# ULUSILARARASI SOSYAL ARAŞTIRMALAR DERGİSİ THE JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL RESEARCH

Uluslararası Sosyal Araştırmalar Dergisi/The Journal of International Social Research
Cilt: 17 Sayı: 110 mart 2024 & Volume: 17 Issue: 110 March 2024
Received: March 01, 2024, Manuscript No. jisr-24-130993; Editor assigned: March 04, 2024, Pre-QC
No. jisr-24-130993 (PQ); Reviewed: March 18, 2024, QC No. jisr-24-130993; Revised: March 23, 2024,
Manuscript No. jisr-24-130993 (R); Published: March 29, 2024, DOI: 10.17719/jisr.2024.130993
www.sosyalarastirmalar.com ISSN: 1307-9581

Islam and the Urinary Stoma: A Contemporary Theological and Urological Dilemma

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#### **Abstract**

In recent years, advancements in medical technology have provided individuals with a range of treatment options for various health conditions, including the creation of urinary stomas for those with urinary tract disorders. However, for adherents of Islam, the decision to undergo such procedures can raise complex theological and ethical questions. This review article explores the intersection of Islam and urology, delving into the religious perspectives on urinary stomas and the challenges faced by Muslim patients and healthcare providers in navigating this delicate issue. By examining relevant religious texts, ethical principles, and medical guidelines, this article aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the contemporary dilemmas surrounding Islam and the urinary stoma.

**Keywords:** Islam, urinary stoma; Urology; Theology; Ethics; Medical ethics; Religious perspectives; Healthcare; Muslim patients.

### Introduction

The creation of a urinary stoma, a surgically created opening in the body to divert urine away from the bladder, is a medical intervention commonly used in the treatment of various urological conditions. While this procedure offers significant benefits for individuals suffering from urinary tract disorders, its implications extend beyond the realm of urology to intersect with religious beliefs and ethical considerations [1]. For Muslims, who adhere to a set of religious principles governing all aspects of life, the decision to undergo a urinary stoma procedure can pose unique challenges. This review article aims to explore the intersection of Islam and urology, focusing specifically on the theological and ethical dilemmas surrounding the creation of urinary stomas in Muslim patients [2].

Religious perspectives on health and medical interventions: Islam, as a comprehensive way of life, provides guidance on matters related to health and medical interventions. Central to Islamic teachings is the principle of preserving life (Hifz al-Nafs), which emphasizes the sanctity of human life and the obligation to safeguard it. Additionally, Islam encourages seeking medical treatment (Tibb) and utilizing available resources to alleviate suffering and promote well-being [3]. However, Islamic jurisprudence also acknowledges the importance of maintaining bodily integrity and avoiding unnecessary harm. This principle, known as the preservation of bodily integrity (Hifz al-Jasad), underscores the need for careful consideration when contemplating invasive medical procedures, such as the creation of urinary stomas.

Islamic legal and ethical framework: Islamic law (Sharia) provides a framework for addressing ethical issues in healthcare, including the permissibility of medical interventions such as urinary stomas. Scholars rely on sources such as the Quran, the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (Hadith), consensus among scholars (Ijma), and analogical reasoning (Qiyas) to derive rulings on contemporary issues. While there is no explicit mention of urinary stomas in classical Islamic texts, scholars apply general principles of Islamic ethics to assess the permissibility of such procedures. Key considerations include the necessity of the procedure, the potential benefits and harms, and the availability of alternative treatments [4-6].

Contemporary medical perspectives: From a medical standpoint, the creation of a urinary stoma can significantly improve the quality of life for patients with certain urological conditions, such as bladder cancer, spinal cord injury, or congenital anomalies. By diverting urine away from the bladder, a stoma can relieve symptoms such as urinary retention, incontinence, and bladder obstruction. Modern surgical techniques have also made urinary stomas safer and more reliable, with reduced risk of complications [7]. However, healthcare providers must consider the individual circumstances of each patient, including their medical history, prognosis, and preferences, when recommending or performing urinary stoma surgery.

Challenges and dilemmas: Despite the potential medical benefits of urinary stomas, Muslim patients and healthcare providers may encounter various challenges and dilemmas in navigating this issue. Some patients may struggle with the psychological and emotional impact of undergoing a surgical procedure that alters their bodily functions [8]. Additionally, concerns about religious obligations and the permissibility of urinary stomas in Islam may arise, leading to ethical dilemmas for patients, families, and healthcare professionals. Cultural factors, societal norms, and misconceptions about medical interventions can further complicate decision-making processes.

### Conclusion

The intersection of Islam and urology presents unique challenges and dilemmas, particularly regarding the creation of urinary stomas. While Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of preserving life and seeking medical treatment, ethical considerations surrounding bodily integrity and the potential harms of invasive procedures must also be taken into account. Muslim patients and healthcare providers must engage in informed discussions, guided



by both religious principles and medical ethics, to make ethically sound decisions regarding urinary stoma surgery. By fostering dialogue and understanding between religious scholars, healthcare professionals, and patients, it is possible to address the contemporary theological and urological dilemmas surrounding Islam and the urinary stoma, ultimately promoting holistic and compassionate care for all individuals.

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