Supplementary Material 3. Meta-analyses of Observational Studies in Epidemiology checklist.

Item no.	Recommendation	Reported on page no.
	Reporting of background should include	
1	Problem definition	5
2	Hypothesis statement	NA
3	Description of study outcome(s)	6,7
4	Type of exposure or intervention used	6,7
5	Type of study designs used	5,6
6	Study population	6
Reporting of search strategy should include		
7	Qualifications of searchers (eg, librarians and investigators)	5, Supplementary Material 1
8	Search strategy, including time period included in the synthesis and key words	5, Supplementary Material 1
9	Effort to include all available studies, including contact with authors	6
10	Databases and registries searched	Supplementary Material 1
11	Search software used, name and version, including special features used (eg, explosion)	NA
12	Use of hand searching (eg, reference lists of obtained articles)	6
13	List of citations located and those excluded, including justification	Supplementary Fig. 1
14	Method of addressing articles published in languages other than English	6
15	Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies	6
16	Description of any contact with authors	6
Reporting of methods should include		
17	Description of relevance or appropriateness of studies assembled for assessing the hypothesis to be tested	6
18	Rationale for the selection and coding of data (eg, sound clinical principles or convenience)	NA
19	Documentation of how data were classified and coded (eg, multiple raters, blinding and interrater reliability)	6
20	Assessment of confounding (eg, comparability of cases and controls in studies where appropriate)	NA
21	Assessment of study quality, including blinding of quality assessors, stratification or regression on possible predictors of study results	6
22	Assessment of heterogeneity	9
23	Description of statistical methods (eg, complete description of fixed or random effects models, justification of whether the chosen models account for predictors of study results, dose-response models, or cumulative meta-analysis) in sufficient detail to be replicated	7
24	Provision of appropriate tables and graphics	Provided
Reporting of results should include		
25	Graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate	Forest plots provided
26	Table giving descriptive information for each study included	Tables 1 and 2
27	Results of sensitivity testing (eg, subgroup analysis)	8, 9
28	Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings	8, 9
Reporting of discussion should include		
29	Quantitative assessment of bias (eg, publication bias)	9
30	Justification for exclusion (eg, exclusion of non-English language citations)	NA
31	Assessment of quality of included studies	Supplementary Table 1
Reporting of conclusions should include		
32	Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results	10-12
33	Generalization of the conclusions (ie, appropriate for the data presented and within the domain of the literature review)	10-12
34	Guidelines for future research	12
35	Disclosure of funding source	1

Adapted from Stroup et al. JAMA 2000;283:2008-2012.