STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies
Non- Specific Low Back Pain among Nurses in Qassim, Saudi Arabia: A Cross-Sectional Study

	Item No	Recommendation
Title and abstract	1	(*a*) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract The study design has been clearly stated in the title –page 1, line 2
		(*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found Explanation of what was done in the study was provided under the methods Page 1- lines 12 to 17 Key findings were mentioned under the Results , Page 1 –lines 18 to 22
Introduction		
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported Page 2-line 10 to page 4 -line 6
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses Page 4-lines 4 to 6
Methods		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper Page 4 - line 9
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection Page 4- line 17 to Page 5-line 19
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 Page 4 – lines 18 to 23
		(*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
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable Page 5 –lines 14 to 17
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 – lines 6 to 13
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias Page 11 – lines 18 to 20
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at Page 5-lines 1 to 4

Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why Page 5- line 21 to Page 6 line 5.
Statistical methods	12	(*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding Page 5- line 23 to Page 6 line 5
		(*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions N/A
		(*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed N/A There were no missing data in this study.
		(*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 Page 5- line 21 to Page 6 line 5
		(*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses N/A

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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- lines 7 to Page 7-line 18
		(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 6- line 9 to Page 7- line 3 Tables :1 & 2 on Pages 12 &13
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest N/A
		(c) *Cohort study*—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)
Outcome data	15*	*Cohort study*—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures Page 7 lines 4 to 8 Table 3 on Page 14
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 Page 7- lines 9 to 18 Table 4 on Pages 14 to 16
		(*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized Table (1) on Page 12
		(*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 N/A
Discussion		
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives Page 7-line 20 to Page 11 to line 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 11-Lines 34 to 54
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence Page 12-lines 2 to 13
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results Page 11 lines 21 to22

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 18 -lines 2 &3 Page 18 –lines 13&14

*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.