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Tinea cruris

Tinea cruris is the name used for infection of the groin with a [dermatophyte](#) fungus. It is most often seen in adult men.

In different parts of the world, different species cause tinea cruris. In New Zealand, *Trichophyton rubrum* and *Epidermophyton floccosum* are the most common causes. Infection often comes from the feet ([tinea pedis](#)) or nails ([tinea unguium](#)) originally, spread by scratching or the use of an infected towel.

The appearance is similar to ringworm ([tinea corporis](#)). The rash has a scaly raised red border that spreads down the inner thighs from the groin or scrotum. Tinea cruris may form ring-like patterns on the buttocks. It is not often seen on the penis or vulva or around the anus. Tinea cruris can be very itchy.

Tinea cruris



Tinea cruris can be confused with other forms of [intertrigo](#) such as:

- [Candida](#)
- [Erythrasma](#)
- [Psoriasis](#)
- [Seborrhoeic dermatitis](#)

Tinea cruris quite often recurs after apparently successful treatment. To reduce the chance of reinfection:

- Treat the feet if tinea pedis is present.
- Dry the groin carefully after bathing using a separate towel.
- Do not share towels, sheets or personal clothing.
- Avoid wearing occlusive or synthetic clothing.

- If you are overweight, try to lose weight to reduce chafing and sweating.

Diagnosis

The diagnosis of tinea cruris is confirmed by microscopy and culture of skin scrapings.

If you have a fungal infection, consult your doctor or [dermatologist](#) for an examination and advice.

Related information

On DermNet NZ:

- [Tinea](#)
- [Introduction to fungal infections](#)
- [Laboratory tests for fungal infections](#)
- [Treatment of fungal infections](#)

Other websites:

- [Auckland Sexual Health Service](#)
- [Tinea cruris](#) - emedicine dermatology, the online textbook

Books:

See the [DermNet NZ bookstore](#)

DermNet does not provide an on-line consultation service.

If you have any concerns with your skin or its treatment, see a [dermatologist](#) for advice.

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