

Table 47: Clinical Evidence Profile: docusate solution ear drops (repeated application) prior to delayed syringing versus oil 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 application) prior to delayed syringing versus Oil ear drops (repeated	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	

applications) prior to delayed syringing											
Successful syringing at 3 days (follow-up mean 3 days)											
1	randomised trials	serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	23/25 (92%)	92%	RR 1 (0.85 to 1.18)	0 fewer per 1000 (from 138 fewer to 166 more)	MODERATE
Adverse event: otitis externa (follow-up mean 3 days)											
1	randomised trials	very serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious imprecision ³	none	0/25 (0%)	0%	See comment	0 fewer per 1000 (from 75 fewer to 75 more) ²	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 Estimated using RevMan calculator

³ No events in either arm, therefore confidence interval assumed to cross both MIDs, Downgraded by 2 increments as the confidence interval crossed both MIDs