

Scientific Writing Course
October 31- November 4, 2022

CONSORT, STROBE, COREQ...

Guidelines to enhance transparency, scientific rigor and reproducibility

Pam Murnane
Tuesday, 1 November 2022



Reporting guidelines: what & why?

- Structured tool or checklist to support authors in rigorous reporting of research
- Goals:
 - Improve reliability of research
 - Promote complete, transparent & accurate reporting
 - Support critical review / interpretation
- Bonus – increased awareness of quality reporting = increased scientific rigor

From title through conclusion

- Consort 1a. Title = “Identification as a randomised trial in the title”
- Strobe 1a. Title = “Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract”
- “*Smoking reduction with oral nicotine inhalers: a double blind, randomised clinical trial of efficacy and safety.*”
 - Helpful for electronic indexing → easier for readers to search/find

Key examples

- CONSORT
 - Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials
 - <https://www.consort-statement.org/>
- STROBE
 - Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology
 - <https://www.strobe-statement.org/>
- COREQ / SRQR
 - Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research
 - <https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/coreq/>
 - Standards for reporting qualitative research
 - <https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/srqr/>
- Equator network (Enhancing the **Q**UAlity and Transparency **O**f health Research)
 - <https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/>

CONSORT

- For RCTs, used as a model for STROBE and others
- **Flow diagram** – clear picture of study population from eligibility screening through follow-up
 - Mistakes happen, people drop out – transparent reporting to facilitate interpretation / potential biases

Enrollment

Assessed for eligibility (n=)

Excluded (n=)

- ♦ Not meeting inclusion criteria (n=)
- ♦ Declined to participate (n=)
- ♦ Other reasons (n=)

Randomized (n=)

Allocation

Allocated to intervention (n=)

- ♦ Received allocated intervention (n=)
- ♦ Did not receive allocated intervention (give reasons) (n=)

Allocated to intervention (n=)

- ♦ Received allocated intervention (n=)
- ♦ Did not receive allocated intervention (give reasons) (n=)

Follow-Up

Lost to follow-up (give reasons) (n=)

Discontinued intervention (give reasons) (n=)

Lost to follow-up (give reasons) (n=)

Discontinued intervention (give reasons) (n=)

Analysis

Analysed (n=)

- ♦ Excluded from analysis (give reasons) (n=)

Analysed (n=)

- ♦ Excluded from analysis (give reasons) (n=)

STROBE

- **ST**rengthening the **R**eporting of **OB**servational studies in **E**pidemiology
- Checklists for cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional studies
- <https://www.strobe-statement.org/>