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

| Section/Item | Item No | Recommendation | Reported on Page Number/Line Number | Reported on Section/Paragraph |
|--------------|---------|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| **Title and abstract** | 1 | (a) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract | page 2 line 2 | Abstract/Paragraph1-2 |
| | | (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found | page 2 line 1-10 | Abstract/Paragraph1-2 |
| **Introduction** | 2 | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported | page 3 line 1-5 | Introduction/Paragraph1 |
| **Objectives** | 3 | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses | page 3 line 5-9 | Introduction/Paragraph1 |
| **Methods** | 4 | Present key elements of study design early in the paper | page 3 line 10-15 | Methods/Paragraph1 |
| **Setting** | 5 | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection | page 3 line 10-15 | Methods/Paragraph1 |
| **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 | page 3 line 10-15  
Page line 15-20 | Methods/Paragraph1  
Methods/Paragraph4 |
| | | (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 | NA- not matched study | NA |
| **Variables** | 7 | Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable | NA | NA |
| **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 | page 3 line 10-15  
Page line 15-20 | Methods/Paragraph1  
Methods/Paragraph4 |
| **Bias** | 9 | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias | Page line 15-20 | Page line 15-20 |
| **Study size** | 10 | Explain how the study size was arrived at | page 3 line 10-15 | Methods/Paragraph1 |
| **Quantitative variables** | 11 | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why | NA | NA |
| Statistical methods | 12 | (a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding | page 4 line 27-30 | Methods/Paragraph 8 |
|---------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                     |    | (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions | page 4 line 27-30 | Methods/Paragraph 8 |
|                     |    | (c) Explain how missing data were addressed | N/A | N/A |
|                     |    | (d) **Cohort study**—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed | NA- not matched | N/A |
|                     |    | **Case-control study**—If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed | NA- not matched | N/A |
|                     |    | **Cross-sectional study**—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy | NA- not performed | N/A |
|                     |    | (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses | NA not performed | N/A |
| Results             |    |                                                                                     |                  |                   |
|                     | 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 | page 5 line 1-10 | Results/Paragraph 1 |
|                     |    | (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage | page 5 line 1-10 | Results/Paragraph 1 |
|                     |    | (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 | page 5 line 1-10 | Results/Paragraph 1 |
|                     |    | (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest | page 5 line 1-10 | Results/Paragraph 1-2 |
|                     |    | (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 | page 5 line 1-10 | Results/Paragraph 1-2 |
|                     |    | **Case-control study**—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure | NA not case-control | N/A |
|                     |    | **Cross-sectional study**—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures | N/A | N/A |
| 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 | page 5 line 1-10 | Results/Paragraph 1-2 |
|                     |    | (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized | page 5 line 1-10 | Results/Paragraph 1-2 |
|                     |    | (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period | NA Odds Ratio Used | N/A |
| Other analyses      | 17 | Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses | NA not performed | N/A |
| Discussion          |    |                                                                                     |                  |                   |
| Key results         | 18 | Summarise key results with reference to study objectives | page 6 line 17-26 | Discussion/Paragraph 1-2 |
| 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 | page 6 line 11-22 | Discussion/Paragraph 6 |
Interpretation 20
Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence
page 6 line 6-32
Discussion/Paragraph 3-5

Generalisability 21
Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results
page 6 line 4-9
Discussion/Paragraph 3-5

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
Acknowledgments
Acknowledgments

*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.

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*As the checklist was provided upon initial submission, the page number/line number reported may be changed due to copyediting and may not be referable in the published version. In this case, the section/paragraph may be used as an alternative reference.
# AME Case Series Checklist –Adapted from CARE Checklist and PROCESS Checklist

| Section | Item | Checklist description | Reported on Page Number/Line Number | Reported on Section/Paragraph |
|---------|------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Title   | 1    | The diagnosis or intervention of primary focus followed by the words “case series”. | page 2 line 1 | title |
| Key Words | 2    | 2 to 5 key words that identify diagnoses or interventions in this case series, including "case report" or "case series". | page 2 line 11 | key words |
| Abstract (no references) | 3a   | Introduction—What is unique about this case series and what does it add to the scientific literature? | page 2 line 2 | Abstract/Paragraph1 |
|         | 3b   | Methods—describe what was done, how and when was it done and by whom. | page 2 line 2 | Abstract/Paragraph2 |
|         | 3c   | Results—what was found. | page 2 line 2 | Abstract/Paragraph3 |
|         | 3d   | Conclusion—What is the main take-away lesson(s)? What have we learned and what does it mean? | page 2 line 2 | Abstract/Paragraph4 |
| Introduction | 4    | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the case series. What is the unifying theme - common disease, exposure, intervention and outcome, etc. Why is this study needed? | page 3 line 8-16 | Introduction/Paragraph1 |
| Methods  | 5a   | Registration and ethics—5a.1 State the research registry number in accordance with the declaration of Helsinki - “Every research study involving human subjects must be registered in a publicly accessible database” (this can be obtained from: ResearchRegistry.com or ClinicalTrials.gov or ISRCTN). 5a.2 State whether ethical approval was passed. 5a.3 Provide the patient consent form too. | page 4 line 23-27 | Methods/Paragraph 6 |
|         | 5b   | Study design—state the study is a case series and whether prospective or retrospective in design, whether single or multi-center and whether cases are consecutive or non-consecutive. | page 4 line 20-25 | Methods/Paragraph 1 |
|         | 5c   | Setting - describe the setting(s)and nature of the institution in which the patient was managed; academic, community or private practice setting? Location(s), and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection. | page 4 line 20-25 | Methods/Paragraph 1-2 |
|         | 5d   | Participants—5d.1 Describe the relevant characteristics of the participants (history, comorbidities, tumor staging, smoking, etc.). 5d.2 State any eligibility (inclusion/exclusion) criteria and the sources and methods of selection of participants. | page 4 line 20-25 | Methods/Paragraph 1-2 |
| Section | Description | Page Line | Section/Paragraph |
|---------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 5e      | Intervention—types of intervention (such as pharmacologic, surgical, preventive, self-care) deployed and reasoning behind treatment offered. Pharmacological therapies should include formulation, dosage, strength, route and duration. | 4 20-25 | Methods/Paragraph 3 |
| 5f      | Follow up—describe length and methods of follow-up. | 4 20-25 | Methods/Paragraph 4 |
| Results | 6a Participants—reports numbers involved and their characteristics (comorbidities, tumor staging, smoking, etc.). | 5 4-11 | Results/Paragraph 1 |
|         | 6b Any changes in the interventions during the course of the case series (how has it evolved, been tinkered with, what learning occurred, etc.) together with rationale and a diagram if appropriate. | 5 4-11 | Results/Paragraph 1 |
|         | 6c Outcomes and follow-up—Clinician assessed and patient-reported outcomes (when appropriate) should be stated with inclusion of the time periods at which assessed. Relevant photographs/radiological images should be provided. e.g. 12-month follow-up. | 5 12-15 | Results/Paragraph 2 Table 2 |
|         | 6d Where relevant—intervention adherence/compliance and tolerability (how was this assessed). Describe loss to follow-up (express as a percentage) and any explanations for it. | N/A | N/A |
|         | 6e Complications and adverse or unanticipated events. | 5 12-15 | Results/Paragraph 2 |
| Discussion | 7a Summarize key results. | 5 15-30 | Discussion/Paragraph 1-2 |
|         | 7b Discussion of the relevant literature, implications for clinical practice guidelines. How do outcomes compare with established therapies and the prevailing gold standard? Generate a hypothesis if possible. | 6 7-11 6 24-33 | Discussion/Paragraph 3,5 |
|         | 7c Strengths and limitations of the study. | 6 12-23 | Discussion/Paragraph 4 |
|         | 7d The rationale for any conclusions. | 6 12-23 | Discussion/Paragraph 4 |
| Conclusion | 8a State the key conclusions from the study. | 6 5-10 | Discussion/Paragraph 6 |
|         | 8b State what needs to be done next, further research with what study design. | 6 5-10 | Discussion/Paragraph 6 |

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