

Supplementary Materials

Table S1. Search strategy

Database	Search Strategy
Embase	('body weight loss'/de OR 'weight loss':ti,ab OR 'weight reduction':ti,ab OR 'bmi reduction':ti,ab OR 'bmi loss':ti,ab) AND ('microflora'/exp OR microbiota:ti,ab OR microbiome*:ti,ab) AND ('obesity'/de OR 'abdominal obesity'/exp OR 'morbid obesity'/exp OR overweight:ti,ab OR obese:ti,ab OR obesity:ti,ab) NOT ('child'/exp NOT 'adult'/exp)
Scopus	((INDEXTERMS("Weight Loss") OR (TITLE-ABS("Weight Loss") OR TITLE-ABS("weight reduction") OR TITLE-ABS("bmi reduction") OR TITLE-ABS("bmi loss")))) AND ((INDEXTERMS("Microbiota") OR (TITLE-ABS("Microbiota") OR TITLE-ABS("microbiome*")))) AND ((INDEXTERMS("Overweight") OR INDEXTERMS("Obesity") OR INDEXTERMS("obesity, morbid") OR (TITLE-ABS("Overweight") OR TITLE-ABS("obese") OR TITLE-ABS("Obesity")))) AND NOT (INDEXTERMS("child") AND NOT INDEXTERMS("adult"))
PubMed	((("Weight Loss"[MeSH Terms:noexp] OR ("Weight Loss"[Title/Abstract] OR "weight reduction"[Title/Abstract] OR "bmi reduction"[Title/Abstract] OR "bmi loss"[Title/Abstract])) AND ("Microbiota"[MeSH Terms] OR ("Microbiota"[Title/Abstract] OR "microbiome*"[Title/Abstract])) AND ("Overweight"[MeSH Terms:noexp] OR "Obesity"[MeSH Terms:noexp] OR "obesity, morbid"[MeSH Terms] OR ("Overweight"[Title/Abstract] OR "obese"[Title/Abstract] OR "Obesity"[Title/Abstract]))) NOT ("child"[MeSH Terms] NOT "adult"[MeSH Terms])
CINAHL	((((MH "Weight Loss") OR (TI "Weight Loss" OR AB "Weight Loss") OR (TI "weight reduction" OR AB "weight reduction") OR (TI "bmi reduction" OR AB "bmi reduction") OR (TI "bmi loss" OR AB "bmi loss"))) AND ((MH "Microbiota+") OR (TI Microbiota OR AB Microbiota) OR (TI microbiome* OR AB microbiome*)) AND ((MH "Obesity") OR (MH "Obesity, Morbid") OR (TI Overweight OR AB Overweight) OR (TI obese OR AB obese) OR (TI Obesity OR AB Obesity))) NOT ((MH "Child+") NOT (MH "Adult+"))

Table S2. Reasons for excluding studies following full-text assessment*

Study citation	Reason for exclusion
Alemán 2018 [1]	Not an intervention of interest (VLCD)
Allen 2017 [2]	Abstract only
Basciani 2020 [3]	Not an intervention of interest (VLCKD)
Benítez-Páez 2021 [4]	Duplicate
Christensen 2019 [5]	Not an intervention of interest (no caloric restriction)
Cuevas Sierra 2020 [6]	Abstract only
Damms-Machado 2015 [7]	Not an intervention of interest (VLCD)
Dao 2018 [8]	Not an outcome of interest (no pre vs post microbiome data reported)
Di Rosa 2020 [9]	Not an intervention of interest (VLCKD)
Diener 2021 [10]	Macronutrient intake not reported
Dong 2021 [11]	Not an outcome of interest (no pre vs post microbiome data reported)
Duncan 2007 [12]	No weight loss achieved
Fabian 2017 [13]	Abstract only
Fangmann 2016 [14]	Not an intervention of interest (VLCD)
Gabel 2020 [15]	Abstract only
Gabel 2020 [16]	Macronutrient intake not reported
Gardner 2017 [17]	Not an outcome of interest (no pre vs post microbiome data reported)
Gratz 2020 [18]	Abstract only
Grembi 2020 [19]	Not an outcome of interest (no pre vs post microbiome data reported)
Heianza 2017 [20]	Not an outcome of interest (no microbiome or SCFA data)
Heianza 2018 [21]	Not an outcome of interest (no pre vs post microbiome data reported)
Heinsen 2016 [22]	Not an intervention of interest (VLCD)
Henning 2019 [23]	Not an intervention of interest (used a single food (avocado) only)
Hjorth 2019 [24]	Not an outcome of interest (no pre vs post microbiome data reported)
Hjorth 2020 [25]	Not a healthy population
Holt 2016 [26]	Not an intervention of interest (VLCD)
Hric 2021 [27]	Participants not overweight
Jie 2021 [28]	Not an outcome of interest (no pre vs post microbiome data reported)
Kahleova 2021 [29]	Abstract only
Karl 2015 [30]	Not an outcome of interest (no pre vs post microbiome data reported)
Kayser 2019 [31]	Not an outcome of interest (no pre vs post microbiome data reported)
Kong 2011 [32]	Abstract only
Kong 2011 [33]	Abstract only
Lee 2016 [34]	Not a healthy population
Li 2019 [35]	Abstract only
Lin 2018 [36]	Abstract only
Lin 2019 [37]	Macronutrient intake not reported
Kong 2013 [38]	Duplicate
Kong 2013 [38]	Not an outcome of interest (no pre vs post microbiome data reported)
Louis 2016 [39]	Not an intervention of interest (VLCD)

Table S2. continued

Study citation	Reason for exclusion
MacHado 2012 [40]	Not an intervention of interest (VLCD)
Mahadzir 2017 [41]	Not an intervention of interest (probiotic supplement only)
Mueller 2020 [42]	Not a healthy population
Muñiz-Pedrogo 2016 [43]	Abstract only
Muñiz-Pedrogo 2018 [44]	Macronutrient intake not reported
Muralidharan 2021 [45]	Not a healthy population
Nogacka 2020 [46]	Duplicate
Oh 2016 [47]	Case study
Ott 2017 [48]	Not an intervention of interest (VLCD)
Reimer 2017 [49]	Not an intervention of interest (no caloric restriction)
Remely 2015 [50]	Macronutrient intake not reported
Rinott 2021 [51]	Not an outcome of interest (no pre vs post microbiome data reported)
Roager 2019 [52]	No weight loss achieved
Russell 2011 [53]	No weight loss achieved
Salonen 2014 [54]	No weight loss achieved
Salonen 2014 [54]	Duplicate
Sánchez Alcoholado 2019 [55]	Abstract only
Siebert 2021 [56]	Not an outcome of interest (no pre vs post microbiome data reported)
Simões 2014 [57]	Not an intervention of interest (VLCD)
von Schwartzberg 2021 [58]	Not an intervention of interest (VLCD)
Yoriko 2018 [59]	Not an outcome of interest (no microbiome or SCFA data)
Yuan 2021 [60]	Not an intervention of interest (ketogenic diet)
Zhou 2019 [61]	Not an outcome of interest (no microbiome or SCFA data)
Zolotarevsky 2018 [62]	Not a healthy population
Zou 2020 [63]	Participants not overweight

* Citation numbers do not correspond to citations in the main manuscript and are provided at the end of this document. VLCD: very low calorie diet; VLCKD: very low calorie ketogenic diet.

	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
Bendsten 2018	?	?	+	+	+	?	+
Benítez-Páez 2021	?	?	+	+	+	?	+
Cuevas-Sierra 2021	+	?	+	+	+	?	+
Dhakal 2020	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	?	+
Dong 2020	+	?	+	+	+	?	+
Duncan 2008	?	?	+	+	+	?	+
Fragiadakis 2020	+	?	+	+	+	?	+
Gratz 2019	?	?	+	+	+	?	+
Gutiérrez-Repiso 2021	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	?	+
Jaagura 2021	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	?	+
Johnstone 2020	+	?	+	+	+	?	+
Kahleova 2020	+	?	+	+	+	?	+
Kahleova 2021	?	?	+	+	+	?	+
Ley 2006	?	?	+	+	+	?	+
Ma 2021	?	?	+	+	+	?	+
Nogacka 2021	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	?	+
Pisanu 2020	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	?	+
Stanislawski 2021	+	?	+	+	+	?	+
Zhang 2021	+	+	+	+	+	?	+

Domains

D1: Sequence generation
D2: Allocation concealment
D3: Blinding of participants and personnel
D4: Blinding of outcome assessors
D5: Incomplete outcome data
D6: Selective outcome reporting
D7: Other sources of bias

Key

+ Low risk of bias
? Unclear risk of bias
- High risk of bias

Figure S1. Risk of bias assessment. N/A: not applicable (trial was not randomized).

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