

THE IN VIVO PEDICULICIDAL EFFICACY OF A NATURAL REMEDY

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The pediculicidal efficacy and safety of a natural remedy, Chick Chuck was compared in an open clinical study with a known pesticide spray. The natural remedy, which contains coconut oil, anise oil and Ylang ylang oil was applied to the hair of infested children three times at intervals of 5 days. Each treatment lasted for 15 min. The control pediculicide was a spray formulation containing permethrin, malathion, piperonyl butoxide, isododecane and propellant gas, which was applied twice for 10 min with a 10-day interval between applications. A total of 940 children, 6-14 years old, from 6 schools in Jerusalem were examined for head louse infestation. 199 (21.2%) children were infested with lice and eggs, while 164 (17.4%) were infested only with nits. 143 children were included in the study, of whom 129 complied with the instructions for use and were randomly treated either with the natural remedy or the control product. Treatment was successful in 119 children, the success rate varying between 91.3% and 95.2% in the five schools. Neither the formulation used, the school or the grade had a significant effect on the success of the treatment. There were no significant differences in efficacy between the two pediculicides. Sixty children (92.3%) were successfully treated with the natural remedy and 59 children (92.2%) with the control product. No clinically detectable side-effects were seen in any of the children. Five children treated with the natural remedy and four children treated with the control formulation complained about the unpleasant odor of the formulations at the beginning of the treatment. One child treated with the natural remedy and another treated with the control formulation complained of pruritus in the neck area immediately after the treatment.