PubMed search strategy run on April 11st, 2012
3259 manuscripts

2280 excluded after title/abstract review:
1627 no usable data reported
333 not esophageal cancers
248 review articles, conference, comments
36 about genetic polymorphism
36 not human studies

Full texts for 979 potential manuscripts retrieved for detailed evaluation

591 excluded after full-text review:
364 univariate statistics
221 did not report HRs
6 duplicated publications

388 manuscripts collectively describing 267 molecules

279 excluded:
272 studies excluded when the unique molecule was analyzed in less than five studies
7 studies with the same patient series

109 studies describing 13 molecules included for quantitative synthesis