

OTHER ISSUES THREATENING INNOCENT, PREBORN HUMAN LIFE

Abortifacient Contraceptives

Some forms of birth control and contraception have the potential to cause the abortion of a human embryo, before or after it has implanted in the uterine lining. While there is some debate as to the degree of likelihood, it is important to know that certain forms of birth control and contraception do involve a risk of abortion:

The Pill: This drug contains progestin and ethinyl estradiol, which serve three functions: prevents ovulation, thickens cervical mucus (making it difficult for sperm to travel), and thins the inner lining of the uterus (making it hostile toward the implantation of a human embryo). In some cases, this can cause a very early abortion of a human embryo.

Plan B (morning after pill): This drug is described as "emergency contraception," and contains a high dose of the hormone progestin. Depending on the circumstances, the drug can either prevent ovulation from occurring or prevent an embryo from implanting in the lining of the uterus.

IUD (Intrauterine Device): This device comes in two forms in the U.S.: Mirena and

Paragard. Mirena releases a progesterone receptor inhibitor called levonorgestrel. This drug can prevent ovulation, but more often, it prevents a human embryo from implanting in the lining of the uterus. Paragard releases copper into the uterine cavity and has the likelihood of preventing a human embryo from implanting. In addition to their potential abortifacient action, both forms of IUD carry with them a risk of an ectopic or tubal pregnancy, which put both the woman and the preborn child at serious risk.

The minipill: The minipill is very similar to the standard birth control pill, though it only contains progestin. It is taken every day of the month rather than in three-week periods and can have the same abortifacient effects in some circumstances.

The Patch: Like "the pill," this drug contains progestin and ethinyl estradiol, though it is absorbed directly through the skin. In addition to its potential to cause a very early abortion, it has been shown to cause higher rates of life-threatening blood clots in women, due to the way in which it is absorbed.

Depo-Provera: This drug functions like "the minipill," though it is received in the form of an injection.²⁵

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During in vitro fertilization, mature eggs are retrieved from a female's ovaries, artificially inseminated in a lab (resulting in the creation of a new human embryo) and implanted in a female's uterus. The female eggs may be retrieved from the ovaries of the woman intending to carry the pregnancy or from an egg donor, and the male sperm may be supplied by her partner or by a sperm donor, or any combination of the two.

When in vitro fertilization is pursued, multiple female eggs are often fertilized, resulting

in the creation of multiple human embryos, which are either implanted in the female's uterus or frozen for several years for future use. The former instance may result in multiple unintended pregnancies, in which case, the woman may have the option to "selectively reduce," or abort, the unintended pregnancies. The latter case carries a risk that the frozen human embryos will r and freezing process.

In vitro fertilization, the artificial creation of a human person and the capacity to selectively determine if and when the individual's life will continue, is a dangerous recipe that violates the sanctity of human life.²⁶

Harvesting of Aborted Fetal Remains

As evidenced by a sample from an actual invoice pictured below showing the transaction of two aborted baby brain specimens being sold for \$200 each, a market exists in which organs and tissue samples of aborted babies are purchased from abortion-performing entities by organizations seeking to use such "specimens" for research. In cases involving the harvesting of baby parts, abortionists and others affiliated with the abortion

industry have been recorded detailing the ways in which procedures for performing said abortions have been adjusted to carefully collect desired organs intact. Allowing for this market to exist grossly undermines the sanctity of the preborn child's life, not only by terminating its right to live,

but by creating an environment in which it is acceptable for humans to be treated as collections of parts and trafficked by others with full control to dispense and disperse as desired.

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Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Human embryonic stem cell research is ethically wrong, as it harvests stem cells from a human at its embryonic stage, ending the life of the person and forcing him or her to sacrifice his or her life for another without consent. To date, human embryonic stem cell research has not resulted in the cure of a single patient from any disease.

Adult stem cell research, however, is justifiable as it does not end the life of another human person. Contrary to human embryonic stem cell research, adult stem cell research has resulted in more than 73 treatments/cures.²⁷

Modern medical technology has made embryonic stem cell research obsolete. Induced pluripotent stem cells possess the same characteristics of embryonic stem cells but are not harvested from embryos. Rather, they are derived from ordinary somatic cells (like a skin cell) and reprogrammed to function like embryonic stem cells, with a lower risk of rejection.

Human Cloning

Human cloning attempts to create a genetic twin of an organism by removing the nucleus of an unfertilized egg cell and replacing it with the nucleus of a somatic cell from the same body. This process results in the creation of a second genetically identical, albeit different, human individual. The cloned individual may be allowed to develop and have a chance at birth, or his or her life may be ended and his or her body parts may be harvested and used for research and other purposes.

Human cloning has a strong appeal to researchers when it comes to human embryonic stem cell research, as growing a second, genetically identical human being may allow for experimenters to bypass the problem of human embryonic stem cells being rejected when they are received by a genetically different human individual.

Human cloning, which has the capacity to selectively determine if and when the individual's life will continue, is a dangerous recipe that violates the sanctity of human life.