

Alternative treatment

Effective alternative methods for treating head lice include the physical method of wet combing with conditioner and a fine-toothed comb, Natural remedies such as tea tree oil can also be used. However studies have shown many different results.

For severe cases or when other methods fail Your Health Visitor or School Nurse can give individual advice.

Head lice can be very troublesome, therefore if everyone takes responsibility for the regular checking of their children's hair the problem can be significantly reduced.

Please remember:

Reapply treatment after 7 days.

Regular combing – checking the comb between each stroke.

Follow all instructions on the product you are using carefully.

Family members of affected children should also carry out detection combing and treat their own hair if lice are found.

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road,
Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR
Telephone: 0151 426 1600

St Helens Hospital
Marshalls Cross Road,
St Helens, Merseyside, WA9 3DA
Telephone: 01744 26633

Southport Hospital
Town Lane, Kew,
Southport, Merseyside,
PR8 6PN
Telephone: 01704 547 471

Ormskirk Hospital
Dicconson Way, Wigan Road,
Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AZ
Telephone: 01695 577 111

Head Lice

Patient information leaflet

If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید، لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formie, proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil, vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتنسيق يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

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Headlice

What are headlice and how do they affect us?

Head lice are tiny grey/brown insects about the size of a sesame seed. Head lice cling to hairs, but stay close to the scalp, which they feed off. They lay eggs which hatch after 7-10 days. It takes about 10 days for a newly hatched louse to grow to an adult and start to lay eggs.



Head lice are common in children, but can affect anyone at any age. They are not a sign of dirty hair or poor hygiene. Close hair-to-hair contact is usually needed to pass the lice on.

Head lice cannot jump or fly, but walk from one head to another - Most people with head lice do not have any symptoms. An itchy scalp occurs in 1 in 3 cases. This is due to an allergy to the lice, not due to them biting.

Head lice are difficult to find just by looking into the hair. If you suspect head lice, it is best to do 'detection combing'. Some people advise that you do this to children's hair regularly, about once a week.

Detection combing - Use a fine toothed comb bought from a pharmacy/chemist. Slot the comb into the hair as near to the scalp as possible then draw the comb to the tips of the hair. Check the comb for lice after each stroke.

Treatment

Our usual form of treatment:

You can buy various lotions or cream rinses which kill lice, from pharmacies or supermarkets.

Head lice shampoo **does not** work very well and is not recommended.

The lotions come in water or alcohol bases.

The alcohol lotions are usually slightly better.

Alcohol based lotions should not be used with children who have asthma, eczema or broken skin.

Follow all instructions on the product you are using carefully.

Treatment is usually reapplied after 7 days.

Combing is recommended every 4 days for at least 4 sessions e.g. a two week period.



Risks and discomforts

Risks and discomforts of the treatment
Treatments are usually safe providing you follow the manufacturer's advice on the product.

Slight itching of the scalp may occur after application of lotions, depending on which one is used.

A full list of side effects will be on individual product labels.

Please read these instructions carefully.

The alcohol based lotions are also inflammable so it is important to **keep children away from fires, cigarettes, flames etc. whilst the lotion is on the hair.**



It is important to consult your GP for specialist advice if you have any skin condition or asthma.