

## Positron Emission Tomography (PET) seen in a new light

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) uses the principle of the so called annihilation of positrons with electrons while gamma-photons [ $\gamma$ ] are released. These gamma-photons [ $\gamma$ ] can be detected with a scanner giving information about location and appearance of specific organs.

The necessary positrons can be given by radioactive decay of certain atoms like Carbon-11 and Oxygen-15.

### Current insights

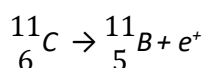
The case Study "Positron Emission Tomography (Last updated 11:48, 12 Jun 2016)" gives the following description:

[https://chem.libretexts.org/Core/Physical\\_and\\_Theoretical\\_Chemistry/Nuclear\\_Chemistry/Applications\\_of\\_Nuclear\\_Chemistry/Applications\\_of\\_Radiation\\_in\\_Biology\\_and\\_Medicine/Case\\_Study%3A\\_Positron\\_Emission\\_Tomography](https://chem.libretexts.org/Core/Physical_and_Theoretical_Chemistry/Nuclear_Chemistry/Applications_of_Nuclear_Chemistry/Applications_of_Radiation_in_Biology_and_Medicine/Case_Study%3A_Positron_Emission_Tomography)

*The emission of a positron is represented by:*



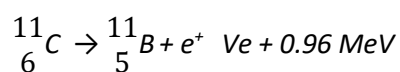
*This shows that the positron (represented here by  $\text{e}^+$ ) speeds out of the nucleus while the neutron stays inside the nucleus. Consider the following nuclear reaction that is common in PET scans of the brain where carbon-11 is used as the tracer molecule.*



*Notice that in this example of positron emission, the nuclide changes into a different element and as it gives off a positron particle, the atomic number is lowered by one, but the mass of the new element stays the same as the carbon that has decayed.*

Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isotopes\\_of\\_carbon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isotopes_of_carbon)) says about this subject:

*Carbon-11 or  $\text{C}^{11}$  is a radioactive isotope of carbon that decays to boron-11. This decay mainly occurs due to positron emission; however, around 0.19–0.23% of the time, it is a result of electron capture. It has a half-life of 20 minutes.*



*Carbon-11 is commonly used as a radioisotope for the radioactive labeling of molecules in positron emission tomography. Among the many molecules used in this context is the radioligand [ ${}^{11}\text{C}$ ]DASB (labeled with carbon-11).*

### Decay of protons

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) uses –as assumed in the published articles (Case Study: Positron Emission Tomography (Last updated 11:48, 12 Jun 2016, Wikipedia)– the transition of protons to neutrons.

On Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proton\\_decay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proton_decay)) you can find that there is currently no experimental evidence that proton decay occurs when a proton is on its own.

For neutron you can find on Wikipedia that is the decay of the free neutron is possible.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free\\_neutron\\_decay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_neutron_decay)

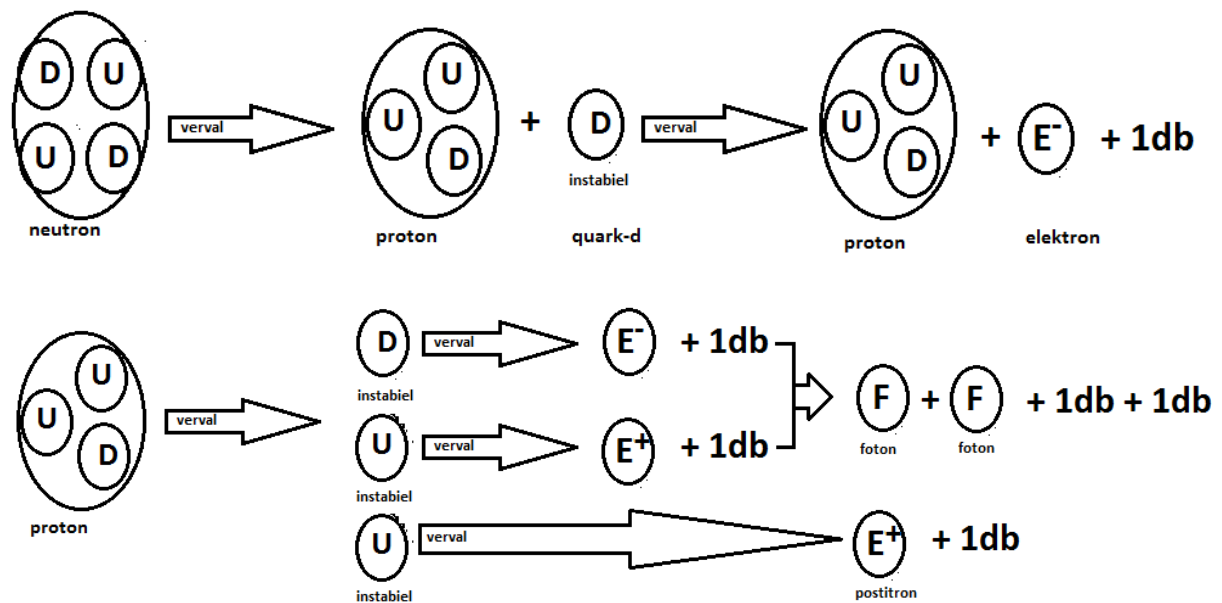
Wikipedia:  $n^0 \rightarrow p^+ + e^- + \nu_e$   
 $\nu_e$  hierin is circa 0.78 MeV ( $1,25 \cdot 10^{-13}$  Joule),  $1 \text{ eV} \approx 1,60 \cdot 10^{-19}$  Joule.

There are claims of the transition of protons to neutrons within the decay of more complex particles. In many cases there is a relation with Positron Emission Tomography. Relevant is this case is the decay of  $C^{11}$  en  $O^{15}$ .

**Consideration**

According to our theory the transition of a solitary proton to a neutron is complex and not to be expected. The organization of matter needed in a reverse reaction by with a proton changes into a neutron (following our equation) does not lead (in our view) to the forming of gamma-photons [δδ].

The equations are once more given:



For the db (dimensional basic) the following symbol will be used: λ.

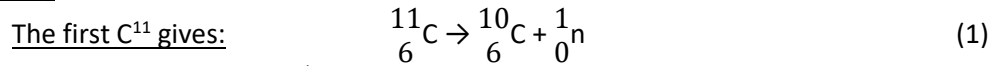
According to our model only the decay of a proton can lead instantly to the appearance of gamma-photons [δδ].

Using our theory we suggest different mechanisms for Positron Emission Tomography (PET). First we give a suggestion for the decay of Carbon-11. Then we give a suggestion for the decay of Oxygen-15.

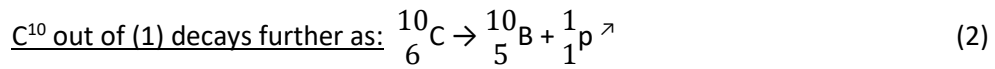
**Carbon-11**

Carbon-11 is an isotope of carbon, frequently used in positron emission tomography, or PET imaging. It has 6 protons, 5 neutrons, and 6 electrons. It has a half-life of 20 minutes\*.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isotopes\\_of\\_carbon#Carbon-11](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isotopes_of_carbon#Carbon-11)

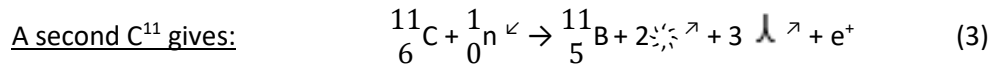
### Decay C<sup>11</sup> (2 atoms)



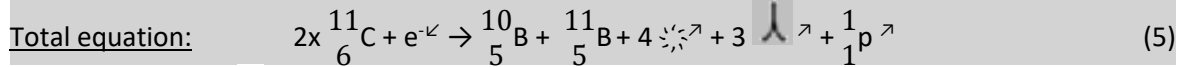
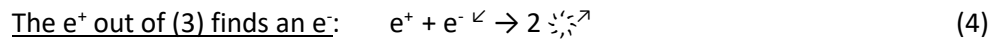
C<sup>10</sup> is not stable/half-life 20 sec\*,  ${}_{0}^{1}\text{n}$  is used in (3).



B<sup>10</sup> is stable\*, possibility: [p → 2  $\gamma$  + 3  $\mu$  + e<sup>+</sup>], in that case the proton will not be seen, the e<sup>+</sup> will follow (4).



In (3): [p → 2  $\gamma$  + 3  $\mu$  + e<sup>+</sup>],  ${}_{0}^{1}\text{n}$  is delivered by (1), B<sup>11</sup> is stable\*.



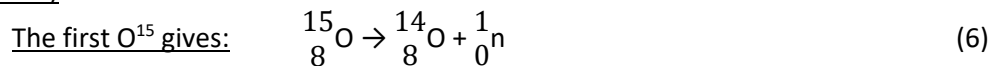
Possibility: [p → 2  $\gamma$  + 3  $\mu$  + e<sup>+</sup>], in that case the proton will not be seen, the e<sup>+</sup> will follow (4).

### Oxygen-15

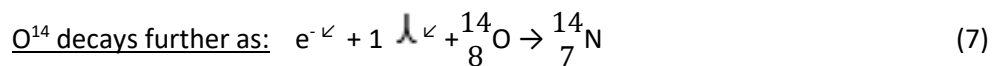
Oxygen-15 is an isotope of oxygen and is also frequently used in positron emission tomography, or PET imaging. It has 8 protons, 7 neutrons, and 8 electrons. It has a half-life of 122 seconds.

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isotopes\\_of\\_oxygen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isotopes_of_oxygen))

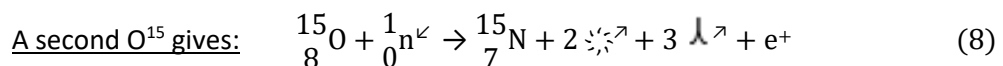
### Decay O<sup>15</sup> (2 atoms)



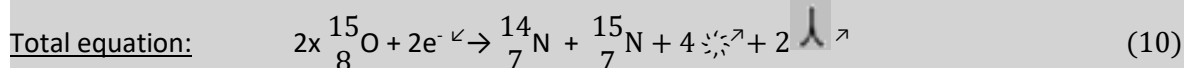
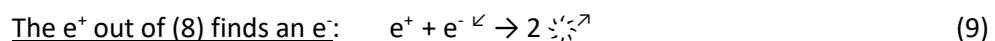
O<sup>14</sup> is not stable/half-life 70 sec\*,  ${}_{0}^{1}\text{n}$  is used in (8).



In (7) [e<sup>-</sup> + p → n], N<sup>14</sup> is stable\*



In (8): [p → 2  $\gamma$  + 3  $\mu$  + e<sup>+</sup>],  ${}_{0}^{1}\text{n}$  is delivered by (6), N<sup>15</sup> is stable\*



The given half-lives\* are taken from: <http://periodictable.com/Isotopes/007.15/index2.p.full.prod.html>

Jelle Ebel van der Schoot, Gerhard Jan Smit, Job Jelle van der Schoot, 20 february 2017, Nijmegen

[www.dbphysics.org](http://www.dbphysics.org)