

## **ADVANCEMENTS IN PULMONARY IMAGING IT'S HERE – EXPLORING TECHNEGAS**

iCARE Pharmacy Services, Inc.  
2024 Nuclear Pharmacy Conference  
Vesper Grantham, M.Ed., CNMT, RT(N)  
David Ross Boyd Professor  
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences

1

### **Disclosures**

- No conflicts of interest or financial relationships to disclose.

2

## Objectives

- Contrast the three (3) current ventilation agents FDA approved in the US including clinical advantages and disadvantages.
- Describe the protocol features of Technegas including the radiopharmaceutical, equipment, administration, and imaging protocol.
- Support nuclear medicine customers in implementing Technegas.

3

## Overview

- Review of ventilation agents
  1. Xe-133 gas
  2. Tc-99m DTPA aerosol
  3. Tc-99m labelled carbon nanoparticles
- Kr-81 (outside presentation scope)

4

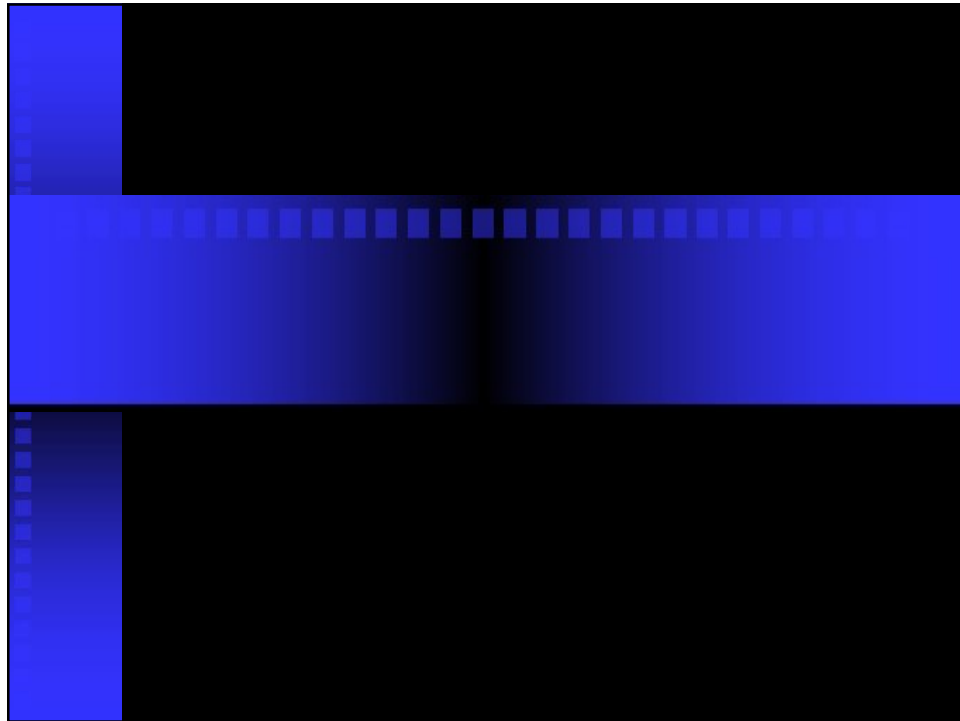
## QA Time

*Post your response in the Chat.*

**Which ventilation agents are you currently supplying to customers?**

- a. Xe-133 gas
- b. Tc-99m DTPA
- c. Tc-99m pertechnetate for Technegas
- d. Tc-99m crucibles

5



6

## Xe-133 Gas

- Adults: 5 – 20 mCi (185 - 740 MBq)
- Children: 0.3 mCi/kg (minimum 3.0 mCi)
- Inhalation
- Administer via gas trap machine
- Image immediately with injection

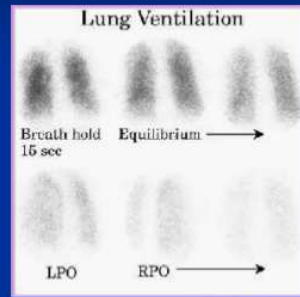
7

## Xenon Trap Machine

- Upright or supine
- Patient breathes in dose through nasal cannula or mask
- Three stages:
  1. Administer dose with patient breathing in and holding breath (**INHALATION**)
  2. Patient breathes in and out xenon with stored oxygen from machine (**EQUILIBRIUM**)
  3. Patient breathes out xenon dose that is trapped and breaths in fresh oxygen (**WASHOUT**)

8

## Xe-133 Ventilation Lung Scan



Single view-3 phases: Washin-Equilibrium-Washout

Part 1-Lung Scan\_J SRIPRAPAPORN

Source unknown

9

## Xenon Trap Machine



[Mirion.com](http://Mirion.com)

10



11

## Dose Incorporation

- Passive Diffusion
- Gas incorporates very little
- Breathes in and out



*Mirion.com*

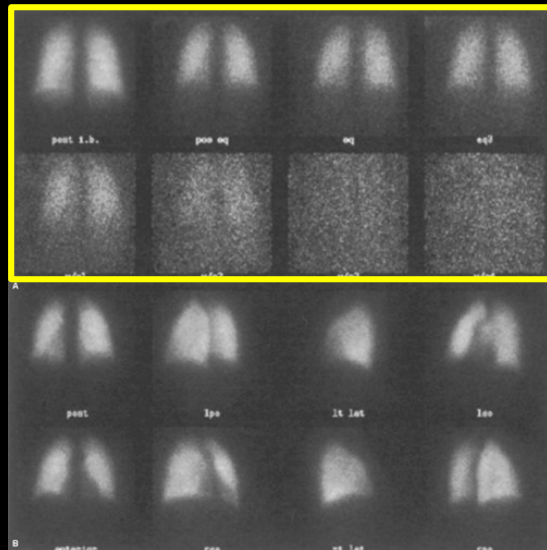
12

## Imaging Procedure

- LEHR collimator
- 81 keV peak, 20% window
- **POST only**
- 1 min inhalation/ breath hold: dose adm
- 1 min equilibrium: rebreathing exhaled xenon/ oxygen
- 1 min/view: washout: breaths in fresh air/ xenon trapped

13

## Normal



<https://radiologykey.com/pulmonary-scintigraphy/>

14

## QA Time

*Post your response in the Chat.*

What are disadvantages of Xe-133 gas in clinical application?

15

## 2. TC-99M DTPA AEROSOL

16



## Tc-99m DTPA Aerosol

- Adults: 25 – 35 mCi (925 - 1295 MBq)
  - ◆ patient receives 10% of dose
  - ◆ 0.5 – 1.0 mCi
- Inhalation
- Administered via aerosol nebulizer
- Image immediately with inhalation

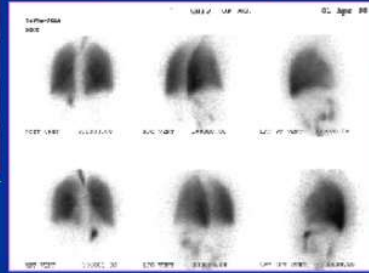
17

## Aerosol Nebulizer

- Upright or supine
- Liquid dose transferred to aerosol by combining with oxygen in nebulizer
- Patient breathes from nebulizer 5 – 7 minutes with lips tightly sealed
- Nose pinched
- Loss of dose in system

18

## Radio-aerosol Ventilation Lung Scan



- Imaging of multiple views
- Relatively large particles → central airway deposition !

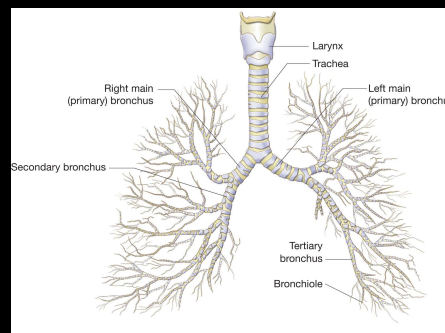
Part 1-Lung Scan\_J SRIPRAPAPORN

Source unknown

19

## Dose Incorporation

- Compartmentalization
- Aerosolized DTPA adheres to the airway lining



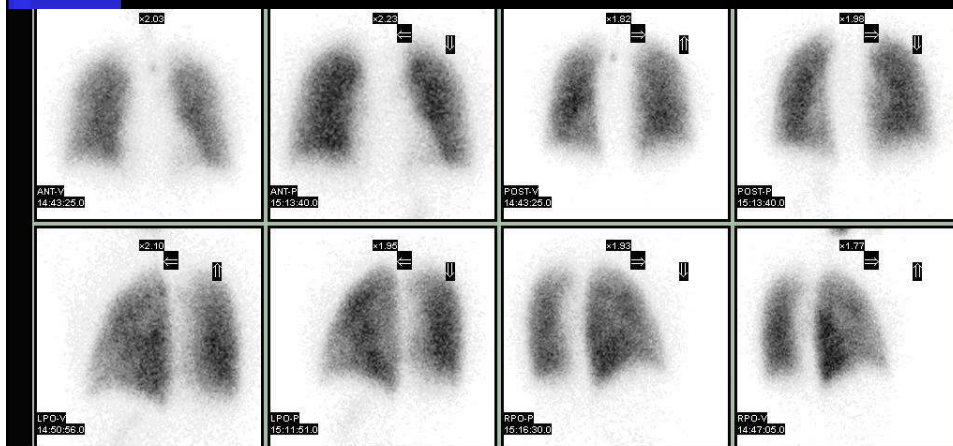
20

## Imaging Procedure

- LEHR collimator
- 140 keV peak, 20% window
- 500K per static
- ANT, POST, RAO, LAO, RPO, LPO, RLAT, LLAT
- Supine or upright with lungs in FOV
- SPECT

21

## Normal



22

## QA Time

*Post your response in the Chat.*

What are disadvantages of DTPA aerosol in clinical application?

23

## 3. TC-99M LABELED CARBON NANOPARTICLES

24

## Overview

- History
- Manufacturer
- Radiopharmaceutical
- Equipment/ Supplies
- Dose preparation
- Dose administration
- Dose incorporation
- Imaging protocols
- Images

25

## History

- 1984 Developed Australia
- 4.7 M patients across 64 countries
- Modifications/ improvements
- 2023 FDA approval in US
  - ◆ Drug-device Combination Product
- First US sale to Duke University Hospital

<https://www.aumanufacturing.com.au/cyclopharm-makes-historic-first-us-sale>

26

## Manufacturer

- Cyclomedica
- Cyclopharm
- \$7,000 charge for installation and training
- \$7,000 ongoing annual technology fee
- \$11,500 50 patient box of consumables required for imaging

27

## US Subsidiary

### Cyclomedica USA LLC

5126 South Royal Atlanta Drive  
Tucker  
GA 30084  
United States

1600 Parkwood Cir, Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30339  
United States

+1 888 858 6439

info@technegas.com

<https://www.cyclomedica.com/company/locations/>

28

## Current Status

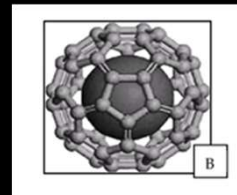
- Contracts
  - ◆ Feb 2024 80/ 280 institutions
  - ◆ March 2024 136/ 400 institutions
- Goal is 4,000 institutions
- World's largest potential market
- Quadruple size of Cyclopharm's existing PE market

<https://www.aumanufacturing.com.au/cyclopharm-achieves-streamlined-reimbursement-for-technegas-in-the-us>

29

## Radiopharmaceutical

- Tc-99m carbon nanoparticles
- Technegas
- Hexagonal graphite capsule
- Traps Tc-99m pertechnetate
- Adults: 10 – 27 mCi (400 – 1000 MBq)



30

## Tc-99m Carbon Nanoparticles

- Inhalation
- Administer via technegas generator
- Image immediately after administration



31

## Equipment/ Supplies

- Tc-99m pertechnetate
- Argon gas supply
- Technegas System/ Generator
- Patient Administration Set
- Additional Supplies
  - ◆ Disposable gloves
  - ◆ 1 mL needles syringes (135 – 300 uL)
  - ◆ Ethanol ( $\geq 95\%$ )
  - ◆ Forceps

32



## Argon Gas Supply

- Pure argon gas ( $\geq 99.997\%$ )
- Existing medical uses
  - ◆ Endoscopic procedures
  - ◆ Retinal detachment surgeries
  - ◆ Cryoablation
  - ◆ Tissue preservation



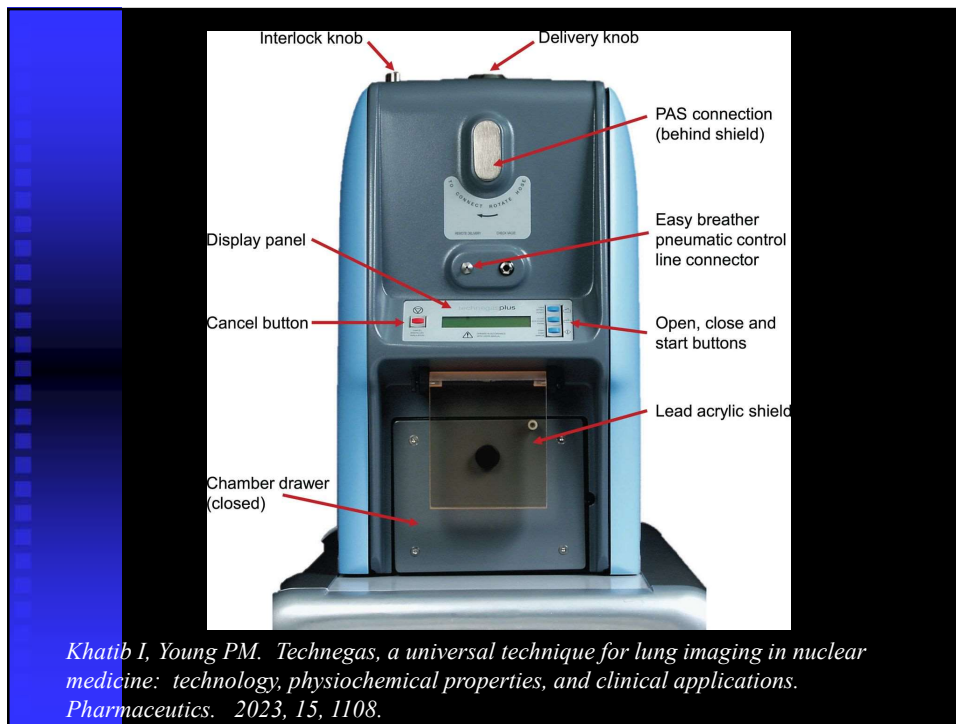
33

## Technegas System



*Khatib I, Young PM. Technegas, a universal technique for lung imaging in nuclear medicine: technology, physicochemical properties, and clinical applications. Pharmaceutics. 2023, 15, 1108.*

34



35

## Patient Administration Set

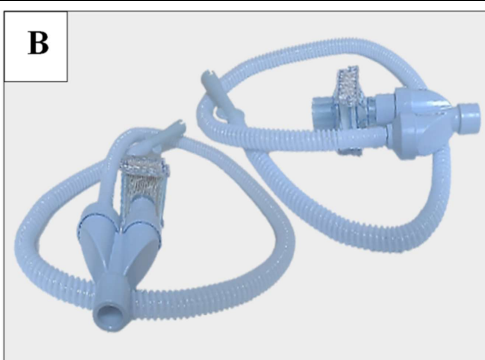
- PAS
- Sets supplied for 50 patients
  - ◆ Single-use breathing accessories with HEPA filters
  - ◆ Crucibles in 135 uL or 300 uL
- 50 nose clips – separate

36

## Patient Administration Set



37



Khatib I, Young PM. *Technegas, a universal technique for lung imaging in nuclear medicine: technology, physiochemical properties, and clinical applications.* *Pharmaceutics.* 2023, 15, 1108.

38

## QA Time

*Post your response in the Chat.*

The Technegas Generator uses what type of gas to produce the RP?

- a. oxygen
- b. nitrogen
- c. helium
- d. argon

39

## Dose Preparation

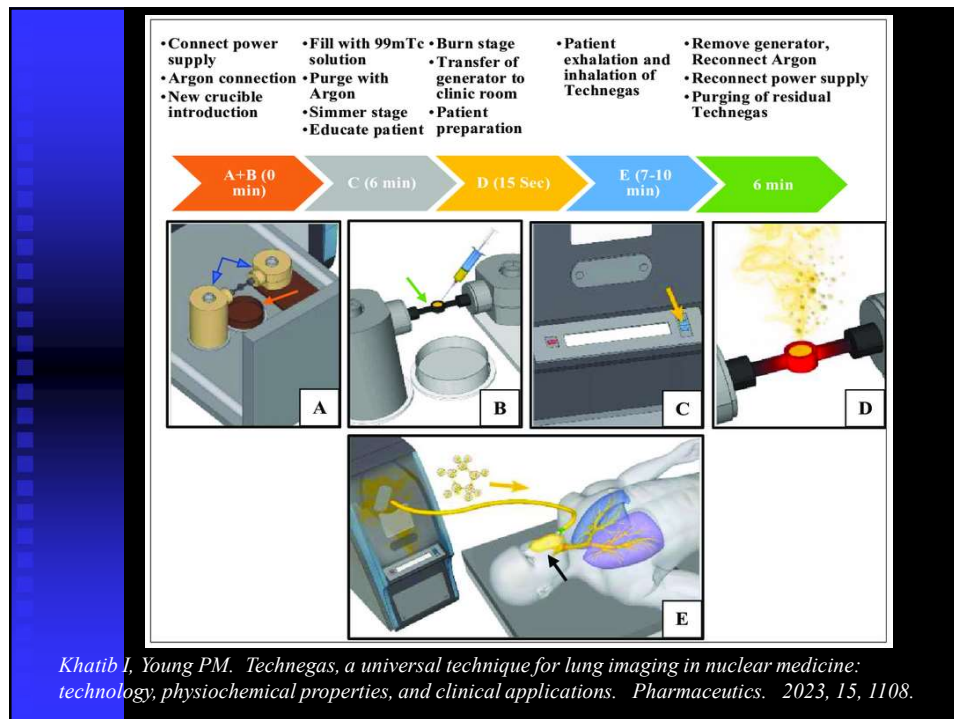
- Patient preparation
- Connect gas and power
- Crucible preparation
- Generator **Simmer**
- Generator **Burn**
- Dose administration

40

## Dose Preparation Details

- Ethanol added to graphite crucible
- Tc-99m sodium pertechnetate added to graphite crucible (0.135 mL)
- Liquid is evaporated 'simmer' 70C (158F) for 6 min in ultrapure argon env.
- Combustion cycle initiated 'burn' with alternating current between the crucible contacts to ablate graphite and Tc-99m
- Produces temps 2750C (4982F) for 15 sec in ultrapure argon env.
- Produces carbon nanoparticles

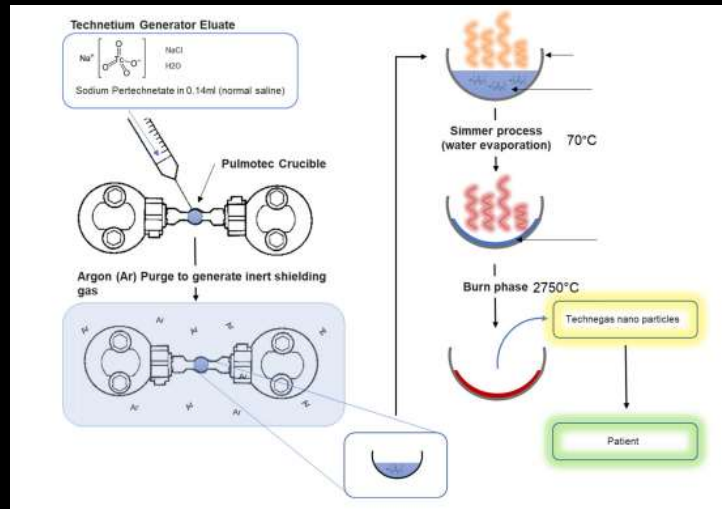
41



Khatib I, Young PM. Technegas, a universal technique for lung imaging in nuclear medicine: technology, physiochemical properties, and clinical applications. *Pharmaceutics*. 2023, 15, 1108.

42

## Dose Preparation – Crucible Level



Khatib I, Young PM. Technegas, a universal technique for lung imaging in nuclear medicine: technology, physicochemical properties, and clinical applications. *Pharmaceutics*. 2023, 15, 1108.

43

## QA Time

*Post your response in the Chat.*

This is the stage that the pertechnetate is 'incorporated' into the graphite capsule

- Addition of ethanol
- Burn
- Simmer
- Final administration

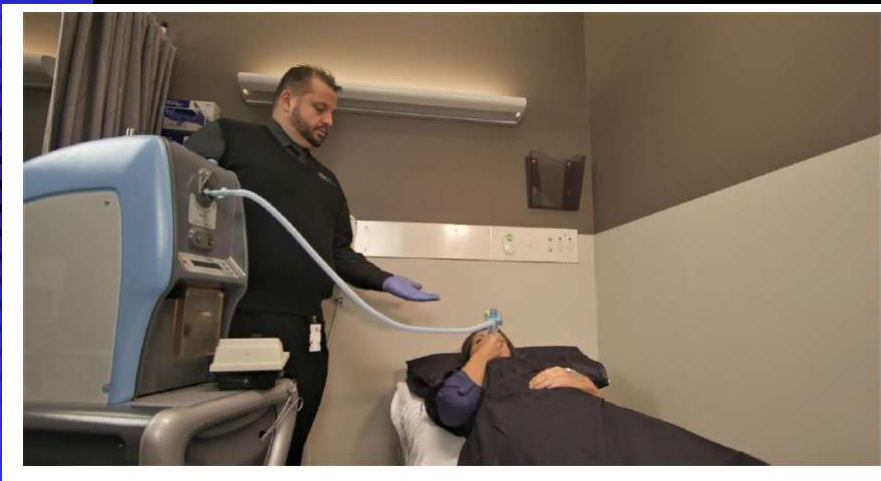
44

## Dose Administration

- Explain the administration procedure to the patient
- Administer as soon as possible after being generated/ prepared (within 10 minutes)
- Position the patient supine or upright
  - ◆ Recommended patients should be supine
- Have patient breath in dose through tubing set
- Three strategies:
  - ◆ Strategy 1: Slow deep breaths with 5-sec hold
  - ◆ Strategy 2: Normal breathing with deep inhalation
  - ◆ Strategy 3: Rapid/ deep breathing with 5-sec hold

45

## Dose Administration



46

## Dose Incorporation

- **Passive diffusion**
- Hydrophobic
- Gas like distribution
- Particle like retention

47

## Clinical Procedure

- **Technegas clinical procedure video**
  - ◆ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NNju164eZk>  
(12.41 m)
- **SNMMI Webinar**
  - ◆ Currie G. The Technegas System. <https://snmmi-video.s3.amazonaws.com/snmmi/Webinars/The+Technegas+System.html>

48



## QA Time

*Post your response in the Chat.*

A customer calls and is interested in implementing Technegas in their department. What is one appropriate question or consideration that should be discussed in your consultation?

49

## Imaging Protocol

- SPECT or SPECT/CT
- LEHR collimator
- 140 keV peak, 20% window
- 360 degrees
- 120 stops
- 10 – 12 sec/stop
- 128x128

50

## Imaging Protocol

- Statics
- LEHR collimator
- 140 keV peak, 20% window
- 500K per static
- ANT, POST, RAO, LAO, RPO, LPO, RLAT, LLAT
- Supine or upright with lungs in FOV

51

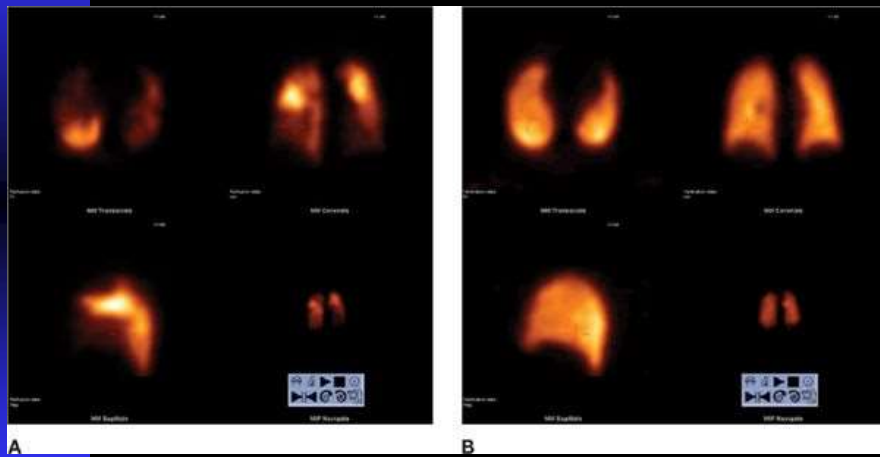
## QA Time

*Post your response in the Chat.*

What are advantages of Technegas in clinical application?

52

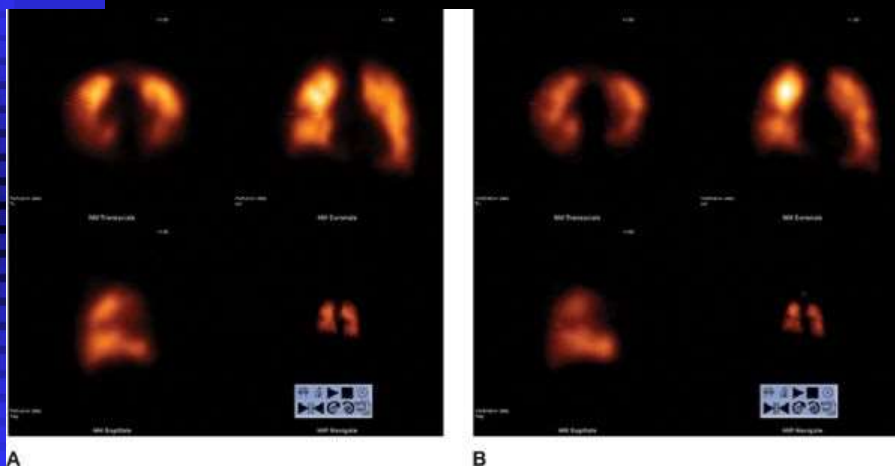
# Images



<https://thoracickey.com/physiologic-and-metabolic-study-of-pulmonary-disorders-using-conventional-imaging-techniques-and-positron-emission-tomography/>

53

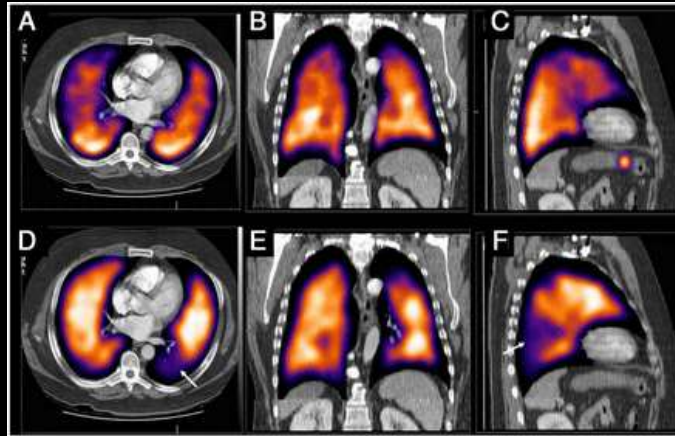
# Images



<https://thoracickey.com/physiologic-and-metabolic-study-of-pulmonary-disorders-using-conventional-imaging-techniques-and-positron-emission-tomography/>

54

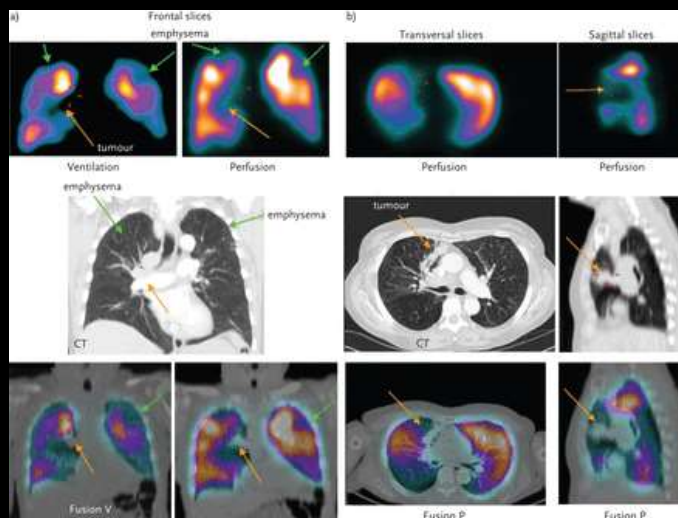
# Images



Currie, JM, Bailey DL. A technical overview of technegas a lung ventilation agent. *J Nucl Med Technol.* December 2021, 49 (4) 313-319; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2967/jnmt.121.26288>

55

# Images



<https://breathe.ersjournals.com/content/9/1/48>

56

## Final Questions

57

## References

- Technegas [Package Insert]. Kingsgrove, NSW: Cyclomedica Australia Pty Ltd; 2023. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2023/022335s000lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2023/022335s000lbl.pdf)
- TechnegasPlus Technegas Generator User Manual. MNL-0009 Rev 10 US-EN. Australia. Cyclomedica Australia Pty Ltd.
- Khatib I, Young PM. Technegas, a universal technique for lung imaging in nuclear medicine: technology, physiochemical properties, and clinical applications. *Pharmaceutics*. 2023, 15, 1108.
- Currie GM, Bailey DL. A technical overview of technegas as a lung ventilation agent. *J Nucl Med Technol*. 2021; 49:313-319. DOI:10.2967/jnmt.121.262887
- Technegas Clinical Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NNju164eZk> (12.41 m)
- Currie G. The Technegas System. SNMMI Webinar. <https://snmmi-video.s3.amazonaws.com/snmmi/Webinars/The+Technegas+System.html>
- Roberts P. Cyclopharm's Technegas approved for US market in sales milestone. AuManufacturing. October 2, 2023. Accessed September 9, 2024. <https://www.aumanufacturing.com.au/cyclopharms-technegas-approved-for-us-market-in-sales-milestone>

58