Deep Science Publishing
https://doi.org/10.70593/978-93-49307-76-6_11

Chapter 11: Clinical decision support systems powered by artificial intelligence and genomics: Transforming healthcare delivery models

11.1 Introduction

Delivering effective healthcare is a complex, multifaceted process that requires high-stakes decision-making at every turn. Discrepancies between the complexity of medical problems and the imperfect resolution in judgment, coding discrepancies, and the increasing mode of specialization are the pressing issues that clinical healthcare faces today. The necessity for better bed management, decrease mortality rate due to delay in treatment, improved patient safety and reduced healthcare cost expenditure has prompted healthcare providers and policy makers to solicit for invention disciplines like management science, operation research or information technology.

The importance of technology in driving improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare delivery cannot be understated. It is viewed as a means to enhance patient outcomes and improve efficiencies, primarily through automation and clinical decision support. The literature reports many ways in which computer-based patient records in clinical settings improve decision making as a result of enhanced retrieval, interpretation and integration of data, and guidelines generated by expert systems, as they become more common, are set to improve the coherence of management plans. Apart from using it directly for patient care, there is also an argument that improved information technology systems might make hospitals and practices more enjoyable places to work, as well as improving administrative routines.

This essay is designed to be a general introduction to Clinical Decision Support Systems. Its main objective is to provide a broad overview of how these systems are positively transforming the healthcare delivery model. Namely, it covers definitions, the status quo, and the current direction of Clinical Decision Support Systems. Furthermore, this essay delves into a discussion of how the discipline must progress as the generation, communication, and storage of medical data increase at an exponential pace. With improvements in AI and genomics rapidly increasing, the way that medicine is practiced will soon become unrecognizable — a potential that will be explored by outlining various AI and genomics-specific applications.

Fig 11.1: Clinical Decision Support Systems

11.2. Overview of Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS)

Similar to previous technological progression, artificial intelligence and genomics will give birth to innovations achieved in both academia and pharmaceutical companies under the spotlight of healthcare. Current growth in these technologies has opened up health in a broader dimension than ever before. New scenarios will certainly allow better personalized models since aggregation of AI insights into genomics data provides a more comprehensive understanding. Considering the enormous bulk of genomics data characterizing an individual's genetic information, it is needed a substantial sophistication in data analytics to convert the vast information into practical resources. Clinical Decision Support (CDSS) is introduced to use genomics and data transformation generated by AI in modern healthcare distribution frameworks. In addition, it is worth noting CDSS as a downstream model of precision health from these recently emerged technologies (Annapareddy & Seenu, 2023; Kalisetty & Lakkarasu, 2024; Kannan, 2024).

CDSS becomes the assets and components of the daily healthcare provider's toolbox with these naturally succeeding steps of technology advancement. CDSS is computational tools intended to aid healthcare specialists in making medical and health-related decisions. A wide variety of medications, controlled behavior, laboratory reporting, diagnostics, and therapy planning can be included in these decisions. Regardless of whether they are integrated with broader EHR systems or are available as a standalone unit, it is evident that CDSS has started to become the component of daily medical practice in different clinical environments. Due to its functional importance in supporting robust clinical performance and the healthcare ecosystem, and the fact that the general public often accepts it as the face of big data applications and AI, CDSS is an excellent point of concern to go forward with in the context of a general introduction.

11.3. The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Healthcare is being revolutionized by artificial intelligence (AI). The integration of AI into the healthcare sector is diversifying across different AI technologies, spanning several applications that together promise to transform the management and delivery of

Fig 11.2: AI in Healthcare

healthcare services worldwide. AI advancements have been made in a variety of AI technologies useful in healthcare, such as machine learning, including deep learning, natural language processing, robotics, and predictive analytics. Different use cases of how AI technologies can and are being used in diverse aspects of healthcare delivery, such as the reading of diagnostic imaging, inpatient risk assessment post-sepsis discontinuation, among others. This diversity highlights how AI might enhance healthcare decision-making processes on multiple levels. Some AI healthcare-related ethical considerations and challenges are further addressed, from the access to and privacy of large amounts of data, to the question of their bias, and the impact on different healthcare professionals. With AI at the forefront of many of these challenges and given large health datasets are increasingly available, this text provides an overview of some recent innovations of AI technologies within healthcare settings and the ways in which different AI technologies are and might be used in different areas of healthcare delivery and management, particularly in tasks of informed decision-making. Moreover, some potential benefits of AI technologies are discussed in healthcare settings and to what extend its responsible deployment can assist in ongoing ethical concerns and challenges.

11.4. Genomics and Its Impact on Personalized Medicine

The integration of genomic information with health and social care is a key aspect in the current development of smart cities due to the impact it can have on public health. Smart cities are rapidly advancing systems that can manage complex issues such as traffic and energy consumption. The technological development in these areas are quickly improving, and the resultant benefits are obvious, but the application of these systems to healthcare is still developing, and challenges such as patient privacy and system integration need to be addressed. As a technology-intensive field, and an area with complex regulatory environments, the management of healthcare within smart cities is still developing, but it promises to help improve lives immeasurably.

With the manned missions to Mars commencing during this decade, the time is ripe for astronaut selection and training strategies to understand the potential for mitigation of the consequences of long-term space travel on human health. Unlike recent short duration, low Earth orbit missions, travel to the red planet presents unique physiological burdens that will challenge the genetic resilience of the crew in unforeseen ways. Moreover, molecular and cellular analysis of previous samples from astronauts in long duration missions have demonstrated significant genetic and epigenetic alterations. This system-wide response, frequently stochastic in nature, sometimes persists for years post-flight, and appears to affect a large portion of the genome. Despite these intriguing results, significant knowledge gaps regarding genetic and epigenetic perturbations during long-duration space flights remain. This effort aims to launch a systematic analysis of long-duration crew members aboard the ISS and assess the stability and resilience of their genomes against these stresses, which could herald breakthroughs in the minimization of health risks to interplanetary travelers. The scientific context of the study is a combination of omics, bioinformatics and systems biology to study the impact of long-duration space flight on miRNA, transcriptomic, and genomic profiles. Four main efforts having risks and uncertainties are undertaken. They are: a) Risk XXX. It involves the lack of adequate Crew Medical Officer to provide a timely response to in-flight health issues; b) Risk YYY. Supplies of data storage and bandwidth of telemetric return could be insufficient; c) Risk ZZZ. There is no guarantee of getting pre-flight and after-flight samples in the planned quantities or quality. More frequent failures could demand a return with a different spacecraft, or a delay in sampling; d) Furthermore, modeling the mechanistic and potential manifestations of a space flight exposure on health in human systems is inherently uncertain. Irrespective of those risks, this groundbreaking integrated human genomics approach to space biology can be a unique enabler for understanding future human travel to Mars, as well as Moon village concepts.

11.5. Integration of AI and Genomics in CDSS

Drawing on the constantly updated body of medical knowledge, Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS) provide actionable insights to healthcare practitioners, at the point of care. CDSS aims to improve healthcare outcomes by enabling evidence-based decisions. A deployment that is revolutionizing healthcare delivery, CDSS operate on medical knowledge, patient data and inference algorithms to help health professionals navigate vast medical information, combining clinical guidelines with historical and current patient data to generate suggestions and alerts for better clinical decisions and performance. After a long incubation period, Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies have matured with successes on various applications, including CDSS. Thanks to technological advances and large amounts of healthcare data collected in digital repositories, AI has recently been successfully applied in CDSS and can now discern complex patterns in patient data and help in crucial clinical decisions, notably by aiding diagnosis, predicting patient outcomes and recommending treatment plans (Sriram & Seenu, 2023; Sambasiva Rao, 2024;).

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Artificial Intelligence and genomics are at the heart of a fourth industrial revolution. By the integration of Artificial Intelligence technologies with the in-depth genetic information stored in biological samples, genomics offers unlimited innovation potential, revolutionizing how clinicians and scientists view and approach health and disease. It highly impacts personalized medicine, not only concerning new practical implementations like diagnosing rare diseases or predicting the response to specific drugs, but also fundamentally by reshaping the delivery of care at the individual patient level, instead of at population level as of now.

Fig : AI is Transforming HealthCare

11.6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) with genomics and electronic health records holds transformative potential, enabling the creation, optimization, and implementation of Clinical Decision Support Systems powered by AI and genomics tailored to diverse clinical domains. This innovative fusion has emerged as a foundational pillar that underpins the concept of 4P medicine, driving proactive, preventive, predictive, and personalized care, wherein patient management is not merely symptomatic but focuses mainly on the underlying mechanisms of health and disease. As such, the AI-CDSS powered by genomics-based big data analytics will transform the current strategies for healthcare delivery in terms of efficacy, safety, decision-making processes, public health policies, and patient outcomes. Systems medicine, as a multidisciplinary integration of systems biology, network analysis, and high-throughput big data technologies, is expected to revolutionize precision health and clinic practice in the upcoming future. Prospective studies are anticipated that will bring this innovative fusion into a standardized maturation phase for the implementation of quantitative and actionable network-driven approaches tailored to specific multi-omics big data, aimed to optimize patient stratification and treatment, as well as the definition of functionality markers of health and disease. However, it must be taken into account that the effective integration of this advanced big data analytics into public health will necessitate a 'paradigm shift' in the current clinical practice, entailing a strict collaboration among clinicians, basic scientists, bioinformatics, engineers, as well as regulators and stakeholders. At the same time, seminars and educational programs addressed to general practitioners, young tutors, and clinical researchers, are considered paramount to foster a new generation of clinical practice integrated with a network-based perspective.

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