Resolving even the most complex pain

With more than 30 years of experience, Dr. Robert G. Schwartz is a highly skilled, diagnostician who has innovated, and refined new methods for understanding and treating unresolved conditions.

Dr. Schwartz is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R), Pain Management, Thermology and Electrodiagnostic Medicine. He is a Fellow in Vascular Medicine and is a recognized pioneer in Regenerative Medicine.

Dr. Schwartz is President of the American Academy of Thermology, the Medical Director of Physical Medicine at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital, founder of the South Carolina Society of PM&R, and is the most senior physiatrist in South Carolina.

Dr. Schwartz has lectured extensively throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia and has over 100 publications.

Infrared Thermography

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Pioneers in understanding & resolving pain
Medical Thermography

Medical Thermography for weather-sensitive pain is a sensitive, objective test that utilizes an electronic infrared imaging device to measure the body’s skin temperature. When done under cold stress it is referred to as a sympathetic galvonic skin response study. The test is harmless, non-invasive, and does not use ionizing radiation.

Skin temperature differences of greater than one degree centigrade from side to side suggests Sympathetic dysfunction. If pain is associated with this finding it may become progressive or seem unusually severe. Diagnostic conditions include CRPS, RSD (reflex sympathetic dystrophy), and Fibromyalgia.

While there are many disorders that can lead to altered skin temperature, thermography is the only way to measure large regions of skin temperature and also map the distribution of asymmetry. In order for the procedure to be clinically useful, a physician trained in the differential diagnosis of disorders that create thermographic abnormalities must interpret it.

Breast Thermography

Infrared Breast Thermography is a safe, non-ionizing, non-contact study of breast skin temperature that is useful in breast health risk assessment. It has particular utility in monitoring the effects of breast hormone therapy. It is also useful as an adjunct in the detection of physiologic changes associated with breast cancer. Internationally peer reviewed Guidelines for Breast Thermography have been developed by the American Academy of Thermology in 2012.

Thermography measures, images and maps microcirculatory shunting associated with breast circulatory changes in the skin. Hormones, in particular estrogen and progesterone, can affect breast physiology and circulation. Serial studies are helpful in monitoring the effects of hormone replacement therapy and the treatment of fibrocystic disease. There are several musculoskeletal applications that impact breast lymphatics, health and associated pain as well.

While breast thermography can play a useful role in monitoring treatment effects, as with most physiologic studies the results of anatomic testing (such as mammography or MRI) may not correlate or may not even be present despite the presence of physiologic change (physiologic findings tend to predate structural findings). Thermography can however play an important adjunctive role in clinical diagnosis and in distinguishing between benign, early, advanced, and progressive disease. This is particularly true as it relates to Thermography’s ability to detect and monitor changes associated with angiogenesis.