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### THE ROLES OF WESTERN BIOMEDICINE AND IN RURAL SOLOMON ISLANDS: A QUANTITAT OF VILLAGERS' RESPONSE TO ILLNESS

[Takuro Furusawa](#)<sup>1)</sup>

1) Division for International Relations, University of

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**Abstract:** This study aimed to explore factors determining treatment preferences of villagers in a rural Roviana society of the Solomon Islands. Participants were interviewed every evening for 42 days about the occurrence of illness and whether it had been treated. The study period was divided into two: 22 days during which the nurse was stationed in the village and 20 days when the nurse was absent. As expected, the presence of the nurse had a negative effect on traditional folk medicine use (OR 0.72). Fever or headache was treated more preferably with biomedicine.

or 6.75 [2.75-16.55], respectively), whereas *putuputu*, an illness v etiology, was treated with the latter (34.7 [3.13-384.41]). In additic preferably used (7.72 [2.65-22.44]) for the treatment of severe illne medicine was used in 40% of all ill person-days, it has likely been p effective Western biomedicine. Still, some folk medicine functioned indispensable element in treating indigenous illnesses.

**Key words:** [Folk medicine](#), [Biomedicine](#), [Medical pluralism](#), [Inter Roviana](#), [Solomon Islands](#)

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