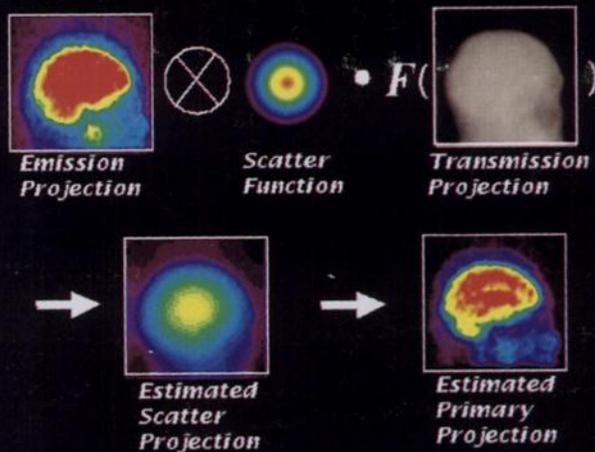
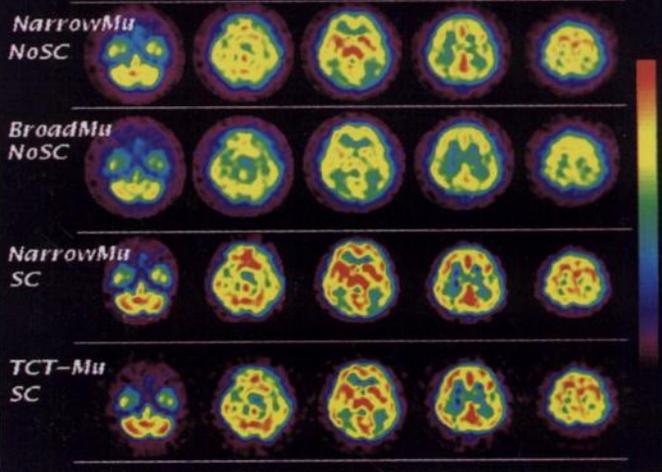


Scatter Estimation by Use of Transmission



Effects of TCT and SC on IMP-ARG CBF



Transmission-dependent convolution subtraction procedure to compensate scatter in emission projection data and demonstration of effect of correction in ^{123}I -IMP SPECT rCBF images. See pages 181-189.



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Changing the Year

It's time again to change the number with which we identify the year. It is now 1998. Just 2 years until 2000. I've gotten confused with all that I've read about when the next millennium begins. Does it begin right after midnight on December 31, 1999, or after December 31, 2000? And what about the mid-course corrections that were made some time ago to adjust for errors in the Gregorian calendar? Doesn't that make the new year, the new century and the so-called new millennium somewhat an arbitrary designation? Although western culture dominates our world, many cultures assign a different numerical value to the year. In fact, many do not even identify this period of the annual cycle as the new year.

Nevertheless, for the next few weeks, letter writers, check writers and nuclear medicine technologists marking scans or computer date entries will have to write 1998, not 1997.

It is probable that in a short time we will all be so computerized that internal computer clocks and calendars will do these things for us. Given the changes that computers and digital technology have brought to our lives, there is every reason to think that soon the year, and possibly the complete date—month, day and year—will be assigned automatically to all our documents. Such a system would ensure accuracy in date assignment—no more mental lapses or intentional misdating forward or backward. At the same time, however, such a system might have the paradoxical effect of making us all less aware of what the date is, just as calculators and computerized cash registers that compute our change have increased accuracy in arithmetic transactions yet contributed to the development of a generation that has difficulty performing simple arithmetic.

Just when I thought I could relax, however, I learned that I had better not. Not yet, in any event! The very geniuses who have given us computer programs to do just about everything, even to recognize the address in a letter and print it out on an envelope (a small miracle, but something I have come to appreciate), slipped up. They forgot that the year following 1999 would be 2000. And, we are told, this is a very serious problem.

We have come to rely on these digital servants to such a great degree that they control us. I have done away with my daily scheduling diary and use my computer instead. I can print out my daily, weekly or monthly schedule of appointments. The computer even rings a bell to remind me of appointments, and it does so at whatever interval before appointments I select, as often as I wish. Ingenious, but what about the year 2000? How could these geniuses have failed to provide for a change in the century? In just 2 years, no more 19xx. Hello 20yy!

Somehow, I have confidence that "they" will solve this problem. In any event, there is another benefit to this. If these same wizards could have failed to consider that 2000 would follow 1999, then maybe the rest of us should not feel so badly when sometime in the next few months we date a memo, a letter, a check or a deposit slip with the year that has just passed.

Stanley J. Goldsmith

Editor-in-Chief, The Journal of Nuclear Medicine

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