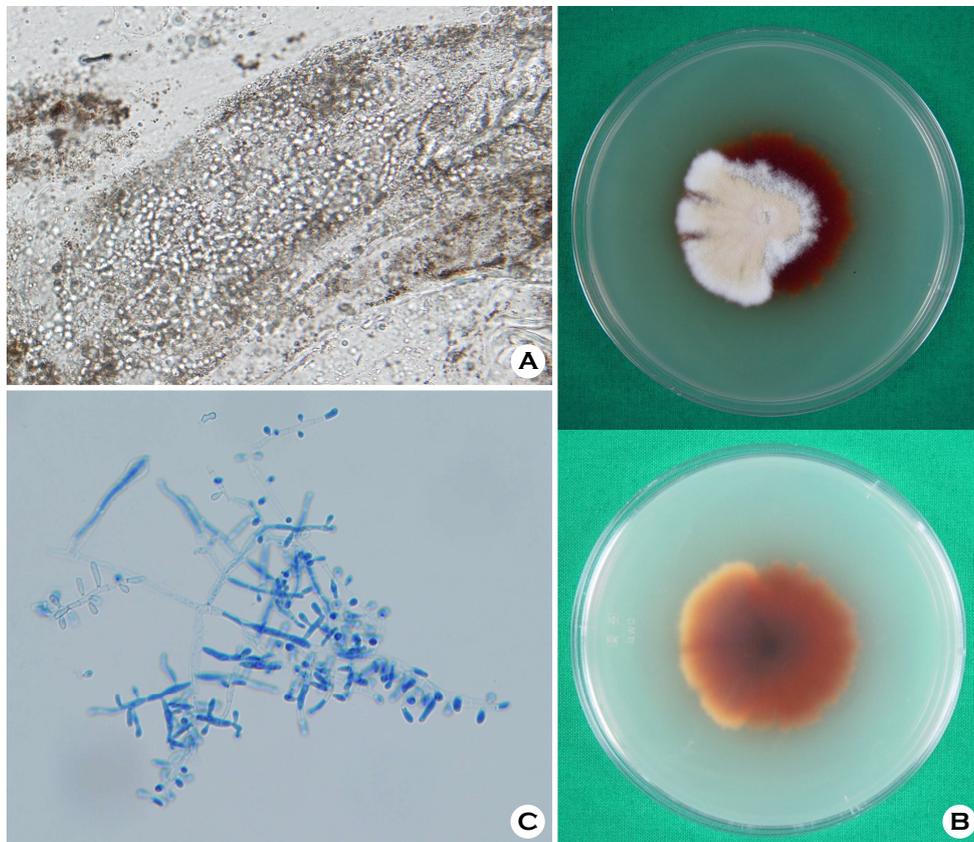


## Macroscopic and Microscopic Findings of *Trichophyton tonsurans*

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**Fig. 1.** (A) Numerous arthroconidia in chains inside a hair shaft (KOH mount, X 400) (B) White suede-like surface with central folds and deep reddish brown-pigmented undersurface of a colony grown on Sabouraud's dextrose agar at 25°C for 3 weeks, and reverse side of the agar (C) Teardrop or matchhead-shaped microconidia attached to a conidiophore perpendicularly projected from hyphae (Lactophenol cotton blue, X 400)

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*Trichophyton tonsurans* is an anthropophilic dermatophyte transmitted via human contact<sup>1</sup>. It is globally distributed and is particularly prevalent in the USA, Canada, Mexico and some European countries<sup>2</sup>. The common clinical manifestations of *T. tonsurans* infection are tinea capitis and tinea corporis. Unlike infections by other dermatophytes, these clinical manifestations are initially not apparent and hence, the infection is often overlooked<sup>3</sup>.

Microscopic examination of hair infected with *T. tonsurans* reveals numerous arthroconidia in chains inside the hair shaft (Fig. 1A). Macroscopically, *T. tonsurans* forms a white suede-like surface with central folds and a deep reddish brown-pigmented undersurface (Fig. 1B). Microscopically, *T. tonsurans* microconidia are teardrop- or match head-shaped and are attached to the conidiophores projected perpendicularly from hyphae (Fig. 1C).

The characteristic microconidia are clavate, tear-shaped, and often match head shaped and are formed in clusters on multiple-branched, thickened terminal hyphae. Filiform or claw-shaped conidia are arranged laterally on irregular hyphae giving the appearance of a centipede. Macroconidia occur less frequently, exhibit irregular shapes, and are somewhat thick-walled<sup>1</sup>. Microscopic and macroscopic examinations are

vital for the identification of the causative organism; however, physicians can identify species more precisely using molecular biological analysis.

**Key Words:** Morphology, *Trichophyton tonsurans*

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In relation to this article, I declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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