

In age of concussions, Imaging center offering unique brain scanning technology

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Joshua Katke is CEO of M1 Imaging Center.
(Photo: Bill Bresler | hometownlife.com)

When it comes to brain injuries, M1 Imaging Center CEO Joshua Katke wants to stay on top of the latest medical developments. That's why he decided to jump at a software program he says is revolutionary when it comes to observing brain activity.

The program, which can be used at the company's Livonia office at 20343 Farmington, is called NeuroQuant and can determine if any atrophy, or shrinkage, of the brain has taken place. It can also detect neurodegeneration in early stages if caught early enough.

"This was a technology that was never available and is rarely available in the community-based setting," he said. "It gives us a biomarker for traumatic brain injury. And it could be any kind of brain injury, any kind of trauma."

M1 Imaging Center, which also has locations in Berkley and Warren, brought the software programs to its clinics last year and recently signed another exclusivity agreement to be the sole clinic to use the program in southeast Michigan.

Katke said his is one of very few clinics in the country outside of hospitals using the technology, which can analyze

the brain much quicker than having a doctor analyze them over a period of hours.

"The mantra of what we do is we try to find technologies that are typically only offered in the tertiary care setting ... and bring them to a community-based setting," Katke said. "Because the vast majority of patients who live in Livonia, health care's delivered locally. Not a ton of patients are driving to (the University of) Michigan for their care."

Patients who receive referrals from the doctor to have a scan of their brain come to the center and complete it. Many times, imaging consultants are able to access that patient's scan within 15 minutes. That data is then analyzed by radiologists and it can be determined whether the patient is seeing symptoms that stem from injuries such as concussions from playing sports or if there's a degenerative disease such as dementia that's

Dr. David Ross, director of the Virginia Institute of Neuropsychiatry and an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, has worked with Katke in implementing NeuroQuant into his clinic. Ross said more than 125,000 people have been scanned using the NeuroQuant program, one that detect 96 percent of issues in patients, compared to 13 percent of the time when done using traditional methods.

It's a technology, Ross said, that he expects to see expand in the years to come. That will hopefully come as NeuroQuant and newer company NeuroGage continue to grow.

"NeuroGage is a younger company and younger software and we're just starting to be used around the country," Ross said. "We're having even more opportunity to expand and grow."

Katke said most insurance companies provide coverage for such a scan if referred by a doctor, making NeuroQuant more accessible. He said it's his company's goal to continue researching new concepts and technologies that can provide better care to patients across the region.

"It's the right thing to do by the patient," he said. "There's no doubt it's going to improve patient outcome long term."

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