
North American Nuclear Medicine/ Radiopharmaceuticals Market To Top \$2 Billion by 2017



The North American radiopharmaceuticals market was valued at \$1.9 billion in 2012 and is poised to reach \$2.7 billion by 2017 at a CAGR of 7.2 percent, according to a new report from Reportlinker.com, "North American Nuclear Medicine/Radiopharmaceuticals & Stable Isotopes Market [SPECT/PET Radioisotopes (Technetium, F-18)], [Beta/Alpha Radiation Therapy (I131, Y-90)], [Applications (Cancer/Oncology, Cardiac)] & (Deuterium, C-13) – Forecast to 2017".

A study conducted by Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimates that Tc-99m diagnostic procedures are expected to increase by 15 percent to 20 percent in mature markets such as North America between 2010 and 2030. Radiopharmaceuticals in neurological applications such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and dementia are also being preferred by practitioners besides conventional treatment. In addition, upcoming radioisotopes such as Ra-223 (Alpharadin) and Ga-68 possess huge potential for clinical applications. The scheduled shutdown of the NRU reactor in 2016 in Canada is, however, a major threat for manufacturers.

The therapy market is predominantly driven by cancer applications. The radiopharmaceutical therapy market is expected to grow significantly with the launch of the much-desired Alpharadin (Ra-223) in the near future. This isotope has tremendous potential to take up market share of beta emitters and brachytherapy.

The U.S. has more than 80 percent of the market for diagnostic radioisotopes. The U.S. is the largest consumer market for radiopharmaceuticals in North America, while Canada is one of the largest producers of Tc-99m. Major players in the radiopharmaceuticals market are Cardinal Health, Inc. (U.S.), Lantheus Medical Imaging, Inc. (U.S.), Nordion, Inc. (Canada), and Triad Isotopes, Inc. (U.S.).

The stable isotopes market was led by two players - Cambridge Isotope Laboratories (CIL) and Sigma Aldrich - in 2012; they jointly contributed more than 90% to the North American revenue.

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