



### **RINGWORM OF THE BODY (TINEA CORPORIS)**

This handout was written to answer some of the questions most often asked about ringworm of the body (tinea corporis). Feel free to ask your doctor or nurse to go over any information that you do not understand.

### **WHAT IS RINGWORM OF THE BODY (TINEA CORPORIS)?**

Ringworm of the body is caused by a fungal infection of the skin. It is not caused by a worm. Most cases of ringworm are spread through contact with other individuals. Children may get certain types of ringworm from puppies or kittens that have it. You may want to talk with your veterinarian (animal doctor) about your animals. Ringworm of the skin is not contagious (spread to others) after 48 hours of treatment. Your child does not have to miss school or day care.

### **HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY CHILD HAS RINGWORM OF THE BODY?**

Your child will have ring shaped, pink patches on the skin. These patches will have scaly, raised borders in a ring around normal skin. They are usually ½ to one inch in size and will be mildly itchy.

### **HOW DO YOU TREAT RINGWORM OF THE BODY?**

Your doctor may recommend a cream for fungal infections, such as Micatin or Tinactin. You do not need a prescription for these medicines.

- Apply the cream to the rash and one inch beyond the rash \_\_\_\_times a day.
- Continue this treatment for one week after the ringworm patch is smooth and appears to be gone.
- Encourage your child not to scratch the area.

### **WHEN DO I NEED TO CALL THE DOCTOR?**

You will need to call the doctor if:

- The rash is not gone in four weeks
- The ringworm continues to spread after one week of treatment
- The ringworm spreads to the scalp
- You have other questions

***This handout was written for general information only and should not be considered complete. For further information about ringworm of the body (tinea corporis), please ask your doctor.***

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