

Supplementary Table 1: Search Strategy used for PubMed

| CONCEPTS | SN | TERMS | SEARCH DETAILS |
|---|-----|---|--|
| Concept 1: Uterine fibroids | #1 | uterine fibroids | "leiomyoma"[MeSH Terms] OR "leiomyoma"[All Fields] OR ("uterine"[All Fields] AND "fibroids"[All Fields]) OR "uterine fibroids"[All Fields] OR ("fibroid s"[All Fields] OR "leiomyoma"[MeSH Terms] OR "leiomyoma"[All Fields] OR "fibroid"[All Fields] OR "fibroids"[All Fields]) |
| | #2 | fibroids | fibroids"[All Fields] OR "leiomyoma"[MeSH Terms] OR "leiomyoma"[All Fields] OR "fibroid"[All Fields] OR "fibroids"[All Fields] |
| | #3 | leiomyoma | leiomyoma"[MeSH Terms] OR "leiomyoma"[All Fields] OR "leiomyomas"[All Fields] OR "myoma"[MeSH Terms] OR "myoma"[All Fields] OR "myomas"[All Fields] OR "myoma s"[All Fields] |
| | #4 | myoma | "leiomyoma"[MeSH Terms] OR "leiomyoma"[All Fields] OR "leiomyomas"[All Fields] OR "myoma"[MeSH Terms] OR "myoma"[All Fields] OR "myomas"[All Fields] OR "myoma s"[All Fields] |
| | #5 | #1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 | |
| Concept 2: Epidemiological indicators/measure used | #6 | Cause OR causes | "causative"[All Fields] OR "causatively"[All Fields] OR "causatives"[All Fields] OR "cause"[All Fields] OR "caused"[All Fields] OR "causing"[All Fields] OR "etiology"[MeSH Subheading] OR "etiology"[All Fields] OR "causes"[All Fields] OR "causality"[MeSH Terms] OR "causality"[All Fields] OR "causative"[All Fields] OR "causatively"[All Fields] OR "causatives"[All Fields] OR "cause"[All Fields] OR "caused"[All Fields] OR "causing"[All Fields] OR "etiology"[MeSH Subheading] OR "etiology"[All Fields] OR "causes"[All Fields] OR "causality"[MeSH Terms] OR "causality"[All Fields] |
| | #7 | aetiology OR etiology | "aetiologie"[All Fields] OR "aetiologies"[All Fields] OR "aetiology"[All Fields] OR "etiologies"[All Fields] OR "etiology"[MeSH Subheading] OR "etiology"[All Fields] OR "causality"[MeSH Terms] OR "causality"[All Fields] OR "aetiologie"[All Fields] OR "aetiologies"[All Fields] OR "aetiology"[All Fields] OR "etiologies"[All Fields] OR "etiology"[MeSH Subheading] OR "etiology"[All Fields] OR "causality"[MeSH Terms] OR "causality"[All Fields] |
| | #8 | Risk factor | "risk factors"[MeSH Terms] OR ("risk"[All Fields] AND "factors"[All Fields]) OR "risk factors"[All Fields] OR ("risk"[All Fields] AND "factor"[All Fields]) OR "risk factor"[All Fields] |
| | #9 | Prevalence OR prevalen* | "epidemiology"[MeSH Subheading] OR "epidemiology"[All Fields] OR "prevalence"[All Fields] OR "prevalence"[MeSH Terms] OR "prevalance"[All Fields] OR "prevalences"[All Fields] OR "prevalence s"[All Fields] OR "prevalent"[All Fields] OR "prevalently"[All Fields] OR "prevalents"[All Fields] |
| | #10 | Incidence OR inciden* | "epidemiology"[MeSH Subheading] OR "epidemiology"[All Fields] OR "incidence"[All Fields] OR "incidence"[MeSH Terms] OR "incidences"[All Fields] OR "incident"[All Fields] OR "incidents"[All Fields] |
| | #11 | epidemiology | "epidemiologies"[All Fields] OR "epidemiology"[MeSH Subheading] OR "epidemiology"[All Fields] OR "epidemiology"[MeSH Terms] OR "epidemiology s"[All Fields] |
| | #12 | #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 | |
| Concept 3: Women | #13 | Women OR Woman | "womans"[All Fields] OR "women"[MeSH Terms] OR "women"[All Fields] OR "woman"[All Fields] OR "women s"[All Fields] OR "womens"[All Fields] |
| | #14 | #13 | |
| Concept 4: Sub-Saharan Africa | #15 | Africa | "africa"[MeSH Terms] OR "africa"[All Fields] OR "africa s"[All Fields] OR "africas"[All Fields] |
| | #16 | West Africa | "africa, western"[MeSH Terms] OR ("africa"[All Fields] AND "western"[All Fields]) OR "western africa"[All Fields] OR ("west"[All Fields] AND "africa"[All Fields]) OR "west africa"[All Fields] |
| | #17 | East Africa | "africa, eastern"[MeSH Terms] OR ("africa"[All Fields] AND "eastern"[All Fields]) OR "eastern africa"[All Fields] OR ("east"[All Fields] AND "africa"[All Fields]) OR "east africa"[All Fields] |
| | #18 | Central Africa | "africa, central"[MeSH Terms] OR ("africa"[All Fields] AND "central"[All Fields]) OR "central africa"[All Fields] OR ("central"[All Fields] AND "africa"[All Fields]) |
| | #19 | Southern Africa | "africa, southern"[MeSH Terms] OR ("africa"[All Fields] AND "southern"[All Fields]) OR "southern africa"[All Fields] OR ("southern"[All Fields] AND "africa"[All Fields]) |
| | #20 | Angola OR Benin OR Botswana OR Burkina Faso OR Burundi OR Cameroon OR Cape Verde OR Central | "angola"[MeSH Terms] OR "angola"[All Fields] OR "angola s"[All Fields] OR ("benin"[MeSH Terms] OR "benin"[All Fields] OR "benin s"[All Fields]) OR ("botswana"[MeSH Terms] OR "botswana"[All Fields] OR "botswana s"[All Fields]) OR ("burkina faso"[MeSH Terms] OR "burkina faso"[All Fields] OR "burkina faso s"[All Fields]) OR ("burkina faso"[MeSH Terms] OR "burkina faso"[All Fields] AND |

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|-----------------------------|---|--|
| | African Republic OR Chad OR Comoros OR Côte d'Ivoire OR Democratic Republic of the Congo OR Djibouti OR Equatorial Guinea Eritrea OR Ethiopia OR Gabon OR Ghana OR Guinea OR Guinea-Bissau OR Kenya OR Lesotho OR Liberia OR Madagascar OR Malawi OR Mali OR Mauritania OR Mauritius OR Mozambique OR Namibia OR Niger OR Nigeria OR Republic of the Congo OR Rwanda OR São Tomé and Príncipe OR Senegal OR Seychelles OR Sierra Leone OR Somalia OR South Africa OR South Sudan OR Swaziland OR Tanzania OR The Gambia OR Togo OR Uganda OR Zambia OR Zimbabwe | "faso"[All Fields] OR "burkina faso"[All Fields] OR ("burundi"[MeSH Terms] OR "burundi"[All Fields] OR ("cameroon"[MeSH Terms] OR "cameroon"[All Fields] OR "cameroons"[All Fields] OR "cameroon s"[All Fields] OR ("cabo verde"[MeSH Terms] OR "cabo"[All Fields] AND "verde"[All Fields]) OR "cabo verde"[All Fields] OR ("cape"[All Fields] AND "verde"[All Fields]) OR "cape verde"[All Fields] OR ("central african republic"[MeSH Terms] OR ("central"[All Fields] AND "african"[All Fields] AND "republic"[All Fields]) OR "central african republic"[All Fields] OR ("chad"[MeSH Terms] OR "chad"[All Fields]) OR ("comoros"[MeSH Terms] OR "comoros"[All Fields] OR "comoro"[All Fields] OR ("cote d ivoire"[MeSH Terms] OR "cote"[All Fields] AND "d ivoire"[All Fields]) OR "cote d ivoire"[All Fields] OR ("democratic republic of the congo"[MeSH Terms] OR ("democratic"[All Fields] AND "republic"[All Fields] AND "congo"[All Fields]) OR "democratic republic of the congo"[All Fields] OR ("djibouti"[MeSH Terms] OR "djibouti"[All Fields] OR ("equatorial guinea"[MeSH Terms] OR ("equatorial"[All Fields] AND "guinea"[All Fields]) OR "equatorial guinea"[All Fields] AND ("eritrea"[MeSH Terms] OR "eritrea"[All Fields])) OR ("ethiopia"[MeSH Terms] OR "ethiopia"[All Fields] OR "ethiopia s"[All Fields]) OR ("gabon"[MeSH Terms] OR "gabon"[All Fields]) OR ("ghana"[MeSH Terms] OR "ghana"[All Fields] OR "ghana s"[All Fields]) OR ("guinea"[MeSH Terms] OR "guinea"[All Fields] OR "guinea s"[All Fields] OR "guineas"[All Fields]) OR ("guinea bissau"[MeSH Terms] OR "guinea bissau"[All Fields] OR ("guinea"[All Fields] AND "bissau"[All Fields]) OR "guinea bissau"[All Fields] OR ("kenya"[MeSH Terms] OR "kenya"[All Fields] OR "kenya s"[All Fields]) OR ("lesotho"[MeSH Terms] OR "lesotho"[All Fields]) OR ("liberia"[MeSH Terms] OR "liberia"[All Fields] OR "liberia s"[All Fields]) OR ("madagascar"[MeSH Terms] OR "madagascar"[All Fields] OR "madagascar s"[All Fields]) OR ("malawi"[MeSH Terms] OR "malawi"[All Fields] OR "malawi s"[All Fields]) OR ("mali"[MeSH Terms] OR "mali"[All Fields]) OR ("mauritania"[MeSH Terms] OR "mauritania"[All Fields]) OR ("mauritius"[MeSH Terms] OR "mauritius"[All Fields]) OR ("mozambique"[MeSH Terms] OR "mozambique"[All Fields] OR "mozambique s"[All Fields]) OR ("namibia"[MeSH Terms] OR "namibia"[All Fields]) OR ("niger"[MeSH Terms] OR "niger"[All Fields]) OR ("nigeria"[MeSH Terms] OR "nigeria"[All Fields] OR "nigeria s"[All Fields]) OR ("congo"[MeSH Terms] OR "congo"[All Fields] OR ("republic"[All Fields] AND "congo"[All Fields]) OR "republic of the congo"[All Fields] OR ("rwanda"[MeSH Terms] OR "rwanda"[All Fields] OR "rwanda s"[All Fields]) OR ("sao tome and principe"[MeSH Terms] OR ("sao"[All Fields] AND "tome"[All Fields] AND "principe"[All Fields]) OR "sao tome and principe"[All Fields] OR ("senegal"[MeSH Terms] OR "senegal"[All Fields] OR "senegal s"[All Fields]) OR ("seychelles"[MeSH Terms] OR "seychelles"[All Fields]) OR ("sierra leone"[MeSH Terms] OR ("sierra"[All Fields] AND "leone"[All Fields]) OR "sierra leone"[All Fields]) OR ("somalia"[MeSH Terms] OR "somalia"[All Fields]) OR ("south africa"[MeSH Terms] OR ("south"[All Fields] AND "africa"[All Fields]) OR "south africa"[All Fields]) OR ("south sudan"[MeSH Terms] OR ("south"[All Fields] AND "sudan"[All Fields]) OR "south sudan"[All Fields]) OR ("eswatini"[MeSH Terms] OR "eswatini"[All Fields] OR "swaziland"[All Fields]) OR ("tanzania"[MeSH Terms] OR "tanzania"[All Fields] OR "tanzania s"[All Fields]) OR ("gambia"[MeSH Terms] OR "gambia"[All Fields] OR "the gambia"[All Fields]) OR ("togo"[MeSH Terms] OR "togo"[All Fields]) OR ("uganda"[MeSH Terms] OR "uganda"[All Fields] OR "uganda s"[All Fields]) OR ("zambia"[MeSH Terms] OR "zambia"[All Fields] OR "zambia s"[All Fields]) OR ("zimbabwe"[MeSH Terms] OR "zimbabwe"[All Fields] OR "zimbabwe s"[All Fields]) |
| | #21 | #15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18 OR #19 OR #20 |
| Final Combined Terms | #23 | #5 AND #12 AND #14 AND #21 |

These search terms were used in the 3 databases (MEDLINE/PubMed, AJOL &AWI)

Supplementary Table 2: Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) Checklist

| SECTION | ITEM | PRISMA-ScR CHECKLIST ITEM | REPORTED ON PAGE # |
|---|------|--|--------------------------|
| TITLE | | | |
| Title | 1 | Identify the report as a scoping review. | #1 |
| ABSTRACT | | | |
| Structured summary | 2 | Provide a structured summary that includes (as applicable): background, objectives, eligibility criteria, sources of evidence, charting methods, results, and conclusions that relate to the review questions and objectives. | #2 |
| INTRODUCTION | | | |
| Rationale | 3 | Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known. Explain why the review questions/objectives lend themselves to a scoping review approach. | #3, 4, & 5 |
| Objectives | 4 | Provide an explicit statement of the questions and objectives being addressed with reference to their key elements (e.g., population or participants, concepts, and context) or other relevant key elements used to conceptualize the review questions and/or objectives. | #6 & 7 |
| METHODS | | | |
| Protocol and registration | 5 | Indicate whether a review protocol exists; state if and where it can be accessed (e.g., a Web address); and if available, provide registration information, including the registration number. | Not done |
| Eligibility criteria | 6 | Specify characteristics of the sources of evidence used as eligibility criteria (e.g., years considered, language, and publication status), and provide a rationale. | #7 & 8 |
| Information sources* | 7 | Describe all information sources in the search (e.g., databases with dates of coverage and contact with authors to identify additional sources), as well as the date the most recent search was executed. | #7 |
| Search | 8 | Present the full electronic search strategy for at least 1 database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated. | # 7 [Supplement Table 2] |
| Selection of sources of evidence† | 9 | State the process for selecting sources of evidence (i.e., screening and eligibility) included in the scoping review. | #8 |
| Data charting process‡ | 10 | Describe the methods of charting data from the included sources of evidence (e.g., calibrated forms or forms that have been tested by the team before their use, and whether data charting was done independently or in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators. | #8 |
| Data items | 11 | List and define all variables for which data were sought and any assumptions and simplifications made. | #8 |
| Critical appraisal of individual sources of evidence§ | 12 | If done, provide a rationale for conducting a critical appraisal of included sources of evidence; describe the methods used and how this information was used in any data synthesis (if appropriate). | #8 |
| Synthesis of results | 13 | Describe the methods of handling and summarizing the data that were charted. | #8 |
| RESULTS | | | |
| Selection of sources of evidence | 14 | Give numbers of sources of evidence screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally using a flow diagram. | #9 |
| Characteristics of sources of evidence | 15 | For each source of evidence, present characteristics for which data were charted and provide the citations. | #9 & 10 |
| Critical appraisal within sources of evidence | 16 | If done, present data on critical appraisal of included sources of evidence (see item 12). | #9 & 10 |
| Results of individual sources of evidence | 17 | For each included source of evidence, present the relevant data that were charted that relate to the review questions and objectives. | #9 & 10 |
| Synthesis of results | 18 | Summarize and/or present the charting results as they relate to the review questions and objectives. | #9 & 10 |
| DISCUSSION | | | |
| Summary of evidence | 19 | Summarize the main results (including an overview of concepts, themes, and types of evidence available), link to the review questions and objectives, and consider the relevance to key groups. | #11, 12 & 13 |

| SECTION | ITEM | PRISMA-ScR CHECKLIST ITEM | REPORTED ON PAGE # |
|----------------|------|---|--------------------|
| Limitations | 20 | Discuss the limitations of the scoping review process. | #13 |
| Conclusions | 21 | Provide a general interpretation of the results with respect to the review questions and objectives, as well as potential implications and/or next steps. | #13 |
| FUNDING | | | |
| Funding | 22 | Describe sources of funding for the included sources of evidence, as well as sources of funding for the scoping review. Describe the role of the funders of the scoping review. | #14 |

JBI = Joanna Briggs Institute; PRISMA-ScR = Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews.

* Where *sources of evidence* (see second footnote) are compiled from, such as bibliographic databases, social media platforms, and Web sites.

† A more inclusive/heterogeneous term used to account for the different types of evidence or data sources (e.g., quantitative and/or qualitative research, expert opinion, and policy documents) that may be eligible in a scoping review as opposed to only studies. This is not to be confused with *information sources* (see first footnote).

‡ The frameworks by Arksey and O'Malley (6) and Levac and colleagues (7) and the JBI guidance (4, 5) refer to the process of data extraction in a scoping review as data charting.

§ The process of systematically examining research evidence to assess its validity, results, and relevance before using it to inform a decision. This term is used for items 12 and 19 instead of "risk of bias" (which is more applicable to systematic reviews of interventions) to include and acknowledge the various sources of evidence that may be used in a scoping review (e.g., quantitative and/or qualitative research, expert opinion, and policy document).

From: Tricco AC, Lillie E, Zarin W, O'Brien KK, Colquhoun H, Levac D, et al. PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR): Checklist and Explanation. *Ann Intern Med.* 2018;169:467–473. doi: [10.7326/M18-0850](https://doi.org/10.7326/M18-0850).