

Table 43: Clinical Evidence Profile: hydrogen peroxide urea solution ear drops 30 minutes prior to syringing versus olive oil ear drops 30 minutes prior to syringing for earwax

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Hydrogen Peroxide Urea solution ear drops 30 minutes prior to syringing	Olive Oil ear drops 30 minutes 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	no serious imprecision	none	33/37 (89.2%)	94.6%	RR 0.94 (0.82 to 1.08)	57 fewer per 1000 (from 170 fewer to 76 more)	MODERATE
Adverse events prior to syringing: discomfort (follow-up mean 30 minutes)											
1	randomised trials	serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	6/37 (16.2%)	10.8%	RR 1.5 (0.46 to 4.88)	54 more per 1000 (from 58 fewer to 419 more)	VERY 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