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| **Citation:** |

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| **Are the results valid?** | |
| 1. Was there a clearly defined, focused research question? What was the study question? |  |
| 2. What was the main exposure? |  |
| 3. What was the main outcome? |  |
| 4. How were the main exposures ascertained? What were the sources of exposure information? Were the exposures clear, specific and measurable? Any likelihood of exposure misclassification? |  |
| 5. What were the sources of outcome information? How well were the outcomes measured? Was the outcome clear, specific and measurable? Any likelihood of outcome misclassification? |  |
| 6. Did the study adjust for confounding? What confounders were considered and how were they measured? Is measurement error a concern with confounders? |  |
| 7. Have the authors identified all potentially important confounders? Was the adjustment adequate? Is residual confounding likely? |  |
| 8. Are the analytic strategies clearly described? Were the data analytic methods appropriate for the study design? |  |

**What are the results?**

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| **What are the study results?** | |
| 9. How strong was the association between exposure and outcome (e.g. correlation coefficient, regression line, adjusted beta coefficients in a linear regression model)? |  |
| 12. How precise was the estimate of the association (i.e. confidence intervals around the point estimates or p-values)? |  |
| 13. Did the authors consider bias while interpreting their results? Were the interpretations consistent with the design used? |  |

**In summary:**

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| What are the major strengths of this study? |
| What are the major limitations of this study? |