

Table 41: Clinical evidence profile: chlorobutanol solution ear drops 15minutes prior to irrigation versus saline ear drops 15 minutes prior to irrigation for earwax

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Chlorobutanol solution ear drops 15 minutes prior to irrigation	Saline ear drops 15minutes prior to irrigation	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	
Complete visualisation of TM after syringing (follow-up 15 minutes)											
1	randomised trials	serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	21/32 (65.6%)	42.9%	RR 1.53 (0.93 to 2.51)	227 more per 1000 (from 30 fewer to 648 more)	LOW
Adverse events prior to syringing (follow-up mean 15 minutes)											
1	randomised trials	very serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious imprecision ³	none	0/32 (0%)	0%	See comment	0 fewer per 1000 (from 59 fewer to 59 more) ⁴	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

³ No events in either arms, therefore assumed to cross both MIDs

⁴ Estimated using RevMan calculation