

Figure S1. Embase search strategy. Dexmedetomidine and (infants or toddlers or child or pediatric or childhood) and ('respiratory complications' or 'adverse respiratory events' or 'perioperative respiratory adverse events' or 'airway complications' or 'respiratory depression') and (random or trial or 'randomized controlled trial') and in humans.

The screenshot displays the Embase Quick Search interface. At the top, the Embase logo is on the left, and navigation links for Search, Emtree, Journals, Results, and My tools are on the right. Below the navigation bar is a blue header with the text "Quick Search". Underneath this header is a sub-header with tabs for Quick, PICO, PV Wizard, Medical device, Advanced, Drug, Disease, Device, and Citation information. The "Quick" tab is currently selected. To the right of these tabs is a link for "Search tips". The main search area contains a search bar with the text "dexmedetomidine". Below the search bar are three rows of search criteria, each starting with "AND" and a dropdown arrow, followed by "All fields" and another dropdown arrow. The search terms are: "infants or toddl", "'respiratory cor", and "random or trial". Each term has a delete icon (X) to its right. A blue button labeled "Show 68 results" is located to the right of the search terms.

Search Term	Field	Operator
dexmedetomidine	All fields	
AND	All fields	infants or toddl
AND	All fields	'respiratory cor
AND	All fields	random or trial

Show 68 results

Figure S2. Funnel chart for each forest map. Funnel plot of (A) coughing, (B) breath holding, (C) laryngospasm, (D) desaturation, (E) emergence agitation, (F) overall perioperative respiratory adverse events, (G) post-anesthesia care unit stay duration and (H) heart rate.

