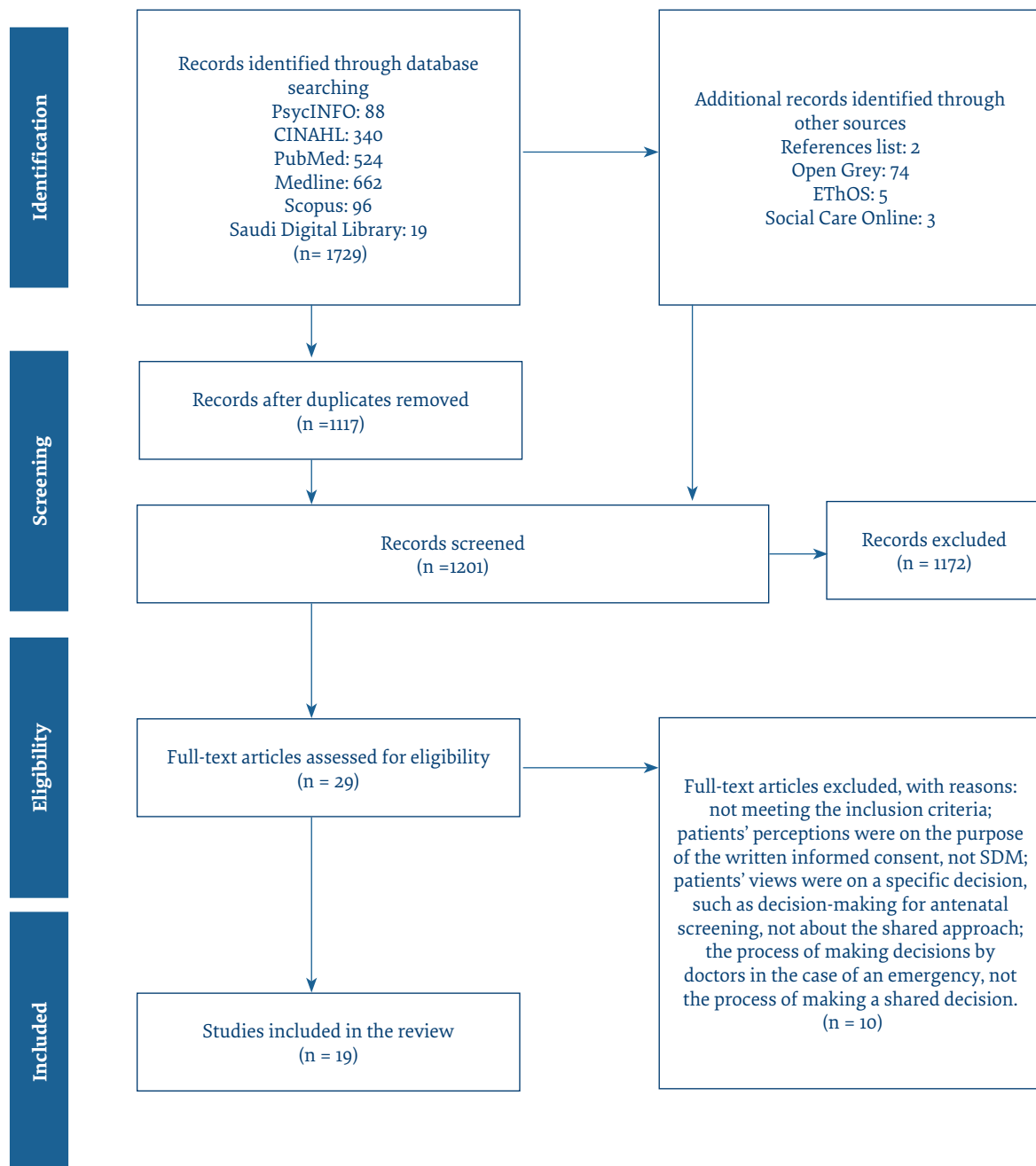


**Figure 1** PRISMA diagram of barriers and facilitators to implementing shared decision-making in Eastern Mediterranean countries

This review found patient gender preferences for SDM. Al-Bahri and colleagues stated that family structures are more likely to be hierarchical in Middle Eastern culture (18). Traditionally, male family members such as husbands, fathers, and eldest sons have more authority in decision-making and therefore often dominate the decision-making process (38). This may explain the positive attitudes that male participants have towards decision-making. However, our review found that this trend was not universal and further exploration of the role of gender in decision-making is warranted,

particularly as gender norms in the Region continue to evolve.

The quality of the physician–patient relationship is clearly vital and the behaviour of physicians is a key facilitator of patient trust (39). Linked to this is the adequacy of information provision as an enabler for SDM (40). Patient trust was boosted when physicians provided patients with a significant amount of information about their condition, test results, and adverse effects of different treatment options (39). However, patients' preferences for the amount of information provided