

Do the COVID-19 vaccines contain aborted fetal cells?

No, the COVID-19 vaccines, including those currently available in the United States (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Janssen/Johnson & Johnson), do not contain aborted fetal cells taken from recent abortions.

However, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna used the fetal cell line HEK 293 in the confirmation phase of developing the vaccines to ensure the vaccines work. The makers of the two vaccines used cells from the cell line HEK 293 in an early step known as confirmation testing. In the confirmation testing step, researchers introduce the vaccine in question to the cloned fetal cells to make sure it doesn't have harmful effects before it's injected into the first human.

Cloned fetal cell lines are not the same as fetal tissue. Fetal cell lines are cells that grow in a laboratory. They descend from cells taken from elective abortions in the 1970s and 1980s. Current fetal cell lines are thousands of generations removed from the original fetal tissue. They do not contain any tissue from a fetus.

So, no fetal cell lines were used to manufacture the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine, and they are not inside the injection you receive.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine also does not contain fetal cells, however in contrast to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, it is manufactured using cloned fetal cells. Johnson & Johnson reiterated this in a statement.

"Our vaccine contains no fetal tissue whatsoever," a spokesperson wrote. "We employ a technology platform using cells that were

engineered and grown in labs from a single cell more than 30 years ago into a fully engineered cell line.

To make their virus vector vaccine, Johnson & Johnson infects PER.C6 cloned fetal cell line cells with adenovirus. All the cloned cells used to manufacture the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are descended from tissue taken from a 1985 elective abortion that took place in the Netherlands.

Both the Vatican and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have endorsed using COVID-19 vaccinations.

Both Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI have gotten their second doses of the vaccine, the Catholic News Agency reported in early February 2021.

Additionally, the Vatican has stated:

“all vaccinations recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience with the certain knowledge that the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion from which the cells used in production of the vaccines derive. It should be emphasized, however, that the morally licit use of these types of vaccines, in the particular conditions that make it so, does not in itself constitute a legitimation, even indirect, of the practice of abortion, and necessarily assumes the opposition to this practice by those who make use of these vaccines.”

Furthermore, The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith have stated that, “when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not

available ... it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.” After the approval of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops stated the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines may be preferable “if one has the ability to choose a vaccine” and that getting a COVID-19 vaccine should be “considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good.”

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