

Table 35: Clinical evidence profile: chlorobutanol (Cerumol) ear drops versus almond oil (repeated applications) for earwax

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Chlorobutanol ear drops (Cerumol) versus almond oil (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	serious ³	none	13/35 (37.1%)	20.6%	RR 1.8 (0.82 to 3.97)	165 more per 1000 (from 37 fewer to 612 more)	VERY LOW
Adverse event: discontinued due to adverse effects (follow-up mean 5 days)											
1	randomised trials	serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	very serious ³	none	1/35 (2.9%)	0%	OR 7.18 (0.14 to 362.04)	29 more per 1000 (from 48 fewer to 105 more) ⁴	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 used intervention (Cerumol ear drops) that wasn't defined in terms of active ingredients

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

⁴ Approximation taken from RevMan calculator