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 1, Line 2/3	Title
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Page 2, Line 32-49	Abstrat
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Page 5, Line 61	1.1 Background
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Page 8 Line 145	1.3 Objective
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Page 9, Line 161	2.Methods, 2.1
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Page 9, Line 161	2. Methods, 2.1
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	Page 9, Line 166	2. Methods, 2.1 Patient populattion
		(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	NA - unmatched study	NA - unmatched study
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Page 10 + 11, Line 228	2.4 Panel assessments
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 10 + 11, Line 228	2.4 Panel assessments
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Page 12, Line 258	2.5 Statistical analysis
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	Page 14, Line 265	3.1 Patient and tumour
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Page 10 + 11, Line 228	2.4 Panel assessments

Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Page 12, Line 236	2.5 Statistical Analysis
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	Page 12, Line 246	2.5 Statistial Analysis
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	NA - no missing data	NA -no missing data
		(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	NA - Retrospective review of outcomes	NA - Retrospecitve review of outcomes.
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Page 12 - line 250	2.5 Statistical Analysis
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 14 - Line 264	3.1 Patient and tumour charactersitics
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Page 14 - Line 268	3.1 Patient and tumour
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Page 14 - Line 268	3.1 Patient and tumour
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Page 14, Line 273	3.1 Patient and tumour characteristics
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	NA - no missing data	NA - no missing data
		(c) ***Cohort study***—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	Page 14, Line 275	3.1. Patient and tumour
Outcome data	15*	***Cohort study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Page 14, Line 283	3.2 Patient reported
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	NA - cohort study	NA - cohort study
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	NA - cohort study	NA - cohort study
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	3Page 15 Line 296	3.3 Univariate analysis
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	Page 27	Table 3
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	NA - not relevant	NA -not relevant
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Page 16, Line 318	3.7 - comparison of panel
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Page 16, Line 324	4.1 Key Findings
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 16, Line 334	4.2 Strengths and weaknesses

Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Page 17	4.3. Comparison with similar
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Page 19	4.5 Implicattions and
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 20 Line 208	Funding

*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.