**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 abstract Page 3 line 10-17 (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found Page 3 |
| Introduction | | |
| Background/rationale | 2 | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported Page 5 |
| Objectives | 3 | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses Page 5 lines 71-74 |
| Methods | | |
| Study design | 4 | Present key elements of study design early in the paper Page 5-6 |
| Setting | 5 | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection Page 6-9 |
| Participants | 6 | (a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up Page 6, 9 (b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed N/a |
|  | | |
| Variables | 7 | Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable Page6, 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 group Page 6, 9 |
| Bias | 9 | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias Page 9 |
| Study size | 10 | Explain how the study size was arrived at Page 6 |
| Quantitative variables | 11 | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why Page 9 |
| Statistical methods | 12 | (a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding Page 9 (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions Page 9 (c) Explain how missing data were addressed N/a (d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed N/a (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses 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 Page 10 (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage N/a (c) Consider use of a flow diagram N/a |
| Descriptive data | 14\* | (a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders Table 1-2 (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest N/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 time Page 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 included Tables 1-2 (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized N/a (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period N/a |
| Other analyses | 17 | Report other analyses done--eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses N/a |
| Discussion | | |
| Key results | 18 | Summarise key results with reference to study objectives Page 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 bias Page 12 |
| Interpretation | 20 | Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence Page 10-12 |
| Generalisability | 21 | Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results Page 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 based N/a |

\*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.