

ADMINISTRATION OF MUSLIM LAW ACT
(CHAPTER 3, SECTION 32)

FATWA ISSUED

BY

FATWA (LEGAL) COMMITTEE, ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF
SINGAPORE

FATWA

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين ، والصلاة والسلام على سيد المرسلين وإمام المتقين نبينا محمد وعلى آله
وأصحابه أجمعين. اللهم أرنا الحق حقا وارزقنا اتباعه، وأرنا الباطل باطلا وارزقنا اجتنابه . وبعد ،

In Islam, the permissible and the prohibited are indeed guided by the Qur'an and the Prophetic traditions. This is evident from the Qur'anic verse (59:7) which means: "So take what the Messenger assigns to you, and deny yourselves that which he withholds from you."

It is an established fact that leukemia is a form of blood cancer where the bone marrow of the patient does not fully function, during which, patients will suffer from frequent fevers, low immunity and frequent bleeding, due to insufficient red blood cells (anaemia). This disease is complicated and difficult to treat, relative to other diseases. Recently, biomedical research has discovered a new treatment for this disease by supplying the bone marrow of a donor who shares similar tissues as the patient. This process is called *bone marrow transplantation*.

The Fatwa Committee has been informed that bone marrow is important to the human body. It produces blood cells in the body, including white blood cells which function as antibody against infections from red blood cells, whereas red blood cells function as oxygen carrier and removes toxins and impurities from the organs and tissues which could lead to blood clots.

Bone marrow transplantation is done by extracting the bone marrow from the donor and then inserted into the patient's body. It is similar to the process of blood transfusion. Medical experts assert that the donor will not face any health problems or complications, as their own bone marrow will continue to be produced as normal a few days after the donation. Experts also state that the transplantation process is an uncomplicated procedure. The risks associated with the transplantation are very minimal, and most donors are able to function and conduct normal activities after a few days of rest. The health of the donor will not be affected.

Blood transfusion and bone marrow transplantation are recent medical developments which did not exist during the time of early Muslim jurists. Blood plays a very vital function in the human body. Thus, how does Islam view the transfer of blood from one person to the other?

International Muslim scholars have discussed this matter in depth, and have arrived at a consensus on its permissibility, subject to a few conditions as follows:

- a. There is a pressing need for the blood transfusion.
- b. It can be verified by a Muslim doctor (or a non-Muslim doctor according to the Maliki school of law) that the blood taken will not be detrimental to the health of the donor, but beneficial to the recipient/patient.
- c. The transplant procedure must not contain elements of sale and purchase, because the trade of human blood is prohibited in Islam.

When it can be ascertained that the process of bone marrow transplant will not harm the donor and is beneficial to the patient, the bone marrow donation is permissible.

الله أعلم ، وبالله التوفيق ، وصلى الله على سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه وسلم.



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