259422 - Can You Wipe Over Sheer Compression Stockings in Wudu?

the question

We are living in [a particular country] and my wife is six months pregnant. My wife is suffering from varicose veins in both legs because of pregnancy, so the doctor told her to wear compression stockings, which are sheer and the skin can be seen through them. He told her to wear them all day long, except at night time. Please note that the stockings are complete, and are like pants at the top; they do not cover the feet only. How can she do Wudu? Can she wipe over the stockings only, and if that is the case, how should she wipe over them, noting that putting the stockings on and taking them off is difficult because they are compression stockings.

Summary of answer

Wiping over sheer compression stockings is not permissible according to most scholars unless they are worn for medical reasons. In such cases, a person may wipe over them entirely as they would a cast. Alternatively, they may wear thick socks over them and wipe the outer layer during Wudu.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

The Ruling on Wiping Over Sheer Stockings in Islam

The view of the majority of scholars is that it is not allowed to wipe over sheer socks or stockings, and that this concession is allowed only in the case of thick socks.

If these stockings are light and what is beneath them can be seen, then the more correct view is that it is not permissible to wipe over them.

Medical Necessity and Wiping Over Compression Stockings

But if sheer compression stockings are needed for medical purposes, and it is difficult to take them off every time one does Wudu, then the individual may do Wudu before putting them on, then he or she should put a thick socks over them, then when needing to do Wudu, he or she may wipe over the thick socks until he or she takes them off, or the period during which wiping over the socks is allowed comes to an end.

How to Maintain Wudu When Wearing Sheer Compression Stockings

If he or she is not able to do that, and taking off the compression socks is something that will cause harm or delay recovery, then the matter comes under the ruling on wearing a cast, so he or she should wipe over all of it from top to bottom, which is the place which is required to be washed.

If your wife takes the stockings off at night, she should do Wudu when she wants to pray Fajr, then put the compression stockings on, then put on thick socks over them, then wipe over the socks, as the ruling on wiping will apply to the socks and not to the stockings that are worn under them. Then when night comes, she may take off both the stockings and the socks, then when she wants to do Wudu for Fajr (on the following day), she should do the same thing, and so on.

The Importance of Wiping Only When in a State of Purity

I put this question to our Shaykh, `Abd Ar-Rahman Al-Barrak (may Allah preserve him) and he said that these stockings come under two rulings:

In one way, they resemble a cast, because they are worn for an essential need, and in another way, they resemble socks. In my view, she may wipe over the part of the foot that it is required to wash, and regard them as being like the Khuffayn (leather socks) in terms of the time-frame (within which it is permissible to wipe over the socks). They should also be put on when in a state of purity (i.e., after doing Wudu).

For more details, please see the following answers: 192736, 306291.

And Allah knows best.