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Review Article

AI-Enabled Dentistry: A Comprehensive Review

[1]Krutika Chikorde, [2]Nirmal Sunny, [3]Milind Rajan, [4]Yashodhara Shah, [5]Maheen Shaikh, [6]Rana Ismail

[1]Senior Lecturer, Department of Prosthodontics and Crown and Bridge and Implantology, Sharavathi Dental College and Hospital, Shivamogga, India;
[2]Resident Doctor, Consultant Apollo Dental, Bangalore, India;
[3,5]Assistant Professor, [5,6]Post graduate student, Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry, M A Rangoonwala College of Dental Science and Research Centre, Pune, India;
[4]Associate Professor, Department of Public Health Dentistry, Dr D.Y Patil (Deemed to be University) School of Dentistry, Navi Mumbai, India

ABSTRACT:
Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the field of dentistry by integrating machine learning algorithms, advanced image processing, and data analytics into everyday practices. This comprehensive review examines the various facets of AI-enabled dentistry, emphasizing its role in diagnostic accuracy, treatment planning, and overall patient care. The discussion covers the significant applications of AI, including diagnostic imaging, predictive analytics, treatment planning, robotic assistance, and patient management. Additionally, the review addresses the benefits, challenges, and future directions of AI in dentistry, offering a thorough understanding of its potential to revolutionize dental practices.
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Corresponding author: Krutika Chikorde, Senior Lecturer, Department of Prosthodontics and Crown and Bridge and Implantology, Sharavathi Dental College and Hospital, Shivamogga, India

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INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence is swiftly transforming numerous industries, and dentistry is experiencing this technological renaissance firsthand. AI in dentistry involves the integration of advanced machine learning algorithms, image processing techniques, and data analytics to elevate the precision and efficiency of dental care. These AI-driven innovations are revolutionizing diagnostic procedures, optimizing treatment planning, and enriching overall patient care experiences. By automating complex and time-consuming tasks, AI allows dental professionals to focus more on patient interaction and clinical decision-making.[1]

In diagnostic practices, AI leverages sophisticated image processing abilities to automatically detect dental anomalies in radiographic images with remarkable accuracy. This reduces the likelihood of human error, ensures early detection of issues such as cavities or periodontal diseases, and ultimately enhances patient outcomes. Machine learning models, trained on vast datasets, can rapidly analyze images and provide insights, often faster and more accurately than traditional methods.[2]

The realm of treatment planning is also witnessing substantial benefits from AI integration. Customized treatment plans can be developed by analyzing patient data, historical treatments, and outcomes. These plans can be tailored to individual patient needs, increasing the efficacy of interventions and ensuring a higher degree of personalization in dental care. Predictive analytics can forecast potential future dental issues, enabling preventative care measures that save both time and cost in the long run.[3]

Patient care is another domain where AI is making significant inroads. From virtual dental assistants that help with appointment scheduling and patient inquiries to AI-driven tools that maintain and update patient records, the administrative side of dentistry is becoming more streamlined and efficient. This not only improves operational efficiency within clinics but also enhances the patient experience by reducing

waiting times and improving the accuracy of information dissemination.[4]

However, the incorporation of AI in dentistry is not without challenges. Concerns around data privacy, integration with existing systems, and the need for substantial initial investment can pose significant hurdles. Nevertheless, the future prospects of AI in dentistry are promising, with ongoing advancements expected to further refine and expand its capabilities. As AI continues to evolve, it is poised to become an indispensable tool in modern dentistry, driving forward innovations that promise to revolutionize how dental care is delivered and experienced.

APPLICATIONS OF AI IN DENTISTRY[1-3,5-8]

Diagnostic Imaging: AI algorithms, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), are adept at analyzing dental X-rays, CT scans, and intraoral images. These tools can identify cavities, periodontal disease, and even early signs of oral cancer with greater precision than the human eye.

Predictive Analytics: AI systems can predict patient outcomes by analyzing historical data and identifying patterns. This is particularly useful for anticipating the progression of diseases, patient compliance, and potential complications, thereby allowing for proactive treatment strategies.

Treatment Planning: AI assists in designing optimal treatment plans by integrating data from various sources, including patient records, clinical guidelines, and up-to-date research. This ensures personalized and evidence-based care, enhancing treatment efficiency and outcomes.

Robotic Assistance: Robots guided by AI are increasingly being used for repetitive and precise tasks such as drilling and installation of implants. This reduces human error, surgical time, and improves accuracy, leading to better patient experiences and outcomes.

Clinical Workflow Management: AI is revolutionizing dentistry by optimizing various facets of clinical and operational workflows. In workflow optimization, AI automates record-keeping and manages patient records seamlessly, significantly reducing clerical errors and saving valuable time. It also improves appointment scheduling through machine learning algorithms, enhancing clinic productivity and minimizing patient wait times. In restorative dentistry, AI-powered CAD/CAM systems design and fabricate dental prosthetics like crowns and bridges with remarkable precision, and assist in selecting the best materials for restorations tailored to patient-specific factors, thereby improving durability and aesthetics.

AI in Preventive Care: Preventive care is enhanced by AI through innovative tools such as smart toothbrushes and apps that monitor brushing habits and provide real-time feedback, promoting better oral hygiene practices. Furthermore, AI systems analyze oral photos or scans to detect early signs of dental issues, facilitating early intervention. In the domain of training and education, AI-driven simulations offer dental students and professionals realistic practice scenarios, allowing them to hone their skills without risk to patients. Personalized learning plans, created based on AI-driven assessments, ensure practitioners stay updated with the latest advancements.

AI in Tele-Dentistry: Tele-Dentistry has seen significant improvements with AI providing real-time diagnostic and treatment planning support during remote consultations, which expands access to dental care. AI tools offer diagnostic assistance to general practitioners in real-time, even during consultations, thereby improving patient outcomes. Operational efficiency in dental practices is also enhanced with AI-driven supply chain management, optimizing the procurement and inventory management of dental materials and supplies, which reduces costs and ensures timely availability. Overall, AI in dentistry not only enhances clinical outcomes but also improves the efficiency and effectiveness of dental practice operations.

Benefits and Challenges of AI in Dentistry: AI-enabled dentistry brings numerous benefits, including heightened precision in diagnostics and treatment planning, leading to improved patient outcomes. AI algorithms analyze data from radiographs, intraoral scans, and patient records with greater accuracy and speed than human capabilities, enabling early detection of dental issues and tailored treatment plans. Automation of routine tasks such as appointment scheduling and record-keeping enhances operational efficiency, allowing dental professionals to focus more on patient care. AI-driven tools also facilitate better patient engagement through personalized recommendations for oral hygiene and preventive care.

However, the integration of AI in dentistry also poses several challenges. One significant concern is data privacy and security, as handling sensitive patient information requires stringent measures to prevent breaches. The high cost of implementing AI technologies can be a barrier for many dental practices, particularly smaller ones with limited budgets. There is also a learning curve for dental professionals to effectively utilize AI tools, necessitating continuous education and training. Additionally, the reliance on AI systems may lead to decreased hands-on skills over time if not carefully balanced. Ensuring AI systems are regularly updated and maintain a high level of accuracy is crucial to avoid potential misdiagnoses and errors. Despite these challenges, the benefits of AI in enhancing both clinical and operational aspects of dentistry are substantial, promising a future of more efficient and effective dental care.[9,10]

Future Prospects: The future of AI in dentistry looks promising with continuous advancements in technology. Integration with wearable devices for real-time health monitoring, development of more

sophisticated diagnostic tools, and enhanced patient care through personalized treatment plans are just a few anticipated trends.

CONCLUSION

AI-enabled dentistry is paving the way for a more efficient, accurate, and patient-centered approach to dental care. Despite challenges, the benefits of AI in improving diagnostic abilities, treatment planning, and overall patient management are immense. With ongoing research and development, AI is set to become an indispensable asset in the dental field.

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