

- **Burning:** A practice of some Southeast Asian groups whereby small areas of skin are burned to treat enuresis and temper tantrums.
- **Female genital mutilation (female circumcision):** Removal of or injury to any part of the female genitalia; practiced in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, India, Asia, North America, Australia, and Western Europe.
- **Forced kneeling:** A child discipline measure of some Caribbean groups in which a child is forced to kneel for a long time.
- **Topical garlic application:** A practice of Yemenite Jews in which crushed garlic cloves or garlic–petroleum jelly plaster is applied to the wrists to treat infectious disease. The practice can result in blisters or garlic burns.
- **Traditional remedies that contain lead:** Greta and azarcon (Mexico; used for digestive problems), paylooah (Southeast Asia; used for rash or fever), and surma (India; used as a cosmetic to improve eyesight).

Faith healing and religious rituals are closely allied with many folk-healing practices. Wearing of amulets, medals, and other religious relics believed by the culture to protect the individual and facilitate healing is a common practice. It is important for health workers to recognize the value of this practice and keep the items where the family has placed them or nearby. It offers comfort and support and rarely impedes medical and nursing care. If an item must be removed during a procedure, it should be replaced, if possible, when the procedure is completed. The nurse should explain the reason for its temporary removal to the family to reassure them that their wishes will be respected (see [Family-Centered Care](#) box).

Family-Centered Care

Cultural Awareness

A 15-month-old Bosnian girl in status epilepticus was carried in by