NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE
CASE CONTROL STUDIES
Review: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and melanoma risk

Note: A study can be awarded a maximum of one star for each numbered item within the Selection and Exposure categories. A maximum of two stars can be given for Comparability.

Selection

1) Is the case definition (melanoma) adequate?
   a) yes, with independent validation (eg. self reported doctor’s diagnosis, reference tot primary record source) ✱
   b) yes, based on self reports
   c) no description

2) Representativeness of the cases
   a) consecutive or obviously representative series of cases ✱
   b) potential for selection biases or not stated

3) Selection of Controls
   a) community controls (same community as cases) ✱
   b) hospital controls
   c) no description

4) Definition of Controls
   a) no history of disease (endpoint) ✱
   b) no description of source

Comparability

1) Comparability of cases and controls on the basis of the design or analysis
   a) study controls for gender ✱
   b) study controls for skin reaction to sun, age AND sex ✱

Exposure

1) Ascertainment of exposure
   a) use of accelerometer ✱
   b) validated questionnaire ✱
   c) not validated questionnaire or no validation is mentioned
   d) written self report
   e) no description

2) Same method of ascertainment for cases and controls
   a) yes ✱
   b) no

3) Non-Response rate
   a) same rate for both groups ✱
   b) non respondents described
   c) rate different and no designation