

**Supplementary Table 1.** Quality assessment tool for case series studies provided by the National Institutes of Health

Criteria
Question
Q1. Was the study question or objective clearly stated?
Q2. Was the study population clearly and fully described, including a case definition?
Q3. Were the cases consecutive?
Q4. Were the subjects comparable?
Q5. Was the intervention clearly described?
Q6. Were the outcome measures clearly defined, valid, reliable, and implemented consistently across all study participants?
Q7. Was the length of follow-up adequate?
Q8. Were the statistical methods well-described?
Q9. Were the results well-described?

Quality rating (good, fair, or poor): yes, no, or others (cannot determine; not applicable; not reported).  
Adapted from National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [27].