Amazon Indigenous Health, Ecuador

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• NGO based in San Francisco, CA
• Global health education
• Underserved communities
• Cultural competence
The Program: Amazon Indigenous Health, Ecuador

• Participants will learn how the community confronts the modern world and allopathic medicine while simultaneously utilizing ancestral knowledge to sustain their ecological habitat and belief systems in traditional medicine.

• Participants will understand where traditional medicine and allopathic medicine intersect, which uses allopathic interventions, in the context of ancestral healing traditions.
Clinical Rotations

• Allopathic medicine
• 26-year-old physicians
• Antibiotics
• Younger doctors discredited plant remedies
• More experienced doctors admitted that little was known about indigenous medicine but that there was surely room for integration
Indigenous Healing

• “La naturaleza es una manifestación de Dios.”
• Jungle = “farmacia natural” or “un marcado”
• More convenient
• Less costly
• There is a medicinal plant remedy for most things even venomous snake and spider bites if the victim gets to healer in enough time
• Waiting 18 hours for an epi-pen
Hitchhiking to Patient

- Cervical Cancer
- Shaman vs. Doctor / Tradition vs. Modern / Trust vs. Mistrust
Conclusion

• Inconclusive Results
• Indigenous Patients are content for the most part
• Young doctors are steadily trying to convince patients to completely switch over to allopathic medicine
• Indigenous healing may slowly die off