

TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR SCABIES AND LICE

| Therapy | Instructions | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Scabies | | |
| Permethrin 5% (60 g) cream | Apply to whole body; wash off after 8–14 h Repeat in 1 wk | 1st-line treatment Can cause stinging and itching |
| Lindane 1% (60 mL) lotion | Apply to whole body; wash off after 8–12 h in adults and 6 h in children Repeat in 1 wk | Not recommended for children < 2 yr, pregnant or lactating women, people with extensive dermatitis, and those with severe skin conditions involving skin barrier compromise Potentially neurotoxic |
| Ivermectin | 200 µg/kg po for 1 dose Repeat in 7–10 days | Indicated as a 2nd line to permethrin For use in institutional epidemics and immunocompromised hosts Caution required when given to elderly patients with hepatic, renal, or cardiac disorders Not recommended for pregnant or lactating women; unproven safety in children < 15 kg or < 5 yr May cause tachycardia |
| Crotamiton 10% cream/lotion | Apply after bath to whole body, apply 2nd dose after 24 h, and bathe 48 h after 2nd dose Repeat in 7 to 10 days | — |
| Sulfur ointment 6% | Apply to whole body at bedtime for 3 nights | Very effective and safe May be limited by its malodor |
| Lice, head | | |
| Malathion 0.5% | Apply to dry hair and scalp, wash and rinse in 8–12 h, shampoo scalp, and remove nits May repeat in 7–9 days if live nits are seen | Highly effective but not 1st-line treatment because of flammability and unpleasant odor |
| Permethrin, other pyrethroids, pyrethrins | Wash hair and apply to wet hair, behind ears and on nape; wash off in 10 min May repeat in 7 days if live nits are seen | Contraindicated if sensitive to chrysanthemum family of plants |
| Wet combing | Should be combined with all of the therapies | |
| Lindane 1% shampoo or lotion | Apply shampoo, lather for 4–5 min, rinse, and comb with fine-tooth comb Apply lotion and wash off after 12 h Repeat in 1 wk | Increasing resistance to drug Toxicity not typically seen with treatment of head lice but not recommended for children < 2 yr and pregnant or lactating women Do not use lindane on eyelashes |
| Ivermectin | Same dose as scabies | Useful for resistant lice |

TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR SCABIES AND LICE—Continued

| Therapy | Instructions | Comments |
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| Cetaphil cleanser | Apply, wait 2 minutes, comb out excess, blow dry hair, wait 8 hours, then shampoo and mechanically remove nits Repeat weekly as necessary | — |
| Lice, body | | |
| | Treatment of pruritus and secondary infection | Topical measures not used because body lice are found in clothing |
| Lice, pubic | | |
| Lindane 1% (60 mL) shampoo or lotion | Same as for head lice | — |
| Pyrethrins with piperonyl butoxide (60 mL) shampoo | Apply to dry hair and skin, leave on for 10 min, rinse, and repeat in 7–10 days | Do not apply more than twice in 24 h Pyrethrins, which are derivatives of chrysanthemum, combined with a piperic acid derivative (piperonyl butoxide) |
| Permethrin 1% (60 mL) cream | Same as for head lice Must repeat in 10 days | — |
| Lice, eyelashes | | |
| Petrolatum ointment | Apply 3–4 times/day for 8–10 days | — |
| Fluorescein drops 10–20% | Applied to the eyelids | Provides immediate pediculicidal effect |