

Ringworm

What is Ringworm?

Ringworm is a skin infection caused by a fungus. On the body it tends to cause an itchy circular rash that spreads and is called Tinea Corporis (Tin-e-uh Corpor-us). On the scalp it may cause yellowish scales or hair loss and is called Tinea Capitis (Tin-e-uh Cap-uh-tis).

Usually the diagnosis can be made just by looking at the rash. Sometimes a cotton swap may be used to obtain flakes from the skin, which can be sent for culture. The culture can help to make or confirm the diagnosis.

What if there are bald spots or hair loss?

Usually, the hair will grow back, but it may take weeks to months.

Can Ringworm be spread to other people?

Yes, in most cases it is spread from person to person by being in close contact with someone who has it. It can also come from pets.

When can your child go back to school or daycare?

As soon as the treatment is started your child can go back to school or daycare.

How is Ringworm treated?

Ringworm on the body is treated with a cream that is used twice a day for 2 to 4 weeks.

Ringworm of the scalp must be treated using antifungal medicine that is taken by mouth. Creams will not work. The treatment usually lasts 6 to 8 weeks, or longer. You will need to come back to the office after 3 to 4 weeks of treatment for a recheck. It is very important to take all of the medicine, and to not stop the medicine early, or the ringworm will likely come back.

Sometimes dandruff shampoos or other medicines may be helpful in treating ringworm of the scalp.

Use the following medicine below as directed:

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Brighton Hill Pediatrics
151 Intrepid Lane
Syracuse, NY 13205
Phone: (315) 469-8191
Fax: (315) 410-2029
www.bhpeds.com