

Crab Lice Infestation (Treatment)

See Infection Control Manual, Ectoparasites section for practical details.

CRAB LICE (PUBIC LICE): *Phthirus pubis*

Found on coarse widely spaced hair, e.g. pubic hair, hair on chest, under arms, and eyelashes. They have a flatter body than head lice, and are slower moving. Crab lice are transferred by direct skin to skin contact.

1st choice

Malathion 0.5% aqueous solution (Derbac-M[®] liquid)

Alternative

Phenothrin 0.2% alcoholic lotion (Full Marks[®])

For use in patients intolerant of malathion. The alcoholic base will cause irritation to excoriated skin and can cause itching.

Directions

- Apply to all parts of the body, paying particular attention to all hairy areas, including beards and moustaches. Avoid any other areas above the neck.
- Leave overnight. If using Phenothrin (Full Marks[®]) leave on skin for 12 hours.
- Wash off in bath or shower.
- Repeat application may be required after seven days. Check for lice emerging from surviving eggs.
- Treat children under six months under medical supervision. Check close contacts and treat if infection is found.