

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

	Item No.	Recommendation	Page No.	Relevant text from manuscript
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1	Title
			3-4	Abstract (Methods)
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	3-4	Abstract (Methods and Results)
Introduction				
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	5-7	Introduction
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	7-8	Introduction
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	8-10	Materials and Methods (Research methodology, Study population and Study setting)
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	9	Materials and Methods (Study population and Study setting)
Participants	6	(a) Cohort study—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up	9	Materials and Methods (Study population and Study setting)
		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		
		Cross-sectional study—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants		
		(b) Cohort study—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed	9-11	Materials and Methods (Study population and Study setting)
		Case-control study—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case		
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	9-11	Table 1 and Table 2
			24-26	Results

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	9-11	Materials and Methods (Study population, DNA extraction and PCR amplification of specific <i>16S rRNA</i> gene of <i>H. pylori</i>)
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	9-11	Materials and Methods (Study population and Study setting, and Table 1 and Table 2)
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	9	Materials and Methods (Study population and Study setting)
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	9-15	Materials and Methods (Table 1 and Table 2, and SNPs detection and bioinformatics analysis)
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	15	Materials and Methods (Statistical analysis)
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	15	Materials and Methods (Statistical analysis)
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	not applicable	
		(d) <i>Cohort study</i> —If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	not applicable	
		<i>Case-control study</i> —If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed		
		<i>Cross-sectional study</i> —If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy		
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	not applicable	
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	8-9	Research methodology
			16-26	Results
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	8-9	Research methodology
			16-26	Results
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	9	Figure 1
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	9-11	Study population and Study setting, and Table 1 and Table 2
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Not applicable	

		(c) <i>Cohort study</i> —Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	Not applicable	
Outcome data	15*	<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	16-26	Results
		<i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures		
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	24-26	Results
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	10-11 25-26	Table 1 and Table 2 Table 8, Table 9 and Table 10
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	Not applicable	
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	16-23	Results
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	26-29	Discussion
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	29-30	Discussion
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	30-31	Discussion- Conclusion
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	26-31	Discussion- Conclusion
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	Not applicable	

*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.