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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

OCT 03 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SURGEON GENERAL, U.S. ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL, U.S. NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL, U.S. AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Usage of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Technology within the Department of Defense (DoD)

The USAF Surgeon General has taken the lead on the Congressional Mandate to conduct a test of Positron Emission Tomography in DoD facilities. Please ensure that all medical facilities under your command have the following information and participate to the fullest in supporting this test.

Brooke Army Medical Center and Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, TX, have access to a PET Scanner at the University of Texas Health Center and are currently using five approved protocols to include (1) imaging myocardial perfusion with N-13 Ammonia, (2) myocardial viability with N-13 Ammonia and 18F-FDG, (3) regional cerebral blood flow and glucose metabolism in patients with complex partial seizures, (4) Defense and Veterans Head Injury Program, and (5) Cognitive Deficits in Mild Closed Head Injury Patients.

National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD has access to the PET Scanner at National Institutes of Health (NIH) and utilizes NIH protocols. Additional information regarding specific protocols is available through the radiology department, CAPT Taylor at (202) 295-5022.

The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research found that both PET with Rubidium 82 and conventional (SPECT or planar) scintigraphy with Thallium 201 appear to be useful for evaluating myocardial perfusion and making therapeutic decisions regarding cardiac patients. CHAMPUS has approved the use of PETSCAN to localize epileptogenic foci in patients with complex partial seizure disorders who are being considered for neurosurgical resection of the focus. This is the only use of PETSCAN which is currently approved for CHAMPUS reimbursement.

Additional information will be provided as this test matures.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen C. Joseph", with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

for Stephen C. Joseph, M.D., M.P.H.

HA POLICY 96-002

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Last update: 12/21/1998