**Supplementary Table 1:** Demographic characteristics of groups included in the meta-analysis.

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| --- |
| **Extracted statistical data** |
| **PARAMETERS** | **STUDY 1** | **STUDY 2** | **STUDY 3** | **STUDY 4** |
| Publication (year) | Kai *et al*. (2006) | Seemungal *et.al.* (2007) | Fimognari*et.al*. (2008) | Khan *et.al*. (2016) |
| Cases | Controls | Cases | Controls | Cases | Controls | Cases | Controls |
| No. of individuals | 24 | 23 | 29 | 25 | 42 | 29 | 50 | 30 |
| Age | 70.7±1.3 | 66.4± 2.60 | 69.1 | 64.8 | 71.38+\_8 | 70.6+\_5.8 | 58.3+\_9.2 | 51.5+\_7.6 |
| Smokers | 1 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 42 | 29 | 38 | 16 |
| Non-Smokers | 23 | 16 | 21 | 24 | -- | -- | 12 | 14 |
| BMI | 20.7 ± 0.7 | 24.2±0.8 | 24.0 | 27 | 26.5+\_4.4 | 28.1+\_4.1 | 21.36+\_4.2 | 22.8+\_4.6 |