Supplementary Table 1. Characteristics of prospective studies on cholesterol and breast cancer risk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Study characteristics *</th>
<th>Participants characteristics †</th>
<th>Cholesterol parameter</th>
<th>Biofluid and conditions of blood sample storage ‡</th>
<th>Preclinical bias taken into account</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vatten et al (1990) [14]</td>
<td>Name: 1974-1977 Norwegian Cohort Norway 1974-1977 Length of follow-up: 14 years Design: Cohort</td>
<td>N=24329 N=242 cases Ethnicity: Not stated Age: 25-51y 57.4% &lt; 51y - 42.6% ≥51y at diagnostic</td>
<td>T-C</td>
<td>Serum Storage conditions: Not stated Fasting: No</td>
<td>Yes: exclusion of the first 3 years of follow-up tested</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Year Range</td>
<td>Length of follow-up</td>
<td>Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoyer et al (1992)</td>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>1964-1986</td>
<td>26 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaard et al (1994)</td>
<td>1977–1983 Norwegian Cohort</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>1977-1983</td>
<td>10.4 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steenland et al (1995)</td>
<td>NHANES 1</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1971-1975</td>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
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<td>Moorman et al (1998)</td>
<td>KPMCP</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1964-1971</td>
<td>Not stated</td>
<td>Nested case-control</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Start-End Year</td>
<td>Length of Follow-up</td>
<td>Design</td>
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<td>Furberg et al</td>
<td>Norwegian Cohort</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>1977–1983 and 1985–1987</td>
<td>17.7 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliassen et al</td>
<td>Nurses’ Health Study</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1988-1994</td>
<td>9.5 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kucharska-Newton</td>
<td>ARIC</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1987-1989</td>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inoue et al</td>
<td>JPHC</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Length of follow-up</td>
<td>Design</td>
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<td>Iso et al (2009)[20]</td>
<td>JPHC</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1990-1994</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kabat et al (2009)[26]</td>
<td>WHI</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1993-1998</td>
<td>8 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bjorge et al (2010)[33]</td>
<td>Me-Can</td>
<td>Austria, Norway, Sweden</td>
<td>1974-2005</td>
<td>11 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Length of follow-up</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td>N</td>
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<td>Kitahara et al (2011)[5]</td>
<td>NHIC</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
<td>N=433115</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N=3805 cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosco et al (2012)[6]</td>
<td>BWHS</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>10.5 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
<td>N=49172</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>N=1228 cases</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>N=77 cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melvin et al (2012)[7]</td>
<td>AMORIS</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>8.3 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
<td>N=34494</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N=6105 cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strohmaier et al (2013)[10]</td>
<td>Me-Can</td>
<td>Austria, Norway, Sweden</td>
<td>8.3 years</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
<td>N=288057</td>
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<td></td>
<td>N=5228 cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Length of follow-up: 11.7 years</td>
<td>Design: Cohort</td>
<td>Age: 44y (mean)</td>
<td>Fasting: Not for all subjects</td>
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<tr>
<td>His et al (2014)[9]</td>
<td>N=4453</td>
<td>N=141 cases</td>
<td>T-C</td>
<td>Serum</td>
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<td>SU.VI.MAX</td>
<td>1994–1995</td>
<td>Ethnicity: Not stated</td>
<td>HDL-C</td>
<td>Storage conditions: Not stated</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>11.5 years</td>
<td>Age: 60y (mean)</td>
<td>LDL-C</td>
<td>Fasting: Yes</td>
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<td>70.5% pre-menopausal – 29.5 post-menopausal</td>
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<td>ApoAI</td>
<td>Yes: exclusion of the first 2 years of follow-up tested</td>
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<td>Studies are chronologically ordered</td>
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<td>ApoB</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Study name, country (region or town), recruitment period, median follow-up, cohort or nested case-control
† Number of participants, numbers of breast cancer cases, ethnicity (%), mean age or age range (years), percentage of pre-menopausal and post-menopausal cases, other specific information
‡ Biofluid (serum, plasma), time between blood drawn and cholesterol analysis; storage condition, fasting status