

65632 - Does an Anaesthetic Injection Break the Fast?

the question

I am going to have two non-invasive medical procedures during the month of Ramadan, and I am going to take a drug via injection during these two procedures. Will my fast be invalidated by that?

Summary of answer

Being given medicine via injection does not break the fast, whether it is intramuscular or intravenous, so long as the injected substance does not provide nutrition.

Detailed answer

Being given medicine via injection does not break the fast , whether it is intramuscular or intravenous, so long as the injected substance does not provide nutrition, because in that case it is like food and drink which are forbidden to the one who is fasting.

It says in Fatawa al-Lajnah al-Daimah (10/252):

“It is permissible to be given medicine via injection into the muscles or veins when fasting during the day in Ramadan. But it is not permissible for the fasting person to be given nutrients during the day in Ramadan, because that comes under the same rulings as consuming food and drink, and this injection is regarded as a means of breaking the fast in Ramadan. If it is possible to give the injection into a muscle or vein during the night, that is preferable.”

Shaykh Ibn ‘Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked about the spread of anaesthesia through the body – does that break the fast? And what about the flow of blood when a tooth is extracted?

He replied:

“Neither of these breaks the fast, but the blood that flows after removal of a tooth should not be swallowed.” (Fatawa Ramadan, p. 525)

It makes no difference whether it is a local or general [anaesthetic](#) . Many of the jurists have stated that if a person who is unconscious is awake for even a moment of the day, his fast is valid, so long as he formed the intention to fast from the night before.”

Imam al-Shafi`i said in al-Umm (8/153):

“If a man [loses consciousness](#) for a day or two days during the month of Ramadan, and he did not eat or drink anything, then he has to make up for those days. But if he was awake for part of the day, then he is regarded as having fasted on that day.”

Ibn Qudamah said in al-Mughni (4/343):

“[If he was unconscious for the whole day](#) and did not wake up at all, then his fast is not valid, according to the view of our imam (i.e., Imam Ahmad) and al-Shafi`i...

If the person who was unconscious woke up for a part of the day, his fast is valid, whether that was at the beginning or the end of the day.”

And Allah knows best.