



Stephanie A. Phelps, M.D.



YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

Presented by the medical professionals at Midcoast Pediatrics

IS PEDICULOSIS BUGGING YOUR KIDS?

Pediculosis is a fancy word for an infection caused by a common childhood pest – head lice. Head lice are parasites that survive on human blood. They cannot jump or fly, but they are transmitted by the sharing of hats, combs, hair ties, headrests, and pillows. Head lice are six-legged tan creatures about the size of a sesame seeds. Their eggs, called nits, are smaller and are often mistaken for dandruff. Infected children will feel tingling and itching sensations on their scalps and should be treated with an over-the-counter lice removal shampoo, following the directions carefully. Wash (in hot water) all combs, brushes, and anything that the infected child's scalp could have come into contact with in order to eradicate these pests.

Head lice are most frequently located on the scalp behind the ears and near the neckline at the back of the neck. If you are unsure whether or not a person has head lice, the diagnosis should be made by a doctor. For additional information about anything discussed in today's column, call MIDCOAST PEDIATRICS at 207-721-8333. We are located at 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite 2600, Brunswick. New patients are welcome.

PS: Head lice are often found on the scalp behind the ears and just above the neckline.

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