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

	Item No	Recommendation
Title and abstract	1	(*a*) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract Pag 1
		(*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found Pag 1
Introduction		
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported Pag 2
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses Pag 2
Methods		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper Pag 2-3
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection Pag 2
Participants	6	(*a*) *Cohort study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up Pag 3
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable Pag 3
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 Pag 3
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias Pag 3
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at Pag 3
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why Pag 3
Statistical methods	12	Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding Pag 3
		(*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions Pag 3
		(*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed Pag na (*d*) *Cohort study*—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed Pag na

		(*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses Pag 3

Continued on next page

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 Pag 4
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage Pag na
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram Pag na
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders Pag 4
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest Pag na
		(c) *Cohort study*—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) Pag 4
Outcome data	15*	*Cohort study*—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time Pag 4
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure Pag 4
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 Pag 4
		(*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized Pag 4
		(*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period Pag na
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses Pag na
Discussion		
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives Pag 4
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 Pag 5
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence Pag 5
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results Pag 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 Pag 5

*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.