



MID-JERSEY PEDIATRICS

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RINGWORM ON THE BODY (TINEA CORPORIS)

Diagnostic Findings

Ringworm of the body presents as a ring-shaped pink patch with a scaly, raised border and a clear center. The lesions are usually 1/2 to 1 inch in size and may be mildly itchy.

Cause

Ringworm is a fungal infection of the skin, often transferred from pets or other children who have it.

Expected Course

It responds well to appropriate treatment.

Home Care

- Antifungal Cream. Buy Tinactin, Lotrimin or Micatin cream at your drug store. You won't need a prescription. Apply the cream twice daily 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 (usually 4 weeks total treatment is needed). Encourage your child to avoid scratching the area.
- Contagiousness. Ringworm of the skin is not contagious enough to worry about. After 48 hours of treatment it is not contagious at all. Your child doesn't have to miss any school (or day care).
- Treatment Of Pets. Kittens and puppies with ringworm usually do not itch. If ringworm patches are seen, call your veterinarian for treatment options.

Call Our Office If:

- The rash has not cleared up in 4 weeks.
- The ringworm continues to spread after 1 week of treatment.
- The scalp becomes involved. This would require oral medication for treatment.
- You have other concerns or questions.