

**Additional file 3** Search terms used for MEDLINE search

exp Europe, Eastern/ OR exp USSR/ OR exp Czechoslovakia/ OR exp Germany, East/ OR exp Yugoslavia/ OR exp Transcaucasia/ OR exp Asia, Central/ OR central europe\*.mp. OR eastern europe\*.mp. OR alban\*.mp. OR armen\*.mp. OR azerbaijan\*.mp. OR belarus\*.mp. OR bosnia\*.mp. OR hercegovina\*.mp. OR bulgar\*.mp. OR croat\*.mp. OR czechslovak\*.mp. OR czech\*.mp. OR east german\*.mp. OR eston\*.mp. OR georgia\*.mp. OR hungar\*.mp. OR kazakh\*.mp. OR kyrgyz\*.mp. OR latvia\*.mp. OR lithuan\*.mp. OR montenegro\*.mp. OR poland\*.mp. OR polish\*.mp. OR moldova\*.mp. OR roman\*.mp. OR russia\*.mp. OR serb\*.mp. OR slovak\*.mp. OR sloven\*.mp. OR tajik\*.mp. OR macedon\*.mp. OR turkmen\*.mp. OR ukrain\*.mp. OR soviet\*.mp. OR uzbek\*.mp. OR ussr\*.mp. OR yugoslav\*.mp.

AND exp Nutritional physiological phenomena/ OR exp Vegetables/ OR exp Fruit/ OR exp Carotenoids/ OR exp Ascorbic acid/ OR vegetable\*.mp. OR fruit\*.mp. OR caroten\*.mp. OR lycopene\*.mp. OR ascorbic\*.mp.

AND exp Epidemiologic Methods/ OR exp multicenter study/ OR exp comparative study/

limit to humans

mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept, rare disease supplementary concept, unique identifier, text word

exp .../ = Explode MeSH term