

Sklice Goes Over the Counter

On October 27, 2020, the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Sklice (ivermectin) 0.5% lotion for non-prescription/over the counter (OTC) use. Sklice is indicated for the treatment of head lice in patients six months or older. The medication was originally approved in February 2012 as a prescription only option for the treatment of lice.^{1,2} Sklice should applied to the scalp and dry hair which will kill headlice using its active ingredient ivermectin. Headlice should be gone after a single use of Sklice.²

According to Dr. Theresa Michele, acting director of the Office of Nonprescription Drugs in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, the Rx-to-OTC switch process aims to promote public health by increasing consumer access to drugs that would otherwise only be available by prescription, adding that this approval expands access to another effective topical treatment for the thousands of people with head lice.¹

It is estimated that somewhere between 6-12 million cases of head lice occur each year in children ages 3-11 years old. Children most commonly get head lice during preschool and during elementary school.¹⁻³ The benefit of switching Sklice to OTC is that it will allow more people to have access to headlice treatments without going to see a physician.⁴

Reference:

1. Food and Drug Administration. FDA Approves Lotion for Nonprescription Use to Treat Head Lice. Available at: https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-lotion-nonprescription-use-treat-head-lice?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery. Accessed: October 28, 2020.
2. American Pharmacists Association. FDA approves lotion for nonprescription use to treat head lice. Available at: <https://www.pharmacist.com/article/fda-approves-lotion-nonprescription-use-treat-head-lice>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Epidemiology & Risk Factors. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/epi.html>. Accessed November 2, 2020.
4. Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society. FDA Approvals Roundup: Remdesivir, Eysuvis, Sklice. Available at: <https://www.raps.org/news-and-articles/news-articles/2020/10/fda-approvals-roundup-remdesivir-eysuvis-sklice>. Accessed November 2, 2020.

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