**Supplemental Digital Content**

In-house Development of Optimized Synthetic Module

for Routine [11C]Acetate Production

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***General***

All commercial reagents and solvents were: purchased from Sigma-Aldrich; of analytical grade; and used without further purification. The Chromfix® PS cartridges PS-AG+ (240 mg, strong cation exchanger, Ag+ form), PS-H+ (230 mg, strong cation exchanger, H+ form) and PS-OH- (200 mg, strong anion exchanger, OH- form) were obtained from Macherey-Nagel (Germany). The Maxi-CleanTM SAX cartridge (600 mg, strong anion exchanger, acetate form) was purchased from Grace (USA). Quality control was achieved by radio thin layer chromatography (TLC) and HPLC. TLC was performed on Merck silica gel 60 F254 glass plates and the HPLC set-up was equipped with a SP930D pump, UV730D UV detector (Young-Lin Inc., Korea), and FC-3200 high energy gamma detector (Bioscan, USA) to measure the radioactive flow. The UV detection wavelength was 220 nm for all experiments. The analytical (CarboPac® PA1, 4.0 mm × 250 mm) HPLC columns were purchased from Dionex. Residual solvent was assessed by gas chromatography. The capillary column (DB-WAXetr, 30 m × 0.25 mm × 0.25 µm) was purchased from Agilent Technologies. The endotoxin test was performed using an Endosafe®-PTSTM (Charles River Laboratories, USA) and FTM(Hanil Komed, Korea) was employed for the sterility test.ACRC-712MH radioisotope calibrator (Capintec Instruments, USA) served for radioactivity measurements. [11C]CO2 was produced on a PETtrace cyclotron (16.4 MeV, General Electric Company, USA) by irradiation of a N2 + 0.5% O2 mixture gas target.

***Automatic synthesis module***

The main body of the module was anodized to prevent oxidation during reaction and the passage of reagents through it. Solenoid 2,3-way valves (Bürkert; 0127 Analytical Valve) and polytetrafluoroethylene and PEEK tubings (1.59 mm) were used to convey radioactive materials in the synthesis module. The flow of [11C]CO2 and nitrogen was regulated and monitored with a flow meter. A P2O5 column was used between the target and reaction vessel to prevent inflow of moisture. Solutions and radioactive agents were transferred using sterile syringes and a vacuum pump controlled with the use of Lab–View (National Instrument).

 ***Production of [11C]CO2***

 [11C]CO2 was produced using a PETtrace cyclotron equipped with a tungsten target from a mixture of nitrogen and oxygen target gas by the 14N(p,α)11C nuclear reaction. The beam current was 20 µA and the irradiation time was 10 min. After production, [11C]CO2 was delivered to a stainless-steel loop trap immersed in a liquid nitrogen bath.

***Quality control***

Identity, as well as chemical and radiochemical purity were determined by radio TLC and HPLC. Radio TLC was performed by the modification of a previously reported method [1]. A basic TLC silica plate was prepared by immersing the plate in a saturated sodium hydroxide solution in methanol and allowing it to dry at room temperature. Sodium hydroxide was added to the [11C]acetate solution before spotting onto the basic TLC plates. The plates were developed with methanol (retention factor, *R*f: [11C]acetate: 0.6–0.7; [11C]carbonate: 0.0). HPLC was also performed to check chemical and radiochemical purity (CarboPak® PA1 column, mobile phase: 0.1 mol/L sodium hydroxide, flow rate: 1.0 mL/min, 220 nm; retention time, *t*R: 2.82 min). Residual solvent was assessed using a gas chromatograph equipped with a flame ionization detector (FID). The capillary column and FID were used under the following conditions: column temperature, 250 °C; oven temperature, 70 °C; FID temperature, 250 °C. THF was apparent after 2.92 min.

 To obain a result rapidly, an endotoxin test was performed using a portable detector system, because of the short-half life and routine use of [11C]acetate [2-5]. A volume of 25 µL of [11C]acetate solution was dispensed into the test cartridge. This cartridge was inserted into the portable detector and in less than 15 min gave an endotoxin value of <1.0 EU/mL (0.2 ng = 1.0 EU). An FTM was used for the sterility test. [11C]Acetate solution (100 µL) was added to the FTM and incubated at 37 °C for 15 days. The pH was measured by the standard pH meter.

***PET-CT study of [11C]acetate and [18F]FDG***

PET-CT images using [11C]acetate were acquired 15 min after the administration of 555 MBq (15 mCi) of [11C]acetate. Additionally, PET-CT images using [18F]FDG were acquired 60 min after the administration of 370 MBq (10 mCi) of [18F]FDG. Two nuclear physicians evaluated the biodistribution and image quality of [11C]acetate in patient. Next they compared the diagnostic accuracy of [11C]acetate PET-CT with that of [18F]FDG PET-CT in patients with HCC. Maximum standardized uptake values (SUVmax) were also measured in those lesions for semiquantitative analysis.

**Radio TLC chromatogram of [11C]acetate**



A basic TLC silica plate was prepared by immersing the plate in a saturated sodium hydroxide solution in methanol and allowing it to dry at room temperature. Sodium hydroxide was added to the [11C]acetate solution before spotting onto the basic TLC plates. The plates were developed with methanol from 50 mm to 150 mm (retention factor, *R*f: [11C]acetate: 0.6–0.7; [11C]carbonate: 0.0).

**Analytical HPLC chromatogram of acetate and [11C]acetate**



 HPLC was also performed to check chemical and radiochemical purity (CarboPak® PA1 column, mobile phase: 0.1 mol/L sodium hydroxide, flow rate: 1.0 mL/min, 220 nm; retention time, *t*R: 2.82 min, A: UV detector, B: high energy gamma detector).

**GC chromatogram of [11C]acetate**



 Residual solvent was assessed using a gas chromatograph equipped with a flame ionization detector (FID). The capillary column and FID were used under the following conditions: column temperature, 250 °C; oven temperature, 70 °C; FID temperature, 250 °C. THF was apparent after 2.92 min.

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