

690 publications identified as potentially relevant by MEDLINE search

629 publications excluded for following reasons

238 Asian or African studies (or ST products)
96 not epidemiological studies (27 animals experimental, 69 human laboratory)
112 not cancer studies (17 of precancerous lesions, 75 of tobacco prevalence/cessation, 20 other)
141 reviews (34 of ST and cancer, 107 other)
22 letters and comments providing no new data
17 studies of inappropriate design (9 case report, 6 ecological, 1 cross-sectional, 1 other)
3 studies giving no relevant results on ST

61 relevant publications identified after exclusions

45 additional relevant publications from other major reviews or from citations in publications identified

2 (of the 61) identified publications excluded where results from a further publication gives more up-to-date or fuller results

104 publications used for review and meta-analyses

9 cohort studies
(25 publications)

80 case-control studies
(79 publications)