Supplementary material. The primers used for real time RT-PCR for each gene

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| **Gene** | Primer Sequence | **Reference** |
| β-actin | S: 5′-AAGTCCCTCACCCTCCCAAAAG-3′ | Peinnequin et al., 2004 |
| AS: 5′-AAGCAATGCTGTCACCTTCCC-3′ |
| TNF-α | S: 5′-AAATGGGCTCCCTCTCATCAGTTC-3′ |
| AS: 5′-TCTGCTTGGTGGTTTGCTACGAC-3′ |
| IL-6 | S: 5′-TCCTACCCCAACTTCCAATGCTC-3′ |
| AS: 5′- TTGGATGGTCTTGGTCCTTAGCC-3′ |
| IL-8 | S: 5′-CATTAATATTTAACGATGTGGATGCGTTTCA-3′ | Tong et al., 2008 |
| AS: 5′-GCCTACCATCTTTAAACTGCACAAT-3′ |
| iNOS | S: 5′-TGG TCC AAC CTG CAG GTC TT -3′ | Long et al., 2003 |
| AS: 5′-CAG TAA TGG CCG ACC TGA TGT-3′ |

S, sense; AS, anti-sense

**References**

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**Tong HH, Chen Y, Liu X and DeMaria TF** (2008) Differential expression of cytokine genes and iNOS induced by nonviable NTHi bacteria or its LOS mutants in the rat model of otitis media. *International Journal of* *Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology* **72**, 1183–1191.