

Additional File 2. Risk of bias assessment tool for prevalence, incidence and aetiologies outcomes

Risk of Bias Item	Answer: Yes (Low Risk) or No (High risk)
External Validity	
1. Was the study target population a close representation of the national population in relation to relevant variables?	
2. Was the sampling frame a true or close representation of the target population?	
3. Was some form of random selection used to select the sample, OR, was a census undertaken?	
4. Was the likelihood of non-participation bias minimal?	
Internal Validity	
5. Were data collected directly from the subjects (as opposed to medical records)?	
6. Were acceptable case definition of condition used?	
7. Was a reliable and accepted diagnosis method utilized?	
8. Was the same mode of data collection used for all subjects?	
9. Was the length of the shortest prevalence period for the parameter of interest appropriate?	
10. Were the numerator(s) and denominator(s) for the calculation of the prevalence appropriate?	
<p>11. Summary item on the overall risk of study bias</p> <p>LOW RISK OF BIAS: 8 or more “yes” answers. Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate.</p> <p>MODERATE RISK OF BIAS: 6 to 7 “yes” answers. Further research is likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate and may change the estimate.</p> <p>HIGH RISK OF BIAS: 5 or fewer “yes” answers. Further research is very likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate and is likely to change the estimate.</p>	