

Table 2. Summary of studies on eczema and the hygiene hypothesis, adapted from reference 15.

Hypotheses	Total number of studies	Number of studies supporting hypothesis	Number of prospective studies	Number of studies NOT supporting hypothesis	Number of prospective studies
ENVIRONMENT					
Basic hygiene	1	1	1	-	-
Day care	2	2	2	-	-
Anthroposophic lifestyle	1	1	0	-	-
Farming	6	0	0	6	2
Animals	7	4	4	3	0
Endotoxin	3	2	2	1	1
INFECTION					
Childhood infections	9	0	-	9	2
Hepatitis A and B	1	0	-	1	0
Herpes simplex	1	0	-	1	0
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>	2	1	0	1	0
Endoparasites	2	0	-	2	0
Tuberculosis and BCG	5	0	-	5	1
Tuberculin response	4	1	0	3	1
PREVENTION OF INFECTION					
Vaccinations	6	2	1	4	1
Antibiotics	8	5	2	3	1
TREATMENT					
Probiotics	4	4	4	0	-
<i>Mycobacterium vaccae</i>	2	1	1	1	1

BCG, Bacille Calmette-Guerin. Values in bold indicate where the evidence from longitudinal studies supports an association with childhood eczema.