

THESE MAGGOTS WANT TO EAT YOU

Here is why you should let them. (Seriously.)



Lucas Parks, 18, tried to ignore the tickling. He had been stuck in bed for two days. His leg itched and tingled. The feeling reminded him that his leg was being eaten—by maggots.

This may sound like a scene from a horror movie. But the maggots eating Lucas were actually saving his life.

Lucas has a disease that prevents his body from fighting infection. So when he injured his leg, the wound wouldn't heal. Medicine and surgery didn't help.

Lucas's doctors turned to

a special treatment: maggot debridement therapy, or MDT.

Rotten Flesh

A maggot is a young fly. A single maggot looks like a tiny white worm. It is the size of a grain of rice.

Maggots love to eat rotten flesh. That's why they wriggle around on garbage, dead animals, and that hamburger you forgot to throw away.

But you can also find maggots in hospitals. Every year, about 50,000 maggot treatments are given around the world.

Healing Superstars

Maggot treatments are nothing new. They have been used to heal wounds for thousands of years.

Doctors in wartime were some of the first people to notice that maggots could save lives. These doctors saw that injured soldiers with maggots crawling in their wounds were more likely to survive.

How was this possible?

Turns out, maggots are healing superstars.

How It Works

Here's how maggot

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