

Tuskegee Syphilis Study

{ Did doctors really let patients die without treating them?

This study was created to record the natural history of Syphilis in Native Americans. The official name of the study was “Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male.” At the beginning of the study, there were no proven treatments for the disease at the time.

What is it?

There were 600 men involved. 399 of them were part of the experimental group and 201 were involved in the control group. The men were offered medical care and survivor's insurance. Most were poor and illiterate.

Who was involved?

There was no treatment for Syphilis when the experiment was began but when penicillin became the standard medicine treatment was withheld from patients as to not effect the experiment.

What happened?

When the study ended after the 15 year time span between 1932-1947, dozens of people had died from the disease, yet penicillin could have cured them. Attorney Fred Gray filed a class-action suit on behalf of the men, wives and children effected by the study. It ended with a settlement of \$9 million for the men involved in the study.

Some may argue that it was right to hold the medicine as not to affect an important study but was it really right to let dozens of humans die when they could've been helped?

Was it right or wrong?

