



Ointment treatment e.g. for hole-in-the-head (HITH)

Recommended treatment: Nystatin ointment

After more than 30 years of debate, experts still do not agree about what causes hole-in-the-head (HITH). Most experts believe that it is triggered by a mineral deficiency.

After many years of trying different treatments, we have found a treatment with a non-prescription ointment for fungal skin infections to provide very fast and safe help in around 90 % of cases. The ointment is called Nystatin ointment, is manufactured by the company "Lederle" and is available in pharmacies, without a prescription.

Symptoms: Initially, affected fish develop acne-like spots on and around the fish's head, which eventually burst. After bursting and draining, lesions, some of them very deep, develop on the fish's skin.

Treatment:

Catch the affected fish, place it on a damp cloth, dab the holes dry with a paper towel, or similar, and apply ointment to the lesions using your finger. Then return the fish to the aquarium.

With a little practice, treatment can be carried out in 30 – 60 seconds. A fish is able to spend 3 – 5 minutes out of water without suffering any ill effects. For small lesions, a single treatment is often sufficient. For lesions larger than 5 millimetres (0,25"), treatment should be repeated after one week.