

# Methods for the Dietary Assessment of Adult Kidney Stone Formers: A Scoping Review

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## Abstract

**Background** Kidney stones are a frequent and potential severe condition, affecting 5-10% of the European population. Causes are multifactorial, diet in particular plays a major role in the formation and management of kidney stones. The aim of this scoping review is to assess the methods used to study the diet of adult kidney stone formers.

**Methods** We conducted a systematic search in Medline Ovid SP, Embase, Cinahl, Cochrane (CENTRAL), Web of Sciences databases on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2020. Self-report methods (such as food frequency questionnaires or 24-h dietary recalls), objective nutritional biomarkers and controlled diets were considered. We analyzed the selected publications based on the origin of participants, study design and dietary assessment methods used.

**Results** We screened 871 publications and included 162 publications. Most studies included participants from North America and Europe and were observational. Short and cost-effective tools such as food frequency questionnaires and other questionnaires were the most frequently used. Moreover, food diary was a frequently selected method to study the diet of kidney stone

formers. New technologies (e.g online questionnaires, phone applications, connected tools) were rarely used.

**Conclusion** Accurate reporting of the methods used in nutritional studies is of key importance to interpret results and build evidence. Capturing long-term dietary intake is still a challenge for nutritional epidemiology. A combination of self-report methods with objective dietary biomarkers and new technologies probably represents the best way forward.

### **Keywords**

Kidney stones – dietary assessment – nutritional epidemiology – scoping review

**Supplementary Information** Full search equations; **Fig. 7** Number of publications per study with a FFQ; **Table 1** Description of included studies

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**Author contributions** OB and MB had the idea for the article. OB, MB and CL worked on the methodology of the review. TK, AB and CL did the selection of the publications and data extraction. CL analyzed the data and drafted the original manuscript. All authors critically revised the work and approved the final manuscript.

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### **Declarations**

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare they have no financial interests. OB is on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Nephrology.

**Ethics approval** Ethics approval was not required for this scoping review.

## **Introduction**

Kidney stones are one of the most common diseases of the urinary tract, with a prevalence estimated at 5-10 % in Europe [1]. This prevalence has been increasing in the last decades, with changes in nutritional and lifestyle habits or global warming as possible causes [1, 2]. Many studies have explored the association between diet and kidney stones, establishing dietary risk and protective factors [3-6].

Kidney stones are of great concern for public health because of their associated morbidity and cost [1, 7]. Efficient preventive measures, including dietary recommendations, are thus becoming more and more important [8]. In this context, nutritional studies are of key importance to learn more about the impact of diet on kidney stones.

There are two main categories of dietary assessment methods. First, self-report methods are based on participants' reports of their dietary consumption. These methods are based on recall (e.g. food frequency questionnaires (FFQ), 24-h dietary recalls) or based on real-time recordings (e.g. food diaries) [9-13]. Second, objective nutritional biomarkers are measured in biological samples such as blood, urine or nails [9-14]. Each method has strengths and limitations and different tools explore different aspects of food consumption [9-13].

The aim of this scoping review [15] is to assess the methods used to study the diet of adult kidney stone formers and provide a better understanding of how researchers conducted nutritional studies. This may help guiding further research and improving the quality of evidence in this field [16].

## **Methods**

The PRISMA-ScR checklist was used for reporting [17].

### *Search strategy*

We identified key words and prepared search equations specific to a database with the help of a librarian (Thomas Brauchli). We first defined the target population using terms such as “urolithiasis, kidney stone, urine calculi”. We then introduced the concept of dietary assessment with terms such as “nutrition assessment, diet records, eating, fluid consumption”, indicating more specifically methods of interest “24h recall, food frequency questionnaire, online questionnaire, photo app”. We finally added terms to exclude animal and pediatric studies “not animals, not infant, child”.

A systematic search of Medline Ovid SP, Embase, Cinahl, Cochrane (CENTRAL), Web of Sciences databases was conducted on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 by TB using those search equations. We did not include a time limit and we considered only articles written in English (full equations in Supplementary material).

We added seven publications of interest by “hand-searching” [6, 18-23]. Furthermore, as the search equations did not include metabolomics, we conducted a focus search in PubMed with the terms “metabolomics” and “kidney stones” in January 2021. This search gave 16 results, two publications were selected and added to the review [24, 25].

### *Eligibility criteria*

We selected publications that studied the diet of adult kidney stone formers. We were specifically interested in the dietary assessment methods and considered self-report methods (such as FFQs or 24-h dietary recalls), objective nutritional biomarkers and controlled diets (participants ingested a known amount of food and fluids) as this is another way of knowing the dietary intake of participants. Moreover, we added terms in the search equations to identify new technologies such as online questionnaires, phone applications or connected tools.

We included only studies in adult (>18 years old) stone formers. We considered kidney stone formers with associated conditions, such as diabetes or obesity. We excluded studies focusing on struvite stones, as their formation differs significantly from the other stone types. We also excluded comments, editorials or letters.

### *Study selection*

Two reviewers (AB and CL) did a first selection based on titles and abstracts using the online collaborative platform Rayyan (Rayyan Systems Inc.). When a disagreement occurred, discussion between the two reviewers was usually sufficient to reach a consensus. A third reviewer (OB) helped resolve the situations where an agreement could not be obtained.

After this first selection, two reviewers (TK and CL) screened the full-texts and extracted data from the publications. The final decision to include a publication was based upon agreement between the two reviewers (TK and CL).

### *Data extraction*

Data from a publication was extracted by only one reviewer (TK or CL) using a standardized extraction table in Microsoft Office Excel version 2016. The team (OB, MB, TK and CL) discussed together the items chosen for the extraction table. The extraction table was then first tested on a subset of publications and some items were added or clarified. The final extraction table included:

- data relative to the identification of the paper: title, author, journal, year of publication, country
- data relative to the design of the study: type of study, start and end dates, total study duration, name of the cohort and duration of follow-up if applicable, selection and matching criteria for case-control studies

- data relative to the participants: number of participants, number of patients/controls, age, sex (proportion male/female), BMI, ethnicity
- data relative to the method used: for self-report methods, details about duration and recurrence of record; for objective biomarkers, details about measured variables; elements of diet investigated; validation of the tool
- a short summary of the aims and principal results of the study

### *Data synthesis*

We summarized the characteristics of the studies based on the origin of participants, study design and methods used. We described the methods in terms of number of publications. For the 24-h urine collections and other timed-urine samples, if the value of at least one of the sodium, potassium, urea, oxalate, citrate excretions or urinary volume was reported in a publication, we considered that a urinary biomarker was available. For spot urine, we considered pH in addition to the previously mentioned values. For the blood samples, if the value of at least one of the items glucose, lipid profile, micronutrients (vitamins and minerals), ferritin, albumin, urea or uric acid was given in the publication, we considered that a blood biomarker was available.

We then described in more details the characteristics of the 24-h urine collections. For this description, we worked in terms of studies and not publications. Thus, if at least one publication related to the same study described a 24-h urine collection, we considered that it was available in the study.

## **Results**

We included 162 publications in this review. Several publications were related to the same study, this selection represents 122 independent studies (see **Table 1** in the

Supplementary material). **Fig. 1** shows the selection process for the included publications. In most publications, participants were recruited in North America (n=64 publications, 40%) and Europe (n=53 publications, 33%), whereas Asia (n=25 publications, 15%), South America (n=10 publications, 6%), the Middle East (n=7 publications, 4%) and Africa (n=3 publications, 2%) were less represented (**Fig. 2**).

The design was observational in 122 publications (75%) and interventional in 40 (25%). **Fig. 3a** shows the number of publications for the different types of observational studies. We split the design of observational studies into cross-sectional studies (n=48 publications, 39%), cohorts (n=39 publications, 32%) and case-control studies (n=35 publications, 29%). **Fig. 3b** represents the number of publications for the different types of interventional studies, split into randomized controlled trials (RCT) (n=11 publications, 27%) and other studies with an experimental setting but without randomization, labelled as quasi-experimental (n=29 publications, 73%).

Self-report dietary assessment methods were described in 155 publications (96%) (**Fig. 4**). In this category, FFQs were the most frequently used (n=73 publications, 47%) and 24-h dietary recalls the least frequently used (n=8 publications, 5%). As shown in **Fig. 7** (Supplementary material), 30 publications using a FFQ were related to the Nurses' Health Study I, II and Health Professionals Follow-Up Studies.

There are different types of FFQs. Some FFQs look only at the frequency of consumption, whereas semi-quantitative FFQs look at the frequency as well as the portions consumed. For FFQs without details about portions, it is still possible to obtain dietary intake by applying standard size portions [26]. However, semi-quantitative FFQs allow for a more precise estimation of the daily intakes. The authors described the FFQs as semi-quantitative in 53 publications (including the 30 publications related to the NHS and HPFS studies that used

similar FFQs). In two publications, only the beverages were quantified. In one publication, another self-report method was used to obtain the quantities and combined with the FFQ to generate the intake and in 3 publications, the investigators reported the frequency of consumption and not the intake. Finally, in the other publications (n=14), we could not determine if the FFQ was semi-quantitative or if a standard size portion had been applied afterwards to generate the intake. This shows the importance of precisely describing the method used. It also calls for a standardization of the description of such method.

Food diaries were used in 47 publications (30%) and other questionnaires in 27 publications (17%). Food diaries were collected for a period of 7 days in 8 publications (17%), 4 days in 5 publications (11%), 3 days in 24 publications (51%) and 1 day in 5 publications (11%). Participants were placed under controlled diets in 25 publications (15%). Only a few studies (n= 4 publications, 2%) used regional or national food distribution data or household food purchases registries to study the diet.

The value for at least one urinary biomarker was indicated in 95 publications (59%), with 24-h urine collections for 85 publications (89%), other timed-urine for 6 publications (6%) and spot urine samples for 4 publications (4%). The three metabolomic studies included urine samples. The value for at least one blood biomarker was indicated in 45 publications (28%).

In the following sections, we considered the 24-h urine collections in terms of studies and not publications. **Fig. 5a** indicates the number of studies with and without 24-h urine collections and **Fig. 5b** shows the repartition of the different types of collections performed: single collection and repeated consecutive or non-consecutive collections. Twenty-four hours urine collections were available in 81 studies (66%) and 41 studies (34%) did not have 24-h urine collections.



Most studies with 24-h urine had repeated collections: 11 studies (14 %) had repeated consecutive and 44 studies (54 %) had repeated non-consecutive collections. All 11 studies with repeated consecutive collections were performed during two consecutive days. In four studies, both repeated consecutive and repeated non-consecutive collections were done. Concerning the non-consecutive repeated collections, the time interval between the collections was not always reported and when reported, it was highly variable and depended on the study design. Finally, 31 studies (38%) had a single 24-h urine collection.

**Fig. 6** shows the number of studies with results on 24-h urinary biomarkers. Excretion rate was reported for sodium (55 studies), potassium (42 studies), urea (24 studies), oxalate (60 studies), citrate (55 studies) and urinary volume (59 studies).

## **Discussion**

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first scoping review addressing the methods used to evaluate the diet of kidney stone formers. We identified reviews on dietary assessment methods but those were not focused on kidney stone formers [16, 27, 28].

Short and self-addressed dietary assessment methods, such as FFQs or other questionnaires were preferred over methods that need more time or resources, such as 24-h dietary recalls. Previous reviews [16, 27, 28] also showed that FFQs were the most common choice to evaluate dietary intake and that 24-h dietary recalls were less often performed.

FFQs and other questionnaires consist of a pre-established and close-ended set of questions about food and beverage consumption [12] and are developed for a specific research question and a given population [12]. A questionnaire developed for a study can focus on certain aspects of the diet or be more general, depending on the aim of the study [11]. Validity of FFQs on different populations can thus be limited due to cultural specificities and their

validity should be assessed before using them in a new setting [9, 29, 30]. Methods for the validation of FFQs are described in the literature [29, 31].

On the 73 publications that used FFQs, 54 (74%) specified that the FFQ was validated (of which 30 publications were linked to the same study and used the same FFQ) and 19 publications (26%) did not. Few details on the development and validation process were provided for other questionnaires. Overall, the description of the method used varied across studies. Details on the development of FFQs and other questionnaires, in particular for which population they were developed or their validity, were not available for all studies. This calls for the development of guidelines on how to prepare, validate and report FFQs in future studies.

Food diaries and 24-h dietary recalls seem to be rarely used to evaluate dietary intake in nutritional studies [16, 27] but are often used as references in validation studies [28]. We found that food diaries were used in nearly a third of the studies. Pragmatic aspects arising from 24-h urine collection performed in stone formers might favor this method. Indeed, when collected simultaneously, it is possible to compare nutritional data from the food diaries and urinary objective biomarkers measured in 24-h urine collections.

We included specific terms in the search equations for new technologies such as “online questionnaire\* OR photo app\* OR photo phone app\* OR smart bottle\*”. Several studies mentioned online questionnaires or web applications but overall, even in the more recent papers, new technologies do not seem to be frequently used for the dietary assessment of kidney stone formers. As diet and its links to various health issues are increasingly studied nowadays, new technologies could help improve dietary assessment [32, 33]. It would be interesting to follow the use of those tools in kidney stone research in future reviews.

Twenty-four hour urine collections are used for the metabolic evaluation of kidney stone formers [8] and are often done in both clinical and research settings. In most studies included in our review, 24-h urine collections were available, but the type of collection varied (single, repeated consecutive or non-consecutive). It is important to check the quality and completeness of the collections before analyzing their composition and measuring objective nutritional biomarkers [34]. Several criteria exist to assess the quality of 24-h urine collections [35-37]. We observed that the criteria used to evaluate the quality and completeness of the 24-h urine collections varied across studies.

We considered 24-h urinary nitrogen, sodium, potassium, volume, oxalate and citrate as objective nutritional biomarkers. 24-h urinary nitrogen (referred as urea in our review), sodium and potassium are accurate proxies for the dietary intake of protein, sodium and potassium, respectively [38-41]. Urinary oxalate is mainly derived from endogenous metabolism [42, 43] but a previous study showed that dietary consumption could contribute up to 50 % of the urinary oxalate excretion [43]. Similarly, diet has an impact on citrate excretion [44] and dietary interventions can be used in case of hypocitraturia [45]. Finally, urinary volume was found to correlate with volume intake [46].

We found that oxalate and citrate excretions were frequently assessed, while urea was rarely reported [38]. Overall, the choice of biomarkers in 24-h urine collections is not standardized and still a matter of debate [47]. New urinary biomarkers are identified [44] and metabolomic studies are promising. For instance, a study identified a urinary amino acid profile specific to kidney stone formers [25].

Overall, self-report methods, especially FFQs and other questionnaires, are widely used in research. Indeed, FFQs are a timesaving and cost-effective method that can be easily administered to a large number of participants [12]. Yet, as mentioned previously, these types

of questionnaires cover only a set of pre-determined foods and beverages and should be validated before use [12]. On the other hand, food diaries or 24-h dietary recalls require more resources but can capture in detail foods and beverages consumed over a short period [9]. However, a single day diary or recall does not give a good representation of usual dietary intakes [9]. Moreover, all those self-report methods are subject to error and biases [9, 48], for instance when measuring protein or total energy intake [48, 49]. Some recommendations have been developed to correct for possible sources of errors when using those methods, for instance combining with objective biomarkers or using statistical methods to generate the usual intake [9, 48, 50]. The 24-h dietary recalls are considered the least biased of this category and the best instrument to measure dietary intake as well as look at associations between diet and health, but they need to be repeated several times to provide better insight on usual dietary intakes [10].

There are different types of objective nutritional biomarkers [9-12, 14]. Recovery biomarkers, such as 24 h urinary nitrogen, sodium or potassium, are directly related to dietary intake [9-11, 38-40]. However, investigators identified that 24-h urine values of sodium and potassium do not reflect well individual sodium and potassium intake, unless repeated collections are performed [41]. Other objective biomarkers such as predictive (e.g 24-h urinary fructose and sucrose) or concentration (e.g fatty acids measured in adipose tissues or vitamins in blood) biomarkers are correlated with the intake but can be affected by individual metabolism [9, 11]. Objective biomarkers are thus an interesting tool to validate or measure more precisely the dietary intake [9, 11, 14] but, those markers still have limitations and for now, only a limited number are available. Recommendations for future research are to combine several methods, either two self-report methods such as FFQs and 24-h dietary recalls or self-report methods and objective biomarkers [10-12].

The metabolic evaluation of kidney stone formers in clinical practice is complex and includes medical and nutritional history to identify environmental, metabolic and genetic risk factors but also laboratory analyses (24-h urine and serum, stone composition) [8, 51-53]. Guidelines have been published regarding indications for the metabolic evaluation and recurrence prevention [53] depending on the population (high-risk or low-risk stone formers) and the type of stone.

Many studies were conducted in North America or in Europe and knowledge in this domain mostly comes from large American cohorts [54-56]. However, diet is highly variable across populations [9, 30, 57, 58] and it would be important to check if the same dietary recommendations are valid in other countries.

Furthermore, most studies had an observational design and among interventional studies, there were few RCTs. Interventional nutritional studies are more difficult to conduct as blinding and randomization are not always feasible. It is difficult to plan and maintain RCTs over long periods. RCTs also usually do not reflect real-life settings and have therefore limited external validity.

Finally, many studies in our review relied on punctual dietary assessment, with cross-sectional studies or single 24-h urine collections and did not evaluate diet longitudinally. This is a clear limitation for usual food intake evaluation. Indeed, long-term diet is an important exposure for surveillance and epidemiology to study health-related outcomes [9].

We included various study designs to have an overview of the literature and considered many research questions and approaches. With the different methodologies in our selection, certain methods can be appropriate for a given purpose but not for another. Hence, we cannot draw a general conclusion concerning the different methods that would be

applicable to all study designs. Moreover, we conducted a systematic search of the literature but it is possible that we missed some publications of interest.

## **Conclusion**

Given the role of diet in kidney stone formation, it is important to know how research is conducted in this field to inform future studies. Self-report methods and especially FFQs are the most frequently used and knowledge in this field is mainly based on observational data and Western diets. Overall, we observed that there is heterogeneity in the methodology description.

We thus want to stress the importance of precisely reporting the methodology used to collect dietary data, as it is a key element to interpret the results and build evidence. In addition, it is important to evaluate the impact of different diets on stone formation and when possible try to implement longitudinal or interventional studies. Finally, the combination of self-report methods with objective dietary biomarkers, including blood and urine metabolomic analyses, as well as smartphone applications to take pictures of meals will represent the best way forward.

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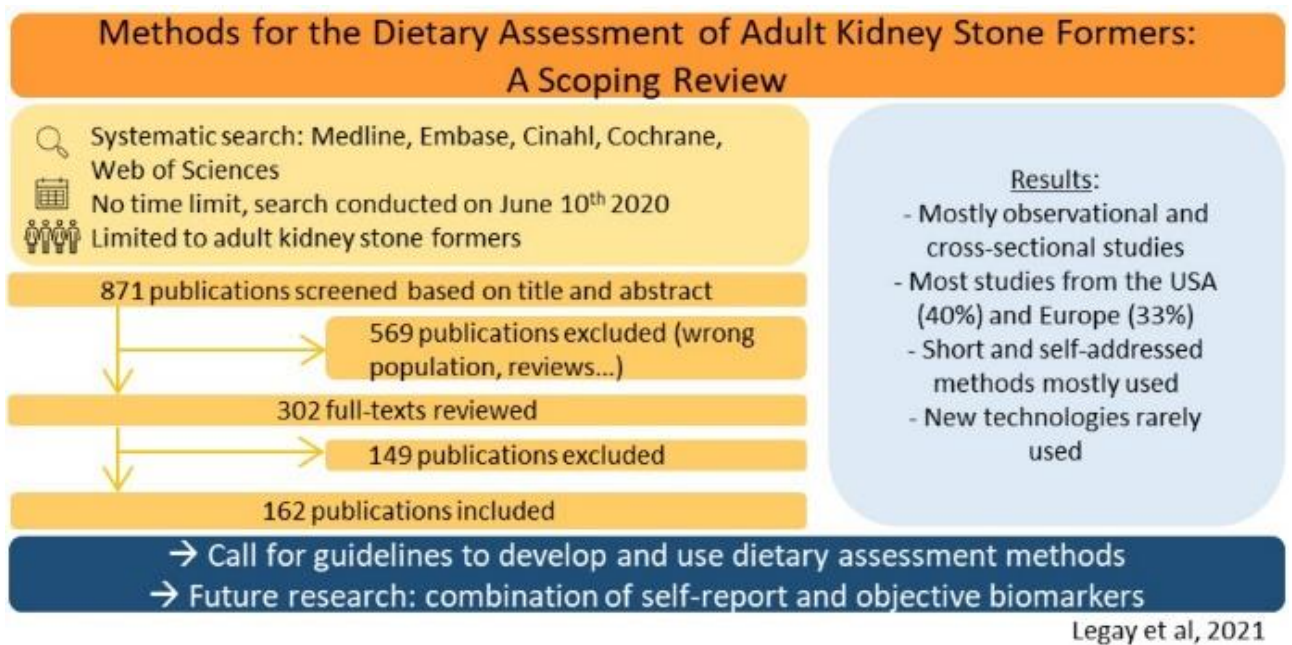
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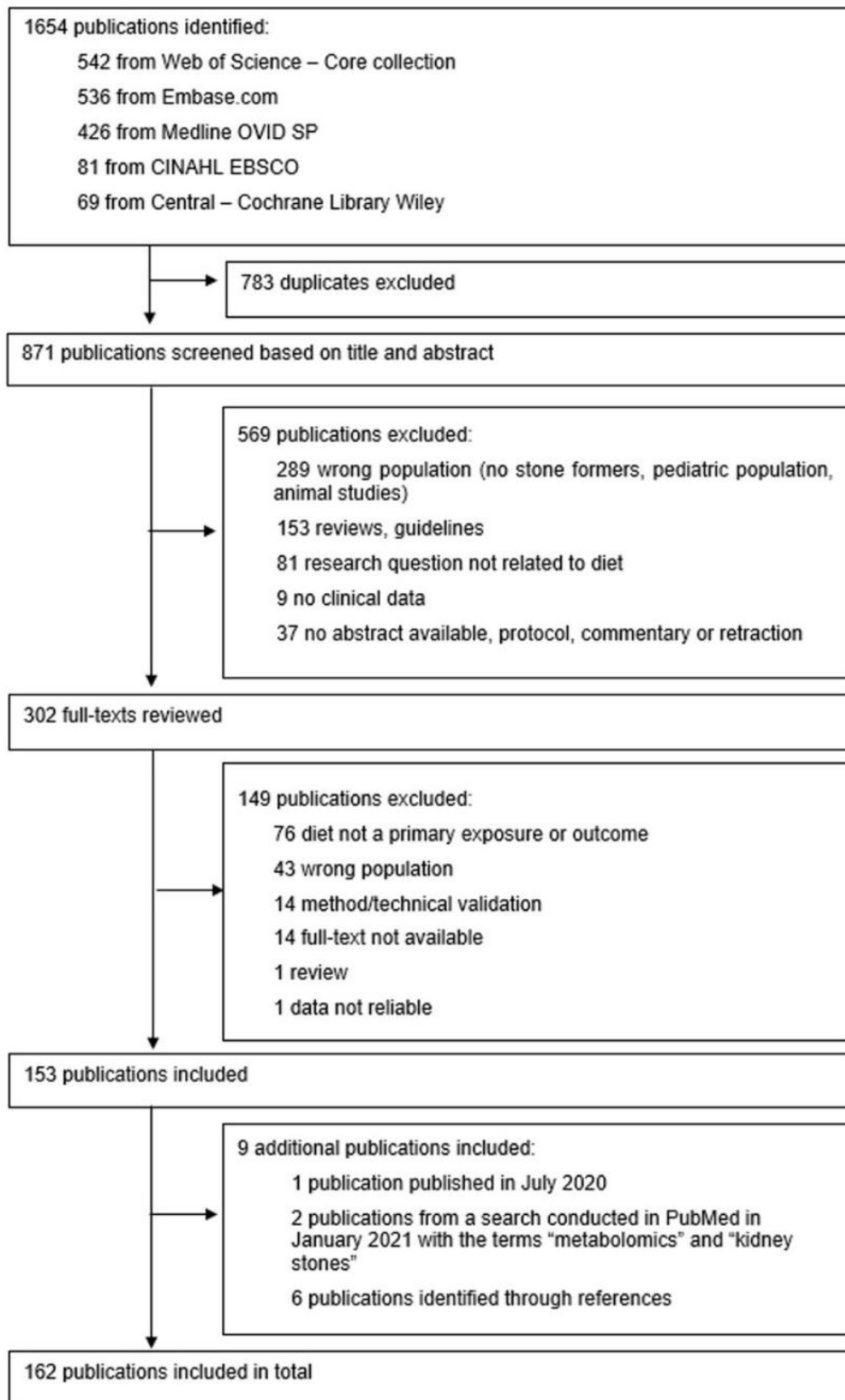


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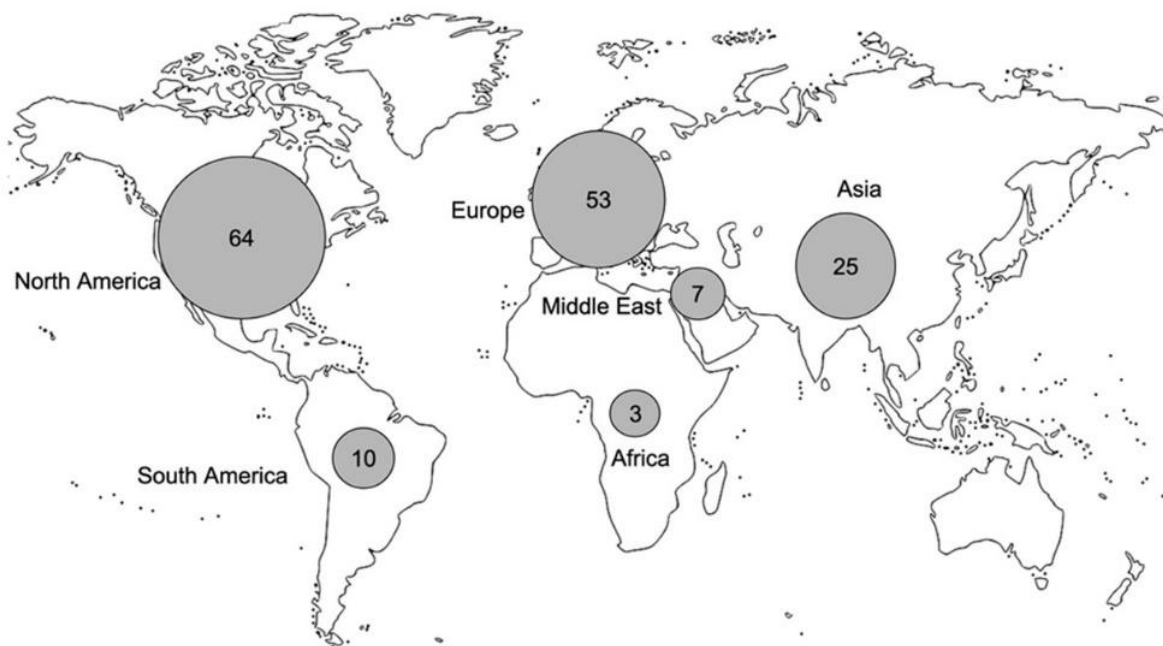
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## Figures





**Fig. 1** Flow-chart representing the selection process of the publications included in the review



**Fig. 2** Origin of the participants in the publications

North America region includes Canada, Puerto Rico and the USA

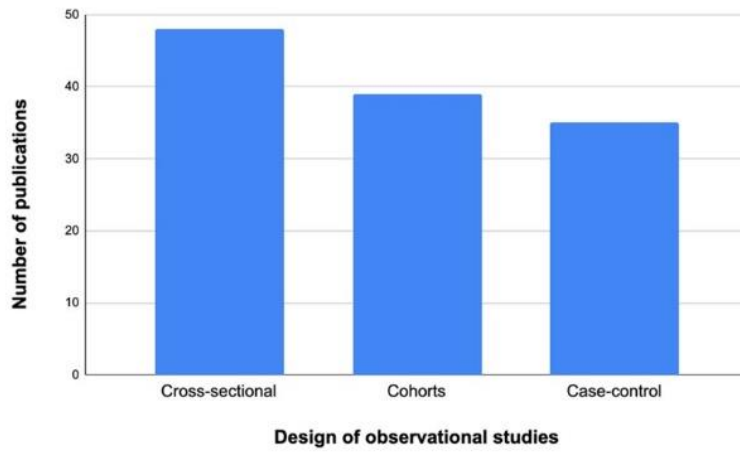
South America region includes Brazil

Europe region includes Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK

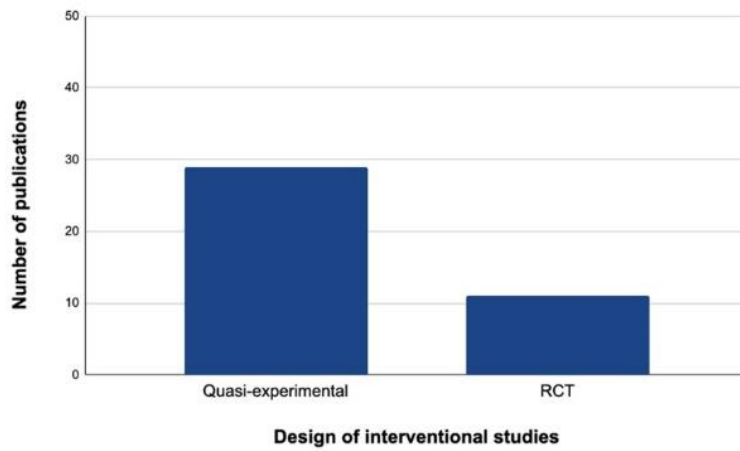
Middle East region includes Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkey

Africa region includes Morocco and South Africa

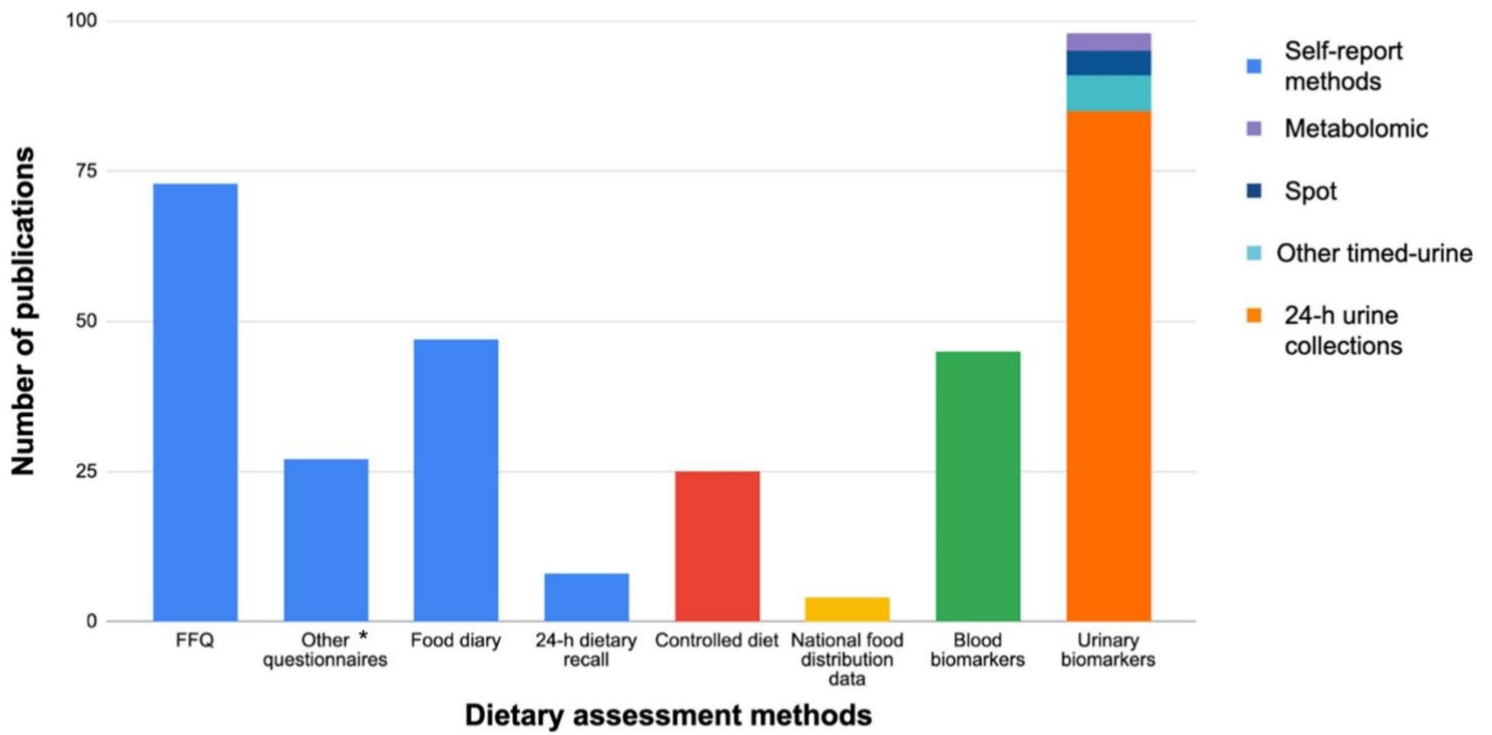
Asia region includes China, India, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, Taiwan and Thailand



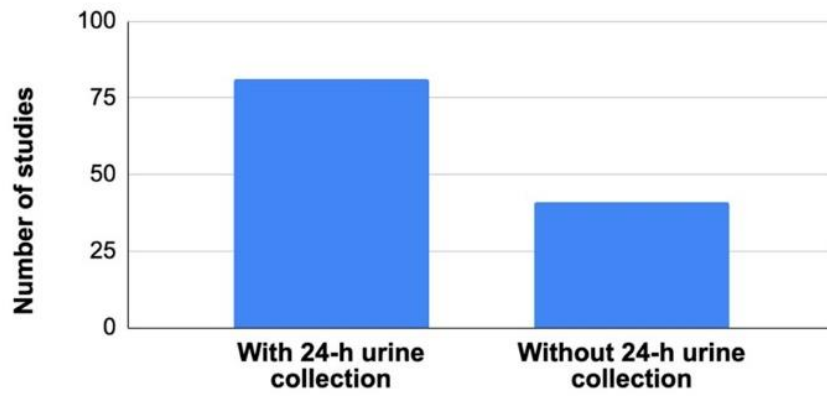
**Fig. 3a** Number of publications for each type of observational studies (n=122)



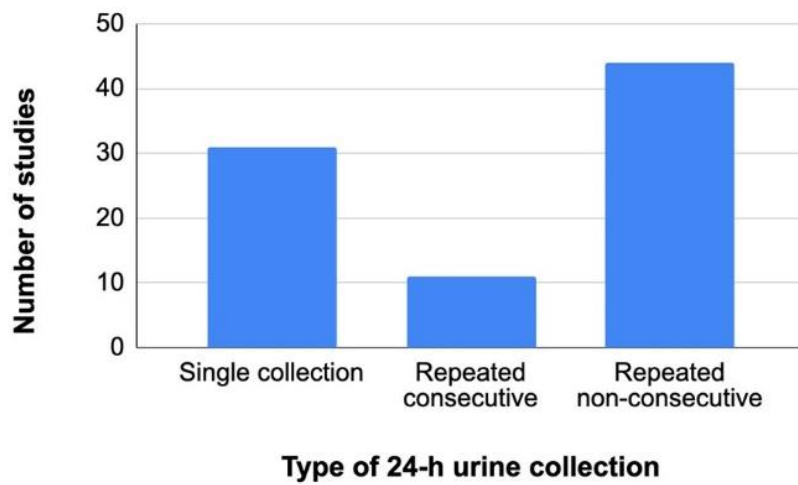
**Fig. 3b** Number of publications for each type of interventional studies (n=40)



**Fig. 4** Number of publications per dietary assessment method (n=162)  
 \* other questionnaires include diet history and non-FFQ questionnaires

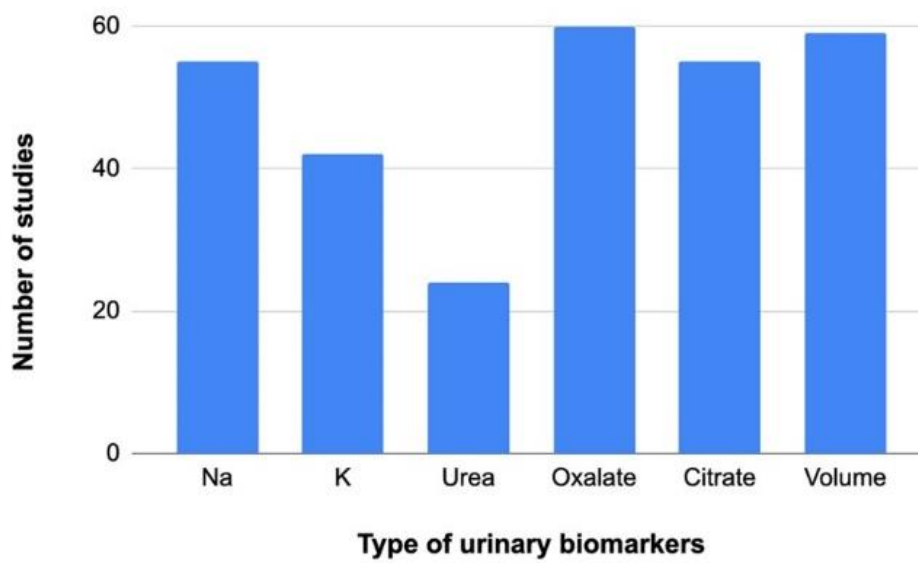


**Fig. 5a** Number of studies with or without 24-h urine collections available (n=122)



**Fig. 5b** Number of studies per type of 24-h urine collection (n=81)





**Fig. 6** Number of studies per type of urinary biomarkers measured in the 24-h urine collections (n=81)

The number of studies represents the studies in which the values of the biomarkers were reported in at least one publication based on this study

## Supplementary material

### Full search equations

#### Medline Ovid SP

(Urolithiasis/ OR exp Nephrolithiasis/ OR kidney lithiasis.ti,ab,kf. OR nephrolithiasis.ti,ab,kf. OR renal lithiasis.ti,ab,kf. OR renolithiasis.ti,ab,kf. OR ((kidney OR renal) adj2 (calcul\* OR stone\*)).ti,ab,kf. OR (urinary calcul\* OR urinary lithiasis OR urinary stone\* OR urinary tract calcul\* OR urinary tract lithiasis OR urinary tract stone\* OR urine calcul\* OR urine lithiasis OR urine stone\* OR uro-lithiasis OR urocalcul\* OR urolith OR urolithiasis OR urolithogenesis OR urologic calcul\* OR urological calcul\*).ti,ab,kf.) AND (Nutrition Assessment/ OR Diet Records/ OR Mobile Applications/ OR ((diet\* OR eating OR fluid consumption OR fluid intake OR food OR nutrient\* OR nutrition\*) adj3 (assess\* OR behavior\$\* OR biochemical analysis OR biochemistry OR diaries OR diary OR evaluat\* OR habit\$ OR measur\* OR record\*)).ti,ab,kf. OR ((biological marker\* OR biomarker\*).ti,ab,kf,sh. AND (diet\* OR food OR nutrit\*).ti,ab,kf,hw.) OR (24h recall OR 24hour recall OR 24-hour recall OR 24h urine collection OR 24hour urine collection OR 24-hour urine collection OR FFQ OR food frequency questionnaire OR online questionnaire\* OR photo app\* OR photo phone app\* OR smart bottle\*).ti,ab,kf.) AND English.lg. NOT (exp animals/ not humans/) NOT ((exp Infant/ OR exp Child/ OR Adolescent/) not exp Adult/) NOT (comment/ or editorial/ or letter/)

As of June 10th 2020, 426 references found.

#### Embase.com

('urolithiasis'/de OR 'nephrolithiasis'/de OR 'kidney lithiasis':ti,ab,kw OR 'nephrolithiasis':ti,ab,kw OR 'renal lithiasis':ti,ab,kw OR 'renolithiasis':ti,ab,kw OR ((kidney OR renal) NEAR/2 (calcul\* OR stone\*)):ti,ab,kw OR ('urinary calcul\*' OR 'urinary lithiasis' OR 'urinary stone\*' OR 'urinary tract calcul\*' OR 'urinary tract lithiasis' OR 'urinary tract stone\*' OR 'urine calcul\*' OR 'urine lithiasis' OR 'urine stone\*' OR 'uro-lithiasis' OR urocalcul\* OR urolith OR urolithiasis OR urolithogenesis OR 'urologic calcul\*' OR 'urological calcul\*'):ti,ab,kw) AND ('nutritional assessment'/de OR 'food frequency questionnaire'/de OR 'mobile application'/exp OR ((diet\* OR eating OR 'fluid consumption' OR 'fluid intake' OR food OR nutrient\* OR nutrition\*) NEAR/3 (assess\* OR behavior\$r\* OR 'biochemical analysis' OR biochemistry OR diaries OR diary OR evaluat\* OR habit\$ OR measur\* OR record\*)):ti,ab,kw OR (('biological marker\*' OR biomarker\*):ti,ab,kw,de AND (diet\* OR food OR nutrit\*):ti,ab,kw,de) OR ('24h recall' OR '24hour recall' OR '24-hour recall' OR '24h urine collection' OR '24hour urine collection' OR '24-hour urine collection' OR FFQ OR 'food frequency questionnaire' OR 'online questionnaire\*' OR 'photo app\*' OR 'photo phone app\*' OR 'smart bottle\*'):ti,ab,kw) AND [english]/lim NOT ([animals]/lim NOT [humans]/lim) NOT ('juvenile'/exp NOT 'adult'/exp) NOT ('conference abstract'/it OR 'conference review'/it OR 'editorial'/it OR 'letter'/it)

As of June 10th 2020, 536 references found.

#### CINAHL EBSCO

(MH "Urolithiasis" OR TI "kidney lithiasis" OR AB "kidney lithiasis" OR TI nephrolithiasis OR AB nephrolithiasis OR TI "renal lithiasis" OR AB "renal lithiasis" OR TI renolithiasis OR AB renolithiasis OR ((TI kidney OR AB kidney OR TI renal OR AB renal) N2 (TI calcul\* OR AB calcul\* OR TI stone\* OR AB stone\*)) OR TI "urinary calcul\*" OR AB "urinary calcul\*" OR TI "urinary lithiasis" OR AB "urinary lithiasis" OR TI "urinary stone\*" OR AB "urinary stone\*" OR TI "urinary tract calcul\*" OR AB "urinary tract calcul\*" OR TI "urinary tract lithiasis" OR AB "urinary tract lithiasis" OR TI "urinary tract stone\*" OR AB "urinary tract stone\*" OR TI "urine calcul\*" OR AB "urine calcul\*" OR TI "urine lithiasis" OR AB "urine lithiasis" OR TI "urine stone\*" OR AB "urine stone\*" OR TI uro-lithiasis OR AB uro-lithiasis OR TI urocalcul\* OR AB urocalcul\* OR TI urolith OR AB urolith OR TI urolithiasis OR AB urolithiasis OR TI urolithogenesis OR AB urolithogenesis OR TI "urologic calcul\*" OR AB "urologic calcul\*" OR TI "urological calcul\*" OR AB "urological calcul\*")

AND

(MH "Nutritional Assessment" OR MH "Diet Records" OR MH "Mobile Applications" OR ((TI diet\* OR AB diet\* OR TI eating OR AB eating OR TI "fluid consumption" OR AB "fluid consumption" OR TI "fluid intake" OR AB "fluid intake" OR TI food OR AB food OR TI nutrient\* OR AB nutrient\* OR TI nutrition\* OR AB nutrition\*)) N3 (TI assess\* OR AB assess\* OR TI behavior## OR AB behavior## OR TI "biochemical analysis" OR AB "biochemical analysis" OR TI biochemistry OR AB biochemistry OR TI diaries OR AB diaries OR TI diary OR AB diary OR TI evaluat\* OR AB evaluat\* OR TI habit\* OR AB habit\* OR TI measur\* OR AB measur\* OR TI record\* OR AB record\*)) OR ((TI "biological marker\*" OR AB "biological marker\*" OR TI biomarker\* OR AB biomarker\*) AND (TI diet\* OR AB diet\* OR TI food OR AB food OR TI nutrit\* OR AB nutrit\*)) OR (TI "24h recall" OR AB "24h recall" OR TI "24hour recall" OR AB "24hour recall" OR TI "24-hour recall" OR AB "24-hour recall" OR TI "24h urine collection" OR AB "24h urine collection" OR TI "24hour urine collection" OR AB "24hour urine collection" OR TI "24-hour urine collection" OR AB "24-hour urine collection" OR TI FFQ OR AB FFQ OR TI "food frequency questionnaire" OR AB "food frequency questionnaire" OR TI "online questionnaire\*" OR AB "online questionnaire\*" OR TI "photo app\*" OR AB "photo app\*" OR TI "photo phone app\*" OR AB "photo phone app\*" OR TI "smart bottle\*" OR AB "smart bottle\*"))

NOT (((MH "Child+") OR (MH "Adolescence+")) NOT (MH "Adult+"))

As of June 10th 2020, 81 references found.

### Central - Cochrane Library Wiley

(urolithiasis OR "kidney lithiasis" OR nephrolithiasis OR "renal lithiasis" OR renolithiasis OR ((kidney OR renal) NEAR/2 (calcul\* OR stone\*)) OR "urinary calcul\*" OR "urinary lithiasis" OR "urinary stone\*" OR "urinary tract calcul\*" OR "urinary tract lithiasis" OR "urinary tract stone\*" OR "urine calcul\*" OR "urine lithiasis" OR "urine stone\*" OR uro-lithiasis OR urocalcul\* OR urolith OR urolithiasis OR urolithogenesis OR "urologic calcul\*" OR "urological calcul\*") AND (((diet\* OR eating OR "fluid consumption" OR "fluid intake" OR food OR nutrient\* OR nutrition\*) NEAR/3 (assess\* OR behavior\* OR behaviour\* OR "biochemical analysis" OR biochemistry OR diaries OR diary OR evaluat\* OR habit OR habits OR measur\* OR record\*)) OR (("biological marker\*" OR biomarker\*) AND (diet\* OR food

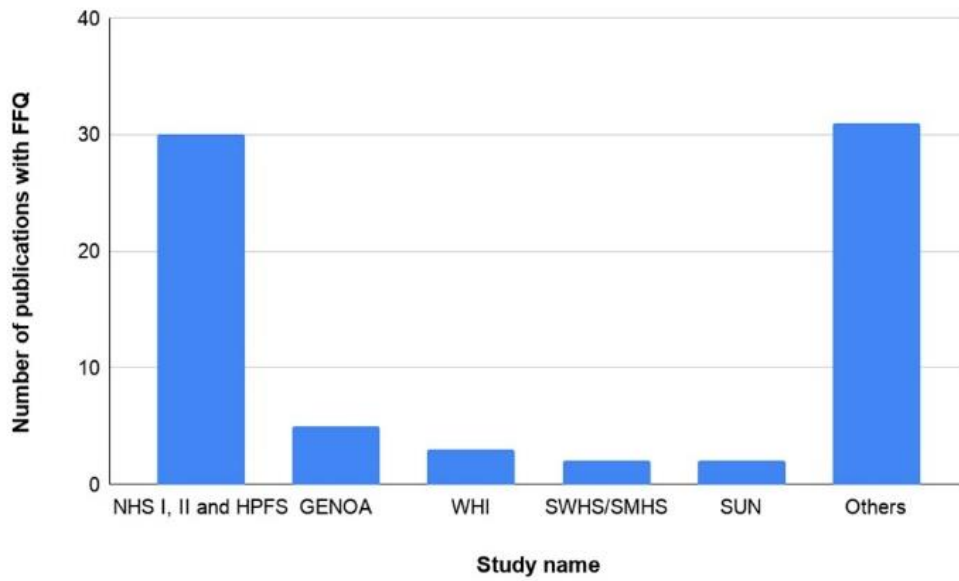
OR nutrit\*)) OR ("24h recall" OR "24hour recall" OR "24-hour recall" OR "24h urine collection" OR "24hour urine collection" OR "24-hour urine collection" OR FFQ OR "food frequency questionnaire" OR "mobile application\*" OR "online questionnaire\*" OR "photo app\*" OR "photo phone app\*" OR "smart bottle\*"))

As of June 10th 2020, 69 references found.

### **Web of Science – Core collection\***

(urolithiasis OR "kidney lithiasis" OR nephrolithiasis OR "renal lithiasis" OR renolithiasis OR ((kidney OR renal) NEAR/2 (calcul\* OR stone\*)) OR "urinary calcul\*" OR "urinary lithiasis" OR "urinary stone\*" OR "urinary tract calcul\*" OR "urinary tract lithiasis" OR "urinary tract stone\*" OR "urine calcul\*" OR "urine lithiasis" OR "urine stone\*" OR uro-lithiasis OR urocalcul\* OR urolith OR urolithiasis OR urolithogenesis OR "urologic calcul\*" OR "urological calcul\*") AND (((diet\* OR eating OR "fluid consumption" OR "fluid intake" OR food OR nutrient\* OR nutrition\*) NEAR/3 (assess\* OR behavior\* OR behaviour\* OR "biochemical analysis" OR biochemistry OR diaries OR diary OR evaluat\* OR habit OR habits OR measur\* OR record\*)) OR (("biological marker\*" OR biomarker\*) AND (diet\* OR food OR nutrit\*)) OR ("24h recall" OR "24hour recall" OR "24-hour recall" OR "24h urine collection" OR "24hour urine collection" OR "24-hour urine collection" OR FFQ OR "food frequency questionnaire" OR "mobile application\*" OR "online questionnaire\*" OR "photo app\*" OR "photo phone app\*" OR "smart bottle\*")) NOT ((Child\* OR Adolescen\*) NOT adult))

As of June 10th 2020, 542 references found.



**Fig.7** Number of publications per study with a FFQ (n=73)

NHS I and II: Nurses' Health Study I and II

HPFS: Health Professionals Follow-Up Study

GENOA: The Genetic Epidemiology Network of Arteriopathy cohort

WHI: The Women's Health Initiative Observational Study

SWHS/SMHS: Shanghai Women's Health Study and Shanghai Men's Health Study

SUN: The Seguimiento Universidad de Navarra

**Table 1** Description of included studies

Study Name	Number of publications	Observational design	Interventional design	References
Studies with multiple publications	48	47	1	
NHS I and II, HPFS *	30	30	0	[1-30]
GENOA †	5	5	0	[31-35]
WHI ‡	3	3	0	[36-38]
SUN §	2	2	0	[39, 40]
SWHS and SMHS ¶	2	2	0	[41, 42]
Bonn Urolithiasis Follow-up Study	2	1	1	[43, 44]
Naya et al.	2	2	0	[45, 46]
Damasio et al.	2	2	0	[47, 48]
Studies with a single publication	114	75	39	[49-162]
Total	162	122	40	

\* Nurses' Health Study I and II, Health Professionals Follow-Up Study

† The Genetic Epidemiology Network of Arteriopathy cohort

‡ The Women's Health Initiative Observational Study

§ The Seguimiento Universidad de Navarra

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