

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

| | <i>Item No</i> | <i>Recommendation</i> | <i>Page</i> |
|--|----------------|--|-------------|
| <i>Title and abstract</i> | 1 | (a) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract | [1] |
| | | (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found | [1] |
| <i>Introduction</i> <i>Background/rationale</i> | 2 | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported | [2] |
| <i>Objectives</i> | 3 | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses | [2, 3] |
| <i>Methods</i> <i>Study design</i> | 4 | Present key elements of study design early in the paper | [3] |
| <i>Setting</i> | 5 | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection | [3] |
| <i>Participants</i> | 6 | Give the eligibility criteria and the sources and methods of selection of participants. | [3] |
| <i>Variables</i> | 7 | Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. | [3] |
| <i>Data sources/measurement</i> | 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 | [3] |
| <i>Bias</i> | 9 | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias | [3] |

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| <i>Study size</i> | 10 | Explain how the study size was arrived at | Not applicable |
| <i>Quantitative variables</i> | 11 | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why | [4] |
| <i>Statistical methods</i> | 12 | Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding | [3, 4] |
| Results <i>Participants</i> | 13 | 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 analyzed | [4] |
| <i>Descriptive data</i> | 14 | Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders | [4,5] |
| <i>Outcome data</i> | 15 | Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time | [5] |
| <i>Main results</i> | 16 | 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 | [5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12] |
| <i>Other analyses</i> | 17 | Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses | [10,11,12] |
| Discussion <i>Key results</i> | 18 | | [12, 13] |

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| <i>Limitations</i> | 19 | Summarize key results with reference to study objectives | [12, 13] |
| <i>Interpretation</i> | 20 | Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias | [13] |
| <i>Generalizability</i> | 21 | Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence | [13,14] |
| <i>Other information</i> | | | |
| <i>Funding</i> | 22 | Discuss the generalizability (external validity) of the study results | [14] |
| | | 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 | |