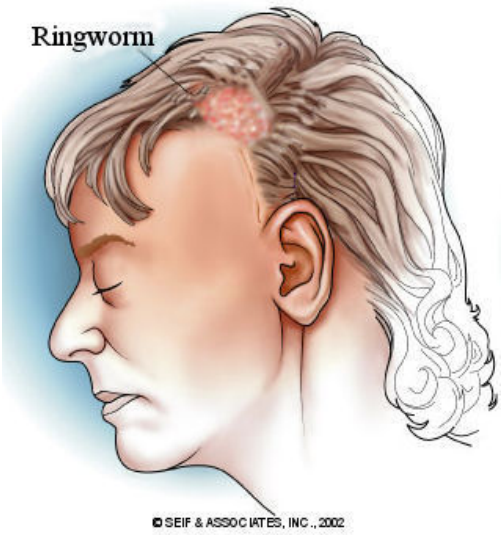
Ringworm of the Scalp
(Tinea Capitis)

Tinea Capitis is also called scalp ringworm. It is an infection of the skin on the scalp. It is mainly seen in children.



HOME CARE

- Scalp ringworm must be treated with medicine by mouth to kill the fungus for 2 to 4 months.
- Medicated shampoos may be used to decrease the shedding of spores from the scalp.
- Steroid medicines are used for severe cases.
- It is important that any family members or pets that have the fungus be treated.
- Be sure to treat the rash completely. Follow your doctor's instructions. It can take a month or more to treat. If you do not treat it long enough, the rash can come back.
- Watch for other cases in your family or pets.
- Do not share brushes, combs, barrettes, or hats. Do not share towels.
- It is not necessary to shave the scalp or wear a hat during treatment.
- Children may attend school once they start treatment with the oral medicine.
- Be sure to follow up with your doctor as directed to be sure the infection is gone.

GET HELP IF:

- Rash is worse.
- Rash is spreading.
- Rash returns after treatment is completed.
- The rash is not better in 2 weeks with treatment. (Fungal infections are slow to respond to treatment. Some redness may remain for several weeks after the fungus is gone.)

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- The area becomes red, warm, tender, and swollen.
- Pus is oozing from the rash.
- An oral temperature above 100.4° F (38.0° C) develops.

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