

STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

Title and abstract 1 (a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract **Page 2**

(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found **Page 2**

Introduction

Background/rationale 2 Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported **Page 5-6**

Objectives 3 State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses **Page 5-6**

Methods

Study design 4 Present key elements of study design early in the paper **Page 7**

Setting 5 Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection **Page 7**

Participants 6 (a) Cohort study—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up **NA**

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 **Page 7-10**

Cross-sectional study—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of

selection of participants **NA**

(b) Cohort study—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed **NA**

Case-control study—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case **Page 7-10**

Variables 7 Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect

modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable **Page 7-10**

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 7-11**

Bias 9 Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias

Study size 10 Explain how the study size was arrived at **Page 7-10**

Quantitative variables 11 Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why **Page 7-10**

Statistical methods 12 (a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding **Page 10-11**

(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions **Page 10-11**

(c) Explain how missing data were addressed **Page 10-11**

(d) Cohort study—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed **NA**

Case-control study—If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was

Addressed **Page 10-11**

Cross-sectional study—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of
sampling strategy **NA**

(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses **Page 10-11**

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 12**

(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage **NA**

(c) Consider use of a flow diagram **NA**

Descriptive data

14*

(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and
information on exposures and potential confounders **Page 11-12**

(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest **NA**

(c) Cohort study—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) **NA**

Outcome data

15*

Cohort study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time **NA**

Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure

Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures **NA**

Main results

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(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 11-13**

(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized **Page 11-13**

(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period **Page 11-13**

Other analyses

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Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses **NA**

Discussion

Key results **Page 14-18**

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Summarise key results with reference to study objectives **Page 14-18**

Limitations **Page 18**

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Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision.

Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias **Page 18**

Interpretation

20

Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence **Page 14-18**

Generalisability

21

Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results **Page 14-18**

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 **Page 19**

*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.