

## HEALTH & SCIENCE

### Corona Virus Vaccines



The American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Pediatricians, The Christian Medical and Dental Associations, and the Catholic Medical Association released a statement in early December stating the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines did not use cells from aborted babies in their production phases. However, the statement did acknowledge that abortion-derived fetal cells were used in the animal-phase testing for the vaccines. The groups noted that there are ethical alternatives to aborted fetal cells, such as umbilical cord tissue and adult stem cells. Over the past few years, many viral vaccines have been produced without using aborted fetal cell lines. The statement continued, “These and other ethical approaches provide encouragement for the future, where no vaccine will violate the dignity of human life in their production.” The groups asked pharmaceutical companies to commit to “assurances of safety, efficacy and uncompromised ethical development [of vaccines]. It is profoundly important to recognize the vaccines may have been developed with the use of abortion-derived fetal cell lines. This awareness is necessary from the perspective of both the health care professional and the patient, and every participant in this process deserves to know the source of the vaccine used to allow them to follow their moral conscience.”

The Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI) recently issued a new chart listing the eight leading COVID vaccines and indicating whether they were produced or tested using aborted fetal cell lines. Most of those on the list did not use cell lines derived from abortions in production. Several, however, used aborted fetal cell lines in laboratory testing. Vaccines using cells from aborted babies pose moral problems for many individuals. CLI said in a statement, “Unfortunately, some vaccine developers have unnecessarily put American families in a difficult position by choosing to use controversial human fetal cell lines in production or testing, or by a lack of transparency. Many developers already opt to use animal cell lines, non-fetal human cells, yeast, or chicken eggs instead. We urge all developers to avail themselves of these options going forward. Doing so will reduce vaccine hesitancy for those who oppose the use of fetal cell lines, thereby increasing the public health impact of the vaccine.”

CLI evaluated vaccines produced by Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Novavax, Sanofi/GSK, Inovio and Merck. AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson use aborted fetal cell lines in development, production, and lab testing. Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax and Inovio use aborted fetal cell lines in some of their testing, but not in development or production. CLI could not determine if Sanofi/GSK and Merck used aborted fetal cell lines in lab testing. However, they do not use aborted fetal cell lines in development or production of the vaccine.

CLI stated, “It remains to be seen which vaccines will be approved for emergency use and how soon they will be available to patients. CLI will continue to provide the public with access to timely and accurate information so that individuals and families can weigh all factors – including secular science and religious traditions – and make vaccine decisions in line with their conscience.” Dr. David Prentice, Vice President of CLI, explained that if aborted fetal cell lines are used in production, the cells are “directly involved in the making of the final product, the vaccine that is injected in our arms. It is an essential element for the final vaccine...Although the connection is distant both in time and space, since the abortion occurred decades ago and the cells have been grown in the lab ever since, that connection to abortion remains and is of concern to many Americans.” Lab testing using aborted fetal cell lines is “potentially less morally problematic,” according to Prentice, since it is “another step removed. When an abortion-derived cell line is used in laboratory testing, that is not done within the production line. It’s a confirmatory test done on the final vaccine, to validate what the scientists believe they’ve produced. So this is another step removed, and there was nothing touching the abortion-derived cell line that ended up in the final vaccine product, or in our arms. For some, it doesn’t completely remove the concern. It is important to note that there are testing methods that can be done with cells not derived from abortion.” (Source: Mary Margaret Olohan, Lifenews.com, 12/3/20)

Micaiah Bilger noted on Lifenews.com (12/4/20) that pharmaceutical companies are starting to listen to the prolife call to create ethical vaccines. Bilger wrote that Sanofi-Pasteur announced in September that they plan “to produce a new, ethically developed polio vaccine. The project will replace an older vaccine that was developed with cells from an aborted baby...Sanofi-Pasteur is one of the largest vaccine production companies in the world. Ethical alternatives to cells from aborted babies are available, including pluripotent stem cells and tissue from placentas, umbilical cords and amniotic fluid. In 2018, the Trump administration created a \$20 million grant to invest in these ethical research alternatives.”

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