

New radioactive isotopes for nuclear medicine can be produced using particle accelerators. This is one goal of ARRONAX, a high energy – 70MeV – high intensity – 2 x 350 μ A – cyclotron set up in Nantes.

A priority list was established containing β^- – ^{47}Sc , ^{67}Cu – β^+ – ^{44}Sc , ^{64}Cu , $^{68}\text{Ge}/^{68}\text{Ga}$, $^{82}\text{Sr}/^{82}\text{Rb}$ – and α emitters – ^{211}At . Among these radioisotopes, the Scandium 47 and the Copper 67 have a strong interest in targeted therapy.

The optimization of their productions required a good knowledge of their cross-sections but also of all the contaminants created during irradiation. We launched on ARRONAX a program to measure these production cross-sections using the Stacked-foils' technique. It consists in irradiating several groups of foils – target, monitor and degrader foils – and in measuring the produced isotopes by γ -spectrometry. The monitor – natCu or natNi – is used to correct beam loss whereas degrader foils are used to lower beam energy. We chose to study the natTi (p,X) ^{47}Sc and ^{68}Zn (p,2p) ^{67}Cu reactions. Targets are respectively natural Titanium foil – bought from Goodfellow – and enriched Zinc 68 deposited on Silver. In the latter case, Zinc targets were prepared in-house – electroplating of ^{68}Zn – and a chemical separation between Copper and Gallium isotopes has to be made before g counting.

Cross-section values for more than 40 different reactions cross-sections have been obtained from 18MeV to 70MeV. A comparison with the TALYS code is systematically done. Several parameters of theoretical models have been studied and we found that is not possible to reproduce faithfully all the cross-sections with a given set of parameters.

Keywords: cross-section — nuclear medicine — stacked-foils — ARRONAX — scandium 47 — copper 67 — TALYS