

CGA/19/56 - Early detection of cardiovascular graft degeneration in children and adults with congenital heart disease using ^{18}F -sodium fluoride (^{18}F -NaF) positron emission tomography (PET)

People born with serious heart conditions commonly require life-saving surgery early in life. As part of this surgery, surgeons often implant new arteries and valves made of natural (e.g. human or animal) or man-made (synthetic) materials. Sadly, these implants are prone to degrading over time and complete failure can be life-threatening. Being able to identify implants that are degrading earlier could therefore be critical to improving how doctors and surgeons manage these patients. We plan to use a new scanning technique to explore whether we can identify early degradation on implants removed from children and adults born with heart conditions.