

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	Page2-3/Line45-66	Introduction/Para1-2
2	Hypothesis statement	Page3/Line67-73	Introduction/Para3
3	Description of Study Outcome(s)	Page3/Line67-73	Introduction/Para3
4	Type of exposure or intervention used	Page3/Line67-73	Introduction/Para3
5	Type of study design used	Page2-3/Line45-75	Introduction/Para1-3
6	Study population	Page2-3/Line45-75	Introduction/Para1-3
Reporting of Search Strategy			
7	Qualifications of searchers (eg, librarians and investigators)	Page3-4/Line88-93	Methods/Para2
8	Search strategy, including time period included in the synthesis and keywords	Page3/Line79-87	Methods/Para1
9	Effort to include all available studies, including contact with authors	Page3-4/Line79-93	Methods/Para1-2
10	Databases and registries searched	Page3/Line79-87	Methods/Para1
11	Search software used, name and version, including special features used (eg, explosion)	Page3/Line79-87	Methods/Para1
12	Use of hand searching (eg, reference lists of obtained articles)	N/A	N/A
13	List of citations located and those excluded, including justification	Page4/Line96-104	Methods/Para3
14	Method for addressing articles published in languages other than English	N/A	N/A
15	Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies	N/A	N/A
16	Description of any contact with authors	Page3-4/Line88-93	Methods/Para2

Reporting of Methods			
17	Description of relevance or appropriateness of studies assembled for assessing the hypothesis to be tested	Page/Line1 22-1 32	Methods /Para5
18	Rationale for the selection and coding of data (eg, sound clinical principles or convenience)	Page4/107-119	Methods/Para4
19	Documentation of how data were classified and coded (eg, multiple raters, blinding, and interrater reliability)	Page5/1 35-1 40	Methods/Para6
20	Assessment of confounding (eg, comparability of cases and controls in studies where appropriate)	Page5/1 22-1 40	Methods/Para5-6
21	Assessment of study quality, including blinding of quality assessors; stratification or regression on possible predictors of study results	Page5/1 22-1 40	Methods/Para5-6
22	Assessment of heterogeneity	Page5/1 22-1 40	Methods/Para5-6
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	Page5/1 22-1 40	Methods/Para5-6
24	Provision of appropriate tables and graphics	Page1 5/Line376-398	Figs/Tables
Reporting of Results			
25	Graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate	Page5-6/1 44-1 51	Results/Para1
26	Table giving descriptive information for each study included	Page5-6/1 44-1 51	Results/Para1
27	Results of sensitivity testing (eg, subgroup analysis)	Page6-7/Line1 78-1 80	Results/Para6
28	Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings	Page7/Line1 83-1 86	Results/Para 7
Reporting of Discussion			
29	Quantitative assessment of bias (eg, publication bias)	Page7-9/Line1 89-243	Discussion/Para1 -5
30	Justification for exclusion (eg, exclusion of non-English-language citations)	Page7-9/Line1 89-243	Discussion/Para1 -5
31	Assessment of quality of included studies	Page7-9/Line1 89-243	Discussion/Para1 -5
Reporting of Conclusions			
32	Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results	Page9/Line246-248	Conclusion/Para1
33	Generalization of the conclusions (ie, appropriate for the data presented and within the domain of the literature review)	Page9/Line246-248	Conclusion/Para1
34	Guidelines for future research	Page7-9/Line1 89-243	Discussion/Para1 -5
35	Disclosure of funding source	Page1 0/Line253-254	Funding

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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.