**S3 Table.** **Quality assessment scores of the included studies using the Newcastle-Ottawa scale for cohort studies.**

| **Author, publication year, reference** | **Selection** | **Comparability** | **Outcome** | **Category** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agha, 2006 [1] | \*\*\*\* | \*\* | \*\*\* | High |
| Bakker, 2019 [2] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Bell, 2016 [3] | \*\*\*\* | \* | \*\*\* | High |
| Berger, 2003 [4]  | \*\*\*\* | \* | \*\*\* | High |
| Borgstedt-Bakke, 2017 [5] | \*\*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Brodwall, 2018 [6] | \*\*\*\* | \* | \*\*\* | High |
| Burgos, 2017 [7] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Cassina, 2016 [8],  | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Cassina, 2019 [9] | \*\*\* |  | \*\* | Medium |
| Chardot, 2013 [10] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Chua, 2020 [11] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Dastgiri, 2003 [12] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Davenport, 2011 [13] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| De Carvalho, 2010 [14] | \*\*\* |  | \*\* | Medium |
| De Vries, 2011 [15] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Eide, 2006 [16] | \*\*\*\* | \* | \*\*\* | High |
| Folkestad, 2016 [17] | \*\*\*\* | \*\* | \*\*\* | High |
| Frid, 1999 [18] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Garne, 2002 [19] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Glasson, 2016 [20] | \*\*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Grizelj, 2010 [21] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Gudbjartsson, 2008 [22] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Halliday, 2009 [23] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Hayes, 1997 [24] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Hinton, 2017 [25] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Jaillard, 2003 [26] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Kucik, 2013 [27] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Lampela, 2012 [28] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Leonard, 2000 [29] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Leonhardt, 2011 [30] | \*\*\* |  | \*\* | Medium |
| Lionti, 2012 [31] | \*\*\* |  | \*\* | Medium |
| Löf Granström, 2017 [32] | \*\*\*\* | \* | \*\*\* | High |
| McKiernan, 2000 [33] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| McKiernan, 2009 [34] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Meyer, 2016 [35] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Nelson, 2016 [36] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Nembhard, 2010 [37] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Nio, 2003 [38] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Oddsberg, 2012 [39] | \*\*\*\* | \*\* | \*\*\* | High |
| Pakarinen, 2018 [40] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Rankin, 2012 [41] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Rasmussen, 2006 [42] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Risby, 2017 [43] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Schneuer, 2019 [44] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Schreiber, 2007 [45] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Shin, 2012 [46] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Siffel, 2003 [47] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Simmons, 2014 [48] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Sutton, 2008 [49] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Tennant, 2010 [50] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Tu, 2015 [51] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Wang, 2011 [52] | \*\*\* |  | \*\* | Medium |
| Wang, 2015 [53] | \*\*\* |  | \*\* | Medium |
| Wildhaber, 2008 [54] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |
| Wong, 2001 [55] | \*\*\* |  | \*\*\* | High |

**Note:**

A study can be awarded a maximum of one star for each numbered item within the Selection (maximum 4 stars) and Outcome (maximum 3 stars) categories. A maximum of two stars can be given for Comparability. In total, maximum 9 scores can be given, however, maximum 6 stars only for survival studies with no comparison group. Quality categories were allocated as: Low = 0-2 stars, Medium = 3-5 stars, High = 6-9 stars.

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