

NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE - COHORT STUDIES (Amended)

Note: A study can be awarded a maximum of one star for each numbered item within the Selection and Outcome categories.

Selection

- 1) Representativeness of the cohort
 - a) Truly representative of the average person in the community ✱
 - b) Somewhat representative of the average person in the community (sampling described and designed to achieve adequately representative sample of the community) ✱
 - c) Selected group e.g. nurses, volunteers
 - d) No description of the derivation of the cohort
- 2) Assessment of exposure reliability
 - a) Include assessment of inter- and intra-observer variabilities ✱
 - b) Include assessment of intra-observer variability ✱
 - c) No description
- 3) Completeness of collection of potential confounders¹ (i.e. CVD risk factors)
 - a) Complete ✱
 - b) Partially complete (≥ 5) ✱
 - c) Partially complete (< 5)
 - d) No description
- 4) Demonstration that the outcome of interest not present at start of study (and/or sensitively analysis)
 - a) Yes ✱
 - b) No

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 (an adequate follow up period for outcome of interest is a year) ✱
 - 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 - $> 80\%$ follow up, or description provided of those lost ✱
 - c) Follow up rate $< 80\%$ and no description of those lost
 - d) No statement

The total quality score will be calculated by averaging the score of the two researchers with the range from 0 (lowest quality) to 7 (highest quality) and will be provided as a descriptive variable of the included studies.

¹ Based on Framingham risk factors modified to include ethnicity: age, sex, blood pressure, antihypertensive medication (yes/no), total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol (or BMI), smoking, diabetes mellitus, and ethnicity.