

Evaluation

Study:

Study Design: Case-control studies

Questions to consider:

- Objectives and hypotheses of study clearly stated
- Accurate ascertainment of cases- case definition diagnostic criteria specified
- For studies of causes of disease occurrence, the cases should be incident (newly diagnosed) cases
- For cases and controls separately, inclusion and exclusion criteria, recruitment, methods of selection—flow diagrams are recommended
- Controls should be drawn from the source population which gave rise to the cases
- Definition of variables under study, including which are seen as outcomes, exposures, confounders, and effect modifiers
- Numbers of subjects potentially eligible, included in study, and analyzed
- Measures of association between exposures and outcomes both crude and adjusted for confounders, with measures of precision (e.g. 95% confidence intervals)
- Relevance to workers' compensation population
- Other issues of bias and analysis as appropriate, especially, when exposure is ascertained by interview or questionnaire, recall bias in the cases

Conclusions: (inadequate, adequate, high-quality, not applicable)

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?