

# Artificial Intelligence in *Cancer*

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# Artificial Intelligence in Cancer

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The primary aim of *Artificial Intelligence in Cancer (AIC, Artif Intell Cancer)* is to provide scholars and readers from various fields of artificial intelligence in cancer with a platform to publish high-quality basic and clinical research articles and communicate their research findings online.

*AIC* mainly publishes articles reporting research results obtained in the field of artificial intelligence in cancer and covering a wide range of topics, including artificial intelligence in bone oncology, breast cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, genitourinary cancer, gynecological cancer, head and neck cancer, hematologic malignancy, lung cancer, lymphoma and myeloma, pediatric oncology, and urologic oncology.

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## Artificial intelligence and colorectal cancer: How far can you go?

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### Abstract

Artificial intelligence is an emerging technology whose application is rapidly increasing in several medical fields. The numerous applications of artificial intelligence in gastroenterology have shown promising results, especially in the setting of gastrointestinal oncology. Therefore, we would like to highlight and summarize the research progress and clinical application value of artificial intelligence in the diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of colorectal cancer to provide evidence for its use as a promising diagnostic and therapeutic tool in this setting.

**Key Words:** Artificial intelligence; Colorectal cancer; Diagnosis; Treatment; Prognosis

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**Core Tip:** In this editorial, we would like to highlight and summarize the research progress and clinical application value of artificial intelligence in the diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of colorectal cancer to provide evidence for its use as a promising diagnostic and therapeutic tool in this setting.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is a major healthcare concern worldwide. It is the third most common cancer in males, the second most common cancer in females and the fourth leading cause of cancer death worldwide[1-3]. Furthermore, up to 60%-70% of recognized cases in symptomatic patients are diagnosed at an advanced stage[4-6].

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a form of machine technology in which intelligent agents perform functions associated with the human mind, such as learning and problem solving[7-9]; AI algorithms are primarily used for disease diagnosis, treatment and prognosis[10,11].

In the setting of endoscopic diagnosis, AI has been primarily evaluated in 3 clinical scenarios: Polyp detection, polyp characterization (adenomatous *vs* nonadenomatous), and the prediction of invasive cancer within a polypoid lesion[12].

With regard to polyp detection, the adenoma detection rate (ADR), defined as the proportion of patients with at least one colorectal adenoma detected at the first screening colonoscopy among all the patients examined by an endoscopist, represents a pivotal quality measure for colonoscopy[6,13]. In fact, it has been reported that a 1% increase in the ADR is associated with a 3% decrease in interval CRC incidence[6,14,15].

The outcomes reported by different mono- and multicenter randomized clinical trials are highly promising; the overall ADR of these studies was significantly higher when computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) systems were incorporated (up to 80%)[16-20].

With regard to polyp characterization, CAD systems can achieve thresholds of preservation and incorporate valuable endoscopic innovations for diminutive, nonneoplastic rectosigmoid polyps according to various studies[6,21-25].

With regard to differentiation between invasive cancer and nonmalignant adenomatous polyps, an accuracy of 94.1% and 81.2%, respectively, was achieved in two recent studies[26,27].

AI has also been evaluated in the classification and diagnosis of biopsy samples. In a recent systematic review performed by Thakur and coworkers, the authors concluded that artificial intelligence showed promising results in terms of accuracy in diagnosing CRC with regard to tumor classification, tumor microenvironment analysis, and prognosis prediction. However, the scale and quality of the training and validation datasets of most of these studies are insufficiently adequate, limiting the applicability of this technique in clinical practice[28].

With regard to surgical approaches, robot-assisted colorectal surgery has shown better performance than human-alone surgery, in terms of short- and long-term outcomes[10,29].

Additionally, with regard to the pharmacological approach, some studies evaluated targeted drug delivery[30], drug pharmacokinetics[31] and prediction of the rate of drug toxicity[32].

Furthermore, the personalization and precision of cancer treatments have become major themes in oncology research. For example, "Watson for Oncology" is an AI system that can assist in the precision medicine-based treatment of tumors[10,33]. It can automatically extract medical language from doctors' records and translate them into a practical language for learning[10]. This model can be used to identify new cancer sub-populations, analyze their genetic biomarkers, and find effective drug combinations[10].

Finally, the emergence of AI has allowed clinicians to predict the prognoses of CRC patients more easily and precisely by using several approaches. For example, in one study, genetic markers of CRC were used to train a model based on different algorithms[34]. In another study, a computer-aided analysis method for tissue sections based on multifractal analyses of cytokeratin-stained tumor sections was proposed to evaluate the complexity of tumor-stroma interfaces[35]. Other studies have evaluated cytokeratin immunohistochemical images to predict lymph node metastasis[36,37] and the infiltration of immune cells in influencing CRC prognosis[38].

In the near future, AI technology will help doctors diagnose and treat their patients and provide CRC patients with personalized and accurate prognosis evaluations.

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion. AI could play a pivotal role in gastrointestinal oncology, especially in the setting of CRC, for tailoring patient treatments and predicting their clinical outcomes[9].

Table 1 Application of artificial intelligence in colorectal cancer

Setting	Application	Ref.
Diagnosis	Polyp identification	[16-20]
	Polyp characterization	[21-25]
	Prediction of invasive cancer within a polypoid lesion	[26,27]
	Search for new diagnostic biomarkers	[10]
	Pathologic biopsy	[28]
Treatment	Preoperative evaluation	[10]
	Robot-assisted surgery	[29]
	Drug delivering in a targeted manner	[30]
	Evaluation of drugs pharmacokinetic	[31]
	Prediction of the rate of toxicity	[32]
	Watson for Oncology project	[33]
Prognosis	Search for new prognostic biomarkers	[38]
	Evaluation of tumour-stroma ratio	[35]
	Prediction of lymph-node metastasis	[36,37]

Future randomized studies could directly increase the overall value (quality and costs) of AI by examining its effects not only in diagnosis (by evaluating colonoscopy findings, endoscopy durations, polyps and ADRs) but also in prognosis and therapy.

Since AI science continues to grow and evolve, the current limitations must be considered as a future challenge; these limitations are also inherited by the medicine applications of AI, including the difficult predictability of situations characterized by some degree of uncertainty[6]. Table 1 shows the applications of AI in CRC.

Future applications of AI could be implemented in all the settings of CRC management, such as the determination of the potential role of noncoding RNAs in tumor diagnosis and treatment[10].

Finally, the integration of AI in human-based medicine has to be considered. AI has never been nor will ever be considered a substitute for the physician; on the contrary, it seems to be an extremely helpful tool to be used by the physician who, given his or her ability and skills, is the only one able to process and interpret all the information extracted by the AI to make decisions on patient management.

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## Advances in the application of artificial intelligence in solid tumor imaging

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### Abstract

Early diagnosis and timely treatment are crucial in reducing cancer-related mortality. Artificial intelligence (AI) has greatly relieved clinical workloads and changed the current medical workflows. We searched for recent studies, reports and reviews referring to AI and solid tumors; many reviews have summarized AI applications in the diagnosis and treatment of a single tumor type. We herein systematically review the advances of AI application in multiple solid tumors including esophagus, stomach, intestine, breast, thyroid, prostate, lung, liver, cervix, pancreas and kidney with a specific focus on the continual improvement on model performance in imaging practice.

**Key Words:** Artificial intelligence; Oncology; Imaging; Model performance

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**Core Tip:** Many reviews have summarized artificial intelligence applications in the diagnosis and treatment of a single tumor type. However, this is the first review to systematically review how artificial intelligence relieves clinical workloads and changes the current medical workflows while maintaining high quality to provide precision medicine in multiple solid tumors. Due to its clear advantage in imaging

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practice, patients will benefit from early diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

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## INTRODUCTION

Cancer is currently a worldwide health problem. Early diagnosis and timely treatment are crucial in reducing cancer-related mortality. Medical imaging is a common technique used to guide the clinical diagnosis of solid tumors. Accurate interpretation of imaging data has become an important but difficult task in the diagnosis process.

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to an information science that researches and develops theories, methods, technologies and application systems used to simulate, expand and extend human intelligence[1]. With the rapid development of machine learning, deep learning and other crucial AI technologies in the field of image processing in recent years, these approaches have made great contributions to disease classification, prognosis prediction and therapy evaluation and can identify patterns that humans cannot recognize[2-4] (Figure 1). Here, we review the advantage of AI applications in imaging examinations of multiple solid tumors and highlight its great benefits in optimizing the clinical work process, providing accurate tumor assessment for current precision medicine and achieving better diagnosis and treatment results based on its practical data and literature reports.

## APPLICATION OF AI IN GASTROINTESTINAL TUMORS

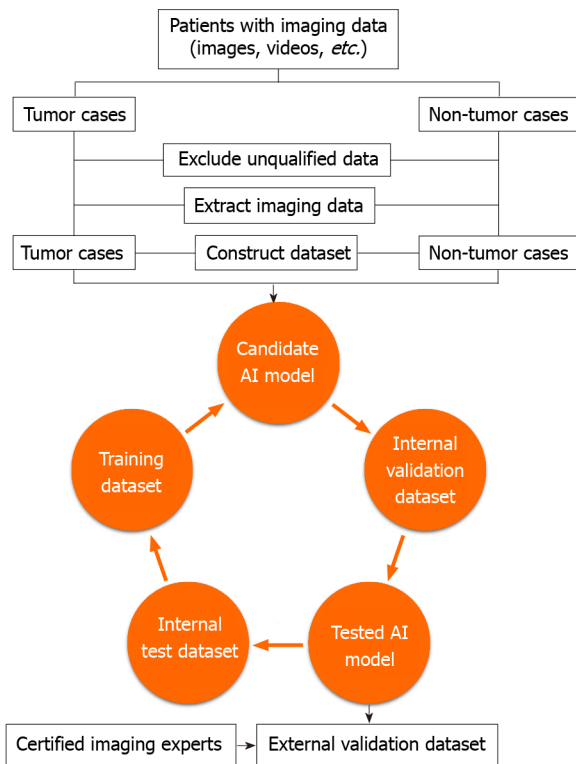
Gastric cancer is one of the most common gastrointestinal malignancies at present, with a poor prognosis and high mortality. Endoscopy and pathological biopsy are still the "gold standard" for the diagnosis of gastric cancer, but they have shortcomings[5]. For example, the sensitivity of endoscopic diagnosis of atrophic gastritis is only 42%, so the rate of missed diagnosis is relatively high[6]. Multipoint biopsy sampling increases the risk of tissue injury and gastrorrhagia[7,8]. Some advanced endoscopic techniques, such as color endoscopy combined with magnification endoscopy and laser confocal microscopy, can provide only images of the mucosal surface of the gastrointestinal tract[7-9]. Billah *et al*[10] used capsule endoscopy along with a convolutional neural network (CNN) and color wavelet features to identify gastrointestinal polyps. Urban *et al*[11] applied deep neural networks to identify colonic polyps from colonoscopy. Lahner *et al*[12] established a decision support system (DSS) for the diagnosis of atrophic gastritis without endoscopy. The diagnostic accuracy of these three protocols was above 96%, which supports the promising generalization of AI-based technologies.

### *Esophagus squamous cell cancer*

Narrow-band imaging (NBI) is an emerging advanced, noninvasive endoscopic technology that can strengthen the evaluation of the surface structure and microvascular morphology of the esophagus and improve the accuracy rate of endoscopic diagnosis[13]. Using NBI to diagnose squamous cell carcinoma can lead to various results due to different judgments from doctors[14,15]. Fukuda *et al*[16] applied a deep CNN model to examine NBI endoscopy video images of squamous cell carcinoma, showing higher detection sensitivity (91.1%) than experts and high detection accuracy (88.3%). Those authors suggested that the AI system can discover tumors > 30 mm or with muscularis mucosa invasion that were missed diagnosis by experts. Compared to endoscopic experts, AI has a better diagnostic performance.

### *Atrophied gastritis*

The CNN-chronic atrophic gastritis approach developed by Zhang *et al*[7] has a good



**Figure 1** A flowchart of artificial intelligence model construction. AI: Artificial intelligence.

classification performance for recognizing chronic atrophic gastritis based on gastric antrum images whose area under the curve (AUC) was close to 0.99. The accuracy, sensitivity and specificity of CNN-chronic atrophic gastritis in the field of atrophic gastritis diagnosis are all above 0.94. In this study, 1458 mild cases, 1348 moderate cases and 38 severe cases of atrophic gastritis were tested by the CNN model, and the accuracy rates were 0.93, 0.95 and 0.99, respectively, indicating good consistency of the CNN model recognition with the clinical diagnosis of atrophic gastritis.

However, the literature has reported that AI technology used for stomach cancer or esophageal stomach adenocarcinoma is susceptible to problems related to tumor morphology, atrophic change, uneven mucosal background, *etc.*, which leads to low specificity and high false positive rate (FPR)[17]. Several studies indicated that the application of AI in the clinic has high accuracy. If AI technology is combined with endoscopy doctors, then endoscopy can help doctors better diagnose atrophic gastritis, increase the rate of early gastric cancer diagnosis and avoid unnecessary pathological biopsy[18,19].

### Early gastric cancer

Regarding small early gastric tumors, Abe *et al*[18] showed that AI technology can find anomalies faster than endoscopy doctors (45.5 s vs 173.0 min), and it also shows higher sensitivity (58.4% vs 31.9%). However, the positive predictive value (PPV) and specificity of AI technology were relatively lower than those of endoscopy doctors (26.0% vs 46.2% and 87.3% vs 97.0%, respectively)[18]. A computer-aided design (CAD) system is used in stationary images of magnifying endoscopy combined with NBI, which have an accuracy rate for early gastric cancer diagnosis of 85.3% [20]. When endoscopy cannot identify and capture images of lesions, magnifying endoscopy combined with NBI video in the CAD system can help the real-time clinical diagnosis of early gastric cancer. Horiuchi *et al*[19] proposed that the diagnostic performance of the CAD system using magnifying endoscopy combined with NBI video is equal to or better than that of 11 experienced endoscopic experts in early gastric cancer. The AUC was 0.8684, and its accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, PPV and negative predictive value were 85.1%, 87.4%, 82.8%, 83.5% and 86.7%, respectively[19].

### Colorectal cancer

Colorectal colonoscopy is the key technique for the diagnosis of colorectal polyps. However, several studies have shown that 15.4% of colorectal lesions ( $\leq 3$  mm) were

diagnosed as adenomas under endoscopy but were judged as normal mucosa *via* pathological examination[21]. Intraobserver and interobserver discrepancies are the main problem[22]. Therefore, some studies have suggested that using AI techniques combined with endoscopy and imaging may help physicians identify colorectal lesions and perform pathological classification and prognosis prediction[22].

Shahidi *et al*[21] established a real-time AI-based clinical DSS to assess the differences between results from endoscopy and pathology in lesions  $\leq 3$  mm. Of the 644 lesions, 458 lesions reached agreement, while significant differences were found in 99 cases (adenoma under endoscopy but normal mucosa by pathologic examination). When using the clinical DSS for further evaluation, they found that the clinical DSS data of 90 cases conformed to those from endoscopy (coincidence rate was 90.9%), supporting AI objectivity prior to pathological examination and interpretation[21]. Yang *et al*[22] proposed a CNN model whose diagnosis accuracy was better than or similar to that of endoscopic experts (71.5% *vs* 67.5%), and applications that support the CNN model can help endoscopic physicians identify colorectal lesions to reduce the misdiagnosis rate. The CNN model can also extend the discrimination ability between advanced colorectal cancer and noncancerous lesions, helping endoscopy doctors choose the best treatment strategy effectively[22]. Randomized clinical trials are needed to determine if the CNN model applied to real-time endoscopic video can help endoscopic doctors detect tiny or negligible lesions in the examination.

Wang *et al*[23] explored the feasibility of faster region-based CNN technology. They used transfer learning technology and images and features of the ImageNet VGG16 model to automatically identify the positive circumferential resection margin in high-resolution magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of rectal cancer, and the accuracy, sensitivity and specificity were 93.2%, 83.8% and 95.6%, respectively[23]. The use of  $^{18}\text{F}$  fluorodeoxyglucose-positron emission tomography (PET)/computed tomography (CT) to assess early changes in glucose metabolism parameters during neoadjuvant chemotherapy can predict treatment efficacy[24,25]. Traditional  $^{18}\text{F}$  fluorodeoxyglucose-PET/CT cannot accurately and safely select patients for organ preservation strategies[26]. Williams *et al*[27] suggested that random forest is one type of AI technique used for tumor classification and regression evaluation. Shen *et al*[28] used random forest to demonstrate that the radiomics obtained from baseline  $^{18}\text{F}$  fluorodeoxyglucose-PET could accurately predict pathological complete response with 95.3% accuracy.

## APPLICATION OF AI IN BREAST TUMORS

Ultrasound and radiology are common imaging techniques in breast examination for cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment. Ultrasound is important for the noninvasive measurement of cancer lesions and lymphatic metastasis, increasing the positive diagnostic rate for tiny, aggressive and lymph node-negative breast cancer[29]. However, ultrasound has lower diagnostic specificity and PPV for breast cancer[30]. For example, the axillary positive detection rate of pathological biopsy is 15% to 20%, which is often neglected by ultrasound, especially in those with unspecific characteristics, such as unclear, irregularly shaped edges or fat loss[31]. Although MRI is highly sensitive for the diagnosis of breast cancer, its FPR is as high as 74%[32]. Molybdenum target X-rays are sensitive to microcalcification with the advantage of high cost performance. However, regarding dense breasts where lesions are probably hidden, molybdenum target X-ray has limitations with a lower detection rate[33].

Zhou *et al*[29] proposed a CNN-based deep learning model to predict lymph node metastasis according to the characteristics of primary breast cancer under ultrasound. The data showed that its AUC was approximately 90%, and the sensitivity and specificity were above 80% and 70%, respectively. Mango *et al*[30] integrated their AI-based decision support system into ultrasonic images, and the results showed that this technique is helpful in Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System classification, reducing the intraobserver and interobserver variabilities. The variability incidence of ultrasound only in Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System 3 to Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System 4A or above was 13.6%, and it decreased to 10.8% when ultrasound was combined with decision support.

Spick *et al*[34] showed that adding diffusion-weighted imaging into MRI-guided vacuum-assisted breast biopsy could reduce the FPR by more than 30%. Penco *et al*[32] verified the accuracy of MRI-guided vacuum-assisted breast biopsy in comparison with histopathological results. The results exhibited 94% accuracy, 84% sensitivity and 77% specificity, with a negative predictive value of up to 97%. Adachi *et al*[31] com-

pared the diagnostic performance in dynamic contrast-enhanced magnetic resonance for breast cancer detection of AI using RetinaNet to that of expert readers; the former had a higher diagnostic performance than the latter (AUC 0.925 *vs* 0.884). With the support of AI, the diagnostic performance of expert readers was significantly improved (AUC was 0.899). The sensitivity and specificity of independent AI, experts not using AI and experts using AI in breast cancer diagnosis were 0.926, 0.847, 0.889 and 0.828, 0.841, 0.823, respectively. However, AI may misdiagnose normal breast tissue as malignant due to background parenchymal enhancement or tissue density or misdiagnose invasive ductal carcinoma near the axilla as normal axillary lymph nodes[31].

Sasaki *et al*[35] proposed that AI-based Transpara systems reduced the differences between computers and experts in the detection sensitivity to breast cancer *via* molybdenum targets. The expert detection sensitivity was 89%; with the Transpara system, the detection sensitivity for malignant lesions was increased to 95%[35]. When interpreting breast images, the Transpara system can significantly increase AUC and diagnostic sensitivity without increasing reading time[36].

In summary, AI technology increases the detection sensitivity of latent breast lesions while maintaining higher specificity. This technology also reduces the variability in interpretation and helps to improve the clinical diagnostic performance.

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## APPLICATION OF AI IN THYROID TUMORS

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In recent years, with the increasing incidence rate of thyroid cancer, the accurate classification of thyroid lesions and the prediction of lymph node metastasis have been prioritized to be the core of clinical intervention[37,38]. Ultrasound is a noninvasive, easily accessible and economical examination tool, but its accuracy may vary according to the different professional backgrounds of the readers.

Barczyński *et al*[39] verified that the S-Detect™ model in real-time CAD system had no significant difference from experienced radiologists in sensitivity, accuracy and negative predictive value of thyroid tumor classification. The overall accuracy of disease evaluation was 76% for surgical doctors who had basic ultrasonic skills not using the CAD system but 82% for doctors with experience using the CAD system[39]. The sensitivity and negative predictive value of lesion classification by the CAD system was similar to those by ultrasonic experts. It further helped to locate the thyroid nodules for further puncture cytology. Nevertheless, the S-Detect™ model had defects in identifying calcifications[40].

Postoperative lymph node metastasis is a key factor in the local recurrence of thyroid carcinoma. It is necessary to use CT or ultrasound to judge whether lymph node metastasis is present before surgery[37,38]. A study conducted by Lee *et al*[41] confirmed that the AUC of the CAD system based on deep learning in the classification of thyroid neck lymph node metastasis from preoperative CT images was 0.884, and its diagnostic accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, PPV and negative predictive value were 82.8%, 80.2%, 83.0%, 83.0% and 80.2%, respectively.

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## APPLICATION OF AI IN PROSTATE CANCER

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Serum prostate specific antigen (PSA), digital rectal examination and transrectal prostate ultrasound-guided prostate puncture are the main methods for the early diagnosis of prostate cancer[42]. High-level PSA (> 2 ng/mL) is an important indicator of postoperative monitoring and identifying the recurrence of prostate cancer[43].

Biopsy technology guided by MRI/ultrasound improves the clinical detection of prostate cancer[44,45]. MRI detects pathological changes of Prostate Imaging Reporting and Data System classification is affected by poor intrareader and inter-reader consistency, leading to a 40% difference in targeted biopsy. By adding AI, it will converge Prostate Imaging Reporting and Data System and improve reader consistency, achieving a better (86%) agreement of detected results and pathological diagnosis[46].

Deep learning applications in the field of prostate malignant tumors have been widely used with MRI[47,48]. Although some patients were treated with radical prostate surgery and serum prostate specific antigen < 1, <sup>11</sup>C-choline PET/CT still showed a 20.5% positive rate[49]. Prostate uptake of <sup>18</sup>F-choline is associated with the overall survival rate, making it as important as serum prostate specific antigen and Gleason scores in identifying high-risk and low-risk patients. Polymeri *et al*[50] used



an automatic estimation method based on deep learning, and the obtained  $^{18}\text{F}$ -choline uptake value (71 mL) could reach radiologists' visual estimates (65 mL and 80 mL) within seconds. This approach significantly improved the accuracy and precision of PET/CT imaging in the diagnosis of prostate cancer.

Raciti *et al*[43] used the software Paige Prostate Alpha to significantly increase the detection rate of prostate cancer while maintaining high specificity. Especially for small, poorly differentiated tumors, the sensitivity can be increased to 30% up to 90%. Similar AI systems can also be used to detect micrometastases in prostate cancer.

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## APPLICATION OF AI IN LUNG CANCER

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When using CT to screen pulmonary nodules, lung-Reporting and Data System can increase sensitivity, but its FPR is also high[51]. The CAD method has 100% sensitivity, but its specificity is extremely low (up to 8.2 false positive nodules per scan)[51]. The negative predictive value of PET/CT for lymph node lesions of peripheral T1 tumors ( $\leq 3$  cm) is as high as 92%-94%[52].

Chauvie *et al*[51] attempted to apply new methods to digital tomosynthesis: (1) Binomial visual analysis, PPV (0.14) and sensitivity (0.95); (2) Pulmonary-Reporting and Data System, PPV (0.19) and sensitivity (0.65); (3) Logistic regression, PPV (0.29) and sensitivity (0.20); (4) Random forest, PPV (0.40) and sensitivity (0.30); and (5) Neural network, PPV (0.95) and sensitivity (0.90). These data indicated that the neural network was the only predictor of lung cancer with a high PPV value and no loss in sensitivity. Tau *et al*[52] used CNN to analyze the characteristics of the primary tumor based on PET and to evaluate the existence of lymph node metastasis in newly diagnosed non-small cell lung cancer patients. The sensitivity, specificity and accuracy of predicting positive lymph nodes were  $0.74 \pm 0.32$ ,  $0.84 \pm 0.16$  and  $0.80 \pm 0.17$ , respectively; those of predicting distal metastasis were  $0.45 \pm 0.08$ ,  $0.79 \pm 0.06$  and  $0.63 \pm 0.05$ , respectively. The sensitivity of predicting distant lymph node metastasis was low (24% at prophase and 45% at the end of the monitoring period). CNN had high specificity (91% in the M1 group and 79% in the follow-up group), but the PPV and negative predictive value in class M were lower at the end of follow-up (54.5% and 68.6%).

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## AI APPLICATION IN OTHER SOLID TUMORS

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### **Hepatocellular carcinoma**

The texture analysis of contrast-enhanced magnetic resonance is considered an image tag for predicting the early reaction of hepatocellular carcinoma patients before transarterial chemoembolization (TACE) treatment[53]. Its accuracy for the evaluation of complete remission and incomplete remission was 0.76. Preoperative dynamic CT texture analysis in the prediction of hepatocellular carcinoma response to TACE treatment has certain value. Peng *et al*[54] used a CT-based deep learning technique (transfer learning) that compensated for the inaccuracy of the result caused by insufficient image information. Further studies showed that the three groups (one training set and two validation sets) of data showed a high AUC for predicting the response to TACE treatment: complete response (0.97, 0.98, 0.97), partial response (0.96, 0.96, 0.96), stable condition (0.95, 0.95, 0.94) and disease progression (0.96, 0.94, 0.97); simultaneously, the accuracy reached 84.0%, 85.1% and 82.8%[54]. Therefore, the CT-based deep learning model helps physicians preliminarily estimate the initial response of hepatocellular carcinoma patients to TACE treatment and helps to predict the therapeutic effect of TACE.

### **Cervical cancer**

Colposcopy is widely used in the detection of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia, and it can guide cervical biopsy in women suspected of having cytological abnormalities or human papillomavirus infection[55,56]. In low- and middle-income countries with a lack of tools for colposcopy, the diagnostic accuracy of cervical biopsy to detect cervical intraepithelial neoplasia is quite low (30%-70%)[57]. The development and application of AI-guided (*e.g.*, support vector machine) digital colposcopy helped solve the bottlenecks and improved the screening effectiveness of cervical cancer to better understand the characteristics of cervical lesions[58]. Another advantage of AI is the "real-time" diagnosis report, which continues to optimize clinical workflows[58].



### **Pancreatic cancer**

Accurate segmentation of the pancreas is important to AI training and AI assisted guidance. Wolz *et al*[59] used multi atlas technology, which only achieved a dice similarity coefficient (DSC) of 0.70. Summers *et al*[60] used deep learning technology, which reached a DSC of 0.78%. Wang *et al*[61] proposed that interactive fully convolutional network for the segmentation of the pancreas did not achieve satisfactory results. Boers *et al*[62] assumed that the latest interactive U-Net neural structure is better than interactive fully convolutional network because it can produce a better initial segmentation (DSC  $78.1\% \pm 8.7\%$  vs DSC  $72.3\% \pm 11.4\%$ ), achieving expert performance faster than artificial division (interactive U-net 8 min to 86% DSC, artificial segmentation 15 min to 87.5% DSC). The average time cost fell 48.4%, but simultaneously due to the low content of visceral fat in some patients, the boundary between the pancreas and surrounding tissues was not clear, which may lead to poor segmentation performance.

### **Renal cancer**

Histopathology is the gold standard for clear cell renal cell carcinoma evaluation[63]. The World Health Organization/International Society of Urological Pathology grading system is used to predict the prognosis of renal clear cell carcinoma[64-66]. Using CT or MRI indications to describe the grading of clear cell renal cell carcinoma is often influenced by subjective factors[67-70]. Cui *et al*[71] studied the machine learning algorithm to extract and analyze the profiles of tiny tumors. Further grading prediction of clear cell renal cell carcinoma by multiparameter MRI or multiphase CT-based machine learning provides a valuable noninvasive assessment for clinicians in the preoperative treatment of renal tumors[71].

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## **CONCLUSION**

AI has clear characteristics of high efficiency, specificity and sensitivity in the classification, identification and diagnosis of solid tumor. After its integration into imaging technology, AI optimizes clinical workflows, decreases the discrepancy between the readers and reduces the misdiagnosis rate, which helps clinicians effectively choose appropriate therapeutic strategies and accurately predict the prognosis (Table 1). All these improvements bring great advantages and convenience to current precision medicine. Nevertheless, problems still exist. For example, the FPR increases due to the morphology of the tumors or the uneven mucosal background and the identification failure of calcification because of technical defects. Therefore, AI cannot be a complete replacement of humans in the contemporary situation. We believe that with the continuous improvement of AI technology, the application of AI in tumor diagnosis and treatment will have better prospects in tumors not limited only to solid tumors.

Table 1 Summary of artificial intelligence application in clinical imaging examination

Publish date	Ref.	AI	Application scenarios	Sensitivity	Accuracy	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Detection time	Variation	Volume	AUC	DSC
10/2020	Fukuda <i>et al</i> [16]	CNN	Diagnosis of esophagus squamous cell cancer	91.1%	88.3%								
05/2020	Zhang <i>et al</i> [7]	CNN	Diagnosis of chronic atrophic gastritis	94.5%	94.2%	94.0%						0.99	
10/2020	Horiuchi <i>et al</i> [19]	CAD	Diagnosis of early gastric cancer	87.4%	85.1%	82.8%	83.5%	86.7%				0.8684	
02/2020	Wang <i>et al</i> [23]	Faster R-CNN	Circumferential resection margin of rectal cancer	83.8%	93.2%	95.6%							
03/2020	Shen <i>et al</i> [28]	RF	Pathological complete response of rectal cancer		95.3%								
01/2021	Abe <i>et al</i> [18]	CNN	Diagnosis of gastric cancer	58.4%		87.3%	26.0%		45.5 s				
01/2020	Zhou <i>et al</i> [29]	CNN	Lymph node metastasis prediction from primary breast cancer	> 80%		> 70%						0.9	
03/2020	Penco <i>et al</i> [32]	DWI	MRI-guided vacuum-assisted breast biopsy	84.0%	94.0%	77.0%		97.0%					
05/2020	Adachi <i>et al</i> [31]	RetinaNet	Diagnosis of breast cancer	92.6%		82.8%						0.925	
		Readers without RetinaNet		84.7%		84.1%						0.884	
		Readers with RetinaNet		88.9%		82.3%						0.899	
02/2020	Sasaki <i>et al</i> [35]	Experts	Diagnosis of breast cancer	89.0%									
		Experts with Transpara system		95.0%									
06/2020	Mango <i>et al</i> [30]	US	Diagnosis of BI-RADS 3 to BI-RADS 4A or above of breast cancer							13.6%			
		US+DS								10.8%			
02/2020	Barczyński <i>et al</i> [39]	Doctors without CAD	Classification of thyroid tumor		76.0%								
		Doctors with CAD			82.0%								
06/2020	Lee <i>et al</i> [41]	CAD	Diagnosis of thyroid neck lymph node metastasis	80.2%	82.8%	83.0%	83.0%	80.2%				0.884	
03/2020	Polymeri <i>et al</i> [50]	CNN	Prostate gland uptake in PET/CT								71 mL		
10/2020	Raciti <i>et al</i> [43]	Paige Prostate	Diagnosis of prostate cancer	90.0%									

		Alpha					
07/2020	Chauvie <i>et al</i> [51]	Binomial visual analysis	Lung DTS	95.0%			14.0%
		Pulmonary-RADS		65.0%			19.0%
		Logistic regression		20.0%			29.0%
		RF		30.0%			40.0%
		Neural network		90.0%			95.0%
07/2020	Tau <i>et al</i> [52]	CNN	Diagnosis of lymph node metastasis of lung cancer	74% ± 32%	80% ± 17%	84% ± 16%	
			Predicting of distal metastasis of lung cancer	45% ± 8%	63% ± 5%	79% ± 6%	54.5% 68.6%
01/2020	Peng <i>et al</i> [54]	Transfer learning	Predicting of TACE treatment response of hepatocellular carcinoma		> 82.8%		> 0.94
09/2013	Wolz <i>et al</i> [59]	Multi atlas technology	Segmentation of the pancreas				70.0%
08/2020	Gibson <i>et al</i> [62]	Deep learning technology					78.0%
		iFCN					72.3% ± 11.4%
		Artificial segmentation					15 min to 87.5% DSC

AI: Artificial intelligence; PPV: Positive predictive value; NPV: Negative predictive value; AUC: Area under the curve; DSC: Dice similarity coefficient; CNN: Convolutional neural network; Faster R-CNN: Faster region-based convolutional neural network; RF: Random forest; DWI: Diffusion-weighted imaging; US: Ultrasound; DS: Decision support; CAD: Computer-aided design; DTS: Digital tomosynthesis; TACE: Transarterial chemoembolization; iFCN: Interactive fully convolutional network; BI-RADS: Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System; MRI: Magnetic resonance imaging; PET/CT: Positron emission tomography/computed tomography; RADS: Reporting and Data System.

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