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	
		(*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	
Introduction			
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	para 1&2
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	para 3
Methods			
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	methods/data
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	methods/data
Participants	6	(*a*) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up	methods/data
		(*b*) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed	NA
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	analyses para 1
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	methods/data
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	NA
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	methods/data
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	methods/data
Statistical methods	12	(*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	analyses
		(*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	para 2
		(*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed	NA
		(*d*) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	NA
		(*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses	NA
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	results para 1
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	NA
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	NA
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	NA
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	NA
		(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	NA
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	results
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	results
		(*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	results/age groups
		(*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	NA

Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	results - within all paras
Discussion			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	discussion para 1
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	discussion para 2
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	discussion para 3 & 4
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	NA
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	NA

*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.