

c. Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale (Cohort Studies)

Selection

- 1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort (i.e., glucose intolerant or GDM patients)
 - a) truly representative of the average patient with glucose intolerance in the community *
 - b) somewhat representative of the average glucose intolerance in the community *
 - c) selected group of users eg nurses, volunteers
 - d) no description of the derivation of the cohort
- 2) Selection of the non-exposed cohort (i.e., normal or minimal glucose intolerant patients)
 - 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 (eg surgical records) *
 - b) structured interview *
 - c) written self report
 - d) no description
- 4) Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study
 - a) yes *
 - b) no

Comparability

- 1) Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis
 - a) study controls for age, race/ethnicity, weight/BMI, previous GDM, or family history of diabetes **
 - b) study controls for any additional factor *

Outcome

- 1) Assessment of outcome
 - a) independent blind assessment *
 - b) record linkage *
 - c) self report
 - d) no description
- 2) Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur
 - a) yes (follows patients at least until birth) *
 - b) no
- 3) Adequacy of 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 (>90% follow up), or description provided of those lost *
 - c) follow up rate <75% and no description of those lost
 - d) no statement

TOTAL STARS (0-9)

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 can be given for Comparability