Prophylaxis Against Postoperative Wound Infection : A Prospective Study

Thesis for the partial fulfilment of Master Degree
in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

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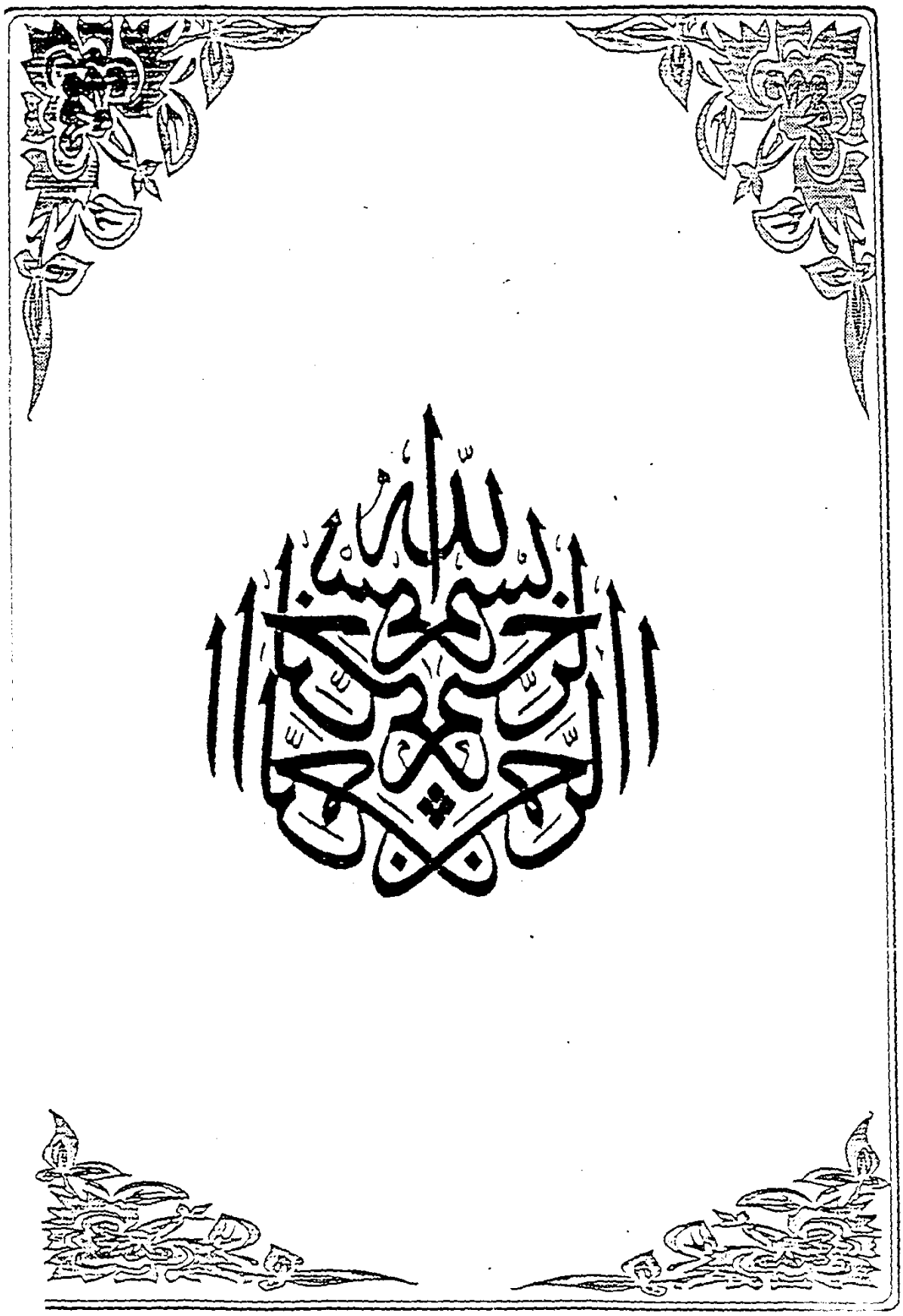

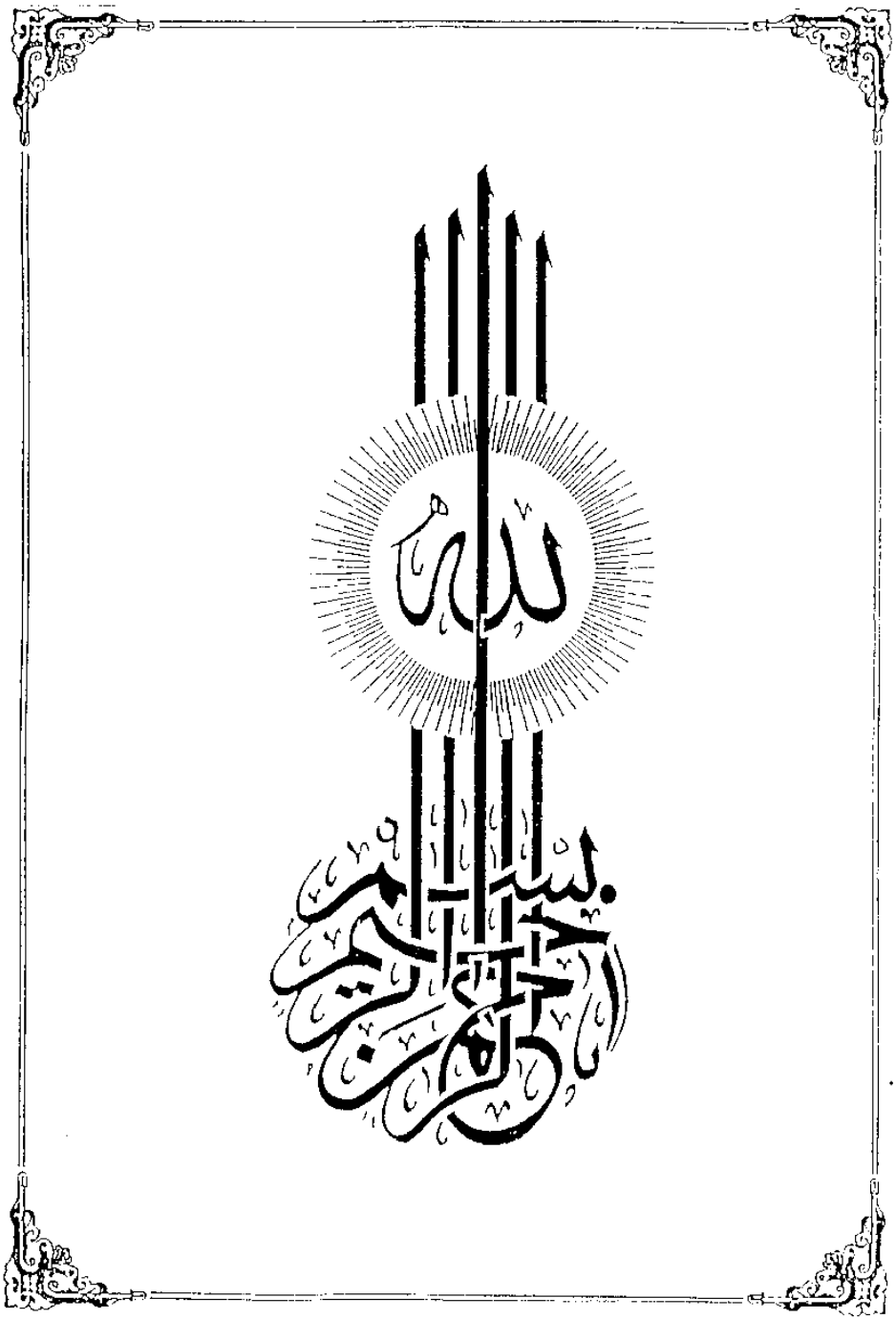

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To My Mentor & Godfather

To All Those Who Care

To My Parents

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INTRODUCTION

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Postoperative wound infection remains one of the most troublesome complications that follow any surgical operation.

It can occur at any medical center all over the world, even at those applying the most recent and strict antiseptic measures. Recent studies confirm that it is impossible to create a predictably sterile wound (Lidwell et al, 1982).

Although the contaminating organisms may be few in number, the altered host immune mechanisms associated with the fresh surgical incision renders all wound vulnerable to infection (Burke, 1973).

For any given type of operation, the development of wound infection will approximately double the cost of hospitalization (Alexander, 1985). Reduction of sepsis will be beneficial for the patients themselves, for the hospital staff and for the community as a whole (Alexander, 1985).

One of the methods to reduce sepsis is the administration of prophylactic antibiotics in surgery, but it still continues to be a controversial problem despite the numerous advances made in the care of surgical patients.

For prophylaxis in gynaecology and obstetrics, the operation should be associated with significant infection with endogenous contamination. The antibiotic should have laboratory evidence of effectiveness against some organisms of the contamination, have clinical effectiveness and reach the wound sometime during the operation. The antibiotics with wide spectrum of action should be reserved for treatment not prophylaxis and the benefits should outweigh the risks (Elyan, 1994).

The clinician must keep up to date with developments in the field of antimicrobial therapy and consultation of a microbiologist is a must. The surgeon must follow the basic principles of preparing the patient, scrubbing and surgical techniques (Elyan, 1994).

To achieve reduction of sepsis, many studies have been performed to find out the most predisposing factors for postoperative wound infection and the best method to reduce its incidence, but no one has revealed 100% success.

GH, which is a natural potent local antibacterial and antifungal agent proposed by professor Dr. Ibrahim Khalil to be used in prophylaxis against postoperative wound infection.

Pilot studies done in four different branches of surgery revealed 100% success as regards the using of GH in prevention of postoperative wound infection.

For this reason, it is suggested to carry on studying the effect of GH in prophylaxis and prevention of postoperative wound infection in different fields of surgery before deciding its routine uses (Khalil, 1994).

AIM OF THE WORK

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The aim of this work is to evaluate two different methods of prophylaxis against postoperative wound infection.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE