

On the Cutting Edge of Technology



Dr. Sapra demonstrating Verisante's Aura

You may remember reading an article in our newsletter last May about Verisante's Aura diagnostic device. We have been tracking Verisante's success stories and recently learned that some clinics across Canada were testing beta units. MNC recently spent the morning with Dr. Sapra at his clinic in Oakville, ON to talk about his experience with the beta unit. You can imagine how thrilled we were to find that Dr. Sapra didn't have the beta test machine – he had the “real deal”! The first one in Canada!

Dr. Sapra was so impressed with the Aura's capability he had no hesitation in ordering the first machine sold in Canada. Dr. Sapra explained that the Aura has a 99% accuracy rate to indicate malignant melanoma or other types of skin cancer. On average, Dr. Sapra's office performs approximately 500

biopsies per month and he feels the Aura will reduce the number of unnecessary biopsies significantly. This is great news for patients. Biopsies cause increased stress for patients and can result in significant disfigurement depending on where the mole/lesion is located.

Dr. Sapra's office currently has 6 nurses trained to use the Aura. Essentially, the machine has a wand which, when placed over the selected area, detects vibrations in the cells and differentiates between cancer cells and normal cells – what is called spectro-analysis. The training process was quick and easy and only takes seconds to generate the results.

It likely will take time for this type of technology to be used by dermatologists, but we encourage patients to ask about it to speed diagnosis and improve patient outcomes. Patient reimbursement by provincial governments for use of this diagnostic tool remains unclear, but we fully believe that patients need access to timely and improved diagnosis to catch melanomas and skin cancers early. Early diagnosis will save the health care system hundreds of millions of dollars. It

is Dr. Sapra's hope that it will be covered eventually. “To me it's a no brainer – It's just good medicine”

For more information about the Aura check out Verisante's website <http://www.verisante.com/aura/>



(The Aura)

With thanks to Dr. Sapra
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