The STROCSS Guideline		
Item no.	**Item description**	**Page No.**
TITLE		
1	Title: - The word cohort or cross-sectional or case-controlled is included - The area of focus is described (e.g. disease, exposure/intervention, outcome) - Key elements of study design are stated (e.g. retrospective or prospective)	1
ABSTRACT		
2a	Introduction: the following points are briefly described - Background - Scientific Rationale for this study	1
2b	Methods: the following areas are briefly described - Study design (cohort, retro-/prospective, single/multi-centred) - Patient populations and/or groups, including control group, if applicable - Interventions (type, operators, recipients, timeframes) - Outcome measures	1
2c	Results: the following areas are briefly described - Summary data (with statistical relevance) with qualitative descriptions, where appropriate	1
2d	Conclusion: the following areas are briefly described - Key conclusions - Implications to practice - Direction of and need for future research	2
INTRODUCTION		
3	Introduction: the following areas are described in full - Relevant background and scientific rationale - Aims and objectives - Research question and hypotheses, where appropriate	2-3
METHODS		
4a	Registration and ethics - Research Registry number is stated, in accordance with the declaration of Helsinki* - All studies (including retrospective) should be registered before submission *"*Every research study involving human subjects must be registered in a publicly accessible database before recruitment of the first subject*" (this can be obtained from; ResearchRegistry.com or ClinicalTrials.gov or ISRCTN)	3
4b	Ethical Approval: the following areas are described in full - Necessity for ethical approval - Ethical approval, with relevant judgement reference from ethics committees - Where ethics was unnecessary, reasons are provided	3
4c	Protocol: the following areas are described comprehensively - Protocol (*a priori* or otherwise) details, with access directions - If published, journal mentioned with the reference provided	4

4d	Patient involvement in Research - Describe how, if at all, patients were involved in study design e.g. were they involved on the study steering committee, did they provide input on outcome selection, etc.	4-5
5a	Study Design: the following areas are described comprehensively - 'Cohort' study is mentioned - Design (e.g. retro-/prospective, single/multi-centred)	4-5
5b	Setting: the following areas are described comprehensively - Geographical location - Nature of institution (e.g. academic/community, public/private) - Dates (recruitment, exposure, follow-up, data collection)	4
5c	Cohort Groups: the following areas are described in full - Number of groups - Division of intervention between groups	4
5d	Subgroup Analysis: the following areas are described comprehensively - Planned subgroup analyses - Methods used to examine subgroups and their interactions	4
6a	Participants: the following areas are described comprehensively - Eligibility criteria - Recruitment sources - Length and methods of follow-up	4
6b	Recruitment: the following areas are described comprehensively - Methods of recruitment to each patient group - Period of recruitment	4
6c	Sample Size: the following areas are described comprehensively - Margin of error calculation - Analysis to determine study population - Power calculations, where appropriate	4
Intervention and Considerations		
7a	Pre-intervention Considerations: the following areas are described comprehensively - Patient optimisation (pre-surgical measures) - Pre-intervention treatment (hypothermia/-volaemia/-tension; ICU care; bleeding problems; medications)	3-5
7b	Intervention: the following areas are described comprehensively - Type of intervention and reasoning (e.g. pharmacological, surgical, physiotherapy, psychological) - Aim of intervention (preventative/therapeutic) - Concurrent treatments (antibiotics, analgaesia, anti-emetics, NBM, VTE prophylaxis) - Manufacturer and model details where applicable	3-5
7c	Intra-Intervention Considerations: the following areas are described comprehensively - Administration of intervention (location, surgical details, anaesthetic, positioning, equipment needed, preparation, devices, sutures, operative time) - Pharmacological therapies include formulation, dosages, routes and durations - Figures other media are used to illustrate	3-5

7d	Operator Details: the following areas are described comprehensively - Training needed - Learning curve for technique - Specialisation and relevant training	3-5
7e	Quality Control: the following areas are described comprehensively - Measures taken to reduce variation - Measures taken to ensure quality and consistency in intervention delivery	3-5
7f	Post-Intervention Considerations: the following areas are described comprehensively - Post-operative instructions and care - Follow-up measures - Future surveillance requirements (e.g. imaging, blood tests)	3-5
8	Outcomes: the following areas are described comprehensively - Primary outcomes, including validation, where applicable - Definitions of outcomes - Secondary outcomes, where appropriate - Follow-up period for outcome assessment, divided by group	3-5
9	Statistics: the following areas are described comprehensively - Statistical tests, packages/software used, and interpretation of significance - Confounders and their control, if known - Analysis approach (e.g. intention to treat/per protocol) - Sub-group analysis, if any	6
RESULTS		
10a	Participants: the following areas are described comprehensively - Flow of participants (recruitment, non-participation, cross-over and withdrawal, with reasons) - Population demographics (prognostic features, relevant socioeconomic features, and significant numerical differences)	7
10b	Participant Comparison: the following areas are described comprehensively - Table comparing demographic included - Differences, with statistical relevance - Any group matching, with methods	7
10c	Intervention: the following areas are described comprehensively - Changes to interventions, with rationale and diagram, if appropriate - Learning required for interventions - Degree of novelty for intervention	8
11a	Outcomes: the following areas are described comprehensively - Clinician-assessed and patient-reported outcomes for each group - Relevant photographs and imaging are desirable - Confounders to outcomes and which are adjusted	8
11b	Tolerance: the following areas are described comprehensively - Assessment of tolerance - Loss to follow up, with reasons (percentage and fraction) - Cross-over with explanation	8
11c	Complications: the following areas are described comprehensively - Adverse events described - Classified according to Clavien-Dindo classification*	8-9

	- Mitigation for adverse events (blood loss, wound care, revision surgery should be specified) *Dindo D, Demartines N, Clavien P-A. Classification of Surgical Complications. A New Proposal with Evaluation in a Cohort of 6336 Patients and Results of a Survey. Ann Surg. 2004; 240(2): 205-213	
12	Key Results: the following areas are described comprehensively - Key results, including relevant raw data - Statistical analyses with significance	8-9
DISCUSSION		
13	Discussion: the following areas are described comprehensively - Conclusions and rationale - Reference to relevant literature - Implications to clinical practice - Comparison to current gold standard of care - Relevant hypothesis generation	10-13
14	Strengths and Limitations: the following areas are described comprehensively - Strengths of the study - Limitations and potential impact on results - Assessment of bias and management	13
15	Implications and Relevance: the following areas are described comprehensively - Relevance of findings and potential implications to clinical practice are detailed - Future research that is needed is described, with study designs detailed	13
CONCLUSION		
16	Conclusions: - Key conclusions are summarised - Key directions for future research are summarised	14
DECLARATIONS		
17a	Conflicts of interest - Conflicts of interest, if any, are described	14
17b	Funding - Sources of funding (e.g. grant details), if any, are clearly stated	Title page