

# LICE

## Symptoms

- Itching (caused by allergic reaction to bites)
- Sores on head
- Irritability
- Tickling feeling of something moving in hair

## Home Care Instructions

- Apply over the counter or prescription Pediculicide (lice medicine) according to label instructions. (Do not use a cream rinse or combo shampoo/conditioner before using lice medicine. Do not rewash hair for one to two days after treatment)
- Use a special comb to comb out the nit. Rinsing hair with distilled vinegar can make the nit's easier to see
- Wash clothing/towels/linen and other personal items in hot soapy water. Dry these items on high heat.
- For items that you are unable to wash, place them in plastic bags and seal for 2 weeks.
- Vacuum floors and furniture. (Throw away vacuum bag away afterward)
- If lice are found alive 8-12hrs after treatment but are moving more slowly than before, do not retreat. Comb out dead and remaining lice out of hair. If 8-12hrs after treatment there are no dead lice and lice

seem just as active, the medicine may not be working. Notify your doctor for a different medication.

## When to Seek Medical Attention:

- Treatment is not working, lice is still present
- You have infected sores that get worse or do not heal
- Develop itchy/scratchy areas other than the scalp

## Pt Education: Prevention

- Lice do not live on pets and cannot jump, fly, or walk on the ground. They can be easily passed from person to person through close contact and on clothes, bed linens, brushes and combs, hats, and toys. Head lice infections are not dangerous. But they are very contagious and should be treated right away to stop infection from spreading.
- Don't share brushes, hats and clothes
- Avoid physical contact with anyone who has head lice