



# Ringworm

## (Tinea Capitis, Tinea Corporis)

Patient and Family Education

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Your child's doctor or a member of your child's health care team will talk with you about specific care for your child.

### What is ringworm?

Ringworm is caused by a fungus, not a worm. It affects the skin or scalp. It can spread by skin-to-skin and person-to-skin contact. After 48 hours of treatment, it is not contagious (spreads easily from person-to-person).

	<b>Skin - Tinea Corporis</b>	<b>Scalp - Tinea Capitis</b>
<p><b>What are the possible symptoms?</b> Your child may have one or more of these:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A ring-shaped pink patch, usually 1/2 inch to 1 inch in size. It has a scaly raised border and a clear center.</li> <li>• Mild itching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hair loss</li> <li>• Flaky, scaly or crusty patches which may become tender, swollen and weepy</li> <li>• Black dots form on the scalp after hair falls out</li> <li>• Swollen glands</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is the treatment?</b> Some general guidelines to follow include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use an anti-fungal cream as directed by your child's doctor.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apply the cream to the rash and 1 inch beyond the edge of the rash.</li> <li>- Keep using the cream for one week after the rash is gone.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Teach your child not to scratch the area.</li> <li>• Wash clothes, bed linens, combs, brushes, hats and hair accessories in hot soapy water.</li> <li>• Have pets checked by a veterinarian if they have a rash or sores. Pets may not itch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topical treatment may not treat scalp ringworm. Medicine by mouth is usually needed.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give medicine by mouth as directed by your child's doctor. Fungal infections of the scalp often take a long time to get better.</li> <li>- Give this medicine for the full length of time, usually 4 to 6 weeks.</li> <li>- Avoid giving this medicine with any other medicines. Check with your child's doctor first.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Return for follow-up blood tests as ordered by your child's doctor.</li> <li>• Teach your child not to scratch the area.</li> <li>• Wash clothes, bed linens, combs, brushes, hats and hair accessories in hot soapy water.</li> <li>• Have pets checked by a veterinarian if they have a rash or sores. Pets may not itch.</li> <li>• Use special shampoo as directed by your child's doctor.</li> </ul>

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

## Ringworm, continued

	<b>Skin - Tinea Corporis</b>	<b>Scalp - Tinea Capitis</b>
<b>When should I call the doctor?</b> Call your child's doctor if the rash:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has not cleared up in three weeks</li><li>• Continues to spread after one week of treatment</li><li>• Spreads from the scalp to the body, or the body to the scalp</li><li>• Has pus draining from it</li></ul> Also call your child's doctor if you have questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does not improve some in 2 weeks</li><li>• Is not totally clear in 8 weeks, your child may need another course of medicine</li><li>• Spreads from the scalp to the body, or the body to the scalp</li><li>• Has pus draining from it</li></ul> Also call your child's doctor if you have questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.

### How can I help prevent ringworm?

To help prevent ringworm, have your child:

- Keep his skin, hair and feet clean and dry
- Wear sandals or shoes at gyms, lockers and pools
- Avoid touching pets with bald spots
- Teach your child not to share clothing, towels, hairbrushes, combs, headgear, or other personal care items. Clean and dry these items well after use.

### When can my child return to daycare or school?

Your child may return after treatment begins.

**In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.**