


VU university medical center 

Radiochemistry of carbon-11 , nitrogen-13 and oxygen-15

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radiopharmaceutical chemist

Outline

- Radiochemistry of carbon-11
- Radiochemistry of nitrogen-13
- Radiochemistry of oxygen-15

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Carbon-11 chemistry



Why is ^{11}C a suitable radionuclide for PET imaging?

- Substitution of ^{12}C with ^{11}C
 - Labeled molecule retains its biological properties
- Decay characteristics: 98.1% β^+ ; $t_{1/2} = 20.4$ min
 - Repeated PET studies in same individual
 - Multi step synthesis possible (maximum ~1 h total synthesis time)
- Drawbacks
 - Need 'in-house' cyclotron and advanced lab facilities
 - Sometimes too short half-life (for synthesis and PET application)

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Carbon-11 chemistry: characteristics



- **Position specific labelling**
- Remote controlled, automated synthesis devices
- Short reaction times (typically < 5 minutes)
- Late incorporation of carbon-11 in target structure
- **Miniaturized scale**
- Large stoichiometric excess of reagents compared to radioactive precursor
- **Diverse chemistry**
 - Conventional organic synthesis
 - Organometallic chemistry
 - Enzymatic catalysis
 - Gas phase chemistry
- Solution chemistry in vials & autoclaves
- On column & on-line procedures
- Reactions on solid support
- One-pot reactions
- **Attention to specific activity**

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Carbon-11 chemistry: equipment



Automated / remote controlled synthesis equipment
Radiation protection / monitoring
Radiopharmaceutical manufacturing - GMP



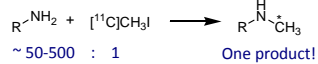
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Reaction stoichiometry



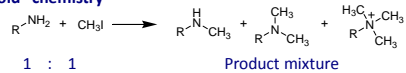
selectivity & kinetics

¹¹C chemistry – Generally fast reactions due to large excess of reagents compared to labelled precursor



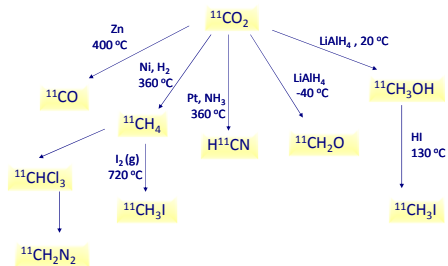
No double alkylation despite increase in nucleophilicity:
1°-amine < 2°-amine < 3°-amine

"Cold" chemistry



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Carbon-11 diversity



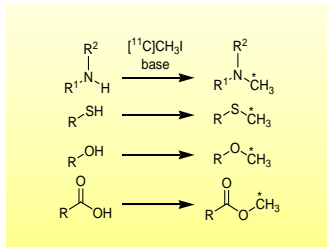
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[¹¹C]CH₃I / [¹¹C]CH₃SO₃CF₃



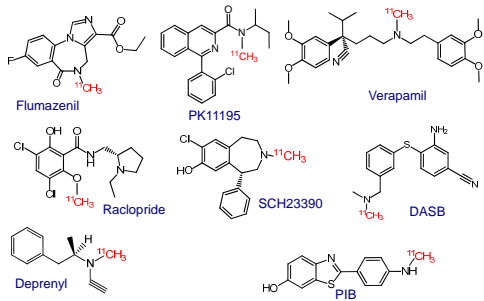
Methyl iodide and methyl triflate are by far the most applied carbon-11 labeling agents

The methylation is generally carried out on N-, O and S nucleophiles, most commonly on primary and secondary amines and phenols.



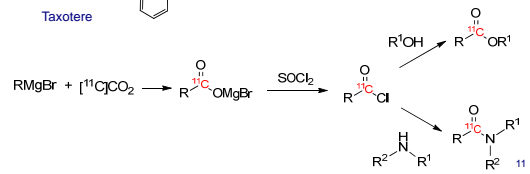
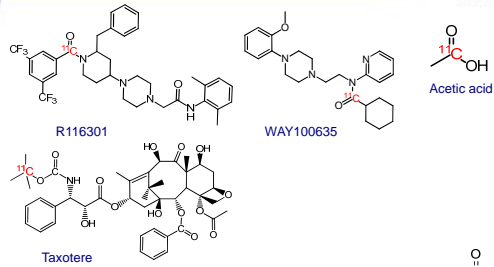
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Examples



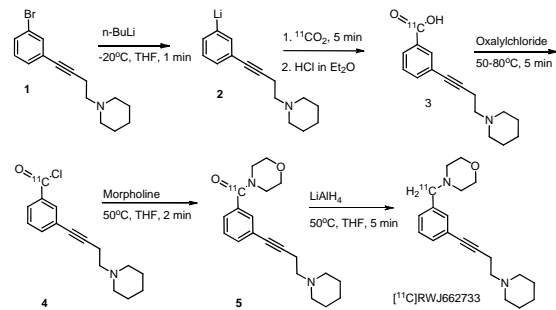
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From $[^{13}\text{C}]\text{CO}_2$



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$[^{13}\text{C}]\text{RWJ662733}$

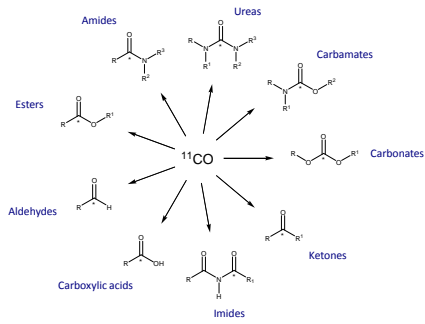


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Advanced carbon-11 chemistry



[¹¹C]CO applications

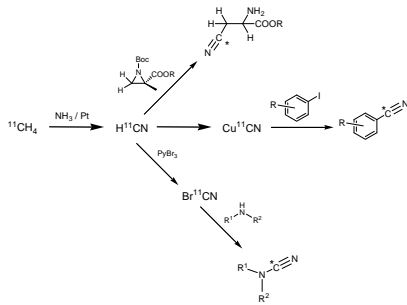


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Advanced carbon-11 chemistry



[¹¹C]hydrogencyanide

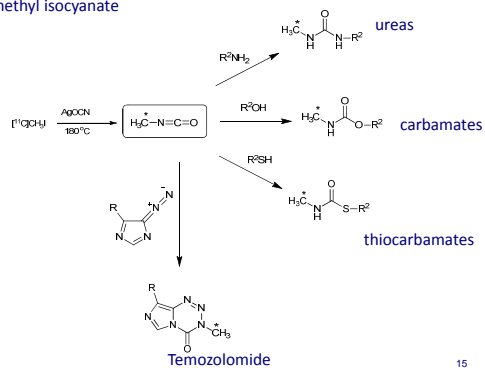


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Advanced carbon-11 chemistry



[¹¹C]methyl isocyanate



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Advanced carbon-11 chemistry



Other reactions published:

Wittig reaction, Heck reaction, Stille reaction with $[^{11}\text{C}]\text{CH}_3\text{I}$

$[^{11}\text{C}]\text{nitromethane}$ to obtain $[^{11}\text{C}]\text{CH}_2\text{NO}_2$ substituted compounds

$[^{11}\text{C}]\text{phosgene}$ to obtain amides, cyclic amides

And many more

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Outline



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Nitrogen-13 chemistry



Half-life 10 minutes: Some applications, fast chemistry required

Most important: ^{13}N labeled Ammonia

In-target chemistry: $^{16}\text{O}(p,\alpha)^{13}\text{N}$ in natural water
> add ethanol: $[^{13}\text{N}]\text{NH}_3$ is obtained

used in cardiology to study bloodflow in myocardium

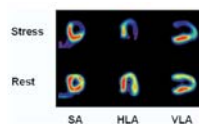


Figure 1 ^{13}N Ammonia PET images demonstrating anterior and lateral defects during pharmacological stress and significant improvement at rest, consistent with ischemia. SA, short axis; HLA, horizontal long axis; VLA, vertical long axis (courtesy of Dr. H. Schelton, UCLA School of Medicine, CA).

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Nitrogen-13 chemistry



Also used to obtain ^{13}N labeled amino acids from $[^{13}\text{N}]\text{NH}_3$

Diazonium salts from $[^{13}\text{N}]\text{NO}_2$:

| Compound | Precursor A (step 1) | Precursor B (step 2) | Structure |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |

V Gaja et al, Mol Imaging Biol (2014.) 16:538-549

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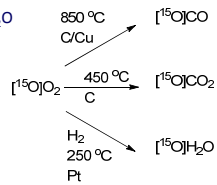
Oxygen-15



Half life of 2 minutes

Only very fast chemistry possible

$[^{15}\text{O}]\text{CO}_2$ or $[^{15}\text{O}]\text{CO}$ or $[^{15}\text{O}]\text{H}_2\text{O}$

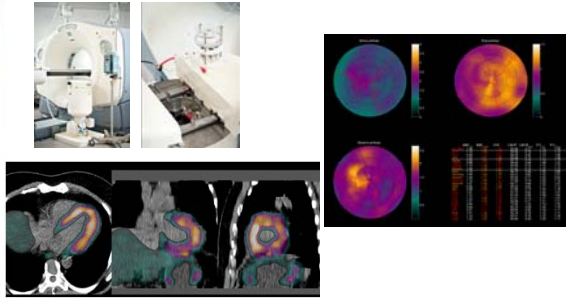


Process proceeds 'on-line':
conversion direct from the target into administration

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[¹⁵O]water

To study bloodflow eg to tumors or myocardium



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Further reading

Molecular Imaging: radiopharmaceuticals for PET and SPECT
by Shankar Vallabhajosula

Chapter 11

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