ABSENCE OF EXCESS BODY FATNESS
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IARC HANDBOOKS OF CANCER PREVENTION
2.2.12 Cancer of the cervix

Cancer of the cervix is the fourth most common cancer in women. Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, which is present in almost all cases of cervical cancer, is not related to adiposity (Wee et al., 2008). In 2001, the Working Group of the IARC Handbook on weight control and physical activity (IARC, 2002) concluded that the evidence of an association between avoidance of weight gain and cervical cancer was inadequate.

(a) Cohort studies

Since 2001, at least eight cohort studies of cervical cancer and body weight (Wolk et al., 2001; Calle et al., 2003; Rapp et al., 2005; Reeves et al., 2007; Song et al., 2008; Ulmer et al., 2012; Lee et al., 2013; Bhaskaran et al., 2014) and one pooled analysis of 39 cohort studies (Parr et al., 2010) have been published (Table 2.2.12a; web only; available at: http://publications.iarc.fr/570). Although some studies reported statistically significant increases, the data overall remained inconsistent.

(b) Case–control studies

The five case–control studies assessing the association between body fatness and cervical cancer (Cusimano et al., 1989; Brinton et al., 1993; Ursin et al., 1996; Lacey et al., 2003; Máčová et al., 2007) had relatively small sample sizes (< 150 cases), and the results are inconclusive (Table 2.2.12b; web only; available at: http://publications.iarc.fr/570).

References


