

Pediculicides

Product	Age	Retail cost	Over-the-counter (OTC) or prescription (Rx)	Ovicidal activity	Instructions
Pyrethrum extract (equivalent to 0.33% pyrethrins) and piperonyl butoxide 4%	≥2 years	\$13 Goodrx.com	OTC Generic	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply to dry hair • Let sit for 10 minutes • Rinse • Use wet combing to remove nits
Permethrin 1% (Nix) ⁷	≥2 months	\$9 Goodrx.com	OTC Generic	No, but kills nymphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash and towel dry hair (use nonconditioning shampoo) • Let sit for 10 minutes • Rinse
Dimethicone ¹⁰⁻¹²	≥2 years	\$9 Amazon.com Walmart.com	OTC Generic	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply to dry hair • Let sit for 10 minutes • Use a nit fine-tooth comb to remove lice and nits • Rinse and shampoo hair as usual
Malathion 0.5% (Ovide) ⁷	≥6 years	\$91 Goodrx.com	Rx Generic	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply to dry hair • Allow to air dry • Wash off 8 to 12 hours later <p>Keep away from heat or flames: product is flammable!</p>
Benzyl alcohol 5% (Ulesfia) ^{7,15}	6 months-60 years	\$242 Goodrx.com	Rx Brand	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply to dry hair • Let sit for 10 minutes • Rinse • Use wet combing to remove nits
Spinosad 0.9% (Natroba) ^{7,16}	≥6 months	\$214 Goodrx.com	Rx Brand	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply to dry hair • Let sit for 10 minutes • Rinse
Ivermectin 0.5% (Sklice) ^{7,14,17}	≥6 months	\$348 Goodrx.com	Rx Brand	No, but kills nymphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply to dry hair • Let sit for 10 minutes • Rinse

- When using products without ovicidal or residual action on nymphs, perform nit removal. Retreatment should be done 7 to 10 days after initial treatment, depending on the product. Treatment may be repeated in 7 to 10 days if signs of infestation are seen. Do not treat with the same medication more than two to three times.⁷ Consult the manufacturers' product information for complete prescribing information.
- Removal of empty egg casings or inactivated nits is not necessary.
- Irritation, mild burning, or continued itching of the scalp after treatment may occur as an adverse reaction of the medication.²
- Retail costs listed are without insurance or coupons applied.