STROBE Checklist Supplementary Material 1

Combined checklist for observational studies

Section and table identifiers locate the corresponding material in the revised manuscript. Page references correspond to the 11-page manuscript supplied for this check. Items marked not applicable concern designs or longitudinal measurements not used in this retrospective study.

Topic	Item	Recommendation	Manuscript location and status
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	Abstract, p. 1
Title and abstract	1	(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Abstract, p. 1
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Section 1, pp. 1–2
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Section 1, p. 2 (final paragraph)
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Section 2.1, p. 2
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Section 2.1, p. 2
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	Sections 2.1–2.2, p. 2. No longitudinal follow-up analysis.
Participants	6	(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	Not applicable; unmatched observational sample.
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Sections 2.3–2.5, pp. 2–4
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	Sections 2.3–2.5, pp. 2–4; no cohort-wide uniform acquisition or work-up is claimed.
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Sections 2.1, 2.4–2.5, pp. 2–4; Sections 4–5, pp. 8–10
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	Section 2.1, p. 2; all identified eligible records, no a priori calculation.
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Sections 2.3–2.6, pp. 2–5
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Section 2.6, pp. 4–5; Section 4, pp. 8–10. No multivariable confounder adjustment.
Statistical methods	12	(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	Section 2.6, pp. 4–5; Sections 3.3–3.4, pp. 6–8; no interaction model.
Statistical methods	12	(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	Section 2.3, pp. 2–3; complete retained analytic variables, no imputation.
Statistical methods	12	(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	Not applicable to follow-up or matching. Record-based selection is described in Section 2.1, p. 2.
Statistical methods	12	(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Section 2.6, pp. 4–5; Section 3.4, pp. 6–8 (n = 67 and n = 61).

STROBE Checklist Supplementary Material 1 (continued)

Combined checklist for observational studies

Topic	Item	Recommendation	Manuscript location and status
Participants	13*	(a) 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 analysed	Sections 2.1–2.2, p. 2; Section 3.1, pp. 5–6. 365 records and 69 eligible patients; intermediate counts unavailable.
Participants	13*	(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Section 2.1, p. 2. Patient-level screening log not retained; stage-specific exclusion reasons unavailable.
Participants	13*	(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	No flow diagram; available denominator and analytic sample reported in Sections 2.1 and 3.1, pp. 2, 5–6.
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (e.g., demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Section 3.1 and Table 1, p. 5; Table 2, p. 6; Table 5, p. 8.
Descriptive data	14*	(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Section 2.3, pp. 2–3. No missing retained analytic variables; unavailable time and outcome variables identified separately.
Descriptive data	14*	(c) Cohort study—Summarise follow-up time (e.g., average and total amount)	Not applicable; no longitudinal follow-up analysis.
Outcome data	15*	Cohort study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Not applicable; no longitudinal outcome analysis.
Outcome data	15*	Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	Not applicable; no case-control design.
Outcome data	15*	Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	Sections 3.1–3.4 and Tables 1–5, pp. 5–8.
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (e.g., 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	Sections 3.3–3.4, pp. 6–8; Tables 3–5, pp. 7–8. Holm adjusts multiplicity, not confounding. No multivariable adjusted effects.
Main results	16	(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	Section 2.4, pp. 3–4: operational segment boundaries. Age and NIHSS were not categorized for inferential analysis.
Main results	16	(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	Not applicable; no relative-risk estimates over time.
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—e.g., analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Sections 3.3–3.4, pp. 6–8; Supplementary Tables 1–2.
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Section 4, pp. 8–10; Section 6, p. 10.
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	Section 5, pp. 9–10. Bias direction discussed where possible; magnitude not quantified.
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Sections 4–6, pp. 8–10.
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Section 4, pp. 8–10.
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	Funding statement, p. 10; no external funding.

* Where applicable, report information separately for relevant study groups. Source: STROBE Statement combined checklist for observational studies. https://www.strobe-statement.org/checklists/