



Fatwa no. 9944

Q: Some patients - may Allah cure them - suffer from renal failure, so they need to go through kidney dialysis (wash), which is an artificial kidney used

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to purify the blood from waste products two or three times a week. All the patient's blood is passed through this artificial kidney, cleansed, and then returned to the body. Some purifying substances are added to the blood inside the artificial kidney; otherwise the patient's life will be endangered because of the renal dysfunction.

The question is whether this process invalidates Sawm (Fasting), given that it is a necessity. It is so hard for the patients to break their Sawm and make up for it later, while their bodies gain nothing except having the blood cleaned from impurities. This is a question asked by many people. Please advise concerning this, may Allah reward you.

A: His Eminence the Manager of King Faysal Hospital and His Eminence the Manager of the Military Hospital in Riyadh were addressed by letters no. 1756/2 dated 14/8/1406 and 1757/2 dated 4/8/1406 respectively to inquire about the nature of the process of kidney dialysis, whether it involves mixing chemicals, and whether it includes nutrients.

They replied with letters no. 5693 dated 27/8/1406 and 10/16/7807 dated 19/8/1406 respectively clarifying that kidney dialysis is transfusion of the patient's blood to a machine (an artificial kidney) which purifies it and then returns it to the body. Some chemicals and nutrients are added to the blood, such as carbohydrates, salts

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and others.

Having studied the issue in question and understood the nature of kidney dialysis with the help of experts, the Committee gave a Fatwa (legal opinion issued by a qualified Muslim scholar) that the mentioned kidney dialysis invalidates Sawm.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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