	RR=1.03	0.71-1.49	NS	

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; N = number of participants; CI = confidence interval; RR = Relative risk ratio; NR = not reported; NS= not statistically significantly different; SSD = statistically significantly different; AFPPS = Aspirin/Folate Polyp Prevention Study; CALGB = Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study [Cancer and Leukemia Group B]; ukCAP = United Kingdom Colorectal

Adenoma Prevention Study; APACC = Association pour la Prevention par l'Aspirine du Cancer Colorectal ^a P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant. ^bThe AFPPS trial had no examinations during the 0- to 12-month interval; ^cThe APACC trial had only two examinations during the 24- to 38- month interval.

Table 24: Results of studies examining effects of Aspirin on colorectal cancer outcomes in high risk populations

Study	Outcome	N actual	Aspirin % (n)	Placebo % (n)	Size of effect	CI (95%)	p-value ^a	Follow up (median)	
Cole 2009 (UK) AFPPS CALGB ukCAP APACC	Advanced lesion incidence <i>Random-effect risk ratio of advanced lesion incidence comparing any aspirin dose verse placebo in pooled analysis of AFPPS, CALGB, ukCAP, APACC trials</i>	2698	8.7 (134) N=1542	11.9 (137) N=1156	RR=0.72	0.57-0.90	0.0046	35.1 months	
	Advanced lesion incidence <i>Random-effect risk ratio of advanced lesion incidence comparing lower-dose aspirin (81 or 160 mg/day) verse placebo in pooled analysis of AFPPS and APACC trials</i>	913	9.7 (42) N=434	13.6 (65) N=479	RR=0.83	0.44-1.58	0.57	24.2 months	
	Advanced lesion incidence <i>Random-effect risk ratio of advanced lesion incidence comparing higher dose aspirin (300 or 325 mg/day) verse placebo in pooled analysis of AFPPS, CALGB, ukCAP, APACC trials</i>	2264	8.3 (92) N=1108	11.9 (137) N=1156	RR=0.71	0.56-0.92	0.0089	29.5 months	
Subgroup analysis (Effect of aspirin on risk of advanced lesion in high risk populations in RCTs)									
RCT trials	AFPPS	any aspirin dose vs placebo	1084	9.2 (66) N=721	12.4 (45) N=363	RR=0.74	0.52-1.06	NS	32.2 months
		81 mg/day aspirin vs placebo	729	7.7 (28) N=366	12.4 (45) N=363	RR=0.62	0.39-0.97	SSD	
		325 mg/day aspirin vs placebo	718	10.7 (38) N=355	12.4 (45) N=363	RR=0.86	0.58-1.30	NS	
	CALGB	(325 mg/day aspirin)	517	2.7 (7) N=259	3.5 (9) N=258	RR=0.77	0.29-2.05	NS	31.3 months
		ukCAP	(300 mg/day aspirin)	853	9.4 (41) N=434	15.0 (63) N=419	RR=0.63	0.43-0.91	SSD
	APACC	any aspirin dose vs placebo	244	15.6 (20) N=128	17.2 (20) N=116	RR=0.91	0.51-1.60	NS	47.2 months
		(160 mg/day aspirin)	184	20.6 (14) N=68	17.2 (20) N=116	RR=1.19	0.65-2.21	NS	
		(300 mg/day aspirin)	176	10.0 (6) N=60	17.2 (20) N=116	RR=0.58	0.25-1.37	NS	
	Age	≤54 years	990	6.6 (38) N=574	10.3 (43) N=416	RR=0.58	0.38-0.89	SSD	35.1 months
55-63 years		846	9.2 (46) N=500	10.4 (36) N=346	RR=0.84	0.55-1.27	NS		
≥64 years		862	10.7 (50) N=468	14.7 (58) N=394	RR=0.74	0.51-1.07	NS		
Gender	Male	1609	10.5 (98) N=935	13.4 (90) N=674	RR=0.78	0.56-1.08	NS	35.1 months	
	Female	1089	5.9 (36) N=607	9.8 (47) N=482	RR=0.62	0.41-0.95	NS		
Body Mass Index (kg/m ²)	<25.0	791	7.9 (35)	10.6 (37)	RR=0.83	0.53-1.31	NS		

			N=442	N=349			
	25.0 to 29.9	1070	9.7 (61) N=628	13.3 (59) N=442	RR=0.71	0.44-1.14	NS
	≥30.0	522	8.0 (24) N=299	9.4 (21) N=223	RR=0.69	0.39-1.22	NS
Family history of colorectal cancer	Yes	591	8.2 (30) N=366	16.4 (37) N=225	RR=0.53	0.33-0.83	SSD
	No	1124	11.3 (73) N=644	12.7 (61) N=480	RR=0.92	0.67-1.28	NS
No. of lifetime adenomas at baseline	1	1170	7.6 (52) N=685	12.6 (61) N=485	RR=0.62	0.43-0.88	SSD
	≥2	1007	12.6 (75) N=596	16.3 (67) N=411	RR=0.81	0.60-1.11	NS
Advanced lesion at baseline	Yes	1062	12.3 (73) N=594	16.7 (78) N=468	RR=0.72	0.54-0.98	SSD
	No	952	7.9 (47) N=593	11.4 (41) N=359	RR=0.71	0.48-1.07	NS
Time interval after randomisation	0-12 months	-	-	-	Pooled RR=0.47	0.24-0.90	SSD
	12-24 months	-	-	-	Pooled RR=0.91	0.42-2.00	NS
	23-38 months	-	-	-	Pooled RR=0.72	0.52-1.00	NS
	≥38 months	-	-	-	Pooled RR=0.71	0.37-1.35	NS

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; N = number of participants; CI = confidence interval; RR = Relative risk ratio; NR = not reported; NS = not statistically significantly different; SSD = statistically significantly different; RCT = randomized controlled trial; AFPPS = Aspirin/Folate Polyp Prevention Study; CALGB = Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study [Cancer and Leukemia Group B]; ukCAP = United Kingdom Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study; APACC = Association pour la Prevention par l'Aspirine du Cancer Colorectal ^a P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant. Subgroup p-value significance was based on confidence interval ranges.

Table 25: Results of studies examining effects of Aspirin on colorectal cancer outcomes in high risk populations

Study	Outcome	N actual	Aspirin % (n)	Placebo % (n)	Size of effect	CI (95%)	p-value ^a	Follow up
Cole 2009 (UK) AFPPS CALGB ukCAP APACC	Adverse events <i>Number of participants (%) comparing any aspirin dose verse placebo in combined AFPPS, CALGB, ukCAP, APACC trials</i>							
	Death	2967	0.95 (16) N=1678	0.85 (11) N=1289	NR	NR	0.85	NR
	Myocardial infarction	2967	0.48 (8) N=1678	0.31 (4) N=1289	NR	NR	0.57	
	Stroke	2967	0.00 (0) N=1678	0.66 (12) N=1289	NR	NR	0.002	
	Major bleeding	2967	2.79 (36) N=1678	2.5 (42) N=1289	NR	NR	0.64	
	Invasive cancer	2967	2.62 (44) N=1678	1.86 (24) N=1289	NR	NR	0.18	
	Colorectal cancer	2967	0.54 (9) N=1678	0.62 (8) N=1289	NR	NR	0.81	
Any event above	2967	6.20 (104) N=1678	5.51 (71) N=1289	NR	NR	0.48		

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; N = number of participants; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; AFPPS = Aspirin/Folate Polyp Prevention Study; CALGB = Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study [Cancer and Leukemia Group B]; ukCAP = United Kingdom Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study; APACC = Association pour la Prevention par l'Aspirine du Cancer Colorectal ^a P-values (two-sided) are from Fisher's exact test comparing placebo vs aspirin in any dose.

2.6 Body of Evidence

Effects of interventions on relevant outcomes are described in Tables 26-40.

I Incidence of colorectal cancer

Table 26. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer incidence

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary %	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	CI (95%)	Relevance of evidence ^a
Aspirin vs Placebo (600 mg aspirin or placebo + 30 g resistant starch or placebo starch after mean follow up period of 29 months)									
Burn 2008 Burn 2011 CAPP2 Trial Mean age: 46 years (25-79) Gender (%): F/M = 55/45 Follow up mean (range): 29.0 months (7-74) Mean duration of receipt of study drug (range): 26.5 months (1-67)	RCT (multi-centre)	II	Low	693	Neoplasm incidence: AS: 18.9 PI: 19.0	RR=1.0	NS	0.71-1.4	1
				693	Subgroup analysis: Neoplasm type (incidence): Adenoma only: AS:16 PI:16.0	NR	0.96	NR	1
				693	CRC only: AS:1.4 PI:2.0	NR	0.54	NR	1
				693	Adenoma and CRC AS:1.4 PI:0.9	NR	0.45	NR	1
				693	Advanced neoplasms AS:7.4 PI:9.9	NR	0.33	NR	1
Aspirin vs Placebo (600 mg aspirin or placebo only after mean follow up period of 29 months)									
Burn 2008 Burn 2011 CAPP2 Trial Mean age: 46 years (25-79) Gender (%): F/M = 55/45 Follow up mean (range): 29.0 months (7-74) Mean duration of receipt of study drug (range): 26.5 months (1-67)	RCT (multi-centre)	II	Low	19	Neoplasm incidence: AS: 44.4 PI: 20.0	NR	NR	NR	1
				19	Subgroup analysis: Neoplasm type (incidence): Adenoma only: AS:33.3 PI: 20	NR	NR	NR	1
				19	CRC only: AS:11.1 PI:0	NR	NR	NR	1
				19	Adenoma and CRC AS:0 PI:0	NR	NR	NR	1
				19	Advanced neoplasms AS:11.1 PI:10	NR	NR	NR	1

Neoplasm incidence from all colonoscopies within 4 time groups after mean follow up period of 29 months									
Burn 2008 Burn 2011	RCT (multi-centre)	II	Low	1,094	Neoplasm incidence: AS: 13.3 PI: 12.7	NR	NR	NR	1
CAPP2 Trial					Subgroup analysis: Time on study				
Mean age: 46 years (25-79)				300	6-18 mths AS: 8.2 PI:13.6	RR=0.6	NS	0.3–1.2	1
Gender (%): F/M = 55/45				546	19-30 mths AS:15.8 PI:13.8	RR=1.1	NS	0.8–1.7	1
Follow up mean (range): 29.0 months (7-74)				130	31-42 mths AS:11.7 PI:10.0	RR=1.2	NS	0.4–3.1	1
Mean duration of receipt of study drug (range): 26.5 months (1-67)				118	≥ 43 mths AS:16.3 PI: 8.7	RR=1.9	NS	0.7–5.1	1
Incidence of colorectal cancer measured from the date of randomisation with long term follow up (66.1 mths)									
Burn 2008 Burn 2011	RCT (multi-centre)	II	Low	671	CRC incidence: AS: 3.8 PI: 8.2	HR=0.63	0.12	0.35–1.13	1
CAPP2 Trial					Subgroup analysis: Effect of time				
Mean age (range): 46 years (25-79)				NR	≥2 yrs AS vs ≥2 yrs PI AS:NR PI:NR	HR=0.41	0.02	0.19–0.86	1
Gender (%): F/M = 55.0/45.0				NR	<2 yrs AS vs ≥2 yrs PI AS:NR PI:NR	HR=1.07	0.87	0.47–2.41	1
Follow up mean (range): 29.0 months (7-74)				NR	<2 yrs PI vs ≥2 yrs PI AS:NR PI:NR	HR=0.62	0.30	0.25–1.52	1
Mean duration of receipt of study drug (range): 26.5 months (1-67)				NR					

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; C = control group; CRC = Colorectal cancer; N = number of participants; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; SD = standard deviation; SSD = statistically significantly different, NS = not statistically significantly different; RR = relative risk ratio; HR = hazards ratio; RCT = randomized controlled trial; mths = months; CAPP2 = Colorectal Adenoma/Carcinoma Prevention Programme 2. ^a Refer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^b P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 27. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer incidence

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary %	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	CI (95%)	Relevance of evidence ^a		
100 mg aspirin vs placebo and 600 IU Vitamin E vs placebo on alternate days											
Cook 2005 Cook 2013 van Kruijsdijk 2015 WHS Trial Gender: all females Mean Age (SD): 54.6 (7.0) Mean BMI (SD): 26.0 (5.1) Smoking status (n/%): Current: 5235/13.1% Past: 14,265/35.8% Never: 20,340/51.1% Alcohol use (drks/wk): <1: 23,226/58.3% ≥1: 16,640/41.7% Physical activity (Kcal/wk): <1000: 25,994/66.0% ≥1000: 13,383/34.0% Mean follow up: 10.1 years	RCT	II	Low	39,876	CRC incidence (mean FU 10.1 yrs): AS: 0.67 PI: 0.69	RR=0.97	0.83	0.77–1.24	1		
					Subgroup analysis: CRC incidence after FU of 10.1 yrs:						
				39,876	Colon AS:0.52 PI: 0.56	RR=0.92	0.57	0.71–1.21	1		
				39,876	Rectal AS: 0.15 PI: 0.13	RR=1.20	0.50	0.70–2.04	1		
				39,876	CRC incidence after FU of 16 yrs: AS: 1.0 PI: 1.2	HR=0.80	0.021	0.67–0.97	1		
					Subgroup analysis: Sites of CRC after 18 yrs follow up:						
				39,876	Colon: AS: 0.8 PI: 1.0	HR=0.79	0.026	0.64–0.97	1		
				39,876	Proximal cancers: AS: 0.4 PI: 0.6	HR=0.73	0.022	0.55–0.95	1		
				39,876	Distal cancers: AS: 0.3 PI: 0.3	HR=0.87	0.45	0.62–1.24	1		
				39,876	Rectal: AS: 0.2 PI: 0.3	HR=0.86	0.46	0.58–1.28	1		
					Stages of CRC after 18 yrs follow up:						
				39,876	Dukes stage C/D AS: 0.4 PI: 0.5	HR=0.80	0.126	0.60–1.07	1		
				39,876	Dukes stage A/B AS: 0.6 PI: 0.7	HR=0.82	0.10	0.64–1.04	1		
					CRC Risk of total population:						
				27,939	Absolute risk (10yr) AS:0.60% PI:0.61%	ARR=0.01%	>1000	0.00%-32.05%	1		
27,939	Absolute risk (15yr) AS:0.86% PI:1.01%	ARR=0.14%	709	0.02%-0.59%	1						
	Subgroup analysis: CRC Risk of women <65 years:										
24,971	Absolute risk (10yr) AS:0.47% PI:0.51%	ARR=0.05%	NNT= >1000	0.00% to 0.96%	1						
24,971	Absolute risk (15yr) AS:0.71% PI:0.88%	ARR=0.17%	NNT= 581	0.04% to 0.55%	1						
	CRC Risk of women ≥65 years:										
2,968	Absolute risk (10yr) AS:1.71% PI:1.43%	ARR= -0.27%	NNH=369	-1.17% to 0.63%	1						
2,968	Absolute risk (15yr) AS:2.17% PI:2.06%	ARR= -0.11%	NNH=924	-1.15% to 0.93%	1						

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; C = control group; CRC = Colorectal cancer; N = number of participants; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; SD = standard deviation; NNT = number needed to treat; NNH = number needed to harm; SSD = statistically significantly different, NS = not statistically significantly different; RR = relative risk ratio; HR =

hazards ratio; ARR = absolute risk reduction; RCT = randomized controlled trial; FU = follow up; Kcal = kilocalorie; yrs = years; wk = week; WHS = Women's Health Study. ^a Refer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^b P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 28. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer incidence

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary %	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	CI (95%)	Relevance of evidence ^a
Incidence of colorectal cancer measured from the date of randomisation with long term follow up									
Peto 1988 Flossman 2007 BDAT Trial Gender: All male Mean Age (SD): 61.7 years (7.0) Smoking status (n/%): Never: 1254/24.4 Past: 2288/44.6 Current (<20/day):347/6.8 Current (≥20/day):314/6.1 Other/mixed: 932/18.1 Mean trial duration (range): 5.7 years (5–6) Median follow up: 23 yrs	RCT	II	At risk	5,139	CRC incidence after mean follow up period of ≥ 20 yrs: AS: 2.68 C: 3.74	HR=0.70	0.04	0.51–0.97	1
				5,139	Subgroup analysis: Incidence of CRC measured from the date of randomisation: 0 - 9 yrs AS: 0.81 C: 0.99	HR=0.82	0.52	0.45–1.49	1
				5,139	10 – 19 yrs AS: 1.46 C: 2.22	HR=0.64	0.05	0.42–0.97	1

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; C = control group; CRC = Colorectal cancer; N = number of participants; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; SD = standard deviation; HR = hazards ratio; RCT = randomized controlled trial; yrs = years; BDAT = British Doctors Aspirin Trial. ^a Refer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^b P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 29. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer incidence

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary %	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	CI (95%)	Relevance of evidence ^a	
Incidence of colorectal cancer measured from the date of randomisation with long term follow up										
UK-TIA study group 1988 Farrell 1991 Flossman 2007	RCT (multi-centre)	II	Low	2,449	CRC incidence after mean follow up period of \geq 20 yrs: AS: 2.68 C: 3.74	HR=0.82	0.41	0.49-1.38	1	
UK-TIA Trial										
Mean Age(SD): 59.8 yrs (9.0) Gender (%): F:27 / M:73 Obesity index (kg/m²)(mean/SD): 1200 mg aspirin: 25.3/3.39 300 mg aspirin: 25.5/3.82 Control: 25.1/3.43 Regular Smokers (n/%): 1200 mg aspirin: 444/54 300 mg aspirin: 431/53 Control: 417/51 Trial duration (mean/range) 4.4 yrs/1.0 – 7.1 yrs Follow up (range) 21 - 27 yrs				2,449	Subgroup analysis: Incidence of CRC measured from the date of randomisation: 0 - 9 yrs AS: 1.1 PI: 1.0 10 – 19 yrs AS: 0.9 PI: 1.8	HR=1.14 HR=0.51	0.78 0.05	0.49-2.61 0.25-1.00	1 1	

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; C = control group; CRC = Colorectal cancer; N = number of participants; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; SD = standard deviation; HR = hazards ratio; RCT = randomized controlled trial; yrs = years; UK-TIA = The United Kingdom Transient Ischaemic Attack Trial. ^a Refer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^b P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 30. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer incidence

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary %	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	CI (95%)	Relevance of evidence ^a	
Effect of randomisation to a period of treatment with aspirin on the incidence of colorectal cancer during a median of 23 years of follow up										
Pooled analysis of data from 2 RCT's [BDAT and UK-TIA]										
Flossmann 2007 (UK) BDAT Trial and UK-TIA Trial	Meta-analysis of 2 RCTs	I	High	7,588	Incidence of CRC during a median of 23 years of follow up AS: 2.5 PI: 3.4	HR=0.74	0.02	0.56–0.97	1	
					Subgroup analysis: Incidence of CRC stratified into treatment periods					
				6,076	≥ 5 years AS: 2.5 PI: 3.8	HR=0.63	0.002	0.47–0.85	1	
				7,588	0-9 years AS: 0.9 PI: 0.9	HR=0.92	0.73	0.56–1.49	1	
				7,588	10-19 years AS: 1.3 PI: 2.1	HR=0.60	0.007	0.42–0.87	1	

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; C = control group; CRC = Colorectal cancer; N = number of participants; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; SD = standard deviation; SSD = statistically significantly different, NS = not statistically significantly different; RR = relative risk ratio; HR = hazards ratio; RCT = randomized controlled trial; BDAT = British Doctors Aspirin Trial; UK-TIA = The United Kingdom Transient Ischaemic Attack Trial. ^a Refer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^b P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 31. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer incidence

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary %	Size of effect rating ^a	p-value ^b	CI (95%)	Relevance of evidence ^a	
Meta-analysis of colorectal cancer incidence in RCTs comparing Aspirin to placebo after a median follow up period of 18.3 yrs (Pooled data of 4 RCT's [BDAT, SALT, TPT, UK-TIA])										
Rothwell 2010 (UK)	Meta-analysis of 4 RCTs	I	Moderate		Effect of low dose Aspirin (75 – 300 mg) vs control on incidence of colorectal cancer					
BDAT										
SALT										
TPT				8,073	Subgroup analysis:					
UK-TIA				7,383	Scheduled treatment					
				5,077	All patients: AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.75	0.02	0.56-0.97	1	
					≥ 2.5 yrs: AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.69	0.003	0.51-0.93	1	
					≥ 5 yrs: AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.62	0.003	0.43-0.94	1	
								Effect of low dose Aspirin (75 – 1200 mg) vs control on incidence of colorectal cancer		
					Subgroup analysis:					
					Sites of CRC					
				14,033	All Colon cancer: AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.76	0.02	0.60-0.96	1	
				14,033	Proximal cancer: AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.45	0.001	0.28-0.74	1	
				14,033	Distal cancer: AS: NR PI: NR	HR=1.10	0.66	0.73-1.64	1	
				14,033	Site unspecified AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.74	0.11	0.51-1.07	1	
				14,033	Rectal cancer: AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.90	0.58	0.63-1.30	1	

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; C = control group; CRC = Colorectal cancer; N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; HR = hazards ratio; RCT = randomized controlled trial; yrs = years; CAPP2 = Colorectal Adenoma/Carcinoma Prevention Programme 2; WHS = Women's Health Study; BDAT = British Doctors Aspirin Trial; UK-TIA = The United Kingdom Transient Ischaemic Attack Trial; TPT = Thrombosis Prevention Trial; SALT = Swedish Aspirin Low Dose Trial. ^a Refer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^b P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 32. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer incidence

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary %	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	CI (95%)	Relevance of evidence ^a			
Any adenoma: Aspirin vs Placebo												
Cole 2009 (UK) AFPPS CALGB ukCAP APACC	Meta-analysis of 4 RCTs	I	Low	2698	Incidence of adenoma stratified into Aspirin dose Any aspirin dose (AFPPS, CALGB, ukCAP, APACC) AS: 32.9 PI: 36.7	RR=0.83	0.012	0.72-0.96	1			
				913	81 or 160 mg/day (AFPPS and APACC) AS: 39.6 PI: 48.6	RR=0.83	0.012	0.71-0.96	1			
				2264	300 or 325 mg/day (AFPPS, CALGB, ukCAP, APACC) AS: 30.2 PI: 36.7	RR=0.85	0.099	0.70-1.03	1			
				Effect of aspirin on risk of adenoma								
				Subgroup analysis:								
				Incidence of adenoma stratified by RCT trial								
				1084	AFPPS: Any aspirin dose	AS: 41.6 PI: 47.1	RR=0.88	NS	0.77-1.02	1		
				729	AFPPS: 81 mg/day	AS: 38.3 PI: 47.1	RR=0.81	SSD	0.69-0.96	1		
				718	AFPPS: 325 mg/day	AS: 45.1 PI: 47.1	RR=0.96	NS	0.82-1.12	1		
				517	CALGB: 325 mg/day	AS: 16.6 PI: 27.1	RR=0.61	SSD	0.44-0.86	1		
				853	ukCAP: 300 mg/day	AS: 22.8 PI: 28.9	RR=0.79	SSD	0.63-0.99	1		
				244	APACC: Any aspirin dose	AS: 50.8 PI: 53.4	RR=0.95	NS	0.75-1.21	1		
				184	APACC: 81 mg/day	AS: 47.1 PI: 53.4	RR=0.88	NS	0.65-1.19	1		
				176	APACC: 300 mg/day	AS: 55.0 PI: 53.4	RR=1.03	NS	0.77-1.37	1		
				Incidence of adenoma stratified by age								
990	≤54 years	AS: 28.9 PI: 32.5	RR=0.84	NS	0.66-1.06	1						
846	55-63 years	AS: 35.0 PI: 34.7	RR=0.98	NS	0.67-1.42	1						
862	≥64 years	AS: 35.5 PI: 42.9	RR=0.73	NS	0.54-1.00	1						
Incidence of adenoma stratified by gender												
1609	Male:	AS: 37.2 PI: 41.8	RR=0.84	SSD	0.73-0.98	1						
1089	Female:	AS: 26.2 PI: 29.5	RR=0.82	SSD	0.68-0.99	1						
Incidence of adenoma stratified by BMI (kg/m²)												
791	<25.0	AS: 29.2 PI: 33.8	RR=0.78	NS	0.51-1.18	1						
1070	25.0 to 29.9	AS: 36.3 PI: 39.6	RR=0.86	NS	0.74-1.00	1						
522	≥30.0	AS: 37.1 PI: 39.5	RR=0.84	NS	0.68-1.04	1						

					Incidence of adenoma stratified by family history of CRC				
591	Yes	AS: 40.4	PI: 45.3		RR=0.86	NS	0.71-1.04	1	
1124	No	AS: 35.7	PI: 37.3		RR=0.89	NS	0.76-1.03	1	
					Incidence of adenoma by no. of lifetime adenomas at baseline				
1170	1	AS: 29.1	PI: 30.5		RR=0.91	NS	0.75-1.09	1	
1007	≥2	AS: 44.3	PI: 49.9		RR=0.86	SSD	0.76-0.98	1	
					Incidence of adenoma stratified by advanced lesion at baseline				
1062	Yes	AS: 34.2	PI: 35.5		RR=0.91	NS	0.74-1.12	1	
952	No	AS: 39.5	PI: 44.3		RR=0.86	NS	0.72-1.03	1	
					Incidence of adenoma by time interval after randomisation				
					0-12 months				
252	CALGB	AS: 12.8	PI: 23.0		RR=0.56	SSD	0.32-0.98	1	
78	ukCAP	AS: 47.2	PI: 71.4		RR=0.66	SSD	0.45-0.98	1	
133	APACC	AS: 28.4	PI: 45.5		RR=0.62	SSD	0.39-0.99	1	
463	Total	AS: 23.2	PI: 37.4		RR=0.62	SSD	0.48-0.81	1	
					12-24 months				
51	AFPPS	AS: 41.7	PI: 20.0		RR=2.08	NS	0.71-6.16	1	
185	CALGB	AS: 13.3	PI: 16.8		RR=0.79	NS	0.40-1.58	1	
68	ukCAP	AS: 25.7	PI: 48.5		RR=0.53	NS	0.27-1.03	1	
107	APACC	AS: 34.5	PI: 36.7		RR=0.94	NS	0.56-1.56	1	
411	Total	AS: 25.6	PI: 27.6		RR=0.86	NS	0.55-1.33	1	
					24-38 months				
1007	AFPPS	AS: 40.5	PI: 46.7		RR=0.87	NS	0.75-1.00	1	
309	CALGB	AS: 11.8	PI: 17.8		RR=0.66	NS	0.38-1.15	1	
343	ukCAP	AS: 19.9	PI: 25.7		RR=0.78	NS	0.52-1.15	1	
1659	Total	AS: 32.3	PI: 34.8		RR=0.84	SSD	0.74-0.96	1	
					≥ 38 months				
65	AFPPS	AS: 47.6	PI: 47.8		RR=1.00	NS	0.59-1.69	1	
60	CALGB	AS: 15.6	PI: 17.9		RR=0.88	NS	0.28-2.71	1	
400	ukCAP	AS: 19.9	PI: 20.6		RR=0.97	NS	0.65-1.43	1	
175	APACC	AS: 39.4	PI: 38.3		RR=1.03	NS	0.71-1.49	1	
700	Total	AS: 27.9	PI: 26.4		RR=0.99	NS	0.78-1.26	1	

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; kg = kilograms; m = metres; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; SSD = statistically significantly different, NS = not statistically significantly different; RR = risk ratio; RCT = randomised controlled trial; AFPPS = Aspirin/Folate Polyp Prevention Study; CALGB = Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study [Cancer and Leukemia Group B]; ukCAP = United Kingdom Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study; APACC = Association pour la Prevention par l'Aspirine du Cancer Colorectal. ^aRefer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^bP-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 33. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer incidence

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary %	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	CI (95%)	Relevance of evidence ^a			
Advanced lesion: Aspirin vs Placebo												
Cole 2009 (UK) AFPPS CALGB ukCAP APACC	Meta-analysis of 4 RCTs	I	Low	2698	Incidence of advanced lesion stratified into Aspirin dose Any aspirin dose (AFPPS, CALGB, ukCAP, APACC) AS: 8.7 PI: 11.9	RR=0.72	0.0046	0.57-0.90	1			
				913	81 or 160 mg/day (AFPPS and APACC) AS: 9.7 PI: 13.6	RR=0.83	0.57	0.44-1.58	1			
				2264	300 or 325 mg/day (AFPPS, CALGB, ukCAP, APACC) AS: 8.3 PI: 11.9	RR=0.71	0.008 ⁹	0.56-1.92	1			
				Aspirin on risk of advanced lesion in high risk populations								
				<u>Subgroup analysis:</u> Incidence of advanced lesion stratified by RCT trial								
				1084	AFPPS: Any aspirin dose AS: 9.2 PI: 12.4	RR=0.74	NS	0.52-1.06	1			
				729	AFPPS: 81 mg/day AS: 7.7 PI: 12.4	RR=0.62	SSD	0.39-0.97	1			
				718	AFPPS: 325 mg/day AS: 10.7 PI: 12.4	RR=0.86	NS	0.58-1.30	1			
				517	CALGB: 325 mg/day AS: 2.7 PI: 3.5	RR=0.77	NS	0.29-2.05	1			
				853	ukCAP: 300 mg/day AS: 9.4 PI: 15.0	RR=0.63	SSD	0.43-0.91	1			
				244	APACC: Any aspirin dose AS: 15.6 PI: 17.2	RR=0.91	NS	0.51-1.60	1			
184	APACC: 81 mg/day AS: 20.6 PI: 17.2	RR=1.19	NS	0.65-2.21	1							
176	APACC: 300 mg/day AS: 10.0 PI: 17.2	RR=0.58	NS	0.25-1.37	1							
Incidence of advanced lesion stratified by age												

				990	≤54 years	AS: 28.9	PI: 32.5	RR=0.58	SSD	0.38-0.89	1
				846	55-63 years	AS: 35.0	PI: 34.7	RR=1.84		0.55-1.27	1
				862	≥64 years	AS: 35.5	PI: 42.9	RR=0.74	NS	0.51-1.07	1
					Incidence of advanced lesion stratified by gender						
				1609	Male:	AS: 10.5	PI: 13.4	RR=0.78		0.56-1.08	1
				1089	Female:	AS: 5.9	PI: 9.8	RR=0.62	NS	0.41-0.95	1
					Incidence of advanced lesion stratified by Body Mass Index (kg/m²)						
				791	<25.0	AS: 7.9	PI: 10.6	RR=0.83		0.53-1.31	1
				1070	25.0 to 29.9	AS: 9.7	PI: 13.3	RR=0.71	NS	0.44-1.14	1
				522	≥30.0	AS: 8.0	PI: 9.4	RR=0.69	NS	0.39-1.22	1
					Incidence of advanced lesion stratified by family history of colorectal cancer						
				591	Yes	AS: 8.2	PI: 16.4	RR=0.53		0.33-0.83	1
				1124	No	AS: 11.3	PI: 12.7	RR=0.92	SSD	0.67-1.28	1
					Incidence of advanced lesion stratified by no. of lifetime adenomas at baseline						
				1170	1	AS: 7.6	PI: 12.6	RR=0.62		0.43-0.88	1
				1007	≥2	AS: 12.6	PI: 16.3	RR=0.81	SSD	0.60-1.11	1
					Incidence of advanced lesion stratified by advanced lesion at baseline						
				1062	Yes	AS: 12.3	PI: 16.7	RR=0.72		0.54-0.98	1
				952	No	AS: 7.9	PI: 11.4	RR=0.71	SSD	0.48-1.07	1
					Incidence of advanced lesion stratified by time interval after randomisation (pooled data)						
				NR	0-12 months			RR=0.47		0.24-0.90	1
				NR	12-24 months			RR=0.91	SSD	0.42-2.00	1
				NR	24-38 months			RR=0.72	NS	0.52-1.00	1
				NR	≥ 38 months			RR=0.71	NS	0.37-1.35	1

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; kg = kilograms; m = metres; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; SSD = statistically significantly different, NS = not statistically significantly different; RR = risk ratio; RCT = randomised controlled trial; AFPPS = Aspirin/Folate Polyp Prevention Study; CALGB = Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study [Cancer and Leukemia Group B]; ukCAP = United Kingdom Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study; APACC = Association pour la Prévention par l'Aspirine du Cancer Colorectal. ^aRefer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^bP-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

II Colorectal cancer mortality

Table 34. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer mortality

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	CI (95%)	Relevance of evidence ^a
Effect of 500 mg aspirin on CRC mortality after a mean follow up period of 22-23 years									
Peto 1988 Flossman 2007 BDAT Trial Gender: All male Mean Age (SD): 61.7 yrs (7.0) Smoking status (n/%): Never: 1254/24.4 Past: 2288/44.6 Current (<20/day): 347/ 6.8 Current (≥20/day): 314/ 6.1 Other/mixed: 932/18.1 Mean trial duration (range): 5.7 years (5–6) Median follow up: 23 years	RCT	II	At risk	5,139	Effect of 500 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to colorectal cancer AS: 1.72 PI: 2.34	OR=0.73	NS	0.49-1.10	1

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; C = control group; CRC = Colorectal cancer; N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; SD = standard deviation; SSD = statistically significantly different, NS = not statistically significantly different; OR = odds ratio; ARR = absolute risk reduction; RCT = randomized controlled trial; BDAT = British Doctors Aspirin Trial; ^aRefer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^bP-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 35. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer mortality

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	(95% CI)	Relevance of evidence ^a
Effect of 75 mg aspirin on CRC mortality after a mean follow up period of 18-23 years									
Norrving 1991 Rothwell 2010 (Sweden) SALT Age range: 50-79 yrs Gender (%) F:34.2 M:65.8 Smoking Status Current AS: 26.0 PI: 27.9 Ex-smoker AS: 21.3 PI: 24.7 Never Smoked AS: 52.7 PI: 47.4 Duration of study drug (months): AS: 30.6 PI: 27.5 Trial duration (median/range) 2.7 yrs/1.0 – 5.3 yrs Follow up range 18 - 23 yrs	RCT	II	Low	1360	Effect of 75 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to CRC AS: 1.04 PI: 1.46	OR = 0.71	NS	0.27-1.86	1
				912	Effect of 75 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to CRC excluding patients with scheduled duration of trial treatment < 2.5 yrs AS: 0.45 PI: 1.50	OR = 0.30	NS	0.06-1.44	1

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; C = control group; CRC = Colorectal cancer; N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; SD = standard deviation; NS = not statistically significantly different; OR = odds ratio; RCT = randomized controlled trial; yrs = years; mths = months; ^aRefer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^b P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 36. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer mortality

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	(95% CI)	Relevance of evidence ^a
Effect of 75 mg aspirin on CRC mortality after a mean follow up period of 17-20 years									
Meade 1998 Rothwell 2010 (UK) TPT Mean Age (SD): 57.5 yrs (6.7 yrs) Trial duration (mean/range) 6.9 yrs/4.3-8.6 yrs Follow up range: 17-20 yrs	RCT	II	Low	5085	Effect of 75 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to CRC AS: 1.34 PI: 2.16	OR=0.61	NR	0.40–0.94	1
				5085	Effect of 75 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to CRC excluding patients with scheduled duration of trial treatment < 2.5 yrs AS: 1.34 PI: 2.16	OR=0.61	NR	0.40–0.94	1
Effect of aspirin on CRC mortality after a mean follow up period of 21-27 years									
UK-TIA study group 1988 Farrell 1991 Flossman 2007 UK-TIA Trial Mean Age (SD): 59.8 yrs(9.0) Gender (%) F: 27 M: 73 Trial duration (mean/range) 4.4 yrs/1.0 – 7.1 yrs Follow up range: 21 - 27 yrs	RCT	II	Low	1628	Effect of 300 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to CRC AS: 0.99 PI: 1.96	OR=0.50	NS	0.21–1.17	1
				1638	Effect of 1200 mg aspirin on long term risk of death due to CRC AS: 1.34 PI: 1.96	OR=0.68	NS	0.31–1.47	1

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; C = control group; CRC = Colorectal cancer; N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; SD = standard deviation; NS = not statistically significantly different; OR = odds ratio; RCT = randomized controlled trial; yrs = years; UK-TIA = The United Kingdom Transient Ischaemic Attack Trial; TPT = Thrombosis Prevention Trial; ^aRefer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^bP-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 37. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on colorectal cancer mortality

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias ^c	N	Results summary	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	(95% CI)	Relevance of evidence ^a
Meta-analysis of colorectal cancer mortality in RCTs after a median follow up of 18.3 yrs [4 RCTs: BDAT, SALT, TPT, UK-TIA]									
Rothwell 2010 (UK) BDAT SALT TPT UK-TIA	Meta-analysis of RCTs	I	Moderate	14,033	Effect of aspirin (75-1200 mg) on long-term risk of death due to colorectal cancer in 4 RCTs (BDAT, SALT, TPT, UK-TIA) AS: 1.44 PI: 2.10	OR=0.66	0.002	0.51–0.85	1
					Effect of aspirin on long-term risk of mortality due to colorectal cancer in 4 RCTs				
					Subgroup analysis: Doses of Aspirin 500 – 1200 mg daily (BDAT, UK-TIA) AS: 1.65 PI: 2.22	OR=0.72	NS	0.50–1.03	1
					75 – 300 mg daily (UK-TIA, TPT, SALT) AS: 1.22 PI: 2.00	OR=0.60	SSD	0.42–0.86	1
					Effect of low dose 75 – 300 mg Aspirin vs control on long term mortality due to CRC Subgroup analysis: Scheduled treatment				
					8,073 All patients; AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.61	0.005	0.43 – 0.87	1
					7,383 ≥ 2.5 yrs; AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.54	0.001	0.36 – 0.80	1
					5,077 ≥ 5 yrs; AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.48	0.001	0.30 – 0.77	1
					Effect of Aspirin (75 – 1200 mg) vs control on mortality due to CRC Subgroup analysis: Sites of CRC				
					14,033 All Colon cancer; AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.65	0.005	0.48 – 0.88	1
14,033 Proximal cancer; AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.34	0.001	0.18 – 0.66	1					
14,033 Distal cancer; AS: NR PI: NR	HR=1.21	0.54	0.66 – 2.24	1					
14,033 Site unspecified AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.61	0.02	0.40 – 0.94	1					
14,033 Rectal cancer AS: NR PI: NR	HR=0.80	0.35	0.50 – 1.28	1					

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; C = control group; CRC = Colorectal cancer; N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; SD = standard deviation; SSD = statistically significantly different, NS = not statistically significantly different; HR = hazards ratio; OR = odds ratio; RCT = randomized controlled trial; yrs = years; mths = months; BDAT

= *British Doctors Aspirin Trial*; UK-TIA = *The United Kingdom Transient Ischaemic Attack Trial*; TPT = *Thrombosis Prevention Trial*; SALT = *Swedish Aspirin Low Dose Trial*.^aRefer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^bP-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant. ^c see tables 8 and 9 for risk of bias assessments.

III Adverse Effects

Table 38. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on adverse effects

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary (%)	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	(95% CI)	Relevance of evidence ^a
Adverse effects reported after mean follow up period of 18 years									
Cook 2005 Cook 2013 WHS Trial Gender: all females Mean Age (SD): 54.6 yrs (7.0) Mean BMI (SD): 26.0 (5.1) Smoking status (n/%): Current: 5235/13.1% Past: 14,265/35.8% Never: 20,340/51.1% Alcohol use (drinks/wk)(n/%): <1: 23,226/58.3% ≥1: 16,640/41.7% Physical activity (Kcal/wk): <1000: 25,994/66.0% ≥1000: 13,383/34.0% Mean follow up: 10.1 years	RCT	II	Low	39,876 39,876 39,876	Subgroup analysis:	HR=1.14 HR=1.17 HR=1.00	< 0.001 < 0.001 0.94	1.06–1.22 1.09–1.27 0.96–1.04	1 1 1
					Gastrointestinal bleeding: AS: 8.3 PI: 7.3				
					Peptic Ulcer AS: 7.3 PI: 6.2				
					Colon Polyp AS:26.0 PI:25.8				

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; C = control group; CRC = Colorectal cancer; N = number of participants; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; SD = standard deviation; HR = hazards ratio; RCT = randomized controlled trial; wk = week; Kcal = kilocalorie; WHS = Women's Health Study. ^aRefer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^bP-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Table 39. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on adverse effects

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias ^c	N	Results summary	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	(95% CI)	Relevance of evidence ^a
Adverse events reported during follow up (1-8 years) measured from the date of randomization to 30/9/1986. For each type of adverse effect patients were only counted once.									
UK-TIA study group 1988 Farrell 1991 Flossman 2007 Rothwell 2010 UK-TIA Trial Age ≥ 40 yrs Gender (%) F: 27 M: 73 Trial duration (mean/range) 4.4 yrs/1.0 – 7.1 yrs Follow up (range) 21 - 27 yrs	RCT (multi-centre)	II	Low		Subgroup analysis: Upper gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, abdominal pain, heartburn, vomiting) 300 mg AS: 31 PI: 26	OR=1.32	SSD	1.06–1.65	1
					1200mg AS: 41 300mg AS: 31	OR=1.54	SSD	1.25–1.89	1
					Constipation 1200mg+300mg AS: 6 PI: 2	OR=2.72	SSD	1.68–4.40	1
					Any gastrointestinal bleeding 300mg AS: 3 PI: 1	OR=2.57	SSD	1.20–5.53	1
					1200mg AS: 5 300mg AS: 3	OR=1.62	NS	0.94–2.79	1

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; C = control group; CRC = Colorectal cancer; N = number of participants; mg = milligrams; F = female; M = male; CI = confidence interval; SSD = statistically significantly different, NS = not statistically significantly different; OR = odds ratio; ARR = absolute risk reduction; RCT = randomized controlled trial; WHS = Women's Health Study; UK-TIA = The United Kingdom Transient Ischaemic Attack Trial; Z = Z score; ^a Refer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^b P-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant; ^c see tables 8 and 9 for risk of bias assessments.

Table 40. Body of evidence examining the effect of aspirin on adverse effects

Name of study	Study type	Level of evidence ^a	Risk of bias	N	Results summary (%)	Size of effect rating ^a	p value ^b	CI (95%)	Relevance of evidence ^a
Adverse events reported									
Cole 2009 (UK) AFPPS CALGB ukCAP APACC	Meta-analysis of 4 RCTs	I	Low		Adverse events for any aspirin dose verse placebo				
				2967	Death AS: 0.95 PI: 0.85	NR	0.85	NR	1
				2967	Myocardial infarction AS: 0.48 PI: 0.31	NR	0.57	NR	1
				2967	Stroke AS: 0.00 PI: 0.66	NR	0.002	NR	1
				2967	Major bleeding AS: 2.79 PI: 2.5	NR	0.64	NR	1
				2967	Invasive cancer AS: 2.62 PI: 1.86	NR	0.18	NR	1
				2967	Colorectal cancer AS: 0.54 PI: 0.62	NR	0.81	NR	1
				2967	Any event above AS: 6.20 PI: 5.51	NR	0.48	NR	1

AS = Aspirin; PI = Placebo; N = number of participants; CI = confidence interval; NR = not reported; RCT = randomized controlled trial; AFPPS = Aspirin/Folate Polyp Prevention Study; CALGB = Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study [Cancer and Leukemia Group B]; ukCAP = United Kingdom Colorectal Adenoma Prevention Study; APACC = Association pour la Prevention par l'Aspirine du Cancer Colorectal ^aRefer to appendix B for detailed explanations of rating scores; ^bP-values derived from two-sided tests, p-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant;

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Search strategies used

For PubMed database:

#	Searches
1	Colorect* [title/abstract] or colon* [title/abstract] or rectal* [title/abstract] or rectum* [title/abstract] or Anus* [title/abstract] or bowel* [title/abstract]
2	Cancer* [title/abstract] or neoplas* [title/abstract] or oncolog* [title/abstract] or malignan* [title/abstract] or tumor* [title/abstract] or tumour* [title/abstract] or carcinoma* [title/abstract] or adenocarcinoma* [title/abstract]
3	1 AND 2
4	Colorectal neoplasms [MeSH terms]
5	Colonic neoplasms [MeSH terms]
6	Rectal neoplasms [MeSH terms]
7	4 or 5 or 6
8	3 or 7
9	Aspirin [title/abstract]
10	Acetylsalicylic Acid [title/abstract]
11	Aspirin [MeSH Terms]
12	9 or 10 or 11
13	8 AND 12
14	English[la] AND 2004:3000[dp]
15	13 AND 14

ATSI search terms used in PubMed database:

#	Searches
1	australia[mh] OR Australia*[tiab]
2	ancestry group, oceanic[mh] OR ancestry groups, oceanic[mh] OR aborigine, australian[mh] OR aborigines, australian[mh] OR australian aborigine[mh] OR australian aborigines[mh] OR aborigin*[tiab] OR indigenous[tiab]
3	1 AND 2
4	torres strait islander*[tiab]
5	3 OR 4
6	colorect*[tiab] OR colon*[tiab] OR rectal*[tiab] OR rectum*[tiab] OR anus*[tiab] OR bowel*[tiab]
7	(cancer*[tiab] OR neoplas*[tiab] OR oncolog*[tiab] OR malignan*[tiab] OR tumor*[tiab] OR tumour*[tiab] OR carcinoma*[tiab] OR adenocarcinoma*[tiab] OR colorectal neoplasms[mh] OR colonic neoplasms[mh] OR rectal neoplasms[mh])
8	6 AND 7
9	5 AND 8
10	english[la] AND 2004:3000[dp]
11	9 AND 10

For Embase database:

#	Search
1	aspirin.mp. or exp acetylsalicylic acid/
2	aspirin.ti,ab. OR acetylsalicylic acid.ti,ab.
3	1 OR 2
4	(colorect\$ or colon\$ or rectal\$ or rectum\$ or anus\$ or bowel\$).ti,ab.
5	(cancer\$ or neoplas\$ or oncolog\$ or malignan\$ or tumo?r\$ or carcinoma\$ or adeno).ti,ab.
6	4 AND 5
7	hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer/ or colorectal polyp/ or colorectal tumor/ or colorectal cancer/ or colorectal anastomosis/ or colorectal carcinoma/ or colorectal adenoma/ or colorectal.mp. or hereditary colorectal cancer/
8	colon anastomosis/ or colon carcinoma/ or colon polyposis/ or colon adenocarcinoma/ or colon tumor/ or colon.mp. or colon cancer/ or colon adenoma/ or colon carcinogenesis/ or colon polyp/ or familial colon polyposis/
9	rectum cancer/ or rectum tumor/ or rectum anastomosis/ or rectum carcinoma/ or rectum adenoma/ or rectum/ or rectum polyp/ or rectum.mp.
10	7 OR 8 OR 9
11	6 OR 10
12	Clinical trial/
13	Randomized controlled trial/
14	Randomization/
15	Single blind procedure/
16	Double blind procedure/
17	Crossover procedure/
18	Placebo/
19	Randomi?ed controlled trial\$.tw.
20	Rct.tw.
21	Random allocation.tw.
22	Randomly allocated.tw
23	Allocated randomly.tw
24	(allocated adj2 random).tw.
25	Single blind\$.tw.
26	Double blind\$.tw.
27	((treble or triple) adj blind\$.tw.
28	Placebo\$.tw.
29	Prospective study/
30	12 OR 13 OR 14 OR 15 OR 16 OR 17 OR 18 OR 19 OR 20 OR 21 OR 22 OR 23 OR 24 OR 25 OR 26 OR 27 OR 28 OR 29
31	3 AND 11 AND 30
32	limit 31 to english language
33	limit 32 to yr="2004-Current"
34	animal/ not human/
35	33 NOT 34

Used the SIGN filter for identifying randomized controlled trials (www.sign.ac.uk/methodology/filters.html#systematic accessed 20/02/2013)

ATSI search terms used in Embase database:

#	Searches
1	exp Australia/ OR Australia\$.ti,ab
2	Oceanic ancestry group/ OR aborigin\$.ti,ab. OR indigenous.mp.
3	1 AND 2
4	torres strait\$ islander\$.ti,ab
5	3 OR 4
6	(colorect\$ or colon\$ or rectal\$ or rectum\$ or anus\$ or bowel\$).ti,ab.
7	(cancer\$ or neoplas\$ or oncolog\$ or malignan\$ or tumor?r\$ or carcinoma\$ or adeno).ti,ab.
8	6 AND 7
9	hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer/ or colorectal polyp/ or colorectal tumor/ or colorectal cancer/ or colorectal anastomosis/ or colorectal carcinoma/ or colorectal adenoma/ or colorectal.mp. or hereditary colorectal cancer/
10	colon anastomosis/ or colon carcinoma/ or colon polyposis/ or colon adenocarcinoma/ or colon tumor/ or colon.mp. or colon cancer/ or colon adenoma/ or colon carcinogenesis/ or colon polyp/ or familial colon polyposis/
11	rectum cancer/ or rectum tumor/ or rectum anastomosis/ or rectum carcinoma/ or rectum adenoma/ or rectum/ or rectum polyp/ or rectum.mp.
12	9 OR 10 OR 11
13	8 OR 12
14	5 AND 13
15	limit 14 to english language
16	limit 15 to yr="2004-Current"

For Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects, Health Technology Assessment database and PsycINFO:

#	Searches
1	aspirin.mp. or exp acetylsalicylic acid/
2	aspirin.ti,ab. OR acetylsalicylic acid.ti,ab.
3	1 OR 2
4	(colorect\$ or colon\$ or rectal\$ or rectum\$ or anus\$ or bowel\$).ti,ab.
5	(cancer\$ or neoplas\$ or oncolog\$ or malignan\$ or tumor?r\$ or carcinoma\$ or adeno).ti,ab.
6	4 AND 5
7	hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer/ or colorectal polyp/ or colorectal tumor/ or colorectal cancer/ or colorectal anastomosis/ or colorectal carcinoma/ or colorectal adenoma/ or colorectal.mp. or hereditary colorectal cancer/
8	colon anastomosis/ or colon carcinoma/ or colon polyposis/ or colon adenocarcinoma/ or colon tumor/ or colon.mp. or colon cancer/ or colon adenoma/ or colon carcinogenesis/ or colon polyp/ or familial colon polyposis/
9	rectum cancer/ or rectum tumor/ or rectum anastomosis/ or rectum carcinoma/ or rectum adenoma/ or rectum/ or rectum polyp/ or rectum.mp.
10	7 OR 8 OR 9
11	6 OR 10
12	3 AND 10
13	limit 12 to english language
14	limit 13 to yr="2004-Current"

For CINAHL database:

#	Searches
1	Colorectal (TX All Text)
2	cancer (TX All Text)
3	aspirin (TX All Text)
4	2004-2016 (Publication Date)
5	1 AND 2 AND 3 AND 4

Appendix B:

Level of Evidence rating criteria – Intervention studies

Level	Study type
I	Meta-analysis or a systematic review of level II studies
II	Randomised controlled trial or a phase III/IV clinical trial
III-1	Pseudo-randomised controlled trial or a meta-analysis/systematic review of level III-1 studies
III-2	Comparative study with concurrent controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase II clinical trial - Non-randomised, experimental trial⁹ - Controlled pre test/post test study - Adjusted indirect comparisons - Interrupted time series with a control group - Cohort study - Case-control study or a meta-analysis/systematic review of level III-2 studies
III-3	A comparative study without concurrent controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase I clinical trial - Historical control study - Two or more single arm study¹⁰ - Unadjusted indirect comparisons - Interrupted time series without a parallel control group or a meta-analysis/systematic review of level III-3 studies
IV	Case series with either post-test or pre-test/post-test outcomes or a meta-analysis/systematic review of level IV studies

According to the standards of the National Health and Medical Research Council

Level of Evidence rating criteria – Diagnostic accuracy studies

Level	Study type
I	Meta-analysis or a systematic review of level II studies
II	A study of test accuracy with: an independent, blinded comparison with a valid reference standard, among consecutive persons with a defined clinical presentation
III-1	A study of test accuracy with: an independent, blinded comparison with a valid reference standard, among non-consecutive persons with a defined clinical presentation

III-2	A comparison with reference standard that does not meet the criteria required for level II and III-1 evidence
III-3	Diagnostic case-control study
IV	Study of diagnostic yield (no reference standard)

According to the standards of the National Health and Medical Research Council

Level of Evidence rating criteria – Risk factor studies

Level	Study type
I	Meta-analysis or a systematic review of level II studies
II	Prospective cohort studies
III-1	All or none
III-2	Retrospective cohort studies
III-3	Case-control studies
IV	Cross-sectional studies or case series

According to the standards of the National Health and Medical Research Council

Relevance of the evidence

Rating	Relevance
1	Evidence of an effect on patient-relevant clinical outcomes including benefits and harms, quality of life and survival.
2	Evidence of an effect on a surrogate outcome* that has been shown to be predictive of patient-relevant outcomes for the same intervention.
3	Evidence of an effect on proven surrogate outcomes but for a different intervention.
4	Evidence of an effect on proven surrogate outcomes but for a different intervention and population.
5	Evidence confined to unproven surrogate outcomes.

*'surrogate outcome' refers to reasonable indicators of whether there has been some effect (e.g. blood pressure measurements or levels of serum cholesterol)

Points for considering patient-relevant outcomes:

- i) The goal of decision making in health care is to choose the intervention(s) (which may include doing nothing) that is (are) most likely to deliver the outcomes that patients find desirable.
- ii) Surrogate outcomes (such as blood pressure measurements or levels of serum cholesterol) may be reasonable indicators of whether there has been some effect. However, they should not be the basis for clinical decisions unless they reliably predict an effect on the way the patient feels, otherwise they will not be of interest to the patient or their carers.
- iii) All possible outcomes that are of most interest to patients (particularly harms) should be identified and evaluated.

Adapted from table 1.10 of: National Health and Medical Research Council. *How to use the evidence: assessment and application of scientific evidence*. Canberra: NHMRC; 2000. http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/file/publications/synopses/cp69.pdf

Appendix C:

Potentially relevant guidelines identified and reason why not adopted

Year	Organisation	Title of Guideline	Reason why not adopted
2016	U.S. Preventive Services Task Force	Aspirin Use for the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease and Colorectal Cancer	Included studies that did not meet our inclusion criteria
2015	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)	Suspected Cancer: recognition and referral	No relevant content to this PICO
2015	NCCN	Colon Cancer	No relevant content to this PICO
2014	Victoria Government	Optimal care pathway for people with colorectal cancer	Not based on a systematic review
2014	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)	Colorectal Cancer: the diagnosis and management of colorectal cancer	No relevant content to this PICO
2013	ESMO Guidelines Working Group	Early colon cancer: ESMO Clinical Practise Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up	No relevant content to this PICO
2013	ESMO Guidelines Working Group	Rectal cancer: ESMO Clinical Practise Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up	No relevant content to this PICO
2011	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)	Colorectal Cancer: the Diagnosis and management of colorectal cancer	No relevant content to this PICO
2009	Gastroenterological Society of Australia	Early Detection, Screening and Surveillance for Bowel Cancer	No relevant content to this PICO
2008	WA Cancer & Palliative Care Network	Colorectal cancer model of care	No relevant content to this PICO
2007	U.S. Preventive Services Task Force	The Use of Aspirin for Primary Prevention of Colorectal Cancer	Included studies that did not meet our inclusion criteria. Outdated guideline

Excluded studies

Study	Reason for Exclusion
Ait Ouakrim 2015	Inappropriate study design
Algra 2012	Relevant data published previously
Allison 2006	Inappropriate study design
Arber 2005a	Unable to collect
Arber 2005b	Unable to collect
Asano 2004a	Relevant data published previously
Asano 2004b	Inappropriate study design and population
Avivi 2012	Review article
Baron 2009	Unable to collect
Barry 2009	Inappropriate study design
Benamouzig 2005	No relevant outcome
Bosetti 2006	Review article
Bosetti 2012	Review article
Burn 2012	Unable to collect
Burn 2013a	Unable to collect
Burn 2013b	Relevant data published previously
Chan 2005	Inappropriate study design
Chan 2008	Inappropriate study design
Chan 2010	Review article
Chan 2012	Review article
Cole 2009	Inappropriate population
Cooper 2010	Relevant data published previously
Courtney 2004	Review article
Cuzick 2009	Review article
Das 2007	Review article
Di Francesco 2015	Unable to collect
Diehl 2012	Review article
Din 2010	Inappropriate study design
Dovizio 2012	Review article
Dube 2007	Relevant data published previously
Fedirko 2015	Inappropriate population
Ferrandez 2012	Review article
Friis 2009	Inappropriate study design
Friis 2015	Inappropriate study design
Gracia-Albeniz 2011	Review article
Gasche 2004	Review article
Gill 2005	Unable to collect
Half 2009	Review article
Harris 2005	Unable to collect
Harris 2008	Inappropriate study design
Hawk 2005	Review article
Herszenyi 2008	Unable to collect
Hoffmeister 2006	Inappropriate study design
Hoffmeister 2007	Inappropriate study design
Hollestein 2014	Inappropriate study design
Huang 2013	Inappropriate study design
Huang 2015	Unable to collect

Ishikawa 2013	Inappropriate population
Jacobs 2007	Inappropriate study design
Jacobs 2010	Review article
Jankowski 2008	Review article
Kanik 2004	Inappropriate population
Kim 2006	Inappropriate population
Komiya 2013	Review article
Koretz 2011	Unable to collect
Kothari 2015	Inappropriate study design
Kraus 2015	Unable to collect
Larsson 2006	Inappropriate study design
Lee 2012a	Unable to collect
Lee 2012b	Inappropriate study design
Leshno 2008	Review article
Manzano 2012	Review article
Massat 2013	Review article
Morgan 2004	Review article
Movahedi 2015	No relevant outcomes
Murra 2005	Review article
Nan 2013	Inappropriate study design
Nan 2015	Inappropriate study design
Patrono 2013	Relevant data published previously
Peek 2004	Review article
Rao 2004	Unable to collect
Reddy 2007	Unable to collect
Rennert 2007	Unable to collect
Rothwell 2011	No relevant outcome
Ruder 2011	Inappropriate study design
Sehdev 2015	Review article
Serrano 2004	Review article
Stanojevic-Bakic 2004	Review article
Steffen 2014	Inappropriate study design
Sturmer 2007	Unable to collect
Sutcliffe 2013a	Relevant data published previously/no relevant outcome
Sutcliffe 2013b	Relevant data published previously/no relevant outcome
Thiagarajan 2012	Review article
Thun 2012	Review article
Tougeron 2014	Review article
Ulrich 2006	Review article
USPSTF Aspirin Guideline 2007	Outdated guideline
Vinogradova 2007	Inappropriate study design
Wickham 2012	Review article
Yasuda 2008	Review article
Ye 2013	Inappropriate study design
Yeomans 2011	Review article
Zhang 2011	Inappropriate study design

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