

Improving the Quality of Reporting a Cohort Study

Dear Editor:

An article titled «The effect of extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields on pregnancy and fetal growth, and development» was published in *Arch Iran Med.* 2013; **16(4)**: 221 – 224.¹ This study was an epidemiologic analytical cohort study based on Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE). The title of the article should specify the study design and indicate the methodology,^{2,3} however, the above mentioned title seems to indicate that this study is a randomized trial.^{3,4} Rather, this is a cohort study.

Epidemiological studies are prone to confounders. The use of appropriate statistical tests is necessary to control confounding. One of the methods used in data analysis is the regression model, which by entering all confounding factors causes a decrease in confounding.⁵ Chi-square and *t*-tests alone cannot control confounding. Therefore, the use of a regression model reduces confounding factors and adjusts the results.^{2,5} In cohort studies, incidence, relative risk and absolute risk (in a meaningful time period) should be reported.^{2,3} In conclusion, I would like to mention that for improving the results of the study, relative risk and absolute risk should be reported and confounding should be controlled.

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References

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