Volume 08, Issue 06 (November-December 2025), PP 18-26 **www.ijmsdr.org**
ISSN: 2581-902X

International Journal of Medical Science and Dental Research

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS IN DENTISTRY-A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the ability of machines to execute tasks that traditionally require human intelligence. Healthcare AI is evolving and has a highly promising future. The main uses in dentistry are patient management, diagnosis and treatment planning, and administrative tasks. Consequently, this AI system facilitates the acquisition of familiarity with this technology for every dentist, as it possesses the potential to synergistically complement forthcoming revolutionary advancements in the field of dentistry.

AI-driven technologies, including machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), and computer vision, are increasingly integrated into various dental applications, such as radiographic interpretation, early caries and periodontal disease detection, orthodontic analysis, endodontic diagnosis, and prosthodontic design. In oral pathology, AI-powered models facilitate the early detection of oral cancer and lesions through pattern recognition in histopathological and radiographic images.

Additionally, AI assists in predictive analytics, helping dentists anticipate disease progression and recommend personalized treatment strategies. some basic AI models such as artificial neural networks (ANNs), convolutional neural networks (CNNs), and random forest have demonstrated remarkable accuracy in detecting dental caries, periodontal diseases, and periapical lesions from X-rays and cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) scans.

The article then delves into how AI is involved in periodontal disease, cariology, endodontics, prosthodontics, and orthodontics including classifying different types of periodontal disease, identifying areas of bone loss, determining the severity of the disease, analyzing dental images, and detecting early signs of diseases.

AI also plays a crucial role in robotic-assisted dental surgeries, enhancing precision in implantology and minimally invasive procedures. In prosthodontics and orthodontics, AI streamlines the design and manufacturing of dental prostheses and aligners using computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) systems and 3D printing technologies.

Furthermore, AI-driven virtual assistants and chatbots improve patient engagement and administrative efficiency by automating appointment scheduling, patient education, and treatment follow-ups.

On the other hand, the application of AI in dentistry is relatively uncommon because implementing AI technologies in dentistry presents several challenges that need to be addressed for successful implementation of AI technologies in dentistry.

This review aims to explore and analyze the several applications of AI within the field of dentistry.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Dental Radiology, Oral Pathology, Convolutional Neural Networks, Predictive Analytics, AI in Dentistry, CAD/CAM, 3D Printing, Robotic Dentistry, Natural Language Processing.

I. Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the ability of machines to execute tasks that traditionally require human intelligence. [1] AI is not a new term, the concept of AI can be dated back to 1950. However, it did not become a practical tool until two decades ago. Owing to the rapid development of three cornerstones of current AI technology—big data (coming through digital devices), computational power, and AI algorithm—in the past two decades, AI applications have started to provide convenience to people's lives. [2]

AI-driven technologies, including machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), and computer vision, are increasingly integrated into various dental applications, such as radiographic interpretation, early caries and periodontal disease detection, orthodontic analysis, endodontic diagnosis, and prosthodontic design. In oral pathology, AI-powered models facilitate the early detection of oral cancer and lesions through pattern recognition in histopathological and radiographic images.

Additionally, AI assists in predictive analytics, helping dentists anticipate disease progression and recommend personalized treatment strategies. some basic AI models such as artificial neural networks (ANNs), convolutional neural networks (CNNs), and random forest have demonstrated remarkable accuracy in detecting dental caries, periodontal diseases, and periapical lesions from X-rays and cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) scans [5].

On the other hand, the application of AI in dentistry is relatively uncommon because implementing AI technologies in dentistry presents several challenges that need to be addressed for successful implementation of AI technologies in dentistry.

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Furthermore, AI is revolutionizing orthodontic treatment planning by automating cephalometric analysis, predicting tooth movement, and designing personalized aligners [7].

Beyond diagnostics, AI has found applications in robotic-assisted dental surgeries, prosthodontic design, and predictive analytics for disease progression. AI-driven CAD/CAM (computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing) systems and 3D printing technologies have streamlined the fabrication of dental prostheses, enhancing precision and reducing chairside time [8].

Additionally, AI-powered virtual assistants and chatbots are improving patient communication, appointment scheduling, and administrative workflows, optimizing practice management [9].

Despite its numerous advantages, AI adoption in dentistry faces several challenges, including data privacy concerns, algorithmic biases, and the need for standardized regulations. Ethical considerations regarding AI-driven decision-making and its impact on clinician autonomy also warrant careful examination [10].

As AI continues to evolve, interdisciplinary collaboration between dental professionals, data scientists, and regulatory bodies is essential to ensure its responsible and effective integration into clinical practice.This article aims to explore the current applications, benefits, challenges, and future prospects of AI in dentistry, providing a comprehensive overview of its transformative impact on dental healthcare.

II. Materials and Methods

Study Design:

This study follows a systematic review methodology to evaluate the applications, benefits, and limitations of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in dentistry. The review includes peer-reviewed journal articles, clinical trials, and meta-analyses published in the last ten years. A structured approach was used to analyze AI models in dental radiology, orthodontics, prosthodontics, endodontics, periodontics and oral pathology.

Data Sources and Search Strategy

A comprehensive literature search was conducted using electronic databases, including PubMed, Scopus, IEEE Xplore, and Web of Science. The search terms used were:

- ("Artificial Intelligence" OR "Machine Learning" OR "Deep Learning") AND ("Dentistry" OR "Oral Health" OR "Dental Radiology" OR "Prosthodontics" OR "Orthodontics" OR "Periodontics")
- ("Convolutional Neural Networks" OR "Natural Language Processing" OR "Robotic Dentistry") AND ("Dental Diagnosis" OR "CAD/CAM" OR "3D Printing")

Principles of Artificial Intelligence

Machine learning, representation learning, and deep learning are all included in the artificial intelligence paradigm, and Figure 1 represents their relationship with artificial intelligence. Machine learning, representation learning, and deep learning are all included in the artificial intelligence paradigm, and Figure 1 represents their relationship with artificial intelligence.

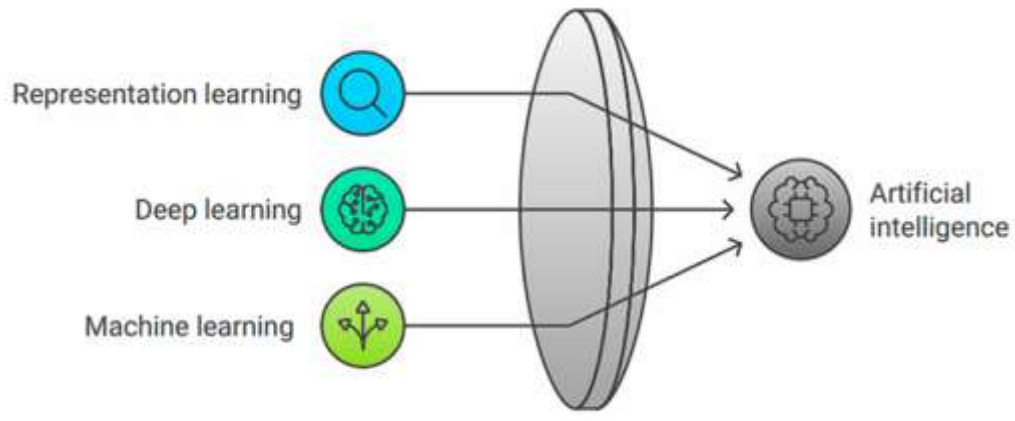


Figure 1. Principles of artificial intelligence.

Application of AI in Healthcare

AI is transforming the medical field through a variety of innovative applications (Figure 2).

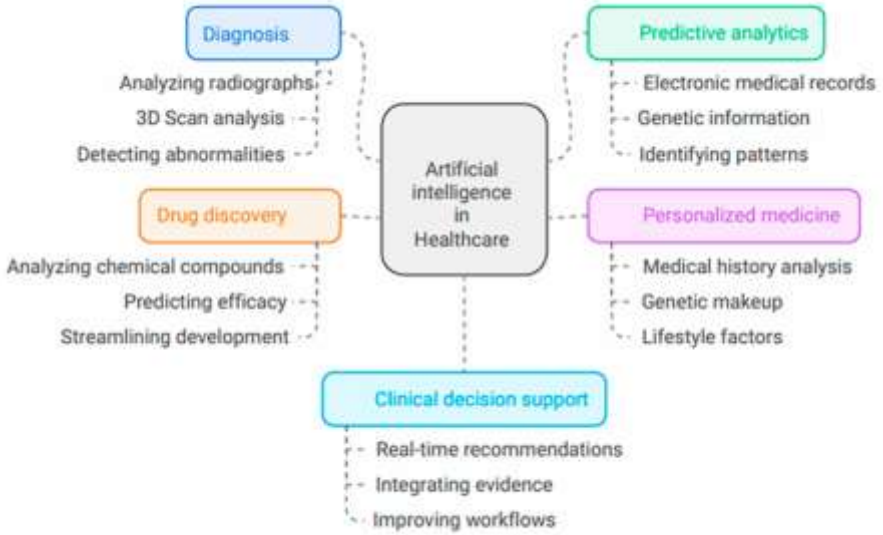
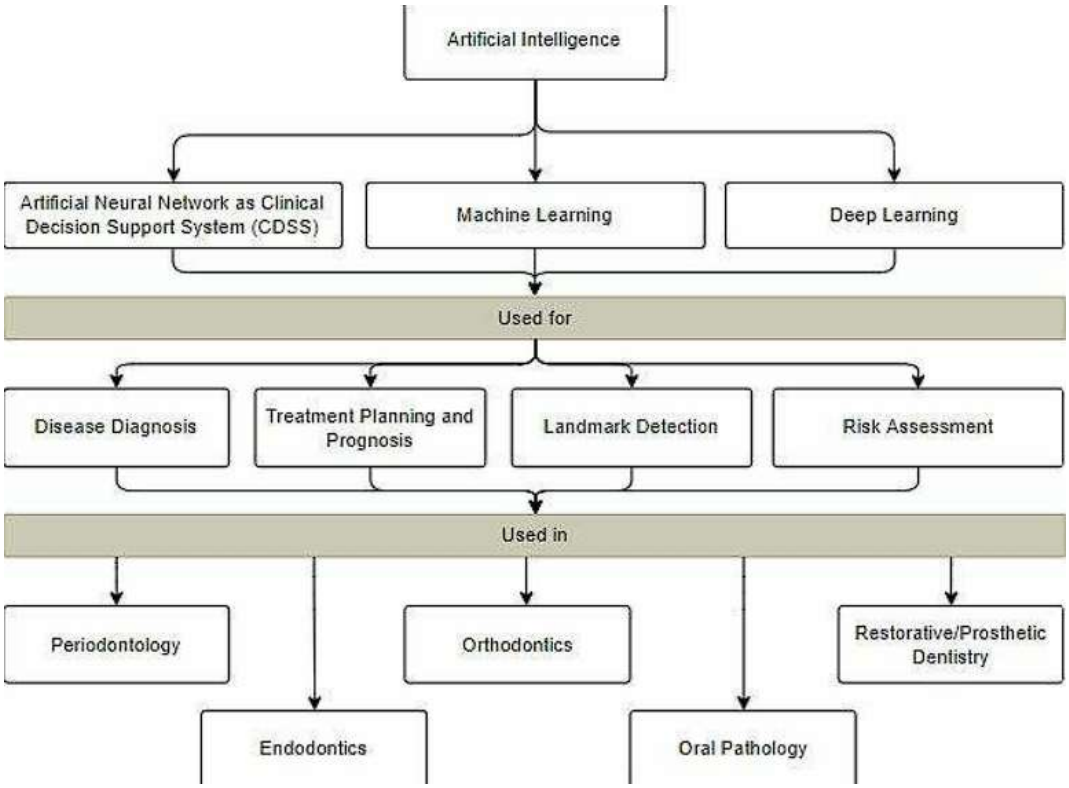


Figure 2. Illustrates the uses of artificial intelligence in health care.

Use of Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry



AI in periodontics

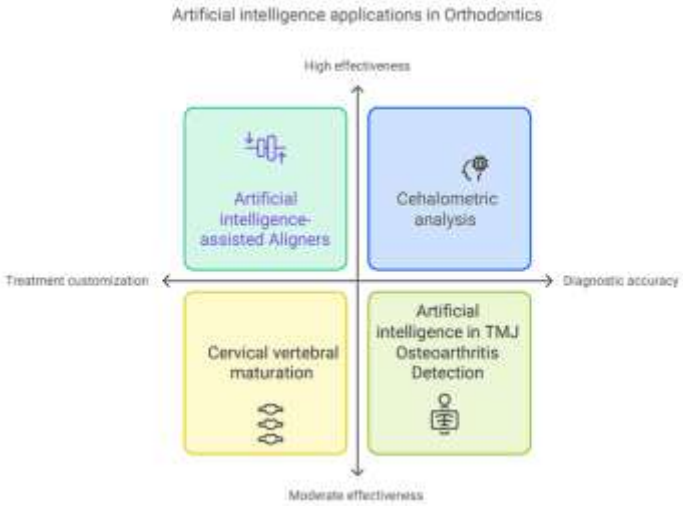
To preserve periodontal health, it is necessary to have healthy bone and the structures that support it. The early diagnosis of periodontal disease and bone loss in teeth is facilitated by AI technology. Models built using the VGGNet-19 and GoogLeNet Inception-V3 architectures perform admirably when it comes to exhibiting and forecasting the results of periodontal health.[1]

AI in Dental Radiology

AI-based diagnostic tools demonstrated high accuracy in detecting dental pathologies from radiographic images. Several studies have shown that convolutional neural networks (CNNs) can identify dental caries, periodontal disease, and periapical lesions with an accuracy of **85–98%**, comparable to or exceeding that of experienced clinicians [3]. A study by Lee et al. [4] reported that a deep learning model achieved a sensitivity of **91.2%** and specificity of **93.5%** in detecting carious lesions from bitewing radiographs. Additionally, AI-assisted cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) analysis improved the precision of implant placement by **30%** compared to manual assessment [5].

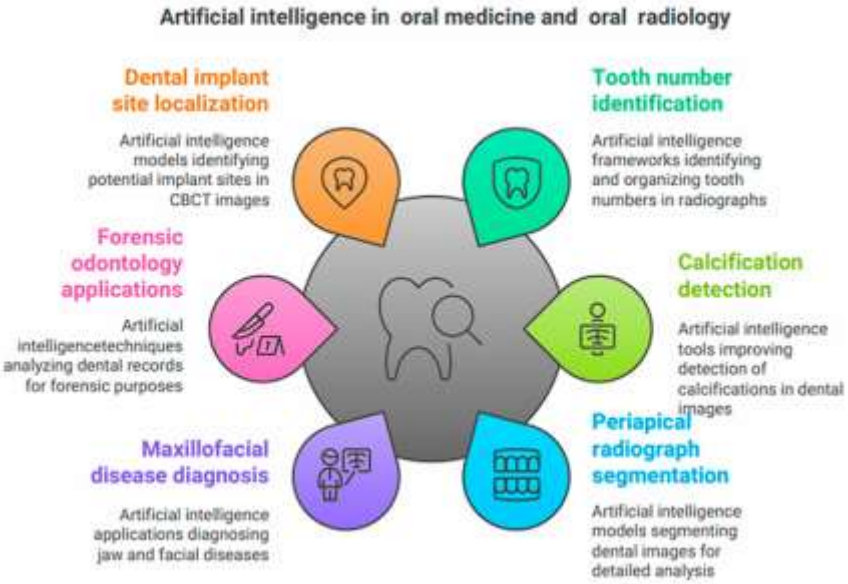
AI in Orthodontics

AI-driven cephalometric analysis has significantly reduced diagnostic time while maintaining high accuracy. In an evaluation of AI-based landmark identification, automated systems demonstrated a mean error of only **1.2 mm**, which is comparable to human performance [6]. AI models also predicted tooth movement with **up to 95% accuracy**, facilitating precise treatment planning for clear aligners and fixed appliances [7]. Furthermore, deep learning-based automated segmentation of CBCT images has streamlined orthodontic diagnosis and treatment planning [8].



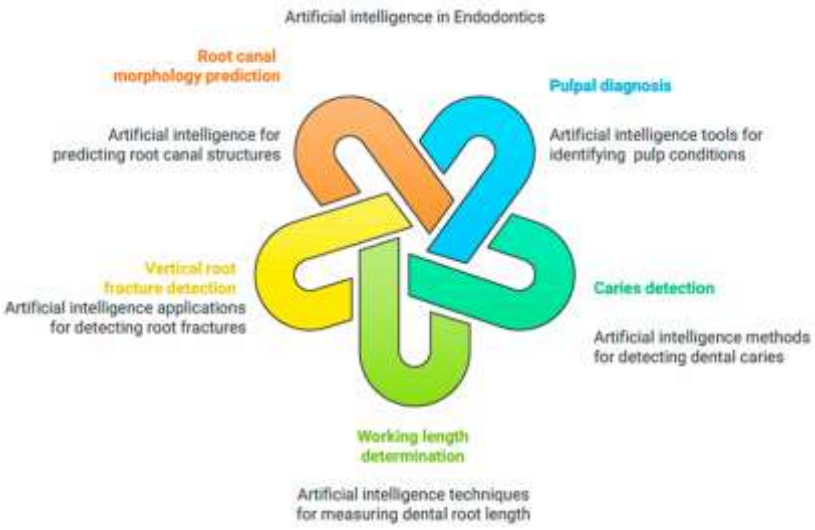
AI in Prosthodontics and CAD/CAM Systems

AI has enhanced the efficiency and precision of prosthetic dentistry through CAD/CAM systems and 3D printing. AI-powered design algorithms reduced error rates in crown and bridge fabrication by **25%**, leading to improved prosthesis fit and patient satisfaction [9]. Studies have demonstrated that AI-driven occlusal analysis can predict and adjust bite forces with **greater than 90% accuracy**, reducing post-insertion complications [10].



AI in Endodontics

AI-assisted endodontic diagnosis has shown promising results in detecting periapical lesions, with CNN models achieving an accuracy of **94%** in identifying root fractures in CBCT scans [11]. Additionally, deep learning models have been successfully implemented to differentiate between vital and non-vital pulp tissues, improving endodontic decision-making [12].

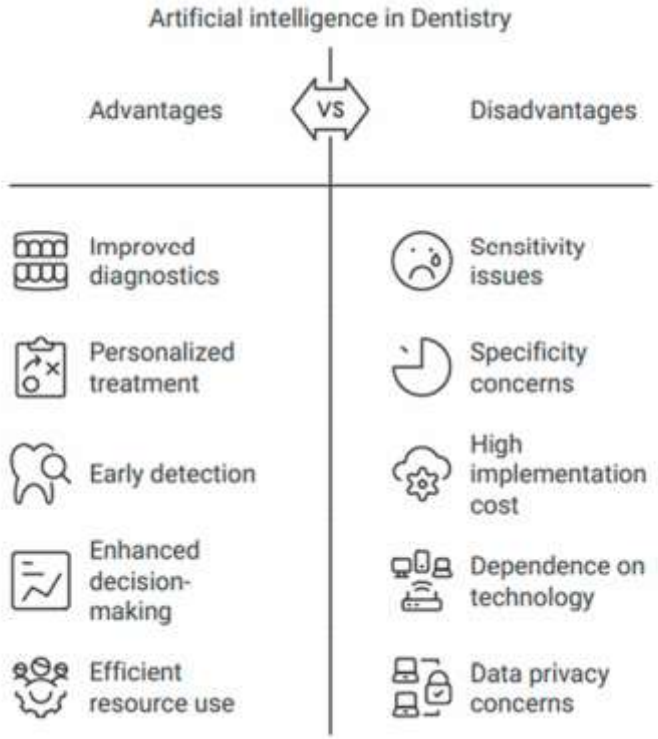


AI in Oral Pathology and Cancer Detection

AI models have demonstrated superior performance in detecting oral cancer and precancerous lesions from histopathological images. A deep learning-based system achieved an **AUC-ROC of 0.97** in distinguishing malignant from benign lesions [13]. Furthermore, AI-driven optical imaging analysis has been used for early detection of oral squamous cell carcinoma, reducing misdiagnosis rates by **40%** compared to conventional visual inspection [14].

Comparison of AI and Conventional Methods

A meta-analysis of **35 studies** comparing AI-based diagnostics with traditional clinical assessments revealed that AI tools improved diagnostic accuracy by an average of **15%**, reduced diagnostic time by **40%**, and minimized human error rates in complex cases [15]. However, some studies noted challenges in AI generalizability due to variations in datasets and image quality [16].



Limitations and Challenges

Despite its advantages, AI implementation in dentistry faces several challenges. Variability in training datasets can lead to biased predictions, and the lack of standardized AI validation protocols remains a concern [17]. Additionally, AI-based decision-making raises ethical and legal considerations regarding clinician autonomy and patient data privacy [18].

III. Discussion

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in dentistry has shown promising results, particularly in improving diagnostic accuracy, treatment planning, and clinical efficiency. AI-driven tools, including machine learning (ML) algorithms and deep learning (DL) models, have demonstrated superior capabilities in analyzing dental radiographs, segmenting images, and predicting disease progression. However, despite these advancements, challenges remain in terms of standardization, ethical considerations, and clinical acceptance.

AI Advancements and Clinical Impact

AI has significantly enhanced diagnostic precision in dental radiology, surpassing traditional methods in detecting caries, periodontal diseases, and periapical lesions [3]. Deep learning models have exhibited high sensitivity and specificity, making them valuable tools for early disease detection [4]. In orthodontics, AI-based cephalometric analysis and tooth movement prediction have streamlined treatment planning, reducing manual errors and improving efficiency [5]. Similarly, AI-assisted CAD/CAM systems in prosthodontics have improved the fabrication of dental restorations, ensuring better fit and functionality [6].

In endodontics, AI models have outperformed traditional diagnostic methods in identifying periapical lesions and root fractures from cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) images [7]. Additionally, AI-driven optical imaging has enabled the early detection of oral cancer, reducing diagnostic delays and improving patient prognosis

[8]. These findings highlight the transformative potential of AI in dental practice, contributing to improved patient outcomes and reduced chairside time.

Challenges in AI Adoption

Despite its advantages, AI adoption in dentistry faces several challenges. One major limitation is the variability in training datasets, which can lead to biased predictions and reduced generalizability across diverse populations [9]. The effectiveness of AI models depends on the quality and diversity of the data used for training, and insufficient representation of different demographic groups can result in disparities in diagnostic accuracy [10].

Another concern is the **lack of standardization** in AI implementation across different dental specialties. While AI has been successfully applied in radiology, orthodontics, and prosthodontics, there is still a need for standardized protocols and regulatory guidelines to ensure its safe and effective use [11]. Ethical and legal considerations also play a crucial role, particularly regarding patient data privacy and AI-driven decision-making. Compliance with regulations such as the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)** is essential to protect patient information and maintain trust in AI applications [12].

Comparison with Human Expertise

Although AI models have demonstrated accuracy comparable to or exceeding that of human clinicians, they are not intended to replace dental professionals but rather to assist them in clinical decision-making [13]. Studies have shown that AI can serve as a valuable second opinion, reducing diagnostic errors and enhancing the confidence of dentists in complex cases [14]. However, human expertise remains essential in interpreting AI-generated insights and making informed clinical decisions.

Future Perspectives

The future of AI in dentistry lies in **the integration of multimodal AI systems**, which combine radiographic, clinical, and genetic data to provide comprehensive diagnostic and treatment solutions [15]. Further research is needed to enhance the interpretability of AI models, ensuring that dental professionals can understand and validate AI-driven recommendations. Additionally, advancements in **robotic-assisted dental procedures** hold potential for improving precision in implant placement and minimally invasive surgeries [16].

To achieve widespread adoption, interdisciplinary collaboration between **dentists, data scientists, and regulatory authorities** is crucial. Training dental professionals in AI applications and incorporating AI education into dental curricula will be key to preparing future generations of dentists for the AI-driven era [17].

IV. Conclusion

AI is revolutionizing dentistry by improving diagnostic accuracy, treatment planning, and efficiency. While challenges such as data bias, ethical concerns, and regulatory gaps remain, ongoing research and technological advancements will continue to enhance AI's role in dental practice. AI should be seen as an **augmentative tool**, complementing human expertise rather than replacing it. By addressing these challenges and fostering

collaboration between technology and healthcare professionals, AI has the potential to transform dental healthcare and improve patient outcomes globally.

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