



Research In the News

Questions
About
the Article ?

SYPHILIS EXPERIMENTS IN GUATEMALA

Between 1946 and 1948, the United States experimented with more than 1,000 residents of Guatemala to determine the efficacy of drugs such as penicillin to treat and prevent syphilis, gonorrhea, and chancres. Unfortunately, researchers not only treated infected individuals but, to increase their sample size, actually infected some individuals. In 2010, these victims sued the U.S. government for the experiment, but a U.S. district judge dismissed the lawsuit. The United States has apologized for the experiment, and President Obama has asked the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues to look into details of the research and to assure him that current rules protect people from unethical treatment.

1. Would current ethical standards and protections prevent this from happening today?

Source: Castillo, M. (2012, June 15). Guatemalans to file appeal over STD experiments. *CNN*. Retrieved June 17, 2012, from <http://www.cnn.com/2012/06/15/us/guatemala-std-experiments/index.html>