

MOOSE (Meta-analyses of Observational Studies in Epidemiology) Checklist

Item No	Recommendation	Reported on Page Number/Line Number	Reported on Section/Paragraph
Reporting of Background			
1	Problem definition	Page 3/Line 97-104	Introduction/Paragraph 2
2	Hypothesis statement	Page 3-4/Line 105-108	Introduction/Paragraph 3
3	Description of Study Outcome(s)	Page 4/Line 134-135	Methods/Paragraph 2
4	Type of exposure or intervention used	Page 4/Line 131-132	Methods/Paragraph 2
5	Type of study design used	Page 4/Line 135	Methods/Paragraph 2
6	Study population	Page 4/Line 131	Methods/Paragraph 2
Reporting of Search Strategy			
7	Qualifications of searchers (eg, librarians and investigators)	N/A	Not included
8	Search strategy, including time period included in the synthesis and keywords	Page 4/Line 112-129	Methods/Paragraph 1
9	Effort to include all available studies, including contact with authors	Page 4/Line 135-136	Methods/Paragraph 2
10	Databases and registries searched	Page 4/Line 112-123	Methods/Paragraph 1
11	Search software used, name and version, including special features used (eg, explosion)	N/A	Not included
12	Use of hand searching (eg, reference lists of obtained articles)	N/A	Not use hand searching
13	List of citations located and those excluded, including justification	Page 5-6/Line 172-191	Results/Paragraph 1
14	Method for addressing articles published in languages other than English	N/A	Not included
15	Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies	N/A	Not included
16	Description of any contact with authors	N/A	Not included

Reporting of Methods			
17	Description of relevance or appropriateness of studies assembled for assessing the hypothesis to be tested	Page 4-5/Line 131-150	Methods/Paragraph 2
18	Rationale for the selection and coding of data (eg, sound clinical principles or convenience)	Page 4-5/Line 131-150	Methods/Paragraph 2
19	Documentation of how data were classified and coded (eg, multiple raters, blinding, and interrater reliability)	N/A	Not applicable
20	Assessment of confounding (eg, comparability of cases and controls in studies where appropriate)	N/A	Not applicable
21	Assessment of study quality, including blinding of quality assessors; stratification or regression on possible predictors of study results	Page 5/Line 156-159	Methods/Paragraph 5
22	Assessment of heterogeneity	Page 5/Line 163-165	Methods/Paragraph 6
23	Description of statistical methods (eg, complete description of fixed or random effects models, justification of whether the chosen models account for predictors of study results, dose-response models, or cumulative meta-analysis) in sufficient detail to be replicated	Page 5/Line 163-165	Methods/Paragraph 6
24	Provision of appropriate tables and graphics	N/A	Not included
Reporting of Results			
25	Graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate	Page 6-7/Line 197-230	Results/Paragraph 3-8
26	Table giving descriptive information for each study included	Page 5-7/Line 197-239	Results/Paragraph 1-10
27	Results of sensitivity testing (eg, subgroup analysis)	Page 7/Line 233-236	Results/Paragraph 9
28	Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings	Page 7/Line 237-239	Results/Paragraph 10
Reporting of Discussion			
29	Quantitative assessment of bias (eg, publication bias)	Page 9/Line 286-287	Discussion/Paragraph 5
30	Justification for exclusion (eg, exclusion of non-English-language citations)	Page 9/Line 291-294	Discussion/Paragraph 5
31	Assessment of quality of included studies	Page 9/Line 285-286	Discussion/Paragraph 5
Reporting of Conclusions			
32	Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results	Page 9/Line 297-301	Conclusions/Paragraph 1
33	Generalization of the conclusions (ie, appropriate for the data presented and within the domain of the literature review)	Page 9/Line 297-301	Conclusions/Paragraph 1
34	Guidelines for future research	Page 9/Line 297-301	Conclusions/Paragraph 1
35	Disclosure of funding source	Page 9/Line 304	Acknowledgments

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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.