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| **Author, Year** | **Did study attempt to enroll all (or a random sample of) patients meeting inclusion criteria, or a random sample (inception cohort)?** | **Were groups comparable at baseline on key prognostic factors (by restriction or matching)?** | **Did study use accurate methods for ascertaining exposures and potential confounders?** | **Were outcome assessors and/or data analysts blinded to the exposure being studied?** | **Did article report attrition?** | **Did study perform appropriate statistical analyses on potential confounders?** | **Is there important differential loss to followup or overall high loss to followup?** | **Were outcomes prespecified, defined, and ascertained using accurate methods?** | **Quality rating** |
| HIV-CAUSAL Collaboration, 2010134  Other publication: HIV-CAUSAL Collaboration 2011133 | Yes | No | Yes | Unclear | No | Yes | Differential: unclear  High overall: unclear | Yes | Fair |
| Kitahata et al, 2009135 | Yes | Unclear | Yes | Unclear | No | Yes | Differential: unclear  High overall: unclear | Yes | Fair |
| May et al, 2007136  Other publications: Lanoy et al, 2009139; Moore et al, 2009140 | Yes | Unclear | Yes | Unclear | Yes | Yes | Differential: unclear  High overall: yes (19%) | Yes | Fair |
| When to Start Consortium, 2009137 | Yes | Unclear | Yes | Unclear | No | Yes | Differential: unclear  High overall: unclear | Yes | Fair |
| Writing Committee for the CASCADE Collaboration, 2011132 | Yes | Unclear | Yes | Unclear | Yes | Yes | Differential: unclear  High overall: no | Yes | Fair |