

Speak Spanglish: Caring for the Latin Community



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CE Credits: 1.5 hours

Intended Audience: Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Assistants, Office Managers, Dental Students, Dental Hygiene Students, Dental Assistant Students

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Cost: Free

Method: Self-instructional

AGD Subject Code(s): 558

Online Course: www.dentalcare.com/en-us/ce-courses/ce675

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- Participants must always be aware of the hazards of using limited knowledge in integrating new techniques or procedures into their practice. Only sound evidence-based dentistry should be used in patient therapy.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

- The author reports no conflicts of interest associated with this course. She has no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

Introduction – Silver Diamine Fluoride

This course will discuss the science and clinical use of silver diamine fluoride (SDF) for dental desensitization and caries arrest. A brief review of the literature and basic clinical application protocol will be reviewed.

Course Contents

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Overview

The “meta” or goal of this course is to equip dental professionals to better understand the cultural factors affecting our patients’ behaviors so that we can increase equity in the minority community. You will learn the “why” behind some of the behaviors in the Hispanic and Latin communities, become familiar with the nuances of dealing with Latins, environmental factors that contribute to their decision making, and learn how to leverage our similarities.

Have you ever wished you could do more for your patient but found that culture has been a barrier? I think we have all noticed there is certain misinformation passed along in different cultures. Even as healthcare workers, we often experience this with our own families. As a Mexican American myself, I know a great deal of the different “medical tips” that are passed along from our favorite “tia” (aunt) or the overly helpful “vecino” (neighbor). These behaviors are far too common in the Hispanic and Latin community. They are also behaviors I try to understand and empathize with so that I can better care for my minority patients.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the dental professional should be able to:

- Identify barriers to dental care in the Hispanic and Latin community.
- Modify their care to increase comfortability among Hispanic and Latin patients.
- Differentiate between Latin and Hispanic patients.
- Incorporate culturally appropriate language into their care.

Glossary

Boricua – how a person from Puerto Rico identifies when speaking to another Puerto Rican, to honor their indigenous ancestry.

Hispanic – a person from a Spanish speaking country

Latina – a female that comes from Latin America

Latinas – a group of women from Latin America

Latine – gender neutral term in Latin America

Latino – a male from Latin America

Latinos – a group of men or a group of people (including women) from Latin America

Latinx – gender neutral term (not as widely accepted)

limpieza dental – dental cleaning

mi a’ma – my mom

mi a’pa – my dad

mi gente – my community

Periodoncista – Periodontist

Profilaxis – Prophylaxis

raspado y alisado radicular – scaling and root planning

Spanglish – a hybrid language combining words and idioms from both Spanish and English

Translanguaging - when a multilingual person uses their full linguistic repertoire to communicate instead of only using a single language.

Video: Silver Diamine Fluoride



[Click on image to view video online.](#)

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Course Test Preview

To receive Continuing Education credit for this course, you must complete the online test. Please go to: www.dentalcare.com/en-us/ce-courses/ce675/test

- 1. All of the following are appropriate terms to use when describing the people who descended from a Latin American country except:**
 - A. Latino/a
 - B. Latinx
 - C. Latine
 - D. Spanish

- 2. Which term refers to people, cultures, or countries related to Spain, Spanish language, culture or people.**
 - A. Latino/a
 - B. Latinx
 - C. Hispanic
 - D. Spanish

- 3. Latine and Latinx are _____?**
 - A. gender-neutral terms used to describe people from Spain
 - B. terms used to describe indigenous people
 - C. gender-neutral terms used to describe people from Latin America
 - D. terms only used by those in the LGBTQAI+ community

- 4. Which of the following statements is TRUE about non-Hispanic Black or Mexican Americans in the United States:**
 - A. They are twice as likely to have untreated cavities when compared to non-Hispanic White adults
 - B. More than 5 out of 10 older adults (ages 65 or older) have had cavities
 - C. Older (ages 65 or older) non-Hispanic Black or Mexican American adults are equally likely to have untreated cavities as older non-Hispanic White adults
 - D. Are not more predisposed to cavities

- 5. According to the CDC, what percentage of Mexican-American children from 12-19 have had caries in their permanent teeth?**
 - A. 33%
 - B. 58%
 - C. 70%
 - D. 52%

- 6. What percentage of Hispanic Latines have reported mental health issues?**
 - A. 5%
 - B. 16%
 - C. 35%
 - D. >50%

7. Translanguaging is _____?

- A. an appropriate way to communicate with patients to help build rapport
- B. unprofessional
- C. derogatory
- D. appropriate for all communication including when explaining treatment plans and diagnosis

8. Which statement best describes an effective strategy that healthcare providers can employ to encourage early seeking of care among Hispanic men, rather than waiting until they are in severe pain or discomfort?

- A. Mailing them reminders for their annual exam
- B. Offering free whitening with their visit
- C. Telling them they should not wait until they are in pain
- D. Providing weekend and evening hours

9. Translanguaging, Spanglish, or Chicanoisms in healthcare settings help create a more welcoming and accepting environment for Spanish-speaking patients.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Which of the following are reasons why we should care about providing Culturally Competent Care?

- A. To reduce the risk of medical errors
- B. To improve the efficiency of care and accuracy in patient medical record
- C. To increase trust and mutual respect with our patients
- D. All of the above

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Additional Resources

- No Additional Resources Available.

About the Author

Amber Lovatos, RDH, BSDH



Amber Lovatos, RDH, BSDH, has been compassionately blazing trails personally and professionally for more than 10 years. As a clinician, educator, author, podcaster, content creator and champion for public health issues, she inspires industry colleagues with unique stories that include triumph over abuse and discovering her identity as “The Latina RDH.” Celebrated as her family’s first college graduate, Amber holds a bachelor’s degree in dental hygiene from The University of Texas School of Dentistry. Amber is the recipient of numerous national and state awards and academic scholarships, including being named ADEA’s 2018 Dental Hygienists Pursuing Academic Careers, 2021’s Dimensions of Dental Hygiene Six Dental Hygienists You Want to Know & one of the 2022’s Sunstar Award of Distinction recipients. Amber has dedicated her dental hygiene career to organizing community outreach events throughout the United States. Amber has organized over 50 events, including sealant days, dental care days, and oral screening events. Amber currently works for a nonprofit dental clinic providing care to survivors of abuse and human trafficking. Before working there, she volunteered at the clinic, caring for survivors, implementing teledentistry, and using portable equipment to provide care to patients in rural parts of Texas. Amber also brought free dental care to children in title-one schools. Amber currently works with Crest Oral-B on their Closing Americas Gap campaign.

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