

# Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Form for Case-Control Studies

Note: A study can be given 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.

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Ref ID: \_\_\_\_\_

## Selection

- 1) Is the case definition adequate?: \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Yes, with independent validation **(one star)**
  - b) Yes, e.g., record linkage or based on self report
  - c) No description
- 2) Representativeness of the cases: \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Consecutive or obviously representative series of cases **(one star)**
  - b) Potential for selection biases or not stated
- 3) Selection of controls: \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Community controls **(one star)**
  - b) Hospital controls
  - c) No description
- 4) Definition of controls: \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) No history of disease (endpoint) **(one star)**
  - b) No description of source

## Comparability

- 1) Comparability of cases and controls on the basis of the design or analysis controlled for confounders:  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - The study controls for age **(one star)**
  - Study controls for other factors (list) \_\_\_\_\_ **(one star)**
  - Cohorts are not comparable on the basis of the design or analysis controlled for confounders

## Exposure

- 1) Ascertainment of exposure: \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Secure record (e.g., surgical record) **(one star)**
  - b) Structured interview where blind to case/control status **(one star)**
  - 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: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Yes **(one star)**
  - No
- 3) Non-response rate: \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Same rate for both groups **(one star)**
  - b) Non-respondents described
  - c) Rate different between cases and controls with no description