

Coffee Consumption, General Obesity and Abdominal Obesity in Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Cross-Sectional Studies

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Abstract

Background: Findings from cross-sectional studies on the association between coffee consumption and odds of obesity are inconsistent. We aimed to perform a meta-analysis of earlier cross-sectional studies on the association between coffee consumption and odds of obesity.

Materials and Methods: The online databases of PubMed, ISI Web of Science, Scopus, Science Direct, and EMBASE were systematically searched to identify relevant publications up to April 2023. Cross-sectional studies that considered coffee as the exposure and general and abdominal obesity as the outcome were included. Studies that had reported odds ratios (ORs) as effect size were included in the meta-analysis. To pool data, a random-effects model was used.

Results: In total, 23 studies were included in our systematic review. Twelve publications on general obesity and 15 publications on abdominal obesity were examined in the meta-analysis. Overall, 207551 individuals aged ≥ 19 years were included. With regards to general obesity, pooling 13 effect sizes from 12 cross-sectional studies showed that coffee intake was not associated with odds of general obesity (overall OR: 1.11; 95% CI: 0.92, 1.33). In subgroup analysis by gender, we found a significant positive association between coffee consumption and odds of general obesity in women (OR: 1.84; 95% CI: 1.51, 2.24). Concerning abdominal obesity, combining 18 effect sizes from 15 studies, we failed to find a significant association between coffee consumption and odds of abdominal obesity (OR: 1.03; 95% CI: 0.92, 1.15).

Conclusion: No significant association was found between coffee intake and odds of obesity. However, gender-stratified analyses revealed significant relationships.

Keywords: Coffee, meta-analysis, obesity

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INTRODUCTION

Coffee is one of the most frequently consumed beverages worldwide.^[1] Its contribution to human health is of great importance. Coffee contains hundreds of bioactive compounds such as caffeine, chlorogenic acid, vitamin E, niacin, potassium, magnesium, and various other micronutrients.^[2,3] The beneficial effects of these components on metabolic health have earlier been shown.^[4] Caffeine, polyphenols, and melanoidins seem to have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antifibrotic effects.^[5] Findings from previous studies have revealed that habitual coffee consumption is associated with reduced risk of several chronic diseases including diabetes,^[6] nonalcoholic fatty liver, metabolic syndrome,^[7] coronary heart diseases,^[8] and some types of cancers.^[9]

Obesity is a great health problem in the world and an important risk factor for a wide range of diseases.^[10] General obesity is defined as the abnormal or excessive accumulation of fat in the body (regardless of the place of its accumulation), but in abdominal obesity, there is an excessive concentration of visceral fat around the abdomen.^[11] According to the latest WHO reports, the prevalence of obesity among adults in the world is 16% in 2022,^[12] and a systematic review reported that 41.5% of people in the world have abdominal obesity.^[13]

Numerous studies have examined the association between coffee consumption and the odds of obesity. However, the results have been inconsistent. Some studies have reported that coffee consumption is inversely associated with obesity^[3,14-17]; others have observed no significant association.^[3,18-28] In addition, some publications demonstrated that coffee consumption might have a significant positive association with the odds of obesity.^[19,29-33] Findings of the latest published meta-analysis study on the relationship between coffee and obesity in observational studies revealed no significant relationship between coffee consumption and odds of general and abdominal obesity. However, a significant association was found between coffee consumption in women and increased odds of general obesity.^[34] However, several relevant observational studies about general^[3,16,22,29] and abdominal^[3,15,17,21,23,29,31] obesity were not included in that analysis.

Given the controversies among earlier studies, a current systematic review and meta-analysis were performed to investigate the association between coffee consumption and the odds of general and abdominal obesity among observational studies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study protocol was registered in the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO) database (<http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO>, registration number: CRD42018099403).

Literature search strategy

A broad range of electronic databases including PubMed, ISI Web of Science, Scopus, Science Direct, and EMBASE

were systematically searched for all articles investigating the association between coffee consumption and obesity up to April 2023. Our search terms included (coffee[tiab] OR Coffee[MESH] OR Caffeine[tiab] OR Caffeine[MESH] OR beverage[tiab] OR Beverages[MESH]) AND (obesity[tiab] OR Obesity[MESH] OR “body mass index”[tiab] OR Body Mass Index[MESH] OR BMI[tiab] OR adiposity[tiab] OR “waist circumference”[tiab] OR anthropometr*[tiab] OR Overweight[tiab] OR weight[tiab]). No restriction was considered in terms of time of publication and language. Reference lists of related articles were also reviewed to avoid missing any study.

Selection criteria: In this meta-analysis, studies that met the following criteria were included^[1]: studies that had a cross-sectional design^[2]; the exposure of interest was coffee consumption^[3]; and the outcome of interest was obesity. All studies that met these criteria and reported (ORs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the highest versus the lowest level of coffee consumption were included.

Excluded studies

Letters, notes, editorials, comments, short communications, reviews, meta-analyses, ecological studies, and animal studies were excluded. Other articles were excluded because they did not have (ORs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the highest versus the lowest level of coffee consumption,^[35-53] and those reported results for green coffee and also those studies assessed coffee consumption in combination with other lifestyle variables^[54] or in combination with tea.^[55-59]

Data extraction and quality assessment

Study selection and data extraction were independently performed by two investigators (MN and SS), and any discrepancy was resolved through discussion with AE and AM. Data were extracted using a standardized extraction form. The Cohen's kappa analysis^[60] was performed to measure the inter-rater reliability between two investigators, and the result demonstrated that there is a perfect agreement between investigators (kappa = 0.72, *P* value = 0.023). The following information was extracted from each study: the name of the first author, publication year, the country in which the study was conducted; study design; number and gender of participants; mean age or age range of the study population; coffee consumption ranges or medians or means; ORs and 95% CIs for the association; definition of obesity; and covariates (including age, sex, physical activity, and total energy intake [footnote of Table 1]), for which the included studies made adjustment in their analyses. When the published data were inadequate for systematic review and/or meta-analysis, we contacted the corresponding author of the original studies to obtain further details. The information extracted from the included studies is reported in Table 1 and they were also used in the subgroup analysis [Table 2]. The quality of studies was assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale^[61] adapted for cross-sectional studies, and results are shown in Table 3.

Table 1: Characteristics of cross-sectional studies included in the systematic review						
Authors (Year)	Country	Age range/mean age	Sample size	Exposure	Exposure assessment	Outcome
General obesity						
Suadicani P <i>et al.</i> (2005)	Denmark	53-75	Men: 3290 Women: 0 Total: 3290	Coffee	Questionnaire	General obesity (BMI ≥30)
Kim H-J <i>et al.</i> (2014)	Korea	19-65	Men: 6879 Women: 11074 Total: 17953	Coffee	FFQ	General obesity (BMI ≥23)
Nordestgaard A-T <i>et al.</i> (2015)	Denmark	42-71	Men: 37392 Women: 46044 Total: 83436	Coffee	Questionnaire	General obesity (BMI ≥30)
Platt DE <i>et al.</i> (2016)	Lebanon	61.30	Men: 5120 Women: 2487 Total: 7607	Coffee	Questionnaire	General obesity (BMI ≥30)
Song F <i>et al.</i> (2016)	Korea	19-65	Men: 1960 Women: 2846 Total: 4806	Black coffee include brewed coffee	24-h recall method	General obesity (BMI ≥25)
Kim J-H <i>et al.</i> (2017)	Korea	≥40	Men: 2833 Women: 4073 Total: 6906	Coffee	FFQ	General obesity (BMI ≥25)
Lee J <i>et al.</i> (2017)	Korea	30-70	Men: 0 Women: 5995 Total: 5995	Coffee	FFQ	General obesity (BMI ≥25)
Koyama T <i>et al.</i> (2020)	Japan	mean±SD: 57.6±10.0	Men: 1239 Women: 2300 Total: 3539	Coffee	Self-administered questionnaire	General obesity (BMI ≥25)
Sakboonyarat B <i>et al.</i> (2020)	Thailand	≥20	Men: 214 Women: 413 Total: 627	instant coffee-mix	Standardized questionnaires	General obesity (BMI ≥25)
					Comparison	OR (95% CI)
					≤6 cups/day	OR: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 19
					>6 cups/day	0.62 (0.44-0.90)
					<1/week	OR: 1, 2, 6, 4, 5, 10, 3, and 11
					1-6/week	1.28 (1.09-1.50)
					1/day	
					2/day	
					≥3/day	
					None	OR: 1, 2, 4, 6, and 25
					0.1-1 cup/day	1.02 (0.94-1.11)
					1.1-2 cups/day	
					2.1-3 cups/day	
					3.1-4 cups/day	
					4.1-5 cups/day	
					>5 cups/day	OR: 1 and 2
					<3 cups/day	
					3-5 cups/day	0.68 (0.46-1.00)
					>5 cups/day	
					Tertile 1	OR: 1, 2, 10, 6, and 5
					Tertile 2	0.92 (0.75-1.13)
					Tertile 3	
					<1 cup/day	OR: 1, 6, 5, 13, 4, and 11
					1 cup/day	Men: 1.25 (0.95-1.66)
					2 cups/day	Women: 1.57 (1.18-2.10)
					≥3 cups/day	OR: 1, 3, 12, 5, 6, 4, 10, and 20
					None	2.52 (1.91-3.34)
					<1 cup/day	
					1-2 cups/day	
					2-3 cups/day	
					≥3 cups/day	
					<1 time/day	OR: 1, 2, 5, 4, 23, 24, and 25
					≥1 time/day	0.87 (0.72-1.06)
					≤1 cup/week	OR: NR
					>1 cup/week	1.44 (1.02-2.04)

Contd...

Table 1: Contd....									
Authors (Year)	Country	Age range/mean age	Sample size	Exposure	Exposure assessment	Outcome	Comparison	OR (95% CI)	Adjustments
General obesity									
Yonekura Y <i>et al.</i> (2020)	Japan	40-65	Men: 0 Women: 115 Total: 115	Coffee	Brief self-administered diet history questionnaire	General obesity (BMI ≥25)	<1 cup/day ≥1 cup/day	OR: 0.14 (0.05–0.46)	1, 30, 31, 10, 6, 5, and 4
Li Q-H <i>et al.</i> (2022)	China	mean±SD: 43.8±14.8	Men: 620 Women: 0 Total: 620	Coffee	FFQ	General obesity (BMI ≥28)	<1 time/week 1–2 times/week 3–4 times/week >4 times/week	OR: 2.00 (0.70–5.70)	-
Senfingner J <i>et al.</i> (2023)	Germany	median: 63 (IQR: 55; 69)	Men: 4399 Women: 4610 Total: 9009	Coffee	questionnaires	General obesity (BMI ≥30)	<3 cups/day 3–4 cups/day >4 cups/day	OR: 1.32 (1.08–1.62)	1, 2, 15, 6, 28, and 20
Abdominal obesity									
Takami H <i>et al.</i> (2013)	Japan	35-70	Men: 409 Women: 145 Total: 554	Coffee	Self-administered questionnaire	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: ≥90, women: ≥80)	<1.5 cups/day ≥1.5 and<3 cups/day	OR: 1.10 (0.79-1.54)	1, 2, 10, 4, 6, and 5
Grosso G <i>et al.</i> (2014)	Italy	50.2	Total: 816	Espresso coffee	FFQ	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: ≥90, women: ≥80)	≥3 cups/day 0 ml/day 45-90 ml/day >90 ml/day	OR: 1.23 (0.80-1.89)	1, 2, 10, 14, 6, and 4
Kim H-J <i>et al.</i> (2014)	Korea	19-65	Men: 6879 Women: 11074 Total: 17953	Coffee	FFQ	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: ≥90, women: ≥80)	<1/week 1–6/week 1/day 2/day ≥3/day	OR: 1.24 (1.05–1.40)	1, 2, 6, 4, 5, 10, 3, and 11
Grosso G <i>et al.</i> (2015)	Poland	45–69	Men: 1288 Women: 2053 Total: 3341	Coffee	FFQ	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: ≥90, women: ≥80)	<1 cup/day 1–2 cups/day >2 cups/day	OR: 0.86 (0.75–0.97)	2, 1, 3, 12, 4, 6, 5, 10 and 9
Kim K <i>et al.</i> (2016)	Korea	42.20	Men: 0 Women: 15691 Total: 15691	Coffee	FFQ	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: ≥90, women: ≥85)	~0 cup <1 cup/day ~1 cup/day >1 cup/day	OR: 0.88 (0.79-0.97)	1, 15, 3, 11, 6, 5, 4, and 16
Song F <i>et al.</i> (2016)	Korea	19-65	Men: 1960 Women: 2846 Total: 4806	Black coffee include brewed coffee	24-h recall method	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: ≥90, women: ≥85)	Tertile 1 Tertile 2 Tertile 3	OR: 0.76 (0.71–0.81)	1, 2, and 10, 6, and 5
Suliga E <i>et al.</i> (2017)	Poland	37–66	Men: 3500 Women: 6867 Total: 10367	Coffee	FFQ	Abdominal obesity (WC)	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	OR: 0.85 (0.77-0.94)	1, 2, 17, 3, 18, 6, 21, 5, 4 and 22

Contd...

Table 1: Contd...

Authors (Year)	Country	Age range/mean age	Sample size	Exposure	Exposure assessment	Outcome	Comparison	OR (95% CI)	Adjustments
Abdominal obesity									
Kim J-H <i>et al.</i> (2017)	Korea	≥40	Men: 2833 Women: 4073 Total: 6906	Coffee	FFQ	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: ≥90, women: ≥85)	<1 cup/day 1 cup/day 2 cups/day ≥3 cups/day	OR: Men: 1.13 (0.85–1.50) Women: 1.33 (1.01–1.75)	1, 6, 5, 13, 4 and 11
Lee J <i>et al.</i> (2017)	Korea	30-70	Men: 0 Women: 5995 Total: 5995	Coffee	FFQ	Abdominal obesity (WC: ≥80)	None <1 cup/day 1–2 cups/day 2–3 cups/day ≥3 cups/day	OR: 2.11 (1.59–2.79)	1, 3, 12, 5, 6, 4, 10 and 20
Shin H <i>et al.</i> (2017)	Korea	≥20	Men: 1268 Women: 2053 Total: 3321	Coffee (without sugar and cream)	Medical record	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: ≥90, women: ≥85)	<1 cup/day 1–2 cup/day ≥3 cups/day	OR: Men: 0.53 (0.27–1.02) Women: 1.59 (0.97–2.61)	-
Micek A <i>et al.</i> (2018)	Poland	≥20	Men: 1389 Women: 1949 Total: 3338	Coffee	24-h recall method	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: ≥94, women: ≥80)	0 g/day (None) 0–200 g/day (Low) 200–400g/day (Moderate) >400g/day (High)	OR: 1.17 (0.94–1.47)	2, 1, 3, 12, 4, 6, 5, 10, and 9
Stutz B <i>et al.</i> (2018)	Finland	46.7	Men: 468 Women: 572 Total: 1040	Coffee	Questionnaire	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: ≥94, women: ≥80)	<1 cup/d (None) ≥1 cups/d <3 (Low) ≥3 cups/d <5 (Moderate) ≥5 cups/d (High)	OR: 1.17 (0.66–2.08)	1, 2, 10, 5, 4, and 6
Kim Y <i>et al.</i> (2018)	Korea	19-64	Men: 3359 Women: 5028 Total: 8387	Coffee	112-item dish-based FFQ	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: ≥90, women: ≥80)	<1 time/day 1–2 time/day 3–4 time/day ≥5 time/day	OR: 1.11 (0.86–1.43)	1 and 2
Kim S <i>et al.</i> (2019)	Korea	40-69	Men: 3862 Women: 10270 Total: 14132	Coffee	2-day 24-h dietary recall	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: ≥90, women: ≥80)	None ≤1 serving/day >1 serving/day	OR: Men: 0.85 (0.66–1.11) Women: 0.87 (0.75–1.01)	1, 15, 10, 3, 5, 6, and 4

Contd...

Table 1: Contd...

Authors (Year)	Country	Age range/mean age	Sample size	Exposure	Exposure assessment	Outcome	Comparison	OR (95% CI)	Adjustments
Abdominal obesity									
Lee D-Y and Shin S (2023)	Korea	≥65	Total: 2661	Coffee	FFQ	Abdominal obesity (WC: men: >90, women: >85)	<1 cup/day 1 cups/day 2 cups/day ≥3 cups/day	OR: 0.70 (0.42–1.16)	1, 2, 5, 6, 32, 33, 34, 35, 13, 18, 10, 36, 37, 38, and 39

FFQ: Food Frequency Questionnaire; BMI: Body mass index; WC: waist circumference; OR: Odds Ratio; NR: Not Reported. Age (1), sex (2), education level (3), physical activity (4), alcohol consumption (5), smoking (6), sugar intake in hot beverages (7), high coffee intake (8), tea intake (9), total energy intake (10), income (11), occupational status (12), macronutrients intake (13), adherence to the Mediterranean diet (14), BMI (15), nutrient information (16), place of residence (city, country) (17), marital status (18), leisure time physical activity (19), sugar and creamer additive use (20), sugar and sweets consumption (21), sitting time (22), brinkman index (23), sleeping time (24), drug treatment for hypertension, dyslipidemia, diabetes (25), Fruit and vegetable intake (26), Physical activity at work (27), diabetes, high cholesterol, hypertension (28), waist circumference (29), menopaual status (30), Basal metabolism (31), weight (32), height (33), triglyceride (34), fasting glucose (35), resistance exercise (36), aerobic exercise (37), total cholesterol (38), HDL-C (39)

Statistical analysis

We used ORs (and its 95% CIs) for obesity to calculate log ORs and their SEs. The overall effect size was calculated by using random-effects model, which takes the between-study variation into account. Cochran's Q test and I-squared (I^2) were applied to evaluate between-study heterogeneity. In this study, I^2 values of >50% were considered as a significant between-study heterogeneity. To evaluate possible publication bias, funnel plots were produced, and meta bias analysis with Begg's method was performed.^[62,63] Risk of bias assessed through quality assessment of included studies, and results are shown in Table 3. To explore probable sources of heterogeneity, we performed a subgroup analysis. The predefined criteria for subgroup analyses were as follows: gender, geographic region, sample size, and methods used to assess coffee intake, adjustment of energy in OR calculation, and BMI cutoff used to assess obesity. For subgroup analyses, we used fixed-effects models. Statistical analyses were performed with use of STATA version 14 (Stata Corp). *P* values were considered significant at <0.05.

RESULTS

In our initial search, we found 23403 articles. After removing duplicate citations, 21105 papers remained. Based on title and abstract screening, 21052 studies were excluded, and 53 potential related articles remained for further assessment. After removing studies that did not report necessary data, 23 studies^[3,14-33,64,65] have remained to be included in this systematic review and meta-analysis. The diagram of the study selection process is shown in Figure 1.

Study characteristics

The characteristics of these studies are shown in Table 1. The sample size of included studies ranged from 115 to 83436 individuals. In total, 207551 individuals aged ≥19 years were included in this study. These articles were published between 2005 and 2023. Nine studies were conducted in Korea,^[3,15,19-21,25,28-30] three in Poland,^[14,17,31] three in Japan^[24,64,65] two in Denmark,^[16,27] and others were from Lebanon,^[22] China,^[26] Thailand,^[32] Italy,^[18] Finland,^[23] and Germany.^[33] Eight studies had considered general obesity as the outcome,^[16,22,26,27,32,33,64,65] eleven studies considered abdominal obesity,^[14,15,17,18,20,21,23-25,28,31] and four studies considered both types of obesity^[3,19,29,30] as the outcome. Two studies were conducted on men,^[16,26] three on women,^[15,30,65] fifteen studies on both genders,^[3,14,17,18,21-25,27,29,31-33,64] and three other studies had considered men and women, separately.^[19,20,28] For exposure assessment, ten studies used a food frequency questionnaire (FFQ),^[14,15,17-19,21,25,26,29,30] three studies used 24-h dietary recalls,^[3,20,31] and ten studies had used a simple questionnaire.^[16,22-24,27,28,32,33,64,65] In terms of outcome assessment, abdominal obesity was assessed by measuring waist circumference (WC) in all studies.^[3,14,15,17-21,23-25,28-31]

Three studies showed a significant inverse association between coffee consumption and the odds of general obesity.^[16,64,65] By

Table 2: Subgroup analysis for coffee consumption and obesity

Subgroups		Number of effect sizes	<i>I</i> ²	OR (95% CI)	<i>P</i> _{between}
Coffee consumption and general obesity					
Gender	Female	3	92.5	1.84 (1.51,2.24)	<0.001
	Male	3	81.8	0.99 (0.80,1.23)	
	Both	7	75.5	1.05 (0.99,1.12)	
Country	Europe	3	85.2	1.03 (0.96,1.11)	0.023
	Asia	10	87.6	1.18 (1.08,1.28)	
Sample size	Less than 1000	3	87.8	1.23 (0.90,1.68)	0.472
	more than 1000	10	87.9	1.09 (1.03,1.16)	
Assessment of coffee consumption	FFQ	5	78.9	1.48 (1.32,1.66)	<0.001
	NonFFQ	8	81.1	1.00 (0.93,1.06)	
Energy adjustment	Yes	4	93.7	1.26 (1.13,1.42)	0.005
	No	9	77.6	1.05 (0.98,1.12)	
BMI ² cut-off used to assess obesity	BMI <30 kg/m ²	9	87.6	1.21 (1.11,1.32)	0.003
	BMI ≥30 kg/m ²	4	83.2	1.02 (0.95,1.10)	
Coffee consumption and abdominal obesity					
Gender	Female	6	90.3	1.03 (0.97,1.11)	<0.001
	Male	3	60.1	0.92 (0.77,1.11)	
	Both	9	72.6	0.83 (0.79,0.87)	
Country	Europe	5	59.4	0.90 (0.83,0.96)	0.928
	Asia	13	88.3	0.89 (0.85,0.93)	
Sample size	Less than 1000	2	0.00	1.15 (0.88,1.49)	0.061
	More than 1000	16	86.2	0.89 (0.86,0.92)	
Assessment of coffee consumption	FFQ	10	86.0	0.97 (0.92,1.02)	<0.001
	NonFFQ	8	75.4	0.82 (0.77,0.86)	
Energy adjustment	Yes	11	88.9	0.88 (0.84,0.92)	0.002
	No	7	72.1	0.92 (0.86,0.98)	

contrast, five studies reported a significant positive association between coffee consumption and odds of general obesity.^[19,29,30,32,33] However, five other studies failed to reach a significant association.^[3,19,22,26,27] Figure 2 Regarding abdominal obesity, four studies reported a significant inverse association between coffee intake and the odds of abdominal obesity.^[3,14,15,17] Three other studies reported a significant positive association,^[19,29,30] and nine studies reported no significant association [Figure 3].^[18-21,23-25,28,31]

Findings from meta-analysis on coffee consumption and the odds of general obesity

Twelve studies with thirteen effect sizes were included in the meta-analysis of coffee consumption and the odds of general obesity.^[3,16,19,22,26,27,29,30,32,33,64,65] One study, which had reported ORs separately for men and women, was considered as two separate studies.^[19] Combining 13 effect sizes, there was no significant association between coffee consumption and odds of general obesity (OR: 1.11; 95% CI: 0.92, 1.33) [Figure 2]. A significant between-study heterogeneity was observed ($I^2=86.9\%$, $P < 0.001$). In evaluation of publication bias, symmetry around the effect estimate line in funnel plot rejected the appearance of publication bias [Figure 4]. In addition, the results of Begg's publication bias assessment showed no evidence of publication bias in included studies on general obesity (P value = 0.127). Risk of bias for included studies on general obesity evaluated by quality assessment of

them and results showed that four studies received less than 6 scores^[22,26,32,65] [Table 3]. In subgroup analysis [Table 2], we found a significant positive association between coffee consumption and odds of general obesity in women (OR: 1.84; 95% CI: 1.51, 2.24) and for studies performed in Asia (OR: 1.18; 95% CI: 1.08, 1.28), those used FFQ for assessing coffee consumption (OR: 1.48; 95% CI: 1.32, 1.66), those had a sample size of more than 1000 (OR: 1.09; 95% CI: 1.03, 1.16), those considered BMI cutoff less than 30 kg/m² for obesity assessment (OR: 1.21; 95% CI: 1.11, 1.32), and those adjusted energy intakes in their analyses (OR: 1.26; 95% CI: 1.13, 1.42).

Findings from the meta-analysis on coffee consumption and odds of abdominal obesity

All included studies considered the lowest category of coffee intake as the reference group in their analyses, except for the study of Suliga E *et al.*^[17] and Lee D-Y and Shin S.^[25] We converted their reference categories before the final analysis. Therefore, the odds ratio and 95% CI for these studies were recalculated using relevant formulas. Moreover, in the study of Suliga E *et al.*,^[17] the effect size was reported separately for two groups of participants, which were combined using relevant formulas. In addition, Takami H *et al.*^[24] reported two ORs for abdominal obesity, based on two different cutoff points for waist circumference. Moreover, studies that reported ORs separately for men and women have considered two separate studies.^[15,19,28]

Table 3: Quality of included studies based on Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment scale adapted for cross-sectional studies

First author (Year)	Selection	Comparability	Outcome	Total
General obesity				
Suadcani P <i>et al.</i> (2005)	**	**	***	7
Kim H-J <i>et al.</i> (2014)	****	**	**	8
Nordestgaard A-T <i>et al.</i> (2015)	**	**	***	7
Platt DE <i>et al.</i> (2016)	*	*	***	5
Song F <i>et al.</i> (2016)	****	**	**	8
Kim J-H <i>et al.</i> (2017)	****	**	**	8
Lee J <i>et al.</i> (2017)	****	**	**	8
Koyama T <i>et al.</i> (2020)	**	**	**	6
Sakboonyarat B <i>et al.</i> (2020)	*		**	3
Yonekura Y <i>et al.</i> (2020)	*	**	**	5
Li Q-H <i>et al.</i> (2022)	***		**	5
Senftinger J <i>et al.</i> (2023)	***	**	***	8
Abdominal obesity				
Takami H <i>et al.</i> (2013)		**	***	5
Grosso G <i>et al.</i> (2014)	***	**	***	8
Kim H-J <i>et al.</i> (2014)	****	**	***	9
Grosso G <i>et al.</i> (2015)	****	**	***	9
Kim K <i>et al.</i> (2016)	****	**	**	8
Song F <i>et al.</i> (2016)	****	**	**	8
Suliga E <i>et al.</i> (2017)	****	**	*	7
Kim J-H <i>et al.</i> (2017)	****	**	**	8
Lee J <i>et al.</i> (2017)	****	**	***	9
Shin H <i>et al.</i> (2017)	***		**	5
Micek A <i>et al.</i> (2018)	****	**	***	9
Stutz B <i>et al.</i> (2018)	*	**	**	5
Kim Y <i>et al.</i> (2018)	****	*	**	7
Kim S <i>et al.</i> (2019)	****	**	***	9
Lee D-Y and Shin S (2023)	****	**	**	8

Finally, pooling 18 effect sizes from 15 studies,^[3,14,15,17-21,23-25,28-31] we failed to find a significant association between coffee consumption and the odds of abdominal obesity (OR: 1.03; 95% CI: 0.92, 1.15) [Figure 3]. A significant between-study heterogeneity was observed ($I^2 = 84.9\%$, $P < 0.001$). In evaluation of publication bias, moderate symmetry around effect estimate line in funnel plot rejected the appearance of publication bias [Figure 4]. In addition, results of publication bias analysis with Begg's method showed no evidence of publication bias in included studies on abdominal obesity (P value = 0.089). Risk of bias for included studies on abdominal obesity evaluated by quality assessment of them and results showed that three studies received less than 6 scores^[23,24,28] [Table 3]. When we did subgroup analysis [Table 2], a significant inverse association was found in both gender (OR: 0.83; 95% CI: 0.79, 0.87) and for studies performed in Europe (OR: 0.90; 95% CI: 0.83, 0.96) and Asia (OR: 0.89; 95% CI: 0.85, 0.93), those have a sample size of more than 1000 (OR: 0.89; 95% CI: 0.86, 0.92), those used other methods for assessing coffee consumption than FFQ (OR: 0.82; 95% CI: 0.77, 0.86) and those with (OR: 0.88; 95% CI: 0.84, 0.92) and without energy intake adjustment (OR: 0.92; 95% CI: 0.86, 0.98).

DISCUSSION

Findings of the current meta-analysis on cross-sectional studies indicated no significant association between coffee consumption and odds of general and abdominal obesity. In some subgroup analyses, such as studies performed exclusively among women, we found a significant positive association between coffee consumption and odds of general obesity in women.

Findings of our study are in line with an earlier meta-analysis published in this field. In that meta-analysis, there was no significant association between coffee consumption and the odds of general and abdominal obesity; however, a significant positive association was found between coffee consumption in women and increased odds of general obesity.^[34] Regarding general obesity, we failed to show a significant association between coffee consumption and the odds of obesity. In line with our findings, several previous studies reported that coffee consumption was not associated with BMI as an indicator of general obesity.^[37,52,66] For instance, Bouchard *et al.*,^[37] in a cross-sectional study on 3823 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey participants in the United States, reported that the frequency of

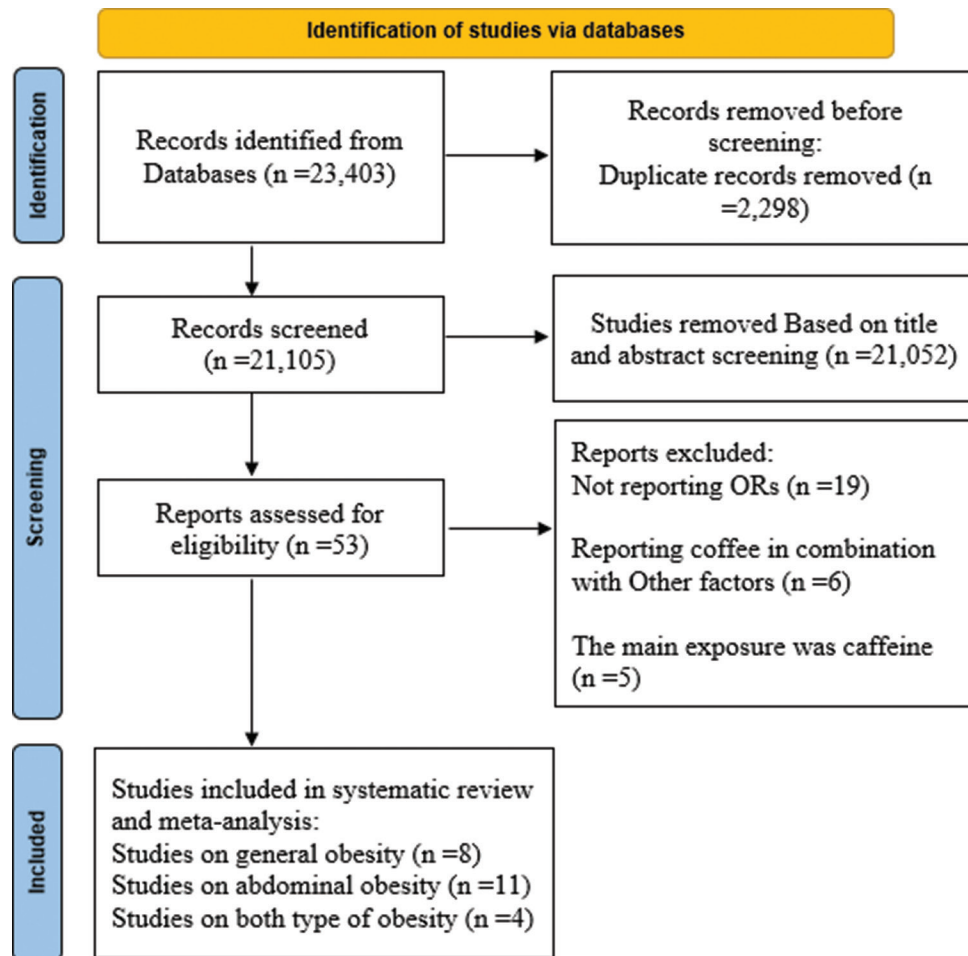


Figure 1: Flowchart of the study selection process

coffee consumption was not related to BMI in either gender. In addition, in a randomized, crossover, blind trial that assessed the effectiveness of green coffee polyphenols (300 mg twice a day for 8 weeks) in weight loss in 29 volunteers, the green coffee supplement did not significantly reduce weight.^[67] In contrast with these findings, the results from a cohort study on 83436 individuals in Denmark revealed that high coffee intake was associated with a lower risk of obesity (as measured by BMI), metabolic syndrome, and type 2 diabetes.^[27] Moreover, findings from Yonekura Y *et al.*^[65] study showed that coffee consumption is related to the reduced odds of general obesity (assessed through body fat percentage ≥ 30). In addition, the findings of a meta-analysis of 15 randomized controlled trials showed that green coffee supplements significantly reduced body weight (weighted mean difference: -0.94 kg; 95% CI: $-1.73, -0.16$).^[68] Moreover, several animal studies have also shown the beneficial effects of coffee in controlling obesity.^[69-71] On the other hand, findings from two prospective studies showed that BMI increased significantly as coffee intake increased.^[72,73] These discrepancies might be explained by different study designs (i.e., cohort vs cross-sectional studies). In addition, different types of consumed coffee and cutoffs used in the included studies might be other reasons for such different findings.

When we did subgroup analysis, a significant positive association was observed between coffee intake and odds of general obesity in women; however, this relationship was not significant in men. This can be attributed to the physiological and hormonal differences between the two genders.^[74] For instance, studies showed that the amount of fat mass and fat-free mass in women compared with men can affect the plasma levels of caffeine and its effect.^[75] The results of Domaszewski showed that about 54% of women participating in the study had reported side effects such as stress and insomnia after consuming coffee, which was significantly higher than men. Stress and insomnia can be associated with increased energy intake.^[74] It must be kept in mind that most studies that reported a positive association between coffee intake and general obesity in women were conducted in Asian countries, where people usually consume their coffee with sugar and creamer which increases total energy intake.^[30]

Our results indicated that coffee consumption was not associated with odds of abdominal obesity. Some other studies also reported the same findings for the association of coffee intake with waist circumference (WC) as an indicator of abdominal obesity.^[37,66,76,77] In contrast to our findings, a cross-sectional study on 1902 Japanese men and women aged >40 y

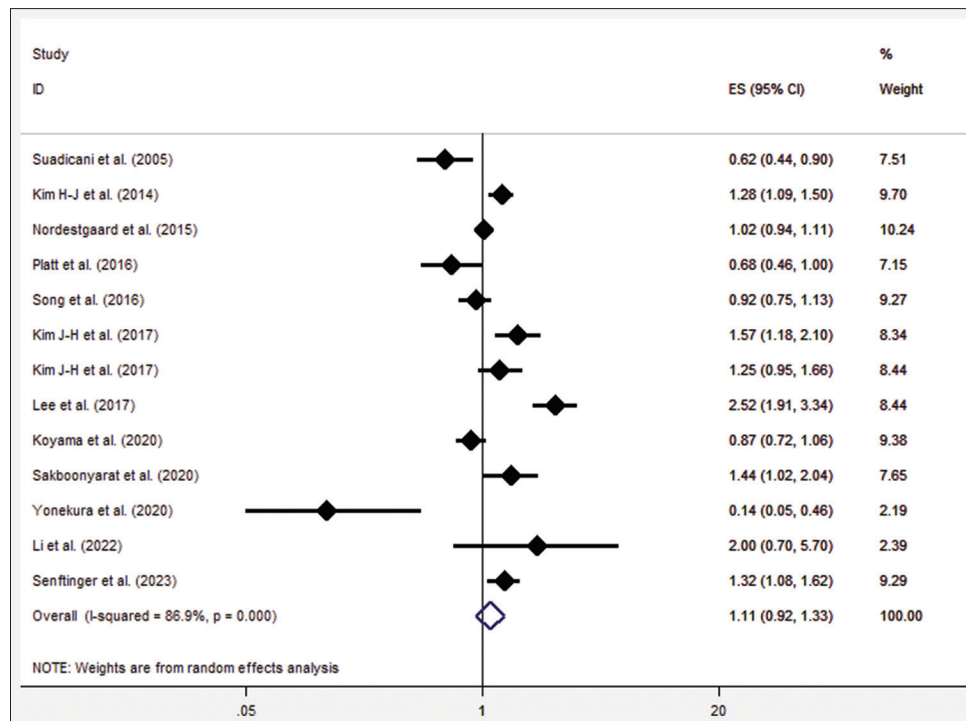


Figure 2: Forest plot of the association between coffee consumption and general obesity

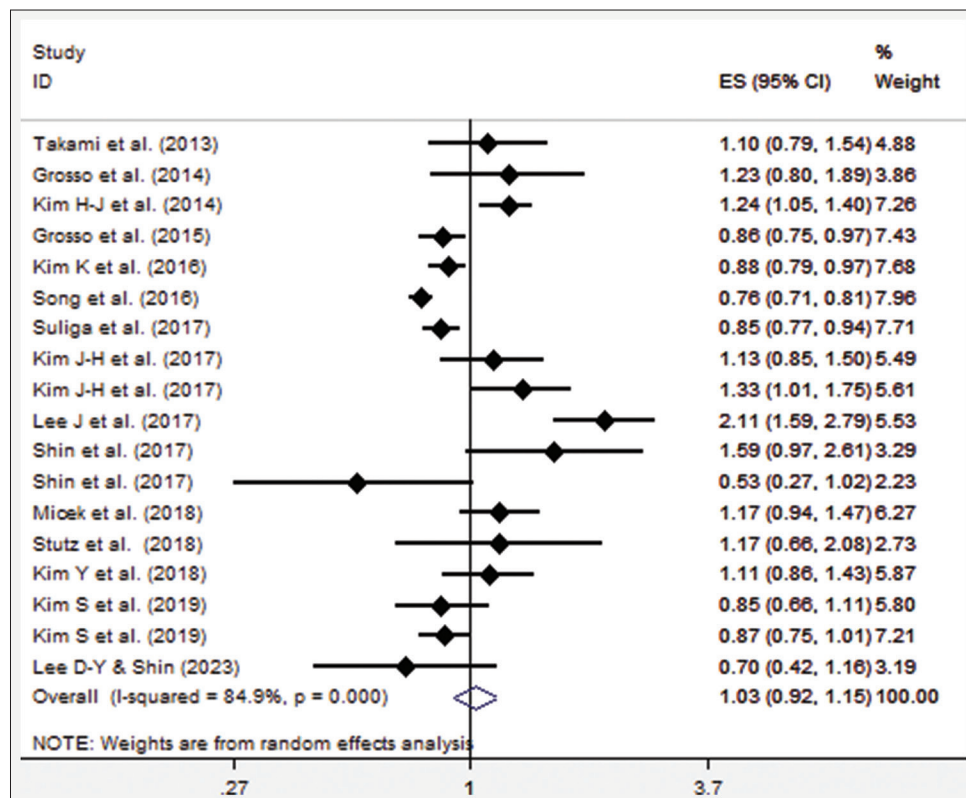


Figure 3: Forest plot of the association between coffee consumption and abdominal obesity

showed an inverse association between coffee consumption and WC.^[41] Furthermore, a prospective cohort study on obesity on 1141 individuals revealed that waist circumference was significantly decreased with an increase in coffee intake.^[78]

Different characteristics of our included studies such as age of participants, ethnicity, cutoff points for obesity diagnosis, type of consumed coffee, and use of additives such as sugar and milk may be responsible for these discrepant results. Further

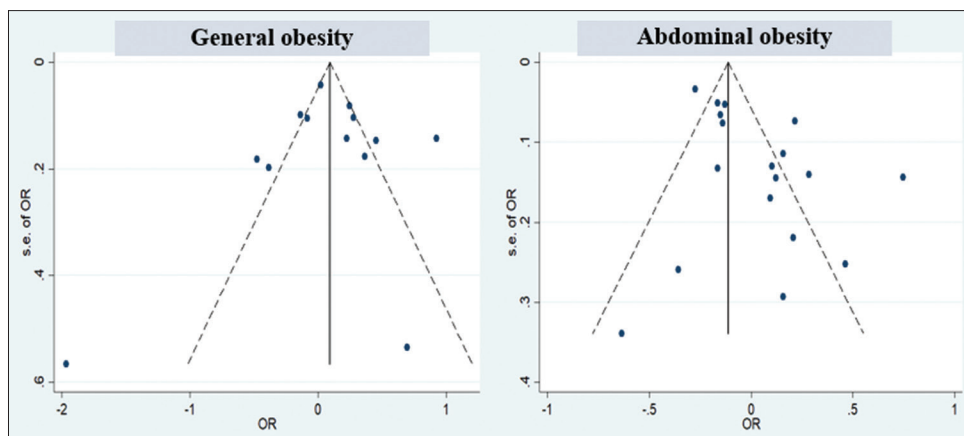


Figure 4: Funnel plot of the association between coffee and general and abdominal obesity

studies especially with prospective design are required to reach a definitive conclusion.

Coffee consumption might result in weight loss by increasing thermogenesis, fat oxidation, and lipolysis.^[79] It has been demonstrated that plasma concentrations of free fatty acid (FFA) and urinary catecholamine excretion increase after caffeine or coffee ingestion.^[80,81] The increased lipolysis was partly because of the enhanced release of catecholamine.^[82]

This meta-analysis has an extensive literature search completed by 2 authors which resulted in a considerable number of included studies and our analysis involved studies that were not included in previous meta-analyses. Also, in this study, we examined the relationship between coffee and obesity in the form of both general and abdominal obesity. In addition, in this study, subgroup analysis was performed based on different factors to explore possible sources of heterogeneity. However, this study has several limitations. First, all included studies had a cross-sectional design, and it was impossible to confer causality. Second, evaluation of the type of coffee consumed was not performed in many included studies. Different types of coffee differ in terms of nutrients and phytochemicals. Third, different preparation methods of coffee in different cultures and different methods of coffee consumption among participants of the included studies may influence our final results. For example, in some countries, coffee is usually consumed with creamer or sugar, which cannot accurately evaluate the relationship if it is not assessed and controlled. Also, the type of coffee consumed was not evaluated in most of the studies. Fourth, our main findings might be affected by confounding factors which existed in the original included studies. Finally, the included studies did not adjust their analyses for all important covariates.

It is suggested that stronger prospective studies and more long-duration clinical trials should be conducted in the future to help clarify the relationship. Also, future studies should evaluate the type of coffee consumed and other additives that are added to coffee. It is also suggested that the effects of green coffee be further evaluated in future studies. It is also

suggested to investigate the effects of decaffeinated coffee on weight control in future studies.

In conclusion, cumulative evidence from cross-sectional studies suggested that coffee consumption was not associated with the odds of obesity. Additional well-designed prospective studies in different societies are needed to confirm our findings.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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