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PET Tracers Based on Unconventional Isotopes

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Abstract:

Molecular medicine is the future of 21st century patient management. Molecular imaging plays pivotal roles in disease diagnosis, treatment efficacy assessment, drug discovery, and understanding of molecular mechanisms in living systems. In particular, positron emission tomography (PET) has been used in the clinic for decades and ^{18}F -FDG has become the gold standard in many facets of patient management, in particular cancer diagnosis, staging, and treatment monitoring. Besides the mainstream PET isotopes such as ^{11}C and ^{18}F , there are hundreds of other isotopes that emit positron and can be developed into PET tracers. In this special issue of Current Radiopharmaceuticals, I will invite lead researchers in the field to contribute review articles on PET tracers that are based on unconventional isotopes, which could serve as valuable resource for clinicians, students, as well as scientists in the PET area. The isotopes I plan to cover may include, but are not limited to, ^{68}Ga , $^{61,62,64}\text{Cu}$, $^{94\text{m}}\text{Tc}$, ^{124}I , ^{86}Y , ^{76}Br , ^{89}Zr , $^{72/74}\text{As}$, among others. Summarizing the progress to date on each of these isotopes will provide a general overview and centralized source of where we are in the field and reveal promising future directions for PET tracer development.

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