The use of porcine derived material for health care need and the application of Islamic Ethical Principles

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WHAT WE LEARNED

• There are many products use for healthcare purpose do contain porcine derivatives.
• Alternate permissible products are not always available.

WHAT WE TELL PATIENTS

• Porcine derivative medical products can not be used unless dire necessity and only in the absence of a permissible available product.

BACKGROUND

Muslim patients and doctors face clinical dilemma when deal with the contemporary medical issues when their belief and values contradict with their needs and necessities to maintain their lives and livelihood. This study is an attempt to bridge a gap between the current knowledge and need of the porcine derived material for healthcare purpose and their use within the Islamic legal maxims.

METHODS

A search was performed to identify the health care products currently in use which contain porcine derivatives and classified them according to the route of their use. The objectives of Shari’a, the principles of Islamic Jurisprudence and the Islamic legal maxims were examined to evaluate the guidance as to when and where the impermissible material can be used to maintain life and livelihood.

CONCLUSIONS

It’s a unanimous Muslim belief that Quran declares porcine as an impermissible material in general unless dire necessity and in the absence of any alternative. However, there is a lack of consensus (“Iljma”) among the Muslim scholars around the world about the permissibility of transformed porcine gelatine as a permissible product.