

THE FACTS ON THREADWORMS

Question & Answer Sheet

Q How do I now if my children have threadworms?

A Often there are no symptoms but indication of infestation may include:

- Persistent scratching of the bottom/ itchy bottom
- Restless sleep
- Loss of appetite & irritability.

If you suspect threadworms:

- Using a torch, look for moving worms around the anus, either an hour after the child has gone to bed or if they wake during the night. Press a piece of sticky tape over the anus. Any eggs/worms will adhere to the tape
- Look for worms on the outside surface of bowel motions.

Q If my child has worms, is poor personal hygiene the cause?

A No, it doesn't matter how young or old, how clean or how careful, you are.

Q Are threadworms contagious?

A Yes, threadworms are easily spread by swallowing their tiny eggs and they often lodge under fingernails. Eggs are infective within a few hours of being deposited and may remain viable for up to 3 weeks.*

Q Is the person with threadworms the only one who needs treatment?

A No, the whole family should be treated at the same time to reduce the risk of re-infestation from one member of your family to another. Remember, not everyone with threadworms show symptoms.

Q Is there anything else I should do?

A Yes, after treatment, give your home an intensive clean and vacuum. Wash clothes and bedding in hot water to kill any remaining eggs.

Q Can I prevent threadworm re-infestation?

A Yes.

- Shower rather than have a bath for 2 days after treatment to ensure any remaining eggs around the anus are washed down the drain
- Until children are toilet trained, take special care when handling their excreta
- Hands should be washed thoroughly, especially after going to the toilet
- Finger nails should be short and kept scrubbed clean
- Discourage children from sharing food and from placing objects into their mouths.

THE SIMPLE SOLUTION - COMBANTRIN® OR COMBANTRIN® - 1

Regular COMBANTRIN® is a single dose treatment for threadworm and two of the rare worms: roundworm and hookworm. It is available in tablets, suspension and chocolate squares. Or there's COMBANTRIN® - 1, which treats threadworm in adults and children from 2 years of age with one tablet or chocolate square, once only.

For further information, visit www.combantrin.co.nz or call us toll-free on 0800 44 6147.

COMBANTRIN® is a Pharmacy medicine. Each COMBANTRIN® Chocolate Square contains 100mg Pyrantel Embonate; For the treatment of threadworm, roundworm and hookworm. Each COMBANTRIN 1® Chocolate Square contains 100mg Mebendazole. For the treatment of threadworm. Medicines have benefits and some may have risks. Always read the label and use as directed. If symptoms persist or you have side effects see your healthcare professional.

*Prociv P., Gastrointestinal Worm Infections, Australian Family Physician, 2001; 30(8): 755-761

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