

Treatment of Head Lice: “Bug Busting Method”

Procedure

1. Wash hair
2. Apply conditioner copiously
3. Detangle hair with an ordinary comb
4. In the position of sitting upright or leaning over a bowl or sink, comb hair with the special comb. The teeth of the comb should slot into the hair at the roots with every stroke
5. Clear the lice from the comb after each stroke
6. Dry hair with towel
7. Soak the combs in hot water and dry them under the sun light for 5 – 6 hours
8. Rinse lice away
9. Repeat the procedure every 3 – 4 days for two weeks to catch the lice emerging from the eggs.

Risk and Benefit

Unless the the child is allergy to all brands of hair conditioner, the procedure is safe because no insecticide is used.

Note

- Lice are difficult to grip on slippery hair from conditioner so that removing them is easier.
- Removing live lice regularly will result in lice-free children in a fortnight because lice do not lay eggs until about a week after they have hatched.
- Re-infection will occur if infested close contacts (at both home and school) are not treated concurrently and hats, clothing and bedding are not washed in hot water and dried under the sunlight for 8 – 10 hours.
- More information is available at www.chc.org/bugbusting
- If the above method is too time-consuming, you can apply one of the following:
 - Permethrin 1% that kills adult lice but not the nits (eggs)
 - applied to the hair and scalp for 10 minutes and then rinsed off.
 - Second treatment is 7 to 10 days later
- 0.5% Malathion lotion
 - Applied to the hair until thoroughly moistened, left to air dry, and then rinsed off after 8 to 12 hours.
 - Repeated in 7 to 9 days if live lice are still present at that time