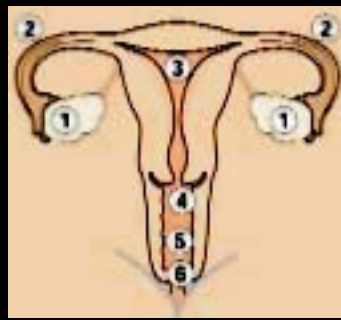


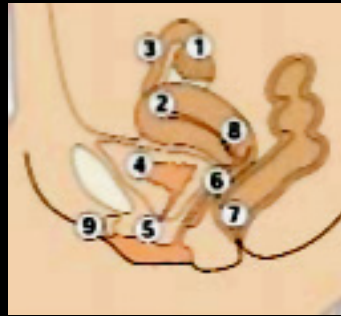
PUBIC LICE

Pubic lice are tiny insects that live in the pubic hair region or under the arms. They are often called 'crabs'.



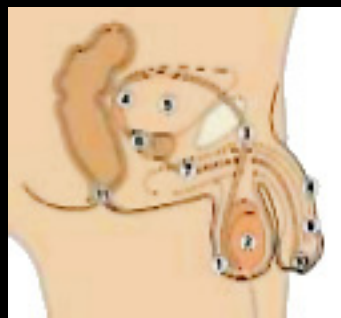
Woman's sexual organs (front)

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Ovaries | 4 Cervix |
| 2 Fallopian tubes | 5 Vagina |
| 3 Womb | 6 Entrance to vagina |



Woman's sexual organs (side)

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1 Ovary | 6 Vagina |
| 2 Womb | 7 Anus |
| 3 Fallopian tubes | 8 Cervix |
| 4 Bladder | 9 Clitoris |
| 5 Urethra | |



Men's sexual organs

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1 Scrotum | 7 Urethra |
| 2 Testicle | 8 Penis |
| 3 Vas deferens | 9 Foreskin |
| 4 Seminal vesicle | 10 Glans |
| 5 Bladder | 11 Anus |
| 6 Prostate gland | |

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Symptoms may include:

- Itching in the infected areas.
- It may be possible to see droppings from the lice in underwear (black powder) as well as eggs on pubic or other hair.
- It is sometimes possible to see lice or eggs on the pubic hair.

PUBIC LICE

GETTING IT

Pubic lice are usually acquired through sexual contact but can occasionally be transferred by close physical contact or by sharing sheets or towels.

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

The lice can be seen on physical examination and may be examined under a microscope. Special shampoo or lotion can treat the lice. There is no need to shave off your pubic or other body hair.

Anyone you have had recent sexual contact with should also be checked and treated. Until treatment is completed, you can pass on pubic lice between you, so you should avoid any sexual contact with anyone during treatment.

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

There are no long-term effects.

If you think you may have pubic lice, contact your local sexual health (GUM) clinic and make an appointment. It's easy and completely confidential.

For more information on sexual health (including HIV), call the Sexual Health Line free (from the UK) on 0800 567 123, textphone (for people with hearing impairments) 0800 521 361 or phone your local NHS sexual health clinic.