

Summary of the Teaching of the Catholic Church on the Use of Vaccines Connected to Abortion-Derived Cell Lines

- 1) It is wrong to create cell lines from aborted fetuses for use in scientific and medical research, including the use of such cell lines in the design and development, production, and/or confirmatory lab testing of vaccines.
- 2) We should avoid use of a vaccine connected to an abortion-derived cell line if a comparable vaccine is available which does not have this connection. The alternative vaccine should be requested and used.
- 3) If no such alternative vaccine is available, it is permissible to use a vaccine connected to an abortion-derived cell line when there are serious health risks to ourselves and/or the community.
- 4) A cell line derived from aborted fetal tissue might be used at several different stages in work on a vaccine: in the design and development of the vaccine, in the production of the vaccine, in confirmatory lab tests on the vaccine.

In some cases, a vaccine has been designed and developed and produced without the use of an abortion-derived cell line but an abortion-derived cell line was used in the laboratory testing of the vaccine. Such a vaccine is farther removed from abortion than a vaccine designed and developed and/or produced using an abortion-derived cell line. Among vaccines connected to abortion-derived cell lines, it is morally preferable to use such a vaccine, if it is available to us. However, if no choice of vaccine is available to us, we may use the other type of vaccine in good conscience.

- 5) We have a moral responsibility to advocate for the design and development, production, and testing of vaccines with no connection to abortion.

SOURCES

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