

Fast Facts

Ringworm

- Fungal infection of the top layer of skin, no actual worm involved
- Can occur at any location on the body -- if is on scalp, caused by tinea capitis and if it is anywhere else on the body, caused by tinea corporis
- Scalp kind is more common in toddlers and school-age children
- Highly contagious and can be spread prior to symptoms appearing
- Spread by direct skin contact with an infected person, animal or object (an item that has come into contact with an infected person's or animal's skin, like clothing, linen, towels or brushes)
- Other factors that can increase risk of contracting it are living in a warm climate, wearing tight/restrictive clothing or having a weakened immune system
- Related to athlete's foot (tinea pedis) and jock itch (tinea cruris)

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
<p><i>Body</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Raised, irregularly-shaped red circle -Clear, scaly or red bumps in the middle -Possible to develop several overlapping rings at the same time <p><i>Scalp</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -One or more round patches where the hair breaks off at or just above the scalp -Look like scaly gray/reddened areas that have small black dots where hair has broken off -Slowly enlarge 	<p><i>Body</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Over-the-counter antifungal lotions or creams (Lotrimin AF or Lamisil AT) -Prescription-strength lotions or creams -Antifungal pills (Gris-Peg or Lamisil) <p><i>Scalp</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Antifungal pills -Prescription-strength medicated shampoo <p><i>Note:</i> May need to take the medication for at least six weeks to ensure the infection clears up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Be aware of the risk -Know what signs of infection look like on animals and other people -Wash your hands -Keep common areas clean (locker rooms, day cares, schools and gyms) -Don't share or borrow personal items (clothing, towels or hairbrushes) -Don't wear thick or restrictive clothing & avoid excessive sweating

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