

S2 Appendix. Adapted Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment scale to evaluate study quality of the studies included in the meta-analysis.

TOTAL SCORE: 10 stars

1) Population Studied: Total of Stars = 2

- a. Full description of the population studied: age, sex, clinical origin? If Yes, **two stars**
- b. Description without one or more items missing. If Yes, **one star**

2) Selection of Participants: Total of Stars = 2

- a. Participants are identified without DM by FG and/or OGTT? If Yes, **two stars**
- b. Exclusion of DM was done by interview, previous clinical history and/or familiar history? If Yes, **one star**

3) Study Design: Total of Stars = 2

- a. The study design was in accordance with the purpose of research question under study. If Yes, **two star**
- b. The study was designed for another purpose, but provided sufficient data for our analysis. If yes, **one star**

4) Interfering factor: Total of Stars = 2

- a. The factor under investigation was well described (for example: levels of uremia; levels of total Hb or Hb variant type or other diagnostic criteria). If Yes, **two stars**
- b. The factor under investigation was partially described by interview, previous clinical history and/or familiar history. If Yes, **one star**

5) Statistical Analysis: Total of Stars = 2

- a. Patients without DM had their A1C results clearly described (mean, SD and/or SEM). If Yes, **two stars**
- b. Results for A1C for patients without DM were obtained after contact with the authors. If Yes, **one star**