

ANNEX

Table S1. PRISMA 2020 checklist.

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review.	Title
ABSTRACT			
Abstract	2	See the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.	Abstract
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge.	Pages 1-2
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses.	Page 2
METHODS			
Eligibility criteria	5	Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the syntheses.	Page 2, Supplementary material
Information sources	6	Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. Specify the date when each source was last searched or consulted.	Page 2
Search strategy	7	Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers and websites, including any filters and limits used.	Supplementary material (PubMed)
Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Pages 2-3
Data collection process	9	Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study investigators, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Page 2-3
Data items	10a	List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (e.g. for all measures, time points, analyses), and if not, the methods used to decide which results to collect.	Page 2
	10b	List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information.	Page 2 Supplementary material
Study risk of bias assessment	11	Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tool(s) used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Please, see ref. 55
Effect measures	12	Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (e.g. risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results.	Page 3
Synthesis methods	13a	Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (e.g. tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (item #5)).	Pages 2-3
	13b	Describe any methods required to prepare the data for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics, or data conversions.	Pages 2-3

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
	13c	Describe any methods used to tabulate or visually display results of individual studies and syntheses.	Pages 2-3
	13d	Describe any methods used to synthesize results and provide a rationale for the choice(s). If meta-analysis was performed, describe the model(s), method(s) to identify the presence and extent of statistical heterogeneity, and software package(s) used.	Pages 2-3
	13e	Describe any methods used to explore possible causes of heterogeneity among study results (e.g. subgroup analysis, meta-regression).	Meta-analysis was not performed
	13f	Describe any sensitivity analyses conducted to assess robustness of the synthesized results.	/
Reporting bias assessment	14	Describe any methods used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases).	Please, see ref. 55
Certainty assessment	15	Describe any methods used to assess certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for an outcome.	Meta-analysis was not performed
RESULTS			
Study selection	16a	Describe the results of the search and selection process, from the number of records identified in the search to the number of studies included in the review, ideally using a flow diagram.	Page 3
	16b	Cite studies that might appear to meet the inclusion criteria, but which were excluded, and explain why they were excluded.	Figure 1
Study characteristics	17	Cite each included study and present its characteristics.	Pages 3-9
Risk of bias in studies	18	Present assessments of risk of bias for each included study.	Please, see ref. 55
Results of individual studies	19	For all outcomes, present, for each study: (a) summary statistics for each group (where appropriate) and (b) an effect estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval), ideally using structured tables or plots.	Pages 3-9
Results of syntheses	20a	For each synthesis, briefly summarise the characteristics and risk of bias among contributing studies.	Please, see ref. 55
	20b	Present results of all statistical syntheses conducted. If meta-analysis was done, present for each the summary estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval) and measures of statistical heterogeneity. If comparing groups, describe the direction of the effect.	Pages 3-9
	20c	Present results of all investigations of possible causes of heterogeneity among study results.	Meta-analysis was not performed
	20d	Present results of all sensitivity analyses conducted to assess the robustness of the synthesized results.	Meta-analysis was not performed
Reporting biases	21	Present assessments of risk of bias due to missing results (arising from reporting biases) for each synthesis assessed.	Please, see ref. 55
Certainty of evidence	22	Present assessments of certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for each outcome assessed.	Meta-analysis was not performed
DISCUSSION			
Discussion	23a	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence.	Pages 9-10

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
	23b	Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.	Page 10
	23c	Discuss any limitations of the review processes used.	Page 10
	23d	Discuss implications of the results for practice, policy, and future research.	Page 10
OTHER INFORMATION			
Registration and protocol	24a	Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered.	Abstract, Page 2
	24b	Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed, or state that a protocol was not prepared.	Abstract, Page 2
	24c	Describe and explain any amendments to information provided at registration or in the protocol.	Supplementary material
Support	25	Describe sources of financial or non-financial support for the review, and the role of the funders or sponsors in the review.	Page 10
Competing interests	26	Declare any competing interests of review authors.	Page 10
Availability of data, code and other materials	27	Report which of the following are publicly available and where they can be found: template data collection forms; data extracted from included studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review.	Pages 2-8, 10

The final layout the Journal sets up may have resulted in changes to the indicated page numbers.

Table S2. The search strategy developed in PubMed.

SET	PubMed
1	drinking water[Text Word]
2	drinking water[Title/Abstract]
3	drinking water[MeSH Terms]
4	mineral water[Text Word]
5	mineral water[Title/Abstract]
6	mineral water[MeSH Terms]
7	Sets 1–6 were combined with “OR”
8	calcium[Text Word]
9	calcium[Title/Abstract]
10	magnesium[Text Word]
11	magnesium[Title/Abstract]
12	hardness[Text Word]
13	hardness[Title/Abstract]
14	hardness[MeSH Term]
15	Sets 8–14 were combined with “OR”
16	colon cancer[Text Word]
17	colon cancer[Title/Abstract]
18	colon cancer[MeSH Terms]
19	rectal cancer[Text Word]
20	rectal cancer[Title/Abstract]
21	rectal cancer[MeSH Term]
22	colorectal cancer[Text Word]
23	colorectal cancer[Title/Abstract]
24	colorectal cancer[MeSH Terms]
25	Sets 16–24 were combined with “OR”
26	Sets 7, 15 and 25 were combined with “AND”

Table S3. Description of inclusion and exclusion criteria according to population (P), exposure (E), outcomes (O) and study design (S). Comparators/controls (C) and language/time filters were also considered.

Search strategy	Details
Inclusion criteria	P: adult population (≥ 18 years old)
	E: higher calcium, magnesium or hardness in drinking water
	C: lower calcium, magnesium, or hardness in drinking water
	O: colon, rectal, or colorectal cancer mortality
Exclusion criteria	S: observational studies
	P: subjects < 18 years old
	E: calcium and magnesium supplementation
	C: different levels of calcium and magnesium supplementation
	O: other cancer types
S: opinion papers, reviews and meta-analyses, commentary, letters, protocols, thesis, conference papers, notes, book chapters, clinical trials	
Language filter	English
Time filter	No filter
Databases	PubMed; Scopus; Web of Science

All observational study designs (not exclusively case-control studies, as originally reported in the protocol) were included in the screening.