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Atoms for Peace

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Upgrading nuclear medicine capabilities in Senegal

The challenge...

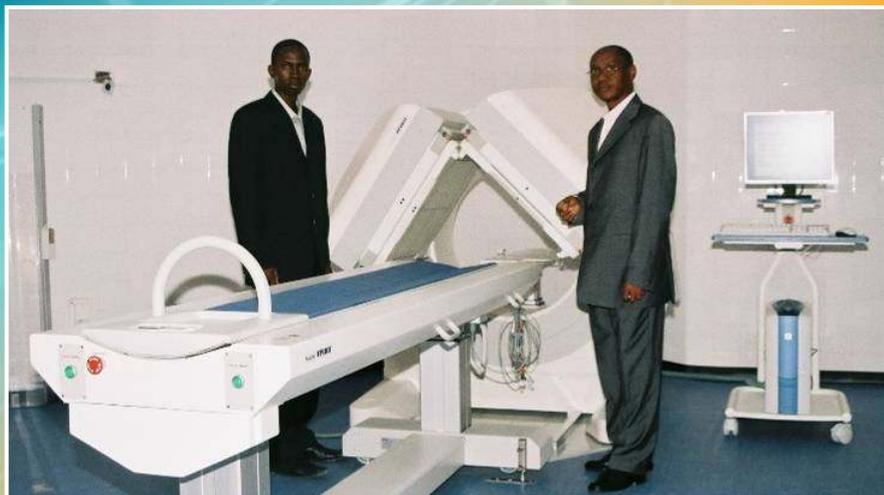
Diabetes is one of the major public health problems for Senegal. Radionuclide based in vitro methods help doctors to diagnose and plan for diabetes mellitus management. To be able to provide these services, and to carry out early diagnosis of diabetes mellitus and other thyroid and oncological diseases, the Government of Senegal needed to upgrade its only medical centre capable of in vivo nuclear medical investigations with a single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) gamma camera. Assistance was also needed with upgrading the facilities at the Radioisotope Laboratory and the Nuclear Medicine Department.

The project...

Equipment was provided in the form of a single-head SPECT gamma camera and accessories such as technetium-99 generators and radiopharmaceutical kits. Training and expert advice were provided through courses for physicians and technicians in nuclear medicine, medical physics and quality control methods, and experts provided advice on medical physics and nuclear medicine.

The impact...

Upgraded local nuclear medicine capabilities and facilities have reduced the financial burden on patients in Senegal who require diagnosis and treatment for diabetes mellitus, thyroid and oncological diseases.



The SPECT gamma camera at the Grand Yoff Hospital in Dakar.