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

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|  | 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 | Title |  |
| (*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found | Abstract: methods and findings section |  |
| Introduction | | | |  |
| Background/rationale | 2 | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported | Introduction section: paragraphs 2 and 3 |  |
| Objectives | 3 | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses | Introduction section: paragraph 3 |  |
| Methods | | | |  |
| Study design | 4 | Present key elements of study design early in the paper | Methods: ‘Databases’ and ‘Inclusion criteria, definitions and outcomes’ sections |  |
| Setting | 5 | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection | Methods: ‘Databases’ and ‘Inclusion criteria, definitions and outcomes’ sections |  |
| Participants | 6 | (*a*) *Cohort study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up  *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 | Methods: ‘Databases’ and ‘Inclusion criteria, definitions and outcomes’ sections |  |
| (*b*)*Cohort study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed  *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 | Methods: ‘Databases’ and ‘Inclusion criteria, definitions and outcomes’ sections |  |
| 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 | Methods: ‘Databases’ and ‘Inclusion criteria, definitions and outcomes’ sections |  |
| Bias | 9 | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias | Methods: ‘Inclusion criteria, definitions and outcomes’ section paragraph 4 |  |
| Study size | 10 | Explain how the study size was arrived at | Methods: ‘Inclusion criteria, definitions and outcomes’ section paragraph 1 |  |

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| Quantitative variables | 11 | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why | Methods: ‘Inclusion criteria, definitions and outcomes’ section paragraphs 2 and 3 |  |
| Statistical methods | 12 | (*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding | Methods: Statistical analyses section |  |
| (*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions | Methods: Statistical analyses section |  |
| (*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed | Results section paragraph 1 and also strengths section in discussion |  |
| (*d*) *Cohort study*—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed  *Case-control study*—If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed  *Cross-sectional study*—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy | Not applicable |  |
| (*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses | Methods: Statistical analyses section |  |
| 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 | Results section paragraph 1 and also supplementary figure 2 |  |
| (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage | Results section paragraph 1 and also supplementary figure 2 |  |
| (c) Consider use of a flow diagram |  |  |
| Descriptive data | 14\* | (a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders | Results section: Table 1 |  |
| (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest | Results section: Table 1 |  |
| (c) *Cohort study*—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) | Results section paragraph 1 and also ‘hospitalisation and mortality’ section within Results |  |
| Outcome data | 15\* | *Cohort study*—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time | Throughout Results section |  |
| *Case-control study—*Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure |  |  |
| *Cross-sectional study—*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 | Throughout Results section |  |
| (*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized | Throughout Results section |  |
| (*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period | Throughout Results section |  |

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| Other analyses | 17 | Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses | Throughout Results section |  |
| Discussion | | | | |
| Key results | 18 | Summarise key results with reference to study objectives | Discussion: Main findings section paragraphs 1,2,3 and 4 |  |
| 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 | Discussion: Limitations section |  |
| Interpretation | 20 | Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence | ‘Main Findings’, ‘Strengths’ and ‘Limitations’ sections |  |
| Generalisability | 21 | Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results | Limitations section paragraph 5 |  |
| 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 | Within online submission |  |

\*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.