



Haydar El Hadi Babikir

- Haydar El Hadi Babikir is Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health/Neurology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Gezira, Sudan.
- Prof. Babikir was born in the Gezira State, Central Sudan, is married and a father of 3 girls and one son.
- Graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum (U of K) in 1980.
- Completed his postgraduate studies and specialized in Paediatrics and Child Health in 1990 at the Faculty of Medicine, U of K.
- Worked as Specialist in General Pediatrics at Port Sudan Teaching Hospital till 1994.
- Joined the Faculty of Medicine, University of Gezira (U of G) in 1994.
- Promoted to Associate Professor of Child Health in 2006, and became Head Department of Medical Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Medicine, U of G.
- Promoted to Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health in 2011.
- Currently he is the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, U of G.
- He was trained in paediatric neurology at Ege University, Izmir, Turkey; and at the General Hospital and Victoria Royal infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne and Children Royal Hospital in Manchester, and Hope Hospital Salford Manchester, UK.
- He attended many comprehensive courses on Epilepsy and EEG at the Armed Forces Hospital, Riyadh , Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and at All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi, India; and the PET1, PET2, PET3 and the EEG course (British Paediatric Neurology Association).
- He also attended and participated in a number of conferences on clinical neurology at UCL, Manchester, Edinburgh, Winchester, UK; Riyadh, KSA; and Ankara, Turkey.
- As an active member of ICNA and ACNA, he participated by scientific works in all their joint annual workshops and conferences.
- He is an active member of the British Paediatric Neurology Association (BPNA), the European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS), Sudanese Society of Neuroscience (SSNS), African Child Neurology Association (ACNA) and the Sudanese Association of Paediatricians (SAP).
- He was awarded the Certificate of the American Academy of Continuous Medical Education on Epilepsy.
- Prof. Babikir was trained at the Institute for Children with Special Needs in Kitakyushu, Japan and he is a Cofounder and currently the President of Wad Medani Charity Society and School for Children with Special Needs.
- He wrote and published original articles, case reports and review articles on paediatric neurology in peer review journals.
- He also authored Childhood Epilepsies and Epileptic Syndromes textbook

Address for correspondence

P.O. Box 20, Faculty of Medicine, University of Gezira, Wad Medani, Sudan

Phone: Office: (+249) 511 8 54279 Fax: (+249) 511 8 43415 Mobile: (+249) 9 20720000

Web: www.uofg.edu.sd E. mail; haydarbabikir@yahoo.com, hayderhad@uofg.med.sd

Abstract

Traditional and spiritual medicine among Sudanese children with epilepsy

Haydar El Hadi Babikir

This cross sectional hospital based study, carried out simultaneously in Khartoum and in Wad Madani, Al Gezira State, aimed to study the impact of spiritual beliefs on explanation of the epilepsy etiology and the choices and methods of spiritual and traditional medicine used in the management of epilepsy in Sudan. The study included 180 care givers of whom 165 (91.7%) were mothers. Their ages ranged between 30-40 years. The majority (88.8%) were educated and 60 (33.3%) of them live in rural areas. Fifty eight (32.2%) attributed epilepsy to supernatural causes while 41 (22.8%) and 90 (50%) thought that epilepsy is an untreatable and contagious disorder, respectively. Traditional and spiritual medicine for the treatment of epilepsy was used by 70.5%. The common spiritual technique used was incantations (45.6%), spitting cure (37.2%) and ritual incensing (36.7%). Herbs, black cumin (*Nigella sativa*), honey and olive oil were mentioned among others as a traditional treatment for epilepsy. About two fifth (42.5%) started traditional or spiritual treatment before seeking any medical advice. Nevertheless, only 2.4% stopped the medical treatment as advised by the traditional healer. Fifty five (43.3%) thought that spiritual and/ or traditional treatment were effective in the management of epilepsy, 60(47.2%) found no difference while 12(9.45) got worse. The majority of patients with epilepsy, although on medical treatment, used traditional and spiritual methods as well. Traditional and spiritual healers may be involved positively in the management of epilepsy and extensive public educational programs are needed.

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