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	4 / 7-10	Abstract / Methods
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	5 / 25-27	Abstract / Conclusions
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	7-8 / 35-78	Introduction / paragraph 1-3
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	8-9 / 79-85	Introduction / paragraph 4
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	9-10 / 89-108	Method / Study population
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	9-11/ 95-131	Method / Study population & MRI Examination protocol section
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	9-10 / 97-106	Method / Study population, paragraph 2
		(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 (This is the cross-sectional study.)	
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	11-13 / 133-137, 155-170	Method / Imaging Processing and Analysis Paragraph 1 & Histopathologic Analysis
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	11 / 138-145	Method / Imaging Processing and Analysis, Paragraph 2

Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	11 / 141-143	Method / Imaging Processing and Analysis, Paragraph 2
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	9-10 / 97-106	Method / Study population, paragraph 2
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	13 / 173-176	Method / Statistical Analysis

Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	13 / 172-184	Method / Statistical Analysis
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	13 / 172-184	Method / Statistical Analysis
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	N/A (Pairwise deletion was automatically performed by SPSS.)	
		(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	13 / 172-184	Method / Statistical Analysis
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	N/A (This study does not contain the sensitivity analysis.)	
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	13-14 / 187-191 31-33	Results / Clinicopathologic Characteristics of the Patients & Table 1
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	N/A (None of the patients expressed their intention of non-participation due to the retrospective nature.)	
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	39	Figure 1
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	13-14 / 187-191 31-33	Results / Clinicopathologic Characteristics of the Patients & Table 1
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	31-33	Table 1
		(c) ***Cohort study***—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	N/A (This is the cross-sectional study.)	
Outcome data	15*	***Cohort study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	N/A (This is the cross-sectional study.)	
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	N/A (This is the cross-sectional study.)	
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	31-33	Table 1

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	14-15 / 193-211	Results / Changes in the QTI Parameters between the Pre- and Post-NAC MRIs with Qualitative Histopathological Correlation
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	14-15 / 193-211 34-35	Results / Changes in the QTI Parameters between the Pre- and Post-NAC MRIs with Qualitative Histopathological Correlation Table 2 and 3
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	N/A (Data on relative risk are not included in this study.)	
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	36-38	Table 4
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	15-16 / 227-232	Discussion / paragraph 1
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	19 / 300-313	Discussion / paragraph 7
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	16-19 / 233-299	Discussion / paragraph 2-6
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	19-20 / 315-324	Conclusion
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	21	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.

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*As the checklist was provided upon initial submission, the page number/line number reported may be changed due to copy editing and may not be referable in the published version. In this case, the section/paragraph may be used as an alternative reference.