

Lesson 47: Istihadha

The blood which is not *haidh* or *nifas* is called *istihadha*. *Istihadha* has been divided into 3 categories:

1. Istihadha qalila

If the blood does not penetrate the cotton-pad used for protection, it is called "*istihadha qalila*" (minor *istihadha*).

There is no *ghusl* for this category of *istihadha*; but she must do *wudhu* for every prayer. She is not allowed to pray two prayers with one *wudhu*.

2. Istihadha mutawassita

If the blood penetrates the cotton-pad but does not exceed it, it is called "*istihadha mutawassita*" (medium *istihadha*).

She should do one *wudhu* for every prayer and one *ghusl* daily. For example, if she had seen this *istihadha* before Zuhr, she should do *ghusl* before Zuhr and should pray Zuhr with that *ghusl* and one *wudhu* as mentioned earlier. The 4 later prayers (up till the morning prayer of the next day) should be prayed with one *wudhu* each.

3. Istihadha kathira

If the blood exceeds the cotton-pad after soaking it, it is called *istihadha kathira* (major *istihadha*). She should do separate *wudhu* for each prayer, as mentioned earlier, and should do 3 *ghusls* daily: One for morning prayer, one for Zuhr and Asr and one for Maghrib and Isha. She should pray Zuhr and Asr together and Maghrib and Isha together.

Note: In all cases it is emphasized that she should change the cotton-pad before every *wudhu*.

2. If she is unable for any reason (described in lesson 48) to do *ghusl* or *wudhu*, she should do *tayammum* in place of that *ghusl* or *wudhu*.

3. If a woman observes the rules mentioned above, she should not think herself as *najis*; she will be clean.

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