



Jeff Donovan MD PhD FRCPC

Dermatologist, specializing in hair loss

750 West Broadway Suite 905 - Vancouver BC V5Z 1H8

Phone: 604.283.9299 Fax: 604.648.9003

Email: vancouveroffice@donovanmedical.com Web: www.donovanmedical.com

Tinea capitis

How common is this condition?

- Tinea capitis is common in children, especially those between 3-6 years of age.

What causes it?

- Tinea capitis is caused by a group of fungi known as dermatophytes. The most common dermatophyte in North America is known as *Trichophyton tonsurans*
- Combs and brushes can spread the condition

What do individuals with this condition notice about their hair?

- This condition starts off as a red bump which spreads.
- It becomes progressively scaly and may form a ring shape.
- The hair in the area can sometimes be lost.
- With certain types of infections, the scalp may be very soft or “boggy” and the individual may feel unwell. In rare cases, the lymph nodes may be enlarged

Are there any special tests that are needed?

- A scraping of the scalp may be performed
- A special light may be used to examine the scalp.

What treatments are available?

- Tinea capitis must be treated with ORAL medications (pills) for 4-6 weeks.
- Use a spoon to crush the appropriate portion against a cutting board, and sprinkle the medication in the child's food. Acidic foods interfere with the drug's absorption, though, so terbinafine should not be mixed into applesauce.

- If significant inflammation is present, oral corticosteroids may be prescribed.
- Family members may wish to use an antifungal shampoo such as Nizoral

What will happen to my hair in the future?

When diagnosed and treated early, full hair growth is expected. If there is a delay in treatment, permanent loss can occur

