

louse populations collected over a 10-year period was 84.4% and approached 100% in some communities in recent years.⁴⁴ This evidence strongly supports the use of alternative therapeutic categories to effectively eradicate head lice infestations.

Conclusion

Head lice infestation is common in children, and although it is not harmful to the host, it can be an irritating and symptomatic problem and can lead to notable distress, missed days of school, and secondary infections. Identifying active adult lice is the gold standard for diagnosis. Current recommended treatments include pyrethroids as the first-line therapy; however, resistance to these neurotoxic agents is becoming increasingly common. Alternative therapies such as newer neurotoxic agents or pediculicides with physical mechanisms of action (eg, dimethicone-based products) should be considered, particularly in regions where resistance is known to be high. Education about head lice, proper use of treatment, and coordinated diagnosis are necessary for effective management of this problem.

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