

WHICH COSMETICS USE FETAL CELLS?



Introduction

Are fetal cells used in cosmetics? Does this affect my makeup? What about lotions and creams?

Many questions revolve around the use of abortion-derived cell lines in the cosmetics industry. Rumors circulate, and people try to learn the truth.

Thankfully, to the best of our knowledge, no companies in the United States use fetal cells to develop cosmetics. But with the prevalence of online shopping, it's important to acknowledge the role of abortion-derived cell lines in cosmetics developed in other countries.

This e-book is your guide. We'll help you understand why fetal cells are used in certain cosmetics. And we'll tell you which products to avoid.



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Part 1: What are Abortion Derived Cell Lines?

What is a Cell Line?

A cell line begins with a certain number of cells, which then continue to reproduce.¹ This allows scientists to perform experiments and tests on various products.²

According to National Geographic, cell lines are cells that grow in a laboratory.... “Individual cells from the 1970s and 1980s have since multiplied into many new cells over the past four or five decades, creating the fetal cell lines.”³

The problem is that certain cell lines began using cells from aborted fetuses.⁴ Scientists used cells from the kidney, lungs, or other parts of aborted children as the initial cells. These cells reproduce over time, forming cell lines.⁵

How are Cell Lines Used?

Children of God for Life details the three ways cell lines are used in research:

- To be host cells for viruses (for use in vaccines)⁶
- To test how a cell will respond to a stimulus (how many antibodies or proteins it produces, etc)⁷
- To test cytotoxicity (whether or not a product will become toxic at a cellular level)⁸





Today, cell lines created using fetal skin cells are also used in cosmetics, to revitalize skin.⁹

Usually, the cells in these products are many cellular generations removed from the original fetal cells. *However, there is a direct line from the murder of an innocent child to the cells used in these products.*

Part 2: Current Cosmetics Made Using Fetal Cell Lines

Use of Placentas in Cosmetics

Before discussing the use of fetal cells in cosmetics, it's important to acknowledge the role of placentas in the cosmetics industry.

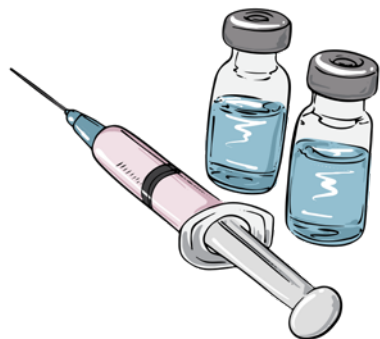
Human collagen is often taken from placentas and used in various surgical procedures. Besides human placentas, some beauty products use placentas from animals, such as cows or sheep. For instance, some cosmetic surgeries and treatments for severe burns use collagen taken from placentas. Other companies extract hormones and proteins for use in hair care products and lotions.¹⁰



There is nothing illegal or immoral about this practice. Using a placenta from animals or from a child who is already born does not pose an ethical issue. However, some scientists made the leap from placentas to fetal cells when developing their products.

Use of Fetal Cells in Cosmetics

Some companies use cells from abortion-derived cell lines in their cosmetic products. This practice mainly occurs in Europe.



The marketing term “cosmeceuticals”—a combination of the words “cosmetics” and “pharmaceuticals”—refers to products that are applied topically like cosmetics but that supposedly have medical properties that affect the skin like cosmetic surgery.

One of the companies producing “cosmeceuticals” is Neocutis, a Swiss company. (Neocutis’s US-based subsidiary is located in San Francisco).¹¹

In the 1990s, scientists studied how fetal skin heals. In one study from 1992, they used skin taken from aborted babies and grafted it onto mice. These scientists realized that fetal skin heals without scarring.¹² They concluded that studying fetal skin, “may allow development of specific therapies for abnormal post-natal scar-forming conditions: intra-abdominal adhesions, burn contractures, fibrosis and keloid formation.”¹³



The scientists who founded Neocutis originally also researched wound healing.¹⁴ After they successfully healed wounds without leaving scars, they applied this technology to skin care.¹⁵

Neocutis’s website states, “When our first wound healing technology was found to scarlessly heal burned skin, while making it

appear healthier and more youthful, NEOCUTIS scientists began to explore how to apply the same principles to improve the appearance of aging skin. Unlike young skin, which heals quickly and easily, older skin acts more like wounded skin.”¹⁶

However, their products pose enormous ethical issues. Neocutis uses cells from abortion-derived cell lines to help older skin heal like young skin.

Processed Skin Proteins: The Problematic Use of Fetal Cells

The issue with Neocutis’s products is one of their patented ingredients: processed skin proteins (PSPs). These PSPs are derived from a cell line, which originated with an aborted 14-week-old Swiss baby boy.¹⁷ The cell line began by using his skin, which was about the size of a postage stamp.¹⁸

These PSPs are used to revitalize skin in creams and lotions. One article explains, “Essentially, fetal skin cells are cultured to obtain some unique balance or mixture of skin nutrients based on scientific processes the company has developed.”¹⁹ Another article states, “The rich proteins found in processed skin cell protein work effectively to heal damaged skin and rejuvenate a dull complexion.”²⁰



Yet another site explains, “Growth Factors occur naturally in our bodies and help the skin repair itself, however, over time the body loses the ability to complete the healing process as it did in its youth and that is where Neocutis comes into play to help you achieve a brighter, healthier skin complexion.”²¹

Essentially, the healing qualities found in fetal cells are used to rejuvenate older skin. By applying creams containing PSPs, older skin can absorb the processed skin proteins in order to reverse signs of aging and renew skin.²² This is how certain Neocutis products work.

The skin creams made using PSPs are used for psoriasis, eczema, and for anti-wrinkle (anti-aging) treatment. At the moment, Neocutis is the only company using PSPs in anti-aging creams.²³

PRODUCTS TO AVOID ²⁴

NEOCUTIS PRODUCTS:

LUMIERE

BIO-SERUM

PREVEDEM

JOURNEE

BIOGEL

BIO-RESTORATIVE SKIN CREAM

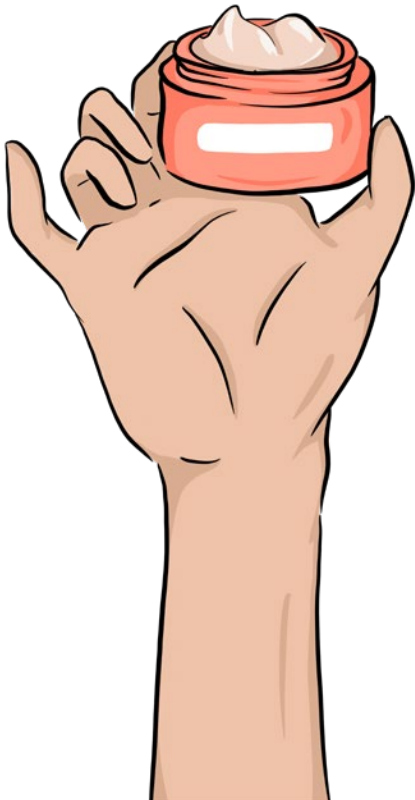


Part 3: History of Fetal Cells and Cosmetics in Europe

The practice of using fetal cells in cosmetics goes back decades in Europe. In the mid-1980s, several investigations occurred in England and France. These found that abortion clinics were selling the bodies of aborted babies to cosmetics companies for use in their products.²⁵

These companies advertised that their products could rejuvenate the face, skin, and hair and prominently mentioned the fact that various fetal organs were used in the making of the creams.

Madame Renée Ibry's Henri Chacon Centre, one of several such clinics on the French Riviera, advertised a California Esthetiqué line of cosmetics.²⁶ The advertising pamphlet for this line of products reads in part:



“We know that young cells applied to old tissues are able to regenerate them. These cells are all the more effective if they are living.... Exclusively taken from fetuses these cells, no longer independent, do not carry antibodies under any circumstances.... Absolutely natural, this product is made for use at home.... Epidermal circulation is activated, coloring is pinker and fresher, texture is finer, blotches disappear, undoubtedly deeper lines or wrinkles are lessened, skin is transformed, elasticity and tone are retrieved.”²⁷

Madame Ibry's products came in two varieties: "Red Stick," made from the aborted baby's spleen, liver, and thymus, and "White Stick," made from the baby's intestinal membrane and tissue.²⁸



Use of Fetal Cells in Cosmetics in Eastern Europe

This type of practice has also been occurring in Eastern Europe for years. In 2005, reporters revealed that aborted children were being sold in Ukraine for use in Russian beauty salons.²⁹

One article states, "The foetuses are cryogenically frozen and sold to clinics offering 'youth injections', claiming to rejuvenate skin and cure a raft of diseases."³⁰ It continues,

*"Beauty salons in Moscow that buy the aborted material to provide 'foetal therapy' are flourishing...The salons offer injections of stem cells, the undivided cells present in embryos that can adapt into any kind of tissue, although they are still at the trial stage worldwide."*³¹

These treatments cost an average of about £10,000, but this cost is no impediment to rich women (and men) who will do absolutely anything they can to hang on to their youth – regardless of who suffers or dies as a result.³²

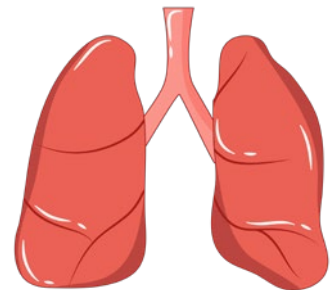
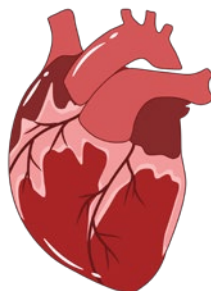
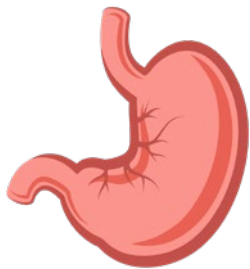
The poorer cities of Ukraine found themselves at the epicenter of a growing practice involving the “harvesting” of aborted children from young women and girls.

Research found that obstetricians in Donetsk and Kharkiv received kickbacks to tell pregnant women that their preborn children were horribly deformed, even when they were perfectly healthy. These doctors then referred these heartbroken women to abortionists.³³

It is speculated that these doctors paid them around £100 for their fetal remains. These doctors even offered much more, if women would delay their abortions until the late second or early third trimester. These fetuses were then smuggled into Russia, where they would sell for £5,000 each.³⁴



These corporations would cut the babies apart, grind up their various organs, dilute the resulting paste, and sell it to Moscow beauty salons for fetal beauty therapies that allegedly “take ten years off your face.” Some of the salons even claimed that their injections could cure such conditions as Parkinson’s disease or Alzheimer’s.³⁵



A 2005 inspection found that there were 41 clinics offering this kind of “therapy” in Moscow alone, and it is believed that there are even more operating now.³⁶

From a strictly medical standpoint, one problem is that the process that extracts stem cells from a human fetus is extremely expensive.

It is believed that the beauty parlors merely inject their clients with nothing more than a grisly puree of fetal tissue extracts—untested for purity or diseases—to save money. A number of Russians have died or have been mutilated as a result of these cosmetics.

Professor Vladimir Smirnov, director of Moscow’s Institute of Experimental Cardiology, said, “We are talking about a huge, corrupt and dangerous trade in dubious therapies. The authorities have never licensed any medical specialist to administer injections of stem cells. These methods are totally experimental and illegal.”³⁷

Part 4: Catholic Teaching Regarding Abortion-Derived Cell Lines



Obviously, the use of abortion derived cell lines poses an ethical problem for Catholics.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that abortion is wrong in all instances.

Abortion is “gravely contrary to the moral law.”³⁸ Further, the “formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense.”³⁹

Abortion takes the life of an innocent child. Therefore, anyone who has an abortion or participates in an abortion commits a very serious sin. Catholics need to condemn abortion as a grave offense against human dignity.

So, can Catholics use cosmetics made using abortion-derived cell lines?

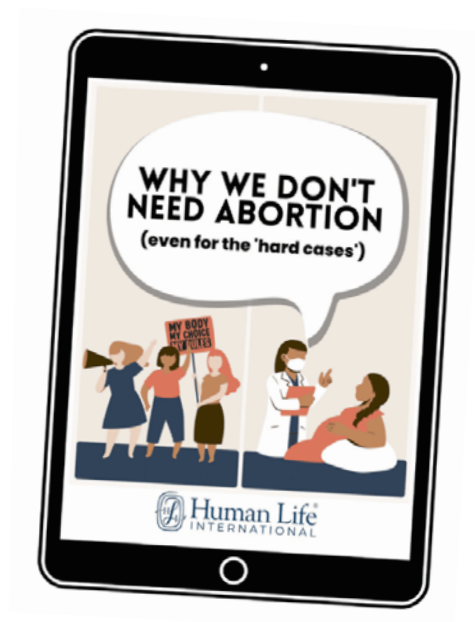
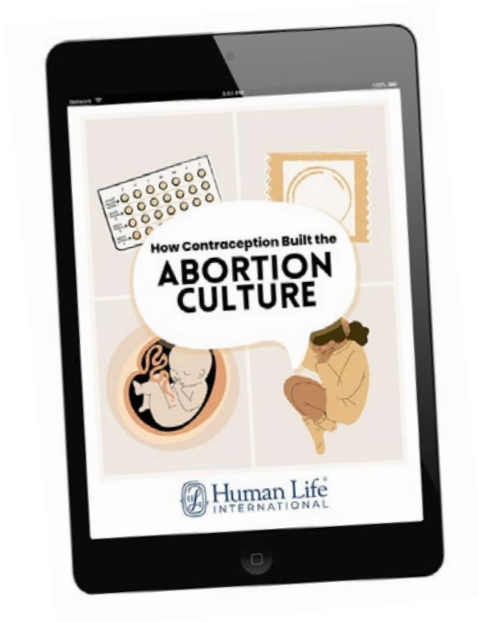
The answer is simple: NO

The Church condemns the practice of using fetal cell lines—for developing vaccines and medicines as well as cosmetics.

Sometimes, people are allowed to get vaccines made using these cell lines, but only if there is no other option and if the vaccine prevents a serious illness. However, there is no such allowance made for cosmetics. Vaccines can save lives; cosmetics cannot.

Hence, we have an obligation to oppose the disgusting practice of using aborted fetal tissue in cosmetics.

As Catholics, we must “employ every lawful means in order to make life difficult for the pharmaceutical industries which act unscrupulously and unethically.”⁴⁰



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Resources

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