

Online Resource 4 — STROBE checklist for cohort studies

Article: Photobiomodulation for chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy: symptomatic effectiveness in a real-world single-center cohort

Journal: Supportive Care in Cancer

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Section	Item	Recommendation	Location / reporting status
Title and abstract	1a	Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	Title: “real-world single-center cohort”. Abstract, Methods: “retrospectively analyzed 41 consecutive PBM courses”.
	1b	Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Structured abstract: Purpose, Methods, Results and Conclusion. See title page for the Microsoft Word count.
Introduction	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Introduction, paragraphs 1–3.
	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Introduction, final paragraph: objectives and the prespecified hypothesis that a coexisting non-chemotherapy cause would attenuate the effect.
Methods	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Methods, Study design and setting.
	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Methods, Participants: recruitment dates and three-month assessment are described. The final follow-up/data-cutoff date is not separately reported and requires clarification.
	6a	Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants; describe methods of follow-up	Methods, Participants; Data collection and baseline assessment; Outcomes.
	6b	For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of exposed and unexposed participants	Not applicable: this is an uncontrolled, unmatched retrospective cohort.
	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers	Methods, Data collection and baseline assessment; Outcomes; Photobiomodulation protocol. DN4 is described as a diagnostic instrument.
	8	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment. Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	Methods, Data collection and baseline assessment (medical record; DN4; 0–10 VAS; NCI-CTCAE v5.0); Safety assessment.
	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Methods, Statistical analysis: multiplicity correction and three sensitivity analyses. Discussion, Limitations: retrospective design, no control arm, unblinded outcomes and non-independent courses.
	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	Methods, Participants: consecutive eligible referrals in the study period. A sample-size calculation is not reported.
	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses; if applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Methods, Statistical analysis (medians with IQRs; the nine-month interval threshold and its justification); Outcomes (VAS and DN4 response thresholds).
	12a	Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Methods, Statistical analysis: Wilcoxon signed-rank tests, bootstrap and Wilson intervals, Fisher exact tests, FDR correction, Spearman correlation and a penalized logistic model. Primary analyses treat treatment courses as independent.
	12b	Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	Methods, Statistical analysis: protocol and chemotherapy-to-PBM interval subgroups. Prospective prespecification of these comparisons is not documented.
	12c	Explain how missing data were addressed	Methods: available cases for durable response (36/41); Results/Table 1: interval documented in 27/41 courses. Missingness mechanisms and handling for all variables are not fully reported.

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	12d	If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	Figure 1 identifies five courses without three-month data. Their reasons and eligibility for three-month assessment are not reported. Attrition sensitivity analyses concern early discontinuation, not all missing follow-up.
	12e	Describe any sensitivity analyses	Methods, Statistical analysis; Results, Sensitivity analyses (three analyses reported).
Results	13a-c	Report numbers of individuals at each stage; give reasons for non-participation; consider a flow diagram	Results, Cohort characteristics; Methods, Participants; Fig. 1 (STROBE participant flow).
	14a-c	Give characteristics of study participants and information on exposures and potential confounders; indicate number with missing data; summarise follow-up time	Table 1 and Results describe patient/course characteristics and several missing-data counts. The interval from chemotherapy to PBM is a baseline interval, not follow-up duration. Actual follow-up duration is not summarized.
	15	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Results, Change in pain and neuropathic symptoms; Rate of symptomatic response; Figs. 2–4.
	16a-c	Give unadjusted and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision; report category boundaries; translate relative risk into absolute risk if relevant	Results report unadjusted response rates and confidence intervals and define subgroup boundaries. An adjusted-effect table is not reported; the penalized model is described only as a stability check.
	17	Report other analyses done — analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Results, Sensitivity analyses; Chemotherapy agent and tumor type; Treatment intensity; Online Resources 1–3.
Discussion	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Discussion, paragraph beginning ‘PBM was followed by a substantial reduction...’
	19	Discuss limitations, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision	Discussion, Limitations.
	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Discussion: comparison with the clinical literature and Limitations; Conclusion.
	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Discussion, paragraph on cohort composition; Discussion, paragraph on uninformative baseline factors.
Other information	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders	Statements and Declarations, Funding: no funds, grants or other support were received during manuscript preparation.

Source: STROBE Statement, cohort checklist. <https://www.strobe-statement.org>. Section names refer to the revised manuscript.