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Medical Tourism by Meghann Ormand

The work highlights the key aspects of the modern phenomena known as medical tourism. While initially reading, my first thought went to how many immigrants travel back to their home countries for cheaper care, and the idea of medical tourism seems to branch from this. Due to the nature of over connected world, pursuing alternative treatments or even cheaper treatments outside of traditional borders is very much a reality. Getting access to cheaper or more limited treatments seems wonderful but the text brings up a perspective I never considered before, that of the local people living in the medical tourism destinations. Ormand brings up two ways these destinations go about generating medical tourism, extraction and development. The method of extraction seems to be a faster route but clearly has many negatives for the local people of the “destinations”. Another aspect I never fully considered was that of the in between, how medical tourists get to their destinations and how they find their destinations. Airlines are capitalizing on the abundance of medical tourists by catering new packages for them.