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More research is needed on the use of probiotics for critically ill patients

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Dear Editor

We are grateful to Williams and Kumar Angurana (1) for their comments on our paper (2) in *Acta Paediatrica* and for providing the references to their own work on the use of probiotics for critically ill patients (3,4).

However, the aim of our paper was to provide guidance to primary care paediatricians and physicians who face daily questions about what probiotic strain to give patients and for what clinical indications. Therefore, we summarised the scientifically accredited guidelines and recommendations that were available on the use of probiotics in paediatric healthcare practice at the time of our study and decided not to mention every randomised controlled trial. The use of probiotics in paediatric intensive care units fell outside the scope of the paper and their use in critically ill patients was only mentioned with regard to safety issues. We did not state that probiotics should not be used for this group of patients, but that they should be used with caution due to the possible risk of septic dissemination. In general, we do agree with the conclusion reached by Williams and Kumar Angurana that more evidence is needed to guide more specific recommendations for the use of probiotics in critically ill patients.

References:

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