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ABSTRACT

Blowing traditional healer (*Mor Paw*) is a category of traditional healers that function within communities in northeast Thailand. The blowing method is one type of traditional therapy that is popularly used in co-ordination with other methods. This research is a qualitative study. The objective is to study the concepts and theories of treatment, health conditions or symptoms and processes used to treat diseases, and local herbs used in healing with *Mor Paws*. These healers were identified via the Thai traditional section of provincial health offices, community hospitals, and traditional network in northeast Thailand. A random sample of 230 healers was selected. These healers were interviewed to determine if they passed the following criteria: 1. Healers who use blowing methods for treatment; 2. Healers who are trained by parents or other blowing traditional healers; 3. Healers who have more than 20 years of experience; 4. Healers who are actively treating patients with blowing methods; 5. Healers who will share their knowledge. As a result, 30 healers were selected for an in-depth study. *Mor Paws* believe that some diseases are caused by poisons which must be moved out by blowing to other parts of body before other treatment can be applied. These healers use blowing methods to treat mostly external symptoms or health conditions which include, skin, eye, mouth, and throat diseases, child diseases, and injuries caused by accidents. The treatment includes incantation and blowing, and can also include chewing and blowing herbs, using herbs topically or for ingestion, tattooing and burning. Over 80 species of medicinal plants, animal parts, and minerals had been used. The raw materials are collected from the local area, cultivated, or purchased from other areas. *Mor Paw* usually receives knowledge on blowing treatments from their parents. When receiving the knowledge, the beginners must present (“khai”) offerings to their teacher on an auspicious day. New healers are often subject to superstitions, for example, they must “test” their new skills or adhere to specific prohibitions. Consequently, healers often only learn treatments with prohibition that they can accept, and this can lead to loss of knowledge of blowing treatments.