**Appendix 4: Methodological quality appraisal of control group studies[[1]](#footnote-1)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bias domain** | **Source of bias** | **Kline et al. (2014)** | **Raja et al. (2015)** | **Goldstein et al.** |
| *Selection bias* | Random sequence generation | Low risk | Low risk | High risk |
| Allocation concealment | Low risk | Low risk | High risk |
| *Performance bias* | Blinding of participants and personnel | High risk | High risk | Low risk |
| *Detection bias* | Blinding of outcome assessment | Low risk | High risk. | Low risk |
| *Attrition bias* | Incomplete outcome data | Low risk | Low risk | High risk |
| *Reporting bias* | Selective reporting | Low risk | Low risk | Low risk |
| *Other bias* | Anything else, ideally prespecified | Low risk | Low risk | Low risk |
| ***Overall assessment*** |  | A performance bias may be present, since patients’ follow-up was not blinded. | Blinding of participants, personnel and outcome assessment not described.  Performance and detection biases may be present. | A selection bias may be present since the allocation sequence was not randomized. An attrition bias may also be present. |

1. Adapted from [8]. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)