

Potentially relevant publications identified from database searches, review of reference lists, and OVID automated reference alert system:

Medline=2062; Embase= 541; Web of Science=392 ; Pubmed = 103

Total number of papers retrieved: n = 3098

Total number after removing duplicate articles across databases: n= 2166

Publications excluded on the basis of title and abstract:

n= 2118

Retrieved full paper for further review

Total n =48

Excluded publications: n=22

- Compared fascin-1 in normal tissues versus tumours in the same patients [30,31] (n=2)
- Carried out studies in adenomas [5] (n=1), pleomorphic carcinomas [32] (n=1), or neuroendocrine tumours [33] (n=1)
- Did not report on relevant exposure [34] (n=1)
- Did not present outcomes on mortality, time-to-progression or metastasis [35-39] (n=5)
- Did not present results for mortality or metastasis [22,40-43] (n=5)
- Duplicate abstract or study [44-47] (n=4)
- Inability to categorise fascin-1 expression [48] (n=1)
- Unable to obtain one paper either electronically or after contacting the authors [49] (n=1)

Publications included in the meta-analysis: n=26

- Breast Carcinoma [19-21] (n=3)
- Colorectal Carcinoma [6,11,24,51,52,54,61-63] (n=9)
- Gastric Carcinoma [55-57] (n=3)
- Lung Carcinoma [50,53,64,65] (n=4)
- Oesophageal Carcinoma [7-9,58-60,66] (n=7)