

STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of *cohort studies*

	Item No	Recommendation
<b>Title and abstract</b>	1	(a) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract [See Title, Page 1 and Abstract on Page 2]
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found. [See results section of abstract page 2]
<b>Introduction</b>		
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported [See Introduction, paragraph 1 and 2]
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses [See Introduction, Paragraph 4]
<b>Methods</b>		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper [See Methods, Page 4-7]
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection [See Methods, Study Setting section]
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up [See Methods, Study Population section]
		(b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed [Not Applicable]
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable [See Methods, Outcomes section]
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 [See Methods, Data Sources section]
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias [See Methods, Statistical Analysis section. It describes variables controlled for in model]
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at [See Methods, Study Population section. Additionally, as described above, this was a cohort study]
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why. [See Methods, Statistical

**Analysis section]**

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Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding <b>[See Methods, Statistical Analysis section in particular]</b>
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions <b>[subgroup analysis not used]</b>
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed <b>[See Methods, Statistical Analysis section in particular]</b>
		(d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed <b>[Not Applicable]</b>
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses <b>[See Methods and Limitations (in Discussion)]</b>

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**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 <b>[Not Applicable, all patients followed for study period]</b>
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage <b>[Not Applicable]</b>
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram

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Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders <b>[See Table 1 and Results section, first paragraph]</b>
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest <b>[See above, no missing data for variables selected]</b>
		(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) <b>[Not Applicable]</b>

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Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time <b>[See Table 2 and Results section, paragraphs 2-4]</b>
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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 time <b>[See Table 2 and Results section, paragraphs 2-4]</b>
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized <b>[Not Applicable]</b>
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period <b>[Not Applicable]</b>

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Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses <b>[Not Applicable]</b>
<b>Discussion</b>		
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives <b>[See discussion paragraph 1]</b>
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 <b>[See limitations section of Discussion]</b>
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence <b>[See Conclusion]</b>
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results <b>[See Discussion paragraph 2 and 3]</b>
<b>Other information</b>		
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 <b>[See Page 1]</b>

\*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.

**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 <http://www.strobe-statement.org>.