

Table 46: Clinical Evidence Profile: olive oil 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	Olive oil 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	serious ¹	none	23/25 (92%)	84.7%	RR 1.09 (0.95 to 1.25)	76 more per 1000 (from 42 fewer to 212 more)	MODERATE
Adverse event: otitis externa (follow-up mean 3 days)											
1	randomised trials	serious ²	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	0/25 (0%)	2.4%	OR 0.3 (0.01 to 6.24)	17 fewer per 1000 (from 24 fewer to 109 more)	VERY LOW

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

² 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