

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	Page1/Line23-26	Introduction/paragraph1
2	Hypothesis statement	Page1/Line26-28	Introduction/paragraph1
3	Description of Study Outcome(s)	Page2/Line7-15	Introduction/paragraph2
4	Type of exposure or intervention used	Page1/Line24-25	Introduction/paragraph1
5	Type of study design used	NA	NA
6	Study population	Page2/Line1-2	Introduction/paragraph1
Reporting of Search Strategy			
7	Qualifications of searchers (eg, librarians and investigators)	Page4/Line6-10	Methods/paragraph 1
8	Search strategy, including time period included in the synthesis and keywords	Page4/Line6-10	Methods/paragraph 1
9	Effort to include all available studies, including contact with authors	NA	NA
10	Databases and registries searched	Page4/Line6-10	Methods/paragraph 1
11	Search software used, name and version, including special features used (eg, explosion)	Page4/Line6-10	Methods/paragraph 1
12	Use of hand searching (eg, reference lists of obtained articles)	NA	NA
13	List of citations located and those excluded, including justification	Page5/Line29-32	Results/paragraph1
14	Method for addressing articles published in languages other than English	NA	NA
15	Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies	Page5/Line29-32	Results/paragraph1
16	Description of any contact with authors	NA	NA

Reporting of Methods			
17	Description of relevance or appropriateness of studies assembled for assessing the hypothesis to be tested	NA	NA
18	Rationale for the selection and coding of data (eg, sound clinical principles or convenience)	Page4/Line28-31	Methods/paragraph 1
19	Documentation of how data were classified and coded (eg, multiple raters, blinding, and interrater reliability)	NA	NA
20	Assessment of confounding (eg, comparability of cases and controls in studies where appropriate)	NA	NA
21	Assessment of study quality, including blinding of quality assessors; stratification or regression on possible predictors of study results	Page4/Line4-12	Methods/paragraph 4
22	Assessment of heterogeneity	NA	NA
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/Line15-25	Methods/paragraph 4
24	Provision of appropriate tables and graphics	Page15-23/Line1	Methods/paragraph 1
Reporting of Results			
25	Graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate	Page6/Line11-31	Results/paragraph 1-2
26	Table giving descriptive information for each study included	Page5/Line29-32	Results/paragraph 1
27	Results of sensitivity testing (eg, subgroup analysis)	NA	NA
28	Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings	NA	NA
Reporting of Discussion			
29	Quantitative assessment of bias (eg, publication bias)	NA	NA
30	Justification for exclusion (eg, exclusion of non-English-language citations)	NA	NA
31	Assessment of quality of included studies	Page6/Line6-8	Discussion/paragraph3
Reporting of Conclusions			
32	Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results	Page7/Line7-34	Conclusions/paragraph4
33	Generalization of the conclusions (ie, appropriate for the data presented and within the domain of the literature review)	NA	NA
34	Guidelines for future research	NA	NA
35	Disclosure of funding source	Page10/Line1-4	Funding

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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.