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INVITED LECTURE - Use of radioactive targets for production of therapy radionuclides at the Brookhaven Linac Isotope Producer

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Our program is presently investigating the production of ^{67}Cu , ^{86}Y and ^{225}Ac . The half life and beta emission of ^{67}Cu have long been recognized as attractive for radioimmunotherapy. The short lived positron emitter ^{86}Y should be useful for patient dosimetry measurement prior to high dose ^{90}Y immunotherapy. The alpha emitter ^{225}Ac may be attractive for treatment of micrometastases, but supply from its ^{229}Th parent is extremely limited. The reaction routes we have chosen for these products are $^{68}\text{Zn}(p,2p)^{67}\text{Cu}$ at proton energy above 100 MeV, $^{86}\text{Sr}(p,n)^{86}\text{Y}$ at proton energy of 15 MeV, and $^{232}\text{Th}(p, \text{spall})^{225}\text{Ac}$ at proton energy above 130 MeV, respectively. The ^{68}Zn and ^{86}Sr targets are expensive enriched isotopes for which recovery and reuse are needed for economical production. After the first irradiation these materials will contain longer lived radioactive ^{65}Zn and ^{85}Sr . Similarly ^{232}Th is slightly radioactive to start. Standard target claddings at BLIP are sealed by electron beam welding, but the use of this method for radioactive material is not feasible. Therefore a target cladding that can be sealed remotely in a hot cell was required. The final capsule design comprises two aluminum disks with thin machined windows that are held together with 8 screws, situated on the periphery of the target and sealed with a silver coated stainless steel "C" ring. Calculations of thermal and mechanical properties that guided the capsule design will be presented, as well as initial experimental results.

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