Appendix D. Tools Used To Assess the Quality of the Literature

Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Form for Cohort Studies

Note: A study can be given 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.

REFID:_____   **Reviewer:**_____

Selection

1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort

    a) Truly representative *(one star)*
    b) Somewhat representative *(one star)*
    c) Selected group
    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 *(one star)*
    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 record) *(one star)*
    b) Structured interview *(one star)*
    c) Written self report
    d) No description
    e) Other

4) Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study

    a) Yes *(one star)*
    b) No

Comparability

1) Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis controlled for confounders

    a) The study controls for age *(one star)*
    b) Study controls for other factors (list) _____*(one star)*
    c) Cohorts are not comparable on the basis of the design or analysis controlled for confounders

Outcome

1) Assessment of outcome

    a) Independent blind assessment *(one star)*
    b) Record linkage *(one star)*
    c) Self report
    d) No description
    e) Other

2) Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur

    a) Yes *(one star)*
    b) No

Indicate the median duration of follow-up and a brief rationale for the assessment above:_____

3) Adequacy of follow-up of cohorts

a) Complete follow up- all subject accounted for *(one star)*
b) Subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introduce bias- number lost less than or equal to 20% or description of those lost suggested no different from those followed. *(one star)*
c) Follow up rate greater than 80% and no description of those lost
d) No statement