Table 28: Clinical evidence profile: early management group versus delayed management group 2

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	
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 15 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 23 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 18.5 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 13.5 points higher in the early intervention	VERY LOW

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										group	
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 9.5 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 24 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 7.5 points lower in the early intervention group	VERY LOW

[1] Not all pre-specified confounders accounted for and very different duration of follow-up
[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)

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