

Table 2.6. Cohort studies of Epstein-Barr virus infection markers and nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC)

Reference, location, name of study	Cohort description	Detection method	Exposure Categories	No. of cases/deaths	Relative risk (95% CI)	Adjustment for potential confounders	Comments
Chien <i>et al.</i> (2001) Taiwan	9699 men enrolled from 6 townships in Taiwan from 1984 to 1986; 16 year follow-up period; 22 pathologically confirmed NPC cases	Anti-EBV VCA IgA by indirect immunofluorescence assay and Anti-EBV DNase by neutralization assay. NPC cases ascertained by computerized data linkage with the profiles of national cancer registry	VCA IgA			Age, family history of NPC	
			No	18	1.0		
			Yes	4	22.0 (7.3–66.9)		
			DNase				
			No	15	1.0		
			Yes	7	3.5 (1.4–8.7)		
			VCA IgA/DNase				
			Neither	13	1.0		
Either	7	4.0 (1.6–10.2)					
Both	2	32.8 (7.3–147.2)					
Ji <i>et al.</i> (2007) China	3093 seropositive and 38 955 seronegative participants enrolled from 1986 to 1988 in Zhongshan City in southern China; followed up until 2002; 146 NPC cases	Anti-EBV VCA IgA by immunoenzymic assay. NPC cases detected by routine screening and clinical examination in study clinic after onset of symptoms for seropositives and by clinical examination in other hospitals after onset of symptoms	VCA IgA			No	Serum EBV VCA IgA titre $\geq 1:5$ designated seropositive; Differential detection of NPC cases among seropositive and seronegative participants
		No	38 955	1.0			
		Yes	3093	[9.4 (6.7–13.3)]			

VCA, viral capsid antigen; IgA, immunoglobulin A