

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 \emptyset
- b) yes, eg record linkage or based on self reports
- c) no description

2) Representativeness of the cases

- a) consecutive or obviously representative series of cases \emptyset
- b) potential for selection biases or not stated

3) Selection of Controls

- a) community controls \emptyset
- b) hospital controls
- c) no description

4) Definition of Controls

- a) no history of disease (endpoint) \emptyset
- 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.) \emptyset
- b) study controls for any additional factor \emptyset (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) \emptyset
- b) structured interview where blind to case/control status \emptyset
- 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 \emptyset

b) no

3) Non-Response rate

- a) same rate for both groups \emptyset
- b) non respondents described
- c) rate different and no designation

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 \emptyset b) somewhat representative of the average _____ in the community \emptyset
- 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 \emptyset b) drawn from a different source
- c) no description of the derivation of the non exposed cohort

3) Ascertainment of exposure

- a) secure record (eg surgical records) \emptyset b) structured interview \emptyset
- c) written self report
- d) no description

4) Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study a) yes \emptyset

- b) no

Comparability

1) Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis

- a) study controls for _____ (select the most important factor) \emptyset
- b) study controls for any additional factor \emptyset (This criteria could be modified to indicate specific control for a second important factor.)

Outcome

1) Assessment of outcome

- a) independent blind assessment \emptyset b) record linkage \emptyset
- 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) \emptyset b) no

3) Adequacy of follow up of cohorts

- a) complete follow up - all subjects accounted for \emptyset
- b) subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introduce bias - small number lost - > _____ % (select an

adequate %) follow up, or description provided of those lost) \emptyset

- c) follow up rate < _____ % (select an adequate %) and no description of those lost d) no statement