

**Web TABLE I** CHARACTERISTICS OF EXCLUDED STUDIES

<i>Trial</i>	<i>Reason for exclusion</i>
Weizman, <i>et al.</i> 2005 [15]	Different probiotic strain used as an intervention ( <i>Bifidobacterium lactis</i> , <i>Lactobacillus reuteri</i> )
Hojsak, <i>et al.</i> 2010b [11]	Different Participants (hospitalized children)
Hatakka, <i>et al.</i> 2004 [17]	Results of the study were published in Hatakka, <i>et al.</i> 2001 [7]
Smerud, <i>et al.</i> 2008 [12]	No data on the primary outcome, follow-up <80%
Hatakka, <i>et al.</i> 2007 [14]	Different Participants (otitis-prone children)
Schrezenmeir, <i>et al.</i> 2007 [16]	Different probiotic strain used as an intervention ( <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> and <i>Bifidobacterium spp.</i> )
Kekkonen, <i>et al.</i> 2007 [13]	Different participants (adults)