

A threadworm or pinworm is a small, white, 'thread-like' worm between 8 and 13mm long living in the upper part of the colon. Infection is limited to humans (animals are not affected). It is common in young children.

Although often asymptomatic, common symptoms include:

- Intense itching and scratching in the perianal region especially at night which may lead to loss of sleep and irritability.
- Severe cases of infection can cause loss of appetite, diarrhoea, weight loss, insomnia, enuresis and irritability

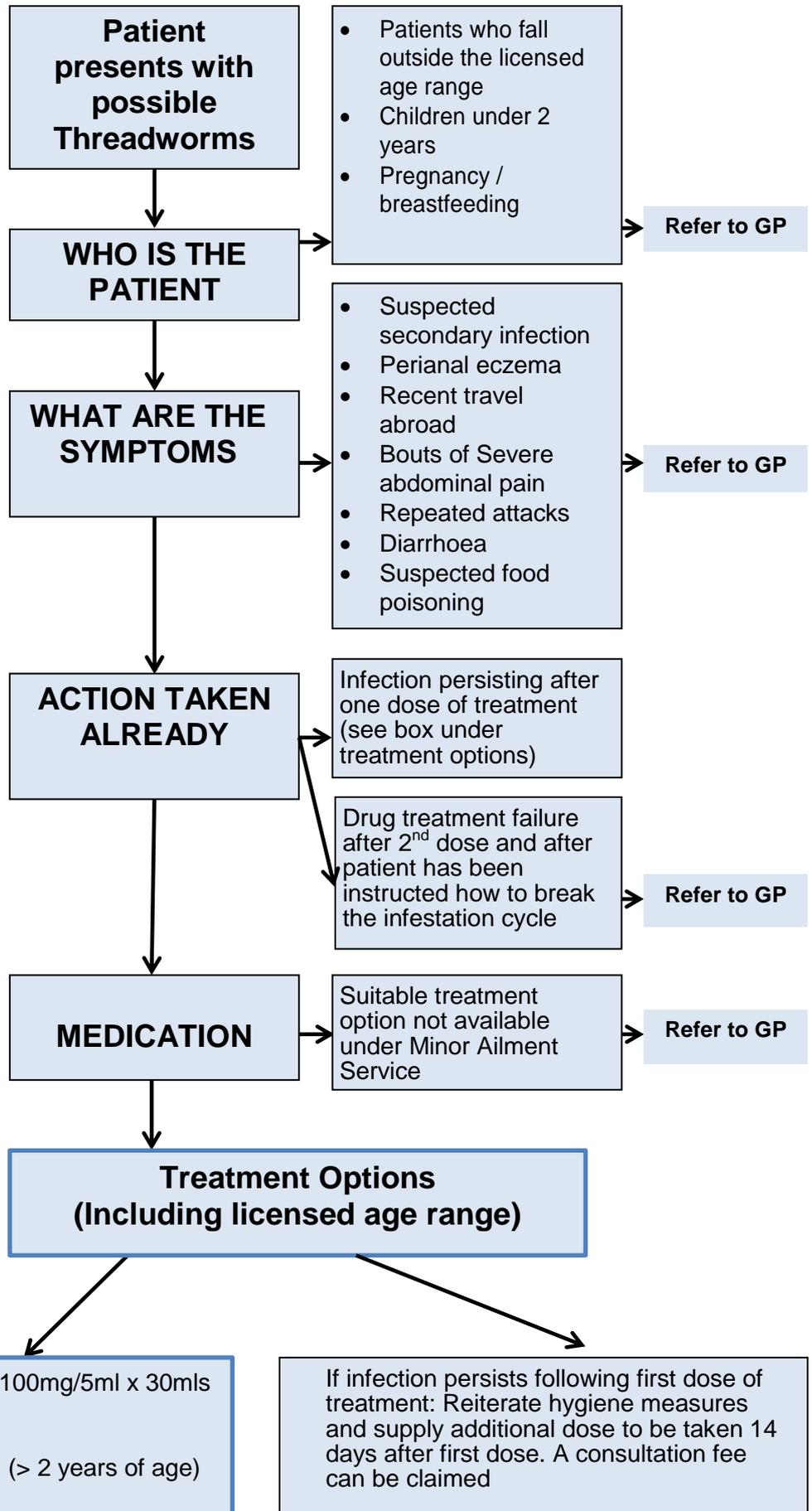
Prior to diagnosing the presence of threadworms: Ensure itching of the perianal region in adults is not due to irritation of deodorants, tight nylon underclothes, haemorrhoids or perianal eczema.

Advice on the Service:

The risk of transmission in families is as high as 75%, and asymptomatic infestation is common therefore all members of the household should be treated unless contra-indicated.

Individual pharmacy vouchers should be produced for all patients and a multiple consultation form completed.

Only ONE consultation fee should be claimed.



Advice for Self-Care / Non Pharmaceutical Treatment	Treatment Options Formulary Items		
	Drug	Dose and Duration	Advice
<p>Using non-drug treatments and meticulous attention to hygiene as set out below will cure threadworm in 6 weeks. Worms in the intestine die within this time, and if there is no re-infection by eggs being swallowed, no further worms will be produced.</p> <p>Drug treatment has no effect on threadworm eggs, which may remain viable for up to 2 weeks. To avoid reinfection it is essential to clear the living environment of viable worm eggs on the day that drug treatment is started. An initial cleaning blitz in bedrooms and bathrooms followed by continued routine good hygiene would seem a sensible approach.</p> <p>Ask the patient to ensure all members of the household follow the hygiene measures below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear close-fitting underpants at night. • Bath or shower washing around the anus first thing each morning and if possible, once more during the day. • Wash clothes in hot water regularly. Wash underwear, nightwear and all bed linen daily where possible. DO NOT shake the unwashed laundry as this will spread the eggs. • Keep fingernails short and clean and discourage finger sucking. • Always wash hands and scrub nails thoroughly first thing in the morning, after using the toilet, changing nappies, before eating or preparing food. • Keep separate towels • Clean the house especially the bedrooms and bathrooms of the house daily by vacuuming the carpets and damp-dusting the surfaces to remove eggs. • Disinfect toilet seat and handle regularly. • Place toothbrushes in cupboard. Rinse them before use. <p>It is not necessary to exclude children with threadworms from school.</p>	<p>Mebendazole oral suspension 100mg/5ml</p> <p>Mebendazole 100mg tablet</p>	<p>1 x 5ml (one dosing cup)</p> <p>Take one tablet</p>	<p>Oxev oral suspension must be dispensed in its original container of 30mls.</p> <p>It is highly recommended that a second dose is taken after two weeks, if re-infection is suspected. Care should be taken to avoid re-infection and it is strongly recommended that all members of the family are treated at the same time.</p>

References: Clinical Knowledge Summaries: Threadworms <https://cks.nice.org.uk/threadworm#>

See individual SPC for further information/advice

Reviewed January 2018 - HSCB