

**ASSESSMENT ON THE *HALALNESS* OF  
GASTROINTESTINAL MEDICATION**

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **ASSESSMENT ON THE *HALAL*NESS OF GASTROINTESTINAL MEDICATION**

Muslims need their daily requirements such as food, medication, attire and others to be in *halal* state. This includes the gastrointestinal medications which are commonly used in hospitals where this study is done to assess that class of medication. The *halal* assessment was done by referring a few tools such as the drug information references and also the drug leaflets. From the total of 148 gastrointestinal pharmaceutical products that have been analyzed, 4.1% are permissible, 29% are doubtful while none of them is categorized under impermissible. Majority of the products (66.9%) are unknown and could not be assessed as some information is unavailable. This is because some drug companies do not reveal the inactive ingredients of the products as for confidentiality issues. Pharmaceutical manufacturers, healthcare professionals, and religion scholars should fully cooperate with each other so that Muslims consumers get their *halal* medications.

## Chapter 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Overview

##### 1.1.1 Overview of gastrointestinal medications

Gastrointestinal system includes several organs with distinctive functions. The gastrointestinal organs are the stomach, liver, pancreas, small intestines and large intestine. The medication in the gastrointestinal tract is absorbed through the epithelial cells where the medication enters the blood capillaries (lamina propria) and will travel to the rest of the body via the capillaries (Karimi and Karimi 2014). Statistically, gastrointestinal medications are used by a total of 2.638 populations a day, which involving private and public hospitals. As the prevalence of gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GORD) is increasing, the demand for this type of medications is also getting higher (Pharmaceutical Services Division and Clinical Research Centre, Ministry of Health Malaysia, 2010).

#### 1.2 *Halal and Haram*

The Muslim has a large affection on the factors of social and economic as the population increases to become the second largest religion, community after Christians the whole wide world (Pew Research Centre, 2011). Hence, their needs and requirements could not be neglected, especially as a consumer. Muslim consumers need *halal* products in their daily requirements, whether it is food, medication, or even attire. This is because they are guided to search for *halalness* in every aspect of their life by their most pure and holy sources, the holy book Al-Quran and Hadith from The Prophet, Muhammad SAW (Peace Be Upon Him).