

RINGWORM



Ringworm is a contagious fungal infection of the skin and scalp, and has nothing to do with worms. It is spread by contact with humans or household pets. Ringworm forms an oval patch with a smooth center and a red scaly border. It if occurs on the scalp, hairs will fall out within the lesion. There may be an initial patch with other smaller patches as the fungus is scratched spreading it to another area of your body.

If you can identify areas of hair loss on your dog or cat, they may be spreading the infection. Be sure to get them a proper antifungal shampoo.



You will be given an antifungal ointment, which should be applied two or three times daily. Use it until the lesions are gone and then another three days. Be sure to go a little beyond the red borders of the lesions, as that's where the lesion is most contagious.



If you are not seeing the lesions fade away by the end of a week, please call the office. It might be something else or we might need oral medications. If lesions are in the scalp, we will probably use either griseofulvin (Grifulvin V, Gris-Peg) or terbinafine (Lamisil) in addition to medicated shampoo [selenium sulfide- Selsun Blue or Gold] mostly so you don't spread spores to others.

Griseofulvin comes in a liquid or tablet. While taking the drug, your child may need to wear protective clothing and sunscreen outside, because griseofulvin may make your child's skin more sensitive to light. Common side effects include headache, upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea or loose stools, thirst, fatigue, dizziness, and faintness. If you're child is allergic to penicillin, he or she will likely be allergic to griseofulvin.



Terbinafine hydrochloride (Lamisil) is taken as a tablet or an oral granule medication that can be added to food or a beverage. Common side effects include diarrhea, upset stomach, stomach pain, rash, itching, hives, and changes in taste or loss of taste. Problems with liver function are almost only seen in drinkers.

Be sure to check all family members, as others may have gotten ringworm either from the same pet, or from each other. Until the lesions are gone, your child should be kept home from school or play group or wrestling. Also, wash clothes or articles (hats, combs) that came in contact with the skin lesion.

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