

ADAPTATION OF AN ENGLISH GENETIC LITERACY RAPID TEST TO SPANISH

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVE: A key component of patients' understanding of their genetic testing results is their genetic literacy, their familiarity with genetic words. The Genetic Literacy Fast Test (GeneLiFT) assesses genetic literacy using a combination of words associated with genetics and non-words, of which participants must choose the real words. In this study, GeneLiFT was adapted into Spanish (Spanish GeneLiFT) to allow assessment of genetic literacy among Spanish-speaking persons.

METHODS: A literature review of existing measures to assess the genetic literacy of Spanish-speaking populations was conducted, and 3 papers were identified. An initial list of 97 Spanish GeneLiFT words was created, consisting of 39 real words and 58 non-words. The list of 39 real words included 31 real words translated from English GeneLiFT, 4 synonyms, and 4 words found in published genetic literacy assessments. The 58 non-words consisted of 19 newly formulated non-words, 20 non-words "translated" by a Spanish-speaking colleague from English GeneLiFT's non-words, and 19 additional non-words provided by Spanish-speaking colleagues. The 19 new non-words were generated by considering genetic words in English and modifying them to formulate Spanish non-words. A form containing the 97 total words and non-words was then sent to 7 Spanish-speaking colleagues from 5 different Spanish-speaking regions. For the real words, the colleagues were asked to select whether the word is 'used only in genetics', 'used in genetics and other fields', 'not used at all', or 'don't know.' For the non-words, they were asked to rate each term on a 5-point likert scale on how much the term sounds like a real Spanish word, with 5 being 'highly sounds like a real Spanish term.'

RESULTS: The list of Spanish GeneLiFT words was modified based on the colleagues' answers: For the 39 real words, words with at least three responses of 'Not used' or 'Don't know' were removed, resulting in the removal of 1 word. For the 58 non-words, the criteria to include a non-word were: non-words with an average rating above 3, non-words with at least two ratings of 4s or 5s, and 9 non-words specifically recommended by a Spanish-speaking colleague. The initial list of 97 words and non-words was thus reduced to a list of 38 words and 32 non-words.

CONCLUSIONS: The next step is the validation of Spanish GeneLiFT, which will be done using a Spanish-adapted 14-item survey, as was done for the validation of the English GeneLiFT. Spanish speakers enrolled via Amazon Mechanical Turk will be asked to complete the survey. Spanish GeneLiFT is expected to serve as a rapid genetic literacy assessment for Spanish-speaking populations.