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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PANCREATIC CANCER THERAPY

Shubamalya L. G.[1]*, Dr. B. V. Krishna Reddy[2] and Dr. V. Guna Sekharan[3]

[1]Pharm. D, RAO'S College of Pharmacy, Venkatachalam, SPSR Nellore, AP -524320.
[2]Professor & HOD, Department of Pharmacology, RAO'S college of Pharmacy, Venkatachalam, SPSR Nellore, AP - 524320.
[3]Professor & HOD, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, RAO'S College of Pharmacy, Venkatachalam, SPSR Nellore, AP -524320.

***Corresponding Author: Shubamalya L. G.**
Pharm. D, RAO'S College of Pharmacy, Venkatachalam, SPSR Nellore, AP -524320.
Email ID: drshubamalyapharmd@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT
In the field of oncology, pancreatic cancer poses a significant problem due to its aggressive nature and poor prognosis. The overall survival rates for pancreatic cancer are still poor, despite advancements in treatment modalities, which highlights the critical need for novel strategies to enhance patient outcomes. Artificial intelligence (AI) has been a promising new area of pancreatic cancer therapy in recent years, with the potential to revolutionize patient care at all stages. AI has the potential to completely transform the management of pancreatic cancer by utilizing cutting-edge computational algorithms and machine learning techniques. These techniques could be applied to early detection, personalized treatment planning, predictive analytics, drug discovery, radiation therapy optimization, clinical decision support, and patient engagement. In order to provide the groundwork for a thorough investigation of AI's potential applications and implications for enhancing the prognosis and quality of life for pancreatic cancer patients, this paper offers an overview of the rapidly developing field of the technology.

KEYWORDS: Pancreatic cancer, Artificial intelligence, Artificial neural network, Machine learning. Deep learning.

INTRODUCTION
Even though pancreatic cancer is the 12th most frequent cancer globally, its prevalence is rising and its prognosis is extremely bad, making it one of the most aggressive malignancies. Globally, there were 495,773 new instances of pancreatic cancer in 2020, and 466,003 fatalities were almost as high. Approximately 80% of patients with pancreatic cancer are found with distant or locally advanced metastatic disease, making late diagnosis one of the biggest problems. Numerous factors contribute to this difficulty, such as the absence of early-stage distinguishing clinical signs, the lack of particular molecular markers, and the pancreas's deep-seated retro-peritoneal position surrounded by intricate structures.[1]

In addition, the environment in which the pancreas lives is extremely vascularized, which promotes quick cancer spread and adds to the disease's unusually aggressive character. Notwithstanding these difficulties, improvements in imaging technology have made it possible to diagnose and treat pancreatic cancer more effectively. These advancements have been made possible by the use of computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MR), 18fluoro-2-deoxy-d-glucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography (18FDG PET/CT), and endoscopic ultrasound (EUS). Nonetheless, considering the diversity and lack of agreement in global recommendations for image-based categorization and treatment response prediction, there is still space for improvement. Furthermore, in order to confirm pancreatic cancer, biopsies are still frequently needed. However, the considerable morphological variety in tumors and the restricted quantity of tissue that can be obtained make histopathological examination difficult as well.[2,3]

OVERVIEW OF AI
Computer science includes AI as a subfield. In 1956, scientists formally proposed it. The creator of artificial intelligence, Alan Turing, prefers to compare machine behavior only with human behavior in order to circumvent the debate over what constitutes "intelligence." According to the behavioral definition, artificial intelligence (AI) is a type of technology that aims to replicate human behavior in computers, particularly in terms of thought and decision-making.

The byproducts of AI development include machine learning (ML) and deep learning. ML is a subset of AI methods that aims to generalize from examples to find new knowledge by using statistics to data issues.[4,5]

The goal of computer science's artificial intelligence (AI) field is to create new, intelligent machines with cognitive abilities comparable to those of humans. These days, a lot of researchers are trying to use AI in the medical domain, including areas like cardiology, cancer, and healthcare. AI may be used for a wide range of activities since it is more flexible and scalable than traditional biometric techniques. Its capacity to combine a wide range of data kinds and comprehend intricate correlations between variables in a versatile, trainable way are other advantages. Artificial Intelligence is becoming more and more advantageous in handling large amounts of data as both the volume of medical data and computer processing capacity increase.

AI can reliably do repetitive jobs, giving doctors more time to address more complicated health issues. Artificial intelligence is transforming the healthcare sector by providing creative answers to difficult problems. Large volumes of data can be analyzed and interpreted by AI algorithms, which can also learn from mistakes and make well-informed judgments. AI is being used in healthcare to enhance patient care, diagnosis, and treatment. The capacity of artificial intelligence to improve diagnosis accuracy is one of its major contributions to healthcare. AI systems are able to accurately evaluate medical pictures, including MRIs, CT scans, and X-rays, helping medical personnel identify ailments early on. AI-driven diagnostic tools can quickly analyze and compare data from a variety of instances, giving doctors insightful information.

Furthermore, AI is essential to tailored treatment. Artificial intelligence (AI) systems can find patterns and connections that help customize treatment regimens for specific patients by evaluating huge datasets that include genetic data, treatment outcomes, and patient health records. This makes it possible for medical professionals to provide tailored treatments, forecast the course of diseases, and lessen side effects.[6,7]

AI is also increasing operational efficiency in healthcare institutions and simplifying administrative procedures. Algorithms for natural language processing (NLP) can automate processes such as medical coding and documentation, relieving healthcare workers of their workload and avoiding mistakes. Artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots are being used to help patients 24/7, respond to their questions, set up appointments, and even offer basic medical advice.

While AI has many advantages, there are drawbacks to its use in healthcare. Healthcare data are extremely sensitive and need to be secured, therefore ensuring data privacy and security is crucial. Furthermore, to guarantee equitable and responsible implementation, ethical issues pertaining to AI in healthcare, such as accountability, transparency, and bias reduction, must be carefully considered.[8,9]

AI TECHNIQUES

The effective use of artificial intelligence (AI) to identify people who are at high risk of developing pancreatic cancer creates opportunities for a thoughtful debate of the wider ramifications and possible uses of AI in the treatment of pancreatic cancer. Looking past the impressive success of early risk prediction, it becomes critical to investigate the particular AI models and approaches used in customized medicine and diagnostics. The mainly uses AI algorithms that have been trained on large patient datasets to estimate the risk of pancreatic cancer, demonstrating the possibility of screening the whole population. To understand more about how well these models handle a variety of datasets, a deeper dive into the underlying AI methodologies—such as machine learning or deep learning techniques—might be helpful.

To further advance the conversation on the revolutionary potential of AI in pancreatic cancer treatment, a more thorough examination of the particular AI methods used and their possible uses in diagnostics and tailored medicine is offered in this section. The employment of robots to mimic human intellect is known as artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence includes machine learning, which focuses on simulating or implementing the learning function in human intelligence. A subset of machine learning, or deep learning, is a model that combines many multi-layer neural networks.[10,11]

Machine Learning

Machine learning (ML) is a branch of artificial intelligence (AI) that addresses the challenge of creating computers that learn on their own. Machine learning (ML) may learn how to complete a task using certain algorithms based on a vast quantity of feature data. The medical industry generates enormous amounts of data every day, and integrating this data to create forecasts becomes difficult. The capacity to integrate enormous volumes of data and combine observed and anticipated values in highly interactive, nonlinear ways is the main benefit of machine learning (ML) 46. ML methods may be generally categorized according on the kind of labels they use. Machine learning can be categorized as semi-supervised, supervised, unsupervised, or reinforcement learning based on labels.[12]

Supervised Learning

Building a model with a response variable for every observation vector is known as supervised learning. Put otherwise, each piece of data has a label. Supervised learning aims to improve understanding of the link between responses and predictors and effectively anticipate future observed responses by constructing a model that relates responses to predictions. The ideal application environment for each method differs.

Examples of these algorithms are Logistic Regressions (LR), Decision Trees (DT), Support Vector Machines (SVM), Naïve Bayes (NB), Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) etc.

Unsupervised Learning

We are able to determine the observation vector by unsupervised learning, but not the corresponding reaction. Stated differently, no data has any labels. Clustering, correlation analysis, dimensionality reduction, and other operations may be carried out using the data from the observation vector. These methods include Principal Component Analysis (PCA), Non-negative Matrix Factorization (NMF), K-mean clustering, etc.[13,14]

Semi-supervised Learning

Semi-supervised learning, as the name implies, lies in the middle of supervised and unsupervised learning, enabling the use of sizable labeled datasets in conjunction with a wealth of publicly available unlabeled data in various application cases. Semi-supervised learning may achieve similar performance to supervised learning with less labeled data, while using a little quantity of labeled data to gain greater performance than supervised learning.

Reinforcement Learning

A particular objective directs the process of reinforcement learning. Agents engage with the uncharted environment, receiving input in the form of rewards or penalties. It then trains itself using this input, gaining experience and environmental knowledge to accomplish certain objectives. Unlike classical machine learning, which employs created, static dataset labels to introduce feedback signals into the learning process, this approach makes use of dynamic data and labels.[15,16]

Ensemble Learning

Ensemble learning, usually for supervised learning, smoothly combines different machine learning algorithms into a single framework as opposed to a single algorithm. In particular, ensemble learning uses many learners to sample the data and provide prediction results. When the aforementioned findings are combined, individual learners' mistakes may be offset by those of other learners, improving prediction performance.

Deep Learning

Among the subsets of ML algorithms is deep learning (DL). It enables a machine to autonomously generate complicated concepts from raw data. Consider picture recognition as an illustration. It is quite complicated to map several distinct pixels to a picture. By breaking down the intricate mappings needed to identify a picture into a number of straightforward nested mappings, DL overcomes this challenge. There are many hidden levels and one visible layer in the algorithm. The picture is input into the visible layer, and the features are progressively extracted from the image by the algorithm in the hidden layers.

In many applications, DL models perform better than shallow ML and conventional data analysis techniques, particularly in areas with large amounts of high-dimensional data. Shallow machine learning, however, works better with low-dimensional data, particularly when there is a small training set. Numerous deep learning (DL) algorithms, including Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), MultiLayer Perceptrons (MLP), Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN), and Deep Belief Networks (DBN), have found extensive application in the field of oncology as a result of the significant advancements in computer technology.[17,18]

AI APPLICATIONS

1. AI's use to pancreatic cancer molecular diagnostics

Large volumes of data must frequently be gathered, screened, processed, and summarized in bioinformatics research. As a result, a popular area of research has been whether machine learning can streamline the procedure and produce quality outcomes. Numerous distinct components, including ZIP4, cell-free DNA, and microRNA (miRNA), are linked to pancreatic cancer. With many recent publications in this subject, research on the molecular mechanism and diagnostics of pancreatic cancer has developed into a standardized, mature discipline. However, it might take a lot of time and effort to manually gather and process data. Through one-time modeling, machine learning reduces the amount of time researchers need to spend analyzing data.

Typically, using machine learning involves the following steps: gathering the fundamental data, splitting it up into experimental and verification groups, creating a screening and processing model, feeding the data from the experimental group into the model, computing the output results, and utilizing the verification group to confirm the model's viability. While the experimental group can improve the model's intelligence, the verification group can be used to assess the experimental group's sensitivity and specificity.[19]

2. Using AI to diagnose pancreatic cancer using imaging

Medical image identification has greatly benefited from AI algorithms, particularly deep learning; convolutional variational autoencoders and other techniques have several uses in this domain. Pancreatic cystic lesions are frequently thought to be a significant indicator of pancreatic cancer. The imaging characteristics of these cystic lesions are extracted, chosen, and categorized using machine learning, which is then applied to forecast whether the lesions are benign or malignant pancreatic cystic lesions. During this method, the three-dimensional (3D) shape of the variation is determined after consistently collecting images and defining the edge of the suspected lesion item. Next, the structure, density, and form of the illnesses that are suspected are retrieved from the picture.

Deep learning is achieved with the employment of AI software, which also screens and analyzes the information to provide the desired picture output. The machine learning model uses the acquired findings, proteomics, and patient data as the input layer to create a prediction model that can assist doctors in differentiating between benign and malignant pancreatic cysts.[20]

3. Utilizing AI to diagnose pancreatic cancer pathologically

It takes a lot of effort and time for pathologists to detect sick tissues in various tissue sections. Subjective judgment is a risk that even seasoned specialists may face. Similar to how AI is used in imaging diagnostics, pathology also benefits from AI, since computerized tissue sections are digitized. Initially, the AI system separates the tissue fragments' lumen and nucleus, then takes the feature vectors out of the tenfold epithelial nuclei. The feature vectors in various cells vary. To find epithelial nuclei, one uses an epithelial nucleus algorithm. Next, the diagnosable disorders' morphological characteristics are retrieved. Lastly, categorization is done using AI classifiers. These classifiers include of support vector machines, ANNs, k-nearest neighbors, and Bayesian classifiers. By merging top-down and bottom-up data, cells may be segmented more precisely using an autonomous learning framework. Following the standardized collection of patient tissue samples, tissue images are gathered. A tissue nuclear distribution probability map is produced using a convolutional neural network model of a deep convolutional neural network. The probability graph's form is then initialized using the iterative region merging procedure. Next, a new segmentation approach is presented to separate a single nucleus by combining a local repulsive deformation model and a sparse shape model with stable selection.[21]

4. Utilizing artificial intelligence in pancreatic cancer therapy

AI in pancreatic cancer treatment offers the ability to speed up the discovery of novel medicines and enhance patient outcomes. AI can assist doctors in giving pancreatic cancer patients the best care possible by creating individualized treatment plans, finding targeted treatments, tracking treatment response, maximizing radiation therapy, and linking patients to clinical trials.

Customized Care Programs

AI is capable of analyzing a wide range of data to provide individualized treatment recommendations, including genetic information, imaging results, and medical histories. In order to construct a 3D model of the tumor and surrounding tissues, AI can employ machine learning (ML) algorithms to assess CT, MRI, and other imaging data. This can reduce the possibility of problems and help doctors arrange radiation therapy and interventions more precisely. AI is also capable of identifying particular mutations or molecular targets that are unique to cancer cells and absent from healthy cells based on genetic data. This can assist medical professionals in creating individualized treatment programs that are specific to the features of every cancer patient's disease.

Specialized Treatments

AI may be used to pinpoint certain biochemical targets that are necessary for pancreatic cancer cells to proliferate and survive. With this knowledge, tailored treatments that selectively block these targets can be created. Genetic data may be analyzed by ML algorithms to find certain mutations that are exclusive to cancer cells and absent from healthy ones. This information can be utilized to create medications that target those mutations selectively; these medications may be less harmful and more successful than conventional chemotherapy. Physicians can tailor treatment regimens based on a patient's genetic profile by using AI to forecast which individuals are most likely to react to particular medications.

Evaluation of Treatment

AI can be used to track a patient's reaction to a therapy and modify the regimen as necessary. For instance, ML algorithms can monitor changes in tumor growth over time by analyzing imaging data. This can assist doctors in assessing the efficacy of the medication and whether any modifications are necessary. Additionally, AI may be used to track a patient's blood markers, including CA 19-9, which can be a sign of pancreatic cancer. Doctors can optimize the likelihood of a favorable outcome by adjusting treatment techniques based on monitoring therapy response.

Radiation Treatment

AI may also be utilized to improve radiation treatment for people with pancreatic cancer. A customized radiation therapy plan may be developed in this way, taking into account the patient's imaging results, medical history, and other information. Algorithms using machine learning (ML) can examine imaging data to determine which parts of the tumor need greater radiation dosages. By doing this, doctors can minimize the chance of damaging good tissue while still using radiation therapy that is more effective. AI may also be used to track how a patient is responding to radiation therapy and modify the course of treatment as necessary.[22,23,24]

Clinical Trial Pairing

Another use of AI is the matching of patients to clinical trials according to their medical history and other factors. Both patient outcomes and the medication development process may benefit from this. Genetic data may be analyzed by ML algorithms to determine which patients are most likely to benefit from a certain treatment. This can increase the likelihood that a clinical trial will be successful by assisting in the identification of people who qualify for one.

Treatment-wise, pancreatic cancer is challenging to treat since it frequently responds poorly to chemotherapy and radiation therapy. However, by concurrently evaluating a wide range of variables, including genetic profiles, treatment histories, and clinical results, AI can assist in the identification of more successful treatments. This may result in better patient survival rates and the creation of more individualized and efficient treatment programs. By locating novel therapeutic targets and forecasting the effectiveness of prospective medications, AI can help with the drug discovery process as well.

All things considered, research and development on the use of AI to pancreatic cancer is ongoing, and it has the potential to revolutionize oncology patient care and administration. Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to improve early detection, increase diagnostic accuracy, and guide treatment decisions by providing more objective and consistent assessments of medical images and analyzing large amounts of patient data. This could ultimately lead to better patient outcomes and more efficient use of healthcare resources. To fully grasp the promise of AI in the treatment of pancreatic cancer, additional study is necessary.[25,26,27]

Future directions

A very dangerous malignancy is pancreatic cancer. Despite the fact that radical resection is a cure, the 5-year survival rate is still rather poor. The amount of data gathered will progressively rise as our understanding of the illness deepens, and clinical decision-making will become increasingly intricate. In order to compare the output of medical professionals utilizing AI help to that of specialists not using AI support, further research is required to prove the effectiveness of AI for medical assistance. Artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms can help with automated image analysis, segmentation, and feature extraction to improve the caliber and effectiveness of radiological exams. Enhancing and validating AI models specifically designed for pancreatic cancer imaging analysis should be the focus of future research in order to improve disease detection, staging, and monitoring. Clinical and genetic indicators have been used to classify patients into risk groups, and artificial intelligence systems have demonstrated promise in these areas. The focus of future research should be on developing robust prediction models that use imaging, genetic, and clinical data to identify patients who are at high risk of treatment resistance, disease progression, or recurrence. These models can support patient care strategies and the selection of customized therapies. The degree to which AI is used in the future is also determined by how patients and healthcare practitioners see and embrace it. Healthcare professionals preparedness to study and use AI technology in their work is more impacted by their level of understanding about the technology, particularly when it comes to pancreatic cancer. The future viability of AI in clinical practice also depends on educating patients and earning their trust.[28,29,30]

CONCLUSION

The detection and management of pancreatic cancer, a disease with a low survival rate and a high death rate, might be completely transformed by artificial intelligence. AI is able to evaluate vast volumes of patient data and medical imagery to find patterns and correlations that can lead to earlier and more accurate diagnoses. AI can help in early identification and diagnosis of pancreatic cancer by identifying particular biomarkers or genetic mutations linked to the disease by examining genetic profiles, imaging tests, and electronic health data. AI can also help in pancreatic cancer staging by evaluating radiographic data to assess the disease's extent and inform therapy choices.

AI cannot be fully trained using a single class of medical picture or biomarker for PC diagnosis and prognosis. It should be mentioned that a novel avenue for further research is the examination of multimodal characteristics based on image and multi-omics. Despite its difficulties, artificial intelligence (AI) will soon permeate every aspect of computers because of its enormous advantage in integrating complicated data. Building workable healthcare AI systems in clinical practice necessitates the collaboration of specialists from several disciplines, including engineers, fundamental scientists, statisticians, and physicians. AI technology will grow more potent and accurate as it develops and as different specialists work together.

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