STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of ***cohort studies***

	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 (*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Pages 1-2/ Lines 1-44	Title page Abstract
Introduction				
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Pages 3-4/ Lines 45-72	Introduction/ Paragraphs 1-3
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Page 4/ Lines 70-72	Introduction/ Paragraph 3
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Page 4/ Lines 76-82	Methods/ Paragraph 1
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Page 4/ Lines 76-82	Methods/ Paragraph 1
Participants	6	(*a*) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up (*b*) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed	Page 4/ Lines 76-82	Methods/ Paragraph 1
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Pages 4-6/ Lines 84-123	Methods/ Paragraphs 2-3
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	Pages 4-6/ Lines 84-123	Methods/ Paragraph 2-3
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Page 11/ Lines 252-260	
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	N/A. Because a single surgeon study, a sample size calculation was not performed	
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Page 6/ Lines 125-131	Methods/ Paragraph 4

Statistical methods	12	(*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding (*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions (*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed (*d*) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed (*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Pages 6-7/ Lines 133-149	Methods/ Paragraph 5
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 (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage (c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Page 7/ Lines 152-163	Results/ Paragraph 1
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest (c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	Page 7/ Lines 152-163	Results/ Paragraph 1
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Page 7/ Lines 165-169	Results/ Paragraph 2
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 (*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized (*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	Page 8/ Lines 171-178	Results/ Paragraph 3

Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	N/A. Secondary analysis not required for the current study	
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Page 8/ Lines 181-185	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	Page 11/ Lines 252-260	Discussion/ Paragraph 7
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Pages 8-11/ Lines 187-250	Discussion/ Paragraphs 2-6
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Page 11/ Lines 252-260	Discussion/ Paragraph 7
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	Pages 12-13/ Lines 286-288	Footnotes

*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.

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 http://www.strobe-statement.org.

Article information: http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/jss-20-596.

*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.