



Language Matters

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Language Matters: Helping Researchers



Problematic Wording

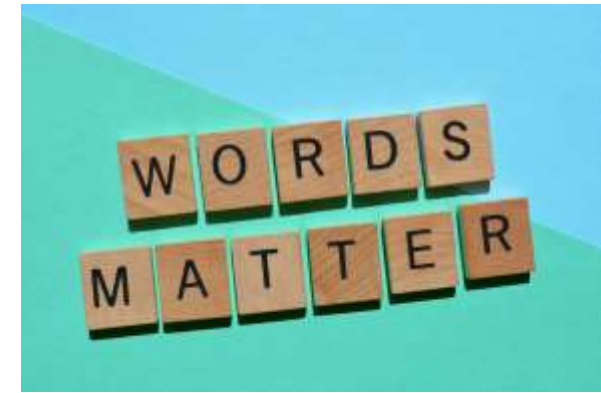
- Patient failed treatment
- Patient progressed
- Salvage therapy
- Decelerating treatment
- Non-compliant patient
- Colorectal cancer patient
- Clinical trial subject

Better Wording



- Treatment failed patient
- Cancer progressed
- Rescue therapy
- Tailoring or personalizing treatment
- Patient discontinued treatment
- Patient with colorectal cancer
- Clinical trial participant

Language Matters: Helping Patients



- Language guides: IASLC: <https://www.iaslc.org/IASLCLanguageGuide>
- Respectful language to reduce bias in Oncology Care: <https://ascopost.com/issues/april-10-2020/using-respectful-language-to-reduce-unconscious-bias-in-oncology-care/>
- Plain language cancer therapy side effect descriptions (<https://ctep.cancer.gov/protocoldevelopment/sideeffects/drugs.htm>)
- Plain language health dictionaries (<https://guides.mclibrary.duke.edu/healthliteracy/plain-language> or <https://apps.lib.umich.edu/medical-dictionary/>)
- Returning results recommendations
 - Aggregate results (<https://mrctcenter.org/blog/projects/return-of-aggregate-results-to-participants/>)
 - Individual results (<https://mrctcenter.org/blog/resources/2017-11-22-template-mrct-return-individual-results-participants-toolkit-version-1-2/>)
- Informed Consents
 - Check reading levels (https://ctep.cancer.gov/protocoldevelopment/docs/NCI_Informed_Consent_Template_Readability_Assessments.pdf)
 - Use plain language
 - Improve the process (https://ctti-clinicaltrials.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CTTI_Informed_Consent_Discussion_Tool.pdf)