

Treatment using porcine derived low molecular weight heparin. What are the Islamic ethical arguments?

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Abstract

Muslims are forbidden from consuming meat that is not halal as mentioned in the Quran. Heparin is commonly used as an anticoagulant to prevent and treat thromboembolism. However, heparin contains porcine derived products, making it unsuitable for Muslim patients [1]. Some individuals including Muslim patients and healthcare professionals are unaware of this information.

A literature review will be conducted to delve into the implications for Muslim patients regarding the use of heparin and its porcine-derived ingredient. This comprehensive analysis will explore potential alternatives and consider these factors in shaping future healthcare practices, aiming to address the needs of Muslim patients while ensuring adherence to religious beliefs and values.

Muslim patients should actively seek suitable alternatives to heparin when available, consulting with their healthcare providers to explore options that align with their religious beliefs and medical needs. Current practice often involves the use of fondaparinux as an alternative to heparin. However, if out of necessity and no alternative exists, the use of medication containing haram animal ingredients is permissible for Muslim patients [2].

By disseminating information on a larger scale through avenues such as leaflets, media campaigns, and public health initiatives, patients and health care professionals can become more aware of which medications contain

haram animal ingredients. This widespread education empowers patients to seek suitable alternatives, ensuring they make informed decisions about their healthcare. Similarly, healthcare professionals can offer tailored treatment suggestions to Muslim patients, extending this approach to accommodate those with specific dietary requirements, thereby ensuring comprehensive and culturally sensitive care.

Ultimately, this review seeks to promote a healthcare approach that integrates religious considerations into medical practice, ensuring that all patients receive care that aligns with their beliefs and values.

References

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