<JLO 22-0520; supplementary material>

**Table 1.** Checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Item number | Recommendation | Page number | Relevant text from manuscript |
| Title and abstract | 1 | (*a*) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract | 1 | Please see title: ‘Disposable vs reusable fibreoptic nasendoscopy – a national survey of UK ENT surgical trainees and a single-centre cost-analysis’ |
| (*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found | 3 | Please see abstract |
| Introduction |  |
| Background/rationale | 2 | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported | 6 | Please see the introduction and in particular the paragraph beginning: ‘anecdotally…’ |
| Objectives | 3 | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses | 6 | Please see the introduction and in particular the sentence beginning: ‘This study primarily aims to be…’ |
| Methods |  |
| Study design | 4 | Present key elements of study design early in the paper | 7 | Please see the materials and methods section and in particular the paragraph beginning: ‘The survey consisted of a mixture of multiple-choice…’ |
| Setting | 5 | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection | 7 | Please see the materials and methods section and in particular the paragraph beginning: ‘The survey consisted of a mixture of multiple-choice…’ |
| 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 | N/AN/A7 | N/AN/APlease see the materials and methods section and in particular the paragraph beginning: ‘The survey consisted of a mixture of multiple-choice…’ |
| (*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 | N/AN/A | N/AN/A |
| Variables | 7 | Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable | 9 | Please see the sentence within the materials and methods section starting with ‘Likert-scale questions were converted to numeric values for analysis, as follows…’  |
| 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 | *7* | Please see the materials and methods section and in particular the paragraph beginning: ‘The survey consisted of a mixture of multiple-choice…’ |
| Bias | 9 | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias | 7 | Please see the materials and methods section and in particular the sentence beginning: ‘Google Forms requires participants to be signed-in to a Google account to complete the survey which prevents multiple entries from individual respondents.’ |
| Study size | 10 | Explain how the study size was arrived at | N/A | N/A |
| Quantitative variables | 11 | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why | 8 | Please see the materials and methods section, in particular the paragraph beginning ‘statistical analysis was performed…’ |
| Statistical methods | 12 | (*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding | 8 | Please see the materials and methods section, in particular the paragraph beginning ‘statistical analysis was performed…’ |
| (*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions | 8 | Please see the materials and methods section, in particular the paragraph beginning ‘statistical analysis was performed…’ |
| (*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed | N/A | N/A |
| (*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 | N/AN/A8 | N/AN/APlease see the materials and methods section, in particular the paragraph beginning ‘statistical analysis was performed…’ |
| (*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses | N/A | N/A |
| 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 | 10 | Please see results section in particular paragraph beginning ‘24 participants responded to our survey’ |
| (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage | N/A | N/A |
| (c) Consider use of a flow diagram | N/A | N/A |
| Descriptive data | 14\* | (a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders | 10 | Please see results section |
| (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest | 10 | Please see results section |
| (c) *Cohort study*—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) | N/A | N/A |
| Outcome data | 15\* | *Cohort study*—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time | N/A | N/A |
| *Case-control study—*Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure | N/A | N/A |
| *Cross-sectional study—*Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures | 10, 13-14 | Please see results section in particular demographics and respondents’ views on ENT surgery and its impact on the climate section within manuscript |
| 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 | N/A | N/A |
| (*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized | N/A | N/A |
| (*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period | N/A | N/A |
| Other analyses | 17 | Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses | 11 | Please see Results section in particular subheading titled: ‘Comparison of trainees’ views on reusable and disposable FNEs’ |
| Discussion |
| Key results | 18 | Summarise key results with reference to study objectives | 15 | Please see Discussion |
| 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 | 20 | Please see Limitations subheading within the Discussion |
| Interpretation | 20 | Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence | 15 | Please see Discussion section  |
| Generalisability | 21 | Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results | 20 | Please see limitations subheading in particular: ‘The authors acknowledge that the study’s sample size may result in findings that are not generalisable to views of all UK ENT specialty trainees and ENT-themed core surgical trainees’ |
| 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 | 22 | Please see funding statement: ‘This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors’ |

\*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 Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology statement 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 The Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology Initiative is available at www.strobe-statement.org. NA = not applicable