Alternate Treatment:

Another treatment option includes the use of mayonnaise. With the mayonnaise treatment only 100% real mayonnaise should be used (not light, lowfat, fat free or even salad dressing).

1. Apply a generous amount to hair; making sure all the hair is soaked with the mayonnaise.

2. Cover hair with plastic wrap or a shower cap for 5-6 hours or overnight. Young children should be supervised at all times with the plastic wrap use. (The lice die by suffocation and the time recommendation needs to be followed since lice can close their breathing apparatus for up to 4 hours and still live.)

3. Rinse out hair with warm water and shampoo. Shampooing may need to be repeated several times to remove all the mayonnaise.

4. Using a good light, pick out the nits from the scalp. Hair needs to be gone through section by section with the use of a nit comb and/or fingernails. This process takes time and patience, but it is very important in order to check the effectiveness of treatment. This may take hours.

This treatment can be repeated safely as often as needed and can be used in conjunction with chemical treatments. Also a side benefit of the mayonnaise treatment is conditioned hair!

References


Head Lice

Questions & Answers

Reno County Health Dept.
209 W. Second
Hutchinson, KS 67501
620-694-2900
You’re not alone...

Nearly every year 3 million Americans, most of them children, get head lice.

What are head lice?

Head lice are very small bugs called parasites that can infest the hair on the human head. These bugs hatch from small eggs (called nits) that are attached to the base of individual hairs on the head. It usually takes about 10 days for the eggs to hatch with maturity taking place about 2 weeks later. The mature female louse can lay up to 6 eggs per day and have a life span of 20 to 30 days. For nourishment lice feed on human blood in their mature form as well as their immature form.

Who gets head lice?

Anyone can!

Why remove all the nits?

Complete nit removal is important to check the success of the head lice treatment.

How is it spread?

- All it takes is direct contact (hugging, sleeping next to, playing closely with, etc.) to anyone who has head lice or by indirect contact such as the sharing of personal items (combs, brushes, hats, scarves, etc.) contaminated with lice or their eggs.
- Animals do not carry head lice.

What are the signs?

- Itching of the head and the back of the neck.
- Maybe some swelling in the lymph glands of the neck and/or in the armpit area.
- In more severe cases, muscle aches or fever may occur.
- Upon observation oval shaped white, gray or light brown colored nits may be seen attached to the individual hairs close to the hair shaft. There should be no confusing them with dandruff since they cannot be easily removed. There may be scratch marks or open sores seen on the scalp.
- The actual lice are very tiny and may be seen as black or rust colored dots that cling to the base of the hairs. Use of a magnifying glass makes them easier to see.

What else needs to be done?

All on the 1st day of treatment:

- Check other members of the family for nits or lice.
- If others in the family have head lice, all should be treated at the same time so as to prevent re-infestation.
- Wash all bed linens on bed(s) that infected person laid on.
- Wash clothing worn by the person(s) with head lice.
- Beds should not be shared when head lice are present (or treatment is being given).

How are head lice treated?

(If the affected child is under the age of 2, a physician should direct the treatment.)

Day 1: Apply pediculocidal shampoo followed by a thorough fine-tooth wet combing. This should kill most adults & nymphs and remove most visible nits.

Pediculocidal Treatment:

Day 2-6: Daily apply ordinary shampoo followed by cream rinse and a thorough fine-tooth wet combing. This should remove additional adults, nymphs, & nits.

Day 7: Apply pediculocidal shampoo followed by a thorough fine-tooth wet combing. This should kill and remove most remaining adults, nymphs, and some nits.

Day 8-14: Daily apply ordinary shampoo followed by cream rinse and a thorough fine-tooth wet combing. This should remove residual adults and nymphs.

Dippity Do Treatment:

Day 2-6: Use Dippity Do hair gel and apply generously to hair. Cover & leave in overnight. Shampoo hair in the morning and comb nits out.

Day 7: Apply pediculocidal shampoo followed by a thorough fine-tooth wet combing. This should kill and remove most remaining adults, nymphs, and some nits.

Day 8-14: Apply Dippity Do to hair, cover & leave in overnight. Shampoo hair in morning and comb out nits.