

# MOOSE - checklist for Meta-analyses of Observational Studies

Section/Topic	Reported (Yes/No)	Reported on Page No
<b>BACKGROUND</b>		
Problem definition		
Hypothesis statement		
Description of Study Outcome(s)		
Type of exposure or intervention used		
Type of study design used		
Study population		
<b>SEARCH STRATEGY</b>		
Qualifications of searchers (e.g., 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 (e.g., explosion)		
Use of hand searching (e.g., reference lists of obtained articles)		
List of citations located and those excluded, including justification		
Method for addressing articles published in languages other than English		
Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies		
Description of any contact with authors		
<b>METHODS</b>		
Description of relevance or appropriateness of studies assembled for assessing the hypothesis to be tested		
Rationale for the selection and coding of data (e.g., sound clinical principles or convenience)		
Documentation of how data were classified and coded (e.g., multiple raters, blinding, and interrater reliability)		
Assessment of confounding (e.g., 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		
<b>RESULTS</b>		
Table giving descriptive information for each study included		
Results of sensitivity testing (e.g., subgroup analysis)		
Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings		
<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Quantitative assessment of bias (e.g., publication bias)		
Justification for exclusion (e.g., exclusion of non-English-language citations)		
Assessment of quality of included studies		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results		
Generalization of the conclusions (i.e., appropriate for the data presented and within the domain of the literature review)		
Guidelines for future research		
Disclosure of funding source		

Note: when the checklist is complete, please ensure that it is blinded with identifying information removed from the properties section of the document and upload it as a Reporting Checklist on the file upload page of [ScholarOne Manuscripts](#). If it is not included with your manuscript, we will not consider the submission for publication in our journal. This form was adapted with permission from the Headache Journal.