



Know the facts on

Athlete's Foot

What is Athlete's Foot

Athlete's foot is a common fungal skin infection commonly found between the toes and on the sole of the foot. The skin becomes itchy which can cause real discomfort.

Athlete's foot can cause the skin to flake and peel. As the skin is itchy you are more likely to scratch which can cause the skin to split. In severe cases a secondary infection can occur where the skin has split.



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What causes Athlete's Foot?

Fungal infections thrive in dark, warm and moist environments. Inside the shoe is the perfect environment for an infection to develop.

Athlete's foot can be spread by direct contact or by touching a surface that has been in contact with the infected area. Gyms and changing rooms are often cited as places for the infection to spread due to the warm moist environment.

What will happen if I leave it untreated?

Athlete's foot can spread to the surrounding areas and the nails if left untreated. In severe cases, a fungal nail infection can develop cause the nail to become discoloured and have a strong odour as well as being uncomfortable.



What can help?

After washing your feet, dry them thoroughly paying particular attention to the area between the toes. Wearing cotton socks and shoes that allow your feet to breathe can prevent an infection developing. In addition it is always recommended that you wear fresh socks and / or hosiery every day.

If you do have an infection it is important not to share towels and socks with others. Towels and socks should be washed regularly to get rid of any fungal residue.

What are the treatment options?

There are many off the shelf treatments for Athlete's foot which may require an application every 3 months. It is advisable to read the instructions very carefully before beginning treatment. You may need to continue with treatment even if your symptoms have subsided.

As with all conditions of the foot, it is advisable to seek advice from a Podiatrist if the symptoms persist or are particularly uncomfortable.