

**Supplement 2: Table 1: Assessing Bias in Cohort Studies**

| <b>Author, year</b>      | <b>Q1</b> | <b>Q2</b> | <b>Q3</b> | <b>Q4</b> | <b>Q5</b> | <b>Q6</b> | <b>Q7</b> | <b>Q8</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Ammenheuser, 1998        | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 8            |
| Berenson, 1996           | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 8            |
| Bonello, 2014            | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 7            |
| Braunstein, 1983         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 7            |
| Chasnoff, 1992           | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 7            |
| EIMarroun, 2009          | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 8            |
| EIMarroun, 2010          | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 7            |
| Fried, Watkinson, 1987 A | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 8            |
| Fried, Makin, 1987 B     | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 7            |
| Fried, 1991              | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 7            |
| Fried, 1999              | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 7            |
| Fried, 1984              | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 8            |
| Gargari, 2012            | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 7            |
| Greenland, 1982          | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 8            |
| Greenland, 1983          | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 7            |
| Hayatbakhsh, 2011        | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 8            |
| Hayes, 1991              | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 8            |
| Lozano, 2007             | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 7            |
| Ostrea, 1997             | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 7            |
| Shankaran, 2004          | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 7            |
| Quinlivan, 2002          | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 8            |
| Witter, 1990             | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 7            |

\*Notes: Q1 indicates the study addressed a clear focused issue; Q2 The cohort was recruited in an acceptable way; Q3 Exposure was accurately measured in a way that reduced bias; Q4 Outcome was measured in a way to minimize bias; Q5 Confounders were addressed; Q6 Follow up time was complete; Q7 Are the results believable; Q8 Can the results be applied to the local population

**Supplement 2: Table 2: Assessing Bias in a Cross-Sectional Study**

| <b>Author</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| Barros, 2006  | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 4            |

Notes: A. representativeness of study participants, B. proper methods to ascertain exposure, C. comparability of exposure groups and D.results generalizable

**Supplement 2: Table 3: Assessing Bias in a Case Control Study**

| Author      | A  |    |    |    | B  |    | C    |      |    | Total |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|------|----|-------|----|
|             | A1 | A2 | A3 | A4 | B1 | B2 | C1.1 | C1.2 | C2 |       | C3 |
| Kline, 1991 | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1    | 1    | 1  | 1     | 10 |

Notes: A. selection of the study groups (A1 right case definition, A2 right controls definition, A3 the representativeness of the cases, A4 the representativeness of controls); B. comparability of the groups (B1 control of main confounders, B2 control of any additional factor); C. ascertainment of the exposure (C1.1 appropriate method of exposure ascertainment, C1.2 structured blinded interviews, C2 same method of exposure ascertainment for cases and controls, C3 same non-response rate of case and control groups).