

NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE COHORT STUDIES

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

- 1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort
 - a) truly representative of the average _____ (describe) in the community*
 - b) somewhat representative of the average _____ in the community -
 - c) selected group of users eg nurses, volunteers
 - d) no description of the derivation of the cohort
- 2) Selection of the non exposed cohort
 - a) drawn from the same community as the exposed cohort*
 - b) drawn from a different source
 - c) no description of the derivation of the non exposed cohort
- 3) Ascertainment of exposure
 - a) secure record (e.g, surgical records)*
 - b) structured interview*
 - c) written self report
 - d) no description
- 4) Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study
 - a) yes
 - b) no

Comparability

- 1) Comparability of cohorts 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.)

Outcome

- 1) Assessment of outcome
 - a) independent blind assessment*
 - b) record linkage*
 - c) self report
 - d) no description
- 2) Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur
 - a) yes (select an adequate follow up period for outcome of interest) *
 - b) no
- 3) Adequacy of follow up of cohorts
 - a) complete follow up - all subjects accounted for*
 - b) subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introduce bias - small number lost - > ____ % (select an adequate %) follow up, or description provided of those lost) *
 - c) follow up rate < ____ % (select an adequate %) and no description of those lost
 - d) no statement

Wells, G. A, Shea, B., O'Connell, D. et al. The Newcastle-Ottawa scale (NOS) for assessing the quality of nonrandomised studies in meta-analyses. http://www.ohri.ca/programs/clinical_epidemiology/oxford.htm 2009 Feb 1