



Web Site: <http://evans.carson.amedd.army.mil/Peds/index.htm>

PEDIATRIC CLINIC PATIENT EDUCATION HANDOUTS

Ringworm (Tinea Corporis)

DESCRIPTION

- A ring-shaped pink patch appears on the skin. The pink patch is usually 1/2 to 1 inch in size with a scaly, raised border and clear center.
- The ring slowly gets bigger.
- The area of the patch is mildly itchy.

CAUSE

Ringworm is a fungus infection of the skin, often transferred from puppies or kittens who have it.

EXPECTED COURSE

Ringworm responds well to appropriate treatment.

HOME CARE

1. **Antifungal cream**
Tinactin, Micatin, or Lotrimin cream can be prescribed by your doctor, or purchased at your drugstore. You don't need to have a prescription. Apply the cream twice a day to the rash and 1 inch beyond its borders. Continue this treatment for 1 week after the ringworm patch is smooth and seems to be gone. Successful treatment often takes 3 to 4 weeks. Encourage your child to avoid scratching the area.
2. **Contagiousness**
Ringworm of the skin is mildly contagious. It requires direct skin-to-skin contact. The type acquired from pets is not transmitted from human to human, only from animal to human. After 48 hours of treatment, ringworm is not contagious at all. Your child doesn't have to miss any school or day care.
3. **Treatment of pets**
Kittens and puppies with ringworm usually do not itch and may not have any rash. Pets with a skin rash or sores should be examined by a veterinarian. Also have your child avoid close contact with the animal until he is treated. Natural immunity also develops in animals after 4 months even without treatment. Call your veterinarian for other questions.

CALL YOUR CHILD'S PHYSICIAN DURING OFFICE HOURS IF:

(526-7653 during duty hours)

- The ringworm continues to spread after 1 week of treatment.
- The rash has not cleared up in 4 weeks.
- You have other concerns or questions.
- Ringworm occurs in areas where there is dense hair (scalp, eyebrows, etc.).