

Summary of findings:


41. Saline irrigation at time of surgery compared to topical antibiotics for the prevention of post-operative tympanostomy tube otorrhoea

Patient or population: Children 3-11 years with AOM or OME undergoing tympanostomy tube (TTs) insertion.

Setting: Hospital

Intervention: Saline irrigation of middle ear at time of surgery.

Comparison: Ofloxacin for 5 days post-operatively.

| Outcome № of participants (studies) | Relative effect (95% CI) | Anticipated absolute effects (95% CI) | | | Quality | What happens |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | 5-day post-operative Ofloxacin | With Saline irrigation of middle ear at time of surgery | Difference | | |
| Post-operative TTO follow up: 2 weeks № of participants: 140 (1 RCT) ^{1,a} | RR 1.83 (0.72 to 4.68) | 8.6% | 15.7% (6.2 to 40.1) | 7.1% more(NS) (2.4 fewer to 31.5 more) |  LOW ^{b,c} | In children undergoing TTs surgery, saline irrigation at time of surgery compared to 5-days post-surgery treatment with topical Ofloxacin there is possibly no difference in TTO at 2 weeks follow-up. NNT Not Applicable |

*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; NNH: Number needed to harm; TTs: tympanostomy tubes; TTO: Tympanostomy tube otorrhoea

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. Study taken from: Cochrane Review, Syed 2013 (Kocaturk 2005)

b. Risk of Bias: Participants not blinded, however outcome assessor blinded. Not rated down.

c. Imprecision: Single, small study

References

1. Syed MI, Suller S, Browning GG, Akeroyd MA. Interventions for the prevention of postoperative ear discharge after insertion of ventilation tubes (grommets) in children. The Cochrane database of systematic reviews. 2013(4):Cd008512. Epub 2013/05/02. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD008512.pub2. PubMed PMID: 23633358.