STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of *case-control studies*

Call Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and halanced summary of what was done and what was found Page 3		Item No	Recommendation	
(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found Page 3 Introduction Background/rationalc Dijectives 3 State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses Page 6 Methods State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses Page 7-8 Stetting 5 Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection Page 7-8 Participants 6 (a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of cuse ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls Page 7-8 (b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case Page 7-8 Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable Page 10-11 Data sources/ 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 10 Bias 9 Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias Page 10 Explain how the study size was arrived at Page 10 Statistical methods 11 Explain how dumitiative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why Page 10-11 (a) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions (c) Explain how missing data were addressed (g) Describe any sensitivity analyses Results Page 11 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 (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage (c) Consider use of a flow diagram Descriptive data 14* (a) Give haracteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders Page 11-12 (b) Ind	Title and abstract			
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Other analyses $\sqrt{17}$	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	
Discussion	Page 19-22	
Key results $\sqrt{18}$	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives Page 19-22	
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 20-21	
Interpretation 20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence Page 22	
Generalisability /21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results Page 21	
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 Page 2	

^{*}Give information separately for cases and controls.

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.