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[West J Med.](#) 1983 Dec; 139(6): 923–927.

PMCID: PMC10 11026

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## Native Healing in Alaska—Report From Serpentine Hot Springs

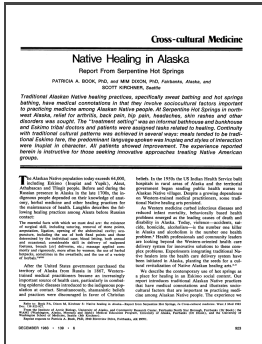
[Patricia A. Book](#), PhD, [Mim Dixon](#), PhD, and [Scott Kirchner](#)

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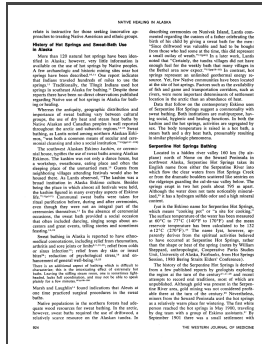
### Abstract

Traditional Alaskan Native healing practices, specifically sweat bathing and hot springs bathing, have medical connotations in that they involve sociocultural factors important to practicing medicine among Alaskan Native people. At Serpentine Hot Springs in northwest Alaska, relief for arthritis, back pain, hip pain, headaches, skin rashes and other disorders was sought. The “treatment setting” was an informal bathhouse and bunkhouse and Eskimo tribal doctors and patients were assigned tasks related to healing. Continuity with traditional cultural patterns was achieved in several ways: meals tended to be traditional Eskimo fare, the predominant language spoken was Inupiaq and styles of interaction were Inupiat in character. All patients showed improvement. The experience reported herein is instructive for those seeking innovative approaches treating Native American groups.

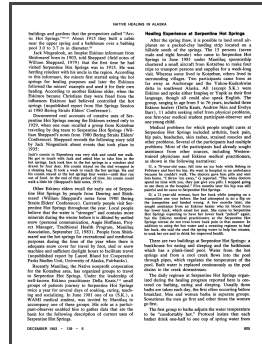
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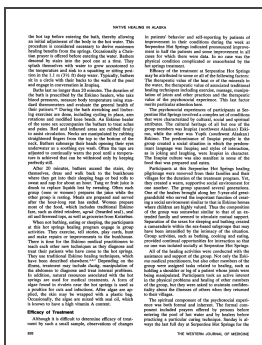
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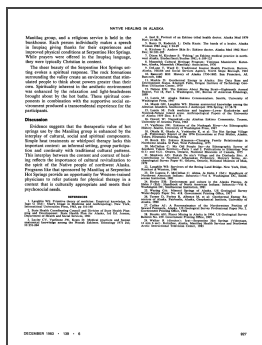
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### Selected References

These references are in PubMed. This may not be the complete list of references from this article.

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- Kirchner S. Andrew Skin Sr.: Eskimo Doctor. *Alaska Med.* 1982 Nov-Dec;**24**(6):101–105. [[PubMed](#)]

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