

## NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE CASE CONTROL STUDIES

Note: A study can be awarded a maximum of one star for each numbered item within the Selection and Exposure categories. A maximum of two stars can be given for Comparability.

### **Selection**

- 1) Is the case definition adequate?
  - a) yes, with independent validation ✳
  - b) yes, eg record linkage or based on self reports
  - c) no description
- 2) Representativeness of the cases
  - a) consecutive or obviously representative series of cases ✳
  - b) potential for selection biases or not stated
- 3) Selection of Controls
  - a) community controls ✳
  - b) hospital controls
  - c) no description
- 4) Definition of Controls
  - a) no history of disease (endpoint) ✳
  - b) no description of source

### **Comparability**

- 1) Comparability of cases and controls on the basis of the design or analysis
  - 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.)

### **Exposure**

- 1) Ascertainment of exposure
  - a) secure record (eg surgical records) ✳
  - b) structured interview where blind to case/control status ✳
  - c) interview not blinded to case/control status
  - d) written self report or medical record only
  - e) no description
- 2) Same method of ascertainment for cases and controls
  - a) yes ✳
  - b) no
- 3) Non-Response rate
  - a) same rate for both groups ✳
  - b) non respondents described
  - c) rate different and no designation