Increasing Accessibility for Hispanic Cancer Patients
One Spanish Oral Cancer Treatment Education Sheet at a Time
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Purpose
The purpose of the NCODA Language Support Subcommittee is to address the language barrier that the Hispanic oncology population face in the United States by translating the Oral Cancer Treatment Education (OCE) sheets into Spanish, thus increasing accessibility for this population that is greatly affected by cancer.

Background
- Cancer is the leading cause of death in the Hispanic population in the US.¹
- Two-thirds of Hispanics have limited health literacy.²
- Limited health literacy is associated with poor health outcomes.²
- The NCODA OCE sheets are complimentary educational resources created for cancer patients which contain important information about anticancer medications, such as indications, storage and handling, side effects and management, contraception, and more.³
- OCE sheets are intended to provide both cancer patients and caregivers accessible, reliable, and evidence-based information.

Language Support Subcommittee Objectives
- Translate OCE sheets into Spanish to increase inclusivity and improve outreach to a larger demographic.
- Increase awareness and health literacy for the Hispanic and Latin cancer patient population.
- Provide cancer patients with an accessible version of OCE sheets in their native language.
- Determine a consistent terminology across Spanish OCE sheets that is inclusive of various dialects across Hispanic countries such as from the Caribbean, Central America, South America and Spain.
- Offer a library of Spanish OCE sheets accessible for patients, caregivers, and providers.

Timeline
- Existing Language Support Subcommittee members 12/2022
- First Language Support Subcommittee Meeting 1/2023
- OCE Sheet Library translated & finalized 4/2023
- OCE translation established 5/2023
- First Spanish OCE Sheet Library 6/2023
- Spanish OCE Library created 7/2023

Volunteer Selection Criteria
- Proficient in Spanish (i.e. native language)
- Experience in health care
- Availability to translate one sheet per month
- Diverse cultural backgrounds
- Interest in increasing accessibility for Hispanic cancer patients

Conclusion and Future Directions
- The Language Support Subcommittee aims to successfully translate every OCE sheet.
- This will allow individuals who speak Spanish to understand important points of their drug therapy.
- This will also empower patients to ask their providers questions related to their medications and feel better equipped in their oncology visits.
- Future directions include translating other NCODA educational resources such as Intravenous Cancer Treatment Education (IVE) sheets into Spanish and exploring other language gaps that we could address.

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References