



Phthiriasis capitis ab initio. Use of entodermoscopy for quick differentiation between Phthirus pubis and Pediculus capitis nits

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October 22, 2020 // by NPA

“ Phthiriasis pubis (crab louse infestation) is an ectoparasitosis transmitted mostly by skin to skin contact, primarily located in the genital areas and secondly, if treated late, expanding towards the armpits or other parts of the adult body with thick hair. In children before sexual maturation, the affected sites can include the eyelashes or head hair, usually after contact with an adult who has been sexually infected. Commonly, diagnosis is easy and requires finding eggs (nits) and/or insects, generally firmly hooked to hair shaft base. Because phthiriasis is included in sexually transmitted diseases, it is recommended to expand investigation to other venereal diseases.

Recent reports about Phthirus pubis seem to suggest a change of its usual behavior, favoring a primary scalp location without genital involvement, as already described by some authors and observed in a personal unpublished series.

Although fomites can carry parasites anywhere, cases considered in this letter refer to adults or school age children whose infestation was neither transmitted through objects or sexual intercourse, nor by non-sexual touching (i.e., when children sleep with a parent). A careful anamnestic reconstruction was only suggestive for a head-to-head direct contact modality.

This scenario, not yet fully investigated, could be partially explained with some hypotheses. One of the most probable could be related to the very popular practice of pubis and underarm trichotomy or laser epilation of any part of the body that eliminates the parasite's natural habitat. Another suggestive hypothesis could regard some connection between terrestrial climatic changes and different receptivity of human skin to P. pubis. Anyway, in such unusual conditions, crabs appear to skip genital targets and going directly towards cephalic areas...

Scanni, Gaetano. Anais Brasileiros de Dermatologia. 16 September 2020.

Full article: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0365059620302257?via=ihub>.

Full article as PDF available here:

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The NPA developed the LiceMeister® comb in 1997 to accomplish its mission by providing a higher standard for lice combing tools and a safe, cost-effective treatment alternative to pesticides. All proceeds from sales of the LiceMeister comb allow the

prescription and over-the-counter pesticide treatments for lice and scabies.

Pediculosis (the medical term for an infestation of lice) provides a public health opportunity to teach important lessons about communicable disease preparedness, responsible personal behaviors, environmental health, and the importance of learning about pharmaceutical remedies before using them on our children and ourselves.

NPA is committed to setting the highest possible public health standards for children as they relate to the communicability and treatment of head lice. NPA has been the leader in raising pediculosis as a public health priority and a pioneer in public health education and research on pediculosis.

The National Pediculosis Association,® Inc. (NPA)
1005 Boylston Street / STE 343
Newton, MA 02461
617-905-0176 / npa@headlice.org

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NPA to be self-sustaining and independent from product manufacturers while accomplishing its mission of protecting children from the misuse and abuse of pesticide treatments for lice.

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