**Objective:** *Trichophyton (T.) tonsurans* is an anthropophilic dermatophyte known as ‘mat fungus’ among wrestlers. Dermatomycoses caused by this pathogen have recently been diagnosed more frequently in Germany. A new route of infection is the transmission of *T*. *tonsurans* in barbershops. Here, the laboratory diagnostic detection of *T*. *tonsurans* is evaluated.

**Methods:** Skin and hair samples, preferably from Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia, but also from all over Germany, were evaluated. Mycological detection of *T*. *tonsurans* from skin scales, hair roots and swabs was based on cultural methods. From 2011 onwards, the diagnosis was supplemented by a PCR-ELISA (polymerase chain reaction enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay). To distinguish between morphologically similar dermatophytes, in particular *T. quinckeanum*, whose prevalence also increased during the study period, selected dermatophyte strains were identified by sequencing the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region of the rDNA. From 2022 onwards, real-time (RT) PCR with melting curve analysis was also used. Multiple isolates from a single patient were only counted once for statistical purposes. If more than three months elapsed between two fungal detections, this was considered a new infection.

**Results:** T. tonsurans was a rarely diagnosed dermatophyte for many years. Until 2014, a maximum of 10 isolates were found per year. In 2015, the detection rate rose to 20 per year for the first time. A significant increase was noted from 2017 to 2019, with 38 to 71 *T*. *tonsurans* per year. This was accompanied by a sustained outbreak of dermatophytosis caused by *T*. *tonsurans* at the Ringerclub Leipzig. From 2020 onwards, there was an even more pronounced increase in *T*. *tonsurans*. The detection rates rose from 101 per year to 347 in 2023 and 538 in 2024. The increase is continuing. Two to three times more boys and men are affected than girls and women. The average age of patients is between 15 and 20 years.

**Conclusions:** Dermatophytoses caused by *T*. *tonsurans* have always been rare. However, since 2015, there has been an initially slow increase in the prevalence of tinea corporis and tinea capitis caused by this highly contagious dermatophyte. This was accompanied by infections in the ring environment. Since the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, there has been an increase in tinea capitis, tinea barbae and tinea faciei after visits to barbershops. Small outbreaks initially affected large cities in western Germany such as Duisburg, Essen and Düsseldorf, but also Berlin. Dermatophytosis caused by *T*. *tonsurans* must now be expected throughout Germany. A new and worrying development is the transmission of the pathogen in barbershops as a result of shaving (sidecut). In addition, there have been outbreaks in daycare centres and transmission within families.