

## Quality assessment criteria for survey research reports

Category	Item	Reported on Page Number/Line Number	Reported on Section/Paragraph
<b>Title and abstract</b>			
	Is the design of the study stated in the title and/or abstract?	Page 1 / Line 1 – 2 Page 3 / Line 39	Title Abstract
<b>Introduction</b>			
	a) Is there an explanation of why the research is necessary, placing the study in context of previous work in relevant fields?	Page 4-5 / Line 58 - 85	Introduction
	b) Is the purpose or aim of the paper explained?	Page 5 / Line 83 – 85	Introduction
<b>Methods</b>			
Research tool	a) Is the questionnaire described?	Page 5 / Line 88 – 93	Methods / Survey
	b) If an existing tool was used, are its psychometric properties presented?	N/A, since an existing tool is not used in this study.	
	c) If an existing tool was used, are references to the original work provided?	N/A, since an existing tool is not used in this study.	
	d) If a new tool was used, are the procedures used to develop and pre-test provided?	N/A, since a new tool is not made nor used in this survey.	
	e) If a new tool was used, have its reliability and validity been reported?	N/A, since a new tool is not made nor used in this survey.	
	f) Is a description of the scoring procedures provided?	N/A, since a tool is not used.	
Sample selection	a) Is there a description of the survey population and the sample frame used to identify this population?	Page 5 / Line 97 - 99	Methods / Participants
	b) Do the authors provide a description of how representative the sample is of the underlying population?	Page 5 / Line 96 - 99	Methods / Participants
	c) Is a sample size calculation or rationale/justification for the sample size presented?	N/A, since this study is a survey and sample size calculation is not applicable for this type of study.	
Survey administration	a) Mode of administration?	Page 5 / Line 97	Methods / Participants
	b) Do the authors provide information on the type of contact and how many attempts were made to contact subjects (i.e., prenotification by letter or telephone, reminder postcard, duplicate questionnaire with reminder)?	Page 5 / Line 97 - 101	Methods / Participants
	c) Do the authors report whether incentives were provided (financial or other)?	Page 5 / Line 100	Methods / Participants
	d) Is there a description of who approached potential participants (e.g., identification of who signed the covering letter)?	Page 5 / Line 97 - 98	Methods / Participants

Analysis	a) Is the method of data analysis described?	Page 6 / Line 107 - 108	Methods / Analysis
	b) Do the authors provide methods for analysis of nonresponse error?	Page 6 / Line 107 - 108	Methods / Analysis
	c) Is the method for calculating response rate provided?	Page 5 / Line 105 - 106	Methods / Analysis
	d) Are definitions provided for complete versus partial completions?	Page 5 / Line 104 - 105	Methods / Analysis
	e) Are the methods for handling item missing data provided?	Page 5 / Line 104 - 106	Methods / Analysis
<b>Results</b>			
	a) Is the response rate reported?	Page 6 / Line 111 - 113	Results / First paragraph
	b) Are all respondents accounted for?	Page 6 / Line 111 - 113	Results / First paragraph
	c) Is information given on how nonrespondents differ from respondents?	N/A, since no information can be withdrawn from non-responders	
	d) Are the results clearly presented?	Page 6 - 7 / Line 110 – 141 Table 1	Results
	e) Do the results address the objective(s)?	Page 6 – 7 / Line 116 - 141	Results / Diagnostics – postoperative chest tube management
<b>Discussion</b>			
	a) Are the results summarized with reference to the study objectives?	Page 7 / Line 144 - 149	Discussion / First paragraph
	b) Are the strengths of the study stated?	Page 10 / Line 213 Page 10 / Line 219 – 221 Page 10 / Line 223 - 226	Discussion / 7 <sup>th</sup> paragraph Discussion / 7 <sup>th</sup> paragraph Discussion / 7 <sup>th</sup> paragraph
	c) Are the limitations of the study (taking into account potential sources of bias or imprecision) stated?	Page 10 / Line 226 – 228 Page 10 / Line 219 - 221	Discussion / 7 <sup>th</sup> paragraph Discussion / 7 <sup>th</sup> paragraph
	d) Is there explicit discussion of the generalizability (external validity) of the results?	Page 10 / Line 230 - 232	Discussion / 7 <sup>th</sup> paragraph
<b>Ethical quality indicators</b>			
	a) Study funding reported?	Page 11 / Line 246 - 247	Acknowledgements / Funding
	b) Research Ethics Board (REB) review reported?	N/A, based on our study design and voluntary participation, we did not pass our study through a research ethics board	
	c) Reporting of subject consent procedures?	N/A, since surgeons could voluntarily decide to complete the survey or not.	

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\*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.