



## CASE STUDY

### **Infrared makes sense in physiotherapy**

A Belgian physiotherapist is using infrared technology, once the preserve of the military and police because of its prohibitive cost, to assist in diagnosis and treatment of patients.

Peter Boonen, who operates from Meeuwen-Gruitrode in the east of Belgium, is using an Irisys IRI 4010 thermal imaging camera as part of his treatment of patients suffering from a wide variety of musculoskeletal problems.

Irisys' innovative sensing technology is making high quality infrared intelligence viable for many market sectors, mostly in industry, property and energy sectors, where heat recognition is providing financial and efficiency benefits.

Mr Boonen is now at the forefront of using the technology in physiotherapy. By recording images of patients' skin temperatures he identifies thermal patterns that provide information to determine appropriate actions to be taken in pre and post operative situations.

He says: "The camera has many uses, from providing information that gives accurate locations for acupuncture points, to carrying out body scans that highlight all hot and cold spots on the skin surface.

"Pinpointing these spots can be critical in diagnosis of some injuries. In one instance thermal images taken on a patient with a perceived calf injury helped us to determine a radiation pain from a low back problem.

Also neck pain can be visualised and information provided which, allied to professional clinical assessments, can then be translated into meaningful data so that we may subsequently make conclusions."

Mr Boonen believes the medical industry will make increasing use of thermal imaging technology following the dramatic reduction of the cost of the cameras. "Until the latest generation of cameras became available the technology was too expensive for people in my

position, but I believe as its applications and opportunities become more apparent many more people in the medical profession will take advantage of it.

"It has been a good investment for me," he added.