













Head lice (Pediculus humanus)

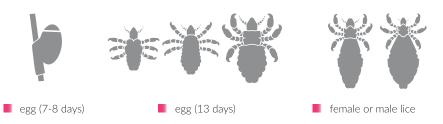


Head louse is a parasitic, blood-sucking insect, which occurs on a human head and clothing. It causes the disease called lice infestation (*pediculosis*). Head lice have an oval-shapped, elongated bodies with dorsal-ventral flattening. Larvaes are from 2 to 3 mm long whereas adult lice are about 4 mm long.



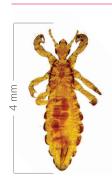
Nits (lice eggs) are white-perly and about 0,8 cm long. Just after laying the eggs, the female lice attaches them to the base of the hair at the distance of about 0,6 mm to 1cm from the scalp.

Life cycle of the head lice



Female lice live for about 40 days and lay up to 330 eggs (more or less 10 eggs a day). The embryonic development lasts for about 7 days, afterwards the fully developed larvae leaves the eggshells through the open lid. The juvenile forms are similar in appearance to the adult lice and likewise feed on human blood. Two weeks after nymphs are hatched, there appears the new generation of adult lice capable of reproduction.

Do you know...?



The head louse does not have wings typical for other insects. Its mouthpart is designed for piercing and sucking.

On lice's barrel and abdomen there are valves leading to the bereathing aparatus system. Three pairs of sticky legs are adapted to catch the hair strongly.



Note

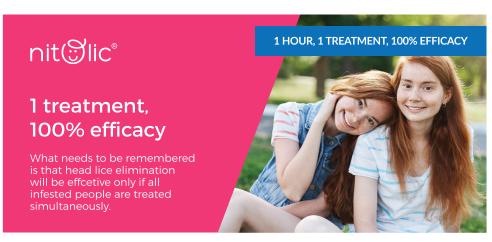
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Useful information

Nowadays, treating the head lice infestations is simple and possible after just one treatment. The key element in choosing the right solution is comprehensive approach. Detection of head lice infestation might be stressful for parents as well as for the children. Quick and effective elimination of the problem is extremely important. What needs to be remembered is that head lice elimination will be effective only if all infested people are treated simultaneously.

Comprehensive head lice treatment - the only one on the market.





Ways of getting infected

Pediculosis spreads easily at schools and kindergartens. The increased prevalence is due to intensified children's activity and travelling, e.g. during summer and winter vacations. The head lice spread by direct contact (head to head), most often during playtime and sport activities. Other, indirect way of getting infected is sharing the combs, brushes, pillows, towels and hats. The problem of head lice is common in all climate zone. It may happen to children, adults and people regardless of their social status.





Head lice infestation is a source of severe stress and shame resulting from the negative social perception of a person infected. It disrupts the ability to concentrate, which results in worse school results.

Head lice symptoms

The parasite's punctures cause skin itching. As a result of progressive development of allergy to louse's saliva and feces, itching and burning become annoying, forcing the necessity to scratch.

The main cause of itching is the development of allergy to insect's allergens. That is why not all head lice infested people suffer from itching. Sometimes head itching starts few weeks after infestation. Therefore, lack of itching does not mean there are no lice!

The head skin may be irritated, even bacterial infections may occur as a result of dirty wounds. Swollen glands on the neck may also be another symptom.



How to detect head lice?

In case of risk of head lice infestation, it is reccommended to inspect the skin of the head regularly at least once a week (step 1). By means of a fine-tooth comb, comb the hair out section by section in good lighting, looking for nits or crawling parasites. Inspect the head carefully, close to the scalp, behind the ears and on the back of the head. If there is a large number of parasites, they can inhabit the entire surface of the head.





How to protect against head lice?

(i)

It is estimated that almost every child becomes infested with head lice at least once. The amount of children under the age of 14, which are infested with head lice reaches almost 2 billion in the world.



- (1) Explain to your child that it is not allowed to borrow hats, combs and hair bands from other children.
- The risk of infection is smaller if the hair is short, braided or tied in a ponytail.
- 3 Check your hair at least twice a week or even every day if head lice have been detected at school.
- 4 Use a lice repellent regularly to protect against the head lice.





What should be done when we are infested?

Use the appropriate product

Firstly, check if the product offered guarantees safety of usage and efficacy against lice and their eggs (nits). The note, which informs about the need of the repetition of the treatment after few days may indicate that the product is not effective against nits.

The advantages of the product with physical mode of action.

The physical mode of action eliminates the possibility of lice becoming resistant to the product. The product does not penetrate the skin and does not cause any harm for the human.



- Choose the product, which is effective against nits and all developmental stages of the head lice after just one application (no need of repeating the treatment).
- **2** Treat simultaneously all members of the family who got infested.
- 3 Clean thoroughly your apartment, having in mind that some of the parasites might still exist on the floor and furniture.
- Wash your clothes and bed linen in high temperature or soak it with NITOLIC® Wash.
- (5) Inform school or kindergarten and other parents about the detection of the lice.



Lice and nits which are still alive may be found in the cloth and fabrics the infected person had contact with. Washing the cloth in high temperatures or in NITOLIC® Wash guarantees the removal of the parasites and their eggs. This is an essential element of an effective treatment.

