

Table 1 Assessing risk of bias in case-control studies included in the systematic review (13)

Study	A				B		C			Quality score
	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	C1	C2	C3	
Al-Abst 2006 Yemen (20)	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	6
Alavfi et al. 2015 Iran (18)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
Akrim et al. 2014 Morocco (24)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	8
Date & Okita 2005 Yemen (35)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
Maamar 2008 Syria (21)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	8
Güneyhoglu et al. 2004 Turkey (19)	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	6
Mohamed et al. 2013 Sudan (22)	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	6
Rahim et al. 2004 Sudan (23)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Runman et al. 2008 Jordan (18)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	8
WHO 2008 Iraq (25a)	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	6
WHO 2008 Iran (25b)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	8
WHO 2008 Egypt (25c)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	8
WHO 2008 Somalia (25d)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	8

A – Selection of the study groups: A1 right case definition; A2 right controls definition; A3 the representativeness of the cases; A4 the representativeness of controls.

B – Comparability of the groups: B1 control of main confounders; B2 control of any additional factor.

C – Ascertainment of exposure: C1 appropriate method of exposure ascertainment; C2 same method of exposure ascertainment for cases and controls; C3 same non-response rate of case and control groups.

1: study met the criteria; 0: the study did not meet the criteria.

Quality score: < 5 high risk of bias. > 5 low risk of bias