

Table 44: Clinical Evidence Profile: Docusate solution ear drops (repeated applications) prior to delayed syringing versus Sodium Bicarbonate solution ear drops (repeated applications) prior to delayed syringing for earwax

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Docusate solution ear drops (repeated applications) prior to delayed syringing	Sodium Bicarbonate solution ear drops (repeated applications) prior to delayed syringing	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	
Successful syringing at 3 days (follow-up mean 3 days)											
1	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	21/25 (84%)	84.7%	RR 0.99 (0.82 to 1.2)	8 fewer per 1000 (from 152 fewer to 169 more)	HIGH
Adverse event: otitis externa (follow-up mean 3 days)											
1	randomised trials	serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	2/26 (7.7%)	2.4%	RR 3.18 (0.56 to 18.09)	52 more per 1000 (from 11 fewer to 410 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