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Synthetic Human Embryos, Embryo Models and Embryo-like Structures in Islam

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Abstract

A major breakthrough in developmental biology is the *ex vivo* generation of synthetic human embryos from stem cells. A comprehensive, in-depth bioethical analysis from a Sunni Islamic perspective reveals that the reproductive applications of synthetic human embryos contravene Islamic precepts of preserving lineage integrity (Hifz al-Nasl) due to disruption and confusion of kinship and familial relationships, similar to human cloning with somatic cell nuclear transfer. However, their non-reproductive applications in generating replacement tissues/organs, serving as *in vitro* experimental models of human development and disease, and testing platforms for evaluating pharmaceuticals and biomedical devices appear to align with Islamic principles. © 2024 Graduate Theological Union (CTNS Program).

Author Keywords

Clone; ethics; Fatwa; Muslims; reproduction; Shariah; SHEEFs; Stembryos

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