

Table 27: Clinical evidence profile: early management group versus delayed management group 1

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Early	Delayed	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	

SSHI (follow-up mean 12 years and 4 years; scale range 0-42; Better indicated by lower values)											
1	Observational studies	very serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	no serious imprecision	none	49	50	-	The median SSHI score was 4.5 points lower in the early intervention group	VERY LOW
ERS (follow-up mean 12 years and 4 years; scale range 0-10; Better indicated by lower values)											
1	Observational studies	very serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	no serious imprecision	none	49	50	-	The median ERS score was 1 point lower in the early intervention group	VERY LOW
GHSI general (follow-up mean 12 years and 4 years; scale range 0-100; Better indicated by higher values)											
1	Observational studies	very serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	no serious imprecision	none	50	50	-	The median GHSI total score was 10.5 points higher in the early intervention group	VERY LOW
GHSI social support (follow-up mean 12 years and 4 years; scale range 0-100; Better indicated by higher values)											
1	Observational studies	very serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	no serious imprecision	none	50	50	-	The median GHSI total score was 0 points higher in the early intervention group	VERY LOW
GHABP use (follow-up mean 12 years and 4 years; scale range 0-100; Better indicated by higher values)											
1	Observational studies	very serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	no serious imprecision	none	49	50	-	The median GHABP use score was 29 points higher in the early intervention group	VERY LOW

GHABP benefit (follow-up mean 12 years and 4 years; scale range 0-100; Better indicated by higher values)											
1	Observational studies	very serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	no serious imprecision	none	49	50	-	The median GHABP benefit score was 18 points higher in the early intervention group	VERY LOW
GHABP residual disability (follow-up mean 12 years and 4 years; scale range 0-100; Better indicated by lower values)											
1	Observational studies	very serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	no serious imprecision	none	49	50	-	The median GHABP residual disability score was 3 points lower in the early intervention group	VERY LOW
GHABP satisfaction (follow-up mean 12 years and 4 years; scale range 0-100; Better indicated by higher values)											
1	Observational studies	very serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	no serious imprecision	none	49	50	-	The median GHABP satisfaction score was 23 points higher in the early intervention group	VERY LOW
EuroQol thermometer (follow-up mean 12 years and 4 years; scale range 0-100; Better indicated by higher values)											
1	Observational studies	very serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	no serious imprecision	none	50	50	-	The median EuroQol thermometer score was 2.5 points lower in the early intervention group	VERY LOW

¹ Not all pre-specified confounders accounted for and different care received, such as different types of hearing aid

² Downgraded by 1 increments because the majority of evidence was from an indirect population/intervention (early versus delayed defined by mode of referral for hearing aid use – early screening or standard referral to hearing aid clinic at older age)