

Title	Probiotic supplementation
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Aim

To assess the safety, efficacy/effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of probiotic supplementation in improving the weight gain and growth parameters and reducing the incidence of neonatal jaundice in term, small for gestational age, Orang Asli infants.

Conclusions and results

No scientific evidence was retrieved from the database on the safety of probiotic supplementation in term, small for gestational age, Orang Asli or indigenous infants. However, there was no reported adverse event that was related to the probiotic supplementation in healthy term infants.

No scientific evidence was retrieved from the scientific databases on the efficacy/effectiveness of probiotic supplementation in improving the weight gain and growth parameters and reducing the incidence of neonatal jaundice in term small for gestational age Orang Asli or indigenous infants. However, only one abstract was retrieved on the use of probiotic in term small for gestational age infant in the Philippines and suggested that probiotic supplementation may improve the weight gain in term small for gestational age infants. In healthy term infants, good level evidence showed that there was no significant difference in the mean weight gain and growth parameters (length and head circumference).

The cost/cost-effectiveness of probiotic supplementation in term small for gestational age Orang Asli or indigenous infants in improving the weight gain and growth parameters and reducing the incidence of neonatal jaundice cannot be determined as there was no evidence retrieved from the scientific databases.

Methods

Scientific electronic databases were searched through the OVID interface which include OVID MEDLINE (R) In process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and OVID MEDLINE (R) 1946 to present, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials May 2012, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2005 to April 2012, EBM Reviews- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects 2nd Quarter 2012, EBM Reviews- Health Technology Assessment 2nd Quarter 2012, EBM Reviews- NHS Economic Evaluation Database 2nd Quarter 2012, Pubmed and National Horizon Scanning Centre.

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