

Strengths and struggles of collaboration between rongoā Māori and primary health



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OVERVIEW

- Brief introduction to Rongoā Māori
- Rongoā Māori research with healers
- Rongoā Māori research with patients
- Exploration of issues around integration of Rongoā Māori with mainstream health treatment
- Conclusions and implications

RONGOĀ MĀORI HEALING SYSTEM

🌸 Herbal



🌸 Physical

🌸 Spiritual



RONGOĀ MĀORI (TRADITIONAL MĀORI MEDICINE

through the eyes of Māori healers:
Sharing the Healing while Keeping the Tapu

✿ What are the underlying philosophies of rongoā Māori healing?



✿ Participants – seventeen rongoā Māori healers

✿ Data Collection – narrative interviews

✿ Data Analysis – rourou Māori method of data analysis

RONGOĀ MĀORI HEALTH TREATMENT

Series of interrelated relationships based on aroha
HOLISTIC NATURE OF CULTURAL HEALTH TREATMENT

- Healer self-awareness
- Healer relationship with the client
- Influence of family
- Nature as an active participant
- Spirituality as a core concept
- Diagnosing the catalyst of disease
- Power of emotions
- Facilitating change
- Holding Māori traditions tapu

RONGOĀ MĀORI DEFINITION

- an intricate and dynamic system of healing relationships negotiated by the rongoā Māori healer
- people, spirits, plants in order to co-construct beliefs about emotions, illness and healing.
- vehicle of Māori cultural sovereignty which is cultivated by aroha and hope for the improved future of Māori
- Māori cultural values and beliefs that provides a culturally appropriate form of treatment for Māori

RESULTS ON INTEGRATION

- Healers focused on the concept of cooperation, rather than separation or integration
- Views on cooperation were mixed and some supporting cooperation and others resisting it
- *Promoting Cooperation*
- *Resisting Cooperation*

POTENTIAL SOLUTION

- Model of pluralism Kaptchuk and Miller (2005)
- cooperation rather than integration between CAM and medical systems
- encourages cooperation, open communication and respect between practitioners, despite the existence of honest disagreements
- preserves the integrity of each treatment system

HUARAHI RONGOĀ KI A NGAI TĀTOU:

Māori views on rongoā Māori and primary health

- Two groups of Māori patients who a) have experienced primary health treatment b) have experienced rongoā Māori healing
- Northland, Auckland, Waikato
- Two interviews with photo taking in between
- Maori health, illness, health treatment
- Integration of rongoā Māori and primary health care treatment
- Thematic analysis



RESULTS

Summary from Group A and Group B

SUPPORT OF INTEGRATION

ISSUES WITH INTEGRATION

Only difference was Group B had a greater recognition and understanding of rongoā Māori



COMBINED RESULTS

- integration is possible and strongly desired
- relationship between healers and doctors in integration is possible, but doubtful
- integration should occur separately, but collaboratively



STRENGTHS OF INTEGRATION

- reduced fear of medical shame for disclosure of all treatment utilisation
- a more cooperative approach across medical, traditional Māori healing and CAM modes of health treatment
- all New Zealanders receiving the benefits of a variety of coordinated and parallel health treatment options

STRUGGLES OF INTEGRATION

- lack of belief in the ability of doctors to adapt, adjust and change
- further research is required into all areas of collaboration
- resolution of issues - funding, sovereignty, cultural integrity, intellectual property, official recognition by government

CONCLUSION

- further research – many aspects require further exploration
- resolution of these issues – ongoing discussion
- creative innovations – nurse-led collaboration between healers and medicine
- something is better than nothing – choose one solution and give it a go!

REFERENCES

- Mark, G. (2012). *Rongoā Māori through the eyes of Māori healers: Sharing the healing while keeping the tapu (Unpublished doctoral thesis). Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand.*
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