

If you have been advocating lice treatment with Pediculicides only, this information may change your mind.

| BENEFITS / ADVANTAGES | Treatment with a pediculicide only: | Treatment including nit removal with a comb or fingernails: |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Crawling forms and <i>some</i> nits killed by pediculicide. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2. Parents afforded psychological reassurance that infestation has been "washed away." | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3. Parents afforded psychological reassurance that they have carried out the most thorough treatment possible. | | ✓ |
| 4. Removes still-viable nits not killed by pesticide (there is evidence that <i>no</i> pediculicide kills all nits when used as directed). | | ✓ |
| 5. Prevents self-reinfestation. | | ✓ |
| 6. Prevents transmission to others. | | ✓ |
| 7. May remove need for treatment in 7 to 10 days, thus limiting exposure to pesticides. | | ✓ |
| 8. Prevents children from being ridiculed by peers because of nits present. | | ✓ |
| 9. Removes diagnostic confusion and eliminates need for microscopic determination of live or dead nits. | | ✓ |
| 10. Makes screening easier for non-health professionals. | | ✓ |
| 11. Serves to document treatment. | | ✓ |
| 12. Equalizes efficacy of most pediculicides, enabling parents to choose less toxic products. | | ✓ |
| 13. ENFORCED "No Nit Policies" in schools encourage parents to inspect their children often... the best form of PREVENTION and CONTROL. | | ✓ |

Now there is a more effective way to control pediculosis.

In the past there has been some confusion about the definition of lice infestation. The nationwide policy of sending children home from school for treatment with a pediculicide and then readmitting them with nits has proven to be ineffective. **More effective, easy to use combing tools have now become available.** Health professionals should consider that the child who

returns to school with nits—by definition—*still has lice* and can transmit them to others.

The pediculicide-only treatment has not worked in this country. If we are serious about controlling pediculosis, it's time to advocate conscientious nit removal.



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