PRISMA checklist

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review.	Page 1, line 1-2
ABSTRACT			
Abstract	2	See the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.	Page 4-5, line 40-70
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge.	Page 6, line 73-90
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses.	Page 6, line 90-97
METHODS			
Eligibility criteria	5	Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the syntheses.	Page 7-8, line 106-121
Information	6	Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. Specify the date when each source was last searched	Supplementary

sources		or consulted.	Materials S1-3
Search strategy	7	Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers and websites, including any filters and limits used.	Supplementary Materials S1-3
Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Page 8-9, line 122-132
Data collection process	9	Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study investigators, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Page 9, line 133-144
Data items	10a	List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (e.g. for all measures, time points, analyses), and if not, the methods used to decide which results to collect.	Page 9, line 133-144
	10b	List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information.	Page 9, line 133-144

Study risk of bias assessment	11	Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tool(s) used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Page 9, line 145-147
Effect measures	12	Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (e.g. risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results.	Page 9, line 133-144
Synthesis methods	13a	Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (e.g. tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (item #5)).	Page 9-10, line 148-150
	13b	Describe any methods required to prepare the data for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics, or data conversions.	Page 9-10, line 148-150
	13c	Describe any methods used to tabulate or visually display results of individual studies and syntheses.	Page 9-10, line 148-150
	13d	Describe any methods used to synthesize results and provide a rationale for the choice(s). If meta-analysis was performed, describe the model(s), method(s) to identify the presence and extent of statistical heterogeneity, and software package(s) used.	Page 9-10, line 148-150
	13e	Describe any methods used to explore possible causes of heterogeneity among study results	Page 9-10, line

		(e.g. subgroup analysis, meta-regression).	148-150
	13f	Describe any sensitivity analyses conducted to assess robustness of the synthesized results.	Page 9-10, line 148-150
Reporting bias assessment	14	Describe any methods used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases).	Page 9, line 145-147
Certainty assessment	15	Describe any methods used to assess certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for an outcome.	Page 9-10, line 148-150
RESULTS			
Study selection	16a	Describe the results of the search and selection process, from the number of records identified in the search to the number of studies included in the review, ideally using a flow diagram.	Page 12, line 187-198; Figure 2
	16b	Cite studies that might appear to meet the inclusion criteria, but which were excluded, and explain why they were excluded.	Page 12, line 195-198;
Study characteristics	17	Cite each included study and present its characteristics.	Page 12-15, line 199-249; Table 1,2
Risk of bias in	18	Present assessments of risk of bias for each included study.	Page 9, line 145-

studies			147
Results of individual studies	19	For all outcomes, present, for each study: (a) summary statistics for each group (where appropriate) and (b) an effect estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval), ideally using structured tables or plots.	Page 13, line 226-241; Table 3
Results of syntheses	20a	For each synthesis, briefly summarise the characteristics and risk of bias among contributing studies.	Page 15-16, line 250-266; Table 1
	20b	Present results of all statistical syntheses conducted. If meta-analysis was done, present for each the summary estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval) and measures of statistical heterogeneity. If comparing groups, describe the direction of the effect.	Page 13, line 226-241; Table 3
	20c	Present results of all investigations of possible causes of heterogeneity among study results.	Page 9-10, line 148-150
	20d	Present results of all sensitivity analyses conducted to assess the robustness of the synthesized results.	Page 9-10, line 148-150
Reporting biases	21	Present assessments of risk of bias due to missing results (arising from reporting biases) for each synthesis assessed.	Page 9, line 145-147
Certainty of	22	Present assessments of certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for each outcome	Page 9-10, line

evidence		assessed.	148-150
DISCUSSION			
Discussion	23a	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence.	Page 18-20, line 310-357
	23b	Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.	Page 20-21, line 358-364
	23c	Discuss any limitations of the review processes used.	Page 21, line 364-370
	23d	Discuss implications of the results for practice, policy, and future research.	Page 21, line 371-377
OTHER INFORMATION			
Registration and protocol	24a	Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered.	Page 7, line 102-103
	24b	Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed, or state that a protocol was not prepared.	Page 7, line 102-103
	24c	Describe and explain any amendments to information provided at registration or in the protocol.	Page 7, line 102-

			103
Support	25	Describe sources of financial or non-financial support for the review, and the role of the funders or sponsors in the review.	Page 23, line 385-386
Competing interests	26	Declare any competing interests of review authors.	Page 23, line 388-390
Availability of data, code and other materials	27	Report which of the following are publicly available and where they can be found: template data collection forms; data extracted from included studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review.	PROSPERO ID: CRD42021262861

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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

AME Case Series Checklist –Adapted from CARE Checklist and PROCESS Checklist

Section	Item	Checklist description	Reported on Page Number/Line Number	Reported on Section/Paragraph
Title	1	The diagnosis or intervention of primary focus followed by the words “case series”.		
Key Words	2	2 to 5 key words that identify diagnoses or interventions in this case series, including "case report" or "case series".		
Abstract (no references)	3a	Introduction—What is unique about this case series and what does it add to the scientific literature?		
	3b	Methods—describe what was done, how and when was it done and by whom.		
	3c	Results—what was found.		
	3d	Conclusion—What is the main take-away lesson(s)? What have we learned and what does it mean?		
Introduction	4	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the case series. What is the unifying theme - common disease, exposure, intervention and outcome, etc. Why is this study needed?		
Methods	5a	Registration and ethics— 5a.1 State the research registry number in accordance with the declaration of Helsinki - “Every research study involving human subjects must be registered in a publicly accessible database” (this can be obtained from; ResearchRegistry.com or ClinicalTrials.gov or ISRCTN). 5a.2 State whether ethical approval was passed. 5a.3 Provide the patient consent form too.		
	5b	Study design—state the study is a case series and whether prospective or retrospective in design, whether single or multi-center and whether cases are consecutive or non-consecutive.		
	5c	Setting - describe the setting(s)and nature of the institution in which the patient was managed; academic, community or private practice setting? Location(s), and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection.		
	5d	Participants— 5d.1 Describe the relevant characteristics of the participants (history, comorbidities, tumor staging, smoking, etc.). 5d.2 State any eligibility (inclusion/exclusion) criteria and the sources and methods of selection of participants.		

	5e	Intervention—types of intervention (such as pharmacologic, surgical, preventive, self-care) deployed and reasoning behind treatment offered. Pharmacological therapies should include formulation, dosage, strength, route and duration.		
	5f	Follow up—describe length and methods of follow-up.		
Results	6a	Participants—reports numbers involved and their characteristics (comorbidities, tumor staging, smoking, etc.).		
	6b	Any changes in the interventions during the course of the case series (how has it evolved, been tinkered with, what learning occurred, etc.) together with rationale and a diagram if appropriate.		
	6c	Outcomes and follow-up—Clinician assessed and patient-reported outcomes (when appropriate) should be stated with inclusion of the time periods at which assessed. Relevant photographs/radiological images should be provided. e.g. 12-month follow-up.		
	6d	Where relevant—intervention adherence/compliance and tolerability (how was this assessed). Describe loss to follow-up (express as a percentage) and any explanations for it.		
	6e	Complications and adverse or unanticipated events.		
Discussion	7a	Summarize key results.		
	7b	Discussion of the relevant literature, implications for clinical practice guidelines. How do outcomes compare with established therapies and the prevailing gold standard? Generate a hypothesis if possible.		
	7c	Strengths and limitations of the study.		
	7d	The rationale for any conclusions.		
Conclusion	8a	State the key conclusions from the study.		
	8b	State what needs to be done next, further research with what study design.		