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Review on Drug Abametapir for the Treatment of Head Lice

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Abstract: *Pediculushumanuscapitis or head louse, a blood-sucking, wingless arthropod, has been a source of repulsion and embarrassment causing social distress, parental anxiety, and absenteeism. The battle to eradicate this infestation has not been rewarding as the obligate parasite continues to produce resistance to effective first-line pediculicides such as permethrin. Abametapir is a new pediculicide that inhibits the metalloproteinases critical to the hatching process of the eggs. Being ovicidaldrug,it needs a single application. In two large phase 3 studies with 704 subjects aged 26 months, abametapir lotion eliminated lice in 280% of subjects after a single 10-minskin burning. The Food and Drug Administration approved abametapir lotion, 0.74%, for a one-time topical treatment of head louse infestation for patients aged 6 months and older in July 2020. Good efficacy, safety, and a novel mechanism of action make it a welcome addition to the list of effective lousicidal drugs.*

Keywords: pediculicide; Pediculushumanuscapilice Xeglyze; head lice infestation

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