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Body Heat to Diagnose Health Conditions

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Thermography: Non-Invasive Technique Uses Body Heat To Diagnose A Host Of Health Conditions

Two of the most exciting, yet overlooked diagnostic procedures of this century, are Digital Infrared Thermal Imaging (DITI), and Contact Thermography (CRT), otherwise simply termed thermography. Dr. Ali Meschi is a board certified naturopathic physician who has been at the forefront of this technique. As he explains, "Thermography is a non-invasive, objective, non-radiative tool that uses the heat from the body to diagnose the causes of a host of health care conditions. Thermography is completely safe and uses no radiation. Utilizing high speed computers and a very accurate thermal imaging cameras, body heat is processed, recorded, and translated through a computer into an image map which can be then analyzed on screen, printed, or sent via email."

Thermography can be used as a diagnostic technique for the following:

Breast Thermography: The utilization of thermography as a screening tool in the detection of breast cancer has been for the past decade a very controversial topic within the health care community. However, the technology has gained in scientific acceptance, has been approved for screening purposes and is clearly a powerful tool in the early detection of breast cancer. As Dr. Meschi explains, "The concept is quite simple. Thermography measures the heat coming from one's body. Metastatic cancers create heat, which can be imaged by digital infrared imaging. This is due to two separate, yet connected factors. The first is the metabolic activity of the tumor tissue as compared with the temperature of tissue adjacent to the tumor, and in the opposite breast. By comparing the breast in question with the normal breast which acts as the patients own control, abnormal heat signatures associated with the metabolism of the tumor can be detected easily."

Cancerous tumors produce a chemical, which actually promotes the development of blood vessels supplying the area where the tumor resides. Also, normal blood vessels that are under the control of the sympathetic nervous system are essentially paralyzed, causing an increase in the size of the blood vessel. The increase in blood in the region simply means no more heat, recordable with thermal imaging procedures. He adds, "As thermal imaging has been demonstrated in numerous studies to be capable of measuring these heat signatures years before conventional technologies can see a mass, and as the procedure uses no radiation, compression of breast tissue and is totally safe. Thermography or DITI/CRT provides for a safe early warning detection system."

Extra-Cranial Vessel Disease: Thermography has the ability to measure heat related to blood flow through the blood vessels in the breast. In a similar way, a variety of conditions, which relate to flow of blood through the vessels of the neck and head are readily accessed through thermal imaging. As the blood vessels in the face and skull are coursing through very thin tissue between the bones of the skull and the skin covering the skull, they are readily and easily visualized with thermal imaging. As the vessels of the neck are very large caliber vessels, they too are very easily visualized through thermography Clues to the potential of developing vascular disease, which might lead to stroke, are a consideration when performing thermography.

Jaw and Teeth: The ability of thermal imaging to safely indicate heat from sources in the jaw and teeth, is providing a very exciting opportunity to screen individuals for dental decay and cavitation, without routine

screening x-rays. Dr. Meschi states "we have seen a number of patients with heat signatures in their jaw related to amalgam fillings which might be toxic for that particular patient. This area of thermal imaging is very promising."

Neuro-Musculo-Skeletal: This is one of the clearest examples of thermography's ability to accurately diagnose patients with a host of back, neck, and extremity disorders. In fact, it was the use of thermography by chiropractors, neurologists, and orthopedists in the late 70's and 80's in spinal injury cases which really launched the clinical interest in this diagnostic tool. Back pain produces very consistent heat patterns which not only tell us the source of probable spinal injuries, but can also tell us about areas of spinal compensation. In effect, a low back may be treated by a chiropractor, when the mid back or neck is actually the source of the problem.

Lower Extremity Vessel Disease: Dr. Meschi states that, "many times a patient comes to our whole person screening and we detect a vascular disease on the lower extremity that the patient was completely unaware of. The ability of thermography to detect the presence of deep vein thrombosis and other circulatory disorders of the lower extremities is a very exciting application procedure as it allows us to painlessly and safely detect possible disease that if unchecked, could cause the loss of a limb, or in some cases, add the possibility of stroke,":

There are a host of other conditions for which thermography had application. These are only some of the most common uses for thermography, which has been well documented as a safe, non-invasive and non-radiation tool for disease diagnosis.

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