

**SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS**  
**Dermatophyte Infection of the Scalp**

**Treatment**

- **Treatment of tinea capitis always requires an oral antifungal.** If oral antifungal treatment is being considered in children, seeking specialist advice is usually advisable. Consider prescribing only if confident of the diagnosis and experienced in treating scalp ringworm in children.
- Send scrapings or brushings and plucked hairs for microscopy and culture. Treatment is for at least 4 weeks for terbinafine and at least 4-8 weeks for griseofulvin, and should be continued until there is no clinical or laboratory evidence of infection.
- *Trichophyton tonsurans* infections are more likely to respond to terbinafine. *Microsporum spp.* are more likely to respond to griseofulvin.
- As *T. tonsurans* frequently spreads within families, it is important to ask about symptoms in other family members and take scrapings or brushings where appropriate.
- Concurrent use of a topical antifungal e.g. ketoconazole shampoo during the first 2 weeks of treatment can reduce transmission.
- If intractable disease then discuss it with a dermatologist.

Drug	Dose	Duration
Griseofulvin	<p><b>Child 1 month–11 years:</b> 10 mg/kg daily (max. per dose 500 mg), increased if necessary to 20 mg/kg daily (max. per dose 1 g), for severe infections.</p> <p><b>Child 12–17 years:</b> 500 mg daily, increased if necessary to 1 g daily, for severe infections</p> <p><b>Adult:</b> 500 mg daily, increased if necessary to 1 g daily</p> <p>Reduce dose when the response occurs, daily dose may be taken once daily or in divided doses.</p>	For 4-8 weeks
Or		
Terbinafine (unlicensed)	<p><b>Child 1–17 years:</b> Body-weight 10–19 kg: 62.5 mg OD Body-weight 20–39 kg: 125 mg OD Body-weight 40 kg and above: 250 mg OD</p> <p><b>Adult:</b> 250 mg OD</p>	4 weeks

Version Control- <b>Dermatophyte Infection of the Scalp</b>			
Version	Author(s)	Date	Changes
V2.1	Nichola Butcher, Medicine Optimisation Pharmacist	20.07.21	Updated the adult’s and children’s doses and treatment duration, in line with BNF/c, Sept 20-21