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 2, line 33	Abstract, paragraph 2
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	page 2-3, lines 23-52	Abstract, paragraph 1-4
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	page 4-5, lines 75-102	Introduction, paragraphs 1-5
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	page 5, lines 104-107	Introduction, paragraph 6
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	page 5, lines 111-114	Method, study desgin p1
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	page 5, lines 116-118	Method, study desgin p2
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 6, lines 120-126	Method, study eligibility p1-2
		(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	n/a
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	page 6-7, lines 128-154	Method, data extraction p1-4 & study endpoints p1
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 7, lines 157-161	Method, statistical analysis p1-2
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	page 7, lines 160-161	Method, statistical anal p2
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	page 7, lines 156-161	Method, statistical an p1-2
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	page 9, lines 204-209	Results, treatment type & effect, p2-3

Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	page 9-13, lines 208-245	Results, treatment type
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	page 9-13, lines 208-245	Results, treatment type
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	page 5, line 118	Method, study design, p2
		(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	page 5, line 118	Method, study design, p2
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	page 7, lines 160-161	Method, statistical an, p2
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, lines 171-2	Results, data analysis
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	n/a (all participants used)	n/a
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	n/a (all participants used)	n/a
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	page 8-9. lines 175-195	Results, data analysis
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	page 8-9, lines 175-195	Restulds, data analysis
		(c) ***Cohort study***—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	page 7, lines 152-153	Method, study endpoint p1
Outcome data	15*	***Cohort study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	page 9-13, lines 208-245	Restults, treatment type
		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	n/a	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 9, lines 208-9	Results, treatment effect & type, p3
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	page 9-13, lines 208-245	Results, treatment type
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	page 9-13, lines 208-245	Results, treatment type
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Page 9-13, lines 208-245	Results, treatment type
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	page 9-13, lines 208-245	Restuls, treatment type
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 27, lines 583-607	Limitation of study, p 1-6

Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	page 28-9, lines 611-628	Conclusion, p1-5
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	page 13-25, lines 251-579	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	n/a	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.

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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.