

Radiopharmaceutical Name	2-deoxy-2-[¹⁸ F]-fluoro-D-glucose Abbreviations: [¹⁸ F]fluorodeoxyglucose, ¹⁸ F-FDG or FDG	
Radiopharmaceutical Image	Normal Biodistribution Sample	Radiopharmaceutical Structure OH HO HO OH OH OH OH OH
Radionuclide	¹⁸ F Half-life 109.7 minutes Emission positron Emax 1.656 MeV	
Molecular Formula and Weight	$C_6H_{11}^{-18}FO_5$ 181.1 g atom mole ⁻¹	
General Tracer Class	Diagnostic PET Radiopharmaceutical.	
Target	Cancer cells, infection, inflammation, viable myocardium, brain Of note: FDG PET/CT is commonly performed for cancer staging and follow-up, evaluation of myocardial viability or sarcoidosis and assessment of neurological conditions including epilepsy and dementia. FDG PET/CT can also be used to assess infection.	
Molecular Process Imaged	Increased glucose metabolism.	
Mechanism for in vivo retention	FDG is a glucose analog that is transported from the blood into cells by glucose transporters (predominantly GLUT1). Once in the cell, FDG is phosphorylated by hexokinase (mainly HK2) to form FDG-6-phosphate. Further metabolism of FDG-6-phosphate is limited and FDG-6-phosphate is essentially trapped in the cell. Although certain cells have phosphatases that dephosphorylate FDG-6-phosphate allowing washout (such as the liver), this is very limited over the imaging time period.	
Metabolism	FDG is phosphorylated in the cell to form FDG-6-phosphate, which is trapped within the cell. FDG is cleared via the kidneys and excreted in the urine.	



Radiosynthesis	¹⁸ F-labeled FDG was first synthesized by Wolf et al. using electrophilic fluorination at Brookhaven National Laboratory in 1976. The idea was to use 3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-D-glucal as precursor with ¹⁸ F-F ₂ to produce a 3:1 mixture of ¹⁸ F labeled difluoro-glucose and difluoro-mannose derivatives that were then separated and hydrolysed with hydrochloric acid to form 2-fluoro-2-deoxyglucose with a yield of 8% and synthesis time of 2 hours (Ido T, Wan CN, Casella V, et al. "Labeled 2-deoxy-D-glucose analogs: ¹⁸ F-labeled 2-deoxy-2-fluoro-D-glucose, 2-deoxy-2-fluoro-D-mannose and ¹⁴ C-2-deoxy-2-fluoro-D-glucose". <i>J Labeled Compounds Radiopharm</i> 1978; 24 : 174–183.) The major limitation of electrophilic fluorination was the low rate of radioactive fluorine incorporation into the precursor agents and production of ¹⁸ F-F ₂ from a Neon gas target via a ²⁰ Ne(d,α) ¹⁸ F reaction. Considerable work has since been done to develop an improved method of radiosynthesis. In 1986, Hamacher <i>et al.</i> reported using Krytofix [222] TM as a catalyst with a mannose triflate precursor and purification with a series of anion exchange column, C-18 reverse phase column and alumina column to produce ¹⁸ F-FDG via nucleophilic fluorination with over 95% purity by a process resulting in yields over 50% and reaction time of approximately 50 minutes. (Hamacher K, Coenen HH, Stocklin G. "Efficient stereospecific synthesis of no-carrier-added 2-[¹⁸ F]-fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose using aminopolyether supported nucleophilic substitution". <i>J Nucl Med</i> 1986; 27 (2): 235-238.) Additional reference: Yu S (2006). "Review of ¹⁸ F-FDG synthesis and quality control". <i>Biomed Imaging Interv J</i> 2 (4): e57.	
Availability	¹⁸ F-FDG has a half-life of under 2 hours, and must be rapidly shipped to its point of use. Many sites manufacture ¹⁸ F-FDG using on-site cyclotrons and have developed shipping networks that supply the PET imaging centers in the United States, Canada, Europe and other countries.	
Status with USP / EuPh	USP and EuPh monographs have been prepared. USP compliance is described in: SOP 921.01 "Ensuring USP Compliance of ¹⁸ F-Fluorodeoxyglucose used in ACRIN studies" The implementation of cGMP for PET by FDA in June of 2012 has led the USP to no longer support monographs for PET radiopharmaceuticals and all FDG synthesis in the United States must be done under FDA through a New Drug Application (NDA), amended New Drug Application (ANDA), investigational new drug application (IND) or an institutional radioactive research drug application (RDRC). All use of FDG that is not clinical must fall under these same FDA rules but implementation for FDG has been delayed and researchers should contact the FDA to be aware of the state of enforcement of the regulations.	
Recommended Activity and Allowable mass	According to the practice guidelines for tumor imaging with ¹⁸ F-FDG PET/CT available through the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging website: http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=772 and Reves ST, Parisi MT, Gelfand MJ (2011). "Pediatric Radiopharmaceutical Doses: New Guidelines" <i>Radiology</i> 261 (2): 347-349. The dose for whole-body oncologic PET/CT is typically: 370-740 MBq (10-20 mCi) for adults and 3.7-5.2 MBq/kg (0.1-0.14 mCi/kg) for children.	
	For evaluation of neurologic FDG PET/CT please refer to the practice guidelines available through the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging website: http://interactive.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=772 Additional guidelines are available at: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2791475/	
Dosimetry	The radiation dose to the patient for ¹⁸ F-FDG PET/CT is based on the combination of the radiation dose from the radiopharmaceutical and from the CT portion of the study. The effective dose from the administration of ¹⁸ F-FDG for an oncologic PET/CT scan is estimated to be	



	approximately 0.019 mSv/MBq for adults using 370-740 MBq (10-20 mCi). In general, the estimated dose from the radiopharmaceutical is estimated to be 5.2 mSv for a 1-year-old child, 5.9 mSv for a 5-year-old child, 6.6 mSv for a 10-year-old child, 7.3 mSv for a 15-year-old adolescent and 7.4 mSv for an adult. The bladder is the organ receiving the highest radiation dose. The effective dose from the CT portion of the PET/CT study can range from approximately 5 to 80 mSv depending on the CT system and protocol being used but is often comparable to the effective dose from the PET portion of the study. Reference, Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging website: http://interactive.snm.org/docs/jnm30551_online.pdf Also, please refer to: Fahey FH, Treves ST, Adelstein SJ (2012). "Minimizing and communicating radiation risk in pediatric nuclear medicine". <i>J Nucl Med Technol</i> 40(1): 13-24. The complete reference for FDG dosimetry is Hays M, Watson E, Thomas S, Stabin M. MIRD Dose Estimate Report No. 19: Radiation Absorbed Dose Estimates from ¹⁸ F-FDG. J. Nucl Med. 2002; 43:210–214	
Pharmacology and Toxicology	There is no definite toxic effect of ¹⁸ F-FDG when used as described by the procedure guidelines given by the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging.	
Current Clinical Trials	The NIH clinical trials registry (www.clinicaltrials.gov) should be consulted for a list of current trials using ¹⁸ F-FDG. As of early 2013, it listed 772 active or completed clinical trials. Of these, 275 were recruiting subjects.	
Reference Site / Person	The FDA describes the development of ¹⁸ F-FDG PET on the following site: http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/Manufacturing/ucm182668.htm The NCI reports on consensus recommendations for use of ¹⁸ F-FDG PET: http://imaging.cancer.gov/programsandresources/reportsandpublications/publications/clinical-trials-guidelines	
Imaging Protocol	In general, patients are asked to fast for 4–6 hours prior to the administration of ¹⁸ F-FDG. Normally, diabetic patients are asked to fast for 4 hours while non-diabetic patients are asked to fast for 6 hours. Oral hydration prior to and following the study is encouraged. Exercise should be avoided for 24 hours prior to the study. If intravenous contrast material is used, patients should be screened for a history of iodinated contrast material allergy, use of metformin for the treatment of diabetes mellitus and renal disease. Intravenous contrast material should not be administered if serum creatinine is above 2.0 mg/dL. An intraluminal gastrointestinal contrast agent may be used to provide improved imaging of the gastrointestinal tract unless medically contraindicated or unnecessary for the clinical indication. The blood glucose level should be checked before ¹⁸ F-FDG administration. Most institutions reschedule the patient if the blood glucose level is greater than 150–200 mg/dL. For brain imaging, the patient should be in a quiet and dimly lit room from the time of radiopharmaceutical administration through the uptake time. For body imaging, a seated or recumbent position is suggested at the time of radiopharmaceutical administration and throughout the uptake phase. For details regarding image acquisition please refer to the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging website: http://interactive.snm.org/docs/jnm30551 online.pdf	
Human Imaging Experience	The first human administration of ¹⁸ F-FDG occurred in 1976 in normal volunteers. Listed below are selected references on the use of ¹⁸ F-FDG. Either MICAD or PubMed should be searched to find the most recent reports of human imaging studies. Lowe VJ, Fletcher JW, Gobar L, Lawson M, Kirchner P, Valk P, Karis J, Hubner K, Delbeke D, Heiberg EV, Patz EF, Coleman RE.	
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SNMMI would like to acknowledge Katherine Zukotynski, MD for her contributions to developing this content.