

**Supplementary Table 1. MOOSE (meta-analyses of observational studies in epidemiology) checklist for meta-analyses of observational studies**

Item No.	Recommendation	Reported on page No.
Reporting of background should include		
1	Problem definition	2
2	Hypothesis statement	2
3	Description of study outcome(s)	2
4	Type of exposure or intervention used	2
5	Type of study designs used	2
6	Study population	2
Reporting of search strategy should include		
7	Qualifications of searchers (e.g., librarians and investigators)	2
8	Search strategy, including time period included in the synthesis and key words	2
9	Effort to include all available studies, including contact with authors	-
10	Databases and registries searched	2
11	Search software used, name and version, including special features used (e.g., explosion)	3
12	Use of hand searching (e.g., reference lists of obtained articles)	2
13	List of citations located and those excluded, including justification	2-3
14	Method of addressing articles published in languages other than English	-
15	Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies	-
16	Description of any contact with authors	-
Reporting of methods should include		
17	Description of relevance or appropriateness of studies assembled for assessing the hypothesis to be tested	3
18	Rationale for the selection and coding of data (e.g., sound clinical principles or convenience)	3
19	Documentation of how data were classified and coded (e.g., multiple raters, blinding and interrater reliability)	3
20	Assessment of confounding (eg, comparability of cases and controls in studies where appropriate)	-
21	Assessment of study quality, including blinding of quality assessors, stratification or regression on possible predictors of study results	3
22	Assessment of heterogeneity	3
23	Description of statistical methods (eg, complete description of fixed or random-effects models, justification of whether the chosen models account for predictors of study results, dose-response models, or cumulative meta-analysis) in sufficient detail to be replicated	3
24	Provision of appropriate tables and graphics	3
Reporting of results should include		
25	Graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate	4, Fig. 2
26	Table giving descriptive information for each study included	3, Table 1
27	Results of sensitivity testing (e.g., subgroup analysis)	4
28	Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings	
Reporting of discussion should include		
29	Quantitative assessment of bias (e.g., publication bias)	4, Fig. 3
30	Justification for exclusion (e.g., exclusion of non-English language citations)	-
31	Assessment of quality of included studies	4
Reporting of conclusions should include		
32	Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results	4-5
33	Generalization of the conclusions (i.e., appropriate for the data presented and within the domain of the literature review)	4-5
34	Guidelines for future research	5
35	Disclosure of funding source	5

Adapted from Stroup DF, et al. Meta-analysis of observational epidemiological studies proposal for reporting. JAMA 2000;283:2008-12.