Checklist for Thesis with observational studies. **EPIDEMIOLOGY STROBE**

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| **Yes/No/NA** |  | **Page** |
| **Title and abstract** |
|  | Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract |  |
|  | Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found |  |
| **Introduction** |
|  | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported |  |
| **Objectives** |
|  | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses |  |
| **Methods** |
| Study design |
|  | Present key elements of study design  |  |
| Setting |
|  | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection |  |
| Participants |
|  | *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 |  |
|  | *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 |
|  | Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable |  |
| Data source/Measurements |
|  | 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 |  |
| Bias |
|  | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias |  |
| Study size |
|  | Explain how the study size was arrived at |  |
| Quantitative variables |
|  | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why |  |
| Statistical methods |
|  | Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding |  |
|  | Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions |  |
|  | Explain how missing data were addressed |  |
|  | *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 |  |
|  | Describe any sensitivity analyses |  |
| **Results** |
| Participants |
|  | Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—e.g. numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analyzed |  |
|  | Give reasons for non-participation at each stage |  |
|  | Consider use of a flow diagram |  |
| Descriptive data |
|  | Give characteristics of study participants (e.g. demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders |  |
|  | Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest |  |
|  | *Cohort study*—Summarize follow-up time (e.g., average and total amount) |  |
| Outcome data |
|  | *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 |  |
| Main results |
|  | 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 |  |
|  | Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized |  |
|  | If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period |  |
| Other analysis |
|  | Report other analyses done—e.g. analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses |  |
| **Discussion** |
| Key results |
|  | Summarize key results with reference to study objectives |  |
| Limitations |
|  | Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias |  |
| Interpretation |
|  | Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence |  |
| Generalizability |
|  | Discuss the generalizability (external validity) of the study results |  |
| 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 |  |

Based on the STROBE declaration. Essential points that should be described in observational studies.

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| PhD Student signature |
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