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	p.2/line 6	Abstract/Method
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	p.2/Line 15-Line 24	Abstract/Results &
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	p.3/Line 1-Line 24	Introduction/1st & 2nd paragraph
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	p.3/Line 25-p.4/Line 1	Introduction/3rd paragraph
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	p.4/Line 4	Methods/1st paragraph
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	p.4/Line 10-Line 11	Methods/paragraph of subjects
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	p.4/Line 11-Line 18	Methods/paragraph of subjects
		(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	Not match study	Not match study
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	p.4. Line 20-p.5, Line 6	Method/Diagnosis AE-IPF
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	p.5. Line 13-p.6 Line 12	Method/Evaluation of serum markers
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	p.5., Line 25-p.6, Line 1	Method/Evaluation of
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	p.4, Line 8- Line 17	Method/Subjects
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	p.5, Line 7-Line 11	Methods/Clinical findings at time of diagnosis

Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	p.6, Line 13-Line 19	Methods/Statistical
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	Subgrouping was not	Subgrouping was not
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	p.19, Line 7	Footnote of Table 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	p.6, Line 17	Methods/Statistical analysis
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	No sensitivity anakysis	No sensitivity 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	p.6, Line 22-p.7, Line 13	Methods/Subjects
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	p.6, Line 22-p.7,Line 13	Methods/Subjects
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	No Flow diagram	No Flow diagram
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	p.19, Line 1-Line 7	Table 1
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	p.19, Line 7	Footnote of Table 1
		(c) ***Cohort study***—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	p.6, Line 25, P.19, Table 1	Table 1
Outcome data	15*	***Cohort study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	p.6, Line 25	Results/patient
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	No Case-control study	No Case-control study
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	No Cross-sectional study	No Cross-sectional 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	p.7, Line 4-Line 13	Results/Clinical parameters predicting
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	No categolization	No categolization
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	Not performed	Not performed
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	p.8, Line 2-p.8, Line 16	Results/Ability of serum
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	p.9, Line 6- Line 13	Discussion/1st paragraph
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	p.11, Line 25-p.12, line 7	Discussion/Last paragraph

Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	p.10, Line 15-Line 24	Discussion/4th paragraph
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	p.10, Line 25-p.11,Line 24	Discussion/6th and 7th
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	p.12, Line 23-p.13, Line 1	Section of Finding

*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.