NEWCASTLE -OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE
COHORT STUDIES (ADJUSTED BY VONK ET AL.)

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

Selection

1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort (amyloid positive)
   a) truly representative of the average older adult without dementia in the community (i.e., community based cohort and mix of nondemented individuals with and without subjective complaints, can include individuals with MCI as well) ✶
   b) somewhat representative of the average older adult without dementia in the community (e.g., if a certain selection is made which makes the individuals 'more' cognitively normal, e.g., only nondemented individuals without subjective complaints or only nondemented individuals without MCI) ✶
   c) selected group of users, e.g., volunteers, memory clinic visitors, only individuals at higher risk (only subjective complaints, only depressive sypmtoms, only APOE e4 carriers)
   d) no description of the derivation of the cohort

2) Selection of the non-exposed cohort (amyloid negative)
   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) continuous measurement ✶
   b) categorized based on established or published cut-offs ✶
   c) categorized based on non-established cut-offs (e.g., z-score cut-off, mean split, median split)
   d) no description

Comparability

1) Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis
   - study controls for age ✶
   - study controls for sex/gender ✶
   - study controls for education ✶
   - study controls for any additional factor ✶

Outcome

1) Ascertainment of outcome
   a) independent neuropsychological assessment ✶
   b) record linkage
   c) self-report
   d) no description

2) Same method of assessment for cases (amyloid positive) and controls (amyloid negative)
   a) yes ✶
   b) no