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Inhumane Experiments on Humans

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Abstract

This capstone projects is about inhumane experiments on humans around the world and how it effected the people involved or what it brought to light. Many of these experiments are kept secretive because of how they effected people's livelihood. Inhumane experiments often lead to death, trauma, illness, shortening of life, disfigurement, or permanent disabilities in the victims, plus more trauma for the family. The reason why these experiments are considered inhumane is because they occur when the 'patient' couldn't sign off on informed consent of the experiment, or they were unaware of the possible outcomes of what they were involved in. There are four different experiments showing how even though the experiments vary in concepts, they all fall under the definition of an inhumane experiment. The topics include intrusive experiments like mind control or exploratory surgery, and observational experiments like injecting people with diseases or putting people into a surreal prison environment.

Key Points

The Stanford Prison Experiment - Is the prison environment because of sadistic personalities or because of the environment they are in?

Project MKUltra - The CIA wanted to develop procedures and identify drugs that could be used in interrogations of a subject to weaken their mind and coerce confessions out of them.

The Tuskegee Syphilis Study - The United States Public Health Services and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention observed the effects of untreated syphilis in African American Males to see if its symptoms were based on race. They also wanted to study how necessary the syphilis treatment was and when it needed to be administered to an infected person.

Unit 731 (pictured)- The Imperial Japanese Army wanted to advance their biological and chemical warfare techniques and see the human body's limits during the Sino-Japanese War and World War II.

Conclusions & Discussion

All of these varied experiments had one thing in common: the patients weren't informed about what was happening. This is a large aspect to what an unethical experiment is because humans can't give their whole consent to something they only know a part of. If there are more human experiments in the future, the coordinator needs to be completely open with the participants with everything, Participants need to know if there has a been a change in the study and be given an opportunity to leave if they no longer want to be apart of it. The coordinator also must be able to tell a patient when they need to step out of the trial for their own safety. If the participant's wellbeing is in trouble, and they won't remove themselves from the study, they should have a designated doctor stating whether they are able to continue. Because of these experiments, it makes experimenting with medical devices, like a sweat glucose monitor, harder to study on humans, which would be a positive move in medical history. For further research I would like to investigate more victims that were affected by these experiments.

Work Cited

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