Supplementary A

NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE

CASE CONTROL STUDIES

<u>Note</u>: 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) <u>Is the case definition adequate</u>?

    a) yes, with independent validation ☐

    b) yes, eg record linkage or based on self reports

    c) no description

2) <u>Representativeness of the cases</u>

    a) consecutive or obviously representative series of cases ☐

    b) potential for selection biases or not stated

3) <u>Selection of Controls</u>

    a) community controls ☐

    b) hospital controls

    c) no description

4) <u>Definition of Controls</u>

    a) no history of disease (endpoint) ☐

    b) no description of source

Comparability

1) <u>Comparability of cases and controls on the basis of the design or analysis</u>

    a) study controls for _____ (Select the most important factor.) ☐

1

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