

Additional file 1. Quality assessment of included studies based on the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale score

Study ID	Is the case definition adequate	Representativeness of the cases	Selection of the controls	Definition of controls	Comparability of cases and controls on the basis of the design or analysis	Ascertainment of exposure	Same method of ascertainment for cases and controls	Non-response rate	Total stars
<i>Adebamowo 1999</i>	*		*	*		*	*		5
<i>Althuis 2003</i>	*	*		*	*	*			5
<i>Beji 2007</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		7
<i>Bustan 1993</i>	*	*		*	*			*	5
<i>Clavel 1991</i>	*	*		*			*	*	5
<i>Chie 1998</i>	*	*	*		*	*			5
<i>Croghan 2009</i>	*		*	*		*	*	*	6
<i>Dinger 2006</i>	*	*		*		*	*		5
<i>Ebrahimi 2002</i>	*		*	*	*		*		5
<i>Ellery 1986</i>	*	*	*	*		*			5
<i>Ewertz 1992</i>	*	*		*	*	*			5
<i>Faheem 2007</i>	*	*	*		*		*	*	6
<i>Gomes 1995</i>	*	*		*	*	*			5
<i>Hadjisavvas 2010</i>	*	*	*			*	*	*	6
<i>Hall 2005</i>	*		*	*	*	*			5
<i>Harris 1982</i>		*		*	*	*		*	5
<i>Harris 1990</i>		*		*	*	*	*		5
<i>Hennekens 1984</i>		*	*	*			*	*	5
<i>Janerich 1983</i>	*	*	*		*	*			5
<i>Jick 1989</i>	*		*	*		*	*		5
<i>Kamarudin 2006</i>	*	*		*	*	*	*		6
<i>Kishk 1999</i>	*	*		*	*	*			5
<i>Kuru 2002</i>	*	*	*			*		*	5

<i>La Vecchia 2006</i>	*	*	*		*		*	*	6
<i>Lawlor 2004</i>		*		*	*	*	*		5
<i>Lee 1987</i>	*	*	*		*	*			5
<i>Lee 1992</i>	*	*	*		*	*			5
<i>Lees 1978</i>	*	*		*	*			*	5
<i>Levi 1996</i>	*	*	*		*	*		*	6
<i>Lipworth 1995</i>	*	*		*	*		*	*	6
<i>Lubin 1982</i>	*	*		*			*	*	5
<i>Lund 1989</i>	*	*	*		*	*			5
<i>Magnusson 1999</i>	*	*		*		*	*		5
<i>Mahouri 2007</i>	*	*	*		*		*	*	6
<i>Marchbanks 2002</i>	*	*		*	*		*		5
<i>McCredie 1998</i>		*	*	*	*		*		5
<i>McPherson 1987</i>	*		*	*	*			*	5
<i>Newcomb 1996</i>	*	*	*			*	*		5
<i>Norsa'adah 2005</i>	*	*		*	*	*			5
<i>Olsson 1989</i>	*	*		*		*	*		5
<i>Ozmen 2009</i>	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	7
<i>Paffenbarger 1980</i>		*	*		*	*	*		5
<i>Palmer 1995</i>	*	*		*	*	*			5
<i>Paul 1995</i>	*	*	*		*	*	*		6
<i>Pike 1981</i>	*		*	*		*	*		5
<i>Price 1999</i>	*	*	*		*			*	5
<i>Primic-Žakelj 1995</i>	*	*	*		*		*	*	6
<i>Ravnihar 1988</i>			*	*	*		*	*	5
<i>Ravnihar 1979</i>	*	*	*		*	*			5
<i>Rohan 1988</i>	*	*		*	*	*			5
<i>Rookus 1994</i>	*	*	*		*	*		*	6
<i>Rosenberg 1992</i>	*	*		*	*		*		5
<i>Rosenberg 1996</i>	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	7

<i>Rosenberg 2009</i>	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	7
<i>Rossing 1996</i>	*		*	*	*		*	*	6
<i>Sartwell 1977</i>		*		*	*	*		*	5
<i>Schildkraut 1991</i>	*	*	*		*	*			5
<i>Shantakumar 2007</i>	*	*	*		*		*	*	6
<i>Shapiro 2000</i>	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	7
<i>Stanford 1989</i>	*	*		*		*		*	5
<i>Sweeney 2007</i>	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	7
<i>Talamini 1985</i>		*	*		*		*	*	5
<i>Tavani 1993</i>	*	*	*		*	*			5
<i>Tessaro 2001</i>	*	*	*	*	*			*	6
<i>Traina 1996</i>		*	*		*	*	*		5
<i>UK NCCS 1989</i>	*	*	*	*		*	*		6
<i>Ursin 1998</i>	*	*	*		*		*	*	6
<i>Ursin 1999</i>	*	*	*		*		*	*	6
<i>Vessey 1983</i>		*	*	*		*		*	5
<i>Viladiu 1996</i>	*	*	*		*		*	*	6
<i>Wang 1992</i>	*	*			*		*	*	5
<i>Weinstein 1991</i>	*		*		*		*	*	5
<i>White 1994</i>	*	*	*		*		*	*	6
<i>WHO study 1990</i>	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	7
<i>Wingo 1991</i>	*	*	*		*	*			5
<i>Wynder 1978</i>		*		*	*		*	*	5
<i>Yang 1997</i>	*	*		*		*	*		5
<i>Yavari 2005</i>	*	*	*		*		*	*	6
<i>Yuan 1988</i>	*	*		*		*	*		5