

n = 576 studies identified and screened for analysis  
Cochrane library (n = 3), PubMed (n = 561), Ovid (n = 0), NICE (n = 12)

Excluded due to lack of content relevant to carotenoids and PC, being a duplicate or not written in English  
n = 280

n = 296 full texts screened

Excluded n = 167 due to:  
- being review, systematic review or meta-analysis n = 24  
- improper subject of investigation or evaluated end-point n = 143

n = 129 studies potentially appropriate for analysis

Excluded n = 3 due to:  
- only the secondary endpoints were investigated (i.e., not the PC in the epidemiological studies) n = 3

n = 126 studies included

n = 62 studies in part I

n = 64 studies in part II

n = 27 lycopene  
n = 11 ATRA  
n = 2 BC  
n = 9 other natural carotenoids  
n = 13 carotenoids in prostatic physiology and pathology other than PC

n = 22 carotenoids and PC risk  
n = 19 carotenoids and PC treatment  
n = 13 carotenoids and prostate physiology or other diseases than PC  
n = 10 studies which contributed to the data interpretation