

Olive oil drops or spray: is one better than the other?

Methodology and progress to date.

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Introduction

- Earwax removal is the commonest ENT procedure performed in primary care^{1,2,3}.
- High-quality evidence for the most effective way to remove earwax is lacking.
- Microsuction, following use of pretreatment softeners such as olive oil, is a method commonly used to remove earwax.
- Olive oil is available to purchase as a spray or drops.
- Audiology practitioners in two local services report that patients find the spray easier to use.
- No previous research study has compared the administration method of a pretreatment wax softener.
- To address this gap-in-knowledge we compared the clinical effectiveness of pretreatment olive oil spray and drops prior to microsuction.

Method – cluster randomised control trial

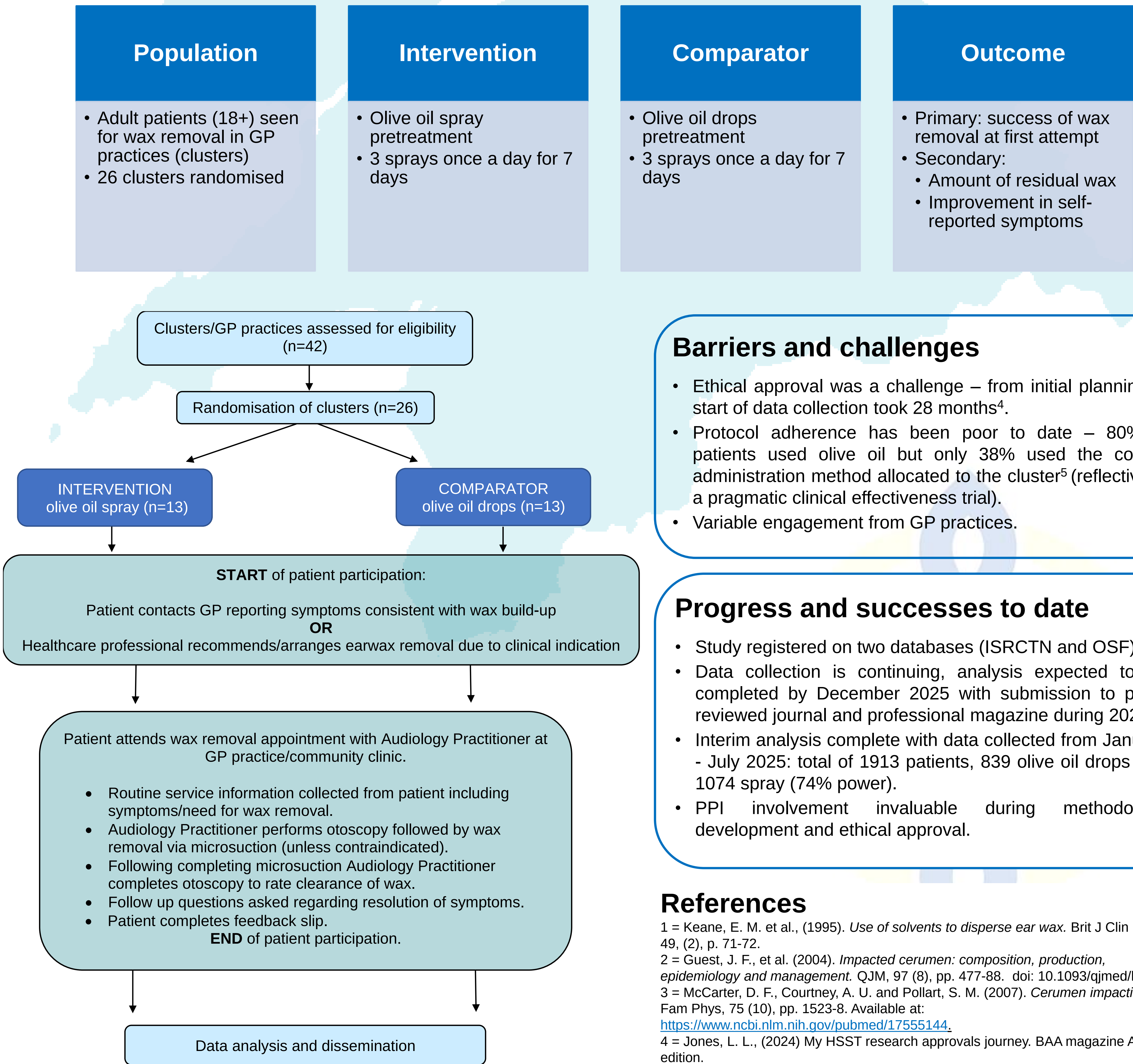


Figure 1. Cluster RCT flowchart

