**SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDIX**

**Literature Search Strategy**

We searched Pubmed using the terms ("heart-assist devices"[MeSH Terms] OR ("heart-assist"[All Fields] AND "devices"[All Fields]) OR "heart-assist devices"[All Fields] OR ("heart"[All Fields] AND "assist"[All Fields] AND "device"[All Fields]) OR "heart assist device"[All Fields]) OR (left[All Fields] AND ("heart-assist devices"[MeSH Terms] OR ("heart-assist"[All Fields] AND "devices"[All Fields]) OR "heart-assist devices"[All Fields] OR ("ventricular"[All Fields] AND "assist"[All Fields] AND "device"[All Fields]) OR "ventricular assist device"[All Fields])) OR ("heart-assist devices"[MeSH Terms] OR ("heart-assist"[All Fields] AND "devices"[All Fields]) OR "heart-assist devices"[All Fields] OR ("ventricular"[All Fields] AND "assist"[All Fields] AND "device"[All Fields]) OR "ventricular assist device"[All Fields]) OR ("self-help devices"[MeSH Terms] OR ("self-help"[All Fields] AND "devices"[All Fields]) OR "self-help devices"[All Fields] OR ("assistive"[All Fields] AND "device"[All Fields]) OR "assistive device"[All Fields])) AND (("heart"[MeSH Terms] OR "heart"[All Fields] OR "cardiac"[All Fields]) AND ("rehabilitation"[Subheading] OR "rehabilitation"[All Fields] OR "rehabilitation"[MeSH Terms]))

In addition, we performed a narrative electronic search using the same terms and their combinations in Medline (EBSCOhost), CINAHL (EBSCOhost), Web of Science and Cochrane library database, for studies published through May 2016. The predicting terms were combined with appropriate logic. We also reviewed the reference sections of the included studies of completeness.