**ASIAN-ORIGIN COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE PERCEPTIONS AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS**

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**Abstract:**

**BACKGROUND:** Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is an important feature of patient medical history. This study sought to investigate the perceptions of medical students at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harlem, New York (TouroCOM-NY) regarding Asian-origin CAM practices.

**METHODS:** An anonymous survey was distributed to first and second year TouroCOM-NY medical students, asking about their familiarity with, and general attitude towards, five categories of Asian-origin CAM (acupuncture, reiki, tai chi, Ayurveda, and use of non-mineral/vitamin substances)

**RESULTS:** 107 students responded from the first- and second-year class at TouroCOM-NY in 2018, with a 50% response rate. Demographics were equally distributed between genders, and were predominantly of Asian or Caucasian origin (mirroring that of the institution). 68.5% indicated no knowledge of 2 or more of the CAM practices listed; 41.0% indicated 3 or more. Only 20.4% indicated practice of at least one of the listed CAM and noted strong familiarity. 70% of the students stated that Asian American patients were more likely to use CAM.

**CONCLUSION:** This surveydemonstrated significant knowledge gaps and attitudes that can be addressed by curriculum change.

**CONTENT CATEGORY:** Patient care, cultural competence

**KEY WORDS:** *medical student, community health, complementary medicine, alternative medicine, Asian*