Case Example

Dr. Belgium is designing a study of cataract removal and is proposing to use rabbits for a period of 3 months. During this time she will use a chemical that could destroy the cataract without surgical intervention. Tests of the substance indicate high possible toxicological impact on kidneys and no way to protect the kidneys of the rabbits. The study is submitted to the IACUC who reject the study citing several previous studies that have attempted this approach in mice without success.

Case Example Questions

* What issues are being addressed by the IACUC?
* Can these issues be resolved by a change in the protocol?
* How do the three “Rs (replace reduce, refine) apply here?

Case Example

Dr. Brody has received IACUC approval for two experimental groups that include rats as subjects. His graduate student asks about including a third group of rats. In this third group, the rats are given a special diet twice a day. Otherwise food is withheld. The graduate student begins the diet and weighs and measures the girth of the rats daily. During a conversation with Dr. Brody, the graduate student mentions that the third group of rats are well and have gained weight. Dr. Brody becomes quite agitated as he didn’t realize the student had begun the experiment with the third group. He tells the student that he has not yet obtained IACUC approval for the third group of rats.

Case Example Questions

* What should Dr. Brody do now?
* How could this problem have been avoided?
* What are the possible issues that can arise because of this protocol violation?