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

**Item**

 **No Recommendation**

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

abstract

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

**Page**

 **No**

1- 4

 **Introduction**

Background/rationale 2 Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being 4 reported

Objectives 3 State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses 4

**Methods**

Study design 4 Present key elements of study design early in the paper 5,6

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

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

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

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

effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable

5,6

5,6

6,7

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

6,7

Bias 9 Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias 5-7

Study size 10 Explain how the study size was arrived at 5-7

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

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

(*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions

(*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed

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

(*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses

5-7

5-7

**Results**

Participants 13\* (a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers 8,9 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 14\* (a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) 8,9 and information on exposures and potential confounders

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

(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)

Outcome data 15\* Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time 8,9

Main results 16 (*a*) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their 8,9 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

Other analyses 17 Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity 8,9

analyses

**Discussion**

Key results 18 Summarise key results with reference to study objectives 9-11

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

Interpretation 20 Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations,

multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence

11-12

12-13

Generalisability 21 Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results 12-13

**Other information**

Funding 22 Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if 17 applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based

\*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.

**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 http://www.strobe-statement.org.