



Disney Family

By Nancy Pick

"Twenty years ago, clinical trials showed that nearly 100 percent of adult and juvenile lice were killed by shampooing with permethrin (in Nix) and pyrethrins (in Rid)."

"Since then, however, lice have evolved. They've gotten tougher. Technically speaking, it's incorrect to say that the insecticides have caused lice to toughen up. Rather, some lice randomly mutate in a way that provides resistance to insecticides, and the mutants are the ones that survive, says John Clark, a professor of toxicology who studies lice at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. "If one of these mutations leads to insensitivity so that the compound no longer kills the individual," he says, "then that individual becomes resistant. It survives, reproduces, and then that mutation is basically fixed in the population." Survival of the fittest."

"The truth is that when I used an insecticide the first time, I was helping select for a stronger louse. Any lice that survived my son's treatment may have had a mutation that made them harder to kill the next time."

The Head Nitpicker

"Fortunately, there's a better way, as demonstrated by Abigail Rosenfeld, a professional nitpicker extraordinaire who was profiled in *The New Yorker* several years ago as "The Lice Lady." Rosenfeld, who lives in Brooklyn and started picking nits for her family and friends when she was 13, sums up her simple method this way:

"Rosenfeld offered to share her technique because she is a kind person, someone who radiates compassion, exactly the woman you'd want to go to if your head or your child's were crawling with insects. Quite simply, she loves children. Rosenfeld, an Orthodox Jew, has 13 of them. Her youngest is 2, and her oldest, at 22, is married with a child of her own."

"Miriam says she was happy with the results." Abby removed all of the lice and nits, educated us on what to do at home, and most importantly, gave me the confidence and tools to continue the difficult treatment..."

Read the complete article <http://family.go.com/parenting/pkg-school-age/article-826294-lice---how-to-get-rid-of-lice-t/>