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	Page 2, line 11	Abstract
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Page2, line 11-32	Abstract
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Page 5, line 45-72	Introduction
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Page 6, line 73-76	Introduction
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Page 6, line 79	Methods/ Study Sample
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Page 6, line 79-82	Methods/ Study Sample
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	Page 6, line 82-100	Methods/ Study Sample
		(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	Not a cohort study or a case-control study
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Page 7, line 102-111	Methods/ MRI Protocol
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	Page 8, line 113-125	Methods/ MRI Analysis
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Page 9, line 127-141	Methods/ Endovascular
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	N/A	Retrospective study
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Page 8, line 113-125 Page 9, line 143-153	Methods/ MRI Analysis Methods/ Perioperative

Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Page 10, line 155-165	Methods/ Statistical
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	N/A	There were no subgroups
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	N/A	There were no missing
		(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	N/A	The research type did not match
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	N/A	There were no sensitivity
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	Page 25, Figure 1 Page 10, line 167-170	Figure 1 Results
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Page 10, line 167-170	Results
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Page 25, Figure 1	Figure 1
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Page 11, line 170-175 Page 22, Table 1	Results Table 1
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	N/A	There were no missing
		(c) ***Cohort study***—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	N/A	The research type did not
Outcome data	15*	***Cohort study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	N/A	
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	N/A	
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	Page 11, Line 177-187	Results/ Baseline
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	Page 12, Line 189-202	Results/ Association between carotid plaque
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	N/A	There were no categorized
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	N/A	Not relevant
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	N/A	There were no other
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Page 12, Line 204-209	Discussion
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	Page 15, Line 261-270	Discussion

Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Page 14, Line 210-260	Discussion
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Page 15, Line 272-276	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	Page 16, Line 280	Conflicts of interest

*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.