

Dider Le Bars  
CERMEP  
Lyon, France

Beam: protons 16 MeV  
Target Material: Ti body, Ti 25  $\mu$ m window, Al 400  $\mu$ m degrader/spacer  
New or recycled H<sub>2</sub>O: Recycled by distillation each time  
Recovery: 90-95% recovery from target  
Tubing - Kind: Polyethylene low density  
- Length: 30 meters  
- Bore: 0.5mm ID  
Pressure: 20-30 psi (1.5 atmosphere)  
Volume: 1.4 ml  
Maximum  $\mu$ A: 10  $\mu$ A (poor cooling); typically 5  $\mu$ A, 60 min.  
Vertical Lift: 10 ft. (3 meters)

Marc Berridge  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland, Ohio

There has been a great deal of discussion concerning water targets for F-18. Recent experience at Case-Western Reserve University confirms some reports and contradicts others. We have had the opportunity to use several new targets in the course of a target development program. These targets were a silver spacer, double foil design with a head space above the water. Silver foils were used in most cases with the front foil being 0.025mm and the back foil 0.25mm thick. Helium or hydrogen was used to pressurize the head space to 1.6 bar to counteract external pressures on the foils.

It was observed that a new target is prone to produce fluoride of minimal reactivity (using 2-FDG via the triflate with tetramethyl ammonium hydroxide as a benchmark reaction) and also is prone to causing blockage of the 0.1mm exit tubing. However, the situation improves with use and the process can be hastened by thorough cleaning. Stainless steel elements in the fluid path inevitably lead to problems from corrosion. Traces of machining oils and polishing compounds are likely sources of difficulty and are easy to remove from flat surfaces, but are very difficult to remove from the channels which bring water and gas into the target chamber. In one instance it was necessary to circulate hot concentrated sulphuric acid through the passages to obtain optimum performance. Once a silver target is well cleaned the difficulties of clogged lines and low chemical yields essentially disappear. Those problems which do occur are easily traceable to the usual causes such as excess beam on a dry target back, contaminated water, etc.

Routine cleaning of these targets was at one time performed by polishing with jeweller's rouge. This works well, but can cause severe problems occasionally when the rouge is not removed completely. We have found sodium bicarbonate with a little methanol to be a good substitute which is easily removed with water.