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Title of Proposal	Is the testing of unapproved pharmaceuticals on humans ethical science?		

Details of Proposal (see over)

In the context of this paper, pharmaceuticals will be defined according to the United States Agency for International Development (2014) as, "Any substance intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of diseases in humans or animals." The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is a reputable source and I believe that obtaining my definition from the USAID makes my definition more specific. The word 'pharmaceutical' will be synonymous with the word 'drug' in this paper. The definition of pharmaceuticals must be considered in the context of pharmaceuticals that have not yet been released to the global population. This is because the research will be focused solely on pharmaceuticals that have yet to be approved. Ethical science will be defined according to Patricia A. Bolton as "the standards of conduct for scientists in their professional endeavors" and will take into account the procedures, methodologies, and morality of the science as well as who the people and/or companies who administer these tests are and what they believe to be ethical science. The different perspectives that must be analyzed in order to fully grasp the knowledge necessary to reach a nonpartisan decision include, on the ethical science side, the need for testing in order to continue in scientific advancements as well as the notion that the individuals chosen for these trials are critically ill. The arguments that premature death occurs in some cases and the people receiving these trials have not given consent to the corporations providing the drug prove that testing unapproved pharmaceuticals on humans is unethical science. Examples of these articles include Neha Anand's article titled, "The Ethics of Pharmaceutical Testing in the Developing World," discussing the extent to which this is or is not an ethical procedure. Neha Anand, a student studying economics and biology at Yale University, takes a negative stand on this issue and believes that this is unethical because patients are not giving clear consent and do not understand the risks and terms of the pharmaceutical trials. A second example is PBS's article, "'Explosive' Growth in Foreign Drug Testing Raises Ethical Questions." This article, written by journalism major Talea Miller, includes an interview with Dr. Arthur Caplan, the director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Caplan supplies information regarding how it is and is not ethical from a doctor's standpoint. Caplan's main arguments that say this is ethical include that individuals in some countries, mostly less developed, hope these drugs will cure illnesses that cannot be treated by local doctors and that the people in these trials are receiving pay. His arguments against this include the lack of consent and the lack of reliable results because most of the humans being tested already have some sort of illness or disease that can effect the data. The book titled "Handbook of Stability Testing in Pharmaceutical Development: Regulations, Methodologies, and Best Practices" by Kim Huynh-Ba covers all aspects of pharmaceutical testing on human beings and will allow me to further analyze perspectives. Additionally, Ben Goldacre wrote a book called "Bad Pharma," which gives insight as to the partial education of pharmacists and unveils the corrupt world of pharmaceutical testing and research, therefore taking a clear standpoint that this is unethical. David Gorski, a college professor and surgical oncologist at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, gives an opposite perspective on this in an article he wrote as he believes drug testing is essential for scientific advancement. He argues that science-based medicine is dependent upon this experimentation because it shows how the chemicals react to the body and provide information to alter the drug before it is released to the public. Additionally, the type of trials being conducted - private or government funded - must be defined and taken into consideration in reaching a judgment.

When deciding what I wanted to research, my father and I were discussing possible topics when he suggested this may be something I would enjoy obtaining further knowledge on. This topic really caught my attention because I was not aware that this occurred, but now that I do I am particularly interested in this because I aim to major in Chemistry when I attend college. As a future pharmacist, I wish to gain knowledge about which pharmaceuticals are being tested on these people as well as which companies administer these tests and why they believe this is a viable option. With this said, I am also highly fascinated by the morality of this controversial matter. My initial belief on the subject is that every life matters and testing an immoral act; however, I am open to seeing other perspectives and coming to a logical conclusion. I am highly motivated to research this topic and understand both positions of the subject and additionally how it plays a prominent role in both the people administering the tests and the people receiving them.

Comments:

This is a clear question. There is an issue to debate and the proposal explains the types of evidence to be used. Good luck.

Adviser's Initials

MEW

Date

17.11.125

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