



## Dermatophytosis (Favus)

Favus has a world-wide distribution disease occur mostly in sporadic case of backyard chickens, it has an important zoonotic potential to human. This disease characterized by the affection of chicken's skin lead to loss of skin with scaly or crust lesions on the skin of comb. Dermatophytosis, ringworm another synonym.

### Etiology:

Infections are usually caused by *Trichophyton megninii* (*T. gallinae*), a dermatophyte fungus.

### Epidemiology:

It is transmissible to other animals by contact or fomites. It spreads very slowly but the premises can become contaminated. Favus spreads gradually through a flock by direct contact, if left unchecked, and can produce ringworm lesions in their human handlers.

### Pathogenesis:

Lesions are produced initially in unfeather skin (comb, wattle, shanks) by the superficial invasion of the stratum corneum by hyphae and result in epidermal hyperplasia and hyperkeratosis.

### Gross lesions:

In chickens, infection typically produces white scaly or crusty lesions on the comb and on the skin of the head and neck with loss of feathers.

### Microscopic lesions:

Colonization is limited to the epidermis; skin surface may appear thickened due to hyperkeratosis and serocellular crusts with a primary component of heterophils admixed with mycelia.

### Treatment

No treatment of good effect in this case but miconazole ointment has a good result to stop the disease.

### Diagnosis:

Skin scraping placed in a drop of 10% KOH and examined under the light of microscopy to identify the fungal spores.

