

## Reference Table For Head Lice Treatment

Permethrin and pyrethrin products are commonly used, FDA approved, treatments for head lice. Lindane and malathion are also FDA approved for treatment of head lice. All other products have been reported in the literature to provide possible benefit in the treatment of head lice, but are not FDA approved for such use.

Brand Name	Chemical Name	FDA Approved Use	Dosage	Side Effects	Precautions
Lice Creme Rinse, Nix Creme Rinse	Permethrin 1% (external)	FDA approved for treatment of head lice. Creme rinse for use in children over 2 years of age.	1% creme rinse to cover child's head for no longer than 10 minutes. After treatment, hair should be rinsed and combed thoroughly using a lice comb.	Tingling, itching, numbness, redness or irritation. Notify health care provider of skin rash, burning or swelling of skin.	If pregnant or breast feeding, consult health care provider for instructions if using treatment on self or children. Notify health care provider of pre-existing illness or allergies. Do not use if sensitive to ragweed or chrysanthemums.
Numerous, including: A-200, Blue Gel, Lice Away, Lice Elimination, Lice-Aid, Paratox, Pronto, RID, Tegrin Lt. Lice Treatment, Triple X	Pyrethrin/piperonyl butoxide	FDA approved for treatment of head lice. 0.33% pyrethrin with 4% piperonyl butoxide.	Lotion applied in sufficient quantity to cover DRY hair and scalp to be shampooed out in no longer than 10 minutes.	Skin rash, sneezing/stuffy nose, trouble breathing, skin infection or irritation not present before beginning medication.	If pregnant or breast feeding, consult health care provider for instructions if using treatment on self or children. Notify health care provider of any allergies, especially drug allergies. Do not use if sensitive to ragweed, chrysanthemum plants or kerosene.
No brand name; many generics	Lindane	FDA approved for treatment of head lice. 1% lindane in shampoo form for the treatment of head lice.	1/2 to 2 ounces of shampoo depending upon hair length, rubbed into DRY hair and left on for 4 minutes ONLY.	Scalp itching. Overdose symptoms: rapid heartbeat, dizziness, muscle cramps, vomiting, seizure.	If pregnant or breast feeding, consult health care provider for instructions if using treatment on self or children. Do not use oil-based hair treatments and/or dressings immediately before or after using lindane because they promote absorption of the chemical through the skin.

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<sup>1</sup>Beckwith, C. Head Lice: New and improved? *Pharmacist's Letter*. 1999 Therapeutic Research Center, Inc.

## Reference Table For Head Lice Treatment cont.

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Brand Name	Chemical Name	FDA Approved Use	Dosage	Side Effects	Precautions
Ovide	Malathion	FDA approved for treatment of head lice. 0.5% malathion in lotion form for the treatment of head lice	0.5% lotion applied in sufficient quantity to cover DRY hair and scalp to be shampooed out in 8 to 12 hours from application. Hair should be rinsed and combed thoroughly with a lice comb.	Irritation of skin and scalp - conjunctivitis if lotion gets into eyes. <b>WARNING:</b> Lotion is highly flammable. Hair dryers, cigarettes and other heat sources should be kept well away from hair while it is being treated.	If pregnant or breast feeding, consult health care provider for instructions if using treatment on self or children. Consult physician if breastfeeding planned. Do not use on neonates or infants or if hypersensitive to malathion or other product ingredients.
Elimite, Acticin	Permethrin 5%	FDA approved for treatment of scabies. Not FDA approved for treatment of head lice, however, some preliminary studies have shown this product may have pediculicidal effects <sup>1</sup> .	For scabies: Apply to skin avoiding eyes, nose and mouth. Massage into skin. Wash off creme after 8 to 14 hours.	Itching, tingling, numbness, redness or irritation may occur. Notify health care provider if skin rash, burning or swelling of the skin occurs.	If pregnant or breast feeding, consult health care provider for instructions if using treatment on self or children. Flush eyes with water immediately if contact. Notify health care provider of preexisting illness or allergies.
Eurax	Crotamiton	FDA approved for treatment of scabies. Not FDA approved for treatment of head lice, however, some preliminary studies have shown this product may have pediculicidal effects <sup>1</sup> .	For scabies: 1% to 5% creme to be applied to the hair and scalp at 24 and 48 hours.	Skin itching and irritation, allergic sensitivity.	This drug may be used during pregnancy. Follow the strict dosage guidelines from physician. Breastfeeding should be avoided while on this drug. Consult physician if breastfeeding is planned.

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<sup>1</sup>Beckwith, C. Head Lice: New and improved? *Pharmacist's Letter*. 1999 Therapeutic Research Center, Inc.

## Reference Table For Head Lice Treatment *cont.*

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Brand Name	Chemical Name	FDA Approved Use	Dosage	Side Effects	Precautions
Stromectol	Ivermectin	Not FDA approved for treatment of head lice, however, some preliminary studies have shown this product may have pediculicidal effects <sup>1</sup> .	Dosage: 100-200 mcg/kg single dose, by mouth, in children 5 years of age and up.	Vertigo, nausea or vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, fatigue, rash, headache, fever, joint aches.	If pregnant or breast feeding, consult health care provider for instructions if using treatment on self or children. Do not take if hypersensitive to ivermectin. Do not exceed recommended dose.

<sup>1</sup>Beckwith, C. Head Lice: New and improved? *Pharmacist's Letter*. 1999 Therapeutic Research Center, Inc.