AWARENESS AND TREATMENT OF UNCONTROLLED HYPERTENSION AMONG ETHNICALLY DIVERSE POPULATION OF NON-MEXICAN HISPANICS IN MIAMI
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Introduction
Uncontrolled hypertension among adults is associated with increased incidence of heart attack, stroke and mortality. Studies of prevalence and control of hypertension among non-Mexican Hispanics have been limited.

Methods
The sample consists of diverse population of 5081 non-Mexican Hispanics who underwent free cardiovascular screening at Florida Heart Research Institute. Of these 65% were female; 23.1% were age 18-39, 67.2% were 40-64, and 9.6% were ≥ 65. Most (92.0%) had no insurance. JNC7 guidelines were used to identify hypertension and hypertension control. Standard epidemiological techniques were employed to estimate prevalence.

Results
The prevalence of hypertension was 25.1%. Among the 1277 hypertensives, 73.6% were uncontrolled (46.0% males, 54.0% females). Only 7.7% of the uncontrolled were insured compared to 14.2% of the controlled (p<0.001). Among the uncontrolled, 30.9% were unaware of their hypertension, 32.1% were aware but took no antihypertensive medications, and 37.0% were aware and took antihypertensive medications.

Conclusions
Miami Hispanics with hypertension display a very low rate of control. This problem appears to be amplified by a lack of insurance and the access to care that insurance provides. Nearly two thirds of this largely uninsured Hispanic population were either unaware of their hypertension, or aware but not receiving any treatment. Other issues, such as linguistic and cultural barriers, education, poor patient compliance with medications, and unhealthy lifestyles may contribute to this lack of control and require further study.