

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		
2	Hypothesis statement		
3	Description of Study Outcome(s)		
4	Type of exposure or intervention used		
5	Type of study design used		
6	Study population		
Reporting of Search Strategy			
7	Qualifications of searchers (eg, librarians and investigators)		
8	Search strategy, including time period included in the synthesis and keywords		
9	Effort to include all available studies, including contact with authors		
10	Databases and registries searched		
11	Search software used, name and version, including special features used (eg, explosion)		
12	Use of hand searching (eg, reference lists of obtained articles)		
13	List of citations located and those excluded, including justification		
14	Method for addressing articles published in languages other than English		
15	Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies		
16	Description of any contact with authors		

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

From: Stroup DF, Berlin JA, Morton SC, *et al.*, for the Meta-analysis Of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE) Group. Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology. A Proposal for Reporting. JAMA. 2000;283(15):2008-2012. doi: 10.1001/jama.283.15.2008.

