Review Article

Use of Artificial Intelligence in detecting various kinds of oral ulcers

Anushree Rathore¹, Amruta Vaidya², Karri Tyson¹, Abhishek Gupta³
¹Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology, Bhabha College of Dental Sciences, Bhopal, India,
²Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, Bhabha College of Dental Sciences, Bhopal,
India, ³Department of Public Health Dentistry, Bhabha College of Dental Sciences, Bhopal, India

ABSTRACT:

The integration of Artificial intelligencein the detection of mouth ulcers marks a transformative advancement in oral healthcare. This review explores the multifaceted benefits of Artificial intelligence in this context, emphasizing its role in expediting diagnosis, enhancing accuracy, and fostering proactive interventions. The ability of Artificial intelligence to analyze oral images rapidly and precisely enables early detection and classification of various mouth ulcers, contributing to more informed treatment plans. The technological pattern recognition capabilities and its integration with imaging techniques offer a comprehensive understanding of oral health, facilitating differentiation between ulcer types. Real-time monitoring empowers patients and healthcare providers, promoting timely interventions and self-awareness. While Artificial intelligence holds promise for preventive strategies and resource optimization, responsible implementation and ethical considerations are crucial. Thereview concludes that Artificial intelligence in mouth ulcer detection signifies a paradigm shift towards more efficient, precise, and patient-centric oral healthcare practices.

KEYWORDS: Artificial Intelligence, mouth ulcers, oral ulcer, dentistry, ulcer

MOUTH ULCERS-

Mouth ulcers, also known as canker sores, occur as different types. The most common ones include minor ulcers, major ulcers and herpetiform ulcers. Minor ulcers are small, round, or oval-shaped ulcers with a white or yellowish center and a red border. They are the most common type and usually heal within 1 to 2 weeks. Major ulcers are larger and deeper than minor ulcers, with a more defined border. They can be quite painful and may take several weeks to heal, often leaving a scar. Herpetiform ulcers despite the name, are not caused by the herpes virus. They are small, pinpoint-sized ulcers that often appear in clusters of 10 to 100. Despite their size, they can be very painful[1]. It's worth noting that there are other conditions that can cause ulcer-like sores in the mouth, such as viral infections, autoimmune diseases or trauma[2,3]. The ulcers caused by persistent chronic trauma are called traumatic ulcers. If you're dealing with persistent or severe ulcers, it's a good idea to consult with a healthcare professional for proper diagnosis and treatment.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is making its way into various fields, and dentistry is no exception. Here are some ways AI is being utilized in dentistry. i) Diagnosis and Imaging: AI can assist in the analysis of

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dental images, including X-rays and scans. It helps in identifying issues like cavities, bone loss, and other abnormalities more accurately and quickly than traditional methods. ii) Treatment Planning: AI algorithms can analyze patient data to aid in treatment planning. They can suggest personalized treatment options based on the patient's history, preferences, and specific dental conditions. Iii) Robotic Dentistry: Robots equipped with AI capabilities can perform certain dental procedures with precision. They can assist in tasks like tooth drilling and implant placement, enhancing the accuracy of these procedures. iv) Patient Management and Communication: AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants can handle appointment scheduling, answer patient queries, and provide information on post-treatment care. This improves overall patient management and communication.[4]v) Predictive Analytics: AI can analyze patient data to predict oral health trends and potential issues. This proactive approach allows dentists to intervene early, preventing the progression of certain dental conditions. vi) Virtual Consultations: AI facilitates virtual consultations, allowing patients to interact with dentists remotely. This is especially useful for follow-ups, initial assessments, and consultations for minor issues. vii) Training and Education: AI can be used in dental education by providing simulations, virtual reality experiences, and interactive learning modules. This enhances the training of dental students and professionals. viii) Data Security and Privacy: AI plays a role in enhancing the security of patient data. It helps in monitoring and identifying potential breaches, ensuring that sensitive patient information is protected.While AI brings several benefits to dentistry, it's important to note that it doesn't replace the expertise of dental professionals. Instead, it serves as a valuable tool to enhance diagnostics, treatment planning, and overall patient care[4,5].

ROLE IN DETECTING MOUTH ULCERS:

AI has shown promise in the detection and diagnosis of mouth ulcers, offering improvements in accuracy and efficiency. Here's how AI can be applied in this context;

(a) Image Analysis: AI algorithms can analyze images of the oral cavity, including photographs or scans, to detect and classify different types of mouth ulcers.[5] This can aid in early diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

(b) Pattern Recognition: AI can be trained to recognize patterns associated with various oral conditions, including different stages of mouth ulcers. This pattern recognition helps in distinguishing between normal variations and pathological conditions.

(c) Diagnostic Assistance: AI-powered diagnostic tools can assist healthcare professionals in identifying and characterizing mouth ulcers. By providing quick and reliable assessments, AI can support dentists and oral health specialists in making more informed decisions.

(d) Integration with Imaging Techniques: AI can enhance the analysis of imaging techniques commonly used in dentistry, such as dental X-rays or 3D scans. By identifying subtle changes or abnormalities, AI contributes to the early detection of mouth ulcers[6].

(e) Data Mining and Analysis: AI can process large datasets, including patient records, medical histories, and images, to identify trends and potential risk factors for mouth ulcers. This can aid in understanding the underlying causes and improving preventive strategies[5,6].

(f) Real-time Monitoring: AI applications can offer real-time monitoring of oral health conditions. Patients using mobile apps or wearable devices equipped with AI algorithms can receive immediate feedback on the presence of mouth ulcers, promoting timely intervention.

(g) Telemedicine Support: In telemedicine settings, AI can assist in remote assessments of oral health. Patients can use AI-powered tools to capture images of their oral cavity, and the AI system can provide preliminary assessments or recommendations for further evaluation[5].

(h) Accuracy in Differential Diagnosis: AI can help differentiate between different types of mouth ulcers, such as canker sores, viral ulcers, or ulcers associated with autoimmune conditions. This precision is valuable for tailoring treatment plans to specific ulcer types. AI can be used for detection whereas applications like Chat GPT can be used in dissemination of results in an understandable format[6].

The integration of AI in the detection of mouth ulcers not only improves diagnostic capabilities but also supports more efficient and personalized healthcare. As with any medical application, collaboration between AI systems and healthcare professionals is crucial to ensure accurate and reliable results. With the use of AI, mouth ulcers can be effectively diagnosed and can help the dentists who are serving in underserved locations, prisons etc. where resources are limited, and specialists are also not available.[7]Although when implementing the use of AI in underserved locations and prisons, ethical considerations, privacy, and security must be carefully addressed to ensure that the technology is used responsibly and in the best interests of the under-advantaged population's wellbeing or inmates' well-being[8].

In conclusion, the integration of AI in the detection of mouth ulcers represents a transformative step toward more efficient, accurate, and proactive oral healthcare. The benefits of employing AI in this context are multifaced. AI facilitates rapid and precise analysis of oral images, aiding in the early detection and classification of various types of mouth ulcers. This not only expedites the diagnostic process but also enhances the overall accuracy of identifying specific conditions. Technology's ability to recognize patterns and subtle changes in imaging techniques, such as X-rays or scans, contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of oral health. By differentiating between different types of mouth ulcers, AI supports healthcare professionals in tailoring treatment plans and interventions more effectively[9,10].

Moreover, the real-time monitoring capabilities of AI empower both patients and healthcare providers. Patients can receive immediate feedback on the presence of mouth ulcers, promoting timely intervention and self-awareness. Healthcare professionals, in turn, benefit from improved diagnostic assistance and a data-driven approach to treatment planning. As AI continues to evolve, its role in oral diagnosis extends beyond detection-it plays a crucial part in advancing preventive strategies, optimizing resource allocation, and contributing to the overall improvement of oral healthcare systems.

However, it's important to approach the integration of AI in mouth ulcer detection with a balance of enthusiasm and caution. Responsible implementation, ethical considerations, and collaboration between AI systems and healthcare professionals are paramount to ensuring that the technology enhances patient care while maintaining the human touch in healthcare. In essence, the use of AI in the detection of mouth ulcers signifies a promising paradigm shift, promising more efficient, precise, and patient-centric oral healthcare practices.

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Conflicts of interest
There are no conflicts of interest.

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