



**T e c h n o l o g y  
A s s e s s m e n t  
P r o g r a m**

**Office of Patient Care Services**

## **UPDATED INFORMATION FOR VA TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (VATAP) REPORTS**

In June 2000, VATAP was relocated within the Veterans Health Administration from the Office of Research & Development to the Office of Patient Care Services. The following report was produced prior to the relocation of VATAP.

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## *Appendix 10*

# **Assessments, Guidelines, and Policy Statements Produced by Other Agencies**

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**Appendix 10:  
Assessments, guidelines, and policy statements produced by other agencies**

As it collected information for this assessment, the MDRC Technology Assessment Program identified the following documents produced by other technology assessment agencies. The findings of assessments in the public domain, or otherwise available to the MDRC, are tabulated.

Date (Reference)	Issuing Agency	Topic/Title	Methods	Findings/Comments
1984 (McKhann, et al.)	Work Group on the Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease <i>National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke (NINCDS) and Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association (ADRDA)</i>	Clinical criteria for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, with statements on the utility of laboratory and imaging assessments (including PET)	Expert panel consensus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most patients with Alzheimer's disease show cerebral hypometabolism (on PET imaging) when compared with normal age-matched controls. These changes correlate with disease severity and may be correlated with neuropsychological test performance.</li> <li>• Since PET reveals a significant variation even among normal subjects, any changes may have to be severe to be detected.</li> <li>• The value of PET studies in determining the stage of disease, in documenting progression, and in assessing the effects of treatment is unknown.</li> </ul>
1986	American College of Cardiology <i>Task Force on Assessment of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Cardiovascular Procedures (with American Heart Association)</i>	Guidelines for clinical use of cardiac radionuclide imaging	Expert panel	Outdated
1987	American Hospital Association	Positron Emission Tomography (PET): Progress and Opportunities	Narrative review, opinion	Opinions on potential uses and role in hospital presented.
1988	American College of Nuclear Physicians/Society of Nuclear Medicine	Positron Emission Tomography: Clinical Status in US, 1987	Qualitative review and expert opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PET provides unique clinical information in several conditions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identifying patients with coronary artery disease</li> <li>- predicting response to coronary revascularization procedures</li> <li>- localization of focus in partial epilepsy</li> <li>- management of patients with gliomas</li> <li>- distinguishing recurrent glioma from radiation necrosis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• additional applications will be documented in future</li> </ul>
1988	American Medical Association, Council on Scientific Affairs, PET Panel	Positron Emission Tomography in Oncology	Qualitative review and expert opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• informational report to annual meeting</li> <li>• describes current and potential uses of PET in clinical medicine and research related to oncology:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- metabolism and physiology of tumors and effects on adjacent tissues</li> <li>- specific probes for target sites on tumors</li> <li>- quantitative measurement of tumor biology and response to treatment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• most oncology applications to date had been qualitative</li> </ul>

Date (Reference)	Issuing Agency	Topic/Title	Methods	Findings/Comments
1988	American Medical Association, Council on Scientific Affairs, PET Panel	Application of Positron Emission Tomography in the Heart	Qualitative review and expert opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• informational report to annual meeting</li> <li>• describes applications of PET to heart:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- blood flow</li> <li>- metabolism</li> <li>- experimental injury</li> </ul> </li> <li>• potential for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- investigation of cardiomyopathies</li> <li>- study of neural control of heart</li> <li>- evaluation of effects of drugs on cardiac tissues</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1988	American Medical Association, Council on Scientific Affairs, PET Panel	Positron Emission Tomography - A New Approach to Brain Chemistry	Qualitative review and expert opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• informational report to annual meeting</li> <li>• describes applications of PET in stroke, epilepsy, malignancies, dementias, and schizophrenia and in basic studies of synaptic neurotransmission</li> </ul>
1990	American College of Cardiology	Positron emission tomography	Qualitative review and expert opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• myocardial viability               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PET is an important clinical research tool</li> <li>- appears to provide unique clinical information</li> <li>- imaging blood flow and metabolism appears to be useful as a diagnostic procedure in selected situations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• myocardial perfusion               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- clinical research procedure rather than routine clinical diagnostic procedure</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1990	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	Positron emission tomography.	Narrative review with cost analysis	Sufficient case has not yet been established for routine use of PET as a clinical service in Australia. If proposed PET units are introduced into Australia, they should be subject to a coordinated evaluation of clinical and cost benefits. No further units should be considered until the evaluations are completed.
1991	Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association	Positron emission tomography		Available to subscribers only
1991	American Academy of Neurology	Assessment: positron emission tomography	Synthesis of literature and expert opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PET with FDG or <sup>15</sup>O labelled compounds is safe and efficacious diagnostic clinical technique</li> <li>• provides unique and/or complementary information to that provided by anatomic imaging</li> <li>• clinical efficacy in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- localization of seizure foci</li> <li>- differential diagnosis of dementia and movement disorders</li> <li>- grading of primary brain tumors</li> <li>- localization of brain tumor biopsy sites</li> <li>- differentiation of recurrent high grade gliomas from radiation necrosis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• assessment should act as guide for Academy members until more rigorous scientific assessment becomes available</li> <li>• <i>published commentary (Powers, et al., 1991): assessment "fell far short of reasonable standards for adequate assessment of this diagnostic procedure..."</i></li> </ul>

Date (Reference)	Issuing Agency	Topic/Title	Methods	Findings/Comments
1992	American College of Cardiology <i>(with American Heart Association and Society of Nuclear Medicine)</i>	Standardization of cardiac tomographic imaging		Technical report, not technology assessment.
1992	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	Cardiac imaging technologies	Review of national health system data plus qualitative review of literature as basis for discussion paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant increase in number of investigations performed on patients with suspected heart disease (118% increase in Australia from 1989/90 to 1991-92 in use of coronary angiography, nuclear medicine, and ultrasound testing)</li> <li>• Increasing use of echocardiography (multiple tests on same patient) may be primarily for physician reassurance</li> <li>• Little direct evidence that benefits (effect on patient outcome) are commensurate with increase in use of tests</li> <li>• diagnostic test guidelines for CAD should be developed</li> <li>• new cardiac imaging methods (including PET) should be evaluated in relation to existing tests</li> </ul>
1992	Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association	Positron emission tomography of the central nervous system		Available to subscribers only
1992	Prudential Insurance Company of America	Positron emission tomography for the detection of coronary artery disease and myocardial viability		Proprietary information
1992	Prudential Insurance Company of America	Positron emission tomography for the detection of neural abnormalities		Proprietary information
1993	Swiss Institute for Public Health	PET Consensus Conference - Final Statement		English summary not available.
1993	Swiss Institute for Public Health	PET Information Synthesis		English summary not available.
1994	Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association	Positron Emission Tomography for Assessment of Myocardial Viability		Available to subscribers only.
1994	ECRI	Positron emission tomography for evaluation of ischemic heart disease		Available to subscribers only.
1994	University Hospital Consortium	Positron emission tomography	(qualitative) review and consensus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive assessment addressing economics, clinical uses, regulatory issues, reimbursement issues, and recommendations from perspective of academic medical centers</li> <li>• medical literature supports clinical use of PET in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cardiology (myocardial viability, perfusion studies before revascularization procedures)</li> <li>- neurology (presurgical localization of epileptogenic foci)</li> <li>- oncology (differentiating necrosis from recurrent brain tumor, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, solitary pulmonary nodules, metastases)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• full text available from MDRC Technology Assessment Program</li> </ul>

Date (Reference)	Issuing Agency	Topic/Title	Methods	Findings/Comments
1995	Office of Health Technology Assessment	Health Technology Review: Myocardial Perfusion Imaging with Rubidium <sup>82</sup> Positron Emission Tomography	(systematic) review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• image of cardiac perfusion produced with <sup>82</sup>Rb PET is clearer than with <sup>201</sup>Tl SPECT, due to higher pixel counts and attenuation correction</li> <li>• currently available data are insufficient to determine whether improved images lead to higher sensitivity and specificity</li> <li>• planar <sup>201</sup>Tl scintigraphy, <sup>201</sup>Tl SPECT, and <sup>82</sup>Rb PET may be used to evaluate noninvasively most patients referred to a cardiac center</li> <li>• patients with negative scans by any of the methods may not be at increased risk of cardiac event and might be conservatively managed according to clinical condition and symptoms</li> </ul>
1995	Agency for Evaluation of Health Care Technologies (Spain)	Positron Emission Tomography in Cardiology	Synthesis of other assessments	English text not available.
1996	Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association	PET Myocardial Perfusion Imaging for the Detection of Coronary Artery Disease	(systematic) review	Available to subscribers only.
1996	Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association	PET Myocardial Perfusion Imaging for the Detection of Coronary Artery Disease - Cost-Effectiveness Analysis	Cost-effectiveness analysis	Available to subscribers only.
In preparation	Medical Research Council <i>National Health Service, UK</i>	Evaluation of PET scanning (neurology, oncology)		

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