### Supplementary Table 6. Complication rates according to intraoperative culture results

| Variable                   | Culture positive (n=28) | Culture negative (n=193) | P-value |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| VT otorrhea                | 0                       | 2.6 (5)                  | 1.000   |
| VT plugging                | 3.6 (1)                 | 4.1 (8)                  | 1.000   |
| Persistent perforation     | 0                       | 0.5 (1)                  | 1.000   |
| Revision VT insertion during FU | 10.7 (3)             | 16.1 (31)                | 0.584   |

Values are presented as % (number).

VT, ventilation tube; FU, follow-up.

Fisher's exact test was used for statistical analysis.