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**The perception and acceptability of pre-slaughter and post-slaughter
stunning for Halal production: The views of UK Islamic scholars and Halal
consumers.**

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Abstract

The importance of religious slaughter from economic, emotive and ethical viewpoints is significant. There are apparent economic benefits associated with trading in meats slaughtered according to religious traditions. Some religious authorities insist on the slaughter of animals without stunning, but this, according to many researchers, compromises animal welfare. We conducted a survey of Islamic scholars and Halal consumers, 66 scholars from 55 organisations and 314 consumers from 54 UK cities/towns were surveyed. Forty-nine scholars were interviewed through pre-arranged meetings, 17 surveyed online whilst all 314 consumers were either surveyed online or through the remote completion of copies of the questionnaire. Most of the scholars (>95%) (CI 86.9 to 98.4%) agreed that if an animal is stunned and then slaughtered by a Muslim and the method of stunning does not result in death, cause physical injury or obstruct bleed-out, the meat would be Halal and 53% (CI 47 to 58%) consumers also thought such meat would be Halal.

Highlights

- The Quran prohibits Muslims from eating dead animals
- Some Muslims believe pre-slaughter stunning is contrary to the Halal rules
- We surveyed 66 Islamic scholars and 314 Halal consumers in the UK

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