NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE
CASE-CONTROL STUDIES

Note: A study can be awarded a maximum of one star (*) for each numbered item within the Selection and Exposure categories. A maximum of two stars can be given for Comparability.

Selection

1) Is the case definition adequate?
   a) yes, with independent validation *
   b) yes, e.g., record linkage or based on self reports
   c) no description
2) Representativeness of the cases
   a) consecutive or obviously representative series of cases *
   b) potential for selection biases or not stated
3) Selection of Controls
   a) community controls *
   b) hospital controls
   c) no description
4) Definition of Controls
   a) no history of disease (endpoint) *
   b) no description of source

Comparability

1) Comparability of cases and controls on the basis of the design or analysis
   a) study controls for _____ (Select the most important factor.) *
   b) study controls for any additional factor * (This criteria could be modified to indicate specific control for a second important factor.)

Exposure

1) Ascertainment of exposure
   a) secure record (eg surgical records) *
   b) structured interview where blind to case/control status *
   c) interview not blinded to case/control status
   d) written self report or medical record only
   e) no description
2) Same method of ascertainment for cases and controls
   a) yes *
   b) no
3) Non-Response rate
   a) same rate for both groups *
   b) non respondents described
   c) rate different and no designation