

***'Are you the interpreter, then?'* When a bilingual child patient holds the reins of mediated communication in a language-discordant medical consultation**

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In healthcare, it is widely understood that minors are not allowed to serve as interpreters under any circumstances. However, reality contradicts this and at times -depending on the local context- bilingual minors are requested to interpret for family members. Drawing on interactional linguistics and multimodal interaction analysis, I discuss a mediated medical consultation in which the patient, who is a minor, serves as interpreter, despite the presence of a professional interpreter in the consultation room. I will highlight instances in the interaction and show how the participants in this medical encounter negotiate a set of challenges: i) instructions on how the communication will unfold, ii) the patient's attempts to gain increased autonomy and control, both as a patient and interpreter, iii) the clash between different communicative authorities stemming from the participants' professional, - and social status. I will conclude by discussing how the above can inform our understanding of mediated healthcare communication in general and question some key principles in healthcare communication and Interpreting Studies.