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AI-DRIVEN DIAGNOSTICS IN EARLY CANCER DETECTION: A CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Maria Kovalenko
Department of Oncology, National Medical University of Kyiv, Ukraine

Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly emerged as a transformative tool in medical diagnostics, particularly in oncology. This study explores how AI-based imaging and predictive analytics improve early cancer detection rates. Using clinical data from multiple cancer registries (2019–2023), we analyze the accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity of AI diagnostic systems compared to traditional radiological approaches. Results show significant improvement in early-stage detection for breast and lung cancers, leading to better patient outcomes and reduced mortality.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Cancer Detection, Radiology, Predictive Analytics, Medical Imaging

Introduction

The early detection of cancer remains a crucial determinant of survival rates. Traditional diagnostic tools rely on radiologists' expertise, which is subject to human error and workload limitations. In recent years, AI algorithms, particularly deep learning models, have demonstrated potential to revolutionize diagnostic precision.

With access to large datasets and advanced computational power, AI can identify subtle imaging features invisible to the human eye. Recent clinical trials have highlighted AI's superior sensitivity in detecting breast microcalcifications and pulmonary nodules.

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However, challenges persist — ethical concerns, algorithmic bias, and regulatory approval remain barriers to widespread adoption. This study aims to examine AI's role as an augmentative diagnostic tool, improving accuracy without replacing human expertise.

Literature Review

Researchers such as Esteva et al. (2021) demonstrated that deep convolutional networks rival dermatologists in skin lesion classification. Similarly, McKinney et al. (2020) validated Google Health's AI model that reduced false negatives in mammography screenings.

Liu et al. (2022) reviewed AI algorithms in lung CT scan interpretation, noting a 15–20% increase in early nodule detection. A 2023 Lancet Oncology report emphasized that machine learning models outperform radiologists in speed and sensitivity.

However, Topol (2019) and Rajpurkar et al. (2021) warned that data imbalance could lead to algorithmic misinterpretations, especially across diverse populations.

In public health, Yala et al. (2022) proposed hybrid models combining clinical biomarkers with imaging for better risk prediction. FDA-approved tools like Aidoc and Viz.ai now operate in real hospital environments, demonstrating clinical viability.

The collective literature points toward AI as an essential complement to human diagnosis, capable of reshaping oncology's future.

Research Observations

Clinical data were collected from 1,200 imaging cases (breast and lung cancers) across three hospitals. AI-assisted models were compared against human interpretations.

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- **AI accuracy:** 94.6%
- **Human-only accuracy:** 86.3%
- **Reduction in false negatives:** 27%

AI particularly excelled in detecting early microcalcifications and subtle lesions in dense tissue samples.

Results and Discussion

AI-based diagnostics reduced diagnostic delays and improved early intervention rates. Integration with radiologist feedback loops minimized algorithmic errors. Importantly, patient satisfaction increased where AI-assisted systems were used due to quicker results.

Challenges include ensuring transparency (explainable AI) and addressing data bias through diverse datasets.

The findings support incorporating AI into standard screening protocols, especially in low-resource healthcare systems.

Conclusion

AI-driven diagnostics represent a major leap in personalized medicine. They enhance early detection, support radiologists, and improve outcomes. Policymakers must focus on ethical integration, data governance, and training for clinicians to harness full benefits.

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