

Supplemental Table 1. Quality Assessment for Cohort Studies Using the Newcastle – Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale *

Study	Selection [†]				Comparability [‡]	Outcome ^x		
	Representativeness of the exposed cohort	Selection of the non-exposed cohort	Ascertainment of exposure	Outcome of interest not present at start of study	Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis	Assessment of outcome	Enough follow-up	Adequacy of follow-up
Bashir et al. (15)		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Birks et al. (16)		✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Bogaev et al. (17)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Boyle et al. (18)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hsich et al. (19)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	
Morris et al. (20)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Sherazi et al. (21)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	
Tsiouris et al. (22)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Meeteren et al. (23)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Weymann et al. (24)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	

* A study can be awarded a maximum of one point for each numbered item within the selection and outcome categories. A maximum of two points can be given for comparability.

† Selection: Representativeness of exposed cohort: ✓ given if the cohort was representative of the average patient with advanced heart failure in the community; Selection of non-exposed cohort: ✓ given if the non-exposed cohort (male sex) was drawn from the same community as the exposed cohort; Exposure ascertainment: ✓ given if obtained from secure record (hospital chart); Outcome of interest not present at start of study: ✓ given if outcome not present in baseline characteristics.

‡ Comparability: ✓ given if cohort was roughly comparable in baseline characteristics; additional ✓ if propensity score matching or multivariate analysis was performed.

x Outcome: Assessment of outcome: ✓ given if independent blind assessment or record linkage; Enough follow-up: ✓ given if follow-up was long enough for outcomes to occur (>6months). Adequacy of follow-up of cohorts: ✓ given if complete follow-up and all participants accounted for or if loss to follow-up was small and unlikely to introduce bias (follow-up rate >90% or description provided of those lost).