

Table 29: Clinical evidence profile: water ear drops (repeated application) versus no treatment for earwax

| Quality assessment | | | | | | | No of patients | | Effect | | Quality |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|---------|------------------------|---|----------|
| No of studies | Design | Risk of bias | Inconsistency | Indirectness | Imprecision | Other considerations | Water ear drops (repeated application) versus no treatment | Control | Relative (95% CI) | Absolute | |
| No longer impacted wax at 5 days (follow-up mean 5 days) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | serious ³ | none | 20/38 (52.6%) | 31.6% | RR 1.67 (0.96 to 2.91) | 212 more per 1000 (from 13 fewer to 604 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 or 2 increments because the majority of evidence was from an indirect population (age and other factors not defined)

³ Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed one MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs