

When Scientists Get into Your Hair 卷发直发随心所欲

Scientists working for [L’Oreal](#) in Paris have discovered the source of straight and **curly** hair. The key, it turns out, is in the root of the hair, a few millimeters below the **scalp**. [Hair roots](#) that have straight bulbs produce straight hair; **bulbs** that are curly, or **hooked**, produce curly or wavy hair.

在巴黎莱雅工作的科学家已发现直发及卷发的成因了。结果证明，关键在于头皮下方几毫米的发根处。有着直顺毛囊的发根会长出直发，而成卷曲或钩状的毛囊则会长出卷发或波浪发型。

The research involved samples from the three basic types of human hair: [Caucasian](#), Asian, and African. Hair was analyzed at the **molecular** level with the use of X-rays and the results could **usher in** a whole new world of biological hair products.

这项研究包含了三个基本人种的头发样本：白种人、亚洲人及非洲人。利用 X 光以分子为单位来分析头发，其结果可能会为生化美发产品开启一个全新的世界。

Any new product would be **hormone** based as it seems that hormones are able to influence hair type. Studies of [AIDS](#) patients, for example, have revealed that curly-haired people taking hormonal drugs will actually find that their hair is becoming straight.

任何新产品都将使用荷尔蒙，因为荷尔蒙似乎能够影响发型。例如，针对艾滋病患进行的研究即显示，卷发的病患在服用荷尔蒙药物后真的会发现他们的头发变直了。

The L’Oreal news has **predictably** generated a lot of enthusiasm. Worldwide, billions of dollars are spent yearly on [perms](#) and [straighteners](#) – but these are known to make hair **brittle**. Vast sums are also spent on hair dyes – but these are only temporary. Hormone shampoos and drugs, however, promise a **permanent** solution. Eventually, getting a new hairstyle may involve a trip to the **pharmacy** rather than the **hairstylist**. But don’t throw out your **curlers** and dyes **just yet**. Scientists **caution** that they’ve only taken the first steps in this new field.

可想而知，莱雅这项新消息引起极大的回响。全世界每年花在烫发和直发剂的钱多达数十亿美元——但大家都知道这些东西只会使头发受损。同样也有巨额花费用在染发剂上——但染发也只是暂时的。然而，荷尔蒙洗发精和药品却能让你一劳永逸。到头来，想换个新发型可能只需上药房一趟，而不用找发型师。但先别急着将你的卷发器和染发剂丢掉。科学家们警告，在这个新领域哩，他们不过只刚踏出最初的几小步而已。

—by Amy Lovestrand

Vocabulary

hooked [hʊkt] adj. 钩状的，带钩的

molecular [məˈlɛkjələ] adj. 分子的

hormone [ˈhɔːmɒn] n. 荷尔蒙

predictably [prɪˈdɪktəblɪ] adv. 可预见地

permanent [ˈpɜːmənənt] adj. 永久的

caution [ˈkɔːʃən] v. 警告，告诫

More Information

curly [ˈkɜːli] adj. 蜷曲的

scalp [skælp] n. 头皮

bulb [bʌlb] n. 球状物；球茎

Caucasian [kɔːˈkeɪʒən] adj. 白种人的

usher in: 领进；引进 be a precursor of

perm [pɜːm] v. & n. 烫（发）

straightener [ˈstreɪtənə] n. 直发剂

brittle [ˈbrɪtl] adj. 脆的，易碎的；易损坏的

pharmacy [ˈfɑːməsi] n. 药房

hairdresser [ˈheɪ,dresə] n. 美发师

hair curler [ˈkɜːlə] n. 卷发棒；卷发器

just yet: 恰好现在