

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	Pg 1. / Line 1-3	Title / 1.
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Pg 1-2. / Line 5-19	Abstract / 1-4.
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Pg 2. / Line 33-68	Introduction / 2-7
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Pg 3. / Line 70-74	Introduction / 8
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Pg 5. / Line 111-127	Methods / 5-7
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Pg 3-4. / Line 76-88	Methods / 1
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	Pg 3-4. / Line 76-88 Cross-sectional study	Methods /1 Cross sectional study
		(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 (Cross sectional)	N/A (Cross sectional)
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Pg 4-5. / Line 128-154	Methods / 5-13
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	Pg 3-6. / Line 76-154	Methods / 1-13
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Pg 3-4. / Line 76-88	Methods / 1
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	Pg 3-4. / Line 76-88	Methods / 1
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Pg 3-6. / Line 76-154	Methods / 1-13

Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Pg 5-6. / Line 129-147	Methods / 8-12
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	Pg 5-6. / Line 129-147	Methods / 8-12
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	Pg 3-4. / Line 76-88	Methods / 1
		(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	Pg 3-4. / Line 76-88 Cross sectional study	Methods / 1 Cross sectional study
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	N/A (Linear Regression)	Linear Regression
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	Pg 6. / Line 156-160	Results / 1
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Pg 3-4. / Line 76-88	Methods / 1
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Pg 3-4. / Line 88	Methods / 1
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Pg 3-4. / Line 76-88	Methods / 1
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Pg 3-4. / Line 76-88	Methods / 1
		(c) Cohort study —Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	N/A (Cross sectional)	N/A (Cross sectional)
Outcome data	15*	Cohort study —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	N/A (Cross sectional)	N/A (Cross sectional)
		Case-control study —Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	N/A (Cross sectional)	N/A (Cross sectional)
		Cross-sectional study —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	Pg 3-4. / Line 76-88	Methods / 1
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	Pg 6-8. / Line 161-192	Results / 2-6
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	N/A (This aspect does not apply to our study as we did not categorize continuous variables.)	N/A (This aspect does not apply to our study as we did not categorize continuous variables.)
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	N/A (We did not derive estimates of relative risk in our study, so translating into absolute risk was not applicable.)	N/A (We did not derive estimates of relative risk in our study, so translating into absolute risk was not applicable.)
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Pg 8. / Line 183-192	Results / 6
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Pg 8. / Line 195-205	Discussion / 1-2
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	Pg 9. / Line 221-227	Discussion / 7

Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Pg 8-9. / Line 195- 232	Discussion / 1-8
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Pg 10. / Line 234-237	Conclusion / 1
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	N/A (Our study did not receive any specific funding, and thus, there were no funders to influence the design, execution, or reporting of the research.)	N/A (Our study did not receive any specific funding, and thus, there were no funders to influence the design, execution, or reporting of the research.)

*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.

Article information: <https://dx.doi.org/10.21037/qims-23-512>

*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.