
e-Appendix 1: Details of search strategy of online databases

Details of the search strategy on PubMed and EMBASE appear below. In addition to using the limiting criteria in both databases, we also read individual abstracts since database labels can be incorrect. We found that all articles identified by EMBASE were also found using PubMed, but not vice versa. Articles were reviewed by 2 of the authors for inclusion criteria. The reference lists of the final 8 articles were also searched for relevant studies. The remaining databases — those of INAHTA, HEN and Cochrane Collaboration — were searched individually using the same keywords but did not contain any additional relevant articles.

Search no.	Search history	Result
PubMed		
1	Search (Probiotic OR Probiotics OR Lactobacillus OR lactic-acid OR acidophilus OR casei OR bulgaricus OR plantarum OR rhamnosus OR yeast OR Saccharomyces OR boulardii OR cerevisiae OR Bifidobacterium OR bifidum OR SF 68) AND (Clostridium OR difficile OR diarrhea OR antibiotic-associated) AND (patients OR subjects) Limits: Humans	386
2	Search #1 Limits: All Adult: ≥ 19 yr, Humans	187
3	Search #2 Limits: All Adult: ≥ 19 yr, Clinical Trial, Humans	59
4	Search #3 AND (Clostridium or difficile)	17
5	Search #4 NOT healthy	13
EMBASE		
1	((Probiotic or Probiotics or Lactobacillus or lactic-acid or acidophilus or casei or bulgaricus or plantarum or rhamnosus or yeast or Saccharomyces or boulardii or cervisiae or Bifidobacterium or bifidum or SF68) and (Clostridium or difficile or diarrhea or antibiotic-associated) and (patients or subjects))).mp. [mp = title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer name]	341
2	Limit 1 to human	321
3	Limit 2 to (adult < 18–64 yr or ≥ 65 yr)	119
