# Association of dietary patterns derived by reduced rank regression with colorectal cancer risk and mortality

**Zegeye Abebe<sup>1</sup>**, Molla M Wassie<sup>1</sup>, Phuc D Nguyen<sup>1</sup>, Amy C Reynolds<sup>1</sup>, Yohannes Adama Melaku<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>Flinders University, College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute, Adelaide, South Australia

Adherence to a dietary pattern characterized by a higher intake of dietary fat oil, dark green vegetables, and other vegetables and a lower intake of sugar, beer, wine, and liquor could potentially reduce the risk of colorectal cancer

#### BACKGROUND

- Unhealthy dietary patterns contribute to an increased risk of colorectal cancer (CRC).
- Limited prior studies have used reduced rank regression (RRR) to assess dietary patterns associated with CRC risk.
- We aimed to identify dietary patterns derived by RRR and assess their associations with CRC risk and mortality.

### **RESULTS CONTINUED**

- DP1 was characterized by a higher intake of milk, citrus fruit, other fruit, non-wholegrain, wholegrain, sugar, and dark green vegetables.
- DP2 was characterized by a higher intake of dietary fat oil, dark green vegetables, and other vegetables, and a lower intake of sugar, beer, wine, and liquor.

## Dietary patterns and CRC risk and mortality

 In comparison to the first tertile of DP2, those in the second (HR=0.87; 95%CI: 0.74, 1.01) and third (HR=0.88; 95%CI: 0.76, 1.03) tertiles had lower CRC risk.



#### METHODS

RESULTS

- The multicentre Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian Cancer Screening (PLCO) trial data was used.
- The amount and food items consumed by the study participants over the past 12 months were assessed using a Dietary History Questionnaire.
- Based on MyPyramid food classification, 29 food groups with two additional groups created for alcohol were used to construct dietary patterns.
- RRR was used to derive dietary patterns.
- Intake of fibre, folate, the percentage of energy from carbohydrates, saturated and unsaturated fatty acids were used as response variables.
- Cox models and competing risk survival regression, with age as the time scale, were used to estimate hazard ratios (HRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for CRC risk and mortality, respectively.
- Multiple imputation was used to impute missing values at baseline.

# **Figure 2:** Association between dietary patterns and CRC risk and mortality

Outcomes	<b>Dietary pattern</b>	Tertiles	Hazard Ratio	HR	95%-CI
Risk					
CRC	DP1	T2		1.02 [0.87; 1.19]	
		Т3		1.00 [(	).85; 1.18]
	DP2	T2		0.87 [0	).74; 1.01]
		Т3		0.88 [0	).76; 1.03]
Colon	DP1	T2		1.04 [0	).87; 1.24]
		Т3		1.03 [0	).86; 1.22]
	DP2	T2		0.83 [0	).71; 0.98]
		Т3		0.85 [0	).72; 1.01]
Rectum	DP1	T2 -		0.93 [0	).63; 1.37]
		Т3 —		0.88 [0	).58; 1.31]
	DP2	T2		· 1.03 [0	).70; 1.51]
		Т3		- 1.06 [0	).73; 1.56]
Mortality					
CRC	DP1	T2		0.93 [(	).73: 1.181
		T3		0.95 [0	).75; 1.21]

- A total of 97, 561 individuals were included in the analyses
- A total of 1, 044 CRC cases and 499 CRC mortalities were identified during the follow-up period
- Two dietary patterns were identified
- Dietary pattern II (DP2) was highly correlated with the percentage of energy from unsaturated fatty acid intake, fibre and folate density

**Figure 1:** Correlation and explained variance between dietary patterns and response variables





The model was adjusted for age, sex, race, marital status, educational status, occupational status, smoking status, family history of cancer other than CRC, family history of CRC, colon comorbidities, diverticulitis, liver comorbidities, colorectal polyps, and physical activity, BMI, diabetes, hypertension, aspirin use, and total energy intake

#### CONCLUSIONS

- High fibre, folate, and unsaturated fatty acid patterns showed an inverse association with the risk of CRC.
- Adherence High fibre, folate, and unsaturated fatty acid patterns characterized by a higher intake of dietary fat oil, dark green vegetables, and other vegetables, and a lower intake of sugar, beer, wine, and liquor could potentially reduce the risk of CRC.
- The findings hold significance for public health, highlighting the need to promote nutrition education and counselling, particularly for individuals at risk of developing CRC due to unhealthy dietary habits.



 However, future studies incorporating repeated measurement of dietary intake, encompassing diverse age groups, and using the same intermediate response variables are needed to confirm these findings.

#### Acknowledgements

- National Cancer Institute for providing access to the data collected during the PLCO Cancer Screening Trial (PLCO-1166).
- The statements contained herein do not represent or imply concurrence or endorsement by NCI.

**Author Contact Information** 

abeb0011@flinders.edu.au



Adelaide Institute for Sleep Health

