

Case-Control Study Study Questions

- Objectives and hypotheses of study clearly stated.
- Accurate ascertainment of cases- case definition diagnostic criteria specified.
- For cases and controls separately, inclusion and exclusion criteria, recruitment, methods of selection—flow diagrams are recommended.
- Definition of variables under study, including which are seen as outcomes, exposures, confounders, and effect modifiers.
- Numbers of subjects potentially eligible, included in study, completing follow-up, and analyzed.
- Measures of association between exposures and outcomes both crude and adjusted for confounders, with measures of precision (e.g. 95% confidence intervals).
- Other issues of bias and analysis as appropriate.

Value issues:

- Are the authors' conclusions convincingly supported by methods and results, or are alternative interpretations of the same data also plausible? What else might the results mean?
- Relevance and application to workers' compensation population.

Conclusion: inadequate, adequate, high-quality, not applicable