

Cross-Cultural Adaptation: The Spanish Pediatric Oral-Health Related Quality of Life

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Objectives: To translate and culturally adapt a Pediatric Oral Health-related Quality of Life (POQOL) measure for the Spanish-speaking Latino population.

Methods: *Translation:* The three POQOL versions (Child Self-Report, Parent Report on Child and Parent Self-Report) went through the following process twice: translation into Spanish, revision by an expert, back translation, and committee review of the back translation. Two Spanish versions were obtained, which were unified into a final Spanish version. *Qualitative methods:* Urban low-income Latino Spanish-Speaking pediatric patients and their parents at oral health clinics participated in focus groups and interviews. Five focus groups with parents, three with children, and 25 individual interviews were conducted to get feedback on how well the oral health issues originally included in the English version were meaningful for Latinos and whether there were other issues particularly important to this population. Feedback on the wording, contextual meanings, and format was also obtained.

Results: All issues included in the English version were reported as important in relation to Latino children's oral health. Issues not included in the original English version came up: Parents' frustration because of limited access to oral health services for children, and bad breath. New items were created accordingly. Minor wording changes were made in the process. The questions measuring severity (i.e. "*How bothered were you because you had pain?*") were revised because the Spanish translation had another meaning for participants.

Conclusion: The resultant Spanish version is conceptually equivalent to the original POQOL and culturally appropriate for Latino populations. Qualitative methods involving the intended population are essential for culturally sensitive translations and adaptation of health measures. Having two Spanish versions from two independent forward-back translation processes improved the quality of the final version. Future studies will examine the reliability and validity of the measure.

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