

CONTROVERSIES IN DERMATOLOGY

One-Hundred Fifty English Words and Expressions in Dermatology That Present Difficulties or Pitfalls for Translation Into Spanish

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Abstract. Every year, thousands of technical neologisms are coined in English and must be rapidly imported into the Spanish language with the utmost precision, clarity, rigor, and linguistic correctness for Spanish to remain useful as a language of culture and learning that allows us to express the medicine of today. In 1999, the author published an extensive *Glossary of Doubts in English-Spanish Translation of Dermatology* that contained more than 500 words and expressions in dermatology that present difficulties in translation. Nine years later, the original glossary has been extended to include new English words and expressions that were not covered at that time. The author compiles and discusses 150 dermatological neologisms and technical terms in English that present problems for translation into Spanish or generate doubts regarding their use in that language, and offers reasoned proposals for their translation. The proposed translations are well founded and reflect the necessity for accuracy and clarity that should characterize all scientific language. In most cases, they are accompanied by detailed comments on normal usage among physicians, orthographic rules in Spanish, and official guidelines based on standardized nomenclature and the recommendations of the main international organizations.

Key words: terminology, Spanish-to-English translation, dermatology.

CIENTO CINCUENTA PALABRAS Y EXPRESIONES INGLESAS DE TRADUCCIÓN DIFÍCIL O ENGAÑOSA EN DERMATOLOGÍA

Resumen. Cada año se acuñan en inglés tecnicismos neológicos por millares, que hemos de importar rápidamente en español con la máxima precisión, claridad, rigor y corrección si queremos que nuestro idioma siga siendo útil como lengua de cultura y nos permita expresar la medicina actual.

En 1999, el autor publicó en *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* un extenso «Glosario dermatológico de dudas inglés-español» integrado por más de medio millar de palabras y expresiones inglesas de traducción difícil en dermatología. Nueve años después, el presente glosario viene a ampliar el glosario original con nuevas palabras o expresiones inglesas no comentadas entonces. El autor recopila y comenta 150 neologismos y tecnicismos dermatológicos en inglés que plantean problemas de traducción o suscitan dudas de uso en español, para los que ofrece propuestas razonadas de traducción.

En la mayor parte de los casos, las propuestas de traducción van sólidamente fundamentadas y acompañadas de comentarios detallados sobre el uso habitual entre médicos, las normas ortográficas básicas de nuestro idioma, las recomendaciones oficiales de las nomenclaturas normalizadas y los principales organismos internacionales, así como la necesidad de precisión y claridad que debe caracterizar a todo lenguaje científico.

Palabras clave: terminología, traducción inglés-español, lenguaje dermatológico.

In 1999, in this journal I published an extensive glossary entitled *Glosario dermatológico de dudas inglés-español* (*Glossary of Doubts in English-Spanish Translation of Dermatology*) in

3 parts. It covered more than 500 English terms and expressions used in the field of dermatology that present difficulties in translation. My aim was to help resolve many of the doubts that routinely plague dermatologists concerned about the correct use of language, particularly when they consult a text in English. The word *cutis*, for example, has different meanings in English and Spanish. If an *angioma* is not the same as a *hemangioma*, why should we then follow the practice common among English speakers of using

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these terms as if they were synonyms? Which is correct: “táctil” or “tactil,” “candidiasis” or “candidosis,” “microscopia” or “microscopía,” “necrosante” or “necrotizante”? Is the Spanish term “exanthema” the proper translation for the English *rash*? What is the difference between *discoloration* and *decoloration*? Should the Spanish terms “goma sifítica” and “piodermia” be considered to have masculine or feminine gender?

That original glossary is still current, and dermatologists who have such doubts can go to the nearest public library or medical library to consult it regarding the terms used in dermatology that pose the greatest problems in Spanish: *acanthosis nigricans*, *acne*, *athlete’s foot*, *carbuncle*, *circumoral*, *cold sores*, *discoloration*, *ecchymosis*, *exposed parts*, *face lifting*, *fish skin*, *gumma*, *larva migrans*, *melanoma*, *micra*, *microscopy*, *moniliasis*, *mucous membrane*, *necrotizing*, *nodose*, *onychitis*, *pathology*, *pityriasis rubra*, *pompholyx*, *pox*, *pruritic*, *Ritter’s disease*, *roseola*, *scratch test*, *sebaceous cyst*, *skin flora*, *spotted fever*, *thrush*, *ulcus rodens*, *vesicular*, *vitamin A*, and many more.

However, after 9 years I thought that it would be useful to complement the 1999 glossary with an appendix including English words or expressions that were either not included in the original glossary or were only covered partially or in haste. This new collection covers 150 English dermatological technical terms or neologisms—from *actinic keratosis* to *zoster*—that present problems for translation from English to Spanish or give rise to doubts regarding their usage or spelling in Spanish for which I propose carefully considered solutions. While some of these entries are taken almost verbatim from the second edition of my *Diccionario crítico de dudas inglés-español de medicina*,² many others are new. The proposed translations are solidly based on usage and reflect the need for the accuracy and clarity that should characterize all scientific language. In most cases, they are accompanied by detailed comments on normal usage in a medical context, basic rules for spelling in Spanish, and on the official recommendations of standardized nomenclatures and the principal international scientific societies.

I am confident that most dermatologists will learn something from these pages: perhaps some term they were unfamiliar with, a more precise Spanish translation, translation tricks, or some detail regarding the specialized use of a term in English or Spanish. I also trust that they will find at least 1 useful reference in the attached bibliography dealing with language use and translation in the field of dermatology.³⁻⁵⁴ And if some reader should consider that any—or many—of these entries are incomplete, doubtful, debatable, amenable to improvement, or simply incorrect, this would be a splendid occasion to enter into a more detailed terminological debate in the Letters section of this journal, from which we would all benefit.

actinic keratosis. This English term (and its Spanish equivalent “queratosis actínica”) has been used routinely

in medicine since the original term was coined by Pinkus in 1958. For some time actinic keratosis was thought to be a premalignant lesion that, in some cases, could progress to spindle cell carcinoma. Since 1999, however, the general consensus of most dermatologists and pathologists is that the cells of actinic keratosis are actually cancerous rather than precancerous cells, and that actinic keratosis is not, therefore, a precancerous lesion but rather a spindle cell carcinoma in its initial stage. Since the classic term *actinic keratosis* does not include any indication of malignancy, it would seem logical for the sake of greater clarity to replace it with a term such as “carcinoma queratinocítico intraepidérmico” (*keratinocytic intraepidermal carcinoma*) or “carcinoma escamocelular queratósico intraepidérmico” (*intraepidermal keratose squamous cell carcinoma*).

Aleppo boil (also *Aleppo sore*, *Baghdad boil*, *Baghdad sore*, *Biskra boil*, *Biskra sore*, *Delhi boil*, *Delhi sore*, *Jericho boil*, *Jericho sore*, *Oriental boil*, and *Oriental sore*). These are all names used in English to refer to the different varieties of cutaneous leishmaniasis found in Asia, Africa, and the Mediterranean basin. Today, they are all grouped under the common term *Old World cutaneous leishmaniasis* (“leishmaniosis cutánea del Viejo Mundo”), generally abbreviated as *cutaneous leishmaniasis*. The correct translation for these terms is either “leishmaniosis cutánea” or the traditional Spanish denomination “botón de Oriente” (Oriental button).

allergic dermatitis. This term is used to refer to 2 quite different disorders:

1 “Dermatitis atópica” (*atopic dermatitis*), which is also called “eccema atópico” (*atopic eczema*) and “prurigo de Besnier” (*Besnier prurigo*).

2 “Dermatitis alérgica de contacto” (*contact dermatitis*).

alopecia areata. This Latinism poses considerable problems for the translator.

1 The nomenclature of alopecia areata in English is confusing. When referring to the traditional 3 stages of this disease some authors use the following terminology: *alopecia circumscripta* (or simply *alopecia areata*) to refer to the initial stage characterized by circumscribed, well-defined bald patches on the scalp; *alopecia totalis* to refer to total loss of hair on the scalp (but not the eyelashes, eyebrows, beard, underarms, pubic hair, and other body hair); and *alopecia universalis* to refer to total loss of hair from all parts of the body. Other authors, probably to underscore the essential unity of the entire pathological process, prefer to refer to these 3 phases as *alopecia areata circumscripta* (or *patchy alopecia areata*), *alopecia areata totalis*, and *alopecia areata universalis*, respectively.

2 In Spanish, the confusion inherent in the English usage is further complicated by the added confusion arising from the direct import of English terminology into Spanish without paying attention to the problems of

translation. Dermatologists who borrow the English classification and translate *alopecia circumscripta* as “alopecia circunscrita,” *alopecia totalis* as “alopecia total,” and *alopecia universalis* as “alopecia universal” overlook an extremely important fact. English-speaking dermatologists clearly distinguish between *circumscript alopecia* (any patchy alopecia affecting the scalp, such as Brocq pseudopelade, trichotillomania, or cicatricial alopecia secondary to lichen disease) and *alopecia circumscripta* (the circumscribed form of alopecia areata). They also make a clear distinction between *total alopecia* (when referring to general atrichia or other kinds of total hair loss on the scalp) and *alopecia totalis* (total loss of hair on the scalp due to alopecia areata); and between *universal alopecia* (any total loss of body hair) and *alopecia universalis* (total loss of hair on the whole body as an advanced form of alopecia areata). If, as is common in even the most prestigious articles and books on dermatology translated from English, both *total alopecia* and *alopecia totalis* are translated in Spanish as “alopecia total,” it is easy to imagine the resulting confusion in Spanish.

3 However, if we borrow the alternative English classification and translate *alopecia areata circumscripta* (or *patchy alopecia areata*) as “alopecia areata circunscrita” (or “alopecia areata en placas”), *alopecia areata totalis* as “alopecia areata total,” and *alopecia areata universalis* as “alopecia areata universal,” we then fall into the use of incongruent terminology since it is not possible in Spanish to associate 2 mutually exclusive adjectives, such as “areata” and “total,” or “areata” and “universal.” Using the term “alopecia areata total” to designate total hair loss on the scalp that began with circumscribed bald patches would be equivalent to saying “infección localizada generalizada” (*generalized localized infection*) to describe a case of septicemia that started out as a nasal boil.

4 To all of these complications we must add the problems associated with borrowing the adjectives *totalis* and *universalis* used in English to distinguish between the 2 most severe types of *alopecia areata*. It is not possible in Spanish to have a case of alopecia more extensive than the one designated as being “total” (an adjective defined in the dictionary of the Real Academia Española (RAE) as meaning “general, universal, y que lo comprende todo en su especie” (general, universal, and comprising all of its kind). Moreover, the whole problem in English is related to a difficulty peculiar to that language, that is, the lack of any linguistic distinction between *hair* in the sense of “cabello” (hair on the scalp as a whole), *hair* in the sense of “vello” (body hair as a whole), and *hair* in the sense of “pelo(s)” (*a hair or hairs* irrespective of where they grow), all of which can be distinguished very easily in Spanish because of the existence of 3 different words. Since in Spanish the adjective “capilar” refers exclusively to hair on the head

and the adjective “piloso” refers to all the hair on the body including both body and scalp hair, it would appear that we had no great need to look for arcane equivalents to translate the terms *totalis* and *universalis* used in English.

5 In my view, the best way to resolve all of these problems would be to bring back the Gallicism “pelada” (much used in dermatology until a few years ago, but today in decline because of the pressure from the English terminology). Since the term “pelada” does not in itself define the limits of the extent of the condition, it would be perfectly feasible to use “pelada” alone in a generic sense to translate the English *alopecia areata* (in the broad sense) and to use clear and descriptive qualifiers to describe the 3 stages of its progression: “pelada circunscrita” to translate the English term *alopecia circumscripta* (or *patchy alopecia*); “pelada total del cuero cabelludo” or “pelada capilar total” to translate the English *alopecia totalis* (or *alopecia areata totalis*); and “pelada corporal total” or “pelada pilosa total” to translate the English term *alopecia universalis* (or *alopecia areata universalis*). All that is now required is to convince doctors and dermatologists to use these terms.

However, it is clear that, as a result of the pressure of English, the predominant trend among Spanish-speaking dermatologists is to use the loan translations “alopecia areata” (or “alopecia areata en placas”), “alopecia total” (or “alopecia areata total”), and “alopecia universal” (or “alopecia areata universal”) and that such usage involves the problems discussed above.

ambustion. The correct translation for this term in Spanish is “quemadura” and not “ambustión.”

androgenetic alopecia. In Spanish, it is more correct to say “alopecia androgénica” than “alopecia androgenética.”

aquarium granuloma. This term refers to chronic granulomatous mycobacteriosis caused by contamination of a wound with *Mycobacterium marinum*, generally through exposure in swimming pools. Since humans bathe in swimming pools and not aquariums, this English expression should not be translated as “granuloma de los acuáricos,” but rather “granuloma de las piscinas” (or “granuloma de las albercas” in Mexico and “granuloma de las piletas” in the Southern Cone of South America).

bamboo hair (also *clastothrix*, *trichoclasis*, and *trichorrhaxis nodosa*). This hair condition is called “tricolasia” and not “pelo de bambú” or anything of that sort.

barbers' itch. This English term, which should never be translated as “prurito de los barberos” (see *ITCH*), can refer to 2 quite different skin diseases:

1 “Tiña de la barba” (*tinea barbae*), if the condition is mycotic (usually, trichophytic).

2 “Sicosis de la barba” (*sycosis*) or “foliculitis de la barba” (*foliculitis barbae*), if the condition is of bacterial origin (usually staphylococcal). Some authors even distinguish

a third form called “seudofoliculitis de la barba,” also of bacterial or staphylococcal origin.

barrier cream. The Spanish translation of this term is “crema protectora” rather than “crema barrera.”

beauty mark (or *beauty spot*). This should be translated as “lunar” (or alternatively “lentigo” or “nevo”) and not “marca de belleza.”

black and blue. This common chromatic description is used in English to refer to bruising. However, in Spanish we say “amorado” and not “negro y azul.” Example: *black-and-blue mark* (“cardenal,” “moratón,” “equimosis,” that is, what we Spanish doctors often inappropriately call a “hematoma”).

black cancer. The correct translation is “melanoma maligno” and not “cáncer negro.”

blueberry muffin baby. This curious term is used in English to describe the characteristic purpuric eruptions observed on the skin of neonates with dermal erythropoiesis because of a supposed resemblance to American blueberry muffins. While the term may be of some use in English, especially in the United States where everyone is familiar with these muffins, in Spain I personally have never seen or eaten a blueberry muffin.

brandy face. This skin complaint is not called “cara de brandy” in Spanish and should be translated as “rosácea” or “acné rosácea.” Rhinophyma is a particular form of rosacea called *brandy nose* in English (see other synonyms in the entry *POTATO NOSE*).

bull’s eye lesion. The Spanish translation of this manifestation of erythema multiforme is “lesión en escarapela” or “herpes iris” and never “lesión en ojo de toro.”

café-au-lait. This Gallicism, taken from the French school of dermatology, is used in English to refer to the characteristic pathognomic café-au-lait spots caused by Von Recklinghausen neurofibromatosis. The term is easily integrated into Spanish as “manchas de color café con leche” or “manchas café con leche.”

canities. Notwithstanding the final “s” this English word is singular, and consequently in Spanish we say “canicie” rather than “canicies.”

cellulite. This Gallicism—used in English, Spanish, and other languages—is not equivalent to the Spanish term “celulitis” (an inflammation, generally suppurative, of the subcutaneous tissue called *cellulitis* in English), but rather to “dermatopaniculosis deformante” (*dermopaniculosis deformans*). For reasons of clarity and precision, I recommend never using the Gallicism “celulitis” in this sense, or at least only using the term in quotes preceded by an explanatory comment. Example: “mal llamada ‘celulitis’ (inappropriately termed “cellulitis”).

If it is considered absolutely necessary to coin a simple and easily identifiable word to translate the English word *cellulite* in non-specialist and popular writing, the term “celulosis” would be much better than “celulitis.” This

term at least has the advantage of not improperly incorporating the suffix *-itis* indicating inflammation.

*Note: for those who use frequency of use as their chief criterion, it is of interest to note that the term “celulitis” is now so widely used in this erroneous sense in Spanish that few copyeditors dare to correct it in a text for publication. Even the RAE admitted this colloquial sense of “celulitis” in 2001 together with the correct medical sense of “celulitis.” Note that this problem of imprecise terminology does not arise in English because a clear distinction is maintained between *cellulite* and *cellulitis*.

centripetal distribution. Doctors do not agree on the meaning of centripetal and centrifugal when describing the distribution of exanthema.

Some authors base their use on the criteria of the area of the body most affected initially and describe the exanthema associated with smallpox as having a *centrifugal distribution* (because the lesions are more numerous at the ends of the extremities) and that associated with chicken pox as having a *centripetal distribution* (because the lesions are more numerous on the trunk).

Others, however, base their use on the criteria of the progression of the lesions over time and therefore describe the exanthema associated with smallpox as having a *centripetal distribution* (because it progresses from the distal regions towards the trunk) and that of chicken pox as having a *centrifugal distribution* (because it progresses from the trunk towards the extremities).

To avoid this confusion in descriptions of exanthema I recommend not using the terms “centrífugo” and “centrípeto” but rather clearly specifying where the lesions first started and the direction of their progression.

ceratin (or keratin). The Spanish translation for the scleroprotein found in the epidermis, hair, nails, and other horny tissues, is “queratina” and not “ceratina.”

chilblain. A colloquial equivalent to the more technical term *pernio* used by English-speaking physicians; in Spanish the equivalent terms are “sabañón” (colloquial) and “eritema pernio” (medical term). When a patient has these inflammations on several areas of the body, the condition is usually called “perniosis.” (See also *FROSTBITE*).

chromoblastomycosis. This condition was originally called *chromoblastomycosis* because it was believed that the causative agents were blastomycetes. Today, the term *chromomycosis* (“cromomicosis”) is preferred because we now know that this subcutaneous mycosis is actually caused by chromomycetes or black dimorphic fungi. However, in practice this term has not yet displaced the traditional *chromoblastomycosis* (“cromoblastomicosis”).

Cinderella dermatosis (or ashy dermatosis). These are colloquial names for the skin condition referred to by more careful authors using the technical term *erythema dyschromicum perstans* in Latin and “eritema discrómico

persistente” in Spanish. The colloquial name in Spanish is “dermatosis cenicienta.”

circumscribed alopecia. The difference between *circumscribed alopecia* and *alopecia circumscripta* is explained in the entry for *ALOPECLIA AREATA*.

clavus. The Spanish translation of this term is “callo” or “heloma” and not “clav” (nail). The equivalent Spanish colloquial term is “ojo de gallo.” Example: The pressure exerted by the shoe on a specific point of the foot may cause a painful clavus. (“La presión ejercida por el calzado sobre un punto concreto del pie puede originar un callo doloroso.”)

cold cream. I recommend avoiding the Anglicism “cold cream”, which in colloquial language quickly becomes “colcrén” or “colcrem.” In medical texts, we can simply translate this term as “crema hidratante” or “crema suavizante.”

conditioner. This term can have 3 meanings:

1 “Crema suavizante,” when used as an abbreviation for *skin conditioner*.

2 “Suavizante” (for the hair), when used as an abbreviation for *hair conditioner*.

3 “Suavizante” (for laundry), when used as an abbreviation for *fabric conditioner*.

The Anglicism “acondicionador” (never “condicionador”) is commonly used in Spanish only in the second sense. Example: “champú acondicionador” (*conditioning shampoo*).

condylomata. This is the Greek plural of the word *condyloma*. In Spanish, the plural of “condiloma” is “condilomas” and not “condilómata.” Example: “condilomas planos” (*flat condylomata*), “condilomas acuminados” (*pointed condylomata*).

corn. In dermatology we do not use the term “cuerno” (horn) but rather “callo” or “heloma,” and colloquially “ojo de gallo.” Examples: *corn cutter* (“cortacallos”); *corn plaster* (“parche para callos”); *soft corn* (“callo interdigital”). Example: I have a painful corn on my left foot. (“Tengo un callo muy doloroso en el pie izquierdo.”).

cosmeceuticals. This English neologism—formed by combining the words *cosmetic* and *pharmaceuticals*—refers to an ever-growing group of cosmetic products to which real or imaginary prophylactic or curative qualities are attributed although the producers are not required to demonstrate the efficacy of the product. If we wish to incorporate this neologism into our specialized language, it would seem preferable to avoid using the loan translation “cosmecéuticos” and instead coin an expression such as “productos cosmeceuticos” in the same way as we translate *biologicals* as “productos biológicos,” *chemicals* as “productos químicos,” and *pharmaceuticals* as “productos farmacéuticos.” In fact, to convey the idea of a relationship with cosmetics, it would seem more logical in Spanish to use the prefix “cosmeti-” rather than the prefix “cosme-,” which would give us the term “productos cosmeticéuticos.”

cosmetic dermatitis. This should not be translated as “dermatitis cosmética,” but rather “dermatitis por

cosméticos,” which is quite different. The adjective *cosmetic* in the English expression does not correspond to our adjective “cosmético” but rather to our noun “cosmético.”

coup de sabre (or *en coup de sabre*). This term, taken directly from the French school of dermatology, is used in English to refer to the characteristic scleroderma lesion in the form of a clearly delimited, depressed, and hyperpigmented linear cleft accompanied by linear alopecia and atrophoderma in the frontoparietal scalp typical of localized scleroderma. This term can, however, be easily rendered in Spanish by a loan translation, such as “esclerodermia en sablazo” or “esclerodermia en hachazo.”

dandruff. It should be noted that English distinguishes between *dandruff* (in humans) and *dander* (in animals) when referring to what is called “caspa” in both cases in Spanish.

depilation. The distinction that some English-speaking authors make between *depilation* and *epilation* is explained in the entry for *EPILATION*.

dermabrasion. In Spanish, unlike in English, “dermoabrasión” is more common than “dermabrasión.”

dermatogenic. 1 To indicate that something originates in the skin, the traditional adjective used in Spanish was “dermatógeno” and not “dermatogénico.” Example: *dermatogenic torticollis* (“tortícolis dermatógeno”).

2 When used to refer to a phenomenon that generates or produces skin, I personally prefer the term “dermatopoyético” to “dermatógeno,” to prevent possible confusion with the first sense.

dermatoglyphics (or *dermoglyphics*). This term can have 2 meanings, easily distinguished in Spanish:

1 “Dermatoglifos” (not “dermatoglíficos”): papillary ridges on the fingers, palms, and the soles of the feet.

2 “Dermatoglifia”: the science dealing with the study of dermatoglyphics.

dermies. The technical term of Greek origin “dermis” (*dermis*) should not be confused with the colloquial slang term *dermies* used to refer to dermatologists.

dermis. 1 This word of Greek origin has feminine gender in Spanish so that the correct form is “la dermis” rather than “el dermis.”

2 English-speaking doctors unfamiliar with classical languages sometimes write “the dermis of the skin.” This redundant construction should always be avoided in Spanish since “la dermis” alone is sufficiently clear.

dermoid. This term has 2 meanings:

1 [*adjective*] “Dermoide” (*skin-like or dermatoid*).

2 [*noun*] “Quiste dermoide” (*dermoid or dermoid cyst*).

dyshidrosis (or *dyshydrosis*). This term can have 2 quite different meanings:

1 “Dishidrosis,” that is, any abnormality of sweating.

2 Because it was thought to be caused by retention of sweat, the name *dyshidrosis* (or *dyshidrotic eczema*) was also used to denote the eczematous dermatosis now called

pompholyx in English and “ponfóllice” or “ponfóliz” in Spanish.

ecthyma. Spanish-speaking doctors frequently have doubts about the grammatical gender of the term of Greek origin “ectima.” The RAE specifies feminine gender, but the etymologically coherent masculine gender is preferred in educated use among doctors and this is what I also recommend. Thus we should write “el ectima” instead of “la ectima.” Example: “ectima contagioso” (*contagious ecthyma*), “ectima gangrenoso” (*ecthyma gangrenosum*).

ephelis (plural: *ephelides*). In Spanish, the term “efélide” (or “peca”) is used much more often than “efelis”. See also *LENTIGO*.

epidermis. 1 This word of Greek origin has feminine gender in Spanish making the correct form “la epidermis” and not “el epidermis.”

2 English-speaking doctors unfamiliar with classical languages sometimes write “the epidermis of the skin.” This redundant construction should always be avoided in Spanish since “la epidermis” alone is sufficiently clear.

epilation. 1 I recommend avoiding the term of French and English origin “epilación” to denote this procedure used frequently in dermatology to treat certain types of mycosis. Most Spanish-speaking women, who undergo the procedure for esthetic reasons, are familiar with its correct name in Spanish: “depilación.” Examples: *autoepilation* (“autodepilación”), *epilating forceps* (“pinzas de depilación,” “pinzas para depilar”), *epilation by electrolysis* (“depilación eléctrica”), *epilatory* (“depilatorio”), *wax epilation* (“depilación con cera”).

2 Some English-speaking authors attempt to make a distinction between *depilation* (if only the hair above the surface of the skin is removed, as in the case of shaving or the use of hair dissolving substances) and *epilation* (if the hair is destroyed at the root, as in the case of hair removal using wax or laser). In practice, however, this distinction does not appear to have gained currency, and *depilation* is currently being used as a less frequent synonym for *epilation*.

epulis (plural: *epulides*). In Spanish, the term “épulis” (invariable in the plural form) is used much more frequently than “epúlida.”

erythema. This term of Greek origin is usually accompanied in English by Latin qualifiers that are easily rendered in Spanish: *erythema ab igne* (“eritema calórico”), *erythema annulare centrifugum* (“eritema anular centrifugo”), *erythema annulare rheumaticum* (“eritema anular reumático”), *erythema bullosum* (“eritema ampoloso” or “eritema vesicular”), *erythema caloricum* (“eritema calórico”), *erythema chronicum migrans* (“eritema crónico migratorio”), *erythema dyschromicum perstans* (“eritema discrómico persistente”), *erythema elevatum diutinum* (“eritema elevado persistente” or “eritema elevado diutino”), *erythema fugax* (“eritema fugaz”), *erythema induratum* (“eritema indurado”), *erythema*

infectiosum (“eritema infeccioso”), *erythema marginatum* (“eritema marginado”), *erythema migrans* (“eritema migratorio”), *erythema multiforme* (“eritema polimorfo”), *erythema neonatorum* (“eritema neonatal”), *erythema nodosum* (“eritema nudoso” or “eritema nodular”), *erythema papulatum* (“eritema papuloso”), *erythema perstans* (“eritema persistente”), *erythema punctatum* or *erythema scarlatinoides* (“eritema escarlatiniforme”), *erythema solare* (“eritema solar”), *erythema toxicum* (“eritema tóxico”), *erythema traumaticum* (“eritema traumático”), *erythema venenatum* (“eritema tóxico”).

erythema migrans. This English expression (which should never be translated by the Spanish-Greek-Latin hybrid “eritema migrans”) has 2 meanings:

1 “Eritema migratorio” (which affects the skin).

2 “Lengua geográfica” (which affects the tongue). English synonym: *erythema migrans linguae*.

exanthemata. In Spanish, the plural of “exantema” is “exantemas” and not “exantémata.”

felon. In dermatology, the translation of this term is not “felón” (“wicked person”), but rather “panadizo” or “paroniquia.” Many English-speaking authors use *felon* as an exact synonym of *whitlow*, while others make a subtle distinction between the 2 terms and only use *felon* to refer to a whitlow with purulent inflammation of the deep tissues.

fifth disease. This is an antiquated term that derives from a classification of the exanthematous diseases of childhood ordered by frequency. Outside of historical texts the term “quinta enfermedad” should no longer be used to refer to “eritema infeccioso.” A colloquial synonym in English is *slapped-cheek measles*.

The term *fifth disease* should not be confused with the English term *fifth venereal disease*, an antiquated term formerly used to refer to what is now called lymphogranuloma venereum.

first disease. This is an antiquated term that derives from a classification of the exanthematous diseases of childhood ordered by frequency. The term *first disease* was then used to denote the disease now called measles.

flea-bite dermatitis. I recommend avoiding the use of the term “dermatitis por picadura de pulga” as a synonym for what is called in English *erythema toxicum neonatorum* and in Spanish “eritema tóxico neonatal,” since this disease is not transmitted by flea bites. However, the use of the expression *flea-bite dermatitis* is, of course, correct when it refers to a case of allergic dermatitis caused by a flea bite.

fogo selvagem. This is a loan term imported into English from the local name of a very severe form of pemphigus foliaceus endemic in some areas of Brazil. It makes little sense in Spanish to use the Portuguese expression and is more logical to either translate the term literally as “fuego salvaje” or else to choose a more descriptive and informative term, such as “pénfigo brasileño” (undoubtedly of much more use to the reader).

foundation. This term is an abbreviation of *foundation cream* and can be translated as “base de maquillaje” (makeup base).

fourth disease. This is an antiquated term that derives from a classification of the exanthematous diseases of childhood ordered by frequency.

1 Some authors used the term *fourth disease* to refer to the condition we now call “exantema súbito” (*exanthema subitum*) caused by human herpesvirus type 6. This term should not be confused with the term *fourth venereal disease*, which may be translated in Spanish as either “balanopostitis” (*balanoposthitis*) or “granuloma inguinal” (*granuloma inguinale*).

2 Other authors used the term *sixth disease* to refer to exanthema subitum. In this classification the term *fourth disease* referred to *Dukes-Filatov disease* or *parascarlantina*. There is currently no agreement about whether this entity described at the beginning of the 20th century is a distinct disease. Some specialists consider it to be merely a variety of German measles or a mild form of scarlet fever; others consider it to be a distinct disease caused by the epidermolytic toxin of *Staphylococcus aureus*, and it may have been what is now called in Spanish “dermatitis exfoliativa neonatal,” “dermatitis exfoliativa estafilocócica,” or “epidermólisis estafilocócica aguda” (what is called in English *staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome*). (The term *sixth disease* should not be confused with the *sixth venereal disease* used to refer to the condition we now call lymphogranuloma venereum.)

freckle. As indicated in the entry for *LENTIGO*, this term can be translated as “lunar,” “peca,” “lentigo,” or “efélide,” depending on the context and the register of the text. Example: *malignant freckle* (“lentigo maligno”).

frostbite. This term has 2 meanings:

1 Tissue destruction resulting from extreme cold (“congelación”).

2 Synonym of *chilblain* (“sabañón,” “eritema pernío”).

gallery. Burrow (“surco”) or tunnel (“túnel”) created by the scabies mite.

glabrous. Although the Latin term “glabro” is also used in Spanish, it is generally preferable to use a synonym, such as “lampiño” or “calvo.” Example: *glabrous skin* (“piel lampiña”).

glossy skin. This term has 2 possible translations in Spanish:

1 In the strict sense, “atrofodermia neurítica” (*atrofoderma neuriticum*).

2 In the broad sense, “liodermia” (*leiodermia*) in specialized texts or “piel lisa y brillante” (*smooth and glossy skin*) in popular texts.

gryphosis. This incorrect spelling, relatively common in medical texts, is obviously caused by confusion with the name of the mythical griffin (γρυπιός in Greek and “gryphus” in Late Latin). On the basis of the original spelling of the Greek word γρύπιωσις (meaning *incurvation* or *abnormal curvature*), the correct form in Spanish should be “griposis” and not “grifosis.” Example:

onychogryposis or the incorrect *onychogryphosis* (“onicogriposis”).

guttate (or *guttata*). This Latin term is used commonly in English to describe small drop-like lesions. It can be easily translated in Spanish as “en gotas.” Example: *guttate psoriasis* or *psoriasis guttata* (“psoriasis en gotas”).

hairless. This term has 3 possible meanings in Spanish: 1 “Calvo,” “alopécico,” “pelón,” “sin pelo” (to describe a lack of hair on the scalp).

2 “Lampiño” (to describe a lack of a beard or body hair). Example: *hairless skin* (“piel lampiña”).

3 “Depilado” (if body hair has been removed intentionally by epilation).

heat rash (or *heat spots*). This term can have 2 meanings:

1 “Miliaria” or “sudamina.”

2 “Urticaria.”

herpes zoster. See *ZOSTER*.

hidradenoma. 1 In Spanish the spelling “hidroadenoma” is more common than “hidradenoma.” In English the misspelling “hydradenoma” is common due to a confusion between the 2 Greek prefixes *hidr-* (relating to sweat) and *hydr-* (relating to water).

2 The plural of *hidradenoma* in English is *hidradenomata*, but in Spanish the plural of “hidroadenoma” is “hidroadenomas” and not “hidroadenómata.”

hidroa. The English term *hidroa* (“sudamina” in Spanish) should not be confused with the English term *hydroa* (“hidroa” in Spanish).

This confusion is further complicated by the fact that many authors writing in English who are not well versed in Greek misspell the term and write *hidroa* when they mean *hydroa*, and *hydroa* when they mean *hidroa*.

hirsutism (or *hirsuties*). Some authors consider the terms *hypertrichosis* and *hirsutism* to be synonymous. Others make a clear distinction between “hipertrichosis” (*hypertrichosis* or abnormal hairiness with normal sexual distribution in a man or woman), “hirsutismo” (*hirsutism* or male sexual distribution of hair in a woman), and “virilismo” (*virilism* or hirsutism associated with other signs of virilization in a woman).

hive (also *welt* or *wheat*). 1 The raised and generally very itchy lesion characteristic of urticaria is called a “roncha” or “habón” in Spanish.

2 The correct translation for the plural form *hives* is either “ronchas” (or “habones”) or, in many cases, “urticaria.”

horny skin. This term can have 2 quite different meanings: 1 “Estrato córneo de la piel” or “capa córnea” (*stratum corneum*) when used as an abbreviation of the term *horny skin layer*.

2 “Queratodermia” or “callosidad” when it refers to a *keratoderma* or *callus*.

hypertrichosis. The difference between *hypertrichosis*, *hirsutism* and *virilism* is explained in the entry *HIRSUTISM*.

hypodermis. 1 This word of Greek origin has feminine gender in Spanish; thus the correct form is “la hipodermis” rather than “el hipodermis.”

2 Most authors use the terms *hypodermis*, *fatty layer*, *subcutaneous fatty tissue*, *subcutaneous tissue* and *subcutis* as if they were exact synonyms. Something similar occurs in Spanish with the terms “hipodermis,” “panículo adiposo,” “tejido celular subcutáneo,” and “tejido subcutáneo.”

3 Note that, as discussed in the entry *SKIN*, some physicians consider the hypodermis to be the lowest layer of the skin while many others do not consider the hypodermis to form part of the skin.

impetigo. 1 In Latin, the word *impetigo* was stressed on the penultimate syllable. In Spanish, however, the stress has moved to the antepenultimate syllable as has happened in the case of many other imported Latin words, such as *vertigo* (“vértigo”), *cartilago* (“cartilago”), and *mucilago* (“mucílago”), all of which were stressed on the penultimate syllable in Latin. I therefore recommend using the antepenultimate stressed form “impétigo” rather than the more etymologically correct “impetigo”. Since 1970, the RAE has also recommended the spelling “impétigo” (whereas until that time it only admitted the etymological form). Note that the word *impetigo* has feminine gender in Latin, but masculine in Spanish. Examples: *impetigo contagiosa* (“impétigo contagioso”), *ulcerative impetigo* (“impétigo ulceroso”).

2 In dermatology, the term *impetigo* (impétigo) is usually used in the sense of *impetigo contagiosa* (“impétigo contagioso”) or *impetigo vulgaris* (“impétigo vulgar”) to refer to any form of contagious pyoderma. The 2 most common forms are “impétigo estafilocócico” (in English *bullous impetigo*, *impetigo bullosa*, *impetigo contagiosa bullosa*, *impetigo neonatorum*, *staph* or *staphylococcal impetigo*) and “impétigo estreptocócico” (in English, *strep* or *streptococcal impetigo*). The less common and more serious entity known as *impetigo herpetiformis* (“impétigo herpetiforme”) is a special case that occurs during pregnancy and appears to be related to psoriasis.

integument. In Spanish the term “tegumento” is much more common than “integumento.” Example: *integumentary* (“tegumentario”). According to the international standard on human anatomical terminology, the official name for the integument that covers the human body is *integumentum commune* (“tegumento común”). While, in most cases, this term can be simply translated as “piel,” it actually has a broader meaning since it also includes the hypodermis, the adnexa of skin (nails, hair follicles, sebaceous glands, and sweat glands) and, according to some authors, even the mammary glands.

intertrigo. Many Spanish doctors have doubts about the correct written accent for this dermatological term of Latin origin. I recommend invariably using the etymological accentuation, “intertrigo,” which is also the

only form admitted by the RAE. Note that the word *intertrigo* has feminine gender in Latin, but masculine in Spanish (“el intertrigo”).

inverse psoriasis. I recommend avoiding the use of the loan translation “psoriasis inversa,” which provides little or no information to those not already familiar with this form of the disease. To find a more informative name we need only note the 2 most outstanding clinical characteristics of this disorder: (1) unlike other forms of psoriasis, the cutaneous lesions are not dry and scaly but rather exudative and very similar to those found in patients with seborrheic dermatitis; and (2) while other forms of psoriasis generally affect the flat areas of the limbs, *inverse psoriasis* is most commonly found on the skin located in folds or creases (armpits, groin, between the buttocks), or on the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet. The terms “psoriasis seborreica” (or “soriasis seborreica”) and “psoriasis flexural” (or “soriasis flexural”) are both clearly more informative names than “psoriasis inversa.”

itch. This term can have 3 meanings:

1 “Prurito,” “comezón,” “picazón” when used an indeterminate noun (*an itch*).

2 “Sarna” when used as a determinate noun (*the itch*).

3 It is also used to refer to any form of skin condition accompanied by intense pruritus. Example: *Cuban itch* (“alastrim,” “seudoviruela,” “viruela blanca,” or “viruela menor”), *ground itch* (“anquilostomosis cutánea”), *the itch that rashes* (“dermatitis atópica”), *jock itch* or *jockey itch* (“tiña crural” or “tiña inguinal”), *mad itch* (“seudorrabia” or “parálisis bulbar infecciosa”), *seven-year itch* (“sarna”), *summer itch* (“hidroa vacciniiforme” or “prurigo estival”), *swimmer’s itch* (“cercariosis cutánea”), *winter itch* (“eccema xerótico” or “xerosis cutánea”).

itch mite. I recommend avoiding the loan translation “ácaro del prurito” because this English term can have 4 different meanings:

1 “Arador de la sarna,” *Sarcoptes scabiei*.

2 Any mite of the genus *Sarcoptes*.

3 Any mite of the genus *Notoedres*.

4 A mite of the species *Rhizoglyphus parasiticus* (also called in English *coolie-itch mite*).

lentigo (plural: *lentigines*). 1 Spanish doctors are often unsure where the stress should fall on this dermatological term of Latin origin. I recommend invariably using the etymological stress “lentigo,” which is also the only form admitted by the RAE. The plural form in Spanish is, of course, “lentigos” rather than “lentigines.” Example: *malignant lentigo* (lentigo maligno), *senile lentigo* (lentigo senil).

2 The word *lentigo* has feminine gender in Latin but masculine gender in Spanish. Example: *lentigo maligna* (lentigo maligno).

3 The term *lentigo* is, in both English and Spanish, a technical term rarely used outside the specialized language of dermatology. The colloquial term is *freckle* in English

and “lunar” or “peca” in Spanish. Specialized synonyms: *ephelis* in English and “efélide” in Spanish.

lichen. This technical dermatological term is usually accompanied in English by Latin qualifiers, which can be easily integrated into Spanish. Examples: *lichen aureus* (“liquen dorado”), *lichen nitidus* (“liquen nítido”), *lichen planus* (“liquen plano”), *lichen ruber* (“liquen rojo”), *lichen sclerosus et atrophicus* (“liquen escleroatrófico”), *lichen scrofulosorum* (“liquen escrofuloso”), *lichen simplex* (“liquen simple” or “liquen vulgar”), *lichen striatus* (“liquen estriado”), and *lichen urticatus* (“liquen urticado” or “urticaria papulosa”).

light rash. This term has 2 very different meanings:

1 “Exantema leve” (a rash that is mild either in terms of seriousness or intensity).

2 “Exantema lumínico” or “exantema actínico” (a rash caused by exposure to light).

liver spot. This colloquial term used to refer to any kind of brownish lentigo can be translated with terms such as “lentigo senil” (*senile lentigo*), “melasma” (*melasma*), “pityriasis versicolor” (*pityriasis versicolor*), and “morfea” (*morphea*).

lupus erythematosus. Owing to confusion with the Greek suffix *-osis* and the Greek prefix *erythro-*, both used frequently in medical terms, English-speaking physicians often use incorrect forms of the Latinate term “*lupus erythematosus*.” These include “*lupus erythrematosus*,” “*lupus erythromatosus*,” “*lupus erythromatosis*,” and especially “*lupus erythematosis*”. The correct form in Spanish is “lupus eritematoso” and not “lupus eritematosis” or “lupus eritromatoso.” Examples: *discoid lupus erythematosus* or *discoid lupus erythromatosus* (“lupus eritematoso discoide”), *systemic lupus erythematosus* or *systemic lupus erythromatosus* (“lupus eritematoso diseminado”).

melanotic neuroectodermal tumor. This benign and highly pigmented myeloproliferative tumor has at least 10 different names in English: *benign melanotic progonoma*, *melanoameloblastoma*, *melanotic adamantinoma*, *melanotic ameloblastoma*, *melanotic neuroectodermal tumor* (or *tumour*), *melanotic progonoma*, *pigmented ameloblastoma*, *pigmented epulis*, *pigmented neuroectodermal tumor*, and *retinal anlage tumor* (or *tumour*). To prevent such a multiplication of synonyms in Spanish, and the confusion that entails, my proposal is that we should use only 1 of these names: “tumor neuroectodérmico pigmentado.”

mole. In dermatology, the English term *mole* is not usually used in the sense of the Spanish term “mola” (used commonly in gynecology) or in that of “mol” (common in chemistry), but rather in the sense of the Spanish terms “lunar,” “lentigo,” or “nevo nevocítico”. It is an approximate colloquial synonym of the technical term *nevus*. The translator should bear in mind that the general population tends to use the word *mole* to refer to any pigmented skin lesion, even if the lesion in question is a malignant melanoma. This also occurs with many other colloquial terms. See also the entry *LENTIGO*.

mycosis fungoides. In Spanish we say “micosis fungoide” and not “micosis fungoides.”

nodule. The nodule as a basic skin lesion is defined in a very different way by the French school of dermatology (followed by most Spanish-speaking dermatologists until 25 years ago) and by the English-speaking school of dermatology (currently followed by most authors). The traditional definition of a nodule was “a solid circumscribed and prominent spherical or irregular lesion located in the lower layers of the dermis or in the hypodermis and identified by palpation.” However, the English-speaking school of dermatology uses the word *nodule* to refer to a “circumscribed, solid elevation at least 0.5 cm in diameter”. To avoid confusion, it would perhaps be best if we started to use the term “nódulo profundo” for the former and “nódulo superficial” for the latter.

nodulocystic acne. Owing to their similarity to inflamed epidermal cysts, the term “cyst” was formerly used to describe the suppurative nodular lesions that characterize this form of acne. For clarity and precision, physicians now tend to use the term *severe nodular acne* (“acné nodular grave”) rather than the traditional term *nodulocystic acne* (“acné noduloquístico”).

oid-oid disease. This is jargon for the form of neurodermatitis usually called in technical language *exudative discoid and lichenoid dermatitis* (“dermatitis exudativa discoide y liquenoide” or “síndrome de Sulzberger-Garbe”). I strongly recommend avoiding the loan translation “enfermedad oide-oide” in Spanish.

onychogryphosis. As discussed in the entry *GRYPHOSIS*, I recommend the use in Spanish of the term “onicogriposis” (*onychogryphosis*) rather than “onicogrifosis” to refer to the claw-like deformation of nails (despite the fact that the latter form appears to be more often used among Spanish dermatologists).

onychopacity. In Spanish, whitish opacity of the nails is called “leuconiquia” (*leukonychia*) and not “onicopacidad.”

orf. In Spanish, this pustulous pyoderma is not called “orf,” but rather “ectima contagioso” (beware of the incorrect form “ectima contagiosa,” see *ECTHYMA*). Example: *orf virus* (“virus del ectima contagioso”).

outbreak. This English word has 2 common meanings in medical texts:

1 “Epidemia,” “brote epidémico” (*epidemic outbreak*).

2 “Erupción” (*rash, flare*).

parchment skin. This term can have 2 meanings:

1 “Piel apergaminada” (*parchment skin*).

2 “Xerodermia” (*xeroderma*).

patch test. I recommend avoiding the use of the English term *patch test* frequently used in dermatology. The term can be translated as “prueba epicutánea,” “epidermorreacción,” “prueba del parche,” “prueba percutánea,” or “prueba de contacto.” Example: *photopatch test* (“fotoepidermorreacción,” “fotoprueba de contacto”).

peau d'orange. I recommend avoiding the use of this unnecessary French loan term to describe the appearance of the skin characteristic of certain diseases and conditions, including breast cancer and cellulite (a term often incorrectly translated in Spanish as “celulitis,” see the entry for *CELLULITE*). The description translates easily into Spanish as “piel de naranja.”

pemphigoid. 1 There has recently been a growing trend in English (and also in other languages) towards the use of the term *pemphigoid* without a qualifier to refer exclusively to the skin disorder *bullous pemphigoid* (“pénfigo ampolloso” or “pénfigo vesicular”). Bullous pemphigoid is no doubt the most common form of pemphigoid, but it should be remembered that other forms of this disease exist, including *cicatricial pemphigoid* (“penfigoide cicatricial,” also called *benign mucosal pemphigoid* in English).

Therefore, for clarity and precision, I recommend translating the term *pemphigoid* as “penfigoide ampolloso” or “penfigoide vesicular” whenever there is a risk of confusion and always the first time the disease is mentioned in a text. Once the term has been introduced, and as long as there is no possible risk of confusion with any other forms of pemphigoid in the text, the abbreviated form “penfigoide” can also be used in Spanish without any problem. See also the entry for *PEMPHIGUS*.

2 The term *pemphigoid gestationis* used by some authors refers to what dermatologists now call *herpes gestationis* in English and “herpes del embarazo,” “herpes gravídico,” or “herpes gestacional” in Spanish.

pemphigus. 1 There has recently been a growing trend in English (and also in other languages) towards the use of the term *pemphigus* without a qualifier to refer exclusively “pénfigo vulgar” (*pemphigus vulgaris* in English, also formerly called *malignant pemphigus* or *pemphigus malignus*). While *pemphigus vulgaris* is the most common form of the disorder, it should not be forgotten that there are also many other forms of this disease: *benign familial pemphigus* (“pénfigo familiar benigno”), *Brazilian pemphigus* (“pénfigo brasileño,” also called *South American pemphigus*, *wildfire pemphigus*, or *fogo selvagem*), *ocular pemphigus* (“pénfigo ocular”), *pemphigus acutus* (“pénfigo agudo,” also called *febrile pemphigus*), *pemphigus contagiosus* (“pénfigo contagioso”), *pemphigus crouposus* (“pénfigo diftérico”), *pemphigus foliaceus* (“pénfigo foliáceo”), *pemphigus vegetans* (“pénfigo vegetante”).

In the interests of clarity and precision, I recommend translating the term *pemphigus* as “pénfigo vulgar” whenever there is a risk of confusion and always the first time the disease is mentioned in a text. Once the term has been introduced, and as long as there is no possible risk of confusion with any other form of pemphigus, the abbreviated form “pénfigo” can also be used in Spanish without any problems. See also the entry for *PEMPHIGOID*

2 Some skin lesions previously called pemphigus now have other names: *pemphigus gangrenosus* (“dermatitis gangrenosa del recién nacido” [*dermatitis gangrenosa infantum*]), *pemphigus neonatorum* (“impétigo ampolloso” [*bullous impetigo of newborn*]).

perionychia. Inflammation of the folds of tissue surrounding the nail is referred to in Spanish by the terms “paroniquia” or “perionixis” much more often than by “perioniquia”

piebaldism. For clarity, I recommend avoiding the use of the Anglicism *piebaldism* to refer to “albinismo parcial” (partial albinism) or “albinismo localizado” (localized albinism). The expression *piebaldism* is perfectly clear and descriptive for English-speaking doctors and nurses since in English the word *piebald* describes a horse with a white coat marked with patches of another color (“un pío” in Spanish).

pigmented neuroectodermal tumor. This benign and highly pigmented myeloproliferative tumor has at least 10 different names in English: *benign melanotic progonoma*, *melanoameloblastoma*, *melanotic adamantinoma*, *melanotic ameloblastoma*, *melanotic neuroectodermal tumor* (or *tumour*), *melanotic progonoma*, *pigmented ameloblastoma*, *pigmented epulis*, *pigmented neuroectodermal tumor*, and *retinal anlage tumor* (or *tumour*). To prevent such a multiplication of synonyms in Spanish and the confusion that would entail, my proposal is that we should use only 1 of these names: “tumor neuroectodérmico pigmentado.”

pimple (or *zit*). These colloquial terms refer to the skin lesions that doctors call “pápulas” and correspond loosely in common parlance to the Spanish word “grano”: *I have pimples on my back*. (“Tengo la espalda llena de granos.”) Frequently, however, the most appropriate translation can only be determined by the context: the expression *teenage pimples*, for example, refers to adolescent acne; and *pimple doctor* and *zit doctor* are slang terms for a dermatologist.

pointed condyloma. In Spanish we say “condiloma acuminado” and not “condiloma apuntado.”

polytrichosis (or *polytrichia*). The Spanish term used to denote excessive growth of body hair is “hipertrichosis” and not “politrichosis” or “politriquia.”

potato nose (also *brandy nose*, *bulbous nose*, *copper nose*, *hammer nose*, and *whisky nose*). In medical terminology, hypertrophic disfigurement of the nose is called “rinofima” (*rhynophyma*) and not “nariz de patata,” “nariz bulbosa,” “nariz de brandy,” “nariz de cobre,” “nariz de martillo,” or “nariz de whisky.” Some of the colloquial names in English highlight the extreme deformity of the nose and others the frequent association of the condition with chronic alcoholism. The colloquial term traditionally used in Spanish (although less frequently than the English counterparts) is “nariz de pimienta” (pepper nose).

prorates. The English spellchecker in Microsoft Word does not recognize the word *pruritus* and offers *prorates* as the first suggestion. This explains why, even in specialized

texts, we find the word *prorates* relatively often used incorrectly instead of *pruritus*. Example: *prorates of the anus* (prurito anal).

prurigo. Many Spanish doctors are unsure whether a written accent is required on this Latinate dermatological term. I recommend maintaining the etymological stress (“prurigo”), and this is also the only spelling accepted by the RAE. Example: *summer prurigo* (“prurigo estival” or “hidroa vacciniforme”). Note that the word *prurigo* has feminine gender in Latin, but masculine in Spanish: (el prurigo).

puddental ulcer. The terms “granuloma inguinal” and “granuloma venéreo” are much more common in Spanish than “úlceras pudenda.”

rhinophyma. Spanish speakers often have doubts about the grammatical gender of the term “rinofima.” The term is of Greek origin and has masculine gender in Spanish (as explained earlier in the entry for *ECTHYMA*). Therefore the correct form is “el rinofima” rather than “la rinofima.”

ringworm. The translator should take particular care with this word because the term has no connection whatsoever with worms and translates as “tiña” (*tinea*) or “dermatofitosis” (*dermophytosis*). Examples: *foot ringworm* (“tiña del pie”), *ringworm fungus* (“dermatofito”), *ringworm of the beard* (“sicosis de la barba,” “sicosis tricofítica”), *ringworm of the groin* (“tiña inguinal”, that is, classical “eccema marginado de Hebra”), *ringworm of the nails* (“onicomicosis”), *ringworm of the scalp* or *scalp ringworm* (“tiña del cuero cabelludo” or “tiña tonsurante”).

scabious. This term can have 2 meanings:

- 1 “Costroso” or “cubierto de costras” (scabby, derived from the word *scab* meaning “costra”).
- 2 “Sarnoso” (derived from the word *scabies* meaning “sarna”).

scalded skin. Unless the skin lesions in question have in fact been caused by boiling water, I recommend avoiding the use in Spanish of the loan translation “piel escaldada.” This term is used in English to refer to various exfoliative forms of skin disease characterized by an appearance very similar to that of scalded skin. The 2 most common are: (1) *nonstaphylococcal scalded skin syndrome*, which can be translated as “necrólisis epidérmica tóxica” (toxic epidermal necrolysis) or “síndrome de Lyell” (Lyell syndrome); and (2) *staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome* or *SSSS*, which can be translated as “dermatitis exfoliativa neonatal (or ‘estafilocócica’)” (neonatal exfoliative dermatitis or neonatal staphylococcal dermatitis) or “epidermolisis estafilocócica aguda” (acute staphylococcal epidermolysis).

scarring. 1 [*noun*] The proper translation of the word *scarring* is “cicatrización” and not “escarificación” (scarification). The term is sometimes used in the more restricted sense of “cicatrización patológica,” “deformidad cicatricial” or “retracción cicatricial.”

- 2 [*adjective*] As an adjective derived from the verb *to scar* (which can mean either “cicatrizarse” [*to heal or form a scar*]

or “dejar cicatriz” [*to leave a scar*]), this word has 2 quite different meanings: “cicatrizante” (*cicatrizing, causing or favoring cicatrization*) and “que deja cicatriz” (*leaving a scar*). There is no adjective in Spanish that covers the latter meaning.

3 Outside of the field of dermatology, the use of the term *scarring* is very common in medical English even in the specialized register in which the Spanish author would say “fibrosis” or “esclerosis.” Example: *interstitial scarring* (“fibrosis intersticial”), *liver scarring* or *scarring of liver* (“cirrosis hepática” or “fibrosis hepática” depending on the context), *lung scarring* or *scarring of lung* (“fibrosis pulmonar”), *renal scarring* or *scarring of kidney* (“nefroesclerosis”).

second disease. This is an antiquated term that derives from a classification of exanthematous diseases of childhood ordered by frequency. It refers to the disease now called *scarlet fever*.

sixth disease. This is an antiquated term that derives from a classification of exanthematous diseases of childhood ordered by frequency in which the *sixth disease* (and for other authors the *fourth disease*) was the condition we now call “exantema súbito” (*exanthema subitum*). This term should not be confused with the term *sixth venereal disease*, which referred to “linfogranuloma venéreo” (*lymphogranuloma venereum*).

skin. 1 This word, so apparently simple to translate, appears in a large number of deceptive and difficult-to-translate expressions. Examples: *alligator skin* or *collodion skin* (“ictiosis”), *chapped skin* (“piel agrietada”), *crocodile skin* (“ictiosis”), *dark skin* (“piel morena”), *decreased skin turgor* (“signo del pliegue” or “persistencia del pliegue cutáneo”), *elastic skin* (“piel hiperelástica” or “síndrome de Ehlers-Danlos”), *facial skin* (“cutis”), *fair skin* (“piel blanca” or “tez blanca”), *false skin* (“epidermis”), *farmer skin* or *farmers’ skin* (“elastosis actínica” or “piel de campesino”), *fish skin* (“ictiosis”), *glabrous skin* (“piel lampiña”), *goose skin* (“piel de gallina” or “carne de gallina”), *hairless skin* (“piel lampiña”), *India rubber skin* (“piel hiperelástica” or “síndrome de Ehlers-Danlos”), *light skin* (“piel blanca”), *loose skin* (“piel laxa”), *marble skin* (“piel marmórea” or “livedo reticular”), *normal skin markings* (“pliegues naturales de la piel”), *paper skin* (“xerodermia”), *parchment skin* (“xerodermia” or “piel apergamizada” depending on the context), *pig skin* (“piel de naranja”), *porcupine skin* (“ictiosis”), *rough skin* (“piel áspera”), *sailor skin* or *sailors’ skin* (“elastosis actínica” or “piel de marino”), *scarfskin* or *scarfskin* (“epidermis”), *sharply demarcated skin lesions* (“lesiones cutáneas bien delimitadas”), *skin adnexa* or *skin appendages* (“faneras” or “anejos cutáneos”), *skin complexion* (“tez”), *skin condition* or *skin disease* (“dermatosis,” “dermatopatía,” “dermatopatía,” or “enfermedad cutánea,” rather than “enfermedad de la piel” and never “condición cutánea”), *skin conditioner* (“crema suavizante”), *skin-deep* (“superficial”), *skin flora* (“microflora cutánea,” “microbiota

cutánea”), *skin healing* (“cicatrización”), *skin hospital* (“hospital dermatológico”), *skin keratocyte* (“queratinocito”), *skin membrane* (“piel”), *skin-muscle flap* (“colgajo miocutáneo”), *skin of the face* (“cutis”), *skin-popping* (“inyección subcutánea”), *skin prick test* (“prueba de punción”), *skin rash* (“exantema” or “erupción cutánea”, and never “exantema cutáneo”), *skin redness* (“eritema”), *skin turgor* (“turgencia cutánea”), *skin wound* (“herida superficial”), *slack skin* (“piel laxa”), *soft skin* (“piel suave” or “piel tersa”), *tanned skin* (“piel bronceada” or “piel morena”), *true skin* (“dermis”), *uninvolved skin* (“piel sana”).

2 Different authors do not always agree on the components that make up the skin. For most physicians, the skin has only 2 layers: the epidermis and the dermis. Many others, however, consider that the skin has 3 layers: the epidermis, the dermis, and the hypodermis. The latter group considers the subcutaneous tissue to be the lowest layer of the skin.

skin and skin structures. This expression is extremely confusing in English: some authors use it to refer to the skin and the soft parts, but in most cases it is used to refer to the skin (in the broad sense: epidermis, dermis, and hypodermis) and its appendages, that is, what is called in international medical terminology *integumentum commune* (“tegumento común”).

skin breakdown. This term is used to refer to “úlceras” (*ulcerations*), “úlceras de decúbito” (*pressure ulcers*) “excoriación” (*excoriation*), “erosión cutánea” (*dermal erosion*) “pérdida de la integridad cutánea” (*skin breakdown*), “piel agrietada” (*cracked skin*), “adelgazamiento de la piel” (*skin thinning*) “radiodermatitis” (*radiodermatitis*), and “lesiones cutáneas” (*skin lesions*) depending on the context.

skin disease. Unlike their English-speaking counterparts, Spanish-speaking doctors use the terms “dermatosis” (*dermatosis*), “dermatopatía” or “dermatopatía” (*dermopathy*), and “enfermedad cutánea” (*cutaneous disease*) more frequently than “enfermedad de la piel” (*skin disease*). Example: *diabetic skin disease* (dermatopatía diabética).

skin ridges. This term has 2 possible meanings:

1 “Arrugas” (*wrinkles*).

2 “Crestas epidérmicas” (*epidermal ridges*).

skin sensitivity. It should be noted that English speaking doctors clearly distinguish between *skin sensation* (“sensibilidad cutánea”) and *skin sensitivity* (“hipersensibilidad cutánea”).

skin tag (also *cutaneous tag* or *tag*). This common benign skin tumor is called in Spanish “acrocordón” (*acrochordon*) or “papiloma cutáneo” (*cutaneous papilloma*). Larger, pedunculated skin tags are traditionally called “fibroma péndulo” (*soft fibroma*).

spots and dots. An alliterative expression used in medical jargon to refer to the exanthematous diseases of childhood: measles, German measles, and chicken pox.

stripping. In the context of epicutaneous tests (*tape stripping*), this term may be translated as “abrasión con esparadrapo”

(or, in Latin America as “abrasión con tela adhesiva”). Examples: Stripping caused an inappreciable increase in the permeability coefficient of sufentanil (“La abrasión cutánea con esparadrapo apenas aumentó el coeficiente de permeabilidad del sufentanilo”).

sudamina. The Spanish term “sudamina” (also called “miliaria” or “exantema miliar”) refers to a benign skin disease that occurs generally in summer or after profuse sweating and is characterized by the appearance of a large number of translucent vesicles caused by the dilation of the excreting orifice of the sweat glands obstructed by the horny layer. In English *sudamina* is not a singular noun, but rather the plural of the noun *sudamen*, a term that refers to these tiny vesicles (which are never called “sudamen” in Spanish).

sudation (or *sweating*). The terms “sudación,” “sudor,” and “transpiración” are all correct in Spanish; however the term most frequently used by Spanish-speaking doctors, “sudoración,” is anomalous at the very least. Just as “degradación” is formed from “degradar,” “sedación” from “sedar,” “validación” from “validar,” “oxidación” from “oxidar,” “recomendación” from “recomendar,” “exudación” from “exudar,” “resudación” from “resudar,” “trasudación,” from “trasudar,” “sudar” should become “sudación” (since the form “sudoración” might imply the existence of a hypothetical verb “sudorar,” which does not currently exist). For those who use frequency of use as their primary criteria, however, it should be noted that the barbarism “sudoración” has such broad currency in Spanish that it was accepted by the RAE and consequently few copyeditors dare to correct it in a text for publication.

sunscreen (or *sunblock*). In Spanish we do not say “pantalla solar” but rather “filtro solar,” “protector solar,” or occasionally “crema solar” or “loción solar” (whichever applies).

third disease. This is an antiquated expression that derives from a classification of exanthematous diseases of childhood ordered by frequency. The term *third disease* was then used to denote what is now called German measles or rubella.

total alopecia. The difference between the terms *total alopecia* and *alopecia totalis* is explained in the entry *ALOPECIA AREATA*.

toxic epidermal necrolysis. The correct form in Spanish is “necrólisis epidérmica tóxica” and not “necrosis epidermal tóxica.” In both English and Spanish the synonym *Lyell syndrome* (síndrome de Lyell) is also very common, but the translator should be aware of the many synonyms that are used to denote this exfoliative skin disorder in written medical English: *Brocq-Debre-Lyell syndrome*, *Debre-Lamy-Lyell syndrome*, *epidermolysis acuta toxica*, *epidermolysis combustiformis*, *epidermolysis necroticans combustiformis*, *epidermolysis toxica*, *erythrodermia bullosa with epidermolysis*, *nonstaphylococcal scalded skin syndrome*, *toxic bullous epidermolysis*, and *toxico-allergic epidermal necrolysis*.

tretinoin. In Spanish, the common official international denomination of this retinol derivative is “tretinoína” and not “tretinoíno.” This is the pharmaceutical name and the official chemical name is *retinoic acid* (ácido retinoico). In English, however, it is also often referred to as *all-trans-retinoic acid* or *ATRA*.

tyloma. In Spanish, the terms “callo” (*callus*) and “callosidad” (*callosity*) are used much more frequently than “tiloma” (and “tyloma” is incorrect in Spanish).

tylosis. In Spanish, the terms “queratosis” (*keratosis*) and “hiperqueratosis” (*hyperkeratosis*) are used much more frequently than “tilosis” (and “tylosis” is incorrect in Spanish).

universal alopecia. The difference between the terms *universal alopecia* and *alopecia univernalis* is explained in the entry *ALOPECIA AREATA*.

urticarial. In English, *urticarial* is the only adjective that indicates a relationship with urticaria while in Spanish there are several: “urticarial,” “urticariano,” “urticarioso,” and “urticárico.” Until relatively recently the adjective most used in Spanish was “urticariano” (probably because of the influence of the French *urticarien*), but recently there has been a clear shift towards the use of “urticarial,” which is now sometimes the only form used in many texts.

verruca acuminata. The Spanish translation is “condiloma acuminado” and not “verruca acuminada.”

verrucous carcinoma. The difference between *verrucous carcinoma* and *warty carcinoma* is explained in the entry for *WARTY CARCINOMA*.

vitiligo. Spanish-speaking doctors are often unsure which syllable should be stressed in this Latinate dermatological term (in Spain it is normally pronounced with the stress on the antepenultimate syllable while Latin Americans usually place the stress on the penultimate syllable). I personally recommend the etymological form “vitiligo.”

warty carcinoma. The translator should be careful not to confuse the 2 subtypes of epidermoid carcinoma, which in English are called *verrucous carcinoma* (“carcinoma verrugoso”) and *warty carcinoma* (“carcinoma verruciforme” or “carcinoma condilomatoso”).

wheal (also *hive* or *welt*). A *wheal* is the lesion characteristic of urticaria, a raised, usually very itchy, bump. The Spanish translation is “roncha” or “habón.”

zoster (or *herpes zoster*). 1 Spanish-speaking doctors are often unsure whether this word of Greek origin should be written with or without an accent (“zóster” or “zoster”). Because of the similarity between this term and many other words of Greek origin in Spanish ending in *-ter* that were stressed on the final syllable in Latin but today are accented overwhelmingly on the penultimate syllable in Spanish (such as “carácter,” “catéter,” “cráter,” “esfínter,” “éter,” “trocánter,” “uréter”), I recommend applying the same criteria and writing “zóster”. The RAE also admits the etymological form “zoster” (the only form accepted before 1992), and I myself was still recommending this

spelling in the 1999 glossary. While the etymological form “zoster” is still used relatively frequently in written texts, it is very rare in oral medical language to hear the word pronounced with the stress on the final syllable. This shift in pronunciation is an indication that the form will soon disappear from written medical language as well (except for occasional instances attributable to the influence of the English spelling or in texts written by people who habitually omit written accents or are unfamiliar with the basic norms of written accents in Spanish).

2 The colloquial synonym is *shingles* in English and “culebrón” or “culebrilla” in Spanish. Translators should bear in mind that the technical term “zóster” is more widely used in Spanish than *zoster* is used in English and conversely in written language the colloquial synonyms are used much less in Spanish than in English .

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

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