

Additional file 2: Assessment of the publication based on STROBE guidelines checklist

		Strobe guidelines	Assessment
	1.Title & Abstract	(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	Title page, Page 1 Abstract, Page 2 &3
Introduction	2.Background	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Background, Paragraphs 1,2, and 3
	3.Objectives	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Background, Paragraph 4
Methods	4.Study design	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Methods, Paragraphs 2 and 3
	5.Setting	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Methods, Paragraph 1
	6.Participants	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	Methods, Paragraph 5
	7.Variables	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Methods, Paragraph 5
	8.Data source/ measurement	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, Paragraphs 6 and 7
	9. Bias	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Not applicable but addressed in limitations in discussion
	10.Study size	Explain how the study size was arrived at	Methods, Paragraph 5
	11.Quantitatives variables	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Methods, Paragraph 7 (e.g. ESI & volume)
	12.Statistical methods	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions (c) Explain how missing data were addressed (d) If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Methods, Paragraph 8 & 9
	Results	13.Participants	(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) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage (c) Consider use of a flow diagram
14.Descriptive data		(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Results, Paragraph 1
15.Outcome data		Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	Not applicable

	16.Main results	(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 (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	Not applicable
	17.Other analyses	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Results, Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4
Discussion	18.Key results	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Discussion, Paragraph 1
	19.Limitations	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	Discussion, Paragraph 5
	20.Interpretation	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Discussion, Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4
	21.Generalisability	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Discussion, Paragraph 5 (Limitation)
Other Information	22.Funding	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	Not applicable