Managing presumed head louse infestations at home

'Nits' discovered on hair?

No → Relax! Do NOT treat for lice.

Yes ↓

- Inspect hair for live (crawling) lice.
- Compare samples to images on our web site or submit a sample for evaluation.
- Inspect all other people in the home for live lice.

Live (crawling) lice on hair?

No → Periodically reinspect hair for live lice. Do NOT treat.

Yes ↓

Is the hair readily combed with a louse comb?

No → **Treat** →

- Apply an FDA-registered over-the-counter pediculicide according to label directions.
- Change or launder pillow cases, pajamas and towels that were in direct contact with the infested person within the past day.
- If live (crawling) lice persist, a second application may be needed about 10 days after the first treatment.
- Consult your physician or pharmacist for advice.

Do live (crawling) lice persist after the second treatment?

Yes ↓

- Consult with your physician.
- Consider prescription *pediculicides* that contain an active ingredient different than that of your over-the-counter product.

Yes ↓

- Comb hair thoroughly with a louse comb.
- Use hair conditioner to lubricate hair and comb. Many lice and eggs should be removed during the first combing session.
- Repeat every few days. Subsequent combing will remove another portion of the remaining, as well as any new, lice and eggs.
- Continue periodic combing until no live lice are discovered for an interval of about two weeks.
- Treatment with pediculicides may supplement or replace combing.

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- Removal of remaining nits should be a personal choice, as these are likely to be all dead or hatched.
- Change or launder pillow cases, pajamas and towels exposed to lice within the past day.

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