



The Islamic State

The Committee on Research and Fatwa Issuance

Fatwa number: 43

Date: 25/02/1436 Hijri [18 DEC 2014]

Question: What is the ruling on the presence of male obstetricians/gynecologists, who treat women when there is a possibility of having female obstetricians/gynecologists, although they are few?

Answer: By rule, a woman goes to a female obstetrician for treatment. She has to search for one. However, if she cannot find one and was obliged to receive medical treatment, then it is permissible to visit a male obstetrician based on the rule [the necessities allow the forbidden]. However, the necessity is evaluated based on the need. The male doctor must not look or check other than the specified spot required for treatment. A verse from the Koran indicates that it is permissible for women to seek male medical attention if there were no female doctors at the time of treatment and they would not be held accountable.

Ibn-Muflih states: doctors can see what is necessary to be checked and touch within the gap. Abu-Hurayrah [Al Mubdih Sharh Al Muqni', book of marriage (8/8)].

But, the doctor should not remain alone with woman during the physical checkup or treatment, and he has to look only at the required spot for treatment.

al-Shirbyni said: checking and looking for the purpose of treatment is permissible for the required spots, even if the spot was the female's pudendum. There will be an embarrassment in terms of what is forbidden regarding the treatment. A man can treat a woman and vice versa. This can be done with the presence of a Muhram, husband, trusted woman which is common. Abu-Hurayrah [Al Iqna'a fi Hall al Faz Abi-Shuja'a (2/69) by al-Shirbyni] Allah knows best.



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