

# ABSENCE OF EXCESS BODY FATNESS

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### 2.2.12 Cancer of the cervix

Cancer of the cervix is the fourth most common cancer in women. Human papilloma-virus (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; Máchová et al., 2007) had relatively small sample sizes (< 150 cases), and the results are inconsistent (Table 2.2.12b; web only; available at: <http://publications.iarc.fr/570>).

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