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

| Section/item | Item No | Recommendation | Reported on Page Number/Line | Reported on Section/Paragraph |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Title and abstract** | 1 | (a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract | Page 2 / Line 29 | Abstract – Background section |
| | | (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found | Page 2 / Lines 33 – 46 | Abstract – Methods/Results |
| **Introduction** | | | | |
| Background/ rationale | 2 | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported | Page 4 / Lines 57 -90 | Introduction section / Paragraphs 1-3 |
| Objectives | 3 | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses | Page 4 / Lines 91-95 | Introduction/Paragraph 4 |
| **Methods** | | | | |
| Study design | 4 | Present key elements of study design early in the paper | Page 6 / Lines 115-127 | Methods – Study Population/ paragraph 1 |
| Setting | 5 | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection | Page 5 / Lines 103 – 112 | Methods – Data Source |
| Participants | 6 | (a) ***Cohort study***—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up<br>***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 | Page 6-7/Lines 138 -151 | Methods – Study Population / Paragraph 3 |
| | | (b) ***Cohort study***—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed<br>***Case-control study***—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of | Page 6 / Lines 128-137 | Methods – Study Population / Paragraph 2 |

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| Variables | 7 | Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable | Page 7-8 / Lines 153 - 187 | Methods – Treatment Exposure, Survival Outcomes, Covariates |
| 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 | Page 7-8 / Lines 153 - 187 | Methods – Treatment Exposure, Survival Outcomes, Covariates |
| Bias | 9 | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias | Page 6 / Line 128, Page 7 / line 160-167, Page 9 / lines 201 - 218 | Methods – Study population / paragraph 2, Methods – Treatment exposure / Paragraph 1, Methods – Statistical analysis / paragraph 2 |
| Study size | 10 | Explain how the study size was arrived at | Page 6 – 7 / Lines 138 - 151 | Methods / Paragraph 3 |
| Quantitative variables | 11 | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why | Page 7-8/ Lines 158-168 | Methods – Treatment Exposure |

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| Statistical methods | 12 | (a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding | Page 8-9 / Lines 190-200 | Methods – statistical Analysis |
| | | (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions | Page 9 / Lines 213-220 | Methods – statistical analysis |
| | | (c) Explain how missing data were addressed | Page 6 /Lines 117-118 | Methods – Study population/ paragraph 1 |
| | | (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 | Page 6 /lines 171 - 173 | Methods – survival outcome |
| | | (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses | Page 9/ Lines 201 – 213 | Methods – Statistical Analysis |

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| **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, | Page 9-10 / Lines 223-226 | Results / Paragraph 1 and figure 1 |
| | | (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage | Figure 1 | Figure 1 |
| | | (c) Consider use of a flow diagram | Figure 1 | Figure 1 |
| Descriptive data | 14* | (a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders | Page 10/ Lines 227 – 234 | Results Paragraph 2 and Table 1 |
| | | (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest | | Figure 1 |
| | | (c) ***Cohort study***—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) | Page 10/ Lines 235 – 236 | Results /Paragraph 3 |
| Outcome data | 15* | ***Cohort study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time | Page 10 / Lines 236 – 246 | Results / Paragraph 3 |
| | | ***Case-control study***—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of | NA | |
| | | ***Cross-sectional study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures | NA | |
| 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 | Page 10 / Lines 236 – 246 | Results / Paragraph 3 |
| | | (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized | NA | |
| | | (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a | NA | |
| Other analyses | 17 | Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses | Page 10-11 / Lines 241 – 265 | Results / Paragraph 3 - 5 |
| **Discussion** | | | | |
| Key results | 18 | Summarise key results with reference to study objectives | Page 11 / Lines 268 – 272 | Discussion / Paragraph 1 |
| 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 13/ Lines 308 – 334 | Discussion – Paragraph 5 |

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| Interpretation | 20 | Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence | Page 14 / Lines 327-340 | Conclusions |

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| Generalisability | 21 | Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results | Page 13/ Lines 308 – 334 | Discussion – 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 | Page 4 / Lines 349 - 351 | Acknowledgements |

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

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*As the checklist was provided upon initial submission, the page number/line number reported may be changed due to copyediting and may not be referable in the published version. In this case, the section/paragraph may be used as an alternative reference.