

TREATMENT CONTINUED

3. Following treatment, most nits will still be attached to hair shafts. All nits must be removed. Use a fine tooth comb like the Licemiester or the comb that comes with the shampoo to remove the nits. You can also use tweezers or fingers to remove the nits.
4. Put on clean underwear and clothing after treatment.
5. To kill any lice or nits (attached to hairs) that may be left on clothing or bedding, machine wash those washable items that the infested person used during the 2-3 days before treatment. Use the hot water cycle (130°F). Use the hot dryer cycle for at least 20 minutes.
6. Dry-clean clothing that is not washable. Sealing items in a plastic bag, like a garbage bag, for 35 days will also kill lice and nits.
7. Inform any sexual partners that they are at risk for infestation.
8. Do not have sex until treatment is complete.
9. Do not have sex with infested partners until partners have been treated and infestation has been cured.
10. Repeat treatment in 7-10 days if lice are still found.

“ *Avoid sexual or intimate contact with infected people. If you are sexually active, use safe sex practices to avoid getting lice. Good personal hygiene is always recommended. If possible, avoid trying on bathing suits while you are shopping. However, if you must try them on, be sure to wear your underwear.* ”



SAGINAW COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SaginawPublicHealth.org

1600 N MICHIGAN AVE.
SAGINAW, MI 48602
(989) 758-3800

PERSONAL AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

UNIT 1 (FAMILY PLANNING)

MAIN CLINIC (989) 758-3670 OR 758-3676
CHESANING CLINIC (989) 845-3911

UNIT 3 (STD)
(989) 758-3880

PUBIC LICE

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Pubic lice (crabs) are very small insects found in the genital (pubic) area of humans. In hairy persons, pubic lice may be present on the hairs of the thighs, trunk, underarms, and occasionally on the eyelashes, eyebrows, beard or mustache.

SYMPTOMS

- Intense itching
- Crawling lice or nits (lice eggs)

TRANSMISSION

Pubic lice are most often spread (transmitted) by direct contact with an infested person through sexual contact. Rarely, they may be spread by contact with an infested person's personal belongings such as clothing and bedding. A common misunderstanding is that infestation can be spread by sitting on a toilet seat. This isn't likely, since lice cannot live long away from a warm human body. Also, lice do not have feet designed to walk or hold onto smooth surfaces such as toilet seats.

DIAGNOSIS

A lice infestation is diagnosed by looking closely through pubic hair for nits and/or live lice. Pubic lice look like small gray or brown dots on the skin. When viewed through a magnifying glass, they look like crabs. The nits, (lice eggs) are oval, usually yellow or white and firmly attached to the base of the hair shaft. Since live crabs move very quickly away from the light, they are hard to find.

If nits are found, they confirm that a person has pubic lice and should be treated. Nits are about the size of the tip of this arrow: →

Live pubic lice are about the size of this circle ○ and resemble a miniature crab when viewed through a strong magnifying glass. To live, adult lice must feed on blood. If the louse falls off a person, it dies within 1-2 days.

TREATMENT

A lice-killing shampoo (also called a pediculicide made of 1% permethrin (brand name NIX) or pyrethrin (brand name RID) is recommended to treat pubic lice. These products are available without a prescription at your local drug store. Medication is generally very effective, apply the medication exactly as direction on the bottle, DO NOT USE THESE MEDICATIONS ON EYELASHES OR EYEBROWS.

General Directions for Treatment

1. Wash the infested area towel dry.
2. Thoroughly saturate hair with lice medication. If using permethrin or pyrethris, leave medication on for 10 minutes. Thoroughly rinse off medication with water. Dry off with a clean towel.