

NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE

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

Rating Scale: Good (5-7), Satisfactory (4-3), Unsatisfactory (>2)

Selection (Maximum 4 points)

1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort

- a) Recruitment of COPD patients in the community (+1)
- b) Recruitment of COPD patients in from Hospital or clinics only
- c) No description of the derivation of the cohort

2) Sample size

- a) Justified and satisfactory (+1)
- b) Not justified

3) Ascertainment of exposure

- a) Patient record (e.g. surgical records) (+1)
- b) Structured interview (+1)
- c) Written self-report
- d) No description

4) Sampling method

- a) Appropriate sampling. (+1)
- b) The response rate is unsatisfactory, or the comparability between respondents and non-respondents is unsatisfactory.
- c) No description of the response rate or the characteristics of the responders and the non-responders.

Comparability (Maximum 2 points)

1) Included control group without COPD irrespective of outcome

- a) Yes (+1)
- b) No

Outcome (Maximum 3 stars)

1) Assessment of outcome

- a) Independent blind assessment (+1)
- b) Record linkage (+1)
- c) Self-report
- d) No description

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

- a) Yes (+1)
- b) No (0)

3) Adequacy of follow up

- a) Complete follow up or adequate duration of exposure (+1)
- b) Subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introduce bias (+1)
- c) Follow up rate < 90 % and no description of those lost
- d) No statement