

### Is a Woman a Nida after a Gynecological Examination?

The problem is whether there is an opening of the uterus and bleeding during the gynecological examination. The author feels that nowadays there is no opening of the uterus during a regular examination. There are many "Poskim" who have written that a woman is not a "Nida" neither after a manual examination nor after an examination with an instrument.

### Is a Child Delivered by Forceps Considered a Bechor?

The question is whether forceps interfere between the child and the uterus. However, as it is well known that forceps are used only in the vagina and do not cover the whole body of the baby, the child is considered a "Bechor."

### Sucking (Meziza) at Circumcision.

The author permits "Meziza" through a tube only in the case of danger, i.e. contagious illness of the "Mohel" etc. Otherwise the "Meziza" should be done directly by mouth.

## Is a Person with Cystostomy Permitted to Pray and to Put on Tfilin?

Although urine is being passed continuously without the patient feeling it, he has to put on Tfilin and to pray, because otherwise he will never be able to do so. He has to cover the bottle of urine while praying or putting on Tfilin.

## Using Drugs on Yom-Kippur.

Drugs are usually bitter; they are not eaten but swallowed; they do not have even half a "Shiur"; they do not need a "Beracha." Therefore, all "Poskim" agree that one is allowed to use drugs on all fast days. However, concerning Yom-Kippur there is a difference of opinion amongst the "Poskim" - some permit it and others do not.

## Feeding Gastrostomy on Yom-Kippur

The basic prohibition of eating on Yom-Kippur is for food to pass down the throat. Therefore, it is permitted for a sick person to be fed through a gastrostomy.

## Feeding Through an Enema on Yom-Kippur.

As the basic prohibition of eating on Yom-Kippur is for food to pass down the throat, it is permitted for a sick person to be fed through the rectum.

## Intra-Uterine Device - Does it Interfere with Tvila?

If the i.u.d. is deep in the womb, it does not interfere with "Tvila" but if it is near the vaginal opening, the woman has to take it out before "Tvila".

## Artificial Eye - Does it Interfere with Tvila?

The artificial eye is a relatively small part of the whole body. It is made for beauty and everything made for beauty does not interfere with "Tvila". Therefore, an artificial eye does not interfere with "Tvila."

# THE INFLUENCE OF VIRAL INFECTIONS ON THE FETUS

Dr. S. Freier

There are approximately 14 viruses which may cause damage to the fetus. The most important one is Rubella.

The only way to assure the diagnosis of maternal Rubella is by laboratory examination. The blood test for antibodies of Rubella has to be done twice, the second test being done after 10 days. A woman might suffer from Rubella although there are no signs of eruption. Rubella in the first trimester of pregnancy might cause damage to the fetus in approximately 50%, in the second trimester in 25% and in the third trimester in 15% of the cases. There is also a possibility of damage in later stages of pregnancy. There are now vaccinations against Rubella which might prevent the problem.

THE USE OF DRUGS ON SHABBAT  
Preventive Drugs, Vaccinations and  
Sedatives for a Healthy Person on Shabbat

Rabbi A.D. Auerbach.

The basic prohibition to use drugs on Shabbat is the decree that one might grind and prepare the drugs. However, there are Poskim who think that a healthy person may use drugs on Shabbat because he would not be anxious to prepare the drugs in the fear that he would not find them ready. A second point to mention here is that people who might become ill if they stop certain drugs, i.e. penicilline in rheumatic fever, or if they do not get a certain vaccination, may use these drugs. A third point is that a person who started using a certain drug before Shabbat is permitted to continue doing so on Shabbat. Also people who suffer from headaches and are used to taking sedatives when the pain starts, are permitted to do so on Shabbat because otherwise they might get a more severe headache and become ill.

MEDICINE IN THE HALACHIC WORKS OF RABBI YAACOV EMDEN

Rabbi Avraham Bik

Rabbi Yaacov Emden showed, in his many halachic books, a very positive view towards medicine, as well as a good understanding of certain illnesses, physiology and technology. He studied the medical works of great physicians including Bontius Jacob, Ben-Sinai, the Rambam and the Ramban.

## INTRODUCTION

This is the seventh pamphlet of the quarterly אֲסִיאָ ('Asia' - The Physician). For the first time since the appearance of "Asia" we have added an English section which contains brief abstracts of the Hebrew section. The purpose of the English section is to give the English reader, who does not read Hebrew, an idea of the subjects discussed in "Asia." We would like to emphasise very strongly that the abstracts are very short and that no halachic conclusions can be drawn from them.

We hope that the English section will serve well its only purpose, which is to give the reader an idea of the current medical-halachic problems discussed in halachic literature, and to bring the Jewish physician closer to the halachic points of view and solutions of these difficult problems.

The Editor.

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# ASIA

ORIGINAL ARTICLES, ABSTRACTS AND REPORTS  
ON MATTERS OF HALACHA AND MEDICINE

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