

Medical Tc-99m to Be Produced Domestically in Japan Using JAEA's JMTR

On November 17, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) announced that it would begin technical discussions on the domestic production of molybdenum-99 (⁹⁹Mo), the parent nuclide of radiopharmaceutical technetium-99m.

The half-life of ⁹⁹Mo is short: only about 66 hours. As Japan currently depends totally on imports for its supply, the medical community has expressed a strong desire for a stable, assured supply.

With improvement work having started at the Japan Materials Testing Reactor (JMTR), and, in anticipation of producing ⁹⁹Mo by means of neutron activation, JAEA has talked with pharmaceutical manufacturers and others, establishing a study committee on the domestic production of ⁹⁹Mo involving collaboration between industry and academia. The study committee will carry out the technological verification of production, aiming at establishing a domestic mechanism for supply and demand.

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