

Nursing Care Management

Nurses instructing families in the use of the scabicide should emphasize the importance of following the directions carefully. When permethrin 5% is used, the cream should be thoroughly and gently massaged into all skin surfaces (not just the areas that have a rash) from the head to the soles of the feet. Skin surfaces between the fingers and toes, the folds of the wrist and waist, the umbilicus, and the cleft of the buttocks should not be missed. A toothpick can be used to apply permethrin cream beneath the fingernails and toenails. Take care to avoid contact with the eyes. If permethrin cream accidentally gets into the eyes, they should be flushed immediately with water. Permethrin cream should remain on the skin for 8 to 14 hours, after which time it can be removed by bathing and shampooing.

Touching and holding the child should be minimized until treatment is completed, and the hands should be washed carefully after contact is made. Nurses should wear gloves when caring for the child. Following treatment, freshly laundered bed linen and clothing should be used, and bedclothes and previously worn clothing should be washed in very hot water and dried at the highest setting in the dryer. Aggressive housecleaning is not necessary, but surface vacuuming of heavily used rooms by a person with crusted scabies is recommended ([American Academy of Pediatrics, 2015](#)). Families need to know that although the mite will be killed, the rash and the itch will not be eliminated until the stratum corneum is replaced, which takes approximately 2 to 3 weeks. Soothing ointments or lotions, mild antihistamines, and topical corticosteroids can be used for itching. Systemic antibiotics may be given for secondary infection.

Pediculosis Capitis

Pediculosis capitis (head lice) is an infestation of the scalp by *Pediculus humanus capitis*, a common parasite in school-age children. These lice infestations create embarrassment and concern in the family and community. They can also cause a child to be ridiculed by other children.

The louse is a blood-sucking organism that requires approximately five meals a day. The adult louse lives only about 48