

Infrared Thermography

Infrared Thermography is the use of infrared devices to diagnose any number of disorders or anomalies in the medical field. Infrared technology measures the heat output of specific areas and outputs the data in a fashion that allows the user to see areas of greater and lesser heat values.

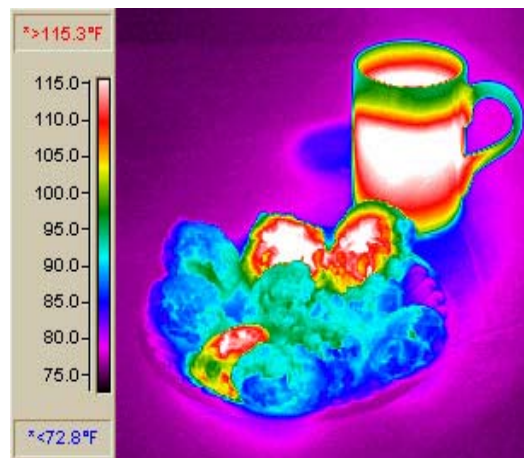
Infrared technology has been around for a while but new uses are still being found. It is used universally in the chiropractic field to locate “hot spots,” areas that are causing discomfort to the patient. Increased heat in these hot spots is caused by anything from swelling to unalignment of the vertebrae. It is used in sports medicine to locate areas of joints that may be damaged. It is also becoming widely used during open heart surgery and in early detection of breast cancer.

The imaging of this technology is extremely interesting. One can look at a picture from an infrared camera and see areas of intense heat. Since infrared is not in the visible spectrum, the image has the outlined appearance of objects with differentiated heat readings.

As someone who has experienced an Infrared Thermograph, I can say that the experience was quite beneficial. I was having neck pains and I went to a chiropractor. He took out a portable infrared heat sensor and immediately scanned my neck. He immediately diagnosed a problem with my third cervical vertebrae and a quick snap of his wrists and the pain was gone.

This technology has shown exciting promise in the fight against

breast cancer and other tumor and cancer types. Areas of suspected concern are seen to have higher heat levels and then more accurate, though invasive, tests can be performed.



Probably the greatest part about this technology is the fact that it is so simple and non-invasive. It is painless and there is no radiation present. There are no known side effects to having this procedure done. It is also low cost and highly accurate when done right.

The downfall is its lack of descriptiveness. It cannot tell for sure if an area of heat concentration is being caused by a tumor or just an inflammation. However, it is a good first test to rule out other serious conditions and in monitoring injuries.

Bibliography:

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