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	4/56	Abstract/Methods
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	4-5/56-76	Abstract/Methods,
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	6-7/82-107	Introduction/Paragraph 1-4
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	7/106-107	Introduction/Paragraph 4
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	8/112-118	Methods/Study design and
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	8/112-123	Methods/Study design and data source Paragraphs 1-2
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	8/112-123	Methods/Study design and data source Paragraphs 1-2
		(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	N/A This was not a matched	N/A
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	8-9/128-145	Methods/Outcome variables Paragraphs 1-4
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	8-9/128-145	Methods/Outcome variables Paragraphs 1-4
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	N/A This was a real time	N/A
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	N/A No study size was	N/A
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	8-9/128-145	Methods/Outcome variables Paragraphs 1-4

Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	9-10/147-159	Methods/Statistical
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	9-10/147-159	Methods/Statistical
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	9-10/147-159	Methods/Statistical
		(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	8/112-118	Methods/Study design and data source Paragraph 1
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	N/A This was a real time	N/A
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	10/162-169	Results/Demographic and clinical characteristics
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	N/A Patients with	
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	N/A The study design was	
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	10/171-175	Results/Demographic and clinical characteristics
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	N/A Any missing data was	N/A
		(c) ***Cohort study***—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	8/115-116	Methods/Study design and
Outcome data	15*	***Cohort study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	N/A	N/A
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	N/A	N/A
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	10-14/161-246	Results
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	11-14/195-209/ 218-227, 231-237/244-246	Results/Tumor response para 2 and 3, TTF and
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	Tables 1-7	Tables 1-7
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	N/A	N/A
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	13-14/239-246	Results/Clinical outcomes
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	14/248-281	Discussion/Paragraphs 1-2
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	17/309-316	Discussion/Paragraph 6

Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	17-18/318-324/326-333	Discussion/Paragraph 7 & Conclusions
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	17/318-324	Discussion/Paragraph 7
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	18/339	Acknowledgments/ Funding

*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.