

Table 32: Clinical evidence profile: sodium bicarbonate solution versus water (repeated applications) for earwax

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Sodium Bicarbonate solution versus Water (repeated applications)	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	very serious ³	none	18/39 (46.2%)	52.6%	RR 0.88 (0.56 to 1.38)	63 fewer per 1000 (from 231 fewer to 200 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