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World J Diabetes 2024 March 15; 15(3): 308-574



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AIMS AND SCOPE

The primary aim of *World Journal of Diabetes* (*WJD*, *World J Diabetes*) is to provide scholars and readers from various fields of diabetes with a platform to publish high-quality basic and clinical research articles and communicate their research findings online.

WJD mainly publishes articles reporting research results and findings obtained in the field of diabetes and covering a wide range of topics including risk factors for diabetes, diabetes complications, experimental diabetes mellitus, type 1 diabetes mellitus, type 2 diabetes mellitus, gestational diabetes, diabetic angiopathies, diabetic cardiomyopathies, diabetic coma, diabetic ketoacidosis, diabetic nephropathies, diabetic neuropathies, Donohue syndrome, fetal macrosomia, and prediabetic state.

INDEXING/ABSTRACTING

The *WJD* is now abstracted and indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE, also known as SciSearch®), Current Contents/Clinical Medicine, Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition, PubMed, PubMed Central, Reference Citation Analysis, China Science and Technology Journal Database, and Superstar Journals Database. The 2023 Edition of Journal Citation Reports® cites the 2022 impact factor (IF) for *WJD* as 4.2; IF without journal self cites: 4.1; 5-year IF: 4.5; Journal Citation Indicator: 0.69; Ranking: 51 among 145 journals in endocrinology and metabolism; and Quartile category: Q2.

RESPONSIBLE EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE

Production Editor: *Yu-Xi Chen*; Production Department Director: *Xu Guo*; Editorial Office Director: *Jia-Ru Fan*.

NAME OF JOURNAL

World Journal of Diabetes

ISSN

ISSN 1948-9358 (online)

LAUNCH DATE

June 15, 2010

FREQUENCY

Monthly

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Lu Cai, Md. Shahidul Islam, Michael Horowitz

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

<https://www.wjgnet.com/1948-9358/editorialboard.htm>

PUBLICATION DATE

March 15, 2024

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INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

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<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/208>

ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGE

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/242>

STEPS FOR SUBMITTING MANUSCRIPTS

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/239>

ONLINE SUBMISSION

<https://www.f6publishing.com>

Unlocking new potential of clinical diagnosis with artificial intelligence: Finding new patterns of clinical and lab data

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Specialty type: Endocrinology and metabolism

Provenance and peer review:
Invited article; Externally peer reviewed.

Peer-review model: Single blind

Peer-review report's scientific quality classification

Grade A (Excellent): 0
Grade B (Very good): B
Grade C (Good): C
Grade D (Fair): 0
Grade E (Poor): 0

P-Reviewer: Liu S, China; Wang Q, China

Received: September 28, 2023

Peer-review started: September 28, 2023

First decision: December 15, 2023

Revised: December 19, 2023

Accepted: February 6, 2024

Article in press: February 6, 2024

Published online: March 15, 2024



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Abstract

Recent advancements in science and technology, coupled with the proliferation of data, have also urged laboratory medicine to integrate with the era of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). In the current practices of evidence-based medicine, the laboratory tests analysing disease patterns through the association rule mining (ARM) have emerged as a modern tool for the risk assessment and the disease stratification, with the potential to reduce cardiovascular disease (CVD) mortality. CVDs are the well recognised leading global cause of mortality with the higher fatality rates in the Indian population due to associated factors like hypertension, diabetes, and lifestyle choices. AI-driven algorithms have offered deep insights in this field while addressing various challenges such as healthcare systems grappling with the physician shortages. Personalized medicine, well driven by the big data necessitates the integration of ML techniques and high-quality electronic health records to direct the meaningful outcome. These technological advancements enhance the computational analyses for both research and clinical practice. ARM plays a pivotal role by uncovering meaningful relationships within databases, aiding in patient survival prediction and risk factor identification. AI potential in laboratory medicine is vast and it must be cautiously integrated while considering potential ethical, legal, and privacy concerns. Thus, an AI ethics framework is essential to guide its responsible use. Aligning AI algorithms with existing lab practices, promoting education among healthcare professionals, and fostering careful integration into clinical settings are imperative for harnessing the benefits of this transformative technology.

Key Words: Laboratory medicine; Artificial intelligence; Machine learning; Association rule mining; Cardiovascular diseases

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Core Tip: The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning in laboratory medicine presents a promising opportunity to improve the patient care, particularly in the context of multi-factorial cardiovascular diseases. However, it is essential to approach this transformation carefully, side by side addressing ethical considerations, biases, while ensuring its responsible implementation through the collaboration between the technology experts and the healthcare professionals. Education and training are key to unlocking the full potential of AI while safeguarding patient privacy and data.

Citation: Dabla PK. Unlocking new potential of clinical diagnosis with artificial intelligence: Finding new patterns of clinical and lab data. *World J Diabetes* 2024; 15(3): 308-310

URL: <https://www.wjgnet.com/1948-9358/full/v15/i3/308.htm>

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.4239/wjd.v15.i3.308>

INTRODUCTION

Recent developments with advancements of science and technology and production of massive data have helped laboratory medicine to reach the era of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). In the era of evidence-based medicine, combining laboratory testing with associated disease patterns using association rule mining (ARM) can prove to be modern tool for the risk assessment and disease stratification to reduce mortality in cardiovascular diseases (CVD) patients. AI based algorithms have brought more insights and addressed a variety of problems in this field and can be considered as emerging interdisciplinary field[1].

The available literature suggests that the CVDs had occurred earlier in the Indian population as compared to the European population. Further, the fatality rate has found to be even two-fold increase in Indian population in comparison with the same age group. Thus, CVDs have become the leading cause of mortality and source of much needed attention as a global threat. The hypertension, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, smoking, physical inactivity, diet pattern, and other environmental factors were counted as the major responsible factors for the higher rate of CVD in the Indian population [2]. Further, the available data supports the increased mortality with acute coronary syndrome in the young myocardial infarction patients of less than 45 years of age. It is pertinent to note that the CVDs and associated risk in the early stage are typically treated with the greatest probability of success. In another study which is conducted by Dabla *et al*[3], the researchers found the diagnostic edge with the with lipid indices like lipid tetrad index and lipid pentad index to evaluate the atherogenic index of plasma with respect to the higher risk of premature CAD.

Traditionally, physicians diagnose CVDs based on their knowledge from their previous experience with patients with similar clinical presentations. It cannot be ignored that many countries are currently dealing with the shortage of skilled physicians, where AI can prove to be hopeful solution for the overburdened healthcare system. The growing requirement of personalized medicine for modern laboratory practices cannot be denied, resulting in an increasing amount of big data. ML-based techniques and high-quality cleaned data utilising electronic health records (EHRs) presented in the right format, can help to raise the computation analysis, not only for research but for clinical practice as well. The predictive power of computational analysis of EHRs can be enhanced when coupled with imaging and clinical attributes[4]. This unique technique can prove to be a potential tool for the early detection and intervention while applying practical rules to assist doctors and patients in early detection and intervention. There are various methods and rules are applicable in data mining, out of which the ARM technique can extracts potential associations or causal relationships between the sets of patterns present in the given databases[5].

The Advanced Relation Mapping (ARM) method explores the informative index of specified persistent entities or occurrences, establishing connections between elements or events. Consequently, these guidelines unveil noteworthy associations among factors in the data repository, offering a powerful instrument for foreseeing the longevity of individuals experiencing symptoms of cardiac insufficiency. Moreover, it facilitates the identification of crucial clinical attributes (or risk elements) associated with the onset of heart failure. Soni *et al*[6] in 2016 employed an association rule algorithm to assess the potential risks for individuals with diabetes. Their study involved the application of this algorithm to extract relationships within an authentic dataset. Shehabi and Baba[7] in 2021 proposed a novel approach known as Mining Association Rules Classification to extract significant association rules, addressing challenges associated with symbolic methods. This method aims to overcome issues arising from generating an excessive number of association rules in the context of small datasets, a common problem leading to the production of redundant rules in large datasets. In 2022, Singh *et al*[8] employed the hotspot algorithm to identify patterns and associations among various attributes. The analysis encompassed a comprehensive set of biochemical evaluation tests, coupled with a detailed patient history that included physical examinations and electrocardiograms. The biochemical markers measured comprised the lipid profile, encompassing total cholesterol, triglyceride, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, apoprotein A1, apolipoprotein B, and Lp (a) levels. Moreover, it is imperative to acknowledge that the rapid pace of technological evolution and integration demands vigilant consideration of potential medical, ethical, legal, and reputational risks. In this context, ethical considerations are becoming topic of concern and soon necessary requirements. Though, AI application in lab medicine is limited till date compared to other healthcare facilities, however its realization also requires addressing risk of bias tools, algorithm auditing, error managements and most importantly privacy concerns and ethical issues. The significance of an AI ethics framework lies in its ability to illuminate both the potential risks and benefits associated with AI tools, while also setting forth guidelines for their responsible and ethical utilization.

We cannot deny that advantages of new technologies require careful alignment and optimization of AI based algorithms with existing lab practices[9]. Hence, rather than hastily implementing technology, a more prudent approach involves directing its adoption through education and careful integration into clinical practices, ensuring its appropriate use by healthcare professionals.

CONCLUSION

The integration of AI in laboratory medicine holds immense potential to transform healthcare, particularly in combating CVDs. However, its responsible implementation, addressing ethical concerns, and collaboration between technology and healthcare experts are crucial to harnessing the benefits and improve patient outcomes.

FOOTNOTES

Author contributions: Dabla PK designed and written the manuscript and all data were generated in-house and no paper mill was used.

Conflict-of-interest statement: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Country/Territory of origin: India

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S-Editor: Qu XL

L-Editor: A

P-Editor: Chen YX

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Published by **Baishideng Publishing Group Inc**
7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA

Telephone: +1-925-3991568

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