

Abstract

Pakistani Medical Students' Attitudes and Readiness toward AI (Artificial Intelligence) and its effect on the future of medicine: A Cross-Sectional Study

Objective

Artificial intelligence involvement in healthcare is becoming more apparent over the years. This study aims to survey Pakistani medical students' attitudes toward AI and evaluate their readiness to work with medical AI technology so we can further understand the future of AI in the Pakistani healthcare system.

Methods

This was a cross-sectional study. An online survey on Google Forms was sent to medical students through different social media platforms. The questionnaire had three sections: the first was demographics, the second was to evaluate the attitudes toward AI, and the third used the Medical Artificial Intelligence Readiness Scale for Medical Students (MAIRS-MS) scale to gauge the AI readiness of Pakistani medical students.

Results

A total of 125 students filled out the Google form. Responses were from different provinces of Pakistan with the majority from Punjab 91.7%. 90.4% agreed that AI will play an important role in healthcare in the future. As for the need for AI education in medical school, 74.4% agreed to it. Regarding the impact of it on the future of medicine 46.4% of students agreed that they are less likely to pursue radiology as a specialty due to the advancement of AI. Surgery was the most preferred specialty with 22.4% preferring to go into it and internal medicine was second with 17.6% of students wanting to go into it in the future.

Conclusion

Pakistani medical students have shown a strong willingness to learn more about AI. Pakistani medical universities should add AI teaching into their medical education curriculum so students are more equipped to deal with it in the future