

Newcastle-Ottawa Scale adapted for cross-sectional studies

Selection: (Maximum 5 stars)

- 1) Representativeness of the sample:
 - a) Truly representative of the average in the target population. * (all subjects or random sampling)
 - b) Somewhat representative of the average in the target population. * (non-random sampling)
 - c) Selected group of users.
 - d) No description of the sampling strategy.
- 2) Sample size:
 - a) Justified and satisfactory. *
 - b) Not justified.
- 3) Non-respondents:
 - a) Comparability between respondents and non-respondents characteristics is established, and the response rate is satisfactory. *
 - 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.
- 4) Ascertainment of the exposure (risk factor):
 - a) Validated measurement tool. **
 - b) Non-validated measurement tool, but the tool is available or described.*
 - c) No description of the measurement tool.

Comparability: (Maximum 2 stars)

- 1) The subjects in different outcome groups are comparable, based on the study design or analysis. Confounding factors are controlled.
 - a) The study controls for the most important factor (select one). *
 - b) The study control for any additional factor. *

Outcome: (Maximum 3 stars)

- 1) Assessment of the outcome:
 - a) Independent blind assessment. **
 - b) Record linkage. **
 - c) Self report. *
 - d) No description.
- 2) Statistical test:
 - a) The statistical test used to analyze the data is clearly described and appropriate, and the measurement of the association is presented, including confidence intervals and the probability level (p value). *
 - b) The statistical test is not appropriate, not described or incomplete.

This scale has been adapted from the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale for cohort studies to perform a quality assessment of cross-sectional studies for the systematic review, **“Bullying and health related quality of life among adolescents- a systematic review”**.