

THREADWORM

FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS

School Terms are Breeding Season for Worms:

Threadworm is highly contagious and easily spread by hand to mouth contact and surface contact. This means that kids stand a good chance of passing worms onto one another at school and bringing them home to infect the whole family.

Signs and Symptoms:

Often there are no symptoms but the tell-tale signs all parents should look out for include:

- Itchy bottom (especially at night)
- Restless sleep
- Irritability
- Loss of appetite

To confirm suspicions of worms you can look for the following:

- Worms on the outside surface of bowel motions (resembling fine pieces of cotton thread).
- Moving worms around the anal region about an hour after the child has gone to bed. Using a torch, worms should be visible or alternatively press a piece of double sided tape around the anus and remove – threadworm eggs will appear as tiny white specks on the tape.

Treating Threadworm:

If you notice any of the above signs, please contact your local pharmacy, as treatment is readily available and easy to take.

One simple solution for threadworm is COMBANTRIN®-1.*

COMBANTRIN®-1 is made from 'real chocolate' so it is an easy treatment to give to kids to help ensure they are worm free.

Just one chocolate square, once only, will treat all members of your family aged two years and older.



Preventing Reinfestation:

- As threadworms are highly contagious, ensure the WHOLE FAMILY has been treated - including Mum and Dad.
- Threadworm eggs may be left on common household surfaces, so give your home a thorough clean. Vacuum carpets and wash floors, clothes, and bedding with hot water to kill any remaining eggs. Don't forget the favourite teddy or security blanket, and take care not to shake linen when removing bedclothes - you could be spreading infectious eggs into the air.
- Shower rather than bathe for two days after treatment to dislodge any remaining eggs from the anal region and ensure they are washed down the drain.
- Wash hands thoroughly and encourage children to do the same, especially after going to the toilet.
- Ensure fingernails are kept short and scrubbed clean.
- Discourage children from sharing food and placing objects in their mouths.

*Combantrin-1 is made from chocolate and may therefore contain traces of nuts.

Pharmacy Medicine. Medicines have benefits and some may have risks. Always read the label and use only as directed. If symptoms persist or you have side effects see your healthcare professional. Each COMBANTRIN®-1 Chocolate Square contains 100mg Mebendazole. Johnson & Johnson (New Zealand) Ltd, Auckland. 1479/08. TAPS NA3171. ® Trade mark.