

## Summary of findings:


### 33. Topical antibiotics compared to ear toilet alone for chronic suppurative otitis media

**Patient or population:** Children and adults with chronic suppurative otitis media

**Setting:** Primary health care

**Intervention:** Topical antibiotics (Studies used: Oxofloxacin single dose and Ciprofloxacin three times daily for 7 days.)

**Comparison:** Ear toilet alone

Outcome No. of participants (studies)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects (95% CI)			Quality	What happens
		Without Topical antibiotics	With Topical antibiotics	Difference		
Persistent discharge assessed with: otoscopy follow up: 1 week No of participants: 197 (2 RCTs) <sup>1,a</sup>	<b>RR 0.45</b> (0.34 to 0.59)	80.8%	<b>36.4%</b> (27.5 to 47.7)	<b>44.4% fewer</b> (53.3 fewer to 33.1 fewer)	 LOW <sup>b,c,d</sup>	In patients with CSOM treated with topical antibiotics compared to ear toilet alone there are possibly fewer children with persistent ear discharge at 1 week follow-up.  NNT -3

\*The risk in the intervention group (and its 95% confidence interval) is based on the assumed risk in the comparison group and the **relative effect** of the intervention (and its 95% CI).

CI: Confidence interval; RR: Risk ratio; NS: Not significant; NNT: Number needed to treat

#### GRADE Working Group grades of evidence

**High quality:** We are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect

**Moderate quality:** We are moderately confident in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be close to the estimate of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different

**Low quality:** Our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: The true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect

**Very low quality:** We have very little confidence in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of effect

## Explanations

a. Studies taken from: Cochrane Review, Macfadyen 2005 (van Hessel 2002, Kasemsuwan 1997)

b. Risk of Bias: Attrition bias noted (Kasemsuwan) but not rated down

c. Inconsistency: High heterogeneity

d. Imprecision: Small studies / optimal information size not reached.

## References

1. Macfadyen CA, Acuin JM, Gamble C. Topical antibiotics without steroids for chronically discharging ears with underlying eardrum perforations. The Cochrane database of systematic reviews. 2005(4):Cd004618. Epub 2005/10/20. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD004618.pub2. PubMed PMID: 16235370.