

STROBE 2007 (v4) Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of cohort studies

Section/Topic	Item #	Recommendation	Reported on page #
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	Pg 1
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Pg 2
Introduction			
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Pg 5
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Pg 5
Methods			
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Pg 5, Pg 7 para 2/3
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Pg 6/7
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up	Pg 7 section "identification of cases"
		(b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed	Pg 7 section "identification of cases"
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Pg 6 para 3, Pg 7 para 3, Pg 8 para 2
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	6 para 1/2
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	n/a (all adult patients included)
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	6 para 1 (all available)
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Pg 8
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Pg 8
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	n/a
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	n/a
		(d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	In discussion pg 13/14

		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	In discussion pg 13/14
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	Pg 9 para 1
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	n/a
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Figure 1
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Pg 9, Table 1, Figure 2
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	n/a
		(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	Pg 9 para 1, Table 3
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Pg 9/10, Figure 2, Table 3
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	n/a
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	n/a
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	n/a
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Pg
Discussion			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Pg 11, para 1
Limitations			
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Pg 11-15
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Pg 13/14
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	Pg 19

*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.