

CRAB LICE

What Are Crab Lice?

Crab lice (pediculosis pubis), or public lice, are small light brown, pinhead-sized insects that attach themselves to human pubic hair and feed on tiny blood vessels. They can also be found in armpit hair, facial hair, or even eyelashes.

Causes

Crab lice are usually transmitted through sexual contact with an infected person, but they also can be contracted by sleeping in a bed or sharing a towel or clothing of an infected person. The lice can remain alive in bedding for 1 to 2 weeks.

Symptoms

You may be infected with crab lice and have no symptoms. More commonly, however, crab lice cause itching, which worsens at night. The lice are very difficult to see, because of their location and appearance.

Treatment

KWELL SHAMPOO

NOTE: This medication is not recommended for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

- Bathe thoroughly in warm water.
- Work 1 oz (2 tablespoons) of Kwell onto the pubic hair and work into a rich lather.
- Rub vigorously, covering all hairy areas.
- Leave on for 10 minutes.
- Rinse thoroughly with water.
- Rub with a dry towel.
- Comb with a fine-tooth comb, or use tweezers to remove nits.

Prevention

- Put on clean clothing after treatment. Wash all towels, bed linen, and any other items that have come into contact with the skin since the onset of symptoms.
- Sanitize the bathroom and shower.
- Avoid sexual contact until the condition is resolved.
- Inform others who have had intimate contact with you, so they can be examined for possible infestation.
- Do not repeat treatment without consulting your health care provider.