306956 - Ruling on using vaginal dilators to treat vaginismus and allow intercourse

the question

I am a young man and have been married for nearly a year, but I have not consummated the marriage with my wife yet, because she is suffering from vaginismus (involuntary vaginal muscle spasms). Based on what the gynaecologist told us, we tried numbing (anaesthetic) creams for the vagina and other remedies, but without success. Hence the gynaecologist advised my wife to use vaginal dilators in order to widen the opening of the vagina, because there is no other solution. When we asked some people who had tried that, they told us that it works, but I cannot accept that until I find out the Islamic ruling concerning it. Please advise me, is it permissible to use these things?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

There is nothing wrong with using vaginal dilators to treat vaginismus, not for the purpose of unlawful pleasure. It is permissible to do that with the help of the husband, and that should be done if the woman fears masturbating, because masturbation by the husband’s hand is permissible.

Assuming that using dilators will lead to arousal or masturbation, and the aim of that is medical treatment, there is nothing wrong with that, in order to enable the wife to have intercourse and fulfil the objective of marriage, which is to keep both spouses chaste, provide pleasure and produce children. A number of jurists have permitted masturbation in the case of necessity, by way of committing the lesser of two evils.

Al-Mirdawi said in *al-Insaf* (10/252): We learn two things, one of which is that masturbation is not

permissible except in the case of necessity…

The second is that the ruling for women concerning this matter is the same as the ruling for men.

End quote.

And Allah knows best.