

Twin Studies VS the Study of Twins

A discourse on the ethical study of twins and its benefits to fetal medicine

Introduction

Twins studies and twin experimentation have historically perpetuated human rights violations worldwide.

Project Goals

Based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the Helsinki Act, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in order to protect twins and multiples:

- Ban future twin studies unless they benefit twins and twin pregnancies directly.
- Recognize twinhood as a vulnerable research group.
- Prioritize twin pregnancy research focused on multiple pregnancy related issues.

Findings

- Twins studies and twin experimentation historically perpetuated human rights violations worldwide.
- Mengele's work heavily inspired by Galton's work, influenced current research.
- Twins are born with a price on their heads.
- Additional ethical questions arise from the financial windfalls associated with little or no benefits to twinning or multiples.
- Due to genetic misunderstanding, twin studies are of little benefit to clinical research.
- Twin studies are immoral and unlawful when considered alongside national and international human rights agreements.

Conclusions and implications

Based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the Helsinki Act, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in order to protect twins and multiples, there should be no future twin studies unless they benefit twins and twin pregnancies directly. Most twin studies do not recognise these protections resulting in significant harm to individuals studied.

If researchers recognize twinhood as a vulnerable research group and if twin pregnancy research is prioritized, more will be learned about multiple pregnancies benefitting fetal medicine as a whole.

Reference Literature

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