Appendix Table A2. Checklist of followed by Meta-Analyses statement and Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology guidelines.

Checklist item	Reported on page
Reporting of background should include	
Problem definition	1
Hypothesis statement	1
Description of study outcome(s)	1
Type of exposure or intervention used	1
Type of study designs used	1-2
Study population	1-2
Reporting of search strategy should include	
Qualifications of searchers (eg, librarians and investigators)	2
Search strategy, including time period included in the synthesis and keywords	2
Effort to include all available studies, including contact with authors	3
Databases and registries searched	3
Search software used, name and version, including special features used (eg, explosion)	2
Use of hand searching (eg, reference lists of obtained articles)	2
List of citations located and those excluded , including justification	3
Method of addressing articles published in languages other than English	3
Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies	3
Reporting of methods should include	
Description of relevance or appropriateness of studies assembled for assessing the hypothesis to be tested	3
Rationale for the selection and coding of data (eg, sound clinical principles or convenience)	4
Documentation of how data were classified and coded (eg, multiple raters, binding, and interrater reliability)	4
Assessment of confounding (eg, comparability of cases and controls in studies where appropriate)	4
Assessment of study quality, including binding of quality assessors; stratification or regression possible predictors of study results	3
Assessment of heterogeneity	4
Description of statistical methods (eg, 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	4
Provision of appropriate tables and graphics	

Reporting of results should include	
Graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate	5-6
Table giving descriptive information for each study included	5
Results of sensitivity testing (eg, subgroup analysis)	6-10
Quantitative assessment of bias (eg, publication bias)	5
Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings	5-6
Reporting of discussion should include	
Justification for exclusion (eg, exclusion of non-English-language citations)	11-16
Assessment of quality of included studies	16
Reporting of conclusions should include	
Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results	17
Generalization of the conclusions (eg, appropriate for the data presented and within the domain of the literature review)	17
Guidelines for future research	17
Disclosure of funding source	18