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Smoking or Health

"Thirty years have passed since publication of the first firm evidence that smoking is the main cause of the epidemic of lung cancer in the industrialized world. In that time the epidemic has reached its height in those countries where smoking has been widespread longest, and we now know that lung cancer accounts for only some 40% of the lethal consequences of smoking. Early coronary thrombosis, chronic obstructive respiratory disease, and various less common complaints account for the remaining 60% of deaths, and cause even more cases of disability."

"Governments have a duty to restrict the promotion of tobacco products, to limit smoking in public, to protect the non-smoker from nuisance and harmful exposure, to educate the public - especially children - about the risks of smoking, and to see that exported national tobacco products are no more dangerous than those sold at home and are accompanied by equivalent warnings."

Source: Sir George Godber, Former Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Social Security, London, in Legislative Action to Combat the World Smoking Epidemic by Ruth Roemer, World Health Organization, Geneva, 1982. Reported in *Chronic Diseases in Canada*, Volume 3 No. 4, March, 1983.

HEAD LICE INFESTATION - NEW PRODUCTS

A new pediculicide preparation containing 0.5% malathion is now available from pharmacies as a prescription item. The product, Prioderm Lotion, is distributed by the Purdue-Frederick Company. It has proved very effective against lindane (Kwell) resistant head lice in England and the Netherlands. After application, the lotion is allowed to dry naturally in the hair and is left on for 8-12 hours before washing.

A new plastic disposable comb with beveled tooth spacing is being distributed by Innomed, Inc., Greenwich, Ct. A special kit is available at a discount to schools and institutions. Another new comb with replaceable metal teeth bars which fit into a plastic holder equipped with a magnifying lens is also becoming available. Advances in nit comb design and more general availability of such combs will make complete nit removal after treatment a more feasible recommendation.

Head lice infestations in schools cause much consternation among parents and considerable disruption in school activities. Diagnosis, treatment, exclusion, and re-admittance procedures vary considerably and result in varying degrees of success in suppression or elimination of infestations. A single treatment followed by complete nit removal before re-admittance seems to promise greatest success. While complete nit removal may be a difficult task for many parents, verification of two treatments at the proper time interval and determination of the viability of nits still in children's hair is equally difficult for school personnel. Many school districts are reporting success in implementing policies which require complete nit removal from excluded school children before re-admittance.

Prioderm lotion, left in place for 8-12 hours before washing, appears to be ovicidal and may offer advantages over other treatments. We welcome these new products to help control head lice infections.

(Reported from the California Morbidity Weekly Report from the Infectious Disease Section, State Dept. of Health Services, Volume No. 3, January 28, 1983.)