



A third of the world's surgical supplies are sterilized with gamma ray sterilizers.

Among isotopes produced by AECL are technetium-99m, for examining functioning organs, xenon-133 for lung scans, iodine-133 for viewing the thyroid gland and gallium-67, which is capable of spotting hidden abscesses or detecting soft-tissue tumors like Hodgkin's Disease. Images of heart function during rest and exercise stress testing can be obtained with thallium-201.

AECL, in co-operation with the renowned Montreal Neurological Institute, has developed a "mind-reading" machine. The device, known as Therascan 3128, permits doctors to look inside the brain to study body chemistry and organ function. Therascan 3128, which uses a radioactive tracer to spot abnormalities before they can be seen on X-ray, holds promise of major advances in the study and diagnosis of strokes and epilepsy. In addition, it is capable of detecting certain patterns associated with mental disorders like schizophrenia and manic depression.