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

	Item No	Recommendation
Title and abstract *(Reference Page 1-2)*	1	(*a*) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract
		(*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found
Introduction (Reference Pages 3, 4 (lines1-2)		
Background/rationale (*reference page 3, 4 (lines 1-2).*	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported
Objectives (*reference page 4 (lines 5-18)*	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses
Methods		
Study design (*reference pages 4 (lines 20-24), 5(lines1-5)*	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper
Setting(*reference page 5(lines 6-24)*	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection
Participants (*reference page 6, 7(1)*	6	(*a*) *Cohort study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up *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 controls *Cross-sectional study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants
		(*b*) *Cohort study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed *Case-control study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case "Not applicable"
Variables "N/A"	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable
Data sources/ measurement (*reference page 8(lines 20-25), 9(lines 1-7)*	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
Bias (*reference page s 9(lines 8-17), 10(lines 1-18, Page 11). Tables 1 and 2 respectively)*	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias
Study size (*reference page 7 (lines 15-18)*	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at
Quantitative variables "N/A"	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why
Statistical	12	(*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding

methods(*reference page 11 (lines 1-7, Table 3)*		
	(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	
	(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	
	(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 *Cross-sectional study*—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	
	(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	

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Results "N/A"		
Participants "N/A"	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
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram
Descriptive Data "N/A"	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest
		(c) *Cohort study*—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)
Outcome data "N/A"	15*	*Cohort study*—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures
Main results "N/A"	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
		(*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized
		(*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period
Other analyses "Not applicable"	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses
Discussion (*reference page 12-14, 15(lines 1-18)*		
Key results(Not applicable)	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives
Limitations (*reference page 15 (lines 20-22)*	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias
Interpretation "N/A"	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence
Generalisability (*reference page 15 (line 24), 16(1-5)*	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results

Other information		
Funding		
(Page 16(lines 19-20)	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

*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. "Not applicable"

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.