<table>
<thead>
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<th>Criteria (maximum number of stars)</th>
<th>Question</th>
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| **Selection (****)** | 1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort  
a) truly representative of the average pregnant women in the community*
b) somewhat representative of the average pregnant women in the community *  
c) selected group of users eg 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 (eg surgical records)*  
b) structured interview*  
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 length of gestation*  
b) study controls for multiparity* |
| **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 (select an adequate follow up period for outcome of interest)*  
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 - small number lost - > 80% follow up, or description provided of those lost)*  
c) follow up rate < 80% and no description of those lost  
d) no statement |

Note: Scale ranges between zero and nine stars. Highest quality studies are awarded a maximum of four stars for the selection domain, two stars for the comparability domain, and three stars for the outcome domain.