Epithermal neutron source at MARIA Research Reactor







Laboratory of Mixed Radiation Dosimetry

RENAISSANCE OF BORON NEUTRON CAPTURE THERAPY

H2 - Neutron epithermal beam

H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8 – another neutron beams for spectrometry, dyfractometry and radiography



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National Centre for Nuclear Research

BNCT as next-generation method for highly selective cancer treating

What is **BNCT**?

It is a treatment method for some types of tumour, especially brain tumours. First, the patient is injected with a tumour localizing drug containing a nonradioactive isotope that has a high propensity to capture slow neutrons. In the second step, the patient is radiated with epithermal neutrons, which after losing energy as they penetrate tissue, are absorbed by the capture agent which subsequently emits high-energy charged particles, therapy resulting in a biologically destructive nuclear reaction.

> Thermal neutron

> > ¹⁰B

Clinical studies:

- brain tumours
- malignant melanomas
- head and neck cancers
- liver, breast, lung cancer etc.

Neutron sources for BNCT:

- Past: reactor-based BNCT
- Future: accelerator-based BNCT in hospitals

The advantages:

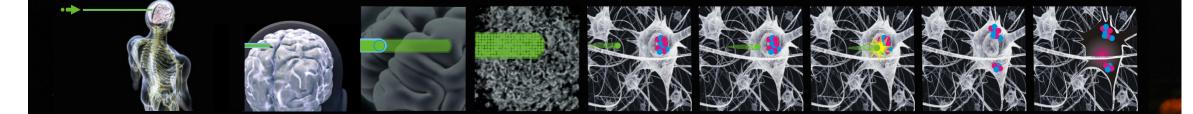
- recurrent cancer treatment
- only one session of radiation treatment
- cell level treatment
- uncompetitive with classical radiotherapy

BNCT research/training station at MARIA Research reactor



- radiobiology
- boron carriers
- dosimetry
- Pg-SPECT
- microdistributions
- biological material

- irradiation
- oncologists, radiologists, medical physicists and medical staff training
- treatment planning systems
- preclinical studies
- phantom for BNCT development and tests
- technical equipment for BNCT



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