

Message from the Editor

Assalaamu alaykum

Dear IMANA Members and JIMA Readers:

Many of our colleagues are performing the hajj. May Allah ﷻ accept their acts of worship and reward them for fulfilling this important duty. For the rest of you, I wish you Eid Mubarak.

This is the last issue of this year. As usual, it includes a variety of interesting articles. Dr. Ilyas discusses the important topic of osteoarthritis. He discusses the etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoarthritis. He specifically addresses joint replacement surgery as a part of the treatment and stresses the importance that Muslims put on the ability to properly perform *ṣalāt* (the ritual prayer). Joint replacement surgery cannot guarantee this ability. He encourages Muslim patients to discuss the expected postoperative range of motion with their surgeons prior to deciding on the surgery so they will not be disappointed if they cannot make *rukū* (the proper bow) or *sujūd* (prostration) after all.

Addiction to alcohol and drugs is not rare in Muslim countries. It has been ignored for the most part. It is refreshing to see centers especially developed for the treatment and rehabilitation of these addicts. Interestingly, we publish in this issue an article describing the operations of one of these centers in Saudi Arabia. The authors describe their methodology with special attention to the psychospiritual strategies they used, utilizing an Islamic framework.

Dr. Mir et al describe a 6-year prospective study of laparoscopic cholecystectomies in Kashmir Valley, India. They demonstrated that this procedure can be performed in small hospitals in developing countries with equally good results as when it is performed in “big” medical centers. They stress the importance of proper training of the team of surgeons and staff. They demonstrated that cost can be minimized by using reusable instruments, intracorporeal sutures, and self-made extraction bags.

Dr. Khattab and colleagues address the safety of fasting for epileptic patients, a topic not specifically addressed in the Ramadan literature. They conclude that stable epileptics using carbamazepine can safely fast.

In this issue we profile Dr. Manzar Ashtari, a native of Iran, a renowned scientist, and a pioneer researcher of the brain and its complex illnesses via the advanced methods of magnetic resonance imaging. Using the technique of “diffusion tensor imagery” she and her team are studying diseases such as Alzheimers, schizophrenia and, more recently, autism. Their research is well recognized internationally.

Dr. Faroque Khan has selected the book “The Last Lecture” by Randy Pausch for review in this issue. It is an interesting book that stresses the importance of perseverance in the face of challenges over which we have no control, such as terminal illness and approaching death. The author discusses how he was able to turn despair into a positive attitude. We Muslims are well aware of this concept. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ said:

عجبا لأمر المؤمن إن أمره كله خير وليس
ذاك لأحد إلا للمؤمن إن أصابته سراء شكر
فكان خيرا له وإن أصابته ضراء صبر فكان
خيرا له

Strange are the ways of a believer! Every affair of his is good, and this is not the case with anyone else except a believer. If he has an occasion to feel delight, he thanks [God], and thus there is a good for him in it. If he finds hardship, he endures it patiently, and thus there is a good for him in it.¹

Dr. Shamdol et al report a population study of edentulism in a Muslim population in Kelantan, Malaysia. They found that it is a relatively common problem, especially in elderly women. They believe this is a public health issue that needs to be addressed. Education about dental health and hygiene and making dental care available to the population will curb this problem and will contribute to

an improved quality of life for our aging population.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Dr. Norbanee Tengku Hamzah, one of the authors of the article on eduntulism. She passed away on Eid al-Adha due to acute myeloid leukemia (AML), which was diagnosed about 2 years ago. She is survived by her husband and four beautiful children. Dr. Noorliza Mastura Ismail, the corresponding author, described Dr. Hamzah as a very dedicated colleague and asked us to pray for her. May Allah ﷻ forgive her sins and ours. May Allah ﷻ grant her family patience to bear her loss. May Allah ﷻ accept her efforts to treat people's illnesses and advance medical knowledge in her register of good deeds, and may Allah ﷻ accept our efforts as well. Amin.

Wassalaam,

Hossam E. Fadel, MD, PhD, FACOG
Editor-in-Chief, JIMA
Maternal Fetal Medicine
University Hospital
Clinical Professor
Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, Georgia

Reference

1. Saḥīḥ Muslim. Kitāb al-zuḥd wa al-raqā'iq. (53) Bāb al-mu'min amruhu kulluhu khayr. (13) Available from www.muhammadith.org.