

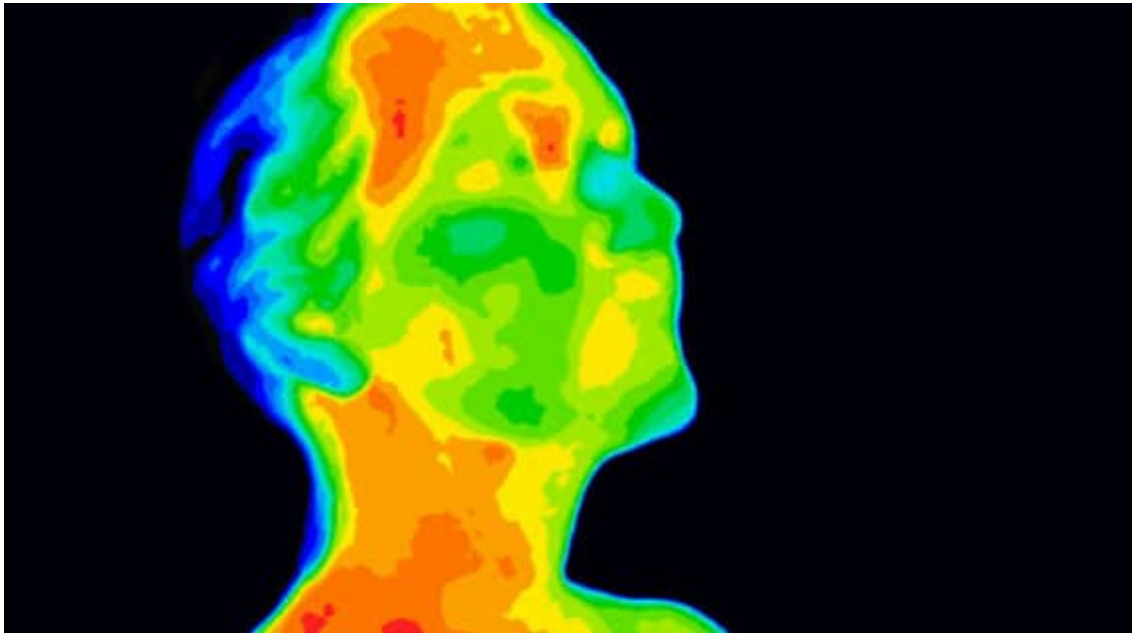


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Israeli terror-fighting thermal imaging tech being adapted for medical purposes

Thermal cameras can become as widespread
in doctors' pockets as stethoscopes,'
says Sheba Medical Center innovations
chief



Thermographic image of a human face and neck showing different temperatures in a range of colors from blue cold to red hot. Red in the neck might indicate raised CR-P levels, this could be a sign of inflammation, and Carotid Artery inflammation which could be linked to a stroke.

August 19, 2022 – Israeli thermal imaging technology designed to track terrorists and defend borders is getting a new incarnation – helping doctors get a clearer view of what is happening in patients' bodies.

Sheba Medical Center has signed a new agreement to repurpose thermal imaging technologies that were previously reserved for military and security purposes. The agreement was signed this week between Sheba and Opgal, a subsidiary of Elbit Systems.

Thermal imaging is used to a limited degree in healthcare, but Sheba's Dr. Boris Orkin told The Times of Israel that the new arrangement could lead to advances that help make the technology as commonplace as stethoscopes.

"Thermal cameras can become as widespread as stethoscopes, and there could well be devices in the pockets of every doctor," said Orkin, director of Sheba's Surgical Innovations Center, which will be developing new uses for the tech, told The Times

of Israel.

He said that thermal cameras have the potential to help with a range of challenges in human imaging, including helping doctors get a better sense of physiological processes going on in the body based on changes in energy and heat in the body, as displayed on a digital screen.



Left to right, Prof. Yitshak Kreiss, director of Sheba Medical Center; Dr. Boris Orkin, director of Sheba's Surgical Innovations Center; Eran Bluestein, director for business development at Opgal, examining thermal imaging technology. (courtesy of Sheba Medical Center)

Orkin said that used in a medical setting, this technology can be used for lots of purposes, including helping doctors and surgeons accurately identify the movement of blood vessels and presenting a clear picture of carbon dioxide being emitted by exhalation.

Elbit is one of Israel's biggest defense companies, and Orkin

said that opening up the considerable thermal imaging technology of one of its subsidiaries for repurposing could give rise to “major advances” in healthcare.

Tsachi Israel, CEO of Opgal, commented: “Thermal technology, which until now has helped pilots take off and land, and soldiers on the battlefield identify threats and targets, has the potential to help medical teams worldwide to see the invisible and make more accurate diagnoses,” adding that he hopes to work with Sheba to “innovate in order to save lives, and prevent suffering for many patients.”

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