

Supplementary Table 2. Quality of individual non-randomized controlled trial methodology

Study	Selection*				Comparability†		Exposure‡			Newcastle-Ottawa Scale score
	1	2	3	4	5A	5B	6	7	8	
Steffens et al. [20], 2022	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
Lechien et al. [24], 2023	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7

A star rating system was used to indicate the quality of a study, with a maximum rating of nine stars. A study could be awarded a maximum of one star for each numbered item within selection and exposure categories. *selection (4 items): adequacy of case definition, representativeness of cases, selection of controls, definition of controls; †comparability (1 item): comparability of cases and controls on the basis of design or analysis; ‡exposure (3 items): ascertainment of exposure; same method of ascertainment used for cases and controls, and non-response rate (same rate for both groups)