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