STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

Section/item	Item No	Recommendation	Reported on Page Number/Line Number	Reported on Section/Paragraph
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	Page 3 / Line 41	Abstract / 1st paragraph
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Page 4 / Line 58-60	Abstract / 4th paragraph
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Page 5-6 / Line 86-93	Introduction section / 3rd paragraph
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Page 6 / Line 94-97	Introduction section / Last
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Page 6 / Line 102	Methods section / 1st
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Page 6 / Line102-104	Methods section / 1st paragraph (study
Participants	6	(a) ***Cohort study***—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up ***Case-control study***—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls ***Cross-sectional study***—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	Page 6-7 / Line 102-108, 113-122	Methods section / 1st & 2nd paragraph (study population & treatment: FCFRT or GKS)
		(b) ***Cohort study***—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed ***Case-control study***—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case	N/A (no matched data)	N/A (no matched data)
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Page 6-7 / Line 108-110, 113-122	Methods section / 1st & 2nd paragraph (study
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	Page 7-8 / Line 124-125, 128-132	Methods section / 3rd paragraph (statistical
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Page 8 / Line 130-132	Methods section / 3rd
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	Page 6 / Line 102-108	Methods section / 1st
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Page 8 / Line 130-132	Methods section / 3rd paragraph (statistical

Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Page 7-8 / Line 124-137	Methods section / 3rd
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	Page 8 / Line 135-136	Methods section / 3rd
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	Page 8 / Line 128	Methods section / 3rd
		(d) ***Cohort study***—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed ***Case-control study***—If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed ***Cross-sectional study***—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	Page 7-8 / Line 124-128	Methods section / 3rd paragraph (statistical analyses)
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Page 8 / Line 135-136	Methods section / 3rd
Results				
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	Page 8 / Line 141	Results section / 1st paragraph (Figure 1)
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Page 8 / Line 141	Results section / 1st
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Page 8 / Line 141	Results section / 1st
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Page 8-9 / Line 141-147	Results section / 1st paragraph (study
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Page 8 / Line 141	Results section / 1st
		(c) ***Cohort study***—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	Page 9 / Line 150-152	Results section / 2nd
Outcome data	15*	***Cohort study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Page 9 / Line 150-152	Results section / 2nd
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure		
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures		
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	Page 9 / Line 155-159	Results section / 3rd paragraph (OS)
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	Page 9 / Line 140	Results section / 1st
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	Page 9 / Line 155-156	Results section / 3rd
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Page 8 / Line 135-136	Methods section / 3rd
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Page 10-11 / Line	Discussion section / 2nd &
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	Page 10-11 / Line 179-184	Discussion section / 3rd paragraph

Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Page 10 / Line 168-178	Discussion section / 1st & 2nd paragraph
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Page 10 / Line 168-171	Discussion section / 1st
Other information				
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	N/A (no funding)	N/A (no funding)

*Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at http://www.plosmedicine.org/, Annals of Internal Medicine at http://www.annals.org/, and Epidemiology at http://www.epidem.com/). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at www.strobe-statement.org.

Article information: http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/apm-19-574
*As the checklist was provided upon initial submission, the page number/line number reported may be changed due to copyediting and may not be referable in the published version. In this case, the section/paragraph may be used as an alternative reference.