



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

## TRICHOPHYTON TONSURANS SCALP INFECTION MIMICKING A TINEA IMBRICATA

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Background: Tinea capitis is a condition that predominantly affects the infant population, caused mainly by *Microsporum canis*. In recent years, *M. canis* and *M. audouinii* have emerged as frequent agents of tinea capitis, presenting as a single, pseudoalopic, large plate, with hairs cut at the same level, with fine scales on the surface; unlike Tinea imbricata, characterized by scaly plates arranged in concentric rings that can affect large parts of the body and that is produced by *Trichophyton concentricum*. In the Dominican Republic, tinea capitis occupies an important place among dermatomycoses, being the most frequent causative agent *T. tonsurans*.

Observation: A 7 years-old male student, with two-month history of pruritic plaques on the scalp. At physical examination annular or ring worm plaques, scaly border and presence of lymphadenopathies behind the ear were present. He had history of Alopecia universalis treated with oral steroid for a period of two months so far. Direct examination revealed the presence of filaments in the scales from the scalp.

Key message: *T. tonsurans* usually affects the hairless skin, at the level of the stratum corneum; Initially, a papule develops in a centrifugal form, forming the annular pattern with the classic border of tinea. In the Dominican Republic it has great epidemiological importance, because it represents the number one causal agent of tinea capitis, probably due to the overcrowding and coexistence of children in the classroom, since there are more than thirty students per classroom. In the case of this patient, his condition of universal alopecia and steroid immunosuppression could have conditioned the appearance of this dermatosis.

