**Table 59: Clinical evidence profile: Dual steroid (IT plus oral) versus steroid (IT) [IT dexamethasone plus oral prednisolone versus IT dexamethasone]**

| Quality assessment | No of patients | Effect | Quality | Importance |
|---|---|---|---|---|

| No of studies | Design | Risk of bias | Inconsistency | Indirectness | Imprecision | Other considerations | Dual | IT steroids | Relative (95% CI) | Absolute | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PTA improvement or final score (follow-up 3-7 weeks; Better indicated by lower values)** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | randomised trials | very serious[1] | no serious inconsistency | no serious indirectness | serious[1,2] | none | 36 | 37 | - | MD 12.35 lower (22.44 to 2.27 lower) | ⊕◯◯◯ VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| **Complete recovery (follow-up 7 weeks)** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | randomised trials | very serious[1] | no serious inconsistency | Serious[3] | Serious[2] | none | 18/36 (50%) | 22% | RR 2.33 (1.18 to 4.62) | 295 more per 1000 (from 40 more to 804 more) | ⊕◯◯◯ VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| **Speech discrimination score improvement or final score (follow-up 7 weeks; Better indicated by lower values)** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | very serious[1] | no serious inconsistency | Serious[3] | Serious[2] | none | 16 | 17 | - | MD 25 higher (4.11 to 45.89 higher) | ⊕◯◯◯ VERY LOW | CRITICAL |

[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.
[3] Intratympanic dosing not representative of UK practice