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# Medical Use of Radioiodine

Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston

Thirty years after scientists first produced non-radioactive isotopes, Paul Hays, M.D., chief of Massachusetts General Hospital's thyroid clinic, realized it might be possible to make radioactive iodine to treat disease of the thyroid — by this time, hyperthyroidism. MIT and Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist Arthur Roberts, Ph.D., began experimenting with radioiodine in 1951 and administered the first treatment to a Massachusetts General patient on March 14, 1951. Hays later used radioiodine to diagnose and treat cancer, thyroid disease, and disorders by other researchers, laid the foundation for nuclear medicine, and other applications for nuclear medicine. Radioiodine and other radioisotopes revolutionized the way medicine is used in diagnostic imaging and treatment of disease, saving and improving the lives of millions of people.

American Chemical Society

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