

Supplementary table 2: Methodological quality appraisal items scored on each included study.

Study Feature	Study participants				Attrition				Prognostic variable			Outcome		Analysis	
	Relevant domain	Participant selection	In- and exclusion criteria	Baseline characteristics	Participation rate	Response rate	Data collection drop-outs	Reasons loss to follow-up	Definition marker	Measurement method	Missing values	Definition outcome	Outcome ascertainment	Missing values	Presentation
Flow-mediated dilation															
Yeboah[19]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
Yeboah[11]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
Carotid intima-media thickness															
Anderson[20]	x	x	x	x	-	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
Cao[21]	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Chambless[22]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Chambless[23]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	x	x
Elias-Smale[29]	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Folsom[25]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Lorenz[28]	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
Mathiesen[26]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
Nambi[9]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Polak[30]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Price[27]	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
del Sol[24]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	x
Carotid plaque															
Cao[21]	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x
Mathiesen[26]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
Nambi[9]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Prati[31]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
Stork[32]	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
Xie[33]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Coronary artery calcification score															
Detrano[34]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	x	x
Elias-Smale[35]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Erbel[36]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Folsom[25]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Greenland[37]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
Mohlenkamp[38]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Polonsky[10]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
Raggi[39]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
Wong[40]	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	x

x: issue has been reported; -: issue has not been reported or addressed. This table indicates whether each item was indeed addressed in each individual study, but does not easily allow to judge whether a bias was indeed present or absent.