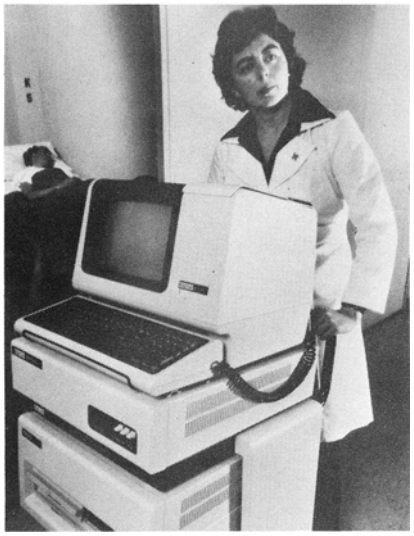
What's New

Each of the items on the following three pages was condensed from information supplied by its manufacturer. The items are published as a service to the professionals working in the field of nuclear medicine. Their inclusion herein does not in any way imply an endorsement by the Editorial Board of the JNMT *or by the Society of Nuclear Medicine.*

Portable Computer

Digital Equipment introduces the MDA-11, a light-weight, fully portable hospital computer system to acquire data from gamma cameras. With less than half the weight of comparable systems, the MDA-11



can be easily transported by one person. This ease of transportation enables nuclear cardiology data, for example, to be acquired in any hospital area, including the ICU.

The system can be operated with either mobile or stationary gamma cameras and can be connected to as many as four cameras. Data for either static or dynamic studies can be gathered by the MDA-11 for processing off-line on Digital's nonportable Gamma-11 computer system.

Commands are issued to the MDA-11 with a VT100 terminal. The terminal, the PDP-11/03 computer, a diskette drive unit, and a camera input interface comprise the active components of this data acquisition system.—*Digital Equipment Corp., Maynard, MA 01754.*

Ga-67 Routinely Available

Medi-Physics, Inc. has announced the availability of Neoscan (gallium citrate Ga-67) for routine imaging. According to the manufacturer, Neoscan is produced twice weekly in MPI cyclotrons on both East and West Coasts and distributed to all six of Medi-Physics' distribution facilities. Neoscan is available in 3-mCi and 13.2-mCi vials and is delivered without an additional delivery charge with standing orders for MPI's technetium-prepared products.—*Medi-Physics, Inc., 5801 Christie Ave., PO Box 8684, Emeryville, CA 94608.*

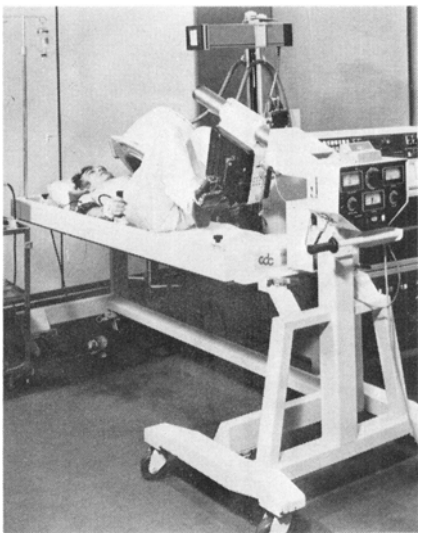
Stress Testing Table

Engineering Dynamics' stress testing table permits the patient to exercise while supine. Cardiac nuclear imaging can then be performed simultaneously with the patient held securely and motionless on the table.

Supine stress test imaging avoids delay between injection and imaging. Erythema and defibrillation may be treated more easily; problems of radioactive contamination, sometimes associated with bicycle or treadmill, may be reduced or eliminated.

Typical applications of radionuclide imaging during exercise include gated blood pool studies, first pass flow studies, and thallium myocardial imaging.

When stress testing is required, a bicycle exercise unit is attached directly to the basic table unit, which is equipped with adjustable shoulder restraints and hand holds for the patient's use. The exercise unit can be removed easily by quick release clamps, to perform non-stress exams.



An electronic control/display panel contains an adjustable watt load control knob; heart-rate meter with ear clip and pre-set heart rate adjustment are available options.—*Engineering Dynamics Corp., 120 Stedman St., Lowell, MA 01851.*

Modularized Gamma Camera Equipment

Raytheon introduces a modularized line of gamma camera equipment featuring components characterized by step numbers.

Step one is a new version of its 91-

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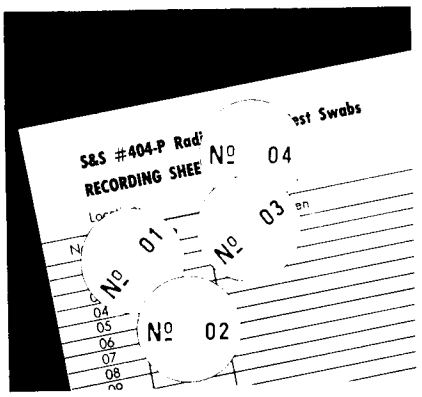
tube, giant-field XL-91 detector, combined with an integral, flexibly mounted detector command module. Step two is a stand-alone, multi-lens formatter. A microprocessor-based master control console is step three; step four is an advanced clinical data system.

The new designs are said to offer high speed pulse handling, and triple peak analyzers and built-in quality control interrogation.—*Raytheon Co., 70 Ryan St., Stamford, CT 06907.*

Swabs to Check Surface Radiation

Special-purpose, high-strength-when-wet paper disks designed to be used to check surface radiation and nuclear spills are available from Schleicher & Schuell. These disks,

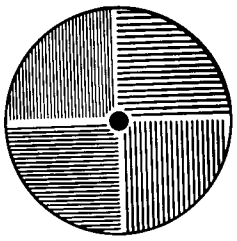


available in 23-, 20-, and 50-mm diameters, have excellent absorbency; they can be used in swab tests for surface area radiation levels in potentially contaminated areas.

Packaged in boxes of 100, each disk is printed with a separate digit and collated in sequential order from 1 to 100. This eliminates the need to handprint control numbers on each swab prior to conducting individual tests of radiation. Included in each package is a check-off sheet that can be used to identify each disk, show the location where each swab was used, and record the results.—*Schleicher & Schuell, Inc., Keene, NH 034310.*

Bar Phantoms

A new series of bar phantoms featuring super high resolution has been introduced by Telstar Corp. as accessories for new gamma camera models.



Its super resolution series has bar widths and spacings as small as either 2 mm or 1/12 in, width and spacing dimensions in millimeters if desired, and a circular version to fit into the recessed area of cameras such as the Picker DynaMo mobile unit.—*Telstar Electronics Corp., 700 Hummel Ave., Southold, NY 11971.*

Microprocessor-Based Imaging System

OPS/CON, a computerized operator's console, is designed to combine camera controls with the data/image processing capability of Scintiview, a computerized imaging station introduced last year by Searle.

The OPS/CON, which incorporates a microprocessor-based computer, works in conjunction with the Pho/Gamma scintillation cameras for static and dynamic radionuclide studies. OPS/CON is now also standard equipment on the Pho/Gamma LFOV standard system.

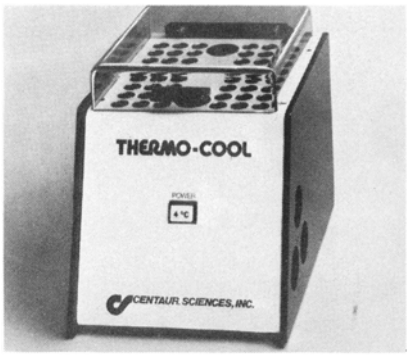
Because it combines data processing and image processing in one unit, the system is said to cost substantially less than imaging systems requiring separate computers.

Both OPS/CON and Scintiview allow selection of regions of interest within an organ or organ compartment and the generation of histograms depicting functional analysis compared with time.—*G. D. Searle & Co., Box 1045, Skokie, IL 60076.*

What's New in Radioimmunoassay Products

Light-Weight Cooler

Thermo-Cool is a light-weight thermoelectric cooler that can be plugged into standard electric outlets. It cools up to 48 specimens or reagents in minutes and maintains and exact 4°C reading or other desired temperatures. The unit features complete solid state design and the fan is its only moving part.



The cooler is especially well-suited for use in enzymes, blood banking, RIA, blood gas analyses, and other areas in which cooling is necessary and refrigerators are impractical.—*Centaur Sciences, Inc., Stamford, CT 06902.*

TSH Assay

The new Amersham TSH RIA kit requires a total of 4-hr incubation at room temperature, enabling assay results to be available within one working day. All reagents in the kit are supplied ready for use and are color-coded to eliminate the problem of missed tubes. Results obtained with the kit are reproducible.

The anti-TSH antiserum used has a low cross-reactivity with FSH, LH, and HCG.—*Amersham Corp., 2636 S. Clearbrook Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60005.*

Solid Phase Digoxin

A new digoxin solid phase radioimmunoassay features 15-min incubation for stat assays. This permits the laboratory to receive test results in 30 min, with all steps including pipetting, counting, calculating, and drawing a standard curve to be completed within that time.

The kit's single lot component system offers matched components for the radioimmunoassay of digoxin in serum or plasma. By allowing the user to purchase a long-term supply of antibody-coated tubes and standards, excellent tube-to-tube and month-to-month reproducibility is accomplished. For higher counts, fresh tracer is supplied on a regular basis.—*Becton Dickinson Immunodiagnostics, Mountain View Ave., Orangeburg, NY 10962.*

Simultaneous B_{12}/Folate

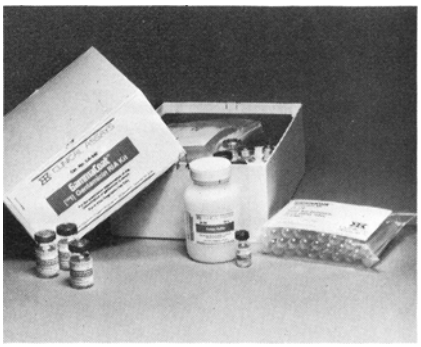
RIA Products' new ComboStat kit enables simultaneous measurement of B_{12} and folate in one tube via use of dual isotopes, the first simultaneous kit with authentic, biologically active N-MTHFA standards.

Separation is achieved by use of a polycoat tablet, which forms a very tight pellet permitting carefree decanting of clean supernatant and counting of pellet.

Other features include: reduced bench, incubation, and boiling time; 75% reduction in tube use; and 50% reduction in pipetting time.—*RIA Products Inc., 411 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02154.*

Gentamicin Assay

The Gamma Coat (^{125}I) gentamicin RIA kit is intended for the in vitro determination of gentamicin concentration in serum. The GammaCoat solid-phase coated tube separation technology is featured and no centrifugation is required.



The assay has sensitivity to 1.0 μg/ml with a standard curve covering therapeutic and toxic levels of gentamicin in a range from 1.0–16 μg/ml. A special diluent buffer is supplied, which has been formulated to eliminate the adsorption of gentamicin to glass and plastic surfaces—*Clinical Assays, 620 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139.*

T_3 Uptake

The new Triobead-125 T_3 uptake test from Abbott offers solid phase advantages—simplicity and reproducibility—without the conditions necessitated by resin or talc methods.

Activitated carbon immobilized on macro-sized beads are used and test tubes are supplied with beads already dispensed. Each tube uses a crimp at the top to retain the bead throughout the entire test.

Neither washing, centrifugation, nor aspiration is required.—*Abbott Laboratories, Diagnostics Div., North Chicago, IL 60064.*