

Aspectos epidemiológicos da pediculose da cabeça em crianças e jovens atendidos em hospital de Uberlândia, MG, Brasil.

Epidemiological aspects of head lice in children and young people attended in hospital in Uberlândia, Brazil.

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Abstract: Pediculosis capitis is a public health problem not only in Brazil but in many countries worldwide. School children have been shown to be the most likely group to be infested due to their habits and behaviors. The study objectives were to verify the occurrence of pediculosis on children and young people assisted in public hospital in the city of Uberlândia, as well as to analyze possible associations with age, sex, ethnicity, hair characteristics, socioeconomic conditions and obtain information from those responsible regarding epidemiology, transmission, prevention and control. Direct inspection of the hair was done in children from 2 to 12 years old, and the infested were those with viable nits, nymphs and / or adults. After the exams, a characterization form was filled out and applied a questionnaire. For the statistical analysis, the following tests were used: X^2 and Tukey with level of significance 5%. The project was approved by ethical committee CEP/UFU (776.297). The overall occurrence was 2.8% of the 606 children examined. There was a greater occurrence in female children (4.7%), non-blacks (3.3%) and whose parents received between 1 and 2 minimum salary (48.7%). The age group with the highest prevalence was 4 to 8 years (5.8%). Regarding the hair characteristics it was observed a higher occurrence in dark hair (3%), high density (3%) and fine thickness (3.5%). Based on the 236 responses obtained through the questionnaires regarding prevention, symptomatology and pediculosis control, (78%) washed the hair every day, (18.2%) were already infested and such infestation occurred only once (13.5%). Regarding the control methods, manual harvesting was the most used (8.5%). The main symptom related to infestation was intense pruritus on the scalp (12.7%). The results presented in this work show the need to investigate this parasitic skin disease in groups that have the characteristics/epidemiological factors studied here and others that may predispose them to this and other ectoparasites, even in areas/cities where this parasitic dermatitis has shown low occurrence rates in the population.

Keywords: Pediculosis, Children, Hospital, Uberlândia, Minas Gerais.