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 Pages 1, 3 (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found Pages 3-4
Introduction		
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported Pages 4-5
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses Page 5
Methods		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper Pages 5-6
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection Pages 5-6
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up Pages 5-6 (b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed N/a
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable Pages 7-8
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 6
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias Pages 5-6, 10-11
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at Page 5
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why Page 6
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding Pages 6-7 (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions Pages 7-8 (c) Explain how missing data were addressed N/a (d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed N/a (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses N/a

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 7 (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage N/a (c) Consider use of a flow diagram N/a
Descriptive data	14 *	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders Page 7 (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest N/a (c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) Page 7
Outcome data	15 *	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time Pages 7-8
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 Pages 7-8 (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized Pages 7-8 (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period N/a
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses Pages 6-8
Discussion		
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives Pages 8-10
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 Pages 10-11
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence Pages 8-11
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results Pages 10-11
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 Page 1

*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.