Improving the quality of reports of meta-analyses of randomized controlled trials: the QUOROM statement checklist

Heading	Subheading	Descriptor	Reported? (Y/N)	Page No
TITLE		Identify the report as a meta-analysis (or systematic review) of RCTs	Y	1
ABSTRACT		Use a structured format	Y	3
	Objectives	**Describe** The clinical question explicitly	Y	3
	Data Sources	The databases (ie list) and other information sources	Y	3,6
	Review Methods	The selection criteria (ie, population, intervention, outcome, and study design); methods for validity assessment, data abstraction, and study characteristics, and quantitative data synthesis in sufficient detail to permit replication	Y	3
	Results	Characteristics of the RCTs included and excluded; qualitative and quantitative findings (ie, point estimates and confidence intervals); and subgroup analyses	Y	3
	Conclusion	The main results	Y	3
INTRODUCTION		**Describe** The explicit clinical problem, biological rationale for the intervention, and rationale for review	Y	4-5
METHODS	Searching	The information sources, in detail (eg, databases, registers, personal files, expert informants, agencies, hand-searching), and any restrictions (years considered, publication status, language of publication)	Y	6-8
	Selection	The inclusion and exclusion criteria (defining population, intervention, principal outcomes, and study design	Y	7
	Validity assessment	The criteria and process used (eg, masked conditions, quality assessment , and their findings)	Y	6
	Data abstraction	The process or processes used (eg, completed independently, in duplicate)	Y	6-8
	Study characteristics	The type of study design, participants' characteristics, details of intervention, outcome definitions, &c, and how clinical heterogeneity was assessed	Y	7-9
	Quantitative data synthesis	The principal measures of effect, (eg, relative risk), method of combining results (statistical testing and confidence intervals), handling of missing data; how statistical heterogeneity was assessed; a rationale for any a-priori sensitivity and subgroup analyses; and any assessment of publication bias	Y	7-9
RESULTS	Trial flow	Provide a meta-analysis profile summarising trial flow (see figure)	Y	Figure 1
	Study characteristics	Present descriptive data for each trial (eg age, sample size, intervention, dose, duration, follow-up period)	Y	Table 1 9-19
	Quantitative data synthesis	Report agreement on the selection and validity assessment present simple summary results (for each treatment group in each trial, for each primary outcome); present data needed to calculate effect sizes and confidence intervals in intention-to-treat analyses (eg 2x2 tables of counts, means and SDs, proportions)	Y	10
DISCUSSION		Summarise key findings; discuss clinical inferences based on internal and external validity; interpret the results in light of the totality of available evidence; describe potential biases in the review process (eg, publication bias) and suggest a future research agenda	Y	20-23
Quality of reporting of meta-analyses				

This checklist is found at:www.consort-statement.org/QUOROM.pdf