Letter

Islamic ideas about sexual relations

To the Editor

The article entitled ‘Assisted reproduction practice: religious perspectives’ by Schenker (2005) was most interesting but we think there may be some misunderstanding in a part of it. In paragraph 7 of page 2 it is mentioned that “The Quran restricts sexual intercourse to the penis in the vagina…”; also that “…although [oral sex] is disliked, it is not forbidden”. As we all know interpretation of Islamic resources are different among religious leaders. In Islam, sexual relations are not considered to be only a step in procreation, but a completely natural activity within marriage (Hassan, 1995). In the holy Quran it is mentioned: “Your wives are your tilth; go, then, unto your tilth as you may desire, but first provide something for your souls, and remain conscious of God, and know that you are destined to meet Him. And give glad tidings unto those who believe”. This is interpreted as an indication that you can be with your wife at any time and in any place. In another place the Quran says that you are free to desire your spouses (Holy Quran, chapter 70). The Islamic clergy believes that the wife cannot reject vaginal sex with her husband except during menstruation, sickness and/or disability, or because of reproduction, but other sexual pleasure can be performed only if both partners accept. So, any kind of sexual pleasure between husband and wife is accepted and encouraged unless one partner does not agree or it is harmful for their health.

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References

Holy Quran, chapter 2, verse 223.
Holy Quran, chapter 70, verses 29–30.