



Kapa'a Pediatrics, LLC

## Ringworm

**What is it?** Ringworm (tinea corporis) is a fungal skin infection. Although skin scrapings can confirm the diagnosis, this is almost never done since it is usually a visual diagnosis and treatment is cheap with minimal side effects.

**What are the symptoms?** These general points will hopefully help you decide if it is ringworm or some other skin disorder.

- Slow-growing scaly circle, usually grows from days to weeks
- Progresses to central clearing as the patch grows
- The outer border is raised and pink-red in color
- Rarely are there more than 1-2 spots that start in one area
- Mild itchiness
- It takes at least a few days to start to go away after treatment

### **Treatment options:**

Apply Clotrimazole 1% cream (over the counter) 2 times a day for 14 days. It usually starts to resolve about 5 days after treatment.

### **Is this contagious?**

Ringworm is contagious but since it is not a serious illness your child doesn't need to miss any school or daycare as long as it is being treated. It can be transmitted by humans, cats, dogs, cows, and various surfaces (i.e. towels, linens, mats, combs).

### **When to call your doctor?**

- Infection (pus, weeping, tender) occurs, perhaps from scratching
- After 14 days of treatment it does not go away, as it is not ringworm

\*\*\* Patient handouts created by Kapa'a Pediatrics are intended to give parents the most common and pertinent facts about a certain issue. If there is ever any concern that your child was given an incorrect diagnosis or is not following the usual expected course for an illness please call us to speak with a physician. (808) 634-8011\*\*\*