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### UVULECTOMY AND OTHER TRADITIONAL HEALING PRACTICES: TRADITIONAL HEALERS' PERCEPTIONS AND PRACTICES IN A CONGOLESE REFUGEE CAMP

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**Abstract:** Little is studied about traditional healers' perceptions toward uvulectomy, which is known as a traditional surgical practice mainly practiced in some parts of Africa. Sometimes it sometimes results in severe complications. This study aimed to clarify the attitudes toward and practice of uvulectomy and the other traditional healing practices of traditional healers in a Congolese refugee camp in Tanzania. Interviews were conducted with 10 traditional healers in the camp. The results showed that traditional healers in the camp had different perceptions toward uvulectomy and other traditional healing practices. Some healers considered uvulectomy as a necessary practice, while others considered it as a harmful practice. The study also showed that traditional healers in the camp had different practices of uvulectomy and other traditional healing practices. Some healers performed uvulectomy using traditional methods, while others performed it using modern methods. The study also showed that traditional healers in the camp had different roles in the community. Some healers were responsible for providing medical care, while others were responsible for providing social support. The study suggests that traditional healers in the camp should be recognized and supported as part of the health care system.

traditional healers, comprised of 59 registered, 68 non-registered a total of 1.7% of the registered healers and 8.8% of the non-register conducted uvulectomy on children (a median of 2 months to a medi and had received cash or domestic fowls equivalent to US\$1-3 per over 80% of the respondents believed traditional treatments to be n modern medicine, less than 20% considered uvulectomy beneficial considered it to be harmful. The respondents raised cough, vomiting symptoms as an indication for uvulectomy, and death, bleeding, thro symptoms as harmful effects associated with uvulectomy. In this car performed other surgical procedures, such as male and female circu scarification. In conclusion, only a limited number of the traditional l uvulectomy is beneficial and performed it on infants and young child mainly non-registered healers who had relatively little collaboration , professionals. In refugee settings where modern health professionals with traditional healing, it is considered crucial to assess the risks of practices and to strive to achieve more strategic communication bet traditional health providers.

**Key words:** [traditional healing](#), [healers](#), [uvulectomy](#), [perception](#), [C Tanzania](#)

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