

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Basic aspects of positron emission tomography	1
1.2	¹⁸ F-Radiofluorination of organic molecules	4
1.2.1	Electrophilic fluorination	5
1.2.2	Nucleophilic substitution	6
1.2.3	Labeling through secondary compounds	8
1.2.4	Enzymatic fluorination.....	11
1.3	Amino acids	12
1.4	Amino acid transport across the cell membrane	13
1.5	Tumor imaging with radiolabeled amino acids.....	14
1.6	Synthesis of catecholamines from aromatic amino acids	15
1.7	Parkinson's disease	17
1.8	[¹⁸ F]Fluoroaromatic amino acids	18
1.8.1	6-[¹⁸ F]Fluoro-3,4-dihydroxy-L-phenylalanine	18
1.8.2	Radiosynthesis of 2-[¹⁸ F]fluoro-L-phenylalanine and 2-[¹⁸ F]fluoro-L-tyrosine.....	26
1.8.3	Radiosynthesis of 6-[¹⁸ F]fluoro-L- <i>m</i> -tyrosine	28
2	AIMS AND SCOPE	31
3	RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	33
3.1	Synthesis of precursors for the radiosynthesis of [¹⁸ F]fluorophenylamino acids	33
3.1.1	Earlier syntheses of precursors for the radiosynthesis of [¹⁸ F]fluorophenyl-amino acids.....	33
3.1.2	Improvements of the existing synthetic procedure for precursors 1a and 1b.....	36
3.1.3	New synthetic pathways for the preparation of labeling precursors.....	40
3.1.4	Conclusions.....	49
3.2	Enantioselective radiosynthesis of 2-[¹⁸ F]fluoro-L-phenylalanine and 2-[¹⁸ F]fluoro-L-tyrosine by isotopic exchange.....	52
3.2.1	Radiofluorination	52
3.2.2	Decarbonylation.....	55
3.2.3	Hydrolysis	58
3.2.4	Specific activity	59
3.2.5	Dependence of the enantiomeric purity of 2-[¹⁸ F]fluoro-L-phenylalanine as function of the protecting group of the imidazolidinone system	59
3.2.6	Radiosynthesis of 2-[¹⁸ F]fluoro-L-phenylalanine using the alternative Schöllkopf-precursor 1e.....	62
3.3	Enantioselective radiosynthesis of 6-[¹⁸ F]fluoro-L- <i>m</i> -tyrosine by isotopic exchange.....	64
3.3.1	Radiofluorination	65
3.3.2	Baeyer-Villiger oxidation and hydrolysis	68
3.4	Enantioselective radiosynthesis of 6-[¹⁸ F]fluoro-DOPA by isotopic exchange.....	73
3.4.1	Radiofluorination	74

3.4.2	Baeyer-Villiger oxidation	74
3.4.3	Hydrolysis	75
3.4.4	Preliminary attempts to automate the radiosynthesis of 6- ¹⁸ F]fluoro-L-DOPA	77
4	EXPERIMENTAL	81
4.1	General techniques	81
4.2	Reagents and Solvents	81
4.3	Synthesis of Seebach-precursors via a dithiolane approach	82
4.4	Synthesys of Schöllkopf-precursors via a dithiolane approach	92
4.5	Synthesis of fluorophenone derivatives of Seebach-precursors 1g and 1h via a Grignard approach	94
4.6	Radiochemistry	96
4.6.1	Preparation of tetrabutylammonium [¹⁸ F]fluoride	96
4.6.2	General procedure for the radiosynthesis of 2- ¹⁸ F]fluoro-L-phenylalanine and 2- ¹⁸ F]fluoro-L-tyrosine under conventional heating	96
4.6.3	General procedure for the radiosynthesis of 2- ¹⁸ F]fluoro-L-phenylalanine and 2- ¹⁸ F]fluoro-L-tyrosine under microwave heating	97
4.6.4	General procedure for the radiosynthesis of 6- ¹⁸ F]fluoro-L- <i>m</i> -tyrosine	97
4.6.5	General procedure for the radiosynthesis of 6- ¹⁸ F]fluoro-L-DOPA	97
4.6.6	Automated radiosynthesis of 6- ¹⁸ F]FDOPA	98
4.6.7	Radioanalytic procedures	99
5	SUMMARY	102
6	REFERENCES	107