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 3-4	Title
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Page 3. Line 39-58	Abstract
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Page 4. Line 66-93	Introduction
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Page 4. Line 66-93	Introduction
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Page 5 line 99-108	Methods - patients
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Page 5 line 99-108	Methods - patients
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 5 line 99-108	Methods - patients
		(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	Page 5 line 99-108	Methods - patients
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Page 7 line 145-152	Methods - Definitions of variables
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 5 line 99-108	Methods - patients

Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	This study only focused on the postoperative outcomes	N/A
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	This study is case-series study.	N/A
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Page 7 line 145-152	4th paragraph of methods

Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Page 7 line 154-161	5th paragraph of methods
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	Page 7 line 154-161	5th paragraph of methods
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	Page 7 line 154-161	5th paragraph of methods
		(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	This study only focused on the postoperative outcomes	N/A
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Page 7 line 154-161	5th paragraph of methods
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 8 Line 166-179	1st paragraph of results
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Page 8 Line 166-179	1st paragraph of results
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	This study is case-series study, so we do not insert the flow chart.	N/A

Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Page 8 Line 166-179	1st paragraph of results
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	This study only focused on the postoperative outcomes	N/A
		(c) ***Cohort study***—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	This study only focused on the postoperative outcomes	N/A
Outcome data	15*	***Cohort study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Page 8 line 166-179	1st paragraph of results
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	This study only focused on the postoperative outcomes	N/A
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	This study only focused on the postoperative outcomes	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	Page 8 line 166-179	1st paragraph of results
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	Page 8 line 166-179	1st paragraph of results
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	Page 8 line 166-179	1st paragraph of results
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Page 8 line 181-193	2nd paragraph of resutl
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Page 9, line 198-202	1st papragraph of discussion

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 10 line 218-256	3rd paragraph of discussion
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Page 11 line 258-276	4th paragraph of discussion
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Page 12 line 278-280	5th paragraph of discussion
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	This study has no funding sources	N/A

*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. Updated on April 13, 2020

Article information: https://dx.doi.org/10.21037/jtd-21-1739
*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.