Descriptive Cross-Sectional Study of Perception and Attitude Toward Traditional Bone-Setter and their Practice in Khartoum State 2018-2017

Maha Alhussein Mohammed Ali Aldool
Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum, Sudan

Keywords: TBS: traditional bone setter

Background
The traditional bone setting had been practiced before orthodox medicine was introduced to the developing world. Traditional bone setters (TBSs), are orthopedics care practitioners, who have no medical background or training course; “Bone-setting” practice acquired by apprenticeship, with no training on the diagnosis or management of orthopedics conditions.

TBS practice rely on manual physical assessment and experience for the diagnosis and treatment, their main principles are manipulation and immobilization by applying traditional plaster which the major contributing factors to the complications caused by TBS.

Objective

the aim of the study to understand patients' perception toward TBS and identifying factors behind continuous patronage of TBS. also To determine ways by which TBS reach diagnosis and conduct management.

Method
This was a descriptive cross-sectional study. Questionnaire based interviews were conducted. Participants who were seeking care at two of the largest TBS centers between November 2017 and January 2018 were interviewed. Interview questions were compromised of socio-demographic data and perception and attitude towards TBSs. Data was analyzed using stata software version 15

Result
The average age of participants was 40 years, most of them are female 56% stated that were TBSs are their main stay for fractures management. many factors influenced this continued preference; (55%) due to popularity of TBS and (19%) were belief on TBS, as (62%) were referred to a TBS by family or friends. 87% of the participants went to the hospital before transferring to the bone-setter. Of those, 68% were not satisfied by the treatment received at the hospital, 14% were afraid of the hospital and 8% considered access to the bone-setter to be easier than the hospital.

39% of the patients were aware of the possible complications from TBS treatment. The majority of patients had an investigation requested by the TBS. of which, 80% were Radiographs (X-ray) alone, 17% were Radiographs and MRIs. There was a significant association between traumatic conditions and the number of investigation requested by the bone-setter (p= 0.004) and no association between the level of education and knowledge of complications caused by bone-setters (p > 0.05).

Conclusion
Traditional bone setters are highly trusted and deeply impeded in the Sudanese society due to popularity, encouragement by relatives and Friends, and the lack of knowledge about their deficiencies and complications. TBS using modern technique in order to reach diagnosis and conducted the management but without any medical background.
Reference