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ASPECTS OF THE RADIOPHARMACEUTICS PRODUCTION IN BRAZIL

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The significant increase occurred in Brazil in the last 25 years on radiopharmaceutics utilization - from few mCi to more than 2000 Ci - was not followed in identical increase in the facilities for radioisotope production. Today the major part of the radioactive material necessary for the process of radiopharmaceutics production is imported. The IPEN nuclear reactor IEAR-1 is still the more important facility for radioisotope production in the country. Its design characteristics added to the present international restrictions to import nuclear fuels make this reactor not suitable to attend the present day demand of radioisotopes. Efforts are being made by IPEN to prepare the nuclear fuels for its own reactor in order to operate it 24 hours/day. Besides this the Institute is also adaptating its cyclotron to be used in radioisotope production. To attend the present demand for radioisotope a new specific nuclear reactor for producing radioisotopes, with a neutron flux not inferior to  $10^{14}$  n/cm<sup>2</sup>/seg, should be build up.

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