

Potentially relevant articles identified in Pubmed (N=236)

Potentially relevant articles identified in Embase (N=271)

Discarded 102 duplicates (N=405)

Studies excluded after reading title (N=232)

Studies excluded after reading abstract (N=115)

Full text retrieved (N=58)

Excluded (N=40)

- No signs or symptoms or score used (N=2)
- No relevant patient group (N=2)
- Did not contain suitable clinical data (N=6)
- Outcome measures not suitable (N=8)
- No throat culture for all patients (N=5)
- Used data from another study (N=3)
- No contact possible with authors (N=4)
- Articles not retrievable (N=2)

After correspondence with authors:

- Could not split data in age groups (N=4)
- No additional data possible (N=4)

Included (N=18)

Google Scholar, 287 hits (N=0)

Citation searching (N=2)

Included studies (N=21)

Thesis, personal communication (N=1)