121918 - Using the placenta for medical purposes

the question

I am going to give birth soon and the doctor told me that she wants to keep the umbilical blood. She said that it can be used to treat many diseases. This is the first time I have heard such a thing and I did not know what the Islamic opinion is concerning that. I hope that you can advise me about that. Should I agree to that or not? She told me that it is my choice.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

There is nothing wrong with using the umbilical cord or the placenta for medical purposes.

We put this question to Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih ibn ‘Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him):

What is the ruling on keeping the placenta to treat cancer and remove wrinkles from the face?

He replied as follows:

It seems that there is nothing wrong with it so long as it is proven (to be beneficial).

Question: Does the principle that “whatever is cut from a living being is ‘dead meat’ (maytah)” apply?”

Answer: The maytah of a human is taahir (pure).

Question: If it has no use, does it have to be buried or can it be thrown anywhere?

Answer: It would seem that it is similar to nails and hair – i.e., there is nothing wrong with either throwing it away or burying it.

And Allah knows best.