**STROBE Statement**

The authors declare that the STROBE statement was followed in the article entitled “Novel technique for lymphadenectomy along left recurrent laryngeal nerve during thoracoscopic esophagectomy(No.52348)”

STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of ***cohort studies***

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| --- | --- |
| Item No | Recommendation |
| Title and abstract | 1 | (a) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstractPage 3 line 10-17(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was foundPage 3 |
| Introduction |
| Background/rationale | 2 | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigationbeing reportedPage 5 |
| Objectives | 3 | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypothesesPage 5 lines 71-74 |
| Methods |
| Study design | 4 | Present key elements of study design early in the paperPage 5-6 |
| Setting | 5 | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collectionPage 6-9 |
| Participants | 6 | (a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-upPage 6, 9(b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposedN/a |
|  |
| Variables | 7 | Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicablePage6, 9 |
| 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 groupPage 6, 9 |
| Bias | 9 | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of biasPage 9 |
| Study size | 10 | Explain how the study size was arrived atPage 6 |
| Quantitative variables | 11 | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. Ifapplicable, describe which groupings were chosen and whyPage 9 |
| Statistical methods | 12 | (a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confoundingPage 9(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactionsPage 9(c) Explain how missing data were addressedN/a(d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressedN/a(e) Describe any sensitivity analysesN/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 analysedPage 10(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stageN/a(c) Consider use of a flow diagramN/a |
| Descriptive data | 14\* | (a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confoundersTable 1-2(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interestN/a(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)Page 9 |
| Outcome data | 15\* | Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over timePage 26, Table 2 |
| 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 includedTables 1-2(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorizedN/a(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time periodN/a |
| Other analyses | 17 | Report other analyses done--eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analysesN/a |
| Discussion |
| Key results | 18 | Summarise key results with reference to study objectivesPage 12 |
| Limitations | 19 | Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential biasPage 12 |
| Interpretation | 20 | Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidencePage 10-12 |
| Generalisability | 21 | Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study resultsPage 11-12 |
| Other information |
| Funding |  | 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 basedN/a |

\*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.