Artificial Intelligence in Medicine: Assistance or Replacement?

Machuca Vidrio Manuel
ACEMJAL
scomp.acemjal@gmail.com

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly prevalent in both academic education and healthcare management. We have either personally experienced or observed colleagues relying on AI for creativity, summarizing complex texts, quickly resolving doubts, optimizing online research, and efficiently creating graphic resources. AI is emerging as an essential tool, widely adopted in daily life, particularly within the academic domain.

This type of thinking has been studied regarding how the coexistence of doctors and artificial intelligence will look in the near future. It has been found that medical specialties and healthcare activities most at risk of being replaced by artificial intelligence are those that involve repetitive tasks. However, there is also talk of a reinvention of these specialties, where the focus shifts back to patient care rather than the analysis of repetitive data, returning the medical practice to its core of patient-centered care. (1)

However, there are also arguments against the idea that artificial intelligence will eventually replace doctors, and they are based on the use of medical intuition. This 'sixth sense' that makes scientists 'uncomfortable' is nothing more than the experience gained over years of training to diagnose, treat, and assist patients. While evidence-based medicine should always be the priority, medical intuition is an important factor that assists emergencies. (2)

The above does not suggest that medical practice should rely on experience; rather, it echoes the well-known saying, 'treat patients, not diseases,' which could be rephrased as 'treat patients, not data.'

We could consider that a tool performing data analysis with immediate information response could be reliable for patient care, but it also dehumanizes medical practice, which cannot exist without humans. We do more than diagnose and prescribe treatment like a machine; we are present in people's most vulnerable moments and help them find comfort during difficult times.

Medicine goes beyond being a machine that 'knows it all,' as there are aspects that a computer simply cannot address. The real concern with artificial intelligence lies in the potential for eliminating repetitive tasks and the analysis of large volumes of data, and even then, it is unlikely to be fully realized since the human element will always be essential.

Artificial intelligence is a tool, a companion that will support us in our practice rather than replace us. To adapt the words of Marcelo Gálvez Moya: AI will not replace doctors, but doctors who use AI will replace those who do not. (3)