

Supplementary Table 2. Star system of the quality assessment used for the New-Castle Ottawa Scale and assigning colors

Star system of Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (cohort study)		Color assigned		
Selection	1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort	Ⓐ Truly representative of the average _____ (describe) in the community	a or b	
		Ⓑ Somewhat representative of the average _____ in the community	c	
		Ⓒ Selected group of users, e.g., nurses, volunteers	d	
		Ⓓ No description of the derivation of the cohort		
	2) Selection of the nonexposed cohort	Ⓐ Drawn from the same community as the exposed cohort	a	
		Ⓑ Drawn from a different source	b	
		Ⓒ No description of the derivation of the nonexposed cohort	c	
	3) Ascertainment of exposure	Ⓐ Secure record (e.g., surgical records)	a or b	
		Ⓑ Structured interview	c	
		Ⓒ Written self report	d	
		Ⓓ No description		
	4) Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study	Ⓐ Yes	a	
		Ⓑ No	-	
	Comparability	1) Study controls for _____ (select the most important factor)	Ⓐ Yes	a
			Ⓑ No	-
		2) Study controls for any additional factor	Ⓐ Yes	b
Ⓑ No			a	
			-	
			b	
Outcome	1) Assessment of outcome	Ⓐ Independent blind assessment	a or b	
		Ⓑ Record linkage	c	
		Ⓒ Self report	d	
		Ⓓ No description		
	2) Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur	Ⓐ Yes (select an adequate follow-up period for the outcome of interest)	a	
		Ⓑ No	-	
	3) Adequacy of follow-up of cohorts	Ⓐ Complete follow-up: all subjects accounted for	b	
		Ⓑ Subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introduce bias: small number lost → 10% (select an adequate %) follow-up, or description provided of those lost	a or b	
		Ⓒ Follow-up rate < 30% (select an adequate %) and no description of those lost	c	
		Ⓓ No statement	d	