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New device measures ionizing radiation

Published: Nov. 26, 2007 at 10:30 AM

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GRANADA, Spain, Nov. 26 (UPI) -- Spanish scientists have created a portable device that can measure ionizing radiation, thereby making quality control of radiotherapy treatments possible.

The University of Granada scientists said the low-cost, tiny detectors not only can quickly measure radiation in different body areas, but also create a historical record of the information.

The scientists noted ionizing radiations play a vital role in the treatment and diagnosis of malignant neoplastic illnesses, as well as in the diagnosis of other pathologies.

But "the potential harm ionizing radiations can cause means that, in order to obtain clinical benefits and reduce the onset of unwanted adverse effects as much as possible, they must be used under strict quality control," said Manuel Vilches Pancheco of the Hospital Virgen de las Nieves.

The new device doesn't require electricity or a reading supply unit and is constructed of low-cost and reusable electronic devices.

The University of Granada has patented the device.

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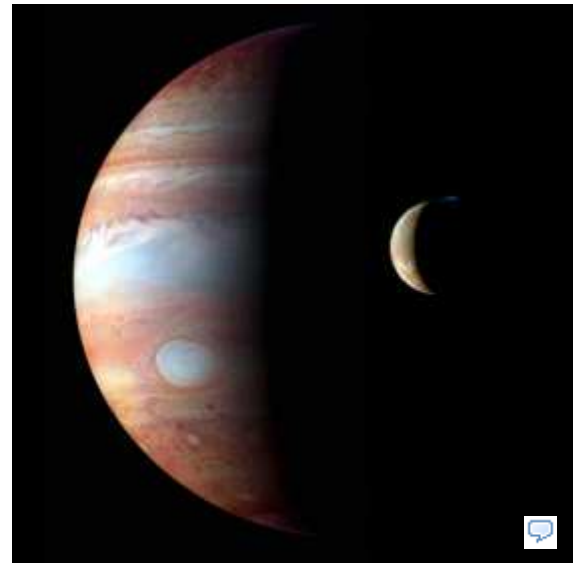
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