STROBE Statement: The effects of HIV-1 subtype and ethnicity on CD4 decline in antiretroviral naïve patients: a Canadian-European collaborative cohort study

	Item No	Recommendation
Title and abstract	1	(*a*) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract In title
		(*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found Done
Introduction		
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported Introduction - second paragraph
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses Introduction - final paragraph
Methods		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper Methods - first paragraph; Table 1
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection Methods - second and third paragraphs
Participants	6	*Cohort study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up Table 1 - references given for each contributing cohort
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Methods - first paragraph; Statistical Analysis - first paragraph
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 Methods - second paragraph; Table 1
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias Methods - third paragraph; Statistical Analysis - second paragraph
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at Results - first paragraph
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why Not relevant
Statistical methods	12	(*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding Statistical Analysis - first and second paragraphs
		(*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions Statistical Analysis - second paragraph
		(*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed Results - third paragraph; Table 3
		(*d*) *Cohort study*—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed Not applicable

		(*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses Statistical analysis - second paragraph
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 Results - first and third paragraphs
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage Results - first and third paragraphs
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders Table 2
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest Tables 2 and 3
		(c) *Cohort study*—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) Results - first paragraph; Table 2
Outcome data	15*	*Cohort study*—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time Table 7
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 Statistical Analysis - first paragraph; Table 4
		(*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized Not applicable
		(*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period Not relevant - however untransformed results presented in Table 5 for ease of interpretation
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses Results - paragraphs four, five and six
Discussion		
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives Discussion - first paragraph
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 Limitations
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence Conclusions
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results Limitations
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 Financial Disclosure statement