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 1/Line 29	Abstract/Paragraph 4
2	Hypothesis statement	Page 1/Line 29-34	Abstract/Paragraph 4
3	Description of Study Outcome(s)	Page 2/Line 8	Abstract/Paragraph 1
4	Type of exposure or intervention used	Page 2/Line 2	Abstract/Paragraph 1
5	Type of study design used	Page 2/Line 2	Abstract/Paragraph 1
6	Study population	Page 5/Line 5-11	Methods/Paragraph 2
Reporting of Search Strategy			
7	Qualifications of searchers (eg, librarians and investigators)	Page 6/Line 10-14	Methods/Paragraph 2
8	Search strategy, including time period included in the synthesis and keywords	Page 5/Line 4	Methods/Paragraph 1
9	Effort to include all available studies, including contact with authors	Page 5/Line 5-11	Methods/Paragraph 2
10	Databases and registries searched	Page 5/Line 5	Methods/Paragraph 1
11	Search software used, name and version, including special features used (eg, explosion)	Page 6/Line 28-34	Methods/Paragraph 4
12	Use of hand searching (eg, reference lists of obtained articles)	Page 5/Line 4	Methods/Paragraph 1
13	List of citations located and those excluded, including justification	Page 6/Line 1-8	Methods/Paragraph 1
14	Method for addressing articles published in languages other than English	Page 5/Line 5-11	Methods/Paragraph 2
15	Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies	Page 5/Line 3	Methods/Paragraph 1
16	Description of any contact with authors	Page 1/Line 6-19	Methods/Paragraph 2

Reporting of Methods			
17	Description of relevance or appropriateness of studies assembled for assessing the hypothesis to be tested	Page 5/Line 3	Methods/Paragraph 1
18	Rationale for the selection and coding of data (eg, sound clinical principles or convenience)	Page 5/Line 5-11	Methods/Paragraph 2
19	Documentation of how data were classified and coded (eg, multiple raters, blinding, and interrater reliability)	Page 5/Line 5-11	Methods/Paragraph 2
20	Assessment of confounding (eg, comparability of cases and controls in studies where appropriate)	Page 6/Line 10	Methods/Paragraph 2
21	Assessment of study quality, including blinding of quality assessors; stratification or regression on possible predictors of study results	Page 6/Line 10	Methods/Paragraph 2
22	Assessment of heterogeneity	Page 6/Line 28-34	Methods/Paragraph 5
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 7/Line 12	Methods/Paragraph 2
24	Provision of appropriate tables and graphics	Page 15/Line 1	Methods/Paragraph 1
Reporting of Results			
25	Graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate	Page 15/Line 1	Results/Paragraph 1
26	Table giving descriptive information for each study included	Page 19/Line 9	Results/Paragraph 2
27	Results of sensitivity testing (eg, subgroup analysis)	Page 17/Line 5	Results/Paragraph 1
28	Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings	Page 6/Line 28	Results/Paragraph 4
Reporting of Discussion			
29	Quantitative assessment of bias (eg, publication bias)	Page 6/Line 10	Methods/Paragraph 2
30	Justification for exclusion (eg, exclusion of non–English-language citations)	Page 6/Line 10	Methods/Paragraph 2
31	Assessment of quality of included studies	Page 6/Line 10	Methods/Paragraph 2
Reporting of Conclusions			
32	Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results	Page 7/Line 16-28	Methods/Paragraph 4
33	Generalization of the conclusions (ie, appropriate for the data presented and within the domain of the literature review)	Page 7/Line 16-28	Methods/Paragraph 4
34	Guidelines for future research	NA	NA
35	Disclosure of funding source	NA	NA

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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.