
Supplementary File. Details of Quality Assessment Criteria

**High quality**
For studies of the highest quality, assessors should answer yes to Eight out of ten questions and must include all questions under 1, 2 and 5

1 *Subject sampling and precision*
   A. Are the included people representative of the general population? (Comment: if people were included on the basis of hospital records, insurance claims, or health-care facilities then they should not be considered representative of the general population.)

   B. People are not included or excluded on the basis of specific risk factors. (Comment: high risk people should not be sought out specifically for inclusion or exclusion.)

   C. Is the sample size adequate to address the question of prevalence in the studied population?

2 *Sampling technique*
   A. Were the people recruited at random? (Comment: methods should address the issue of enrolling consecutive participants, people likely to have the disease or at high risk, and convenience sampling)

3 *Response rate*
   A. Does the article report a response rate in total sample?

   B. Is that response rate 40% or higher?

4 *Exclusion rate*
   A. Does the article report an exclusion rate in total sample?

   B. Is the exclusion rate 10% or less?

5 *Measurement and method of determination of diabetes*
   A. Does the study report the method used for determination of Diabetes?

   B. Does the study use a consistent method for determination of Diabetes?

**Moderate quality**
For studies of moderate quality, assessors should answer yes to the following questions

1 If participants are not representative of the general population, then are they representative of the population in question? (Comment: people can be taken from high-risk groups such as diabetic or hypertensive populations; although not considered representative of the entire population, they can still be representative of that specific population.)

2 If participants were not recruited at random, then were they recruited in a random non-health-care convenience method from the entire population in question?

3 Is the study sample size adequate to answer the question of prevalence in the studied population?

4 Does the study use a consistent method for determination of diabetes?

**Low quality**
1 For studies of the lowest quality, assessors would be unable to answer yes to all of the above questions.