Tinea Corporis in a 37-Year-Old Man

May 18, 2012 | Infection [1], Dermatology [2]
By Ted Rosen, MD [3]

This itchy, scaly rash extending from the underarm onto the upper arm was tinea corporis.

A 37-year-old man noted the recent appearance of a very itchy and scaly rash extending from the underarm onto the upper arm. He was in good health, had no pets, and had no exotic travel history.

**Key point:** The annular nature of this eruption suggests a number of potential diagnoses. However, the intense pruritus most strongly suggests tinea or granuloma annulare. Most of the other causes of annular skin lesions are asymptomatic. A KOH preparation disclosed innumerable fungal hyphae, establishing the diagnosis of tinea corporis.

**Treatment:** Because of the circumscribed nature of the tinea, the patient was instructed to apply naftifine 2% cream to the affected area once daily. The lesions cleared in 2 weeks.

**Note:** While he did not own a pet himself, he often visited a friend who owned a new puppy. It is presumed that this was the environment from which the dermatophyte originated.


**Links:**
[1] [http://www.patientcareonline.com/infection](http://www.patientcareonline.com/infection)
[3] [http://www.patientcareonline.com/authors/ted-rosen-md](http://www.patientcareonline.com/authors/ted-rosen-md)