

HEAD LICE: TRUE OR FALSE

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HEAD LICE TREATMENTS?

When your child has been diagnosed with head lice, you want to get rid of the head lice quickly—and effectively. But you may not be aware of all available treatments. Find out what's true—and false—about treatment options.



TRUE OR FALSE?

OVER-THE-COUNTER (OTC) HEAD LICE TREATMENTS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE MOST EFFECTIVE.

TRUE.
HERE'S WHY:

Head lice are known to be resistant to the active ingredients in some OTC treatments. These are the ones you can buy in the store without a prescription. If head lice are resistant it means the treatments may not kill them. The likelihood of resistance varies across the country.



TRUE OR FALSE?

PRESCRIPTION TREATMENTS ALWAYS COST MORE THAN OTC TREATMENTS.

FALSE.
HERE'S WHY:

Parents sometimes treat their children with OTC treatments an average of 5 times before seeking help from a health care professional. You should consider the cost of potential multiple treatments, plus the cost of other infestation-related activities when choosing a treatment option.



TRUE OR FALSE?

ALL HEAD LICE TREATMENTS CALL FOR 2 APPLICATIONS.

FALSE.
HERE'S WHY:

Several prescription treatments suggest using only 1 application.



TRUE OR FALSE?

PRESCRIPTION HEAD LICE TREATMENTS INVOLVE BEING LEFT ON THE SCALP AND HAIR FOR 8 TO 12 HOURS.

FALSE.
HERE'S WHY:

Some prescription products have application times as short as 10 minutes followed by a simple rinse with water.



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TRUE OR FALSE?

ALL HEAD LICE TREATMENTS INSTRUCT USERS TO NIT COMB.

FALSE.
HERE'S WHY:

There are some prescription products that don't call for nit combing. Nits are lice eggs. Even when nit combing is not required, you may choose to comb out nits because of school requirements or for cosmetic reasons.



TRUE OR FALSE?

DUE TO STRONGER INGREDIENTS, PRESCRIPTION HEAD LICE TREATMENTS SHOULD ONLY BE USED AS A LAST RESORT.

FALSE.
HERE'S WHY:

Stronger in killing lice doesn't necessarily mean harsher for the patient. Many newer prescription treatments can be used safely when prescribed by a health care professional and carefully applied according to instructions. Several prescription treatments are safe to use on children as young as 6 months of age.



TRUE OR FALSE?

HOME REMEDIES TO TREAT HEAD LICE ARE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE.

FALSE.
HERE'S WHY:

Mayonnaise, olive oil, margarine, butter, and similar substances have not been proven as effective head lice treatments. Substances like gasoline or kerosene have not been clinically proven to be effective and are flammable and carry substantial risk.



TRUE OR FALSE?

WHEN YOUR CHILD HAS HEAD LICE, IT'S BEST TO CALL YOUR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL BEFORE TREATMENT.

TRUE.
HERE'S WHY:

Like any other health concerns you have about your child, consulting your health care professional first can help you decide whether an OTC or prescription treatment is best for your child.

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT PRESCRIPTION TREATMENT OPTIONS TODAY!

