**Appendix 3. Methodological quality score of the included studies based on the Newcastle–Ottawa scale (NOS) tool.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **First author** | **Year** | **Study Design** | **Selection** | | | | **Comparability** | **Exposure** | | | **Total Score** | **Risk of Bias** |
| Representative­ness of cohort \* | Selection of control cohort \* | Ascertainment of exposure \* | Outcome not present at start \* | Comparability of cohorts \*\* | Assessment of outcome \* | Length of follow-up \* | Adequacy of follow-up \* | **Total score 9\*** |
| Hernigou | 2004 | Retrospective observational study |  | \* | \* | \* | \*\* | \* | \* | \* | 8 | low |
| Gulati | 2009 | Retrospective observational study |  | \* | \* | \* | \*\* | \* | \* | \* | 8 | low |
| Boissonneault | 2013 | Retrospective observational study |  | \* | \* | \* | \*\* | \* | \* | \* | 8 | low |
| Hamilton | 2016 | Prospective observational study |  | \* | \* | \* | \*\* | \* | \* | \* | 8 | low |
| Pegg | 2016 | Retrospective observational study |  | \* | \* | \* | \*\* | \* | \* | \* | 8 | low |
| Liu | 2020 | Retrospective observational study |  | \* | \* | \* | \*\* | \* | \* | \* | 8 | low |
| Kikuchi | 2021 | Retrospective observational study |  | \* | \* | \* | \*\* | \* | \* | \* | 8 | low |
| Plancher | 2022 | Retrospective observational study |  | \* | \* | \* | \*\* | \* | \* | \* | 8 | low |
| Engh | 2014 | Retrospective observational study |  | \* | \* | \* | \*\* | \* | \* | \* | 8 | Low |