

Ringworm

Ringworm is a common skin infection caused by a mold-like fungi. Ringworm can affect the skin, scalp, and groin area (jock itch) and the feet (athletes' foot). Males tend to contract it more easily and some people are genetically predisposed and can get it easily throughout life. It can be caught from dogs, cats and most farm animals. You can catch ringworm from contact with another person by skin to skin contact, or contact with contaminated items like combs, unwashed clothing and shower or pool surfaces.

Ringworm likes warm, moist areas. It looks like a rash that is circular (ring like appearance) and red. The skin will usually be abnormally dark or light as it grows and as it spreads the center will become clear. It will also appear scaly and distinct. Ringworm on the scalp will result in bald patches. Other ringworm may appear red and itchy and form blisters and ooze.

Treatment is usually topical with an anti-fungal ointment. The area needs to be covered for 24-48 hours after treatment starts, then it is usually not contagious. Treatment for the scalp is oral medication prescribed by your physician.