STROBE statement: Checklist of essential items Version 1 (November 2004)

	Item #	***Case-control***	***Cross-sectional***	***Cohort***
TITLE & ABSTRACT	1	Identify the article as a case-control study in the title or the abstract.	Identify the article as a cross-sectional study in the title or the abstract.	Identify the article as a cohort study in the title or the abstract.
INTRODUCTION				
Background / Rationale	2	Explain scientific background and rationale for the study.		
Aims	3	Give a statement of aims of the present analysis.		
METHODS				
Objectives	4	State objectives and specific hypotheses.		
Study design	5	Briefly describe study design. State original purpose of study, if applicable.		
Participants	6	Give eligibility and diagnostic criteria, source and methods of selection of cases and controls.	Give eligibility criteria, source and methods of selection of participants.	Give eligibility criteria, source and methods of selection of participants. If applicable, describe exposed and unexposed separately. Give period of follow-up.
		Describe dates, setting and locations of recruitment.		
Variables of interest	7	List and define all exposures, potential confounders and predefined subgroups.	List and define all outcomes, potential predictors and confounders, and predefined subgroups.	List and define all outcomes, potential predictors and confounders, and predefined subgroups.
Measurement	8	Give information on assessment of exposures and potential confounding factors and comparability of procedures in cases and controls.	Give information on assessment of outcomes, exposures and potential confounding factors.	Give information on assessment of outcomes, exposures and potential confounding factors and comparability of groups.
Bias	9	Describe any measures taken to address potential bias, in particular information bias.		
Sample size	10	Describe how sample size was determined, including practical and statistical considerations.		

Statistical methods	11	Describe all statistical methods including methods to control for confounding and account for matching and missing data. If applicable, describe methods for subgroup analyses and sensitivity analyses.	Describe all statistical methods, including methods to control for confounding and account for design effects and missing data. If applicable, describe methods for subgroup analyses and sensitivity analyses.	Describe all statistical methods, including methods to control for confounding and how loss to follow-up and missing data were addressed If applicable, describe methods for subgroup analyses and sensitivity analyses.
RESULTS				
Participants	12	For each group, report the number of potentially eligible individuals, the number examined for eligibility, the number eligible, the number included in the study and the number analysed. If applicable, give number of matched case-control sets, and number of cases with no controls.	Report the number of potentially eligible individuals, the number examined for eligibility, the number eligible, the number included in the study and the number analysed.	Report the number of potentially eligible individuals, the number examined for eligibility, the number eligible, the number included in the study, the numbers completing follow up, and the number analysed. Report dates defining the follow-up.
		Report dates defining the period of recruitment (data collection) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage of process. A flow diagram is strongly recommended.		

Descriptive data	13	Give characteristics of cases and controls (e.g. demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders.	Give characteristics of study participants (e.g. demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders, by comparison group if applicable.	Give baseline characteristics of study participants (e.g. demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders, by comparison group if applicable. Summarize average and total amount of follow up.
Numbers of outcomes	14	Report numbers of cases and controls by exposure category.	Report numbers with outcomes, or summary measurements, by comparison group (e.g. exposure category) if applicable.	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measurements over time, by comparison group (e.g. exposure category) if applicable.
Quantitative exposures	15	Give a clear explanation of how quantitative exposures are analyzed e.g. which groupings are chosen, whether a continuous analysis is done and the rationale behind the choice of inference (continuous, trend test or comparison to a reference group).		
Confounding	16	Give unadjusted and confounder adjusted measures of association and their precision (e.g. 95% confidence intervals). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and on what grounds they were included.		
Other analyses	17	Report on any other analyses performed, e.g. subgroup analyses and sensitivity analyses.		
DISCUSSION				
Limitations	18	After a brief statement of main findings, discuss limitations of the study, taking into account study hypotheses, sources of potential bias or imprecision, and dangers associated with multiplicity of analyses and outcomes.		
Generalizability	19	Discuss the generalizability (external validity) of the study findings.		
Interpretation / Overall evidence	20	Give a general interpretation of the results in the context of current evidence.		
Funding	21	Disclose source of funding and role of funder(s) for the present study and any previous study which the present report is based on.		