

Supplement 1: Inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRC • Human participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other cancers (gastric, small intestine etc) • Studies in non-humans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case-control study or Cohort study or Cross-sectional • Adenoma & Adenocarcinoma or only Adenocarcinoma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other study types and publication types – no reviews • Adenoma only and/or no healthy control groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published literature only • Available electronically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpublished literature • Not available electronically
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant underlying conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underlying condition in participants or medication exposure (antibiotics, PPI, chemotherapy)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify bacteria in microbiome • Must directly link microbiome species associated to CRC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microbiome metabolites linked to CRC • Microbiome linked to CRC prognosis/clinical outcome/treatment efficacy/procedure evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacterial differences • Named bacteria or a known origin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viral or fungal focus • Ethnic and socioeconomic microbiome linkage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxonomic level reported • English language only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dietary effect on microbiome/CRC • Probiotics to treat complications in CRC patients
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full text available • Raw data for meta-analysis • Original results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRC associated bacteraemia/endocarditis • Post-op surgical site infections • Genetic involvement/expression in the progression of CRC

CRC: colorectal cancer.