

Role of Artificial Intelligence in Minimizing Missed and Undiagnosed Fractures Among Trainee Residents

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Background and Objectives: Traumatic Fractures and dislocations are missed up to 10% at the first line of defense in the emergency room and by the junior orthopedic residents in training. This review was done to evaluate the accuracy of AI-assisted fracture detection and to compare with the residents in training.

Methods: We searched all related electronic databases for English language literature between January 2015 and July 2023, Pub Med, Scopus, Web of Science, Cochrane Central Ovid Medline, Ovid Embase, EBSCO Cumulative Index to Allied Health Literature, with keywords of Artificial Intelligence, fractures, dislocations, X-rays, radiographs and missed diagnosis. The data extracted included a number of patients/images studied, site of fractures analyzed, algorithms used, the accuracy of the report based on the algorithm, sensitivity, and specificity, area under the curve (AUC), comparison between the algorithm, junior orthopedic resident, emergency physicians, and board certified radiologists.

Results: Twenty-seven publications fulfilled our objectives and were analyzed in detail. Ninety-two thousand two hundred and thirty-six images were analyzed for fractures, which showed that the overall accuracy of the correct diagnosis was $90.35 \pm 6.88\%$, sensitivity $90.08 \pm 8.2\%$, specificity 90.16 ± 7 and AUC was 0.931 ± 0.06 . The accuracy of the AI model was 94.24 ± 4.19 , and that of orthopedic resident was 85.18 ± 7.01 (P value of <0.0001), with sensitivity 92.15 ± 7.12 versus 86.38 ± 7.6 (P <0.0001) and specificity of 93.77 ± 4.03 versus 87.05 ± 12.9 (P <0.0001). A single study compared 1703 hip fracture images between the AI model versus orthopedic resident and board-certified radiologist and found the accuracy to be 98% versus 87% and 92% (P value of <0.0001).

Conclusion: This review accentuates AI's potential for accurate diagnosis of fractures. We believe the AI algorithm should be incorporated in the emergency rooms where trainee residents and junior orthopedic residents could routinely use AI so that the incidence of missed fractures can be curtailed.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, diagnostic imaging, fractures missed diagnosis, X-rays

Introduction

Fractures take place in people of all age groups. The episode depends on the type of trauma, location, and associated injuries. The incidence of fractures ranges between 733 and 4017 per 100000 patient-years.¹⁻³ Traumatic fractures are the major cause of morbidity and mortality, and in one study, 23,917 individuals sustained 27,169 fractures, with 64.5% of the fractures occurring in women.¹ The epidemiological data for fractures and dislocations in Saudi Arabia are not available.^{4,5} It is expected that the number of fractures and dislocations will increase due to population growth.

The reported incidence of missed diagnosis of fractures or dislocations by plain radiographs ranges between 3% and 10%,⁶⁻⁸ and this inversely affects the final outcome of the recovery. The majority of the errors take place in the emergency room, where the radiographs are wrongly elucidated as some injuries might be tenuous, and in the majority, conspicuous injuries are missed due to improper training with sub-standard techniques employed in radiological evaluation.⁹ This could be more common in the junior residents under training in the emergency room and orthopedics

and traumatology. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon in trained radiologists as well. In the USA, radiologists were at the 6th position in malpractice claims,^{10–14} even though they make up about 3.1% of the 892 million physicians.¹⁵ It becomes mandatory to find ways to reduce this discrepancy at both fronts at the training levels and the trained level, and one such tenet is to bring the utilization of AI in the field of diagnosis of fractures and dislocations.

AI, which is part of computer science, can perform tasks that are usually performed by humans to humans. AI requires a high level of input from different images and then can use different algorithms using machine learning, deep learning, and convolutional neural networks to extricate high-level information from the input of images.¹⁶ Recent studies have suggested convincing accuracy of diagnosis of fractures and dislocations using AI algorithms, and with the objective to assess the accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity of AI algorithms in the diagnosis of fractures using plain radiographs, this review was carried out.

Methods

We searched all related electronic databases for English language literature between January 2015 and July 2023, Pub Med, Scopus, Web of Science, Cochrane Central Ovid Medline, Ovid Embase, EBSCO Cumulative Index to Allied Health Literature, Web of Science, and Cochrane Central with keywords of Artificial Intelligence, fractures, dislocations, X-rays, radiographs, missed diagnosis. All articles that fulfilled the following inclusion criteria: primary research using validated AI algorithms for fracture detection and Only studies with a comparative study between AI algorithms and clinicians were included in the analysis. Only studies with a comparative study between AI algorithms and clinicians were included in the analysis. All other publications and data were excluded, including reports by letter to the editor, conference presentations, and systematic reviews. EndNote™ 39 was used to tabulate the references and delete any duplicates.

Data Extraction

We extracted available information from included studies fitting our inclusion criteria. The data extracted included a number of patients/images studied, site of fractures analyzed, algorithms used, the accuracy of the report based on the algorithm, sensitivity and specificity, area under the curve (AUC), comparison between the algorithm, junior orthopedic resident, emergency physicians, and board certified radiologists.

Statistical Analysis

The diagnostic prediction of the fractures of different algorithms was analyzed using contingency tables for validation. Regression analysis was performed between the different sites of fractures and the influence of the algorithms. A p-value of <0.05 was accepted as statistically significant at a 95% confidence interval (CI). SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) Inc., which is a statistical software developed by IBM for data management, advanced analytics, multivariate analysis, and business intelligence version 29, was used.

Results

We identified 2049 studies retrieved in which 347 were duplicates, and 1651 publications were excluded due to inclusion and exclusion criteria. Fifty-one studies were reviewed in depth as they nearly fulfilled the inclusion criteria, and only 27 publications fulfilled our objectives to be analyzed in detail and were included in this study (Figure 1). Eighty-eight thousand, nine hundred and ninety-six images were analyzed for fractures (Table 1), which showed that the overall accuracy of the correct diagnosis was 90.35 ± 6.88 (73.59–98) percent, sensitivity 90.08 ± 8.2 (73.8–99) percent, specificity 90.16 ± 7 (72–100) and AUC was 0.931 ± 0.06 (0.72–0.994). The fractures analyzed were common fractures from the wrist, upper and lower limbs, and spine. All studies had internally and externally validated algorithms for Diffusion-convolutional neural networks (DCNN). The majority of the studies limited their analysis for diagnoses based on a single view of the radiograph.

Table 2 shows the analysis of 214950 images where a comparison was made between the AI algorithm versus a junior resident in training. The accuracy of the AI model was 94.24 ± 4.19 , and that of orthopedic resident was 85.18 ± 7.01 (P value of <0.0001), with sensitivity 92.15 ± 7.12 versus 86.38 ± 7.6 (P<0.0001) and specificity of 93.77 ± 4.03 versus 87.05 ± 12.9

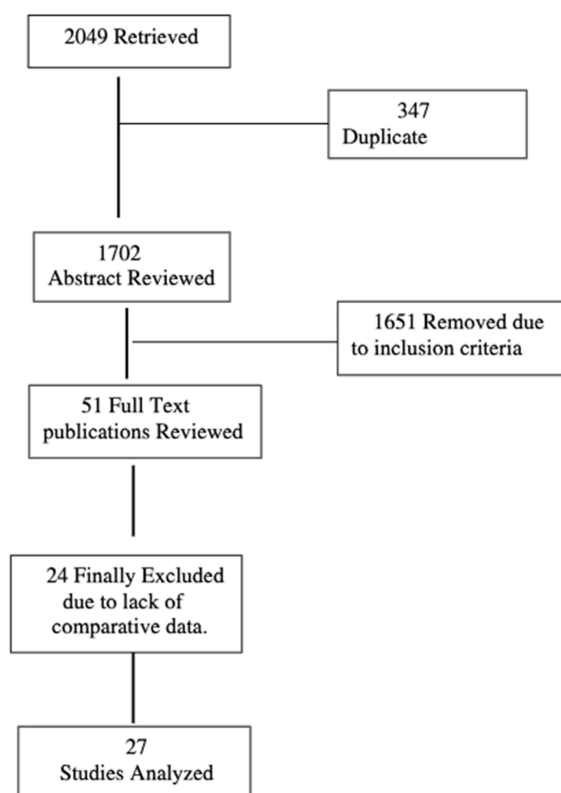


Figure 1 PRISMA flowchart Showing the Final Selection of Analyzed studies.

($P < 0.0001$). Yamada et al (2020) 40 compared the AI model versus orthopedic residents and board-certified radiologists and found the accuracy to be 98% versus 87% and 92% (P value of < 0.0001). Figure 2 shows the comparison between the AI model and the clinician for accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity.

Table 1 Characteristics of Studies, Number of Images Analyzed, Site of Fractures, Algorithms Used, Accuracy, Sensitivity, Specificity and Area Under Curve

	Authors	Number of Xrays	Fracture	Algorithm Used	Accuracy Percent	Sensitivity Percent	Specificity Percent	AUC
1.	Kim and MacKinnon (2018) ¹⁷	1389	Distal Radius and Ulna	CNN	90	90	88	0.954
2.	Adams et al (2019) ¹⁸	643	Neck of femur	DCNN	94	NR	NR	0.98
3.	Cheng et al (2019) ¹⁹	25505	Lower limbs	CNN	95.9	98		0.98
4.	Derkatch et al (2019) ²⁰	12,742	Vertebral Fractures	DCNN		87.4	88.4	0.94
5.	Rayan et al (2019) ²¹	21,456	S/C humerus	CNN	88	91	84	0.95
6.	Starosolski et al (2019) ²²	2188	Tibial fractures	DCNN	97.9	95.9	100	0.99
7.	Choi et al (2020) ²³	1266	S/C Humerus	CNN	80.5	93.9	92.2	0.976

(Continued)

Table 1 (Continued).

	Authors	Number of Xrays	Fracture	Algorithm Used	Accuracy Percent	Sensitivity Percent	Specificity Percent	AUC
8.	Jiménez-Sánchez et al (2020) ²⁴	1347	Fractures	CNN	90	NR	NR	0.95
9.	Mawatari et al (2020) ²⁵	327	Proximal Femur	DCNN	87	88	72	0.905
10.	Chen et al (2021) ²⁶	1306	Vertebral Fractures	DCNN	73.59	73.8	73.02	0.72
11.	Cheng et al (2021) ²⁷	5204	Pelvis	DL	92	90	93	0.973
12.	Raisuddin et al (2021) ²⁸	953	Wrist Fractures	DCNN	95	97	92	0.98
13.	Yoon et al (2021) ²⁹	11838	Scaphoid Fractures	CNN	90	87.1	92.1	0.955
14.	Grauhan et al (2022) ³⁰	2442	Shoulder	CNN	85	90	86	0.879
15.	Ozkaya et al (2022) ³¹	390	Scaphoid Fractures	CNN		76	92	0.826

Abbreviations: CNN, Convolutional neural network; DL, Deep Learning; DNN, Deep Convolutional neural network; S/C, Supracondylar fracture.

Table 2 Comparative Data Between the AI Models and Clinicians

	Authors	Number of Patients	Fracture	Algorithm Used	Accuracy Percent	Sensitivity Percent	Specificity Percent	AUC
1.	Chung et al (2018) ³²	1891	Extremities	CNN	96 93 (R)	99 93 (R)	97 97 (R)	0.99
2.	Lindsey et al (2018) ³³	135409	Wrist	CNN	NR	78.8 (R) 91.5 (MA)	87.5 (R) 93.9 (MA)	NR
3.	Wang et al (2019) ³⁴	4410	Proximal Femur	CNN	92 88 (R)	96 96 (R)	98 93 (R)	0.962
4.	Blüthgen et al (2020) ³⁵	524	Wrist	DL	NR	81 71 (R)	86 52 (R)	0.93
5.	Chen et al (2020) ³⁶	3605		DL	97 90 (R)	95.7 91 (R)	96.08 90 (R)	NR
6.	Cheng et al (2020) ³⁷	3605	Hip	DL	97	90 (R) 99 (MA)	90 (R) 95 (MA)	NR
7.	Krogue et al (2020) ³⁸	3026	Hip	DCNN	93.7 76.1 (R)	93.7 98.1 (MA)	83.8 (R) 94.2 (MA)	0.819
8.	Murata et al (2020) ³⁹	300	Vertebral	DCNN	86 77 (R) 88(OS)	84.7 72.4(R) 77.5 (OS)	87.3 90.9 (R) 100 (OS)	0.91
9.	Yamada et al (2020) ⁴⁰	1703	Hip	CNN	98 87 (R) 92(BC)	NR	NR	NR

(Continued)

Table 2 (Continued).

	Authors	Number of Patients	Fracture	Algorithm Used	Accuracy Percent	Sensitivity Percent	Specificity Percent	AUC
10.	Yu et al (2020) ⁴¹	307	Proximal Femur	CNN	NR	97.1 100 (R) 100 (BCR)	96.7 96.8 (R) 100 (BCR)	0.994
11.	Duron et al (2021) ⁴²	60170	Fractures	DL	NR	79.4 70.8 (R)	93.6 89.5 (R)	NR
12.	Zhang et al (2023) ⁴³	3240	Wrist fractures	DCNN	97.75 93.69 (BCO) 92.53 (BCR)	97.13 91.94 (BCO) 90.44 (BCR)	98.37 95.44 (BCO) 94.62 (BCR)	

Abbreviations: CNN, Convolutional neural network; DL, Deep Learning; DNN, Deep Convolutional neural network; R, Resident; BCO, Board Certified Orthopedist; BCR, Board Certified Radiologist; OS, Orthopaedic Specialist; NR, Not Reported; MA, Model Aided.

Discussion

This review shows that accuracy in the diagnosis of fractures using AI algorithms surpasses that of the trained and trainee residents. Secondly, the use of AI helped the trainees and trained radiologists in improving the accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity of fracture diagnosis. In this study, the AI with different models showed that the overall accuracy of the correct diagnosis was $90.35 \pm 6.88\%$, sensitivity $90.08 \pm 8.2\%$, specificity 90.16 ± 7 and AUC was 0.931 ± 0.06 . These results were based on plain radiographs and included all limb and vertebral fractures.

In the recent past, there has been a consequential increase in different AI models, particularly CNNs, in the arena of trauma and orthopedics. Individual models have conclusively shown that AI models are accurate in the diagnosis of fractures, which are better than junior residents and, if not better, but at par with the senior radiologist. One aspect that needs to be questioned is that most of the reported data comes from retrospective testing, and few only are based prospectively on clinical practice. The accuracy of diagnosis of fractures varied at different sites of fractures. Murphy et al (2022)⁴⁴ reported an analysis of hip fractures, comparing the AI model with two trained and expert clinicians, and found that the AI model was 19% more accurate than the physicians. Another report suggested that the sensitivity of the correct diagnosis increases by over 10%. Lindsey et al (2018)³³ reported that the physician's average sensitivity in the diagnosis of fractures improved from 80.8% to 91.5% (95% CI, 89.3–92.9%), and specificity was 87.5% to 93.9% (95% CI, 92.9–94.9%) when they were aided with Deep convolutional neural network and added to this the physicians experienced a reduction in misreading around 47.0%. Duron et al (2021)⁴²

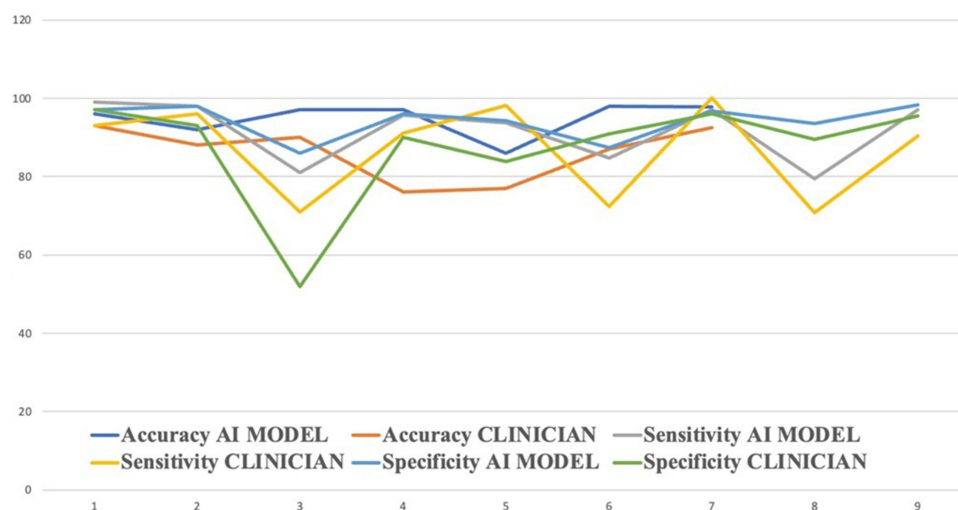


Figure 2 Comparison between AI Model and Clinicians for Accuracy, Sensitivity and Specificity.

further concurred after their review that emergency room physicians improved their results after AI assistance from 61.3% to 74.3% (up 13.0%), and the trained radiologists enhanced their diagnosis from 80.2% to 84.6% (up 4.3%). Distal radius fractures, which amount to over 20% of all fractures, were studied using an ensemble model of AI between three groups: AI, orthopedic surgeons, and radiologists, and it was reported statistically significant between the three groups. The accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity between the attending orthopedic surgeons and radiologists showed significant differences: 93.69%, 91.94%, and 95.44% compared to 92.53%, 90.44%, and 94.62%. When the physician's groups were compared to the AI ensemble tool, it was a highly significant score of 97.75%, 97.13%, and 98.37% by the AI tool.⁴³

Missed extremity fracture diagnosis in trauma practice has always been an issue and is the second most injuries to be misdiagnosed.⁴⁵ The most common malpractice claims against radiologists involve inaccuracies in the reporting of extremity fractures.^{10,46,47} Orthopaedic residents are not immune to making misinterpretations of radiographs in extremity fractures. One such study from the United Kingdom highlights that Senior Orthopaedic Residents on plain radiographs missed 4% of fractures, 7.8% made a wrong diagnosis, and 12.6%, a fracture was diagnosed when there was none.⁴⁸ Report indicates that over the years, the number of claims against orthopaedicians has increased, but complaints have remained comparatively the same.⁴⁹ In the present belligerent and litigation-oriented society, it is imperative that junior orthopedic residents have all the help in making a correct fracture diagnosis and not miss even a meager injury. AI and its algorithms can never replace human doctors but can unquestionably enhance and complement in improving the accuracy of fracture diagnosis.³⁷ Moreover, adequate and timely training of trainee residents in radiographic interpretation is paramount. It was reported that junior residents till 3rd of training level are more vulnerable to making errors in radiographic interpretation.⁹

Our review has limitations due to the number of studies we have included in the analysis, as there are a number of publications that are increasing by the day, and it is possible that we have not included the most recent literature. Secondly, we could not add the data of comparative accuracy between the unaided and aided AI tools in the fracture diagnosis. Lastly, we are basing the conclusion on the retrospective studies, and there were no prospective studies to compare with. The strength of the study is we have compared a large dataset, which suggests that the different AI models are more accurate than the physicians.

In conclusion, this review highlights with unbiased evaluations recommend that the use of AI models can definitely help residents in training by increasing the accuracy of fracture diagnosis and reducing the errors in diagnosis of fractures. AI has developed cutting edge tools, which need to be further evaluated so that procurement authorities in hospitals could integrate AI into healthcare and help physicians at all levels to improve correctness in fracture diagnosis, to prevent complications of delayed diagnosis.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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