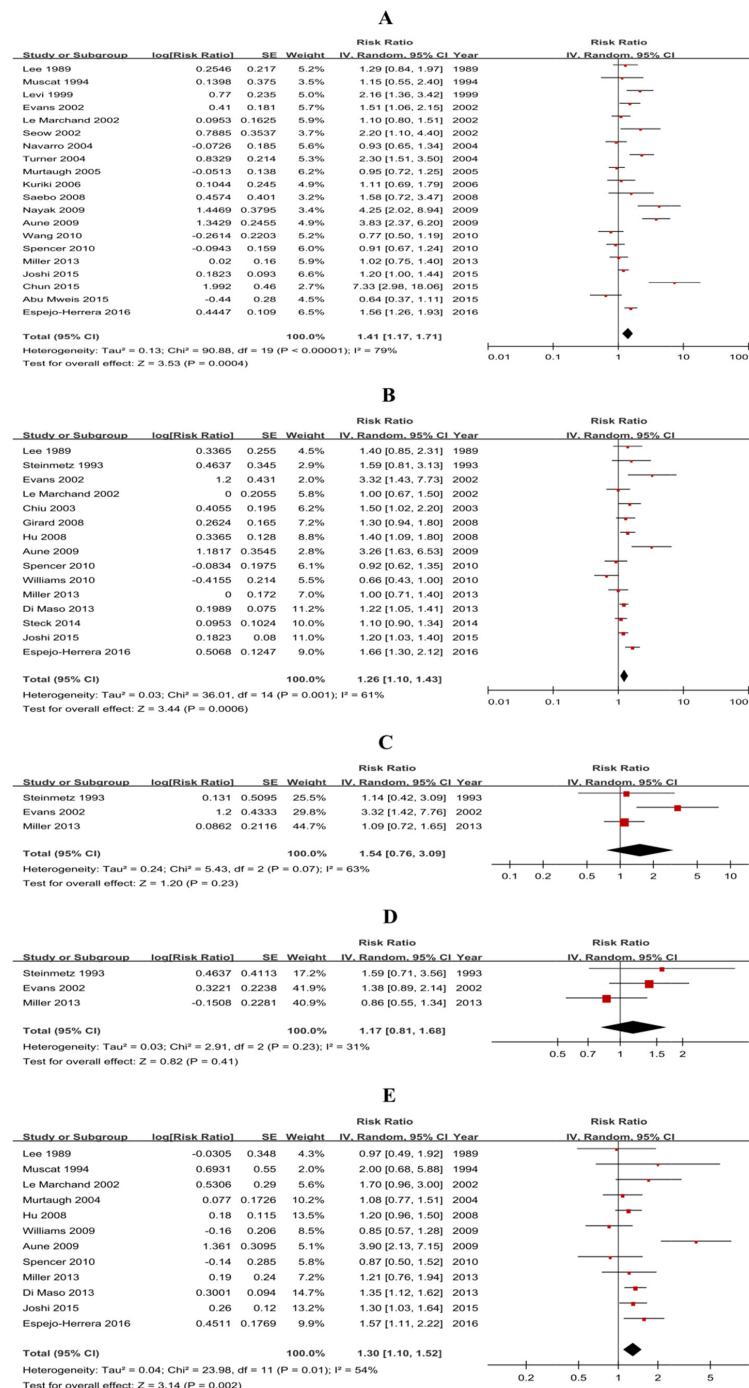
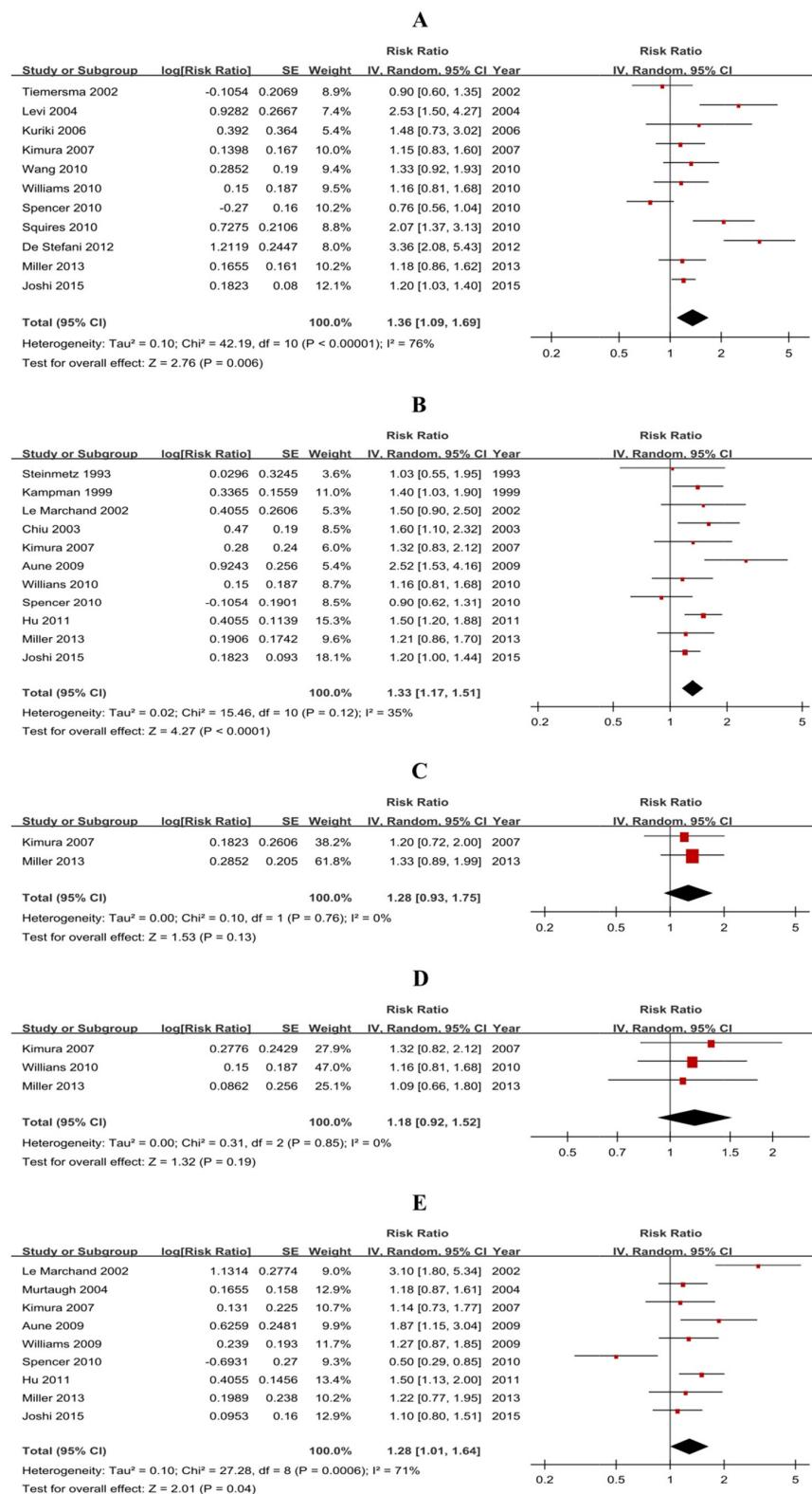


## Red and processed meat consumption and colorectal cancer risk: a systematic review and meta-analysis

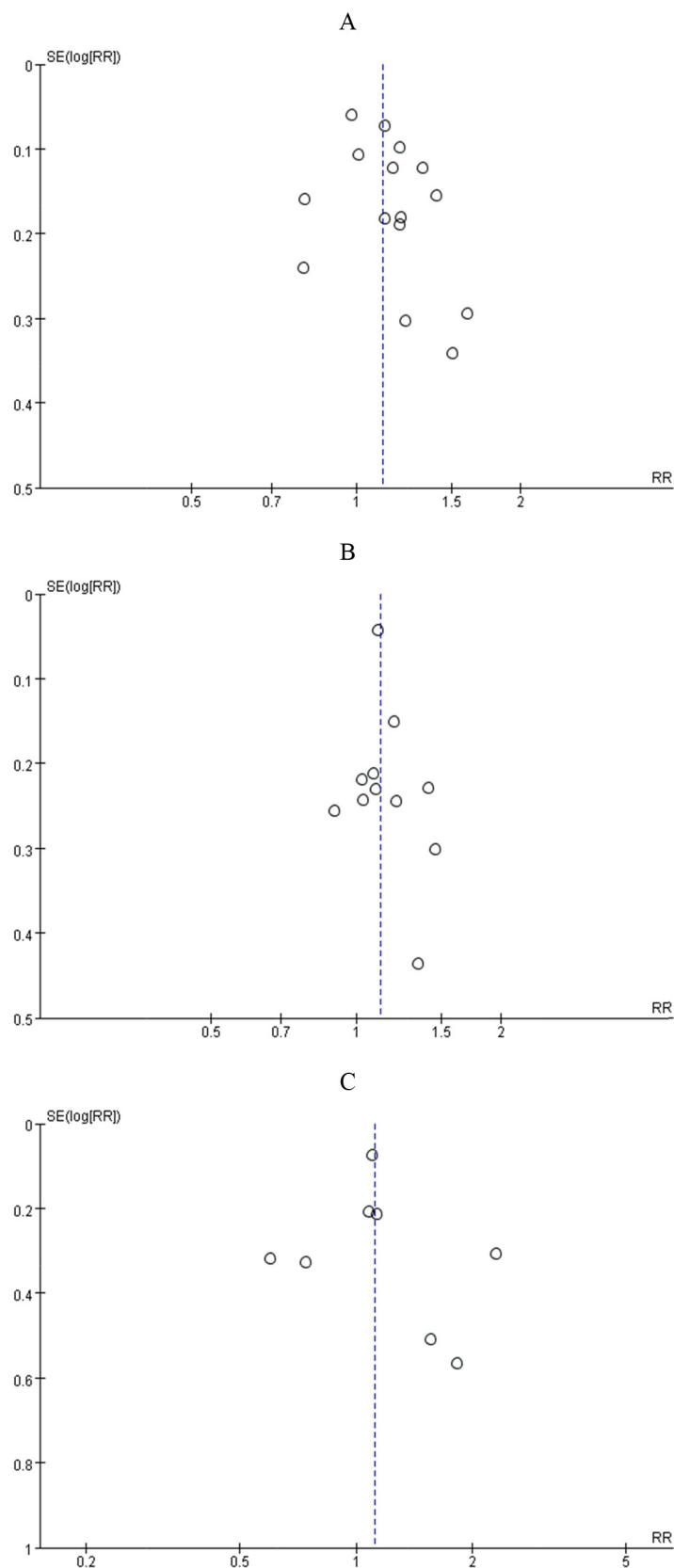
### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS



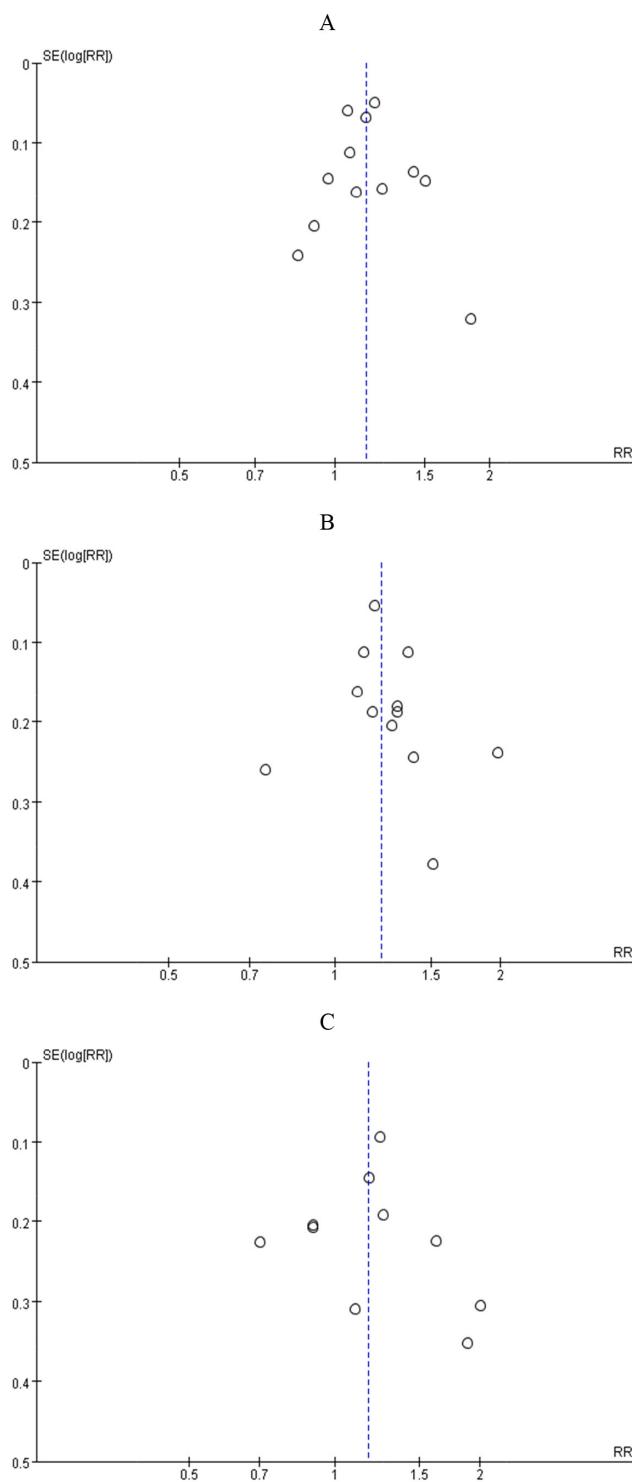
**Supplementary Figure 1: Forest plots of case-control studies for red meat consumption (highest vs lowest categories) and colorectal cancer risk. (A) Colorectal cancer; (B) colon cancer; (C) proximal colon cancer; (D) distal colon cancer; (E) rectal cancer.**



**Supplementary Figure 2: Forest plots of case-control studies for processed meat consumption (highest vs lowest categories) and colorectal cancer risk.** (A) Colorectal cancer; (B) colon cancer; (C) proximal colon cancer; (D) distal colon cancer; (E) rectal cancer.



**Supplementary Figure 3: Funnel plots evaluating publication bias of cohort studies of red meat consumption and colorectal cancer risk. (A) Colorectal cancer; (B) colon cancer; (C) rectal cancer.**



**Supplementary Figure 4: Funnel plots evaluating publication bias of cohort studies of processed meat consumption and colorectal cancer risk. (A) Colorectal cancer; (B) colon cancer; (C) rectal cancer.**

**Supplementary Table 1: Subgroup analyses of cohort studies for red and processed meat consumption (highest vs lowest categories) and colorectal cancer risk**

| Subgroups                | Red meat |                         |       |             |       |             | Processed meat |                         |       |             |       |             |
|--------------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|
|                          | N        | RR (95% CI)             | $P_s$ | $I_s^2$ (%) | $P_h$ | $I_h^2$ (%) | N              | RR (95% CI)             | $P_s$ | $I_s^2$ (%) | $P_h$ | $I_h^2$ (%) |
| All studies              | 16       | <b>1.10 (1.02-1.19)</b> | .18   | 24          |       |             | 12             | <b>1.15 (1.07-1.24)</b> | .18   | 27          |       |             |
| <b>Geographic area</b>   |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Europe                   | 6        | <b>1.22 (1.06-1.40)</b> | .43   | 0           |       |             | 4              | <b>1.26 (1.05-1.51)</b> | .24   | 29          |       |             |
| America                  | 6        | 1.07 (0.99-1.16)        | .38   | 6           |       |             | 5              | <b>1.12 (1.04-1.21)</b> | .29   | 20          |       |             |
| Asia-Australia           | 4        | 1.06 (0.85-1.31)        | .09   | 54          | .26   | 24.8        | 3              | 1.17 (0.88-1.56)        | .11   | 55          | .50   | 0           |
| <b>Sample size</b>       |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| $\geq 200$               | 11       | <b>1.10 (1.01-1.19)</b> | .13   | 34          |       |             | 6              | <b>1.14 (1.06-1.23)</b> | .26   | 23          |       |             |
| <200                     | 5        | 1.18 (0.94-1.49)        | .37   | 6           | .54   | 0           | 6              | 1.18 (0.98-1.42)        | .13   | 41          | .75   | 0           |
| <b>Publication year</b>  |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| 2005 or later            | 11       | <b>1.08 (1.00-1.17)</b> | .24   | 21          |       |             | 8              | <b>1.15 (1.08-1.21)</b> | .45   | 0           |       |             |
| Before 2005              | 5        | 1.26 (0.99-1.60)        | .29   | 20          | .24   | 26.5        | 4              | 1.19 (0.87-1.65)        | .04   | 64          | .80   | 0           |
| <b>Quality score</b>     |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| $\geq 7$ stars           | 14       | <b>1.09 (1.01-1.18)</b> | .18   | 25          |       |             | 9              | <b>1.14 (1.07-1.21)</b> | .40   | 4           |       |             |
| <7 stars                 | 2        | 1.31 (0.97-1.76)        | .42   | 0           | .26   | 21.6        | 3              | 1.32 (0.89-1.94)        | .08   | 61          | .46   | 0           |
| <b>Smoking</b>           |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Yes                      | 10       | <b>1.06 (1.00-1.14)</b> | .49   | 0           |       |             | 9              | <b>1.14 (1.05-1.24)</b> | .18   | 30          |       |             |
| No                       | 6        | 1.21 (0.99-1.47)        | .11   | 44          | .24   | 28.1        | 3              | 1.20 (0.97-1.48)        | .17   | 44          | .67   | 0           |
| <b>Alcohol</b>           |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Yes                      | 10       | <b>1.09 (1.00-1.19)</b> | .23   | 23          |       |             | 9              | <b>1.13 (1.05-1.21)</b> | .31   | 15          |       |             |
| No                       | 6        | 1.14 (0.97-1.34)        | .19   | 33          | .62   | 0           | 3              | 1.36 (1.05-1.78)        | .22   | 34          | .17   | 46          |
| <b>BMI</b>               |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Yes                      | 14       | <b>1.12 (1.04-1.20)</b> | .26   | 18          |       |             | 9              | <b>1.13 (1.05-1.21)</b> | .31   | 15          |       |             |
| No                       | 2        | 0.92 (0.62-1.36)        | .21   | 36          | .34   | 0           | 3              | 1.36 (1.05-1.78)        | .22   | 34          | .17   | 46          |
| <b>Energy intake</b>     |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Yes                      | 12       | <b>1.13 (1.03-1.23)</b> | .11   | 35          |       |             | 11             | <b>1.16 (1.07-1.25)</b> | .18   | 28          |       |             |
| No                       | 4        | 1.03 (0.87-1.21)        | .49   | 0           | .34   | 0           | 1              | 0.91 (0.61-1.36)        | -     | -           | .25   | 25.7        |
| <b>Physical activity</b> |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Yes                      | 7        | 1.04 (0.96-1.13)        | .40   | 3           |       |             | 8              | <b>1.13 (1.05-1.22)</b> | .24   | 24          |       |             |
| No                       | 9        | 1.18 (1.05-1.33)        | .27   | 19          | .08   | 67.6        | 4              | 1.25 (1.01-1.55)        | .15   | 44          | .40   | 0           |
| <b>Dietary fiber</b>     |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Yes                      | 10       | 1.09 (0.99-1.19)        | .11   | 38          |       |             | 4              | <b>1.15 (1.06-1.25)</b> | .47   | 0           |       |             |
| No                       | 6        | 1.18 (1.03-1.36)        | .58   | 0           | .32   | 0           | 8              | 1.18 (1.05-1.33)        | .08   | 44          | .73   | 0           |

BMI: body mass index.  $P_s$ : P value for heterogeneity within each subgroup.  $P_h$ : P value for heterogeneity between subgroups.  $I_s^2$ :  $I^2$  value for heterogeneity within each subgroup.  $I_h^2$ :  $I^2$  value for heterogeneity between subgroups. Bold text indicates statistical significance.

**Supplementary Table 2: Subgroup analyses of cohort studies for red and processed meat consumption (highest vs lowest categories) and colon cancer risk**

| Subgroups                | Red meat |                         |       |             |       |             | Processed meat |                         |       |             |       |             |
|--------------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|
|                          | n        | RR (95% CI)             | $P_s$ | $I_s^2$ (%) | $P_h$ | $I_h^2$ (%) | n              | RR (95% CI)             | $P_s$ | $I_s^2$ (%) | $P_h$ | $I_h^2$ (%) |
| All studies              | 11       | <b>1.12 (1.04-1.20)</b> | .97   | 0           |       |             | 12             | <b>1.15 (1.07-1.24)</b> | .18   | 27          |       |             |
| <b>Geographic area</b>   |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Europe                   | 4        | 1.14 (0.93-1.40)        | .91   | 0           |       |             | 3              | <b>1.27 (1.01-1.59)</b> | .85   | 0           |       |             |
| America                  | 3        | <b>1.12 (1.03-1.22)</b> | .56   | 0           |       |             | 4              | <b>1.20 (1.10-1.31)</b> | .57   | 0           |       |             |
| Asia-Australia           | 4        | 1.08 (0.84-1.39)        | .67   | 0           | .95   | 0           | 5              | 1.23 (0.95-1.59)        | .09   | .51         | .91   | 0           |
| <b>Sample size</b>       |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| $\geq 200$               | 8        | 1.12 (0.96-1.30)        | .95   | 0           |       |             | 9              | <b>1.24 (1.11-1.38)</b> | .26   | 21          |       |             |
| $<200$                   | 3        | 1.18 (1.03-1.22)        | .54   | 0           | .97   | 0           | 3              | 1.18 (0.96-1.44)        | .80   | 0           | .68   | 0           |
| <b>Publication year</b>  |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| 2005 or later            | 7        | <b>1.11 (1.03-1.20)</b> | .92   | 0           |       |             | 10             | <b>1.21 (1.11-1.33)</b> | .34   | 12          |       |             |
| Before 2005              | 4        | 1.24 (0.97-1.60)        | .89   | 0           | .97   | 0           | 2              | 1.34 (0.96-1.86)        | .72   | 0           | .57   | 0           |
| <b>Quality score</b>     |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| $\geq 7$ stars           | 11       | <b>1.12 (1.04-1.20)</b> | .97   | 0           |       |             | 10             | <b>1.22 (1.13-1.32)</b> | .63   | 0           |       |             |
| <7 stars                 | 0        | -                       | -     | -           | -     | -           | 2              | 1.02 (0.60-1.74)        | .09   | .66         | .51   | 0           |
| <b>Smoking</b>           |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Yes                      | 7        | <b>1.13 (1.04-1.22)</b> | .89   | 0           |       |             | 8              | <b>1.22 (1.09-1.37)</b> | .22   | 27          |       |             |
| No                       | 4        | 1.06 (0.84-1.33)        | .86   | 0           | .61   | 0           | 4              | 1.24 (1.01-1.53)        | .78   | 0           | .90   | 0           |
| <b>Alcohol</b>           |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Yes                      | 7        | <b>1.12 (1.04-1.21)</b> | .89   | 0           |       |             | 9              | <b>1.23 (1.11-1.36)</b> | .28   | 19          |       |             |
| No                       | 4        | 1.09 (0.84-1.42)        | .81   | 0           | .84   | 0           | 3              | 1.21 (1.11-1.36)        | .66   | 0           | .91   | 0           |
| <b>BMI</b>               |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Yes                      | 8        | <b>1.18 (1.01-1.39)</b> | .96   | 0           |       |             | 10             | <b>1.23 (1.12-1.35)</b> | .34   | 12          |       |             |
| No                       | 3        | 1.10 (1.02-1.20)        | .72   | 0           | .43   | 0           | 2              | 1.18 (0.93-1.50)        | .50   | 0           | .77   | 0           |
| <b>Energy intake</b>     |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Yes                      | 8        | <b>1.11 (1.03-1.20)</b> | .99   | 0           |       |             | 10             | <b>1.21 (1.12-1.31)</b> | .96   | 0           |       |             |
| No                       | 3        | 1.27 (0.95-1.69)        | .56   | 0           | .37   | 0           | 2              | 0.91 (0.61-1.36)        | <.01  | .87         | .98   | 0           |
| <b>Physical activity</b> |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Yes                      | 6        | <b>1.13 (1.04-1.22)</b> | .83   | 0           |       |             | 8              | <b>1.22 (1.09-1.37)</b> | .22   | 27          |       |             |
| No                       | 5        | 1.07 (0.86-1.34)        | .91   | 0           | .70   | 0           | 4              | 1.24 (1.01-1.53)        | .78   | 0           | .90   | 0           |
| <b>Dietary fiber</b>     |          |                         |       |             |       |             |                |                         |       |             |       |             |
| Yes                      | 5        | 1.14 (0.93-1.39)        | .74   | 0           |       |             | 5              | <b>1.18 (1.08-1.28)</b> | .92   | 0           |       |             |
| No                       | 6        | 1.12 (1.03-1.21)        | .94   | 0           | .85   | 0           | 7              | 1.30 (1.10-1.54)        | .23   | .27         | .31   | 1.6         |

BMI: body mass index.  $P_s$ : P value for heterogeneity within each subgroup.  $P_h$ : P value for heterogeneity between subgroups.  $I_s^2$ :  $I^2$  value for heterogeneity within each subgroup.  $I_h^2$ :  $I^2$  value for heterogeneity between subgroups. Bold text indicates statistical significance.

**Supplementary Table 3: Subgroup analyses of cohort studies for red and processed meat consumption (highest vs lowest categories) and rectal cancer risk**

| Subgroups                | Red meat |                  |                |                                 |                |                                 | Processed meat |                         |                |                                 |                |                                 |
|--------------------------|----------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
|                          | n        | RR (95% CI)      | P <sub>s</sub> | I <sub>s</sub> <sup>2</sup> (%) | P <sub>h</sub> | I <sub>h</sub> <sup>2</sup> (%) | n              | RR (95% CI)             | P <sub>s</sub> | I <sub>s</sub> <sup>2</sup> (%) | P <sub>h</sub> | I <sub>h</sub> <sup>2</sup> (%) |
| All studies              | 8        | 1.12 (0.89-1.40) | .10            | 42                              |                |                                 | 10             | 1.17 (0.99-1.38)        | .07            | 44                              |                |                                 |
| <b>Geographic area</b>   |          |                  |                |                                 |                |                                 |                |                         |                |                                 |                |                                 |
| Europe                   | 4        | 1.10 (0.95-1.27) | .78            | 0                               |                |                                 | 3              | <b>1.23 (1.06-1.42)</b> | .95            | 0                               |                |                                 |
| America                  | 3        | 1.01 (0.44-2.33) | -              | -                               |                |                                 | 3              | 1.34 (0.84-2.13)        | .07            | 62                              |                |                                 |
| Asia-Australia           | 1        | 1.17 (0.89-1.53) | <.01           | 81                              | .91            | 0                               | 4              | 1.04 (0.69-1.57)        | .05            | 63                              | .70            | 0                               |
| <b>Sample size</b>       |          |                  |                |                                 |                |                                 |                |                         |                |                                 |                |                                 |
| ≥200                     | 3        | 1.10 (0.97-1.25) | .99            | 0                               |                |                                 | 7              | 1.14 (0.96-1.35)        | .15            | 37                              |                |                                 |
| <200                     | 5        | 1.19 (0.66-2.13) | .02            | 67                              | .81            | 0                               | 3              | 1.43 (0.81-2.53)        | .04            | 68                              | .44            | 0                               |
| <b>Publication year</b>  |          |                  |                |                                 |                |                                 |                |                         |                |                                 |                |                                 |
| 2005 or later            | 6        | 1.05 (0.91-1.22) | .35            | 8                               |                |                                 | 9              | 1.13 (0.97-1.33)        | .12            | 38                              |                |                                 |
| Before 2005              | 2        | 2.18 (1.28-3.70) | .72            | 0                               | <.01           | 85.2                            | 1              | 2.00 (1.10-3.64)        | -              | -                               | .07            | 69                              |
| <b>Quality score</b>     |          |                  |                |                                 |                |                                 |                |                         |                |                                 |                |                                 |
| ≥7 stars                 | 8        | 1.12 (0.89-1.40) | .10            | 42                              |                |                                 | 8              | 1.13 (0.95-1.35)        | .08            | 46                              |                |                                 |
| <7 stars                 | 0        | -                | -              | -                               | -              | -                               | 2              | 1.49 (0.83-2.67)        | .17            | 47                              | .39            | 0                               |
| <b>Smoking</b>           |          |                  |                |                                 |                |                                 |                |                         |                |                                 |                |                                 |
| Yes                      | 5        | 1.10 (0.96-1.26) | .60            | 0                               |                |                                 | 7              | <b>1.21 (1.01-1.44)</b> | .15            | 36                              |                |                                 |
| No                       | 3        | 1.14 (0.58-2.24) | <.01           | 79                              | .91            | 0                               | 3              | 1.11 (0.72-1.74)        | .06            | 64                              | .75            | 0                               |
| <b>Alcohol</b>           |          |                  |                |                                 |                |                                 |                |                         |                |                                 |                |                                 |
| Yes                      | 5        | 1.09 (0.96-1.24) | .75            | 0                               |                |                                 | 8              | 1.16 (0.98-1.38)        | .12            | 38                              |                |                                 |
| No                       | 3        | 1.33 (0.52-3.41) | <.01           | 79                              | .69            | 0                               | 2              | 1.30 (0.60-2.84)        | .03            | 79                              | .79            | 0                               |
| <b>BMI</b>               |          |                  |                |                                 |                |                                 |                |                         |                |                                 |                |                                 |
| Yes                      | 5        | 1.09 (0.85-1.40) | .60            | 0                               |                |                                 | 8              | 1.16 (0.98-1.38)        | .12            | 38                              |                |                                 |
| No                       | 3        | 1.15 (0.65-2.03) | <.01           | 79                              | .87            | 0                               | 2              | 1.30 (0.60-2.84)        | .03            | 79                              | .79            | 0                               |
| <b>Energy intake</b>     |          |                  |                |                                 |                |                                 |                |                         |                |                                 |                |                                 |
| Yes                      | 6        | 1.22 (0.85-1.75) | .07            | 51                              |                |                                 | 9              | 1.18 (0.98-1.41)        | .04            | 50                              |                |                                 |
| No                       | 2        | 1.03 (0.76-1.38) | .24            | 28                              | .47            | 0                               | 1              | 1.10 (0.60-2.02)        | -              | -                               | .83            | 0                               |
| <b>Physical activity</b> |          |                  |                |                                 |                |                                 |                |                         |                |                                 |                |                                 |
| Yes                      | 4        | 1.09 (0.95-1.25) | .58            | 0                               |                |                                 | 7              | <b>1.21 (1.01-1.44)</b> | .15            | 36                              |                |                                 |
| No                       | 4        | 1.23 (0.69-2.18) | .02            | 70                              | .69            | 0                               | 3              | 1.11 (0.72-1.74)        | .06            | 64                              | .75            | 0                               |
| <b>Dietary fiber</b>     |          |                  |                |                                 |                |                                 |                |                         |                |                                 |                |                                 |
| Yes                      | 6        | 1.11 (0.77-1.58) | .04            | 57                              |                |                                 | 5              | 1.02 (0.82-1.27)        | .09            | 50                              |                |                                 |
| No                       | 2        | 1.11 (0.96-1.28) | .50            | 0                               | .99            | 0                               | 5              | 1.40 (1.12-1.74)        | .35            | 10                              | .05            | 75                              |

BMI: body mass index. P<sub>s</sub>: P value for heterogeneity within each subgroup. P<sub>h</sub>: P value for heterogeneity between subgroups. I<sub>s</sub><sup>2</sup>: I<sup>2</sup> value for heterogeneity within each subgroup. I<sub>h</sub><sup>2</sup>: I<sup>2</sup> value for heterogeneity between subgroups. Bold text indicates statistical significance.

**Supplementary Table 4: Baseline characteristics of included studies for red and processed meat consumption and colorectal cancer risk**

See Supplementary File 1