

Table 38: Clinical evidence profile: sodium bicarbonate ear drops 30 minutes prior to syringing versus no ear drops prior to syringing for earwax

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Sodium bicarbonate ear drops 30 minutes prior to syringing	No ear drops prior to syringing	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	
Wax cleared by 5 minute syringing (follow-up mean 35 minutes)											
1	randomised trials	serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	31/37 (83.8%)	75.7%	RR 1.11 (0.88 to 1.4)	83 more per 1000 (from 91 fewer to 303 more)	LOW

¹ Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of the evidence was at high risk of bias, and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of the evidence was at very high risk of bias

² Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed one MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs