ETHICAL ISSUES RELATED TO ADULT STEM CELLS SOURCES FROM THE ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Islamic texts (Al-Qur'an and Sunnah) provide abundance of guidance on how we should lead our lives. Al-Qur’an has challenged the readers to reflect and to think over not only of our own existence but also all of Allah’s creations. The emphasis for us to seek knowledge and/or truth is a basic principle that is repeated throughout Al-Qur’an. The hadith “There is no disease that Allah has created, except that He also has created its remedy (Sahih Al-Bukhari. Book Al-Tibb: 76, hadith: 5678)” has been a pillar for Muslims to seek treatments for any health problems. Research in stem cells is one of the recent growing fields, which is being actively investigated due to its potential in treating diseases. Stem cells are cells that have the ability for self-renewal and can be differentiated into other types of cells; thus, giving the opportunity to treat diseases. It is considered to be a scientific breakthrough as stem cells can play a crucial role in tissue regeneration and it, therefore, could advance medical science in treating health problems. However, since the early years of stem cell discovery, there are many ethical issues and controversies surrounding stem cells research, especially regarding the sources of stem cells such as embryonic stem cells. Possibly many Muslim scientists may still be unclear how Islam views stem cells.