

Sexually Transmitted Diseases/Infections

Pediculosis Pubis

Pediculosis pubis is an infestation with the crab louse, *Phthirus pubis*. Lice infestation is found mostly in adolescents and transmission generally occurs during sexual activity. However, it also can occur through physical contact with contaminated objects such as toilet seats, sheets and blankets.

Individuals usually seek medical attention because of pruritus or because they notice lice or nits on their pubic hair. It is recommended that those with pediculosis pubis also be evaluated for other sexually transmitted diseases.

Sexual contacts during the previous 30 days should be treated. Patients should be evaluated after one week if symptoms persist. Re-treatment might be necessary if lice are found or if eggs are observed at the hair-skin junction. Patients who do not respond to one of the recommended regimens should be retreated with an alternative regimen.

Pediculosis pubis is not a reportable condition in North Carolina.

For more information:

- CDC STD Treatment Manual 2010 – Ectoparasitic infections, www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/ectoparasitic.htm#a1
- Medline Plus: Pubic lice, www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000841.htm