

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

	Item No	Recommendation
Title and abstract	1-3	<p>(a) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract</p> <hr/> <p>(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found</p>
Introduction		
Background/rationale	4	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported
Objectives	4	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses
Methods		
Study design	4-5	Present key elements of study design early in the paper
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection
Participants	4	<p>(a) <i>Cohort study</i>—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up</p> <p><i>Case-control study</i>—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</p> <hr/> <p>(b) <i>Case-control study</i>—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case</p>
Statistical methods	5	<p>(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding</p> <hr/> <p>(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions</p> <hr/> <p>(c) Explain how missing data were addressed</p> <hr/> <p>(d) <i>Cohort study</i>—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed</p> <p><i>Case-control study</i>—If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed</p> <p><i>Cross-sectional study</i>—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy</p> <hr/> <p>(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses</p>

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Results

Participants	6*	(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 (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage (c) Consider use of a flow diagram
Descriptive data	6*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest (c) <i>Cohort study</i> —Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)
Outcome data	7*	<i>Cohort study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time <i>Case-control study</i> —Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures
Main results	6-8	(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 (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period

Discussion

Key results	7-8	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results

Other information

Funding	1	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
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*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.