

S1: Criteria and scoring for quality assessment

Criterion	Assessment item description	Number of studies scoring minimum of 1 on assessment item
METHODS	1. Is the hypothesis/aim/objective of study clearly defined?	23
	2. Are all the exposure variables clearly described?	22
	3. Are the main outcomes clearly described?	23
	4. Is the study design clearly described?	22
	5. Is the source of the subject population (including sampling frame) clearly described?	20
	6. Are the eligibility criteria for subject selection clearly described?	21
POPULATION BACKGROUND	7. Are the participation rates reported? Are ascertainment of record availability described?	9
	8. Are the characteristics of study participants described?	23
	9. Have characteristics of subjects lost after entry or not participating from eligible population been described?	13
ANALYSIS	10. Is there adequate adjustment for covariates and confounders in analysis?	18
	11. Are important covariates and confounders described?	19
	12. Are statistical methods clearly described?	23
RELIABILITY & VALIDITY	13. Are the exposure variables reliable?	9
	14. Are the exposure variables valid?	8
	15. Are outcome measures reliable?	19
	16. Are outcome measures valid?	19
RESULTS	17. Are main findings clearly described?	23
	18. Does the study provide estimates of random variability for outcomes or exposures (CI, SD)?	19
	19. Does the study provide estimates of statistical parameters (regression coefficients, odds ratios)?	20
	20. Can study results be applied to the eligible population?	18