Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

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What is AI?

AI stands for Artificial Intelligence, which allows technology to do work that a human would normally do in a healthcare setting. Its use is to enhance human capacity and contribute more in the health profession.

Artificial Intelligence has become more popular in the healthcare profession. However, there has shown to be ethical concerns relating to the accuracy of AI. Solutions have been implemented to outweigh the concerns so that utilizing AI will be more accurate and beneficial.

Ethical Concerns

An ethical concern is that the information can be misleading or inconclusive. AI may result low sensitivity scores due to excessive risk scores that will misguide a patient. It flags 25-30% of cases that a radiologist would do. This leads to a lack of trust with their physician. Another concerning ethical issue is that physicians may rely on the use of AI technology and replace existing jobs.

Potential Solutions

- All results from the AI system should be provided; whether they are accurate or not.
- Only allow AI systems in research-based environments
- Introduce AI to be used as an “independent reader” and not used as a replacement of the radiologist’s job
- Create a mandated system that steers away from biases, and provides explanations of any conflicting results.
- Any AI being used without explanation should be eliminated.
- Allow the public to provide insight while implementation of AI occurs.
- All standards of autonomy are followed, and the patient should trust the clinician to be transparent about the use of AI.

Conclusion

To conclude, Artificial Intelligence may raise ethical concern when being used in the healthcare system. However, there are many possible solutions for the ethical concerns of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare. The desired outcomes of the potential solutions may result in reducing bias, respect for autonomy, and to better maintain trust between the patient and clinician.

References


