A Comparrision 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words in English</th>
<th>Top 3 Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Torso</strong></td>
<td>Abdomen (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Estómago (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No sé (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lower Back</strong></td>
<td>Espalda (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cintura (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cadera (5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Cotonete (16)
- Hisopo (4)
### Part II: Word Selection/Preference

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

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>La monga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>El gripe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>La influenza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>No usaría ninguna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>No sé el significado de ninguna palabra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>La cardialgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>La acedía</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>No pirosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>No usaría ninguna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>No sé el significado de ninguna palabra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 100% Concordance Amongst Participants

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

*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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