

Selection

1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort

- a) truly representative of the average in the community (i.e. based on power analysis) ★
- b) unrepresentative case-series where no clear conclusion due to the sample size can be obtained
- c) no description of the derivation of the cohort

2) Representativeness of anatomical factors

- a) influenciabile anatomical factors reported ★
- b) no detailed description on influenciabile anatomical factors
- c) no description

3) Representativeness of parametric data

- a) enough quantitative information to discriminate bone characteristics ★
- b) fairly information to discriminate bone characteristics
- c) qualitative descriptive information

3) Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study

- a) stated clearly systemic conditions that could influence final outcome (i.e. bone metabolism disorder, smoking, diabetes) ★
- b) no clear statement

Comparison

1) Comparability of test/controls on the basis of the analysis

- a) for studies evaluating grafted bone characteristics: clear comparison between cohorts ★
- b) for studies evaluating pristine bone characteristics: clear statement on bone location and group assignments ★
- c) no clear group assignments

Outcome

1) Assessment of outcome

- a) independent blind assessment ★
- b) record linkage
- c) self report
- d) no description

2) Examination method

- a) Aquate analysis to show the outcome ★
- b) Adequate but not sufficiently validated
- c) unadequate

2) Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur (only applicable for grafted sites)

- a) yes (select an adequate follow up period for outcome of interest) ★
- b) no

3) Adequacy of follow up of cohorts (only applicable for grafted sites)

- a) complete follow up - all subjects accounted for ★
- b) subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introduce bias - small number lost - > ____ % (select an adequate %) follow up, or description provided of those lost) ★
- c) follow up rate < ____% (select an adequate %) and no description of those lost
- d) no statement

4) Outcome description

- a) application of correlation among studied variables ★
- b) only descriptive data

Note: A study can be awarded a maximum of one star for each numbered item