

## **Ecological correlations between estimated gender-specific disease prevalence and lifestyle as well as diet in Japan (†T: Digestive cancer)**

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There is more and more interest in the problems of women's health recently. The objective of our ecological study was to explore the actual status of women's health problems from the standpoint of lifelong women's health care in Japan, by analyzing lifestyle and diet differences in estimated gender-specific prevalence of digestive cancer: cancer of stomach, colon and rectum. Based on the Patient Survey for 2002 and the 2000 Population Census of Japan, the age and estimated gender specific prevalence of digestive cancer was calculated for 47 prefectures by 3 age-groups categorized as 25-44, 45-64 and 65 years or older in 2002. The proportion of smokers, drinkers, hypertensive, subjects with obesity (Body Mass Index>25.0) and subjects who had physical activity as well as the average daily intake of 23 items foods according to medium classification from the National Nutrition Survey in 1996 were calculated by 3 age-groups (20-39, 40-59 and 60 years or older) in each gender, taking account of time-lag and the stability of the National Nutrition Survey. Multivariate analysis was applied to evaluate the risk of related factors for digestive cancer. SPSS 10.0 for Window was used for analysis. The results of our study showed ecological correlations between estimated prevalence and lifestyle as well as diet, although the related factors were different from each site of digestive cancer according to age and gender. The results also showed very little commonality in the related factors of males and females in term of estimated age-specific prevalence.