

Table 30: Clinical evidence profile: sodium bicarbonate ear drops (repeated applications) versus no treatment for earwax

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Sodium Bicarbonate ear drops (repeated applications) 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	18/39 (46.2%)	31.6%	RR 1.46 (0.82 to 2.6)	145 more per 1000 (from 57 fewer to 506)	VERY LOW

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- 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