STROBE Statement
checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

# Liver function tests and fibrosis scores in a rural population in Africa: cross-sectional study to estimate the burden of disease a cross-sectional study to estimate the burden of disease and associated risk factors

| | Item No | Recommendation | Location in manuscript |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Title and abstract** | 1 | (*a*) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract | Title specifies a cross-sectional study |
| | | (*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found | Provided in abstract |
| **Introduction** | | | |
| Background/rationale | 2 | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported | Included in introduction |
| Objectives | 3 | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses | Final paragraph of introduction |
| **Methods** | | | |
| Study design | 4 | Present key elements of study design early in the paper | First paragraph of methods |
| Setting | 5 | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection | First two paragraphs of methods |
| Participants | 6 | (*a*) *Cohort study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up<br>*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<br>*Cross-sectional study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants | Included in methods section |
| | | (*b*) *Cohort study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed<br>*Case-control study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case | Not applicable |
| Variables | 7 | Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable | Included in methods; further details of blood parameters provided in suppl data tables |
| Data sources/ measurement | 8* | For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe | Included in methods |

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| | | comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group | |
| Bias | 9 | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias | Included in discussion |
| Study size | 10 | Explain how the study size was arrived at | Pragmatic approach; data sources described in methods |
| Quantitative variables | 11 | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why | Described in methods |
| Statistical methods | 12 | (*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding | Described in methods |
| | | (*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions | Described in methods |
| | | (*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed | Described in methods |
| | | (*d*) *Cohort study*—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed<br>*Case-control study*—If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed<br>*Cross-sectional study*—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy | Not applicable |
| | | (*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses | Not applicable |

**Results**

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| 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 | Provided in methods and denominators specified in tables |
| | | (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage | Not applicable |
| | | (c) Consider use of a flow diagram | Not applicable |
| Descriptive data | 14* | (a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders | Suppl table 3 |
| | | (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest | Tables |
| | | (c) *Cohort study*—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) | Not applicable |
| Outcome data | 15* | *Cohort study*—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time | Not applicable |
| | | *Case-control study*—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure | Not applicable |
| | | *Cross-sectional study*—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures | Tables |
| 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 | Tables |
| | | (*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized | Tables |
| | | (*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period | Not applicable |

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| Other analyses | 17 | Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses | Not applicable |
| **Discussion** | | | |
| Key results | 18 | Summarise key results with reference to study objectives | First paragraph of 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 | Included in discussion |
| Interpretation | 20 | Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence | Included in discussion |
| Generalisability | 21 | Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results | Included in discussion |
| **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 | Financial support statement is included |

*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 STROBE 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 STROBE Initiative is available at www.strobe-statement.org.