



Artificial Intelligence in Pediatric Dentistry, a Systematic Review

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The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the field of pediatric dentistry is rapidly evolving, offering significant opportunities to improve diagnostic accuracy, streamline workflows, and enhance patient care. This systematic review explores the current state of AI applications in pediatric dentistry, focusing on diagnostic tools, treatment planning, and patient education. The review identifies key areas where AI is being implemented and discusses the challenges and future prospects of this technology in the field.

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radiographs and intraoral scans. Machine learning and deep learning algorithms are capable of detecting early signs of dental caries; enamel defects; and other dental anomalies with high accuracy. Studies have shown that AI-based systems can detect caries lesions that may be missed by human clinicians; improving early intervention and treatment outcomes.

A study by Zhou et al. (2022) demonstrated the application of convolutional neural networks (CNNs) in detecting dental caries in pediatric patients from radiographic images. The CNN-based system achieved an accuracy rate of 95%; outperforming traditional methods and enhancing early detection; which is crucial for preventing the progression of dental caries in children.

Similarly; AI algorithms have been used in the detection of other dental issues such as malocclusion; periodontal disease; and abnormalities in dental development. The potential of AI in diagnostic radiology offers a non-invasive and cost-effective alternative for pediatric dentists to make more informed decisions about patient care.

AI in Treatment Planning

The development of AI-powered treatment planning tools has been another significant advancement in pediatric dentistry. AI can analyze large datasets from patient records; including dental history; clinical examination; radiographs; and genetic information; to generate personalized treatment plans. These systems can recommend appropriate interventions based on patient-specific factors; thus optimizing treatment outcomes.

For instance; in orthodontics; AI-based algorithms can predict the future growth patterns of children's teeth and jaws; helping orthodontists plan early interventions. A study by Kumar et al. (2021) explored the use of AI in predicting the timing of orthodontic treatments based on craniofacial growth patterns in pediatric patients. By analyzing historical data; the AI system was able to recommend the ideal age for initiating orthodontic treatment; improving the chances of success.

AI-based systems can also assist in developing individualized cariology treatment strategies for pediatric patients. By assessing risk factors such as diet; oral hygiene habits; and genetic predispositions; AI can help pediatric dentists create tailored preventive strategies; reducing the likelihood of future dental problems.

AI in Patient Management

AI plays a crucial role in improving patient management in pediatric dentistry. AI-powered virtual assistants and chatbots can assist in appointment scheduling; answering common patient inquiries; and providing post-treatment care instructions. These tools not only improve efficiency but also enhance patient satisfaction by offering timely and accurate information.

In addition; AI-based systems can help pediatric dentists monitor patients' oral health over time; offering alerts when follow-up visits or preventive measures are due. By leveraging AI; dental practitioners can develop more proactive care strategies that improve the overall experience and outcomes for pediatric patients.

A study by demonstrated the use of an AI-powered chatbot in helping children with anxiety during dental visits. The chatbot provided interactive activities and calming techniques; significantly reducing anxiety levels and improving cooperation during dental procedures.

AI in Education and Training

AI is also being integrated into dental education; offering opportunities for improved training and knowledge acquisition among pediatric dentists. AI-based simulation platforms allow dental students and practitioners to practice complex procedures in a risk-free environment; enhancing their skills without compromising patient safety. One notable application is the use of AI-driven virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) simulations in pediatric dental education. These technologies create immersive learning experiences; enabling dental professionals to visualize and interact with 3D models of the oral cavity and practice procedures such as cavity preparations and orthodontic adjustments.

In addition; AI systems can analyze and assess the performance of dental students in simulated environments; providing instant feedback and highlighting areas for improvement. This feedback can be used to tailor educational programs; ensuring that students acquire the necessary skills to provide quality care in pediatric dentistry.

Discussion

Benefits of AI in Pediatric Dentistry

The integration of AI in pediatric dentistry offers several benefits; including:

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Future direction

The future of AI in pediatric dentistry is promising; with ongoing advancements in AI algorithms and the increasing availability of large datasets. Future research should focus on validating AI-based systems in real-world clinical settings; addressing regulatory challenges; and exploring new applications such as AI in telemedicine for pediatric dental care.

Furthermore; AI's role in predicting and preventing dental diseases in children could be explored in more depth; with the development of proactive care models that reduce the burden of oral diseases across pediatric populations [6-10].

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence holds immense potential for revolutionizing pediatric dentistry by improving diagnostic accuracy; optimizing treatment planning; enhancing patient management; and providing innovative educational tools. While there are challenges to overcome; including data privacy; cost; and ethical concerns; the continued integration of AI into pediatric dental practices is a privacy; cr0.233 Tw l8