



IFTĀ' DEPARTMENT
550 REGENCY DR. | GLENDALE HEIGHTS, IL 60139 | (630) 635-5761

Fatwa ID#: DI00489
Category: Islamic Bioethics

Page(s): 3
Date: Dec, 8, 2020 – Rabī' al-Thānī 23, 1442

Question:

It appears that at least some of the COVID vaccines being developed use cell lines derived from fetal tissue. Would it be halal to take the vaccine?

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/abortion-opponents-protest-covid-19-vaccines-use-fetal-cells>

Answer:

In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

The following fatwa is issued by Darul Ifṭā', Darul Qasim in conjunction with the Darul Qasim medical group. This fatwa is for Muslims in the U.S.A.

Typically, vaccines are made from a weakened version of a "live or killed virus" causing the disease. This weakened version of the virus is injected into a person so that the person's own immune system can mount a response. Since the virus is weakened, the person may get a mild illness from the vaccine, which is typically self-limited and rarely as harmful as the disease itself. This strategy is not being used for SARS-CoV-2 vaccine development because it is not considered the safest approach. The vaccines currently in development use different methods to stimulate one's immune system to fight SARS-CoV-2.

One approach is to introduce an important part of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, called the spike protein, into people so that their immune system recognizes the protein as foreign and then mounts an immune response by generating antibodies against the spike protein. These antibodies then protect the person from SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Interestingly, there is more than one way to generate the spike protein. The vaccines currently in development by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna package something called mRNA (a synthetic messenger RNA, genetic code) which instructs the body's own cells to produce the spike protein. These vaccines are permissible for Muslims.

Other vaccines, however, use different classes of killed viruses as vectors to deliver the spike protein to human tissues. This vaccine type consists of a ready-made protein for the immune system to recognize as foreign and then attack it by generating antibodies. Some of the vaccine manufacturers produce these proteins using human cells that have been grown from aborted fetuses. These cells are from fetuses that were aborted several decades ago, however, due to something called cell culturing, these immortalized cell lines are kept alive and are routinely used in research today. The vaccines currently in development by AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson make use (allegedly) of these aborted human fetal cells. Using aborted human cells to develop vaccines is against

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*The ruling given herein is based on the interpretation of Islamic Law and is not intended to be an interpretation of any other laws (local, national or international).
The ruling given herein is specifically based on the question posed and the information provided.
This ruling may not be used for any other purpose without prior written consent of Darul Qasim.*

DARULQASIM

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Islamic Bioethics. Muslims may not take vaccines which are derived from aborted fetuses considering the permissible alternatives mentioned above.

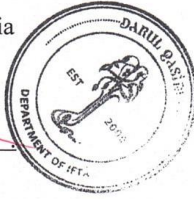
Allah knows best.

imluea

Shaykh Amin Kholwadia

Hisham Dawood

Hisham Dawood



Darul Iftā', Darul Qasim