PORTABLE DIAGNOSTIC RADIOMETER

Prepared for
Department of the Navy
Naval Medical Research and Development Command
National Naval Medical Center
Bethesda, MD 20014

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<td>Research effort culminated in a hand-held non-invasive monitor capable of discerning an increase in temperature caused by an inflamed appendix. Preliminary tests on a limited number of patients are reported.</td>
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PORTABLE DIAGNOSTIC RADIOMETER

FINAL REPORT - PHASE II

CONTRACT NO0014-83-C-0524

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER
BETHESDA, MD 20014

PREPARED BY

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JUNE 1986
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FIGURE CAPTIONS

Fig. 1. Photograph of the Phase I breadboard radiometer.

Fig. 2. Microwave section of the breadboard radiometer.

Fig. 3. Dual-frequency microwave antenna. Antenna circuit board shown in foreground.

Fig. 4. Microprocessor and display section of the breadboard radiometer.

Fig. 5. Schematic of the basic Dicke radiometer.

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Fig. 17. Schematic for Section 2 of the printed-circuit board.

Fig. 18. Schematic for Section 3 of the printed-circuit board.

Fig. 19. Photograph of the assembled printed-circuit board.

Fig. 20. Photograph showing the comparison in size between the DC supplies of the breadboard radiometer and the switching regulator of the prototype radiometer.
Fig. 21. Schematic for the switching regulator.

Fig. 22. Photograph of the switching regulator.

Fig. 23. Photograph showing an exploded view of the prototype radiometer.

Fig. 24. Photograph of the assembled prototype radiometer.
PREFACE

This Final Report for Phase II was prepared by RCA Laboratories, Princeton, New Jersey under Contract No. N00014-83-C-0524 for the Naval Medical Research and Development Command, Bethesda, Maryland. The work on Phase II was performed from July 1, 1984 through March 31, 1985 at the RCA Microwave Technology Center, Dr. Fred Sterzer, Director. The program was supervised by Markus Nowogrodzki, Head of the Microwave Subsystems and Special Projects Group. The Project Scientist was Robert W. Paglione, Member of the Technical Staff, with technical support provided by Francis J. Wozniak and Eugene C. McDermott.

The computer modeling and other software support was provided by Morris Ettenberg, Consultant.
I. INTRODUCTION

There exists a need for a portable diagnostic instrument that can non-invasively monitor and display internal body temperatures. This instrument would be extremely important on U.S. Navy ships whose complement does not include the services of competent medical professionals. In this case it would be important to determine whether a particular medical emergency does or does not exist in a patient. This would determine whether the patient should or should not be evacuated to a suitable medical facility for treatment.

The instrument would determine, by radiometric means, if there is an elevated temperature within the body. For example, this may be an aid in the diagnosis of appendicitis or nephritis.

The instrument described in this report is a dual-frequency microwave radiometer. The radiometer measures the amount of noise power being radiated from a localized tissue volume within the patient. The amplitude of this noise power over a frequency spectrum determined by the microwave components is proportional to the average temperature of the volume in question. Making this measurement at two separate frequencies can give an indication of the temperature profile over a depth as great as 6 cm.

II. PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The objective of Phase II of this program is to develop a prototype radiometer. The instrument should be a miniaturized, portable version of the breadboard radiometer developed under Phase I.

To meet this objective, the following tasks would be addressed:
1. Redesigning the 4 GHz amplifiers for miniaturization.
2. Incorporating all of the i.f. processing and computer circuitry on a single printed-circuit board.
3. Designing a switching regulator for the DC power supply.

A detailed discussion of the work performed on these tasks will be presented after a review of Phase I.

III. PHASE I REVIEW

The "proof-of-concept" breadboard radiometer developed under Phase I is shown in Fig. 1. The breadboard unit includes the microwave hardware section, shown in Figs. 2 and 3; the microprocessor and display circuitry, shown in Fig. 4; and the DC supplies.

The microwave section contains an 800 MHz and a 4 GHz radiometer. Each radiometer is basically a Dicke-type radiometer as shown in Fig. 5. In this circuit, the target noise power entering through the antenna is compared to the noise power emanating from a temperature-controlled termination. The difference between the two signal levels is displayed on the DC meter -- this reading is proportional to the temperature of the target. An improvement can be made in the accuracy of this system if the reference noise signal, in this case the oven-controlled termination, is always adjusted to give a zero reading on the DC meter; then the temperature of the reference noise source is equal to the temperature of the target. This self-balancing scheme can be realized by replacing the oven-controlled termination with a diode noise source. The mixer can also be replaced with a synchronous detector to improve the system sensitivity and reduce the system noise.

The single-throw-double-pole switch is usually realized with an electronically-switched, latching ferrite circulator; however, at these frequencies, the size, weight and current drawn by these components are limiting factors when considering a portable instrument. The switch can also be designed using switched low-noise amplifiers. In this case each amplifier is pulsed on and off asynchronously with the other, and the output of each amplifier is combined
through a 3 dB hybrid coupler to produce a single switched output. The complete schematic of the 4 GHz radiometer that is incorporated into the breadboard is shown in Fig. 6. The 800 MHz radiometer is similar, however low-noise bipolar transistors are used in the amplifiers instead of FETs.

Folded-dipole antennas as shown in Fig. 3 were chosen for the radiometer since they can easily be made on a printed-circuit board: they can be made balanced; and they operate over a wide bandwidth.\(^2\)

The 800 MHz radiometer section was not used in the final version of the breadboard unit. The extraneous pickup of T.V. and f.m. signals caused this section of the breadboard to continuously show a maximum temperature reading. No shielding of these signals could be effectively incorporated into the radiometer since the human body acts as an antenna in this range.

In the final version of the Phase I breadboard, shown in Fig. 1, the UV-erasable EPROM was programmed to measure only the 4 GHz radiometric-temperature; and the 4 GHz antenna was removed from the dual-antenna housing and attached in its own housing by a cable to the side of the microwave enclosure.

A total of four patients (three at The Hospital Center at Orange, Orange, NJ; and one at St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, NJ) were measured with the breadboard radiometer. Approval was granted by the Institutional Review Committee of each hospital for these measurements on the patients that were examined.

A patient chart was designed, an example of which is shown in Fig. 7. The chart contains a figure showing the four quadrants about the umbilicus, plus a lateral and posterior section on the left and right side. The skin temperature of each patient was measured using a non-contacting infrared thermometer (Linear Laboratories, Los Altos, CA, Model C-600M).
The chart for the first patient that was examined is shown in Fig. 7. The patient, a 24 year old female, presented with the classical symptoms of acute appendicitis. The skin temperatures in all four quadrants were normal and uniform at 32.2°C. The 4 GHz radiometer however measured elevated temperatures in the right upper and right lower quadrants with the highest temperature being in the right lower quadrant. This type of temperature pattern is indicative of an inflamed appendix in the retrocecal position. Referring to Fig. 8, the appendix is located at the cecum -- the junction of the large and small intestine. If it is behind the cecum, or retrocecal, then it tends to be higher up in the abdominal cavity. This tends to produce elevated temperatures in both right quadrants rather than just in the lower right quadrant.

At the time of surgery on this patient the appendix was found to be inflamed and in the retrocecal position. It was removed and pathology verified a suppurative appendix.

The chart for the second patient is shown in Fig. 9. This patient presented most of the symptoms of acute appendicitis. The skin temperatures were normal and uniform at approximately 30°C. The radiometric temperatures were also normal with slightly decreased temperatures in the lower quadrants. X-rays showed a blocked bowel and no surgery was performed.

The third patient, chart shown in Fig. 10, also presented with symptoms of acute appendicitis. Skin temperatures were normal and so were radiometric temperatures, except for a slight elevation in the lower right quadrant. This patient was obese and it was estimated that abdominal fat was about 8-10 cm thick in the four quadrants. The fat layer was relatively normal however on the patient’s side and back, and these measurements showed elevated temperatures on the right side (the left side and back were not measured). Surgery and pathology showed a normal retrocecal appendix. The patient’s symptoms were later found to be caused by an abdominal infection. If the radiometer had been used
to measure the left side and back as well, these temperatures would have probably agreed with the right side showing something other than an inflamed appendix was causing the elevated temperatures.

The chart for the fourth patient is shown in Fig. 11. The patient's history, physical, operation, and pathology records are shown in Figs. 12 through 15. This patient showed normal and uniform skin temperatures and the radiometer showed elevated left lower and right lower quadrant temperatures (the highest temperature was actually measured midline). Surgery and pathology showed an acute suppurative appendix located midline. The appendix was out of its normal location presumably due to a previous kidney transplant operation.

IV. PHASE II PROTOTYPE

The main design objectives for the prototype unit were miniaturization and low power consumption. These objectives required modifications to the breadboard circuitry which will now be discussed.

A. Microwave Components.

A resistive feedback network was designed and implemented into the 4 GHz FET amplifiers. This network improved the input/output VSWR and stability of the amplifiers so that the ferrimagnetic isolators could be removed. This reduced the overall length of the 4 GHz amplifier chain by nearly 7 cm. Shorter detector diodes were found and used in the design, and as many unnecessary interface connectors as possible were eliminated.

B. Low-Frequency Circuitry

The i.f. processing circuit, the A-to-D converter, and the microprocessor were implemented using CMOS components wherever possible for low power consumption. All of the circuits were integrated onto one printed-circuit board measuring 8.5 cm x 29 cm x 1.5 mm. The schematics for the board are shown in Figs. 16 through 18, and a photograph of the board is shown in Fig. 19.
C. DC Supply

The DC Supply was designed as a switching regulator operating at 200 KHz. This design produces a small, high-efficiency power supply that replaces all of the laboratory supplies used in the breadboard. Figure 20 shows the comparison between the sizes of the breadboard and prototype supplies. The switching regulator is a "flyback" design with a bifilar wound transformer feeding post-regulators. The schematic for the DC supply is shown in Fig. 21, and a photograph of the unit is shown in Fig. 22.

The supply operates on a +12V input supplied by a 3.2 A battery (Panasonic model LCR-3012PF). The overall radiometer current draw from the battery is -0.4A. At this rate the battery should operate for 5 hours before requiring a recharge.

V. PROTOTYPE EVALUATION

The prototype unit is shown in a exploded view in Fig. 23, and assembled with the battery in Fig. 24.

No patients have been evaluated with this unit.
FIGURE 6
Patient: 
Hospital: OMH 
Physician: 
Diagnosis: ACUTE APPENDICITIS 
Comments: LOW GRADE FEVER, NAUSEA
18-25mm OF ABDOMINAL FAT 

Right Quadrant 
Left Quadrant 

Right 
Upper Quadrant 
T1 
Left 
Upper Quadrant 
T2 

Right 
Lower Quadrant 
T4 
Left 
Lower Quadrant 
T3 

Radiometric Temperatures 
Skin Temperatures 

Pathology: ACUTE SUPPURATIVE APPENDIX - RETROCECAL

FIGURE 7
Patient: Date: 12/19/85
Hospital: OMH Physician: Patel
Diagnosis: Blocked Bowel
Comments: Low Grade Fever

Pathology: No Surgery Performed

FIGURE 9
Patient: 
Date: 12/19/85

Hospital: OMH 
Physician: Patel

Diagnosis: ACUTE APPENDICITIS

Comments: OBES, DIABETIC

8-10 cm of abdominal fat 
FEMALE - 61 yrs

* CENTRAL LATERAL SIDE WAS NOT MEASURED

Radiometric Temperatures 
Skin Temperatures

T: 36.0 to 35.9 T: 33.9 to 33.5
T: 33.9 to 33.5

Pathology: NORMAL RETROCECAL APPENDIX

FIGURE 10
Patient:  
Hospital:  
Diagnosis:  Acute Appendicitis  
Comments:  Low-grade fever, nausea  
Previous kidney transplant, diabetis, thin build

Pathology:  Acute Appendix - Midline retrocecal

FIGURE 11
SAINT BARNABAS MEDICAL CENTER
LIVINGSTON, NEW JERSEY

HISTORY

Adm: 12/27/85
L. Alterman, M.D.
M. Gutkin, M.D.
L. Byrd, M.D.
C. Gelber, M.D.

CHIEF COMPLAINT: Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain.

PRESENT ILLNESS: This is one of numerous SBMC admissions for this thirty-eight year old white male with a history of diabetic nephropathy who has had a cadaver renal transplant in May of this year. He has been doing reasonably well with a serum creatinine of approximately 1.5 to 2.0 and has been reasonably well controlled in terms of medications, hypertension, and chronic diarrhea (see below).

On the morning of admission he awoke from sleep with excruciating periumbilical pain and nausea. The pain gradually moved to the entire abdomen but seemed to be most localized in the right lower quadrant. He was admitted from the Emergency Room for further observation.

PAST HISTORY:
Medical: As noted the patient has a history of diabetic nephropathy. He has been dialysis dependent from December, 1983 until the time of his transplant. His post transplant course has been somewhat eventful. He had numerous readmissions to the hospital because of diarrhea. Numerous stool cultures were performed and on several occasions CMV has been isolated from his stool. He has been receiving symptomatic treatment for this only, however, as there has been no documented specific therapy. His hypertension has also been quite difficult to control since transplantation and this has required numerous changes in this as well. His most recent serum creatinine in the office was 1.9.

FAMILY HISTORY AND SOCIAL HISTORY: Please obtain from old charts.

FIGURE 12

LA: rl
Dr 12/27/85
Tr 12/30/85
765
HISTORY
MD
L ALTERMAN, M.D.
VITAL SIGNS:
Blood pressure 175/100 supine right arm
Pulse
Respirations
Temperature

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Physical examination at this time reveals a somewhat chronically ill appearing young white male in mild acute distress.

HEENT: No scleral icterus. Conjunctivae not pale. Mucosa are somewhat dry.
Neck: There is no jugular venous distension.
Lungs: Clear.
Heart: Rapid regular rhythm with an S4 gallop. There is no murmur or rub.
Abdomen: Soft but there is diffuse tenderness in all quadrants as well as rather marked tenderness in the right lower quadrant especially above his cadaver renal allograft. There is no rebound present. His bowel sounds are somewhat hypoactive at this time.
Rectal: Boggy ampulla and there is no tenderness elicited.
Extremities: No edema. No calf tenderness.

Admitting laboratory work revealed a white blood count of 7, 800 with no left shift. His electrolytes were within normal limits and serum creatinine is 1.6. His serum amylase is 92.

IMPRESSION: PROBABLE VIRAL GASTROENTERITIS, CANNOT HOWEVER EXCLUDE ACUTE APPENDICITIS AND EARLY TRANSPLANT REJECTION (DOUBT) UNCONTROLLED DIABETES UNCONTROLLED HYPERTENSION

PLAN: The patient will be kept NPO and will be observed for changes in his physical examination, and his laboratory parameters. His blood sugar will be controlled with frequent monitorings and appropriate doses of insulin as required. Blood pressure will be controlled with Catopres TTS and sublingual Nifedipine. He will be seen in surgical consultation in view of the possibility of appendicitis.
SAINT BARNABAS MEDICAL CENTER
LIVINGSTON, NEW JERSEY

OPERATION

PT. NAME ______________________________ DATE: 12/27/85

HOSP # __________________________

PRE OP DX Acute appendicitis.

POST OP DX Acute suppurative appendicitis.

OPERATION Appendectomy with cultures.

SURGEON D. Filippone, M.D. 1st ASSIST. W. Bradshaw, M.D.

ANESTHESIA General ANES. OGISt S. Pak, M.D.

ESTIMATED BLOOD LOSS: 25 cc.

FLUIDS: D5 ringers lactate 300 cc.

SPECIMEN: Appendix and aerobic and anaerobic cultures of the peritoneal fluid was
taken.

FINDINGS: Patient was noted to have an acutely inflamed suppurative appendix with
cloudy peritoneal fluid.

PROCEDURE: Patient was placed in the supine position and the right lower abdomen
was prepped and draped in a sterile fashion. A skin incision was made through the
upper pole of the previous renal transplant scar and carried down through the
subcutaneous tissue until the external oblique fascia was identified. The external
oblique fascia was opened along the length of its fibers and spread and then the
internal oblique fascia was then identified and it was opened along the length of its
fibers. Using blunt dissection the internal oblique muscle was divided along
its fibers and the transversalis fascia was then opened along its fibers exposing
the peritoneum. The peritoneum was grasped between two Kelly clamps and sharply
opened this time using Babcock clamps. The appendix was then delivered from the
wound. Aerobic and anaerobic cultures were then taken of the peritoneal fluid.
The mesoappendix was then divided using clamps and tied off using 0 chromic
suture. The base of the appendix was then tied off using an 0 chronic tie and this
was then repeated a second time. Then using a Betadine soaked knife the appendix
was excised from the cecum. Betadine was then placed on the exposed appendiceal
stump and the appendix was then returned to the peritoneum. Once this was done the
peritoneum was then closed using a 2-0 chromic running stitch. The transversalis
fascia was approximated using an 0 chronic simple suture. The internal oblique
fascia was then reaproximated using an 0 chronic figure-of-eight suture. The
external oblique fascia was also approximated using an 0 chronic figure-of-eight
suture. The subcutaneous tissue was then copiously irrigated with normal saline
and the skin edges were loosely approximated using three 3-0 nylon mattress
sutures. Sterile dressing was applied to the wound and the patient was brought to
the Recovery Room in satisfactory condition.

W. Bradshaw, M.D./ip

FIGURE 14

dt: 12/28/85

tr: 12/30/85

07604C

MD __________________________

D. Filippone, M.D.
APPENDICITY

APPENDICITY: The specimen is received in formalin and consists of a vermiform appendix and mesoappendix measuring 5.7 cm. in length by 0.8 cm. in diameter. The segment of mesoappendix measures 0.7 cm. The serosal surface is granular firm and covered by a yellow-white thick exudate. Representative sections are submitted.

SUMMARY OF SECTIONS
1X1: three pieces. J. ESTEVA, M.D./dil

DIAGNOSIS:
#1. APPENDICITY:
- ACUTE APPENDICITY AND PERIAPPENDICITY.
FIGURE 21