

# Review of: "“Healing is having faith in Allah, the healer, and the medicine”: An exploratory qualitative study of Islamic-based healing practices in Northern Ghana"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This article reports on an exploration of Islamic-based healing practices in Ghana. The methods used (observations and interviews) are appropriate for this kind of study; combining the two allows researchers to ask about healers' perspectives and practices, and to compare their responses with actual behaviors. The authors use existing literature appropriately to both design/conduct their research and to report on their findings. The article describes healing practices in detail and uses quotations from healers effectively.

This article provides a comprehensive look at healing in Ghana and serves as a solid introduction to the topic for those just beginning to explore this area. The article is also of interest for those who have been studying faith-based healing, especially in Ghana, since qualitative research can yield firsthand knowledge that may be difficult for some to access.

The authors acknowledge the small sample size, which is common for work of this sort; they provide suggestions for future research, such as exploring the perspectives and practices of female healers, not included in this study. This reviewer finds that direction intriguing, given some of the challenges female healers face in this setting, and also potentially quite valuable. The authors also acknowledge the syncretic nature of the healing that the practitioners conduct as well as the tension between faith-based healing and medical solutions to health issues, and leave the reader with hope that the two systems can be used together to improve the health of those seeking help.