



14 April 2009

PINWORMS (ENTEROBIASIS) - FACT SHEET

Persons suspected of having Pinworms should be seen by a physician so that appropriate diagnosis, treatment and follow-up can be obtained.

Definition:

Pinworms are white, threadlike parasites found in and about the rectal area.

Cause:

The cause is parasitic (*Enterobius Vermicularis*). Eggs develop into adult worms in the intestines, and new eggs are laid around the anus.

Transmission:

Pinworms are transmitted either directly by the transfer of infective eggs by hand from anus to mouth, or indirectly through articles contaminated with eggs.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Anal itching and scratching (especially at night)
- Vaginal irritation
- Restlessness
- Irritability
- Urinary frequency in females

Prevention:

- Hand washing after defecation and before eating or preparing food
- Discourage habits of nail biting and scratching bare anal area
- Providing adequate toilet and hand washing facilities
- Removing sources of infection by treating case

Initial Management:

- Refer student to physician for treatment
- Good hand washing technique
- Parent should launder sheets, towels, underclothes and sleeping garments

Medical Treatment:

Commonly used medications are Vermox and Provan. Provan turns stool bright red; Vermox may cause abdominal pain and diarrhea. In some cases entire family may require treatment.

Exclusion/Readmission:

Exclusion is not necessary, however, treatment by a physician is. Treatment should be verified.

Yours in health,

The AAS Medical Staff