**Additional file 1** Search Strategy

Relevant articles, published before August 19th 2015, were identified through six electronic databases (Embase (in embase.com), Medline (in OvidSP), Cochrane central (in Wiley), Web-of-Science, Pubmed as supplied by publisher and Google Scholar). The following search terms were used without language restriction:

**Embase.com**

(((gender/de OR 'sex difference'/exp) AND fetus/exp) OR (((gender\* OR femal\* OR male\* OR sex OR boy\* OR girl\*) NEAR/6 (fetus\* OR fetal OR foetus\* OR foetal OR embryo\* OR baby OR babies))):ab,ti) AND ('pregnancy outcome'/exp OR 'pregnancy disorder'/exp OR 'pregnancy complication'/exp OR 'Doppler flowmetry'/exp OR 'Doppler flowmeter'/exp OR 'birth weight'/exp OR 'intrauterine growth retardation'/exp OR 'prenatal growth'/exp OR mortality/de OR 'fetus mortality'/de OR 'embryo mortality'/de OR 'perinatal mortality'/exp OR 'prenatal mortality'/exp OR (((pregnan\* OR gravid\* OR gestation\* OR maternal\* OR mother\* OR intrauterin\* OR neonat\* OR newborn\* OR prenatal\*) NEAR/6 (mortalit\* OR surviv\* OR fatal\* OR outcome\* OR growth\* OR disorder\* OR disease\* OR complication\* OR toxemi\* OR hypertens\* OR 'blood pressure' OR small\* OR large\* OR duration OR prolong\*)) OR eclamp\* OR preeclamp\* OR Doppler OR notching OR ((birth ) NEAR/3 (weight OR length\*)) OR birthweight OR lbw OR elbw OR vlbw OR iugr OR fgr OR sga OR macrosomi\* OR stillbirth OR stillborn OR (live NEXT/1 birth\*) OR prematur\* OR postmatur\* OR imematur\* OR preterm OR postterm OR dysmatur\* OR serotinit\* OR miscarriage\* OR mortalit\* OR (spontaneous NEAR/3 abortion\*)):ab,ti) NOT ([animals]/lim NOT [humans]/lim) NOT ([Conference Abstract]/lim OR [Letter]/lim OR [Note]/lim OR [Conference Paper]/lim OR [Editorial]/lim OR 'case report'/exp OR 'case report':ti) AND [english]/lim

**Medline (OvidSP)**

((sex/ AND fetus/) OR (((gender\* OR femal\* OR male\* OR sex OR boy\* OR girl\*) ADJ6 (fetus\* OR fetal OR foetus\* OR foetal OR embryo\* OR baby OR babies))).ab,ti.) AND ("Fetal Mortality"/ OR "Maternal Mortality"/ OR "Perinatal Mortality"/ OR exp pregnancy outcome/ OR pregnancy complications/ OR exp Ultrasonography, Doppler/ OR birth weight/ OR exp Infant, Low Birth Weight/ OR Fetal Growth Retardation/ OR (((pregnan\* OR gravid\* OR gestation\* OR maternal\* OR mother\* OR intrauterin\* OR neonat\* OR newborn\* OR prenatal\*) ADJ6 (mortalit\* OR surviv\* OR fatal\* OR outcome\* OR growth\* OR disorder\* OR disease\* OR complication\* OR toxemi\* OR hypertens\* OR "blood pressure" OR small\* OR large\* OR duration OR prolong\*)) OR eclamp\* OR preeclamp\* OR Doppler OR notching OR ((birth ) ADJ3 (weight OR length\*)) OR birthweight OR lbw OR elbw OR vlbw OR iugr OR fgr OR sga OR macrosomi\* OR stillbirth OR stillborn OR (live ADJ birth\*) OR prematur\* OR postmatur\* OR imematur\* OR preterm OR postterm OR dysmatur\* OR serotinit\* OR miscarriage\* OR mortalit\* OR (spontaneous ADJ3 abortion\*)).ab,ti.) NOT ((letter OR news OR comment OR editorial OR congresses OR abstracts OR case reports).pt. OR case report.ti.) AND english.la.

**Cochrane central**

((((gender\* OR femal\* OR male\* OR sex OR boy\* OR girl\*) NEAR/6 (fetus\* OR fetal OR foetus\* OR foetal OR embryo\* OR baby OR babies))):ab,ti) AND ((((pregnan\* OR gravid\* OR gestation\* OR maternal\* OR mother\* OR intrauterin\* OR neonat\* OR newborn\* OR prenatal\*) NEAR/6 (mortalit\* OR surviv\* OR fatal\* OR outcome\* OR growth\* OR disorder\* OR disease\* OR complication\* OR toxemi\* OR hypertens\* OR 'blood pressure' OR small\* OR large\* OR duration OR prolong\*)) OR eclamp\* OR preeclamp\* OR Doppler OR notching OR ((birth ) NEAR/3 (weight OR length\*)) OR birthweight OR lbw OR elbw OR vlbw OR iugr OR fgr OR sga OR macrosomi\* OR stillbirth OR stillborn OR (live NEXT/1 birth\*) OR prematur\* OR postmatur\* OR imematur\* OR preterm OR postterm OR dysmatur\* OR serotinit\* OR miscarriage\* OR mortalit\* OR (spontaneous NEAR/3 abortion\*)):ab,ti)

**Web-of-science**

TS=(((((gender\* OR femal\* OR male\* OR sex OR boy\* OR girl\*) NEAR/5 (fetus\* OR fetal OR foetus\* OR foetal OR embryo\* OR baby OR babies)))) AND ((((pregnan\* OR gravid\* OR gestation\* OR maternal\* OR mother\* OR intrauterin\* OR neonat\* OR newborn\* OR prenatal\*) NEAR/5 (mortalit\* OR surviv\* OR fatal\* OR outcome\* OR growth\* OR disorder\* OR disease\* OR complication\* OR toxemi\* OR hypertens\* OR "blood pressure" OR small\* OR large\* OR duration OR prolong\*)) OR eclamp\* OR preeclamp\* OR Doppler OR notching OR ((birth ) NEAR/2 (weight OR length\*)) OR birthweight OR lbw OR elbw OR vlbw OR iugr OR fgr OR sga OR macrosomi\* OR stillbirth OR stillborn OR (live NEAR/1 birth\*) OR prematur\* OR postmatur\* OR imematur\* OR preterm OR postterm OR dysmatur\* OR serotinit\* OR miscarriage\* OR mortalit\* OR (spontaneous NEAR/2 abortion\*))) NOT ((animal\* OR mouse\* OR mice OR rat OR rats OR murine OR bovine OR ovine OR porcine OR cow OR pig OR sheep OR rabbit\*) NOT (human\* OR patient\* OR woman\* OR women\* OR baby OR babies))) AND DT=(Article) AND LA=(english)

**PubMed publisher as supplied by publisher**

((sex[mh] AND fetus[mh]) OR Female fetus\*[tiab] OR female embryo\*[tiab] OR male fetus\*[tiab] OR male embryo\*[tiab] OR fetal gender\*[tiab] OR embroynal gender\*[tiab] OR fetal sex\*[tiab] OR embroynal sex\*[tiab]) AND ("Fetal Mortality"[mh] OR "Maternal Mortality"[mh] OR "Perinatal Mortality"[mh] OR pregnancy outcome[mh] OR pregnancy complications[mh] OR Ultrasonography, Doppler[mh] OR birth weight[mh] OR Infant, Low Birth Weight[mh] OR Fetal Growth Retardation[mh] OR (((pregnan\*[tiab] OR gravid\*[tiab] OR gestation\*[tiab] OR maternal\*[tiab] OR mother\*[tiab] OR intrauterin\*[tiab] OR neonat\*[tiab] OR newborn\*[tiab] OR prenatal\*[tiab]) AND (mortalit\*[tiab] OR surviv\*[tiab] OR fatal\*[tiab] OR outcome\*[tiab] OR growth\*[tiab] OR disorder\*[tiab] OR disease\*[tiab] OR complication\*[tiab] OR toxemi\*[tiab] OR hypertens\*[tiab] OR "blood pressure" OR small\*[tiab] OR large\*[tiab] OR duration OR prolong\*[tiab])) OR eclamp\*[tiab] OR preeclamp\*[tiab] OR Doppler OR notching OR ((birth ) AND (weight OR length\*[tiab])) OR birthweight OR lbw OR elbw OR vlbw OR iugr OR fgr OR sga OR macrosomi\*[tiab] OR stillbirth OR stillborn OR (live ADJ birth\*[tiab]) OR prematur\*[tiab] OR postmatur\*[tiab] OR imematur\*[tiab] OR preterm OR postterm OR dysmatur\*[tiab] OR serotinit\*[tiab] OR miscarriage\*[tiab] OR mortalit\*[tiab] OR (spontaneous AND abortion\*[tiab]))) NOT ((letter[pt] OR news[pt] OR comment[pt] OR editorial[pt] OR congresses[pt] OR abstracts[pt] OR case reports[pt]) OR case report[ti]) AND english[la] AND (publisher[sb] OR inprocess [sb])

**Google Scholar**

"female|male fetus|fetal|embryo"|"fetal|embryonal gender|sex" "pregnancy|fetus|fetal|maternal|neonatal|newborn mortality |survival|outcome|growth|disorders|diseases|complications"|stillbirth