

SUPERFICIAL FUNGAL INFECTION (TINEA)

A superficial fungal infection in the skin is a common problem. It normally appears as red, scaling, and itching areas. Some patients have only one tiny spot. Some patients have spots which are fairly widespread. In some cases the condition can be confined to one area such as the groin or a single hand. In some other cases it can be quite spread out.

Fortunately, a superficial fungal infection of the skin is completely curable. Patients normally use a pill and / or a cream to treat this problem. This is based on how extensive the condition is and what was used prior to my evaluation.

The cream used for the superficial fungal infection is applied twice per day to the affected areas. It is important to continue the cream until the condition is completely gone.

In some cases a superficial fungal infection appears in the skin as one or more round, red, scaly spots. People have referred to this appearance as "ring worm". Therefore, most cases of a superficial fungal infection are a type of "ring worm".

Many patients ask me if this skin condition is contagious. Technically it is a contagious problem but only if the affected areas of the skin would rub very closely to open areas of another person's skin. Therefore, it is highly unlikely to be spread in this fashion. It is important to realize that as soon as the cream and pill treatment is started, the condition is no longer contagious.

In summary, a superficial fungal infection is a common, but 100 % curable, skin problem. It normally goes away quite quickly after the treatment. It does not leave any permanent marks or scars. If you have any other questions about this condition, please don't hesitate to call me before you leave the office.