

## Crisis in Healthcare - Update

# TRD-CRT Breast Screen

### A follow-up on previously exposed dubious practices.

I can now confirm that the qualified naturopath and prominent promoter of the Computerised Regulation Thermography (CRT) machine in my 2001 report (*the Skeptic* 21:2) is also a national distributor of the device. This conjunction of 'therapeutic' and commercial interests raises serious concerns about the promotional claims made by this person, and those who have purchased a CRT, seeking to give it and the distributor publicity.

This distributor uses the credentials Med.Tech, MD (MA), DipNsc, DipMH and RN, "specialising in oncology, haematology, radiotherapy, and palliative care", and is variously promoted by supporters in AltMed circles as 'a scientist', a 'Dr' and 'blood pathologist'. She claims membership of Independent Medical Research, World Cancer Congress, International Cancer Association Network and the Cancer Information and Support Society, none of which is recognised by orthodox medicine or Australian cancer societies. Videos and slides of breast cancer cases and their CRT and 'blood test' results have been presented at health-cancer seminars by the Sydney clinic/distributor.

It is now apparent why the Sydney distributor's clinic chose to identify the CRT in its promotional mate-

rial as 'Thermo Regulation Diagnosis' (TRD). This clinic also advertises CRT- Clot Retraction Tests associated with the medically and legally condemned Live Blood Cell Analysis (LBCA) (See preceding story, 'Landmark Prosecution of Bogus Blood Tests'). To avoid confusion (between two CRTs), a new name had to be chosen but specifically why was the word 'Diagnosis' chosen? The name TRD does not appear on the German manufacturer's website, nor is it used by a Western Australian CRT clinic and national distributor, who advertises "CRT and Regulation Thermography". The use of the term "Diagnosis" in the name of a device for which no diagnostic capacity has been demonstrated, is potentially very harmful indeed.

### More publicity

Ironically, at the time our *Skeptic* report was published, another report on the CRT appeared in the July 2001 edition of *Nature & Health* magazine. This item, disturbingly titled, 'Breast Cancer Options' focused, as the title suggests, solely on breast screening, despite claims for a long list of other serious medical conditions being cited in the CRT promotions. The report, by a Queensland qualified therapist, was in fact an excerpt from her book, *Take Con-*



Cheryl Freeman, a former nurse, is an indefatigable exposé of pseudo-medical gadgetry.

---

*trol of Your Health*, Chapter 4, “Breast Health”, in which she enthuses about the CRT’s scanning abilities, that:

*may be as valuable as MRIs and X-rays .... truly offers the possibility of early detection even before degeneration such as malignancy is manifested.’*

She directs readers to, *The Townsend Letters to Doctors and Patients*, Jan 2000 report, *Thermography Vs Mammography* which, she says, describes the CRT as:

*a valuable new diagnostic tool ... a marked improvement on previous technologies.*

She adds:

*Dr Beilin brought it to the FDA for marketing approval and testified to a Congressional Committee with NIH and NCI.*

This appears to be exceptional endorsements from what we can assume to be the USA’s premier regulatory and professional bodies, the Food and Drug Authority, National Institute of Health and National Cancer Institute

The author named the Sydney clinic-national CRT distributor, her USA contact and clinics in VIC and WA then enthusiastically advised readers to:

*... nag our health professionals to invest in them.*

This can only be described as another free plug for the Sydney distributor. The article’s author listed the Sydney and other state clinics in her book’s “Resources” section under, “Thermography Breast Diagnosis” (again I emphasise choice of the word Diagnosis) adding:

*These non-radiating machines are described in Chapter 4.*

She noted women’s awareness of the dangers of X-Rays and seeks to explain:

*... why this technology has proven to be a popular way to avoid radiation and still get a correct diagnosis ..*

This sends a very seductive message to women made fearful of mammograms, and note again the use of “diagnosis”. She says further:

*Over 1500 doctors in Germany and Europe and top health professionals in the USA use the CRT.*

The *Nature & Health* magazine also contained a full page advertisement for the columnist’s book listing among the contents, ‘You Will Learn Why: Mammograms contribute to cancer.’ This columnist-author-qualified therapist also runs the Hippocrates Foundation at [www.hippocrates.com.au](http://www.hippocrates.com.au), ‘a tax deductible charity for placing natural health books and tapes in libraries around Australia’. Perhaps she might, one day, care to explain:

how she came to write such an extraordinarily glowing report on the CRT when she admits to only learning about it sometime in 2000, after being referred (by the USA author of the *Townsend Letter* article) to the Sydney clinic director;

what time elapsed between first learning of the device and the publication of her book (also in 2000);

why she focused only on the CRT and breast screening -breast cancer;

what research she conducted to verify claims made for the CRT; and who were the sources of her explicit CRT-’diagnostic -breast’ claims.

In December 2001 *New Idea* added to the national free publicity for the CRT promoting book, *Take Control of Your Health*, by profiling the author and her book in a feature report.

### **Natural Therapies Upskills Day**

Several weeks after the June 16, 2001, Natural Therapies Upskills Day for health professionals, sponsored by the Royal Hospital for Women at the UNSW, the Sydney clinic operator distributed a circular in an attempt to “redress adverse comments made by a medical expert” by offering “some accurate information on the clinic’s tests”. For the first time she publicly identified the

CRT 2000 as being from EIDAM in Germany. The circular mixed comments about legitimate scientific/medical techniques/technologies such as Infra-red photography, liquid crystal thermometers, measurement of blood flow in various pathological conditions with thermography as reported in the scientific/medical literature, with claims for the CRT, including:

*... detecting problems, abnormalities and disease in organs and body parts by measuring temperature changes at distant specific points on the teeth, face, neck and body.”*

This latest attempt to confuse blood flow-heat pictures from medical thermal imaging (also called thermogram or thermography) with the nonsense claimed for CRT, is a re-run of the confused ‘medical thermogram’ report in *The Australian* of Nov 16, 2000 in which she was interviewed. Do I detect a trend here? Perhaps this is how the CRT distributor is trying to gain respectability and validity for the CRT by confusing it with medical thermogram machines.

The circular also stated:

*The equipment is the EIDAM CRT 2000 regulation contact thermography unit, with the European EC Mark and in America has Food and Drug Authority (FDA) approval for use as Adjunctive Diagnosis of:*  
*\*various neoplastic, inflammatory and musculoskeletal conditions*

*\*abnormalities of the female breast and thyroid gland*

*\*as a adjunct breast screen*

*\*extra cranial cerebral, facial, peripheral vascular disease.*

*The CRT 2000 has Australian TGA approval-ARTG NUMBER L65044. The CRT is not intended to serve as a sole diagnostic screening procedure.*

This final claim is in stark contrast to those made in the Sydney clinic’s TRD-CRT brochure and specifically:

[it] is **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY**

## Breast Scans

[n bold red print]... *without the patient being subjected to any strain from X-Rays, diagnostic operations, biopsies, contrast mediums etc.*

In Aug 2001 the TGA re-confirmed what I had previously reported, that the CRT had been **removed** from the ARTG-AUSTL list in mid-2000. It is my understanding that it is a violation of the Therapeutic Goods Act Advertising Code to claim a listed product is “approved” by the TGA, as it is to claim that a de-listed device is listed, or approved by a foreign authority, or to make diagnostic claims in relation to serious conditions like neoplasms.

### WA clinic-distributor

This clinic is also run by a high-profile qualified therapist who operates a distributorship in Australia and South-East Asia, marketing not only the CRT as the, “ECG for naturopathic physicians” but several other bogus diagnostic/treatment devices including the SUPER MORA – EAV – INTERRO – DARK FIELD MICROSCOPY (which the literature claims “is great for children with chronic infections”). The CRT clinic is listed on the EIDAM website and in *Take Control of Your Health* under Thermography Breast Diagnosis, with its website featuring numerous references to cancer, breast cancer with the impressive and reassuring claim of “FDA Approval No 510K”. Another WA CRT clinic listed in the same book, advertises, “Biological Medicine Specialists” conducting “Thermographic Scanning”.

### Authorities

All the above data has been submitted to the relevant authorities: NSW Health, TGA and ACCC. As at March 1, 2002 Australian Skeptics remains hopeful that decisive legal action will now be taken by investigating authorities. We also assert our belief that as a result of the extensive, reckless, explicit and unsubstantiated promotions of the TRD-CRT in Australia, primarily as a “breast screen- diagnostic machine with the major focus on breast cancer” and the fact that the promotional mate-

rial and claims remain in the public domain, together with the fact that the EIDAM-CRT website continues inclusion of “breast cancer case studies, claims for malignancy, neoplastic, cancer and other serious medical conditions” - and that Australian authorities endowed with a duty of care and protection of health consumers should now ban the further importation of the CRT and close down existing clinics.

We further believe that it is critically important to report publicly the full extent of the promotions for the CRT, so that consumers and all health, medical, consumer, legal authorities, politicians and the media have access to this information, to ensure an honest and in depth public evaluation of these issues.

### Another Breast Screen

From the USA *Mercola Health News* website, under the bold heading: “FDA Approves Electricity Test for Breast Cancer”, the fine print reveals a device, the T-SCAN 2000, that:

*... uses electricity to create a map of the breast: ... by delivering a 1V shot of electricity into the hand via a probe, that travels up the arm to the breast where a hand-held probe is moved over the breast measuring the electrical conductivity of breast cells. Cancer cells conduct much less electricity than healthy cells - so the probe flashes its findings onto a computer screen ... possible tumors show up as bright white spots.*

The test is for:

*... women with ambiguous mammograms, improves diagnostic accuracy and lowers unnecessary biopsies by about 20%.*

The Health News doctor concludes:

*It seems to be a nifty application using bioelectricity ... cost \$100.*

To me, “It seems to be” hardly sounds like a universal peer reviewed scientific medical assessment.

I have not seen any breast cancer

experts in Australia reporting on the credibility of what ‘seems to be a nifty test for breast cancer’....yet under our current legislation, health clinics could import his device, set-up clinics and promote it according to the USA website and FDA approval claim and promotional material and do so for years, aided by the irresponsible alternative health media ... all unknown to our health authorities – precisely how it happened with the TRD-CRT industry.

### Personal experiences

In dealing with these breast scan issues I am constantly reminded of a terribly misled, 40 something, women I met several years ago. She had cancelled her partial mastectomy and radiation therapy after being ‘tested’ by a qualified therapist/iridologist and told she did not have cancer, only a blocked lymph gland, bordering on cancer, a fine line of malignancy, that he could cure the gentle way. Others with advanced secondaries from breast and other cancers had their tumours diagnosed as ‘calcium deposits’ and told they were cured, in attempts to deter them from having chemotherapy and radiation therapy. Last year a 50 something woman told me that she and another woman had suspended their breast cancer treatments and were using a \$4000 electronic-mat (similar to the Giraffe mat prosecuted by the ACCC in 1999). The qualified therapist/mat agent bragged that “most of my customers were cancer sufferers and we have seen some miracles and others are doing well”.

I cannot hide my concerns. We as a society cannot continue to take the risks imposed on health consumers by the bogus health devices industry.

### Refs

“TGA’s New ‘Medical’ Devices Regulations. Proposals for Health Devices Regulations” - *the Skeptic* 21:4 and at [www.skeptics.com.au](http://www.skeptics.com.au)

*Take Control of Your Health*, 2000 - Empowerment Press International and at [www.hippocrates.com.au](http://www.hippocrates.com.au)

