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# A Comparison Between Formal Medical Spanish Terminology and the Terminology Used by Low-income Hispanics

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# A Comparison Between Formal Medical Spanish Terminology and the Terminology Used by Low Income Hispanics

Department of Hispanic Studies

John Wesley Powell Undergraduate Research Conference

Katie Rothas



## Where Did This Idea Come From?

- Myocardial Infarction
- Edema
- Comatose
- Mesothelioma
- Pyrosis
- Neuropathy
- Pericarditis
- Infarto
- Edema
- Comatoso
- Mesothelioma
- Pirosis
- Neuropatía
- Pericarditis

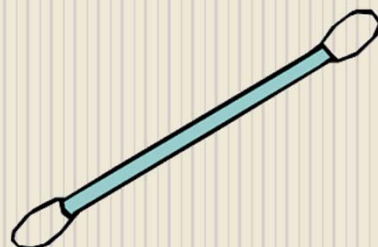
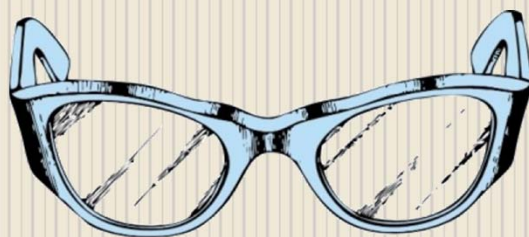
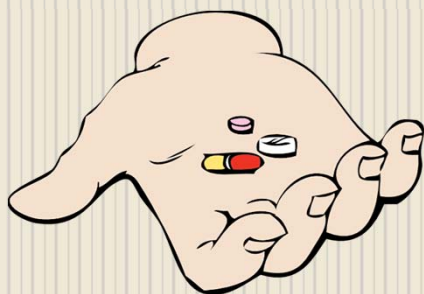
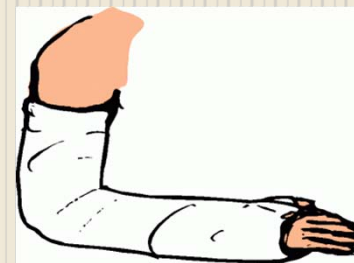


# Research Questions

- Which words do Hispanic patients at CHCC use to describe common symptoms & conditions?
- How do these terms compare to the medical Spanish terms included in medical Spanish textbooks and dictionaries?
- How do the terms preferred by patients vary? Based on level education? Country of origin? Acculturation to the United States?

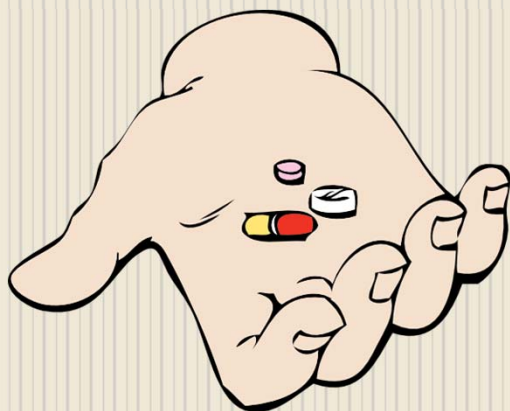


# Part I: Image Identification





# Near 100% Agreement



- Pastillas (17)
- Medicinas (4)
- Medicamentos (5)
- Píldoras (3)



- Lentes (19)
- Anteojos (1)

- Yeso (15)
- Vendado/vendaje (2)
- Mano enyesada (1)
- Incorrect answers (2)

## In English/Spanish Dictionary:

- Yeso
- Calote
- Enyesadura



# Near 50:50 Agreement



- Contusión
- Magulladura
- Moretón
- Lastimadura



- Moretón (12)
- Golpe (8)



- Cachete (9)
- Mejilla (10)
- La cara (1)



# Ambivalent Responses

- Crema
- Pomada
- Ungüento
- Unto

- Crema (4)
- Pomada (6)
- Antibiótico (3)
- Cortada (4)
- Ungüento (1)
- Pasta (1)
- No sé (1)



- Gotas para la tos
- Pastillas para la tos

- \_\_\_\_\_ para la tos/gripe (8)
- Halls (6)
- Pastillas para la garganta (1)
- Dulces (1)
- Dulces de menta (1)
- Refrescante (1)
- Menta (1)
- Teraflu (1)

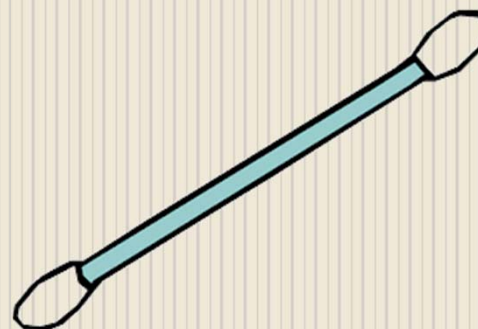




# Interesting Observations

Words in English	Top 3 Responses
Torso	Abdomen (3) Estómago (5) No sé (5)
Lower Back	Espalda (4) Cintura (6) Cadera (5)

- Cotonete (16)
- Hisopo (4)





## Part II: Word Selection/Preference

**Flu: la monga, el gripe o la influenza**

- a. La monga
- b. El gripe
- c. La influenza
- d. No usaría ninguna
- e. No sé el significado de ninguna palabra

**Headache: la cardialgia, la acedía o la pirosis**

- a. La cardialgia
- b. La acedía
- c. No pirosis
- d. No usaría ninguna
- e. No sé el significado de ninguna palabra



# 100% Concordance Amongst Participants

Word in English	Word Used by Participants	Basic Spanish for Medical Personnel	Conversational Spanish for Health Professionals
testicles	testículos	testículos	testículos, huevos, compañeros
prostatitis	próstata inflamada	prostatitis	prostatitis
mumps	paperas	paperas, farfallota	paperas, farfallota, bolas
anxiety*	ansiedad	ansiedad	ansiedad
diarrhea	diarrea	diarrea	diarrea, cursera, soltura
headache	los dolores de cabeza	dolor de cabeza	la cajetuda, la cefalea, los dolores de cabeza
contagious*	contagioso	contagioso	contagioso, pegadizo, pasoso
itching	comezón	comezón	comezón, escozor, prurito
pharmacy	farmacia	farmacia, droguería,	farmacia, droguería, botica

\*1-2 people replied "no sé," but of those who knew the word all used the same term



# Interesting Observations

- Chicken Pox
  - Varicela (17)
  - Viruelas locas (5)
- Cramping
  - Con espasmos (2)
  - Con calambres (16)
  - Con retorcijones (3)
- Heartburn
  - Cardialgia (3)
  - Acedía (0)
  - Pirosis (3)



## Conclusion

- Significant language barriers exist that can affect successful communication between interpreters, patients and the healthcare professionals
- Language barriers are most prevalent with regard to conditions, treatments and regions of the body



# Modifications & Future Studies

- Modifications
  - Include States of Mexico
- Future Studies
  - Repeat with larger sample size
  - Repeat in a different county
  - What is....(cognate disease)?
  - If a person had XYZ symptoms, what condition would you say he/she has?



# Thank You

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