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EDITORIAL

Medical practice and research in reproductive health are different in some ways, but not always clear cut, i.e. a trial of patient's treatment. Medical treatment aims to provide maximum benefit to the patients using a standard procedure and under the guidance of the Medical Council. In the meantime a research in reproductive health is carrying out for a new reliable knowledge or information using a scientific methodology and under the responsibility of the Institution (Ethical) Review Board (IRB) of each institution.

The protocol of research must be approved by the IRB before the initiation of the project. Medical therapy does not require either the ethical approval of the IRB, nor the Medical Council before hand. Today unfortunately there are many researches undertaken without ethical approval of any kind. Furthermore editors of research of distinguish International Journals, including the Thai J. Obstetrics and Gynecology, will not accept these manuscripts for publication. Therefore authors of human research must aware of this important regulation. Moreover research protocol on human subject cannot be approved retrospectively.

Even though the research on human subject is not aimed directly for any specific volunteer participating in the project, but the human research process must be based on the following three fundamental rules (The Belmont Report):

1) The Principle of Respect for Persons

The Principle of Respect for Persons is a treat of respectful attitude to the volunteer's decision as well as his consent to participate in the research. For the person who cannot completely decide by his own conscious whether or not he is sick, immature or unable to decide freely he must be specially protected.

2) Beneficence

By this principle it is considered that the maximum advantage, extreme precaution of any harm or error must be noted.

3) Justice

It means that any individual must be properly and ethically treated with fairly deserving of right to get an advantageous result and all risks are appropriately distributed to different groups of people. The harmful trial should not be carried out with only the poorer class of people or the trial of great benefit is selected for only the higher class of subject.

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