

Otigo[®] for acute otitis media

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The routine commissioning of Otigo[®] ear drops is not accepted in Devon for the treatment of acute otitis media.

The Formulary Interface Group should not include this in locally defined treatment recommendations.

Rationale for the decision

Acute otitis media (AOM) is a disease of the middle ear which is common in children under the age of 10. Acute otitis media is characterised by inflammation of the middle ear, patients generally present with ear pain. A discharge from the ear, and a perforation of the ear drum may also be present. The condition may be caused by a bacterial or viral infection, meaning patients may also have a fever or display other symptoms of being systemically unwell.

Otigo[®] ear drops contain the active agents phenazone (40 mg/g [4%]), which is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, and lidocaine (10 mg/g [1%]), which is a local anaesthetic. Otigo[®] is licenced for the local symptomatic treatment and relief of pain in middle ear diseases when a perforation of the ear drum is not present. The product is indicated for the treatment of acute congestive otitis media, otitis in influenza, and barotraumatic otitis.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guideline NG91 covers antimicrobial prescribing for AOM. An update of this guideline issued in March 2022 included a new treatment recommendation which states consideration should be given to the provision of ear drops containing a local anaesthetic and an analgesic in patients with AOM who have not been provided with an immediate prescription for antibiotics and who do not have a perforation of the ear drum. The guidance also lists ear drops containing Phenazone 40 mg/g with lidocaine 10 mg/g as a treatment option for the condition. The clinical studies reviewed by NICE did not directly examine the use of Otigo[®], and no economic evaluation of treatment for AOM using ear drops containing a local anaesthetic and an analgesic was included in NG91.

A review of the evidence conducted by NHS Devon was unable to identify any published randomised controlled trials in which Otigo® was used for the management of AOM. Whilst other studies were identified which examined the effects of ear drops containing a local anaesthetic with or without an analgesic, none of these studies used the product Otigo®.

As such the clinical and cost effectiveness of Otigo® for the treatment of AOM is uncertain. Local budget impact assessments estimated that the use of Otigo® is likely to increase NHS costs. Therefore, without clear evidence of a clinical benefit Otigo® is not considered good value for the use of local NHS funds

Guidance notes on exceptionality

This general policy does not replace clinical judgement on the appropriate treatment of an individual patient.

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