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EyeDetect: The eyes don't lie

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Polygraph examiner

Polygraph examiner Dennis Cates demonstrates Eye Detect program Wednesday, June 6, at Mid Valley Polygraph in Porterville. The program will help to determine a person who is lying or telling a truth, in addition to the traditional polygraph system.



and a complex algorithm, a person's credibility score is calculated as being truthful or deceptive.

Those taking the test answer true and false questions on a computer and the infrared camera records eye behavior. When the test concludes, responses to questions and eye measurements are uploaded to a web server for immediate scoring.

As far as how reliable an EyeDetect exam is, Gates said it is between 85 to 86 percent accurate, which he said is about the same as traditional polygraph tests.

"If I could go to Las Vegas and I was guaranteed I was going to win 85 or 86 percent of the time, I would be going," Cates said.

However, when combining EyeDetect with polygraph, Cates said he can achieve 99 percent accuracy.

"I've done two tests on it so far and it is great," Cates said. "If they pass them, it is 99 percent they are telling the truth, but if they fail, it is 99 percent they are lying to me."

Cates said the reason you can put the two tests together and get nearly 100 percent accuracy is because they test two completely different things.

To determine if someone is telling a lie, Cates said EyeDetect tests the pupils of someone's eyes by measuring how they dilate, whereas the polygraph tests all of the other senses.

Cates said combining EyeDetect and a polygraph also helps him avoid his number one fear in his line of work, which he said is to "call someone a liar when they were telling me the truth."

"Doing what I do, that is the worst thing that can happen," Cates said, adding, "I want to be 100 percent sure or as close as I can be."

Despite how good EyeDetect is, Cates said he believes it will never replace the traditional polygraph test, and noted that if he had to choose one or the other, he would pick the polygraph.

"I am a die-hard polygraph guy," Cates said.

Cates said he sees EyeDetect more of an extra tool he can use to help people make a decision in terms of whether someone is lying or telling the truth.

"EyeDetect is new and it is good, but I don't think it will ever replace the polygraph," Cates said.

As far as using EyeDetect in professional settings such as for hiring employees and in court, Cates said it all depends on where you are at in the world.

For instance, Cates said EyeDetect can be used in court in the State of New Mexico, but in California, he said the judge, along with both parties, must agree.

"That is just not going to happen because if the prosecution wants it, the defense doesn't want it, and if the defense wants it, the prosecution isn't going to want it and so they are not going to be able to ever do it," Cates said.

In terms of using EyeDetect or any polygraph exam for employment purposes, Cates said only government agencies are allowed to make such a request.

In the end, Cates said EyeDetect is a wonderful tool he will continue to use to help people make a decision.

"That's what this whole thing is, to help people make a decision," Cates said.