



Maintaining *Humanity* in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

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Background

The benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in medicine are unquestionable and it is unlikely that the pace of its development will slow down. From better diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention to more precise surgical procedures, AI has the potential to offer unique opportunities to enhance patient care and improve clinical practice.

Question

Will AI re-humanize or de-humanize medicine:

Will AI allow clinicians to spend less time on administrative tasks and technology related procedures and more time being present in person to attend to the needs of their patients? Or will AI dramatically increase the presence of smart technology in the clinical context to a point of undermining the humane dimension of the patient–physician relationship?

Six Imperatives

Foundation

Humanity: promoting human interaction, respecting personal identity, and serving human ends

Engaging with Technology

Information: gathering relevant information about AI

Transparency: communicating risks and benefit of AI

Engaging with Patients

Participation: including all stakeholders for analysis of ethical, social, and policy implications of AI

Consensus: establishing values and norms to determine standards of practice and public policy

Engaging with the Medical

Profession/Medical Education

Accountability: fostering responsible development and implementation of AI in health care responsible development and implementation of AI in health care

Discussion

These six ethical imperatives counter the adoption of a pragmatist and utilitarian approach that is emerging among the AI industry. The paradigm that is unfolding before us indicates the need to better consider questions concerning (1) the impact of technology on human identity, (2) the need for a foundational framework (anthropological, ethical, and legal) that will allow AI technology to evolve from research and development to the general public, and (3) the potential disruptive nature of AI on the patient–physician relationship.

References:

This presentation has been adapted from the paper “Keeping the “Human in the Loop” in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” (Jotterand & Bosco, 2020)



Thank you
