

Report from Heather Sharland

Southern Sudan

Moru area April 2009

Discussions with elders in the community

Known as Achara teeth

Before the Addis Ababa Agreement of 1972 it was unknown in the area. In the 70s it started in Juba and near the border with Uganda. In the 1980's very common among the Moru community. Many gave testimony to having their children's teeth removed. In the 90's became less common as people reverted to "Moru Ways" of doing things. The elders started teaching that this is not "the Moru Way" and the children suffer too much.

Today it is rarely practiced in the Moru area.

In the 80s they talked about Achara as a disease often found in children and the "achara" had to be removed. In adults they also had Achara ribs and the traditional healer would cut and take something white out of the side. Now this has stopped as well.

Jur area June 2009

Discussion with youth leaders at a youth camp.

Known as Acara teeth

The practice of lancing the gum children with infantile fever is very common. They give very specific symptoms of what the child with acara is feeling and looking like. The lancing is performed with a razor blade and "clear liquid" comes out. The tooth bud is not removed. They do not associate acara with teething. The young men and women (in their late 20s early 30s) all felt that acara was a disease and this was the only way to deal with it. The health centre cannot deal with it, only people in the community.