



Citizens for Medical Isotopes
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CMI advocates for development and deployment of medical isotopes for medical diagnosis and therapies. CMI deplores the critical shortage of worldwide supplies of various isotopes ranging from perfected methods to emerging uses.

The most used isotope, ^{99m}Tc is almost unavailable due to aged reactors production interruptions, limitations on starting materials, and a US 40,000 procedure per day demand. A 2009 poll of Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) members confirmed the severity of the global shortage, as 90% say the lack of medical isotopes has impacted their practice or facility. Two-thirds of the responses noted they do not have access to a technetium generator source beyond their current supplier. In addition, approximately 26% are operating at less than 50% of their capacity because of the isotope shortage, 36% are operating at 52% to 75% of capacity, and less than half (38%) are running at 76% to 100% procedure capacity.

Many research efforts with existing clinical trials are hampered by lack of special isotopes. A key US inventory of ^{233}U as a starting material is expected to be destroyed because special isotope funding is non-existent. Clinical trials for HIV/AIDS cure are limited by lack of a special short lived alpha emitting isotope. Similar limitations exist for brain cancer which might have significantly changed the outcome of Senator Kennedy's case.

In recognition of significant supply issues commencing in 2008, CMI has repeatedly called for improvement in supplies, providing presentations of need and opportunities at 2009 technical forums such as the

- 10th International Symposium of the International Isotope Society,
- 55th Annual Radiobioassay and Radiochemical Measurements Conference,
- Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry

CMI recognizes that Congress has allocated additional funding to address the supply of ^{99m}Tc . However, that funding level is specifically targeted to one isotope and is insufficient to insure development of domestic resources to counter the inadequacy of foreign suppliers. CMI calls for at least a ten-fold increase in this area.

CMI also recognizes that the US has effectively acquiesced to political attitudes rather than technical expertise in providing continuing stimulus and resources for the medical profession to pursue desired avenues of research.

CMI calls for revision of US Budget Code which restricts government production of an isotope if any amount is available from commercial entities. The point here is that if only a limited amount is available, then the researcher cannot be assured of timely supply for test cases. **Therefore, the research does not even start.** An additional policy of pre-paying full cost recovery thwarts research because there is no guarantee that government production will occur in timely fashion due to other priorities. **The research does not even start.**

Thus, we see even advocates of medical isotope development being penalized with life threatening situations which could be avoided if a more robust effort as evidenced in Europe was available domestically.

To continue the focus, CMI and Advanced Medical Isotope Corporation are co-sponsoring a second public symposium Isotopia – The Cure Starts Here, September 22-24 at the Three Rivers Convention Center.

Citizens for Medical Isotopes is a US 501(c)3 organization established to educate and inform citizens about all aspects of medical radioisotopes including those used for nuclear medicine purposes, medical instruments/products sterilization, food irradiation and other purposes and to promote increasing the quantity, variety, availability and subsidy of United States produced medical radioisotopes for research, development, clinical trial and production purposes.

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