

Highlights

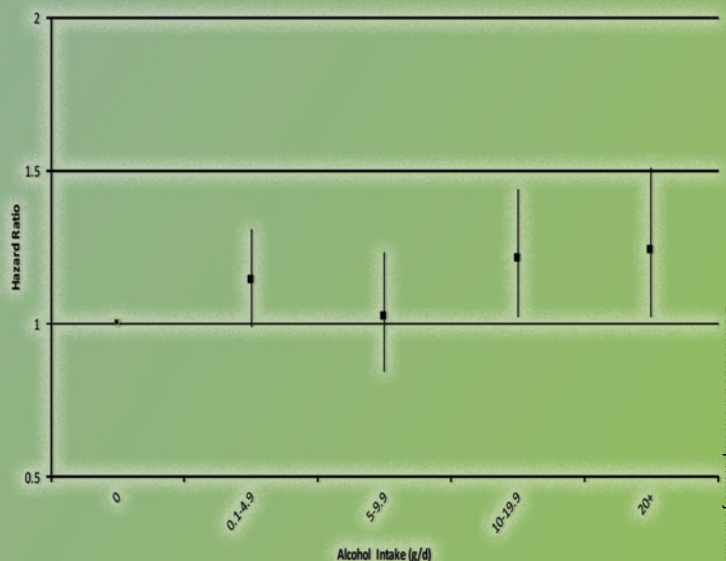
December 2016 • Volume 25 • Number 12

Selected Articles from This Issue

Alcohol Intake and Melanoma Risk

Rivera *et al.* _____ Page 1550

Alcohol consumption is associated with increased risk of numerous cancers, but existing evidence for an association with melanoma is equivocal. Rivera and colleagues used data from three large prospective cohort studies to investigate whether alcohol intake was associated with risk of melanoma. The authors report an association between higher alcohol intake and incidence of invasive melanoma. Among alcoholic beverages, white wine consumption was associated with an increased risk of melanoma. These findings further support American Cancer Society Guidelines for Cancer Prevention to limit alcohol intake.



Vitamin D Deficiency and Antinuclear Antibodies

Meier *et al.* _____ Page 1559

Vitamin D deficiency is associated with cancer and autoimmune diseases, but little is known about the association between vitamin D and antinuclear antibodies (ANA), a biomarker of immune dysfunction in healthy populations. Meier and colleagues examined if vitamin D deficiency is associated with ANA in middle-aged and older U.S. adults using data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2001–2004. Greater vitamin D deficiency was associated with higher ANA prevalence in the unadjusted logistic regression model. Those with severe vitamin D deficiency had 2.99 times the odds of ANA compared to those having normal vitamin D levels.

Lung Cancer and Mental Health

Lin *et al.* _____ Page 1564

Higher cancer-related mortality has been observed among people with mental health disorders, possibly due to delay in diagnosis and/or inadequate health care access. Lin and colleagues used the U.S. Military Health System, where there are no or minimal barriers to health care access, to study this disparity. Patients with preexisting mental disorders did not present with more advanced disease at diagnosis, and there were no significant differences in receiving cancer treatments between the two groups. However, lung cancer patients with a mental health disorder did show higher mortality than those without.

Breast Cancer in Asian Americans

Wu *et al.* _____ Page 1572

To understand breast cancer risk disparities in Asian American women, Wu and colleagues examined breast cancer risk factors in Filipina, Japanese, and Chinese Americans from the Los Angeles County Cancer Surveillance Program. In Filipina, Chinese, and Japanese Americans, breast cancer risk decreased significantly with increasing parity. Breast cancer risk increased with increasing quartiles of cumulative menstrual months in premenopausal and postmenopausal Filipina, and in premenopausal but not postmenopausal Chinese. For postmenopausal Filipina and Japanese, greater weight gain since age 18, high current body mass index, and greater waist circumferences were all statistically significant.