

Ringworm

Ringworm is an infection that is caused by a fungus. The infection causes a rash, which may be ring-shaped, with a raised edge.

What are the symptoms of ringworm?

A ring-shaped rash appears with a raised edge and scaly patches that blister and ooze. The rash is usually quite itchy and flaky, and can occur on the scalp, body, groin, or feet.

How is ringworm spread?

It can be passed from one person to another by direct skin-to-skin contact or by contact with contaminated items such as combs or unwashed clothing.

How long is ringworm contagious?

As long as lesions are present and viable. The fungus can stay viable on contaminated items such as hats or clothing, for long periods of time.

How is ringworm treated?

Ringworm is treated with a prescription medication that is to be taken orally or applied as an ointment.

More to know

- When the scalp is infected, an area of temporary baldness often appears.
- Fungal infections on the feet are usually very itchy and cause cracking between the toes.
- You can catch ringworm from pets that carry the fungus. Cats are common carriers. Avoid touching pets that have bald spots.
- Pools and shower surfaces are common areas for the infection to be contracted.
- Make sure children do not share combs, hairbrushes, or hats.
- Wear sandals or shoes at gyms, lockers and pools.
- A child should not attend daycare or school until treatment has been started.
- Proper hand hygiene is very important to prevent the spread of the infection.



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