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

Section/item	Item No	Recommendation	Reported on Page Number/Line Number	Reported on Section/Paragraph
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	Page2/Line17-20	Abstract/Paragraph2
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Page2/Line17-27	Abstract/Paragraph2-3
Introduction				
Background/ rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Page3/Line1-Page4/Line10	Introduction/Paragraph1-4
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Page4/Line5-9	Introduction/Paragraph4
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Page4/Line13-21	Methods/Paragraph1
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Page4/Line23-34	Methods/Paragraph2
Participants	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	Page4/Line23-34/Figure1	Methods/Paragraph2/Figure1
		(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	Page4/Line23-34	Methods/Paragraph2
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Page4/Line14-17	Methods/Paragraph1
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	Page4/Line14-17, Page5Line6-22	Methods/Paragraph1, 3
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Page4/Line19-21	Methods/Paragraph1
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	Page4/Line32-34	Methods/Paragraph2
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Page5/Line25-33	Methods/Paragraph4

Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Page5/Line25-Page6/Line1	Methods/Paragraph4
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	Page5/Line25-33	Methods/Paragraph4
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	Page4/Line24-32	Methods/Paragraph2
		(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	Page4/Line24-34	Methods/Paragraph2
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Page6/Line8-9	Methods/Paragraph4
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	Page6/Line17-19/Figure1	Results/Paragraph1/Figure 1
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Figure1	Figure1
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Figure1	Figure1
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Table1	Table1
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Table1	Table1
		(c) ***Cohort study***—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	N/A	Not a survival analysis
Outcome data	15*	***Cohort study***—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	N/A	Not a cohort study
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	N/A	Not a case-control study
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	Page6/Line19-20	Results/Paragraph1
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	Page6/Line30-Page7/Line13/Table2	Results/Paragraph3-4/Table2
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	Table2	Table2
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	N/A	Risk of lymph node
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Page6/Line24-27,Page7/Li	Results/Paragraph2,4
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Page7/Line20-23,Page7/Li	Discussion/Paragraph1-2
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	Page8/Line21-31	Discussion/Paragraph5

Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Page7/Line20-Page8/Line33	Discussion/Paragraph1-5
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Page8/Line5-20	Discussion/Paragraph3-4
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	Page6/Line10-11	Acknowledgement/Paragraph2

*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.

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*As the checklist was provided upon initial submission, the page number/line number reported may be changed due to copyediting and may not be referable in the published version. In this case, the section/paragraph may be used as an alternative reference.