

Supplemental Table 5. The Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS) for cohort studies and case control studies

Supplemental Table 5.1 The Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS) for cohort studies

Study	Item & score							
	Selection				Comparability	Outcome		
	Representativeness of the exposed cohort (1)	Selection of the non-exposed cohort (1)	Ascertainment of exposure (1)	Demonstration that the outcome of interest was not present at start of study (1)	Compare the ability of cohorts based on the design or analysis (2)	Assessment of outcome (1)	Was the follow-up period long enough for outcomes to occur (1)	Adequacy of the follow-up of cohorts (1)

Supplemental 5.2 NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE FOR 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 are possible for Comparability.

Selection

- 1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort
 - a) truly representative of the average _____ (describe) in the community *
 - b) somewhat representative of the average _____ (describe) in the community *
 - c) selected group of users, e.g., nurses and 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 *
 - b) drawn from a different source
 - c) no description of the derivation of the non-exposed cohort
- 3) Ascertainment of exposure
 - a) secure record (e.g., surgical records) *
 - b) structured interview *
 - c) written self-report
 - d) no description
- 4) Demonstration that the outcome of interest was not present at the start of the study
 - a) yes *
 - b) no

Comparability

- 1) Comparability of cohorts based on the design or analysis
 - a) study controls for _____ (select the most important factor) *
 - b) study controls for any additional factor * (This criteria could be modified to indicate a specific control for a second important factor.)

Outcome

- 1) Assessment of outcome
 - a) independent blinded assessment *
 - b) record linkage *
 - c) self-report
 - d) no description
- 2) Was the follow-up period long enough for outcomes to occur
 - a) yes (selected an adequate follow-up period for the outcome of interest) *
 - b) no
- 3) Adequacy of the follow-up of cohorts
 - a) complete follow up - all subjects accounted for *
 - b) subjects lost to follow-up, unlikely to introduce bias - small number lost - > ____ % (select an adequate %) follow-up, or description provided of those individuals lost to follow-up) *
 - c) follow-up rate < ____ % (select an adequate %) and no description of those individuals lost to follow-up
 - d) no statement

Supplemental Table 5.3 The Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS) for case control studies

Study	Item & score							
	Selection				Comparability	Exposure		
	Is the case definition adequate? (1)	Representativeness of the cases (1)	Selection of Controls (1)	Definition of Controls (1)	Comparability of cases and controls based on the design or analysis (2)	Ascertainment of exposure (1)	Same method of ascertainment for cases and controls (1)	Non-response rate (1)

Supplemental 5.4 NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE FOR 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 is possible for Comparability.

Selection

- 1) Is the case definition adequate?
 - a) yes, with independent validation *
 - b) yes, e.g., record linkage or based on self-reports
 - c) no description
- 2) Representativeness of the cases
 - a) consecutive or obviously representative series of cases *
 - b) potential for selection bias or not stated
- 3) Selection of Controls
 - a) community controls *
 - b) hospital controls
 - c) no description
- 4) Definition of Controls
 - a) no history of disease (endpoint)
 - b) no description of the source

Comparability

- 1) Comparability of cases and controls based on the design or analysis
 - a) study controls for _____ (Select the most important factor.) *
 - b) study controls for any additional factor * (This criteria could be modified to indicate a specific control for a second important factor.)

Exposure

- 1) Ascertainment of exposure
 - a) secure record (e.g., surgical records) *
 - b) structured interview where the interviewer was blinded to the case/control status *
 - c) interviewer was not blinded to the 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 *
 - b) no
- 3) Non-response rate
 - a) same rate for both groups *
 - b) non-respondents described
 - c) rates differed and no designation was provided