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Letter to the Editor

Metamorphosing Neurosurgery: AI-Enabled Clinical Transformations

Sawera Haider

Department of Surgery, Dr. Ruth K. M. Pfau, Civil Hospital Karachi, Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS), Sindh, Pakistan

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The rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced technologies into the field of medical science has heralded a new era in the diagnosis and treatment of neurological conditions. Recent research endeavors have illuminated the transformative potential of AI and innovative techniques, fundamentally altering the landscape of medical practice. In the subsequent missive, we shall delve into a groundbreaking study that exemplifies the remarkable progress witnessed in the intertwined realms of neuroscience, machine learning, and surgery. This study, borne of collective efforts and relentless dedication, offers a glimpse into the future of medical science, where AI and machine learning are poised to play an increasingly pivotal role in reshaping the trajectory of patient care and scientific exploration.

A collaborative effort between UMC Utrecht, the Princess Máxima Center for Paediatric Oncology, and Amsterdam UMC, registered a significant breakthrough in neurosurgery. The study titled "Ultra-fast deep-learned CNS tumor classification during surgery" was recently published in Nature.[1] It addresses the long-standing challenge of identifying the class and aggro of brain tumors during surgery - a process that typically takes up to a week.[2] This research team managed to achieve this feat by utilizing a deep-learning algorithm in conjunction with Nanopore sequencing technology. This innovative approach allows neurosurgeons to determine the tumor type within a remarkably brief timeframe of 20 to 40 minutes.[1] This real-time diagnosis further empowers them to adjust their surgical strategies immediately and accordingly - potentially reducing the need for additional surgeries and minimizing patient risks.

What sets this research apart is its interdisciplinary nature. It brings together expertise from various fields, including basic research, pathology, and surgical practice. This collaborative huddle underscores the potential of interdisciplinary research to drive significant innovation in the medical domain.

The decision by the Princess Máxima Center to implement this technology for children, where the outcome directly influences surgical strategy, is a crucial step forward in pediatric neuro-oncology.[3] The ability to differentiate the type of brain tumor during surgery is not just a diagnostic achievement; it signifies a latent paradigm shift in how we approach pediatric brain cancer. Informed, real-time clinical decisions hold the promise of improving outcomes, reducing patient distress, and paring down the need for follow-up surgeries.

Equally prescient is Amsterdam UMC's already progressive strides to integrate this technology into its daily practice.[4] This commitment to incorporating innovative solutions into standard medical procedures underlines the substance of this advance. It also demonstrates the broader applicability of the technology and its prospect to become a standard practice in neurosurgery.

However, this is just the beginning. As the authors rightfully note, further research is imperative to expand the algorithm's applicability to a wider range of brain tumor types.[1] This expansion is critical to ensure that the technology meets international standards and can be effectively compared with existing diagnostic methods. Additionally, ongoing comparisons of outcomes between this innovative approach and the current, lengthier procedure, conducted in concert with other national and international medical centers, will help gauge its long-term impact on patients' quality of life.

In the coming years, as AI continues to evolve and our understanding of neurological conditions deepens, we can anticipate a future where the synergy between human expertise and AI rei-

Address for correspondence: Sawera Haider, MD. Department of Surgery, Dr. Ruth K. M. Pfau, Civil Hospital Karachi, Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS), Sindh, Pakistan
Phone: +92-336-3438378 **E-mail:** Sawerahaider99@gmail.com

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magines the direction of healthcare and the realm of scientific inquiry. The possibilities are boundless, and the horizon of medical science stretches far beyond what we can imagine today. In this ever-evolving journey, one thing is certain: the relentless pursuit of knowledge and innovation will continue to transform the field of medical science, offering hope and improved outcomes to patients around the world.

Disclosures

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