



Kapa'a Pediatrics LLC

Pinworms

Definition: A tiny, almost harmless worm that sometimes lives in the colon and rectum of humans and causes itching of the anus or sometimes vagina. Pinworms look like a 1cm piece of white dental floss.

Diagnosis:

- Itchy anus, mainly at night right before bedtime and during the sleep.
- After your child goes to bed, check anus for worms a few times per night for 3 consecutive nights.
- Check stools for worms, which is not as accurate as checking them at night.
- Girls often will awake with pain and itching in their vagina, which occurs from the worm crawling into the vagina area.
- Although you can use scotch tape against the anus to try and catch a worm, or get a worm egg, this is usually not necessary.

HOME CARE:

- **Pin-x (Pyrantel Pamoate)** is a liquid and does not need a prescription, but you may have to ask the pharmacist for this medication. Dosing is weight based. Use as directed.
- Mebendazole is a prescription medication that is just as effective as Pin-x.
- Who to treat? All kids should be treated. Adults may not need to be treated, although they can be asymptomatic with infection. For recurrent infections we recommend the entire family getting treated.
- **Treatment needs to be repeated 14 days apart**, this is because eggs can live on surfaces for up to 2 weeks. Ingested eggs hatch in about 6 hours, but they do not lay new eggs for about 1 month.
- Do a thorough cleaning the day after taking the medication to clear eggs off of all clothes, bedding and surfaces.
- Child should shower in the morning to rinse off eggs for 2 days after each treatment.
- Do a second thorough cleaning the day before the second treatment.
- Children don't need to miss school/daycare.

*** Patient handouts created by Kapa'a Pediatrics are intended to give parents the most common and pertinent facts about a certain issue. If there is ever any concern that your child was given an incorrect diagnosis or is not following the usual expected course for an illness please call us to speak with a physician.
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