



IFTĀ' DEPARTMENT
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Fatwa ID#: DI00489
Category: Islamic Bioethics

Page#: 2
Date: Ramadan 9th, 1442 / April 21st, 2021

Question:

Salam,

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>

JAK

Answer:

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

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

Vaccines are often 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. The vaccines currently in development, however, are using a variety of different methods to stimulate one’s immune system to fight SARS-CoV-2.

The vaccines developed 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.**

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.

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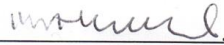
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Other vaccines, however, use different classes of modified viruses as vectors to deliver DNA to human tissues. This DNA instructs the body's own cells to produce the spike protein. Some of the vaccine manufacturers produce these modified viruses using 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 developed by AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson make use of these cell lines. Using cell lines, initially developed from aborted fetuses, to develop vaccines is against Islamic Bioethics. **Muslims may not take vaccines which are developed in this way considering the permissible alternatives mentioned above.**

Allah knows best.



Shaykh Amin Kholwadia



Hisham Dawood



Darul Iftā', Darul Qasim

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