

Table 2.27. Meta analysis of second-hand tobacco smoke and childhood brain & CNS cancers

Reference, study location and period	Organ site (ICD code)	Characteristics of cases	Characteristics of controls	Exposure assessment	Exposure categories	Relative risk (95% CI)*	Adjustment for potential confounders	Comments
Huncharek <i>et al.</i> (2002) Maternal smoking during pregnancy and the risk of childhood brain tumours: a meta-analysis of 6 566 subjects from twelve epidemiological studies	Brain	Twelve observational studies meeting protocol specified inclusion criteria were obtained via a comprehensive literature search (11 case-control and one cohort study).			Maternal smoking during pregnancy (<i>cigarettes per day</i>) <10 >10 <10 >10	Pooled RR All brain tumors (n=6566, 12 studies) 1.05 (0.90-1.21) <i>P</i> >0.50 Astrocytoma (n=3753, 4 studies) 1.02 0.88 (0.69-1.13)	Patient characteristics, study design, smoking frequency	The available epidemiological data do not support a clear association between maternal smoking during pregnancy and paediatric brain tumour development. Although it appears likely that no association exists, limitations in study designs limit definitive conclusions based on available data. <i>Journal of Neuro-Oncology</i> 57:51–57