

5. Modified Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale

Selection

1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort

- a) truly representative of the average pregnant women and children in the community
- b) somewhat representative of the average pregnant women and children 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

- 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
- d) N/A

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 (if relevant, which will almost never be the case) or author's statement that a valid outcome measure was chosen.

- a) yes
- b) no

Clear Response

Comparability

1) Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis

If the authors describe factors for which they adjusted or noted that cohorts were matched on important factors and listed the factors, count that as a "yes."

- 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.)

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 (e.g., 5 years or older for asthma; for other outcomes, if the authors say why they chose a particular followup time, definitely select "yes"; otherwise use your own judgment.

a) yes (select an adequate follow up period for outcome of interest)

b) no

Clear Response

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 - >80% retention for ≤ 1 year followup; >30% retention for 1-5 years followup; >40% retention for 6-10 years followup; >50% retention for 11-18 years followup; or description provided of those lost)

c) follow up rate < 80% (select an adequate %) and no description of those lost

d) no statement