

Mazurkiewicz, D.W. et al. Adverse Mental Health Sequelae of COVID-19 Pandemic in the Pregnant Population and Useful Implications for Clinical Practice.

NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE (adapted for cross sectional studies)

Selection: (Maximum 5 points)

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. (nonrandom 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 points)

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 points)

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, “Adverse Mental Health Sequelae of COVID-19 Pandemic in the Pregnant Population and Useful Implications for Clinical Practice.”

In our scale, we have specifically assigned this tool on a basis of criteria included 3 categories (“selection”, “comparability”, “outcome”) with a maximum score of 9 and 10 points for cohort and cross-sectional studies respectively. The “selection” category, which accounts for a maximum of 4 points (5 points for cross-sectional studies), the “comparability” category, which accounts for a maximum of 2 points, and “outcome,” which accounts for a maximum of 3 points.