



**FIG 6-15 A, Empty nit case. B, Viable nits.** (From Stefani AD, Hofmann-Wellenhof R, Zalaudek I: Dermoscopy for diagnosis and treatment monitoring of pediculosis capitis, *J Am Acad Dermatol* 54(5): 909–911, 2006.)

If evidence of infestation is found, it is important to treat the child according to the directions on the label of the pediculicide. Parents are advised to read the directions carefully before beginning treatment. The child is made as comfortable as possible during the application process because the pediculicide must remain on the scalp and hair for several minutes. Playing “beauty parlor” while shampooing is a useful strategy. The child lies supine with the head over a sink or basin and covers the eyes with a dry towel or washcloth. This prevents medication, which can cause chemical conjunctivitis, from splashing into the eyes. If eye irritation occurs, the eyes must be flushed well with tepid water. It is not necessary to remove the nits after treatment because only live lice cause infestation. However, because none of the pediculicides is 100% effective in killing all the eggs, the makers of some pediculicides recommend manual removal of the nits after treatment. An extra-fine-tooth comb that is included in many commercial pediculicides