

MOOSE (Meta-analyses of Observational Studies in Epidemiology) Checklist

Item No	Recommendation	Reported on Page Number/Line Number	Reported on Section/Paragraph
Reporting of Background			
1	Problem definition	Page3-4/Line65-94	Introduction/Paragraph1-2
2	Hypothesis statement	Page3-4/Line77-94	Introduction/Paragraph2
3	Description of Study Outcome(s)	Page3-4/Line77-94	Introduction/Paragraph2
4	Type of exposure or intervention used	Page3-4/Line77-94	Introduction/Paragraph2
5	Type of study design used	Page3-4/Line77-94	Introduction/Paragraph2
6	Study population	Page3-4/Line77-94	Introduction/Paragraph2
Reporting of Search Strategy			
7	Qualifications of searchers (eg, librarians and investigators)	Page4-5/Line117-121	Methods/Paragraph4
8	Search strategy, including time period included in the synthesis and keywords	Page3/Line98-101	Methods/Paragraph1
9	Effort to include all available studies, including contact with authors	Page3/Line98-101	Methods/Paragraph1
10	Databases and registries searched	Page3/Line98-101	Methods/Paragraph1
11	Search software used, name and version, including special features used (eg, explosion)	Page3/Line98-101	Methods/Paragraph1
12	Use of hand searching (eg, reference lists of obtained articles)	Page3/Line98-114	Methods/Paragraph1-3
13	List of citations located and those excluded, including justification	Page3/Line98-114	Methods/Paragraph1-3
14	Method for addressing articles published in languages other than English	Page3/Line98-101	Methods/Paragraph1
15	Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies	N/A	N/A
16	Description of any contact with authors	N/A	N/A

Reporting of Methods			
17	Description of relevance or appropriateness of studies assembled for assessing the hypothesis to be tested	Page5/Line124-137	Methods/Paragraph5-6
18	Rationale for the selection and coding of data (eg, sound clinical principles or convenience)	Page5/Line124-137	Methods/Paragraph5-6
19	Documentation of how data were classified and coded (eg, multiple raters, blinding, and interrater reliability)	Page5/Line124-137	Methods/Paragraph5-6
20	Assessment of confounding (eg, comparability of cases and controls in studies where appropriate)	Page5/Line124-137	Methods/Paragraph5-6
21	Assessment of study quality, including blinding of quality assessors; stratification or regression on possible predictors of study results	Page5/Line124-137	Methods/Paragraph5-6
22	Assessment of heterogeneity	Page5/Line124-137	Methods/Paragraph5-6
23	Description of statistical methods (eg, complete description of fixed or random effects models, justification of whether the chosen models account for predictors of study results, dose-response models, or cumulative meta-analysis) in sufficient detail to be replicated	Page5/Line140-142	Methods/Paragraph7
24	Provision of appropriate tables and graphics	N/A	N/A
Reporting of Results			
25	Graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate	Page5/Line147-150	Results/Paragraph1
26	Table giving descriptive information for each study included	Page6-7/Line153-189	Results/Paragraph2-4
27	Results of sensitivity testing (eg, subgroup analysis)	Page6-7/Line153-189	Results/Paragraph2-4
28	Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings	Page6-7/Line153-189	Results/Paragraph2-4
Reporting of Discussion			
29	Quantitative assessment of bias (eg, publication bias)	Page7-9/Line193-249	Discussion/Paragraph1-3
30	Justification for exclusion (eg, exclusion of non-English-language citations)	Page7-9/Line193-249	Discussion/Paragraph1-3
31	Assessment of quality of included studies	Page7-9/Line193-249	Discussion/Paragraph1-3
Reporting of Conclusions			
32	Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results	Page7-9/Line193-249	Discussion/Paragraph1-3
33	Generalization of the conclusions (ie, appropriate for the data presented and within the domain of the literature review)	Page9/Line251-257	Discussion/Paragraph4
34	Guidelines for future research	Page9/Line251-257	Discussion/Paragraph4
35	Disclosure of funding source	N/A	N/A

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*As the checklist was provided upon initial submission, the page number/line number reported may be changed due to copy editing and may not be referable in the published version. In this case, the section/paragraph may be used as an alternative reference.