Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): A proposed reporting checklist for authors, editors, and reviewers of meta-analyses of observational studies (MOOSE checklist)

Descriptor	Reported?	Paragraph

Reporting of background should include
    Problem definition
    Hypothesis statement
    Description of study outcome(s)
    Type of exposure or intervention used
    Type of study designs used
    Study population
	Y	Abstract and introduction

Reporting of search strategy should include
    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 (eg, explosion)
    Use of hand searching (e.g., 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    Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies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
	Y	Study selection and data collection

Reporting of methods should include
    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 (e.g., 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
	Y
	
	Y
		Data synthesis and Sensitivity analyses and meta-regression

Reporting of results should include
    Graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate
    Table giving descriptive information for each study included
    Results of sensitivity testing (e.g., subgroup analysis)
    Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings
	Y	Results and Tables and Figures

Reporting of discussion should include
    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
	Y	Discussion

Reporting of conclusions should include
    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
	Y
	
	Y
		Conclusion
		
		Title page