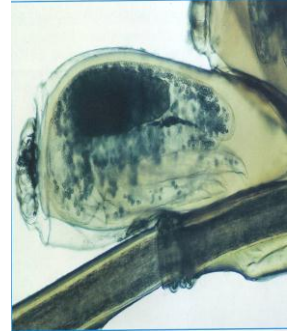




Head Lice (Pedulus Capitis) School Information

Head louse egg

- Take 5-7 days to hatch
- Are cemented to the shaft of the hair at the root
- Female lays 3-5 eggs per day
- Laid within 5mm of the scalp
- Can reproduce 7 days after hatching



Empty egg case - nits

- Can resemble dandruff
- Seen on the shaft of the hair as the hair grows over a month they appear to move down the hair shaft
- Note – how tight the ‘glue’ holds onto the hair shaft
- Are only a sign of a previous infection not current one

Nits

These are empty egg cases only, this person does not have any head lice, it is only a sign that they have previously had head lice.



- **Head lice can't jump or fly**
- **Head lice only live in the hair not clothing**
- **Head lice live on both clean and unwashed hair**
- **Nits must be laid by live lice – you don't 'catch nits'**
- **Cannot be caught from animals**

Detection combing

Check all family and inform friends –adults and children, don't forget grandparents.

Fine comb wet hair with conditioner – from top of scalp to end of hair, will take 10 to 20 mins (Detection combs do not remove the eggs)

Physical Treatment – treat all affected family at the same time. The above can be used as a treatment if done alternate days for 2 weeks, baby lice will be found on the head during each combing as the eggs hatch over the period of time, this is not a new infestation.

Treatments

Only treat if living moving louse is found

Treat all infected contacts at the same time.

Treatments are available on prescription

Chemical - Suleo-M lotion, Derbac-M or Quellada

Apply to dry hair

Let it dry naturally, Leave on for 12 hours

Shampoos and mousse are not as effective

Preventing Head Lice

- Check the whole family regularly (weekly) this is the single most important thing in the control of head lice.
- Treat appropriately when living moving louse found
- Not sharing combs / brushes etc.
- Avoid head to head contact
- It is often the empty egg cases seen on other children's hair – remember this does not mean the individual has head lice now just in the past and may have been successfully treated.