

**Table 3** Quality assessment of enrolled studies according to the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale (NOS)

First author (year)	Representativeness <sup>a</sup>	Selection of non-exposed <sup>b</sup>	Ascertainment of exposure <sup>c</sup>	Incident disease <sup>d</sup>	Comparability <sup>e</sup>	Assessment of outcome <sup>f</sup>	Length of follow-up <sup>g</sup>	Adequacy of follow-up <sup>h</sup>
Fassini (2019)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A
Wintgens (2018)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	C
Phillips (2020)	A	B	A	A	A	B	A	C
Du (2019)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A
Liu (2019)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	B
Alipour (2015)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	B
Liu (2020)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A
Calvo (2015)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	B
Du (2018)★	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A
Du (2018)▲	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A

Mo (2020)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A
Ren (2020)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	C
Chen (2020)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	C
Li (2020)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A
Swaans (2012)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A
Li (2018)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	C
Phillips (2016)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	C

**a** A: truly representative; B: somewhat representative; C: selected group of users; D: no description of the derivation of the cohort

**b** A: drawn from the same community as the exposed cohort; B: drawn from a different source; C: no description of the derivation of the non-exposed cohort

**c** A: secure record; B: structured interview; C: written self-report; D: no description

**d** Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study. A: yes; B: no

**e** A: study controls for demographics/clinical characteristics; B: study controls for any additional factor (e.g. age, CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc score, and HAS-BLED score) ; C: not done

**f** A: independent blind assessment; B: record linkage; C: self-report; D: no description

**g** Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur? A: yes (i.e. the mean follow-up approximately 12 months or longer); B: no

**h** A: complete follow-up; B: subjects lost to follow-up was unlikely to introduce bias; C: follow-up rate 95% or lower; D: no statement

★ represents occlusion-first group in Du's study

▲ represents ablation-first group in Du's study