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	pp 1; lines 2-3	Title Page
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	pp 2, lines 30-36; lines 37-46 pp 2-3, lines 47-51	Abstract, pp 2-3: Paragraphs 2 (Methods), 3 (Results), 4 (Conclusions)
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	pp 4-5 lines 56-82	Introduction, paragraphs 1,2 3
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	pp 5: lines 92-95	Introduction, paragraph 4
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	pp 5-6: lines 99-100	Methods, paragraph 1
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	pp 5-6: lines 100-109	Methods, paragraph 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	N/A	N/A
		(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	Table 1; pp 5, line 102-103	Table 1; Methods, paragraph 1

Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Table 1; pp 5-6, lines 102-109	Table 1; Methods, paragraph 1
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	Table 1	Table 1
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	pp 5-6, lines 103-109; The Ludwig and Watizman cue-based feeding algorithm is utilized to minimize bias in feeding status determination. pp 6, lines 114-116.	Methods paragraph 1; Methods ,paragraph 2
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	N/A: This is a pilot study to explore feasibility. No prior studies were available to inform a power calculation.	N/A
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Table 1; pp 5-6, lines 103-109	Table 1; Methods, paragraph 1

Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	pp 6, lines 109-109; pp 7-8 lines 145-155	Methods, paragraph 2; Methods, paragraph 5
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	pp 7, lines 148-149	Methods, paragraph 5
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	N/A; no missing data	N/A

		(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	pp 6, lines 106-108	Methods, paragraph 1
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	N/A	N/A
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	pp 8, lines 158-159	Results, paragraph 1
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	pp 8, lines 158-159	Results, paragraph 1
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	N/A. Infants were only excluded if there salivary samples did not meet quality control for RNA Seq	N/A
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Table 1	Table 1
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	N/A	N/A
		(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	Table 1	Table 1
		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	N/A for study design, though differential gene expression was	N/A

			separated based upon sex.	
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	N/A for study design	N/A
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	N/A for study design	N/A
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	N/A	N/A
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	pp 10, lines 215-219	Discussion, paragraph 1
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	pp 13-14, lines 291-325	Discussion, paragraphs 6-8
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	pp 14-15, lines 328-340	Conclusions, paragraph 1
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	pp 12-13, lines 269-288	Discussion, paragraph 5
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	pp 16, lines 344-345	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.