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## LWFA-driven photonuclear and photo-spallation reactions for the production of medical radionuclides $^{67}\text{Cu}$ and $^{225}\text{Ac}$

Tuesday 3 June 2025 16:00 (2 hours)

Recent results of production of the medical radionuclides  $^{67}\text{Cu}$ ,  $^{225}\text{Ac}$  using a laser wakefield accelerator (LWFA) are presented. This emerging technique utilises powerful, ultrashort laser pulses that are focussed into a gas jet to create a plasma wake that traps and accelerates electrons to very high energies with large accelerating gradients. Accelerated electrons interact with high-Z material to produce high-energy photons by bremsstrahlung, which then produce  $^{67}\text{Cu}$  via the  $^{68}\text{Zn}(\gamma, p)^{67}\text{Cu}$  photonuclear reaction and  $^{225}\text{Ac}$  via photo-spallation of  $^{232}\text{Th}$ .

$^{67}\text{Cu}$ , with 62 h half-life, is considered ideal radioisotope for treatment of lymphoma and colon cancer.  $^{225}\text{Ac}$ , with 9.92-day half life and four alpha emissions per decay, is ideal for targeted alpha therapy, especially localized prostate cancer.\*

We present the experimental setup, maximising electron pulse intensity by optimising laser beam properties and target composition of gas jet. The gamma beam and the design of  $^{68}\text{Zn}$  and  $^{232}\text{Th}$  target are optimised using FLUKA simulations. We will also report on the development of detectors for online monitoring of the electron and gamma beams, and produced activities of the radionuclides.

### Footnotes

- G. Hao et al., Scientific Reports. 11, 3622 (2021), doi: /10.1038/s41598-021-82812-1 \*\* Bidkar AP et al., Theranostics. 11;14(7) :2969-2992 (2024), doi: 10.7150/thno.96403.

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