

Appendix I: Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE) reporting guidelines.

Moose item	Page number
Reporting of background should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem definition • Hypothesis statement • Description of study outcome(s) • Type of exposure or intervention used • Type of study designs used • Study population 	3 3 4 4 4 4
Reporting of search strategy should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifications of searchers (eg, librarians and investigators) • Search strategy, including time period included in the synthesis and keywords • Effort to include all available studies, including contact with authors • Databases and registries searched • Search software used, name and version, including special features used (eg, explosion) • Use of hand searching (eg, reference lists of obtained articles) • List of citations located and those excluded, including justification • Method of addressing articles published in languages other than English • Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies • Description of any contact with authors 	4 4 4 4 4 4 4 7 + Figure 1 4 4
Reporting of methods should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of relevance or appropriateness of studies assembled for assessing the hypothesis to be tested • Rationale for the selection and coding of data (eg, sound clinical principles or convenience) • Documentation of how data were classified and coded (eg, multiple raters, blinding, and interrater reliability) • Assessment of confounding (eg, comparability of cases and controls in studies where appropriate) • Assessment of study quality, including blinding of quality assessors; stratification or regression on possible predictors of study results • Assessment of heterogeneity • 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 • Provision of appropriate tables and graphics 	5 5 5 NA 5 NA NA 7 + Table 1-4
Reporting of results should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate • Table giving descriptive information for each study included • Results of sensitivity testing (eg, subgroup analysis) • Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings 	NA Table 1 NA NA
Reporting of discussion should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative assessment of bias (eg, publication bias) • Justification for exclusion (eg, exclusion of non-English-language citations) • Assessment of quality of included studies 	NA Figure 1 7, Table 2, Appendix IV
Reporting of conclusions should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results • Generalization of the conclusions (ie, appropriate for the data presented and within the domain of the literature review) 	11-14 11-14

• Guidelines for future research	12
• Disclosure of funding source	15