

Body Composition and Prostate Cancer Risk: A Systematic Review of Observational Studies

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ABSTRACT

Body composition parameters are not captured by measures of body mass, which may explain inconsistent associations between body weight and prostate cancer (PC) risk. The objective of this systematic review was to characterize the association between fat mass (FM) and fat-free mass (FFM) parameters and PC risk. A search of PubMed, Embase, and Web of Science identified case-control and cohort studies that measured body composition in relation to PC risk. Methodological quality was assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS). Thirteen observational studies were included, of which 8 were case-control studies ($n = 1572$ cases, $n = 1937$ controls) and 5 were prospective cohort studies ($n = 7854$ incident cases with PC). The NOS score was 5.9 ± 1.1 for case-control studies and 8.4 ± 1.3 for cohort studies. The most common body composition technique was bioelectrical impedance analysis ($n = 9$ studies), followed by DXA ($n = 2$), computed tomography ($n = 2$), air displacement plethysmography ($n = 1$), and MRI ($n = 1$). No case-control studies reported differences in %FM between PC cases and controls and no consistent differences in FM or FFM (in kilograms) were observed. Two out of 5 cohort studies reported that higher %FM was associated with lower PC risk. Conversely, 3 cohort studies reported a greater risk of being diagnosed with advanced/aggressive PC with higher FM (expressed in kilograms, %FM, or fat distribution). Two out of 4 studies (both case-control and cohort) found that higher abdominal adipose tissue was associated with increased PC risk. In conclusion, although results were inconsistent, there is some evidence that FM may be negatively associated with total PC risk but positively associated with the risk of advanced/aggressive PC; modest evidence suggests that abdominal adipose tissue may increase the risk of PC. Future work should elucidate unique patterns of FM distribution and PC risk to triage men at risk for developing PC. This study protocol was registered in the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO) database as CRD42019133388. *Adv Nutr* 2022;13:1118–1130.

Statement of Significance: This systematic review found that higher whole-body fat mass was associated with greater advanced prostate cancer risk in some (but not all) studies and abdominal adipose tissue may increase the risk of all stages of prostate cancer. Future research that delineates the specific relationships between body composition compartments with cancer risk may support the development of more targeted approaches to reduce the prevalence of cancer.

Keywords: nutrition assessment, carcinoma, cancer, obesity, adiposity, muscle

Introduction

Prostate cancer (PC) is the second most commonly diagnosed malignancy in males, comprising 13.5% of new cancer diagnoses worldwide (1). Considering the prevalence of PC, elucidating modifiable risk factors for the development of this condition is imperative for creating impactful public health strategies aimed at cancer prevention. Estimates of body size, such as body mass index (BMI), have been investigated as a risk factor for PC; however, substantial inconsistency across previous studies has been reported. Studies have suggested that BMI is negatively (2) or positively (3) associated with

PC risk, or that BMI impacts overall and advanced PC risk differentially (4). For example, BMI was inversely associated with localized PC and positively associated with advanced PC in a systematic review (5).

Although BMI is an accessible and inexpensive tool commonly used in clinical settings to predict health risks, the inability to discern body compartments, such as fat mass (FM) and fat-free mass (FFM), is a notable limitation. In fact, body composition varies widely across the BMI spectrum (6). Furthermore, body composition predicts clinical outcomes after cancer diagnosis, independently of

BMI (7–10). The impact of body composition on health outcomes might be due, in part, to the disparate metabolic activities of FM and FFM (11, 12). More specifically, FFM is hypothesized to represent “metabolic capacity,” which consists of the organs and tissues that maintain homeostasis, whereas FM is considered a “metabolic load,” which can challenge homeostasis maintenance (11, 13, 14). FM may be of particular importance in predicting cancer risk due to the positive associations of FM with insulin, insulin-like growth factor, and systemic inflammation (15), which may promote tumor growth. These relations between metabolic health and body composition compartments may partially explain the inconsistencies in anthropometric measurements and PC risk observed in previous studies.

Despite the value of body composition in predicting outcomes after cancer diagnosis, relatively fewer studies have described body composition in relation to the risk of developing PC. Because body composition may impact cancer development differently and independently of body mass, the objective of this investigation was to systematically review the association between body composition and the risk of PC.

Methods

Search strategy

This review was planned, conducted, and reported according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) recommendations (16). A literature search of online databases (PubMed, Embase, and Web of Science) was performed from inception up to 4 May 2020. As shown in **Supplemental Table 1**, the search strategy consisted of 2 separate components and each involved keywords and medical subject heading (MeSH) terms related to “prostate cancer” and “body composition” individually. The keywords in each component were linked using “OR” as a Boolean function, and the results of the 2 sections were combined by utilizing the “AND” Boolean in the final search. No search limits were applied regarding date or language of publication. The study protocol was registered in the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO) database (CRD42019133388).

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Supplemental Tables 1–3 are available from the “Supplementary data” link in the online posting of the article and from the same link in the online table of contents at <https://academic.oup.com/advances/>.

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Abbreviations used: ADP, air displacement plethysmography; ADT, androgen deprivation therapy; AT, adipose tissue; BIA, bioelectrical impedance analysis; CT, computed tomography; FFM, fat-free mass; FM, fat mass; LST, lean soft tissue; NOS, Newcastle Ottawa Scale; PC, prostate cancer.

Study selection

Records found through the literature search were assessed to determine if they met the following inclusion criteria (17, 18):

- Population: Adults (age ≥ 18 y)
- Exposure: Body compartments quantified by bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA), DXA, computed tomography (CT), air displacement plethysmography (ADP), or MRI
- Comparator: Individuals without a diagnosis of PC
- Outcome: Individuals diagnosed with PC versus no diagnosis of PC; there was no exclusion criterion relating to cancer stage at diagnosis or medication use

Body composition terminology was described consistently according to the specific compartment being assessed, as described elsewhere (19), irrespective of the terminology used in the selected articles. Due to the nature of the research question, inclusion of randomized controlled trials was not pertinent to the aim of this systematic review. Review articles, case reports, editorials, abstracts, and book chapters were also excluded. Therefore, only cohort and case-control studies that assessed body composition variables associated with PC risk were included. Two of the authors (SAP, MM) independently read titles and abstracts and potentially eligible records were selected for a full-text review. The same authors then reviewed all selected full texts for eligibility. Disagreements were resolved by review and consensus.

Data extraction

From the included studies, relevant data were extracted independently by 3 authors (SAP, MM, CLPO) in Microsoft Excel (version 2102; Microsoft Corporation). Data abstractors were not blinded to information such as authors, institutions of origin, and journal of publication. Information extracted included the following: study characteristics (i.e., first author’s last name, article title, year of publication, study design, years of study, and follow-up duration, where applicable), study participants (i.e., sample size, ethnicity, race, and country of origin), body composition variables, outcome (i.e., PC diagnosis, advanced/aggressive PC diagnosis, or incident PC), confounding variables that were controlled for in statistical analyses, results summary (mean differences, ORs, HRs, or risk ratios, where appropriate) and Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS) score. Follow-up time in cohort studies was reported exactly as stated in the study, as conversion from person-years to mean or median was not possible. Where appropriate, results from subanalyses of advanced versus nonadvanced or aggressive versus nonaggressive disease were also extracted. Advanced disease was defined as stage IV (20) or stage III or IV PC (21); aggressive PC was described as Gleason score ≥ 7 (22, 23), Gleason score ≥ 8 (20), a combination of Gleason score ≥ 8 or presence of stage III or IV PC (24, 25), or fatal PC (20). Outcomes of interest included body compartments as measured by BIA, DXA, CT, ADP, or MRI. An exploratory examination of results according to body composition technique was also conducted.

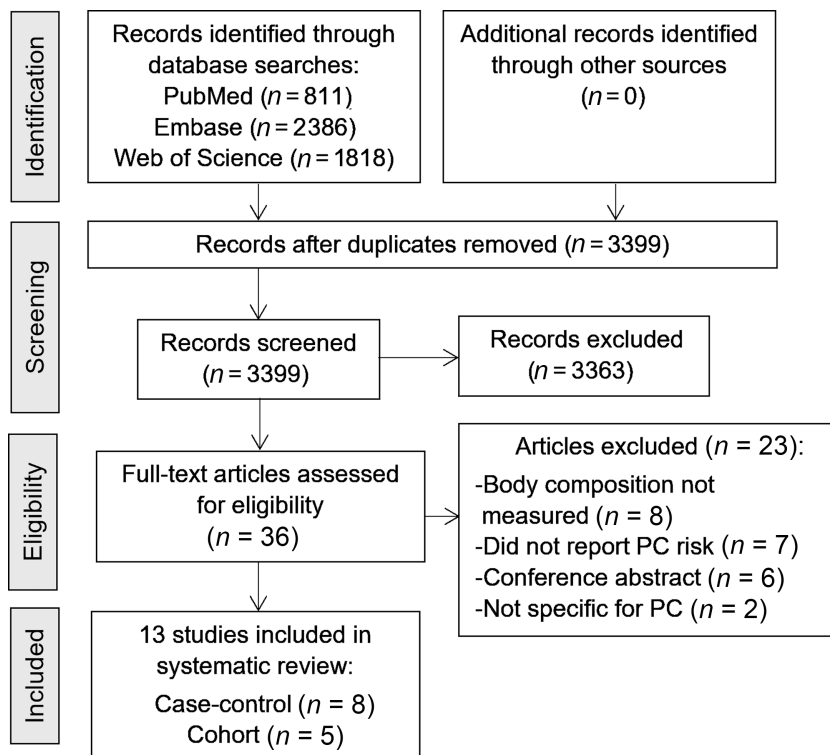


FIGURE 1 Flow chart to select eligible articles that assessed body composition in relation to PC risk. PC, prostate cancer.

Study quality assessment

Methodological quality was assessed using the NOS (26). This assessment tool was chosen because it was specifically designed for nonrandomized trials and includes separate items for case-control and cohort studies. The NOS utilizes a scoring system to assess 3 domains of methodological rigor: 1) selection of study groups (0–5 points), 2) comparability/adjustment for confounding variables (0–3 points), and 3) ascertainment of exposures or outcomes (0–3 points). Two authors (SAP and MM) independently reviewed included articles and assigned scores for each category; scores that differed were discussed until a consensus was met. Higher scores are indicative of higher quality studies.

Results

Description of studies

The literature search retrieved 5015 potentially eligible records. After duplicates were removed, a total of 3399 articles remained. After the initial screening of titles and abstracts, 36 articles were retrieved for full-text review (20–25, 27–56) and 13 met the inclusion criteria. In total, there were 8 case-control studies (22, 23, 44–48, 51) and 5 cohort studies (20, 21, 24, 25, 49). The detailed process of the literature search is shown in **Figure 1**.

Characteristics of the included case-control studies are presented in **Table 1**. These studies were conducted between 1993 and 2017 and included 1572 cases and 1937 controls. All cases had newly diagnosed PC, therefore negating the potential effects of cancer treatment on body composition.

Cohort studies were conducted between 1990 and 2011 and included 285,865 participants, 7854 of whom were diagnosed with PC (**Table 2**). Among cohort studies, the minimum follow-up was a mean \pm SD of 5.6 ± 1.0 y (49) and the maximum follow-up was a median of 15.5 y (21); follow-up was also reported as 113,535 person-years in 1 study (24).

Among all studies, the most common body composition technique used to measure participants' body compartments was BIA ($n = 9$ studies) (20–22, 24, 25, 46–49), followed by DXA ($n = 2$ studies) (45, 47), CT ($n = 2$ studies) (20, 51), ADP ($n = 1$ study) (44), and MRI ($n = 1$ study) (23). Most studies reported body composition as percentage FM of total body weight (%FM) (20–22, 24, 25, 44–46, 49) and FM in kilograms (20, 24, 46–48). Other compartments included FFM (kilograms) (24, 45, 46), lean soft tissue (LST; kilograms) (47), and fat distribution (i.e., abdominal adipose tissue area, visceral adipose tissue, %FM) (20, 23, 45, 48, 51). Eight studies reported body composition in relation to advanced stage or tumor aggressiveness (20–25, 46, 51), of which 4 were case-control and 4 were cohort studies. Case-control NOS scores were 5.9 ± 1.1 and cohort NOS scores were 8.4 ± 1.3 (**Supplemental Tables 2 and 3**).

Due to differences in body composition measurement techniques, body compartments reported, and population characteristics, a meta-analysis of case-control or cohort studies was not conducted. Therefore, a narrative analysis of the studies uncovered in the systematic literature search is presented below.

TABLE 1 Characteristics of case-control studies included in the systematic review assessing body composition in relation to PC risk¹

Reference	Cases	Controls	Race/ethnicity	Body composition method; variables	Confounding variables controlled for	Results: All PC and advanced or aggressive PC
Cimino et al. 201 (44)	Total: n = 45, in which: T1 stage: n = 21; T2a stage: n = 10; T2b stage: n = 5; T2c stage: n = 4 Total: n = 36	Total: n = 105 (benign prostatic hyperplasia)	Not reported	ADP; FM (%)	None	%FM: ↔ Controls: 32.0 ± 5.1 Cases: 29 ± 8.9 P = 0.90
Demark-Wahnefried et al. 1997 (45)	Total: n = 809, in which: Gleason 6: n = 402; Gleason 7: n = 272 Gleason 8: n = 135	Total: n = 38	Black or White men (recruitment aim was 80% White, 20% Black)	DXA; FM (kg and %), fat distribution and FFM (kg)	Age, race, age × race interaction	%FM: ↔ Controls: 24.9 ± 5.9 Cases: 24.0 ± 5.6 OR (95% CI): 0.82 (0.40–1.68) FM (kg): ↔ (data not reported) FFM (kg): ↔ Controls: 64.5 ± 8.6 Cases: 65.1 ± 8.4 OR (95% CI): 1.03 (0.50–2.13) Fat distribution: ↔ (data not reported) %FM: ↔ across all Gleason scores <i>Adjusted mean (95% CI):</i> Controls: 29.2 (28.5, 29.9) Gleason 6: 28.6 (27.7, 29.4) Gleason 7: 29.4 (28.5, 30.4) Gleason 8–10: 30.1 (28.8, 31.4) FM (kg): ↑ in Gleason 7 and 8–10 FM as a continuous variable associated with Gleason 8–10 cancer (OR: 1.02; 95% CI: 1.00–1.04) Highest quartile of FM was associated with Gleason 7 cancer (OR: 1.52; 95% CI: 1.00, 2.30) <i>Adjusted mean (95% CI):</i> Controls: 27.1 (25.9, 28.4) Gleason 6: 26.3 (24.7, 27.8) Gleason 7: 28.0 (26.3, 29.7) Gleason 8–10: 29.9 (27.6, 32.2) FFM (kg): ↓ in Gleason 7 & 8–10 Highest quartile of FFM was associated with Gleason 7 (OR: 1.72; 95% CI: 1.14–2.61) and Gleason 8–10 (OR: 2.91; 95% CI: 1.56–5.44) FFM above median associated with Gleason 6 (OR: 1.31; 95% CI: 1.02–1.67) <i>Adjusted mean (95% CI):</i> Controls: 62.9 (62.0, 63.8) Gleason 6: 63.1 (62.0, 64.2) Gleason 7: 64.4 (63.1, 65.6) Gleason 8–10: 66.2 (64.5, 67.9)
Fowke et al. 2012 (46)	Total: n = 809, in which: Gleason 6: n = 402; Gleason 7: n = 272 Gleason 8: n = 135	Total: n = 1057	Mostly White	BIA; FM (kg and %) and FFM (kg)	Age, race/ethnicity, family history of PC, PSA level, prostate volume, and current treatment for diabetes, cardiovascular disease, benign prostatic hyperplasia, or hyperlipidemia	

(Continued)

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Reference	Cases	Controls	Race/ethnicity	Body composition method; variables	Confounding variables controlled for	Results: All PC and advanced or aggressive PC
Guerrios-Rivera et al. 2017 (22)	Total: <i>n</i> = 483, in which: Gleason 6: <i>n</i> = 246; Gleason 7-10 (high-grade disease): <i>n</i> = 237	Total: <i>n</i> = 496	Cases: 64% Black and 36% Non-Black Controls: 51% Black and 49% Non-Black	B/A; FM (%)	Age, race, previous biopsy, family history of PC, PSA, digital rectal exam findings, prostate volume	All PC: %FM: ↔ Controls: 28.6 ± 6.0 Cases: 28.3 ± 6.7 OR: 1.02 (95% CI: 0.99–1.04), <i>P</i> = 0.16 Aggressive PC (Gleason ≥ 7): %FM: ↑ Gleason 6: 27.4 ± 6.9 Gleason 7–10: 29.3 ± 6.4 OR: 1.06 (95% CI: 1.03–1.09), <i>P</i> < 0.001 All PC: Total abdominal AT (mm²): ↔ Total abdominal AT above the median (21,500 mm ²): OR: 1.30 (95% CI: 0.37–4.60), <i>P</i> < 0.39 Abdominal AT ratio: ↑ Abdominal AT ratio above the median (51.5%): OR: 2.23 (95% CI: 1.05–3.93), <i>P</i> < 0.05 Controls: 49.4 ± 8.1 All PC: 51.6 ± 7.9 <i>P</i> < 0.04 Aggressive PC (Gleason ≥ 7): Total abdominal AT (mm²): ↔ OR: 1.30 (95% CI: 0.37–4.60), <i>P</i> < 0.35 Abdominal AT ratio: ↔ OR: 2.81 (95% CI: 1.16–9.76), <i>P</i> < 0.10 FM (kg): ↔ Controls: 23.6 ± 7.0 Cases: 22.8 ± 5.3 <i>P</i> ≥ 0.05 LST (kg): ↓ Controls: 53.6 ± 5.6 Cases: 50.2 ± 5.0 <i>P</i> < 0.05 Body cell mass (kg): ↓ Controls: 28.3 ± 2.6 Cases: 26.9 ± 3.0 <i>P</i> < 0.05 Intracellular water (L): ↔ Controls: 23.4 ± 2.4 Cases: 22.5 ± 2.9 <i>P</i> > 0.05 Extracellular water (L): ↔ Controls: 23.7 ± 5.0 Cases: 21.7 ± 5.5 <i>P</i> > 0.05
Kim et al. 2019 (23)	Total: <i>n</i> = 100	Total: <i>n</i> = 100	Not reported	MRi; total abdominal AT and abdominal AT ratio (not specified)	Age, educational level, and family history	
Matturo et al. 2003 (47)	Total: <i>n</i> = 11	Total: <i>n</i> = 11	Italian	DXA; FM (kg) and LST (kg) B/A; body cell mass, intra- and extracellular water, and total body water (L)	None	

(Continued)

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Reference	Cases	Controls	Race/ethnicity	Body composition method; variables	Confounding variables controlled for	Results: All PC and advanced or aggressive PC
Moran et al. 2017 (48)	Total: $n = 25$, in which: Gleason ≥ 7 : $n = 7$	Total: $n = 67$	Not reported	BIA; FM (kg), visceral AT (%) ²	None	Total body water (L): ↓ Controls: 47.0 ± 6.9 Cases: 43.8 ± 5.4 $P > 0.05$ <i>Presented as mean (95% CI):</i> FM (kg): ↔ Controls: $20.4 (17.7-23.3)$ Cases: $19.5 (14.2-17.7)$ $P = 0.09$ Visceral AT² (%): ↔ Controls: $32.2 (30.1-34.3)$ Cases: $31.6 (27.7-35.4)$ $P = 0.12$ <i>All PC:</i> AT area (cm²): ↑ Controls: 334.3 ± 132.9 Cases: 509.2 ± 226.1 OR (95% CI): $3.2 (1.9-5.3)$ $P < 0.001$ Visceral AT area (cm²): ↑ Controls: 177.4 ± 88.4 Cases: 324.7 ± 145 $P < 0.001$ OR (95% CI): $4.6 (2.6-8.2)$ Subcutaneous area (cm²): ↑ Controls: 156.9 ± 57.6 Cases: 184.5 ± 85.6 $P = 0.037$ OR (95% CI): $1.5 (1.0-2.2)$ Visceral:subcutaneous AT: ↑ Controls: 1.2 ± 0.4 Cases: 1.8 ± 0.4 $P < 0.001$ OR (95% CI): $6.0 (2.3-11.0)$ <i>Advanced PC:</i> All body composition parameters: ↔ local, locally advanced, metastatic PC
von Hafe et al. 2004 (51)	Total: $n = 63$, in which: localized disease: $n = 30$; locally advanced disease: $n = 12$; metastasized disease: $n = 21$	Total: $n = 63$	White	CT; AT area (abdominal subcutaneous, total abdominal, and visceral) and visceral:subcutaneous AT ratio	None	

¹Values are means \pm SDs unless otherwise stated. Where appropriate, only values from adjusted models were included in the table. ADP, air displacement plethysmography; ADT, androgen deprivation therapy; AT, adipose tissue; BIA, bioelectrical impedance analysis; CT, computed tomography; FFM, fat-free mass; FM, fat mass; LST, lean soft tissue; PC, prostate cancer; \uparrow , significantly associated with higher risk of prostate cancer ($P < 0.05$); \downarrow , significantly associated with lower risk of prostate cancer ($P < 0.05$).

²Visceral AT was estimated by BIA rather than measured directly.

TABLE 2 Characteristics of cohort studies included in the systematic review assessing body composition in relation to PC risk¹

Reference	Cases	Cohort	Race/ethnicity	Body composition methods; variables	Follow-up duration	Confounding variables controlled for	Results: All PC and advanced or aggressive PC
Dickerman et al. 2019 (20)	Total: <i>n</i> = 172, in which: Gleason grade ≥ 8 (high grade): <i>n</i> = 43; advanced (\geq cT3b/N1/M1 at diagnosis or fatal prostate cancer over follow-up): <i>n</i> = 41; fatal: <i>n</i> = 31	Total: <i>n</i> = 1832	Not reported	CT; visceral and subcutaneous abdominal AT; intermuscular AT and subcutaneous thigh AT BIA; FM (kg and %)	Median 10.1 y (range: 0.1–13.3 y) until diagnosis and 10.4 y (range: 0.1–13.3 y) until PC death	Age, height, family history of PC, smoking status, education, frequency of moderate/vigorous physical activity during youth and midlife, and presence of a physician visit over the past year	Presented as HR per 1-SD increase in FM (6.8 kg), %FM (5.3%), visceral abdominal AT (85.7 cm ²), subcutaneous abdominal AT (85.6 cm ²), intermuscular thigh AT (16.0 cm ²), and subcutaneous thigh AT (39.2 cm ²) All PC: FM: \leftrightarrow ; 0.98 (0.83–1.18) % FM: \leftrightarrow ; 0.99 (0.83–1.18) Visceral abdominal AT: \leftrightarrow ; 0.97 (0.83–1.13) Subcutaneous abdominal AT: \leftrightarrow ; 1.02 (0.88–1.19) Intermuscular thigh AT: \leftrightarrow ; 0.91 (0.78–1.08) Subcutaneous thigh AT: \leftrightarrow ; 1.02 (0.88–1.19) Advanced PC: FM: \leftrightarrow ; 1.17 (0.83–1.67) % FM: \leftrightarrow ; 1.19 (0.83–1.69) Visceral abdominal AT: \uparrow ; 1.31 (1.00–1.72) Subcutaneous abdominal AT: \leftrightarrow ; 1.22 (0.91–1.63) Intermuscular thigh AT: \leftrightarrow ; 1.02 (0.75–1.40) Subcutaneous thigh AT: \leftrightarrow ; 1.25 (0.95–1.64) Fatal PC: FM: \leftrightarrow ; 1.17 (0.78–1.75) % FM: \leftrightarrow ; 1.20 (0.80–1.81) Visceral abdominal AT: \leftrightarrow ; 1.24 (0.89–1.73) Subcutaneous abdominal AT: \leftrightarrow ; 1.26 (0.89–1.78) Intermuscular thigh AT: \leftrightarrow ; 1.27 (0.91–1.78) Subcutaneous thigh AT: \uparrow ; 1.37 (1.00–1.88)

(Continued)

TABLE 2 (Continued)

Reference	Cases	Cohort	Race/ethnicity	Body composition methods; variables	Follow-up duration	Confounding variables controlled for	Results: All PC and advanced or aggressive PC
MacInnis et al. 2003 (24)	Total: <i>n</i> = 477, in which: Gleason 1–4: <i>n</i> = 66; Gleason 5–7: <i>n</i> = 332; Gleason 8–10: <i>n</i> = 79	Total: <i>n</i> = 16,336	Italian: <i>n</i> = 2419 Greek: <i>n</i> = 2073 Remainder not reported	BIA; FM (kg and %) and FFM (kg)	113,535 person-years	Age, country of birth, and highest level of education	Presented as RR (95% CI) All PC: FM % : ↔; Per 10 kg: 1.08 (0.96–1.22) FFM % : ↔; Per 10 kg: 1.16 (0.99–1.35) FFM : ↔; Per 10 kg: 0.96 (0.82–1.13) <i>Aggressive PC</i> : FM : ↑; Per 10 kg: 1.25 (1.03–1.77) FM % : ↔; Per 10 kg: 1.39 (0.95–2.06) FFM : ↔; Per 10 kg: 1.25 (0.85–1.83) Presented as HR (95% CI), 4th vs. 1st quintile All PC: % FM : ↓; 0.84 (0.74–0.96) <i>Advanced PC</i> : % FM : ↑; 1.31 (1.04–1.64) Quartile 1: 1.3–22.8 Quartile 2: 22.9–26.4 Quartile 3: 26.5–29.9 Quartile 4: 30.0–48.4
Moller et al. 2015 (21)	Total: <i>n</i> = 1813, in which: stage 3 or 4: <i>n</i> = 626	Total: <i>n</i> = 29,944	Not reported	BIA; FM (%)	Median 15.5 y	Age; stage, where appropriate	Presented as HR (95% CI), 5th vs. 1st quintile FM % : ↓; 0.81 (0.73–0.89), <i>P</i> < 0.001 across quintiles Quintile 1: <20.5 Quintile 2: 20.5 - <24 Quintile 3: 24 to <26.8 Quintile 4: 26.8 to <30.1 Quintile 5: ≥30.1 Presented as HR (95% CI), 5th vs. 1st quintile All PC: FM % : ↔; 1.08 (0.86–1.35), <i>P</i> = 0.94 across quintiles <i>Aggressive PC</i> : FM % : ↔; 1.01 (0.69–1.48), <i>P</i> = 0.35 across quintiles Quintile 1: <18.3 (median: 15.7) Quintile 2: 18.3–21.3 (median: 19.9) Quintile 3: 21.3–23.8 (median: 22.6) Quintile 4: 23.8–26.6 (median: 25.1) Quintile 5: ≥26.6 (median: 28.8)
Perez-Cornago et al. 2017 (49)	Total: <i>n</i> = 4575	Total: <i>n</i> = 219,335	White: <i>n</i> = 205,839; mixed background: <i>n</i> = 1077; Asian: <i>n</i> = 5765; Black: <i>n</i> = 3279; other: <i>n</i> = 1926	BIA; FM (%)	Mean ± SD: 5.6 ± 1.0 y	Townsend deprivation index, ethnicity, co-habitation status, BMI, cigarette smoking, physical activity, diabetes, enlarged prostate, and family history of PC	Presented as HR (95% CI), 5th vs. 1st quintile All PC: FM % : ↔; 1.08 (0.86–1.35), <i>P</i> = 0.94 across quintiles <i>Aggressive PC</i> : FM % : ↔; 1.01 (0.69–1.48), <i>P</i> = 0.35 across quintiles Quintile 1: <18.3 (median: 15.7) Quintile 2: 18.3–21.3 (median: 19.9) Quintile 3: 21.3–23.8 (median: 22.6) Quintile 4: 23.8–26.6 (median: 25.1) Quintile 5: ≥26.6 (median: 28.8)
Wallstrom et al. 2009 (25)	Total: <i>n</i> = 817, in which: T stage ≥3 or N stage ≥1 or M1 or Gleason ≥8 or PSA ≥50 ng/mL (aggressive disease): <i>n</i> = 281 Nonaggressive disease: <i>n</i> = 530	Total: <i>n</i> = 10,564	Not reported	BIA; FM (%)	Mean follow-up time for cases was 11.0 y; mean follow-up for non-cases was 7.7 y	Age, co-habitation status, socioeconomic index, alcohol habits, smoking history, country of birth, and dietary intake of total calcium EPA/DHA, fruits, vegetables, and red meat	Presented as HR (95% CI), 5th vs. 1st quintile All PC: FM % : ↔; 1.08 (0.86–1.35), <i>P</i> = 0.94 across quintiles <i>Aggressive PC</i> : FM % : ↔; 1.01 (0.69–1.48), <i>P</i> = 0.35 across quintiles Quintile 1: <18.3 (median: 15.7) Quintile 2: 18.3–21.3 (median: 19.9) Quintile 3: 21.3–23.8 (median: 22.6) Quintile 4: 23.8–26.6 (median: 25.1) Quintile 5: ≥26.6 (median: 28.8)

¹A1, adipose tissue; BIA, bioelectrical impedance analysis; BMI, body mass index; CT, computed tomography; EPA/DHA, eicosapentaenoic acid/docosahexaenoic acid; FFM, fat-free mass; FM, fat mass; PC, prostate cancer; PSA, prostate specific antigen; RR, risk ratio; ↑, significantly associated with higher risk of prostate cancer (*P* < 0.05); ↔, not associated with risk of prostate cancer (*P* > 0.05); ↓, significantly associated with lower risk of prostate cancer (*P* < 0.05).

Results from case-control studies

%FM.

Four case-control studies reported %FM. None of these studies reported differences between PC cases and controls using BIA, DXA, or ADP (22, 44–46).

Absolute FM, FFM, or LST.

Of the 4 case-control studies that reported body composition in absolute values, 4 reported FM (45–48) and 3 reported FFM or LST in absolute kilograms (45–47). Moran et al. (48) reported no differences in absolute FM as assessed by BIA between patients with and without PC. Conversely, Fowke et al. (46) reported Gleason 8–10 PC cases had significantly higher levels of FM and FFM measured with BIA compared with controls. Cases with Gleason 7 PC had higher FFM, but no differences were observed between controls and patients with Gleason 6 PC (46). Similarly, healthy control subjects had higher LST but similar FM as measured by DXA compared with those with PC (47). In an analysis controlling for age, race, and race-by-age interaction, 1 study using DXA reported no differences in FFM between PC cases and healthy controls (45).

Fat distribution.

Four case-control studies described body fat distribution in the methods (23, 45, 48, 51), but 1 study (45) did not report values from this analysis. One study reported no relation between visceral adipose tissue and PC risk; however, visceral adipose tissue was estimated with BIA (with no equation provided) rather than measured directly (48). von Hafe et al. (51) used CT imaging to assess body composition and found that PC patients had higher mean total adipose tissue area, visceral adipose tissue area, and visceral-to-subcutaneous ratio than controls. Similarly, Kim and Joung (23) attained measures of abdominal adipose tissue ratio via MRI, although the methods did not describe what the ratio consisted of. Nevertheless, PC patients had higher abdominal adipose tissue ratio compared with controls; higher odds of PC were observed among individuals with an abdominal adipose tissue ratio above the median.

Advanced or aggressive disease.

Four case-control studies reported body composition in relation to aggressiveness or stage of disease (22, 23, 46, 51). Patients with high-grade PC had higher %FM compared with controls in 1 study (22) and another found that higher FM and FFM was associated with higher Gleason scores (46)(both via BIA). Another investigation (23) reported that higher abdominal adipose tissue ratio (by MRI) was associated with higher odds of PC with a Gleason score ≥ 7 , but this relation was no longer significant in a model adjusted for age, educational level, and family history of PC. von Hafe et al. (51) reported no differences in CT-assessed body composition parameters among patients with local, locally advanced, and metastatic disease.

Results from cohort studies

%FM.

All 5 cohort studies measured %FM using BIA. Higher %FM was associated with lower risk of PC when individuals were grouped according to %FM quartiles (21) or quintiles (49). Three other studies using BIA (20, 24, 25) reported that %FM was not associated with PC risk.

Absolute FM, FFM, or LST.

Two cohort studies (20, 24) presented FM in absolute kilograms, estimated using BIA; one of these also reported FFM in this manner (24). There were no associations between body composition and total or advanced PC risk in either study.

Fat distribution.

Only 1 cohort study assessed fat distribution, which was measured using CT (20). No measure of visceral or subcutaneous adipose tissue was associated with PC risk.

Advanced or aggressive disease.

Four cohort studies stratified results by PC stage or aggressiveness (20, 21, 24, 25). Moller et al. (21) reported a higher risk of developing advanced PC with higher %FM (by BIA). Another study using BIA (24) reported that FM in kilograms was associated with higher risk of aggressive PC (Gleason score 8–10 vs. Gleason score 1–4). Similarly, Dickerman et al. (20) reported that visceral adipose tissue measured by CT was associated with increased risk of advanced PC and thigh subcutaneous adipose tissue was associated with increased risk of fatal PC. However, these results were not apparent when BMI was included in the models. Two studies reported no relation between %FM measured with BIA (20, 25) or body fat distribution measured with CT (20) and aggressive PC.

PC risk according to body composition technique

Due to the inherent differences in body composition techniques, PC risk among both case-control and cohort studies was assessed according to technique (Table 3). There was no apparent bias or pattern of PC risk that could be explained by PC methodology.

Discussion

The present systematic review is the first to assess objectively-measured body composition in relation to PC risk. Percentage FM did not differ between cases and controls, although higher %FM was associated with lower risk of PC in 2 out of 5 cohort studies. Some results also suggest that abdominal FM may increase the risk of advanced or aggressive PC. Although FM might relate to PC risk, our results were inconsistent and discrepancies in PC staging, population, and body composition techniques are apparent; therefore, these results should be interpreted with caution.

Previous data on anthropometric measures of obesity and PC risk are conflicting. One systematic review concluded that obesity determined by BMI ≥ 30 kg/m², but not waist circumference, was weakly associated with higher PC risk

TABLE 3 Association between body compartments and risk of total PC in cohort and case-control studies by body composition technique¹

	Fat mass, kg	% Fat mass	FFM, LST, or body cell mass	Total and intra- or extracellular water	Total abdominal adiposity	Abdominal AT ratio ²	Intermuscular or subcutaneous thigh AT	Visceral abdominal AT	Subcutaneous abdominal AT
ADP		↔↔							
DXA	↔↔↔	↔↔	↔↔						
BIA	↑↔↔↔↔	↓↔↔↔↔↔↔↔↔	↑↔↔	↓↔↔↔		↑		↔↔ ³	
MRI					↔↔	↑	↔↔	↑↔	↑↔↔
CT					↑	↑	↔↔	↑↔	↑↔↔

¹Each arrow represents one result from studies that were included in this systematic review, fully described in Table 1 (i.e., case-control studies) and Table 2 (i.e., cohort studies). ADP, air displacement plethysmography; AT, adipose tissue; BIA, bioelectrical impedance analysis; CT, computed tomography; FFM, fat-free mass; LST, lean soft tissue; PC, prostate cancer; ↑, significantly associated with higher risk of prostate cancer ($P < 0.05$); ↓, significantly associated with lower risk of prostate cancer ($P < 0.05$); ↔, not associated with risk of prostate cancer ($P > 0.05$).

²Includes visceral/subcutaneous ratio (51) and 'abdominal adipose tissue ratio' (23)

³Visceral adipose tissue was estimated by BIA rather than measured directly.

(3). In contrast, another systematic review reported that BMI was inversely associated with localized PC and positively associated with advanced PC (5), similar to recent Mendelian randomization studies that found genetically predicted BMI or FM was associated with lower PC risk (57, 58). Although anthropometric variables such as weight and height used to derive BMI are accessible and low-burden, body composition varies greatly across age, sex, and BMI categories (6), which may partly explain the discrepancies in PC risk according to anthropometric measurements.

Our findings suggest that higher %FM might be protective against the development of PC. Of note, 3 studies included in this literature review (21, 23, 47) did not report associations between BMI and PC but found associations between body composition parameters and PC risk. More specifically, %FM (21, 47) and abdominal adipose tissue ratio (23) may be more sensitive than anthropometric measurements in predicting PC risk. Conversely, Dickerman et al. (20) conducted a sensitivity analysis in which inclusion of BMI in the models attenuated the relation between body composition parameters and PC risk. While a superficial interpretation may support the notion that BMI predicts PC or negates the effect of body composition on PC risk, null findings in the supplementary models are likely a result of high collinearity among variables in the same model. However, inclusion of such measurements is not currently routinely obtained in clinical practice or large prospective research studies, which hinders cancer risk estimates based on body composition.

Higher %FM may relate to greater PC risk due to underlying metabolic, hormonal, and inflammatory mechanisms underpinning the association between FM and cancer development. Men with obesity have lower concentrations of androgens and adiponectin and higher concentrations of insulin and insulin-like growth factor (59, 60), the latter of which is associated with increased PC risk (61). Obesity is also related to lower concentrations of free testosterone and higher systemic inflammation, which may also promote tumor growth (62, 63). However, we found that %FM often did not relate to PC risk, and in fact, 2 studies (out of 5) suggested that higher %FM was related to lower PC risk (21, 49). Notably, studies that reported an inverse association between PC risk and %FM were prospective cohort studies, which are more appropriate for establishing prognosis and risk compared with case-control designs and—in this review—had higher ratings of study quality according to NOS scores. One factor that may contribute to the unexpected association between %FM and PC risk is fat distribution. Higher abdominal adiposity is associated with altered concentrations of adipokines, insulin resistance, impaired glucose and fat metabolism, and endothelial dysfunction (63, 64). Pischon et al. (65) observed that waist circumference—an anthropometric-based estimate of abdominal FM—was positively associated with PC risk, although this has not been corroborated by other investigations (3, 66, 67). Objective measurements of body composition provide more specific information of fat distribution that may impact cancer development. We observed modest positive associations between

abdominal obesity and PC risk in the present review (20, 23, 51) and contradictory evidence that higher %FM may relate to lower PC risk; therefore, further investigation of whole-body FM parameters and specific adipose tissue depots (e.g., visceral, subcutaneous) in relation to PC risk is warranted.

Where appropriate, we extracted data on the occurrence of aggressive PC, since this may develop from physiological processes that are different from nonaggressive PC. Interestingly, of the 8 studies that reported results of aggressive PC separately from all PC stages combined (20–24, 46, 51), 5 reported modest positive associations between high FM and advanced PC risk (20–22, 24, 46). Notably, one of these studies determined FM distribution via CT imaging and reported that visceral and thigh subcutaneous adiposity was associated with greater risk of advanced and fatal PC, respectively (20). Previous findings from the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition have found that higher waist circumference was associated with greater risk of developing advanced and high-grade PC, especially among men with a normal BMI (65). Therefore, FM and fat distribution may promote aggressive disease directly through altered metabolic pathways or may be a marker for lifestyle patterns (i.e., physical activity, dietary intake) that influence both FM accumulation and aggressive disease in a manner somewhat independent of body weight.

Although this review is the first to investigate body composition and PC risk in a systematic manner, some limitations should be noted when interpreting the results. In particular, a wide array of body composition techniques were utilized among studies, which could negatively influence interpretation of the impact of body composition on PC risk. For example, BIA may produce values of FM that are lower and LST that are higher than those arising from DXA (68). Heterogeneity also occurs across different manufacturers and formulae used to predict body composition from resistance measured by BIA (69, 70). Several studies also reported absolute values of FM or FFM; however, body composition expressed in this manner does not account for total body weight or height. Furthermore, 1 study (44) used controls who were diagnosed with benign prostatic hyperplasia, which might have obscured potential differences in body composition, due to the association of this condition with obesity, diabetes, and higher plasma glucose (71). By design, case-control studies may also introduce additional biases such as those associated with medical access and referral, data ascertainment (e.g., chart review), self-selection in cancer-related research, or collection asynchronous exposures and outcomes (72, 73). Notably, many studies in this review included socioeconomic status and/or race as confounding variables in statistical models or excluded individuals with major comorbidities. Another limitation is the small sample sizes observed in many case-control studies. Investigations of body composition and disease risk may also be prone to bias from pre-diagnosis unintentional weight change directly before diagnosis (74); therefore, weight (or body composition) at diagnosis may not reflect long-term energy balance. This review also uncovered a small number of studies available for

hypothesis testing. Because of the differences among study procedures and small number of similar studies, we did not perform a meta-analysis for all PC combined or subgroups according to PC aggressiveness/stage or body composition modality. Nevertheless, we have presented results describing risk of advanced/aggressive PC, where appropriate, and an additional table summarizing body composition techniques to help identify potential biases. Notably, a recent systematic review of body composition in relation to breast cancer risk also reported high heterogeneity among studies (75), suggesting that this issue is common among studies investigating body composition. Variation among study results may also relate to molecular heterogeneity of cancer subtypes that may be differentially affected by body composition.

In conclusion, this systematic review found that body composition may relate to PC risk in a manner different from anthropometric measures (i.e., BMI) alone. Specifically, %FM may associate with lower total PC risk but may increase the risk of developing advanced PC; modest evidence suggests that excess abdominal adipose tissue may also confer increased PC risk. However, these results should be interpreted with caution due to differences in body composition methods and populations among studies. Future research with more equivalent and accurate body composition tools and prospective study designs may further clarify the role of body composition on the development and aggressiveness of PC.

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