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	2/40-41	Abstract/(Methods)2
		(b)Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	2/42-51	Abstract/3-4
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	2/55-76 3/77-89	Introduction/1-5
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	3/90-95	Introduction/6
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	3/100-109 4/134-135 5/138-144	Method(Participants)/ 1-2 Method(Medical Record)/7 Method(Statistical analyses)/8
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	3/100-109	Method(Participants)/ 1-2
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	4-5/120-141	Method(Participants)/ 1-3
		(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	4-5/120-141	Method(Participants)/ 1-3
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	3/100-109 3/113-119	Method(Participants and Audiological

			4/120-130 4/134-135	measurements and Medical Record)/1-7
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	3/113-119 4/120-130 4/134-135 4/138-144	Method(Audiological measurements)/3-6 Method(Medical Record)/ 7 Method(Statistical analyses)/8
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	3/107-109	Method(Participants)/ 2
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	3/100-109	Method(Participants)/ 1-2
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	3/113-119 4/120-130 4/134-135 4/138-144	Method(Audiological measurements)/3-6 Method(Medical Record)/ 7 Method(Statistical analyses)/8

Statistical methods	12	(a)Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	4/138-144	Method(Statistical analyses)/8
		(b)Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	4/138-144	Method(Statistical analyses)/8
		(c)Explain how missing data were addressed	3/107-109	Method(Participants)/2
		(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	3/107-109	Method(Participants)/2
		(e)Describe any sensitivity analyses	4/138-144	Method(Statistical analyses)/8
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	5/148-149	Results/1
		(b)Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	5/148-149	Results/1
		(c)Consider use of a flow diagram	N/A	N/A
Descriptive data	14*	(a)Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	5/150-163	Results/2-3
		(b)Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	5/149	Results/1
		(c)***Cohort study*** —Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	N/A	N/A
Outcome data	15*	***Cohort study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	N/A	N/A
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	6-7/194-213	Results/1-2
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	N/A	N/A
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	5-8/166-247	Results/4-9

		(b)Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	N/A	N/A
		(c)If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	N/A	N/A
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	5-8/166-247	Results/4-9
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	8-10/252-339	Discussion/1-16
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	10/340-341	Discussion/17

Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	8-10/252-339	Discussion/1-16
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	10/344-347 11/348-350	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	11/354	Acknowledgments

*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 copyediting and may not be referable in the published version. In this case, the section/paragraph may be used as an alternative reference.