**Supplementary table S1:** Statements regarding the criteria for classification of gout patients

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| **Nguyen, 2016\*** | **Dalbeth, 2014\*** | **Romero-Talamás, 2014** |
| *”We used a case definition of gout based on participants’ positive answer to the question, “Have you been told by your physician that you have gout?” at the baseline visit. At subsequent visits, gout was defined as occurring in participants who answered affirmatively to the follow-up question, “Based on the medical history over the past 12 months, did you have gout attack?” These definitions have been successfully used in a number of gout studies14-16.”* | *”All participants with gout met the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) classification criteria for gout.”*  (The ACR criteria from 1977) | *”We defined active gout as the presence of at least 1 documented episode or evidence of medication usage.”* |
| **Zeng, 2012** | **Perez-Ruiz, 2011** | **Zhu, 2010\*** |
| NA | *”(…)diagnosis of gout based on observation of MSU crystals from a tophus or synovial fluid aspiration, (…)”* | *”We used a case definition of gout based on an affirmative answer to the question, ‘Have you been told by your physician that you have gout?’ [7, 36].”* |
| **Barskova, 2009** | **Friedman, 2008** | **Dessein, 2000\*** |
| Podagra diagnosis confirmed by detection of crystals in the synovial fluid or in the liquid content of tophi. | *”(…)* *documented medical history of gout (…)”*  *”(…) however, documentation of previous gouty attacks was required for inclusion in the study.”*  (Defined in various ways, however, the included patients were as follows:)  *”Of these 411 patients, 21 (5.1%) had a previous diagnosis of gout. All 21 of these patients had a history of gout that had required medical treatment.”* | *”(…)acute intermittent gout, confirmed by compensated polarised microscopy,(…)”* |
| **Brandstetter, 1986** |  |  |
| NA |  |  |

NA, no data available.  
\* Multiple publications existed. A primary publication was chosen.