

Clinical and Experimental Otorhinolaryngology

Supplementary Table 3. Results of the quality assessment of non-randomized controlled studies using the Newcastle-Ottawa scale

Study	Selection ^{a)}				Comparability ^{b)}		Exposure ^{c)}			Newcastle-Ottawa scale
	1	2	3	4	5A	5B	6	7	8	
More et al. (2011) [15]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
Xu et al. (2016) [16]	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7

A star rating system was used to indicate the quality of a study, with a maximum of nine stars. A study could be awarded a maximum of one star for each numbered item within the selection and exposure categories

^{a)}Selection (4 items): adequacy of case definition, representativeness of the cases, selection of controls, and definition of controls. ^{b)}Comparability (1 item): comparability of cases and controls on the basis of the design or analysis. ^{c)}Exposure (3 items): ascertainment of exposure, same method of ascertainment for cases and controls, and non-response rate (same rate for both groups).