

## Supplementary file S4: critical appraisal

Critical appraisal of manuscripts was performed using the Joanna Briggs Institute suite of critical appraisal tools available from <https://joannabriggs.org/critical-appraisal-tools> [accessed 22/12/2021].

### Clinical trials

Author (year)	True randomisation?	Allocation to treatment groups concealed?	Treatment groups similar at baseline?	Participants blind to assignment?	Treatment givers blind to assignment?	Outcome assessors blind to assignment?	Treatment groups treated identically - other than the intervention	Complete follow up?	Participants analysed in allocated groups?	Consistent outcome measurement?	Reliable outcome measurement?	Appropriate statistical analysis?	Was the trial design appropriate?	Comment
Bryant et al. (1965), [38]  United States  Single-centre, randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y	*Changes in boil frequency, character and size could reflect the activity of other pathogens.
Wittig et al. (1966), [36]  United States  Single-centre, randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial	U	U	Y	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y	Y	*The trial was conducted in winter. Symptom cards were used for recording. The respiratory symptoms recorded in either group could have been caused by a wide range of pathogens.

Marcuk et al. (1971), [37] Pakistan/USSR	N*	U	Y	U	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	*Patients allocated to phage or placebo groups on an alternate basis.
Bruttin & Brussow (2005), [20] Switzerland Single-centre, randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled safety trial Reg: N/A	U	Y	Y	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Rhoads et al. (2009), [21] United States Phase I randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled, safety trial Reg: NCT00663091	Y	Y	Y	U	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Wright et al. (2009), [19] UK Phase I/II randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled, safety trial Reg: 2004-001691-39	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Sarker et al. (2012), [22] Bangladesh	U	U	Y	U	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-

Single-centre, randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled safety trial  Reg: N/A														
McCallin <i>et al.</i> (2013), [23]  Bangladesh  Single-centre, randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled safety trial  Reg: N/A	U	Y	Y	U	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Rose <i>et al.</i> (2014), [24]  Belgium  Investigator-driven clinical trial  Reg: N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	U	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Sarker <i>et al.</i> (2016), [25]  Bangladesh  Single-centre, randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled safety trial  Reg: NCT00937274	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Sarker <i>et al.</i> (2017), [26]  Bangladesh	U	Y	Y	U	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-

Single-centre, randomised, placebo-controlled phase I safety trial  Reg: N/A														
McCallin <i>et al.</i> (2018), [27]  Bangladesh  Single-centre, randomised, placebo-controlled phase I safety trial  Reg: N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Jault <i>et al.</i> (2019), [28]  France & Belgium  Multi-centre, randomised, controlled, double-blind phase I/II trial  Reg: NCT02116010	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Ooi <i>et al.</i> (2019), [29]  Australia  Phase I open-label, single-centre, multiple ascending dose trial  Reg: ACTRN12616000002482	N	U	Y	U	U	U*	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	*Endoscopy videos were scored by a blinded surgeon
Gindin <i>et al.</i> (2019), [17]  United States	U	U	Y	Y	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-

Single-centre, randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial  Reg: NCT03269617														
Leitner <i>et al.</i> (2021), [30]  Georgia  Randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind trial  Reg: NCT03140085	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y*	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	*Phage and placebo were blinded, antibiotics were not blinded