

The American Family Physician December 2005 Article on "Cross-Cultural Medicine" by Gregory Juckett T, M.D., M.P.H., *West Virginia University School of Medicine*, stated "A person's worldview (i.e., basic assumptions about reality) is closely linked with his or her cultural and religious background and has profound health care implications. Patients' worldviews and religious beliefs also affect how they view disease causation. Some see illness as having not only physical but also spiritual causes. Physicians should respectfully explore a patient's beliefs within the context of the patient's culture. Many patients use home remedies or visit traditional healers before seeking conventional medical treatment. Others return to traditional healers in lieu of completing an ongoing conventional medical work-up. Patients may lose confidence in their physicians if they do not receive prompt, culturally comprehensible diagnoses. Clinical success often depends on communicating with these healers and prioritizing tests and treatments".