



fred's

Threadworm Factfile

Statistics

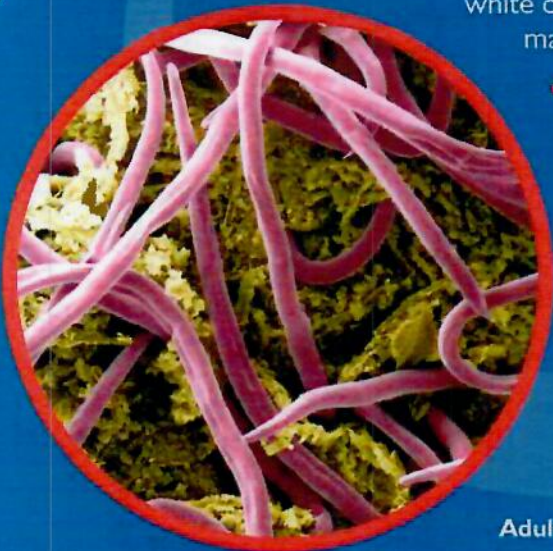
- Around 40% of children under the age of 10 are likely to have threadworms at some stage¹
- In adults, the highest rate of infection occurs in parents aged 30-39 years, typically because of transmission from their children aged 5-10 years²
- 75% of Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) encounter threadworm infestation in any given year (8% see cases every week)³
- 91% of HCPs say threadworm is an embarrassing subject for parents³
- Re-infection with threadworm occurs within 12 months in 50% of those infected⁴
- Two out of three parents are more embarrassed discussing threadworms than head lice³

Fact

Nearly 90%
of parents
are unlikely
to recognize
threadworms³

Worms

- Threadworms are usually passed between children in schools and nurseries where they are in close contact with each other. They then pass them on to other members of the family at home
- Threadworms cannot be picked up from animals
 - Threadworms, or pinworms, (*Enterobius vermicularis*) look like white cotton threads. The female is about 10mm long, and the male is about 3mm long
 - They are caught by swallowing the eggs, which then hatch in the intestine and quickly develop into adult worms
 - Adult threadworms have a short, stout body with a pointed tail and three lips!
 - Male threadworms die soon after copulation
 - The incidence of threadworm begins to increase in October and peaks in mid-winter²



Adult threadworms in the intestine

Pripsen
Mebendazole Tablets

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Eggs

- Female threadworms can lay up to 16,000 eggs before they die
- Strict hygiene measures and a second course of treatment are necessary to reduce the risk of re-infection, as drug treatment has no effect on threadworm eggs⁵
- Threadworm eggs are so small they cannot be seen by the naked eye
- The eggs stick under fingernails and can be swallowed
- Eggs can survive for up to 2 weeks on clothing, bedding and carpets
- Up to 90% of those with threadworm might not experience intense itching⁵

... the eggs are transferred to the fingers, and the cycle continues.



Once the eggs are swallowed, they hatch out into the gut, and the adult worms cling to the gut wall.



When the female worm comes out of the bottom at night, the sticky eggs cause itching. When the bottom is scratched ...

Treatment

- The main symptom of threadworm infestation is intense itching around the anal area, although some children have no symptoms at all
- Threadworms do not indicate dirtiness or bad diet
- Mebendazole is the most common drug treatment in the UK and is suitable for adults and children over two years old
- Piperazine is an alternative treatment which is available as a powder to mix with water or milk, suitable for children over three months old
- Treatment should be repeated two weeks later to get rid of any newly hatched worms, as there is a period of about 14 days between the worm hatching and being able to lay eggs of its own
- Over-the-counter treatments (containing mebendazole or piperazine) have cure rates of around 90%⁵
- It is important to treat all family members at the same time, whether symptomatic or not⁵



Threadworms are harmless but can be very irritating and cause disturbed sleep. Some children develop sore bottoms because of the itching.



References

1. Royal College of General Practitioners, fact sheet 32, 1996
2. Huh S. and Lee S. 2006. Pinworm, www.emedicine.com
3. Data on file, Thornton and Ross, 2003
4. Ibarra J. Towards a viable approach to the threadworm problem, Health at School, 1989;5:54-7
5. Prescribing Nurse Bulletin, Volume 1, Number 3, 1999

Pripsen Piperazine Phosphate Powder

Presentation: Powder for oral suspension. **Indications:** Eradication of Threadworms, Pinworms and Roundworms. **Dosage and Administration:** Stir into a small glass of milk or water and drink immediately. Adults: take at bedtime. Children: take in the morning. Adults and children over 6 years: one sachet. Children aged 1-6 years: two-thirds sachet (one level 5 ml spoonful). Infants 3 months to 1 year: one-third sachet (one level 2.5 ml spoonful). The dose should be repeated after 14 days. Additional single prophylactic doses at regular monthly intervals up to three months may be necessary to eliminate the risk of re-infection. **Contraindications:** Epilepsy, severe bilateral renal dysfunction, hepatic dysfunction, sensitivity to Piperazine, undiagnosed painful abdominal symptoms which may be due to acute appendicitis, and/or other acute surgical conditions, such as intestinal obstruction or acute inflammatory bowel disease, ileus, and in severe dehydration starts with water and electrolyte depletion. **Warnings:** If you believe you may be pregnant or are taking a prescribed medicine, consult your doctor before using this product. Do not take Pripsen if you have kidney disease or have ever suffered from Epilepsy. Prolonged use of this product should be avoided. **Precautions:** Do not take Pripsen if taking Pyrimethamine. Caution needed when taken with Phenytoin or Tricyclic antidepressants due to a possible interaction. Concurrent use of Pripsen Powder with Diuretics, Cardiac Glycosides or Adrenocorticosteroids may enhance electrolyte imbalance. **Pregnancy and Lactation:** Use in the first trimester not advised. To minimize the amount of Piperazine ingested by the baby, it is recommended that the infant be fed immediately before taking Pripsen, then allow eight hours before breast feeding is resumed. During this 8 hour period, milk should be expressed and discarded at the usual feeding interval. **Side Effects:** Rare: Rash, urticaria, itching or rarely bronchospasm, nausea, vomiting,

stool or diarrhoea, drowsiness, confusion or clonic contraction if administered in presence of neurological or renal abnormalities. Dizziness, stasis, tremors, choreiform movements, hyporeflexia, nystagmus, vertigo and blurred vision. Isolated cases of Stevens Johnson Syndrome and agranulocytosis, including arthritis and fever. **Legal Category:** P. **Licence number:** PL00240/0049 **Pack size:** 4g. **Price:** £2.79 (RSP, excl VAT). **Licence holder:** Thornton & Ross Ltd, Huddersfield, HD7 5QH, England. **Date of preparation:** July 2008

Pripsen Mebendazole Tablets

Presentation: Tablets. **Indications:** Treatment of threadworm infestation. **Dosage and Administration:** Adults and children over two years old: one tablet to be chewed or swallowed whole. It is strongly recommended that all members of the family are treated at the same time. Not recommended for children under two years old. **Contraindications:** Pregnancy, children under two years old. **Warnings:** Do not take if pregnant or breast feeding. Keep out of the reach of children. If, after two weeks you take the second tablet, following which your symptoms persist, consult your doctor. **Pregnancy and Lactation:** Do not take during pregnancy or if breast feeding. **Side Effects:** Hypersensitivity reactions including exanthema, rash, urticaria, and angioedema. Transient abdominal pain and diarrhoea, slight headache and dizziness. **Legal category:** P. **Licence Number:** PL00240/0049 **Pack size:** 100mg. **Price:** £1.83 (RSP, excl VAT), £1.65 (RSP, excl VAT). **Licence Holder:** Thornton & Ross Ltd, Huddersfield, HD7 5QH, England. **Date of preparation:** July 2008

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Mebendazole Tablets

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