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**Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment**

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**What were the reasons for including the subjects that were chosen to be in the  
Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment?**

The subjects that were chosen for the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment were Negroes who had not visited a doctor in their lives. Most of the subjects were illiterate. It came at a time when there was no known treatment for syphilis. At first, doctors with authorization from the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) informed the subjects of their diagnosis and told them that they were being treated for bad blood, which meant a variety of ailments (Ogungbure, 2011). However, the real reason for including the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment subjects was to track down the development and full history of syphilis. Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment also included normal subjects who had no disease in order to act as a control group by comparing normal patients and diseased ones (CDC, 2015).

**What are two elements that made this experiment ethical or non-ethical?**

The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment aroused some controversy at that time, especially on clinical studies. Notably, the experiment had both ethical and non-ethical elements. At first, there were clear elements that made the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment ethical. For instance, the experiment was started at a time when there was no known treatment for syphilis. The experiment incorporated subjects, Negroes, who were illiterate and poor enough to afford treatment. Additionally, the subjects in the experiment were promised free medical care and other benefits such as free meals, free transportation, and free burial insurance in case of death. The second ethical element is that the study was carried out under an informed agreement. The participants selected were informed of the benefits they would get, including lifetime medical

assistance, free meals, free transportation, and free burial insurance in case of death (Ogungbure, 2011). Therefore this amounted to informed consent of the participants.

On the other hand, some elements made the study unethical, like the denial of penicillin treatment to the participant of the study. Notably, at around 1947, penicillin became the typical treatment choice for syphilis, but the scientists in charge withheld the treatment (EXPLOARABLE. 2008). Instead of treating the study participants using the established treatment and possibly concluding the study by establishing a control group to study the found treatment, the scientist intentionally concealed the information. Arguably this was done so that they would continue studying the spread of the disease and eventual death. The experiment proved that the scientist did not follow the ethical research guidelines. Another element that made the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment unethical is that the subjects were treated worse than animals. The scientists were only concerned with tracking the evolution of the disease, the spread, and eventual death. Therefore operative care was not provided to the participant, which resulted in severe health complications. Notably, some participants died from related complications, others became blind, and children contracted the disease when born (Nix, 2017).

**What is the federal regulation that governs this type of research if someone wanted to replicate the study?**

A Recognized Reviewing Boards must initially revise the subject s of Federal reinforced studies that incorporate human beings in their experiment. Also, there is a need to develop guidelines and procedures that will govern the research confidentiality and privacy. If someone wanted to replicate this type of study today, at first, they would need to get informed consent from the people. The agreement should be voluntary and up to date and only from individuals willing to participate in the research study. However, before the study is conducted, there must

be permission from the head of the agency responsible for a final decision. The agency will authorize the study upon consideration of legal implications, ethical and non-ethical implications that might arise from the study (HHS. 2016).

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