Supplementary appendix 1


Newcastle-ottawa quality assessment scale for studies included in the meta-analysis

Selection
1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort
   a) truly representative of the average in the community (registries) *
   b) somewhat representative of the average in the community (cohort studies)
   c) selected group of users e.g. nurses, volunteers
   d) no description of the derivation of the cohort
2) Selection of the non-exposed cohort
   a) drawn from the same community as the exposed cohort *
   b) drawn from a different source
   c) no description of the derivation of the non-exposed cohort
3) Ascertainment of exposure
   a) secure record (age at diagnosis medically verified) *
   b) age at diagnosis based on start of medical treatment
   c) written self-report
   d) no description
4) Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study
   a) yes *
   b) no

Comparability
1) Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis
   a) study controls for age and sex in SMRs *
   b) study did not control for age and sex in SMRs (e.g. HRs or age-standardized SMR)

Outcome
1) Assessment of outcome
   a) independent blind assessment *
   b) record linkage *
c) self-report
d) no description

2) Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur
   a) yes (at least 10 years) *
   b) no

3) Adequacy of follow up of cohorts
   a) complete follow up - all subjects accounted for *
   b) subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introduce bias > 10% follow up, or description provided of those lost *
   c) follow up rate < 90% and no description of those lost
   d) no statement