THE CHALLENGE OF CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE: HISPANIC AND ASIAN PATIENTS

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Hispanics and Asians are among the fastest growing minority groups in the United States. The clinical care of these populations represents a challenge as well as an opportunity of growth for the optometric profession. The course explores the concept of cultural and linguistic competence as applied to these groups. It also explores the recognition of cultural values and access to language interpretation in improving access to healthcare services.

I. Cultural competence

   A. Definition and rationale

   B. Generalizing versus stereotyping

   C. Chauvinism

   D. The dimensions of culture

   E. Difference between cultural competence and diversity

III. Group identification

   A. Race versus ethnicity

   B. Hispanics

      1. Definition

      2. Groups by national origin

   C. Asians

      1. Definition

      2. Groups by national origin

      3. Religion

      4. Languages

IVI. Demographics and economics

   A. Population trends

      1. Overall

      2. Hispanics
3. Asians
B. Geographic distribution
D. Income and buying power
E. Health disparities
F. Accessibility issues

VI. Cultural values
A. Hispanics
   1. Respeto
   2. Familismo
   3. Personalismo
   4. Concept of time
   5. Authority and appearance
   6. Curanderismo and complementary medicine

B. Asians
   1. Patience
   2. Perseverance
   3. Self-sacrifice
   4. Maintenance of inner strength
   5. Self-restraint
   6. Humility
   7. Role of education
   8. Model Minority
   9. Acculturation issues – tension between the generations
   10. Complementary medicine

VII. Challenges to health care and eye care
A. Communication issues
   1. Use of interpreters’ vignette
      a. Interpreter as a cultural broker
      b. Importance of interpretation, professional vs non-professional
      c. Role of provider in interpretation

B. Accessibility issues
   a. Lack of health insurance
b. Lack of primary health care providers

c. Hispanics and Asians as healthcare providers

VIII. Recommendations
   A. Recognizing Hispanic and Asian cultural values
   B. Role of language
   C. Appropriate use of interpreters