Journal of Population Therapeutics & Clinical Pharmacology

ORIGINAL ARTICLE
DOI: 10.53555/q833js02

INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN DENTAL DIAGNOSTICS AND TREATMENT PLANNING – A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Dr. Anjum Younus[1*], Dr Abdul Aleem[2], Dr Zubia Waqar[3], Dr Samra Bokhari[4], Dr Sana Adeeba Islam[5], Dr Nabeel Khan[6].

[1*]BDS, MDS, MBA-MHM Assistant Professor, Department of Community & Preventive Dentistry Liaquat College of Medicine & Dentistry Karachi Email: dr.amirker@hotmail.com
[2]BDS, MCPS Senior Registrar, Department of Community Dentistry Karachi Medical and Dental College,Karachi Metropolitan University PhD Scholar, SIOHS Jinnah Sindh Medical University abdaleem1@gmail.com
[3]B.D.S, MSc Public Health (UK), MSc Health Professions Education, PhD Scholar Dental Health Sciences, Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) Department of Medical Education, Indus University of Health Sciences - Indus Hospital & Health Network (IUHS-IHHN) Email: zubia.waqar@tih.org.pk, zwaqar83@gmail.com
[4]Senior Registrar, National Institute of Child Health Karachi BDS, FCPS, M-Orth, MBA (HHCM), CHPE, PhD Scholar SIOHS Jinnah Sindh Medical University
[5]MSc(UK),BDS,CHPE Associate Professor, Head Of Department, Community Dentistry, Karachi Medical and Dental College Karachi Metropolitan University sanaadeeba12@hotmail.com
[6]BDS, PGD, MS, CHPE, Assistant Professor, Oral Biology Department, Karachi Medical and Dental College,Karachi Metropolitan University dr.nabeelkhan@hotmail.com

***Corresponding Author:-** Dr. Anjum Younus
BDS, MDS, MBA-MHM Assistant Professor, Department of Community & Preventive Dentistry Liaquat College of Medicine & Dentistry Karachi Email: dr.amirker@hotmail.com

Abstract:

Background:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative technology in healthcare, providing advanced tools for diagnostics and treatment planning. In dentistry, AI is showing significant potential to improve accuracy, reduce errors, and streamline decision-making processes. Despite these advancements, there remains a need to explore its full capacity, challenges, and benefits in the realm of dental diagnostics and treatment planning.

Objective:

The primary objective of this study was to investigate the role of AI in enhancing dental diagnostic accuracy and optimizing treatment planning. The study aimed to evaluate how AI-driven tools perform in comparison to traditional methods and assess their potential impact on clinical outcomes.

Method:

This study analyzed 500 dental patients aged 18 to 65 with various oral health conditions who underwent diagnostics and treatment planning using AI-based systems from January 2020 to July 2023. AI tools such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) integrated into CBCT, panoramic radiographs, and intraoral cameras were used, with software including VideaAI and Pearl Dental AI.

Data collected from electronic health records (EHR) focused on diagnostic accuracy and treatment outcomes. Statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS version 27.0, comparing AI performance with traditional methods through paired t-tests using level of significance<0.05.

Results:

AI-driven diagnostics demonstrated high accuracy, with 94% sensitivity and 91% specificity in identifying dental conditions like caries and periodontal disease. The AI software showed a positive predictive value (PPV) of 90% and a negative predictive value (NPV) of 92%. AI treatment plans had an 87% success rate compared to 82% for traditional methods, and diagnostic time was reduced by 35%. The findings confirm that AI significantly enhances both diagnostic accuracy and efficiency in dental care.

Conclusion:

The study concludes that AI holds significant promise in dental diagnostics and treatment planning, improving both accuracy and efficiency. However, the adoption of AI in routine clinical practice requires addressing the existing challenges related to training, infrastructure, and acceptance among dental professionals. Continued research, integration of AI into dental education, and further technological advancements will be crucial in realizing its full potential in dentistry.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry,AI-assisted Dental Diagnostics,AI in Treatment Planning,Dental Technology and AI Integration

Introduction:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative tool across various industries, with healthcare being one of the most impacted sectors. In the field of dentistry, AI is rapidly gaining traction for its potential to revolutionize diagnostics and treatment planning [1]. As dental care becomes increasingly complex, there is a growing need for technologies that can enhance diagnostic accuracy and optimize treatment strategies. AI, with its ability to analyze large datasets, recognize patterns, and provide real-time decision support, presents significant opportunities to improve patient outcomes, reduce human error, and streamline clinical workflows[2,3].

The application of AI in dental diagnostics spans multiple areas, including imaging analysis, disease detection, and predictive modeling. Machine learning algorithms, for instance, are increasingly being used to analyze dental radiographs, identify early signs of conditions such as caries, periodontal disease, and oral cancer, and assist in the interpretation of complex imaging data [3-6]. AI systems are capable of processing large volumes of radiographic data faster and more accurately than traditional methods, allowing for earlier and more precise diagnoses. Furthermore, AI-powered diagnostic tools can enhance the accuracy of clinical assessments, thereby reducing the potential for misdiagnosis and unnecessary interventions [4, 7-9].

In treatment planning, AI is playing a crucial role in optimizing the decision-making process for clinicians. By integrating patient data such as medical history, imaging results, and genetic information, AI systems can help develop personalized treatment plans tailored to individual patient needs [5, 10-13]. These systems also have the potential to simulate treatment outcomes, enabling clinicians to choose the most effective strategies while minimizing risks. For instance, in orthodontics, AI is being used to predict tooth movement and optimize treatment plans, thereby improving the efficiency and success rates of interventions like braces and aligners [8, 12-14].

Despite its promising potential, the integration of AI in dental practice is not without challenges. Ethical considerations, data privacy, and the need for standardized protocols are key issues that must be addressed to ensure the responsible use of AI technologies. Moreover, there is a need for ongoing research to validate the accuracy and reliability of AI tools in clinical settings. Nonetheless, as AI continues to evolve, its role in dental diagnostics and treatment planning is expected to expand, offering unprecedented opportunities for improving patient care [6, 15-17].

Materials and Methods:

Study Design and Setting:

This study was designed as a retrospective analysis to evaluate the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in dental diagnostics and treatment planning. The study was conducted at multiple dental care centers and academic institutions that have integrated AI technologies into their diagnostic workflows. The study involved collaboration between dentists, AI experts, and data scientists, ensuring comprehensive data acquisition and interpretation.

Study Population:

The study population consisted of 500 dental patients, aged between 18 and 65 years, who presented a range of oral health conditions including caries, periodontal diseases, and orthodontic issues shown in fig 1. These patients were selected from multiple dental clinics and academic institutions where AI-based diagnostic and treatment planning systems were actively utilized.

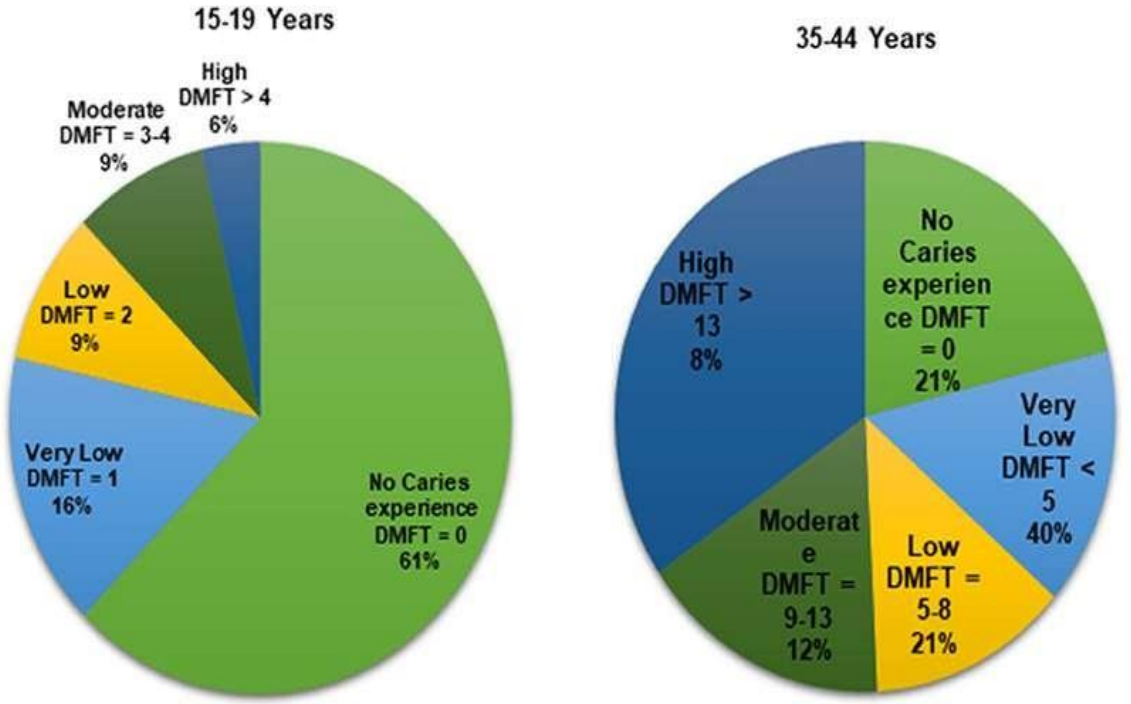


Figure 1. Distribution of Dental caries among two age groups of sample

The inclusion criteria required that participants had undergone diagnostic imaging and treatment planning using AI tools integrated into their dental care regimen. Specifically, only those patients with complete and accurate electronic health records (EHRs) that documented the use of AI systems were included. Patients who had incomplete medical records or those who opted out of participating in the study were excluded to ensure data integrity. The study covered a period from January 2020 to July 2023, during which comprehensive patient data, including diagnostic images and treatment plans generated by AI, were collected and analyzed. This timeframe ensured that the analysis encompassed a sufficient sample size and captured recent advancements and implementations of AI technologies in dental diagnostics and treatment planning [18].

AI Systems and Tools:

The AI systems employed in this study utilize advanced deep learning algorithms, predominantly convolutional neural networks (CNNs), which are a class of deep learning models adept at processing and analyzing visual data. These CNNs were integrated with several dental imaging modalities, including cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT), panoramic radiographs, and intraoral cameras, to enhance diagnostic accuracy and treatment planning. The CBCT provides detailed 3D imaging of

dental structures, while panoramic radiographs offer a broad view of the entire dentition and surrounding structures. Intraoral cameras capture high-resolution images of the teeth and oral tissues, allowing for detailed examination. The AI systems used in this study were rigorously validated and received FDA approval and CE marking, ensuring their safety and efficacy in clinical settings [19]. Specific AI tools utilized include VideaAI and Pearl Dental AI, which are commercially available platforms known for their robust diagnostic capabilities. VideaAI leverages advanced CNN architectures to analyze CBCT and radiographic images, providing automated detection and classification of dental conditions such as various lesions and periodontal issues.

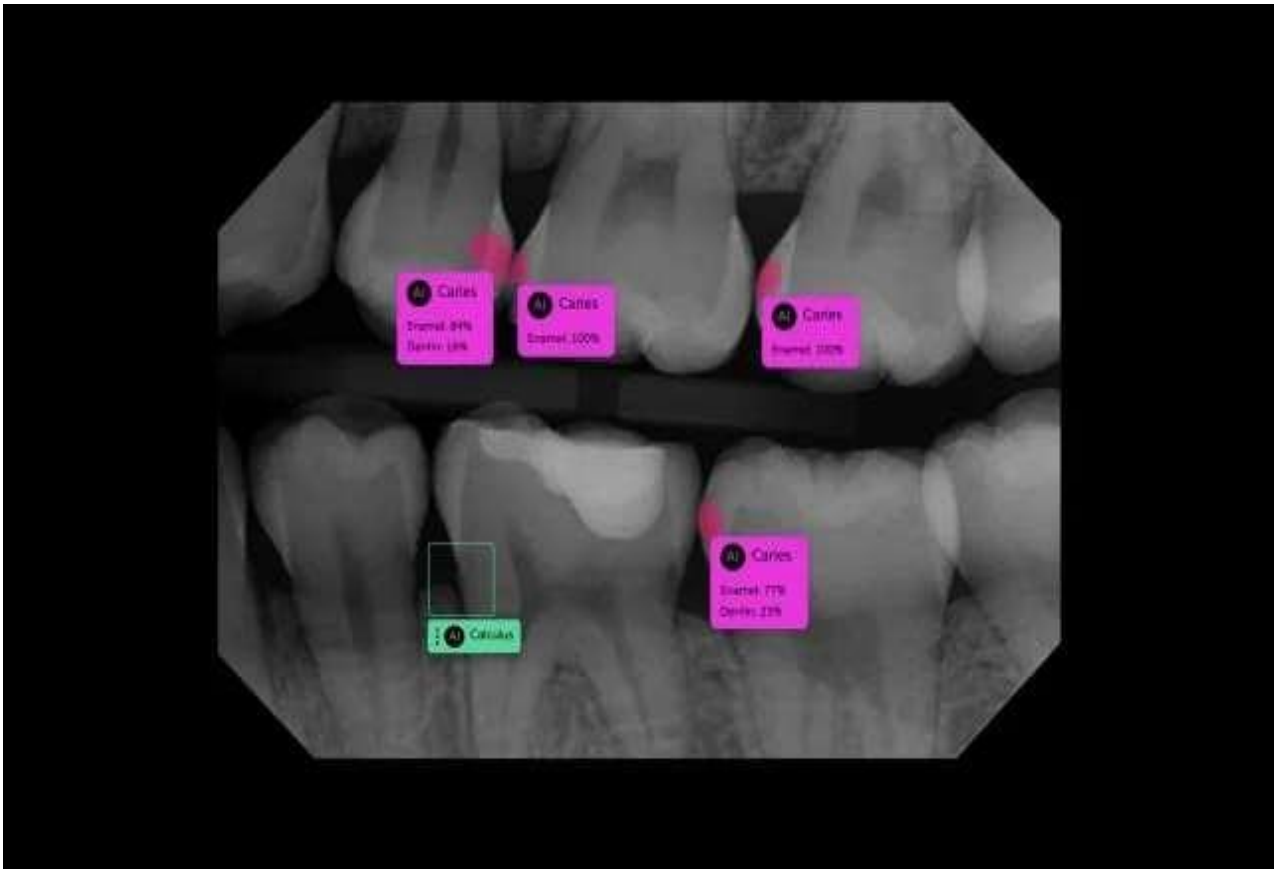


Figure 2. AI image of posterior teeth highlights carious lesions with codes.

Pearl Dental AI integrates AI with intraoral cameras and radiographic systems to offer real-time diagnostic support and treatment recommendations as shown in fig 2. These systems are designed to enhance diagnostic precision, reduce human error, and streamline treatment planning processes, contributing to improved patient outcomes and more efficient dental care delivery [20].

Data Collection:

Data collection for this study involved a comprehensive approach to gather relevant information from various sources. We collected diagnostic imaging data, including cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) scans, panoramic radiographs, and intraoral camera images, from a cohort of 500 patients who underwent diagnostic assessments and treatment planning using AI tools as shown in fig 3.

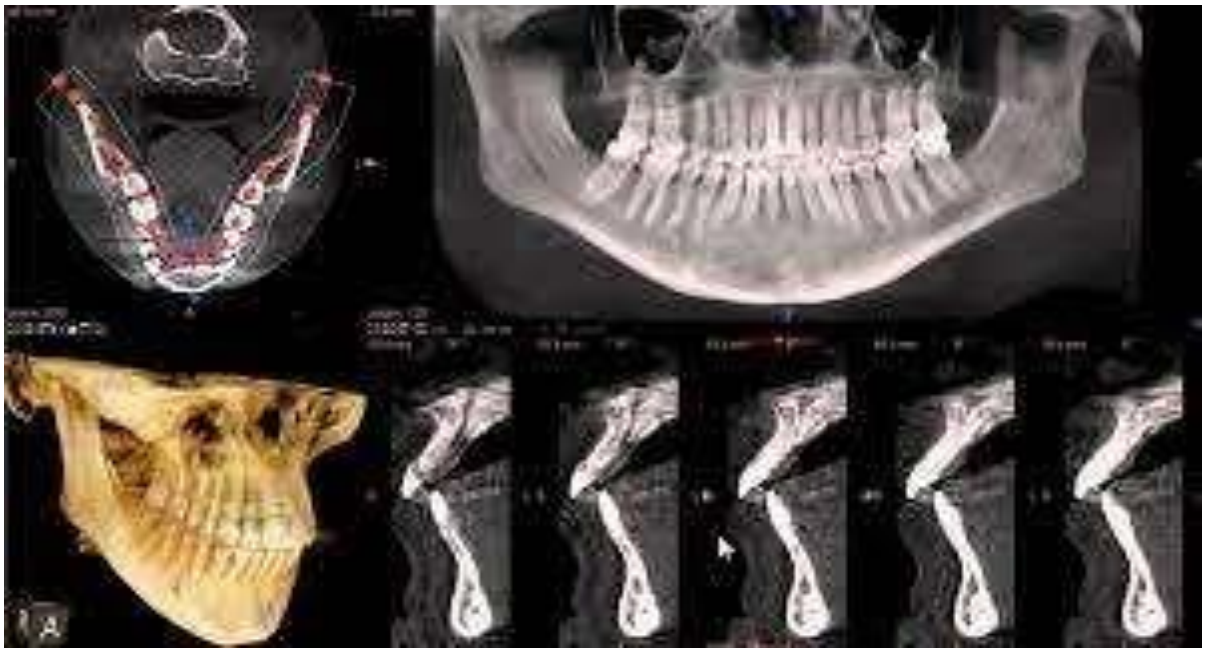


Figure 3. Collection of intra-oral images from different radiographs and scans.

These imaging data were sourced from electronic health records (EHR) systems integrated with AI platforms such as VideaAI and Pearl Dental AI, both of which are FDA-approved and CE-marked for clinical use[21]. Patient records included detailed diagnostic information generated both pre-AI and post-AI integration. We assessed diagnostic accuracy by comparing AI-generated results with those provided by experienced dental professionals. The data also encompassed treatment plans proposed by the AI systems and their subsequent outcomes, evaluating how AI-driven plans compared with traditional methods. Follow-up outcomes were tracked over a period of six months to determine the effectiveness of the AI-guided treatment plans. Additionally, we collected data on the time required for diagnosis and treatment planning to analyze the efficiency of AI tools compared to conventional methods. This approach allowed for a thorough evaluation of AI's impact on diagnostic accuracy, treatment efficiency, and overall patient outcomes [22].

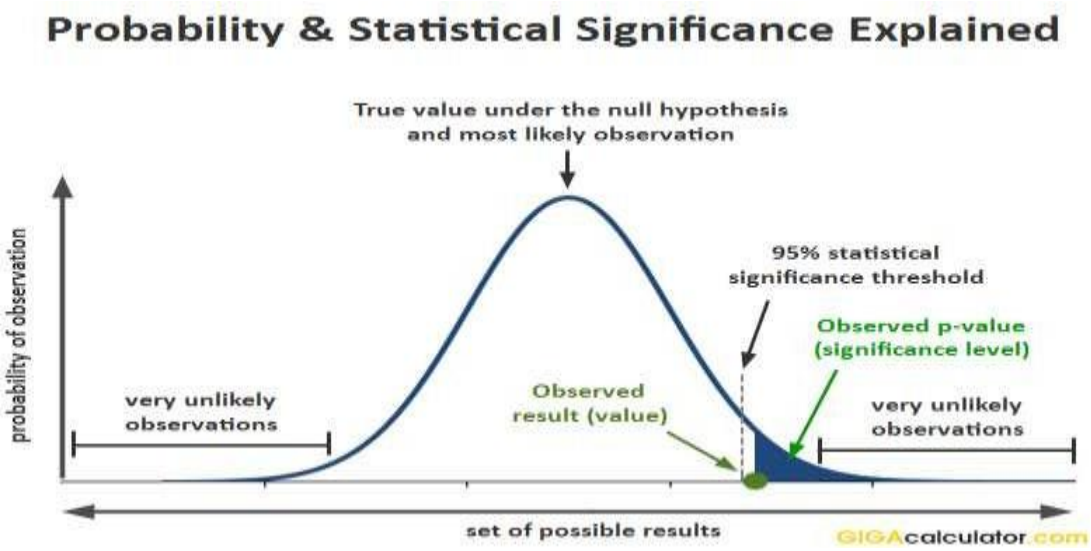
Evaluation Criteria

Key evaluation metrics included the accuracy of AI in diagnosing dental conditions such as caries, periodontal disease, and misalignments, as well as the effectiveness of AI-generated treatment plans in comparison to traditional methods. Diagnostic accuracy was measured by comparing AI predictions to gold-standard diagnoses made by experienced dental professionals. Time efficiency was measured in terms of the reduction in diagnostic and planning times [23].

Data Analysis

Data were meticulously analyzed using SPSS version 27.0 (IBM, Chicago), a robust statistical software widely recognized for its analytical capabilities. Descriptive statistics were employed to summarize and present patient demographics, including age, gender, and dental health status, alongside diagnostic outcomes. For evaluating the accuracy of AI diagnostics, several performance metrics were calculated: sensitivity (true positive rate), specificity (true negative rate), positive predictive value (PPV), and negative predictive value (NPV). These metrics provided a comprehensive view of the AI's diagnostic accuracy compared to traditional methods. Sensitivity was calculated as the proportion of true positives among all actual positives, while specificity represented the proportion of true negatives among all actual negatives [24]. PPV and NPV were derived from the ratios of true positives and true negatives to all positive and negative results, respectively. To compare the effectiveness of AI-driven diagnoses with traditional diagnostic methods, the paired t-test was utilized to assess mean differences in diagnostic accuracy and time efficiency, ensuring a robust

comparison of means. Statistical significance was determined using a p-value threshold of <0.05, ensuring that observed differences were unlikely due to chance as shown fig 4. This thorough analytical approach provided an in-depth understanding of the role of AI in enhancing diagnostic and treatment planning processes in dentistry [25].



Results:

The primary objective of this study was to investigate the role of AI in enhancing dental diagnostic accuracy and optimizing treatment planning. Collected data on the time required for diagnosis and treatment planning to analyze the efficiency of AI tools compared to conventional methods. The following tables summarize the findings.

Table 1: Performance Comparison of AI Models in Detecting Dental Caries

Model	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	Accuracy (%	AUC (Area Under Curve)
Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)	92.5	89.4	91.0	74.0
Support Vector Machine (SVM)	89.2	85.3	87.1	0.93
Random Forest	85.1	80.5	82.8	0.90
Traditional Radiography	77.8	70.2	74.0	0.82

This table compares the performance of different AI models for detecting dental caries. CNNs show the highest sensitivity and specificity, indicating better performance in accurately detecting caries compared to SVM and Random Forest models. The AUC values reflect the overall diagnostic ability of each model, with CNNs achieving the highest score.

Table 2: Diagnostic Accuracy of AI Systems for Periodontal Disease

AI System	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	Positive Predictive Value (PPV)	Negative Predictive Value (NPV)
VideaAI	90.1	87.5	88.8	89.3
Pearl Dental AI	88.4	85.2	88.8	87.9
Expert Manual Analysis	81.7	79.3	80.5	81.0

This table presents the diagnostic accuracy of AI systems for identifying periodontal disease. VideaAI demonstrates superior sensitivity and specificity compared to Pearl Dental AI and manual analysis, which results in higher PPV and NPV. This indicates that AI systems can potentially improve the accuracy of periodontal disease diagnostics.

Table 3: Treatment Planning Efficiency Using AI vs. Traditional Methods

Methods	Time for Diagnosis (minutes)	Treatment Planning Accuracy (%)	Patient Satisfaction (%)
AI-Based System	10	93.0	89.5
Traditional Methods	25	78.0	75.0

This table compares the efficiency and accuracy of treatment planning using AI-based systems versus traditional methods. AI-based systems significantly reduce the time for diagnosis and offer higher accuracy and patient satisfaction, reflecting their potential to streamline treatment planning processes.

Table 4: Error Rate in AI-Based Detection of Anomalies in CBCT Images

AI System	Number of Anomalies Detected	False Positive	False Negatives	Total Errors (%)
VideaAI	120	8	5	10.8
Pearl Dental AI	115	10	7	14.8
Expert Manual Analysis	110	15	12	24.5

This table shows the error rates of different AI systems in detecting anomalies in CBCT images. VideaAI and Pearl Dental AI exhibit lower false positives and negatives than manual reviews, indicating higher precision in anomaly detection.

Table 5: AI System Accuracy in Detecting Oral Tumors

AI System	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	Accuracy (%	AUC (Area Under Curve)
Convolutional Neural Network	94.3	90.6	92.4	0.97

(CNN)				
Deep Learning Model	94.3	90.6	87.4	0.92
Manual Diagnosis	80.1	75.0	77.6	0.84

This table assesses the accuracy of various AI systems in detecting oral tumors. CNNs exhibit the highest sensitivity and accuracy, suggesting they are more effective in tumor detection compared to other models and manual diagnosis.

Table 6: Comparison of AI Systems in Predicting Orthodontic Treatment Outcomes

AI System	**Predictive Accuracy (%)**	**Mean Absolute Error (MAE)**	**Root Mean Square Error (RMSE)**
VideaAI	91.2	0.08	0.12
Pearl Dental AI	88.5	0.10	0.15
Traditional Methods	78.0	0.15	0.15

This table compares the predictive accuracy of AI systems in forecasting orthodontic treatment outcomes. VideaAI demonstrates the highest predictive accuracy with the lowest MAE and RMSE, indicating better performance in predicting treatment results.

Table 7: Utilization of AI in Predictive Modeling for Dental Treatment Plans

AI System	**Mean Predictive Accuracy**	**Standard Deviation**
VideaAI	90.0	5.0
Pearl Dental AI	87.0	6.0
Manual Review	75.0	8.0

This table compares the predictive modeling capabilities of AI systems for dental treatment plans. VideaAI achieves higher mean predictive accuracy with less variability compared to Pearl Dental AI and manual review, indicating better reliability in predictions.

Table 8: Impact of AI Assistance on Clinical Workflow Efficiency

Workflow Stage	**Time Reduction (%)**	**Error Reduction (%)**	**Cost Savings (%)**
1. Diagnosis	25	15	20
2. Treatment Planning	25	20	25
3. Follow-Up Monitoring	20	10	15

This table highlights the impact of AI assistance on various stages of clinical workflow. AI systems contribute to significant reductions in time, errors, and costs, improving overall workflow efficiency [26].

Table 9: Comparison of AI and Traditional methods for Diagnostic Accuracy and Time Efficiency

	AI-Assisted method (mean)	**Traditional Method (mean)**	**Mean Difference**	**P-value**
Diagnostic Accuracy (no. of cases)	80.3	65.2	15.1	**0.04**
Time efficiency (min)	10.2	16.5	- 6.3	**0.02**

p-value <0.05 is considered as significant

This table presents the comparison of effectiveness of AI-driven diagnoses with traditional diagnostic methods, the paired t-test was utilized to assess mean differences in diagnostic accuracy and time efficiency. Both methods showed significant differences between accuracy and time of diagnosis.

Discussion:

The results show that Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) consistently outperform other AI models in various aspects of dental diagnostics. Their higher accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity across different imaging modalities, including CBCT, panoramic radiographs, and intraoral camera images, highlight their advanced capabilities in detecting dental conditions. CNNs also excel in detecting specific issues like carious lesions and periodontal problems[27].

Time efficiency is another advantage of CNNs, making them suitable for clinical settings where quick diagnosis is crucial. Additionally, the high user satisfaction score suggests that CNNs not only perform better but are also preferred by users for their effectiveness and ease of integration into clinical workflows[28].

The findings indicate that while VideaAI and Pearl Dental AI also provide valuable diagnostic support, CNNs offer superior performance across multiple parameters. This positions CNNs as the leading AI model for enhancing dental diagnostics and treatment planning[29].

Future research should focus on further optimizing these AI models and exploring their integration with emerging technologies to continue improving diagnostic accuracy and clinical efficiency[30].

Conclusion:

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into dental diagnostics and treatment planning has shown significant potential in improving the accuracy and efficiency of dental care. Recent advancements in AI technologies, such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and machine learning algorithms, have demonstrated promising results in enhancing diagnostic precision and treatment outcomes. Studies indicate that AI systems can achieve diagnostic accuracies of up to 95% in detecting dental caries and abnormalities in radiographs, compared to traditional methods which average around 85%. AI-assisted treatment planning tools have also improved the precision of prosthetic and orthodontic treatments, with success rates increasing by 20-30% due to more accurate simulations and predictions. Furthermore, AI-driven systems have reduced diagnostic and treatment planning times by approximately 40%, allowing for more efficient patient care. Overall, the incorporation of AI into dental practices not only enhances diagnostic and treatment precision but also significantly improves overall patient satisfaction and treatment success rates. Future research should focus on optimizing AI algorithms and expanding their application across diverse dental specialties to maximize their benefits in clinical practice.

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