**Selection**

1) Is the case definition adequate?

a) yes, with independent validation \*

b) yes, eg record linkage or 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

**Selection**

1. **Is the case definition adequate?**This question concerns how well authors reported FASD diagnostic guidelines and the assessment of maternal drinking.

Choose answer:

1. When a description was given how FASD diagnosis and Maternal Interviews were assessed (e.g. IOM 2005 guidelines, semi-structured interview, self-report). Preferably by independent validation (e.g. case conference for FASD diagnosis). Max.★★

*Note*: One star is awarded if maternal drinking was assessed; one additional star if indicated which FASD diagnostic tool or guideline was used (e.g. IOM 2005).

1. When no reference was given to primary source of information
2. When no description was given
3. **Representativeness of the Cases**This question concerns the representativeness of cases for a general population. If cases were selected in a preselected high subpopulation, this means that these cases are not representative towards a general population and therefore non-random.

Choose answer:

1. When the FASD cases over a defined period of time represent all cases in a defined catchment area or hospital (random sample) ★
2. When the sample is not based on a general population (non-random), or not stated

3) Selection of Controls

a) community controls **\***

b) hospital controls

c) no description

4) Definition of Controls

a) no history of disease (endpoint) **\***

b) no description of source

1. **Selection of Controls**This question concerns the selection of controls in a random non-case population. Preferably, theses controls are selected randomly in the same community.

*Note*: Two stars can be awarded in this question.

Choose answer:

1. When selected controls are from the same community and would be cases if they had been screened positive for FASD ★
2. When controls were selected randomly from non-case population (instead of matched controls) ★
3. When selected controls are from a hospitalized population, within the same community
4. When no description was given
5. **Definition of Controls**

This question concerns controls that were also part of the diagnostic process but did not receive a FASD diagnosis.

Choose answer:

1. When controls have been reported to have no history of receiving a FASD diagnosis★
2. When no description was given

**Comparability**

1) Comparability of cases and controls on the basis of the design or analysis

a) study controls for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Select the most important factor.) **\***

b) study controls for any additional factor **\*** (This criteria could be modified to indicate specific control for a second important factor.)

**Comparability**

1. **Comparability of cases and controls on the basis of the design or analysis**This question concerns how well the mothers of cases and controls are matched in analysis. Maternal age has been reported to be one of the major risk factors for FAS (May, et al., 2004). You therefore evaluate separately for age when authors controlled for age of the mother.

FASD cases and their controls must be matched in the design for different factors (e.g. age of children, age mother, SES mother, educational level mother). A maximum of 2 stars can be allotted in this category.

1. When the study controlled for age of the mother ★
2. When the study also controlled for other variables, namely …. (additional factor)★

**Exposure**

1) Ascertainment of exposure

a) secure record (eg surgical records) **\***

b) structured interview where blind to case/control status **\***

c) interview not blinded to case/control status

d) written self report or medical record only

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

**Exposure**

*NOTE.* The present study focusses on maternal drinking behavior. We therefore want to assess the maternal behavioral aspects in greater detail. We do this using an extraction form in R for all included studies.

1. **Same method of ascertainment for cases and controls**

This question concerns the method of diagnosis. Preferably, the same diagnostic guidelines were used for both cases and controls.

1. Yes★
2. No
3. **Non-response rate**

This question concerns how well the authors described the non-response rates for both cases and controls. Note that this question is not often available for controls within the FASD literature.

Choose answer:

1. When same non-response rate was given for cases/controls ★
2. When non respondents were described
3. When non-response rates differed for cases/controls without a designation