

STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of *cohort 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 (Page 1) (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found (Page 3)
Introduction		
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported (Page 4)
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses (Page 4, Line 23)
Methods		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper (Page 5, Lines 10-12)
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection (Page 5, Lines 5-8, Page 6, Lines 6)
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up (Page 6, Lines 4-15) (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 (Page 6 Line 17 till Page 8 Line 13)
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 (Page 5 Line 14-22, Page 6 Line 17 till Page 8 Line 13)
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias (Selection bias addressed in eligibility criteria, Information bias by specific diagnostic codes and drug dispensings and hospitalization prior to index date, Confounding bias in multivariate analysis)
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at (Page 6, Line 4-5)
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why (Embedded in Pages 5-8)
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding (Page 8 Line 20 till Page 9 Line 6) (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions (Page 8, Line 17) (c) Explain how missing data were addressed Not applicable (d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed No losses to follow-up due to eligibility criteria (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses Not applicable
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 (Page 6 Line 14-15) (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage Not applicable (c) Consider use of a flow diagram Not applicable
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders (Page 9, Line 11 through Page 11, Line 2 & Tables 2-3)

		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest Not applicable
		(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)- Not applicable
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time (Page 9, Line 12)
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 (Table 4) (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized (Table 4) (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period (Tables 2-3)
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses (Interaction included in Table 4)
Discussion		
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives (Pages 9-12)
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 (Page 13, Line 19 through Page 14, Line 20)
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence (Pages 14 Line 22 to Page 15 Line 5)
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results (Page 14, Line 7-9)
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 (Title page)

*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>.