

# What is the true cost of a correct and accurate translation by qualified medical translators?

## The **\$71 Million Dollar Word**

In 1980, baseball player Willie Ramirez was brought to a hospital in South Florida. He was already in a coma. Unfortunately, the assigned interpreter misinterpreted the Cuban Spanish word used by family members **“intoxicado”** as **“intoxicated.”** This led to Ramirez waking up a quadriplegic. A professionally trained, medical interpreter would have known that **“intoxicado”** is closer to “poisoned” and does not carry the same connotations of drug or alcohol use that **“intoxicated”** does. The diagnosis given was a drug overdose. Ramirez was not suffering from an overdose but actually had bleeding in his brain. The doctors realised this error too late to provide proper medical treatment (neurosurgery).

## **Two operations, not one**

In a hospital in Berlin, an inaccurately translated instruction manual led to the incorrect implanting of at least 47 knee prostheses. Why? The instructions for the procedure were translated as **“prostheses do not require cement”**. The original stated **“non-modular cemented prostheses”**. As a result of incorrect instructions in the procedure, the prostheses were implanted **“without cement.”** The patients became victims of an incorrect procedure because a non-specialist medical translator had been used. Half of the 47 patients had to undergo a further operation which could have been avoided if qualified medical translators were used.

## **The true cost of a mistranslation?**

- ✓ Inappropriate treatment, complications, serious injury and even death due to misdiagnosis.
- ✓ Delayed treatment because of the inability to properly diagnose a patient.
- ✓ Litigation.



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# So, what is the true cost of a correct and accurate translation by qualified medical translators?

## The answer is **‘incalculable’**.

Medical translation is serious business and requires a keen focus on accuracy, terminology and legislation. At DA Translations, we deliver exactly that.

All of our qualified medical and pharmaceutical linguists have many years of experience translating into their mother tongue in their specialist field.

DA Translations has over **45 years of experience** working with renowned companies in the medical and pharmaceutical industry and daily translates and back translates medical and pharmaceutical documentation including:

- Ⓞ **Subject Information Leaflets**
- Ⓞ **Informed consents**
- Ⓞ **Instruction and user manuals**
- Ⓞ **Patient records**
- Ⓞ **Healthcare leaflets**
- Ⓞ **Protocols**
- Ⓞ **Synopses**
- Ⓞ **Labels**
- Ⓞ **Regulatory documentation**
- Ⓞ **Drug registrations**
- Ⓞ **Medical reports**
- Ⓞ **Certificates**
- Ⓞ **Packaging**
- Ⓞ **Research papers**

**ATC** the mark of a quality translation

