

FUNGUS NAIL INFECTIONS

ONYCHOMYCOSIS - RINGWORM OF THE NAIL

•••••••• *MORE THAN A COSMETIC PROBLEM*

WHAT IS A FUNGUS NAIL INFECTION ???

Fungus infections of the nails are caused by microscopic parasitic organisms that live on the nails and the tissues under the nails. It is important to realize that as long as these nail infections are permitted to go without proper treatment that spread of the fungi from the nails to various skin areas is always a possibility. The fungi may be spread by the fingers when scratching or by a towel to the scalp, palms, thighs, buttocks, groin, armpits or back. One infection can also lead to another. Fungus nail infections are also contagious and can be transmitted to other people.

HOW DOES THE FUNGUS AFFECT THE NAIL ???

As the fungi continue to grow through the nail tissue, the nail is weakened and becomes brittle easily cracking and breaking. Large cavities are eaten out and the nail becomes discolored, thickened, deformed and frequently ingrown. It becomes partly detached and may be lost completely but regrows the same or worse. Unpleasant odors, usually more noticeable to others, may be associated with such infections.

WHY DOES TREATMENT FOR FUNGUS INFECTIONS TAKE SO LONG ???

As you may know, it takes weeks for a fingernail to grow only 1/4 ". Toenails grow even more slowly. As they grow, the parts of the nail structure infected by the fungi are gradually "pushed" toward the end of the nail, where they can be removed painlessly. In time, with proper care new healthy nail replaces the diseased nail improving appearance and preventing the spread of infection.