

NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE
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 can be given for Comparability.

Selection

- 1) Is the case definition adequate?
 - a) yes, with independent validation *
 - b) yes, eg 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 biases 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 source

Comparability

- 1) Comparability of cases and controls on the basis of 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 specific _____ control for a second important factor.)

Exposure

- 1) Ascertainment of exposure
 - a) secure record (eg surgical records) *
 - b) structured interview where blind to case/control status *
 - c) interview not blinded to 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) rate different and no designation