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Artificial Intelligence: can it Replace Human Touch in Oncology Patients

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a new Entrant in field of Radiology, whereby machine based software can do scheduled assignments after data has been extensively studied and proper algorithms have been made. Advantage of AI is that it can do scheduled task quickly and that too, in many cases, without involvement of Human labour. There is serious discussion going on, whether AI will be able to replace Diagnostic Radiologists altogether or not? Algorithm formation for a scheduled task requires extensive data collection from number of participants. Then this collected data is deeply analysed and algorithms are formed depending on aims and objectives of study. But, AI will never be able to replace skills and techniques of Interventional Radiologists. Diagnostic Radiologists will have to done Specialists skills in a particular subspecialty, to remain in business in this competitive world.

A new dimension, which AI is said to be lacking, particularly in Oncology Patients is Human touch.

Oncology patients are under lot of stress, due to their disease and due to their ongoing treatment, which sometimes may be very painful and emotionally draining. When Oncology patient presents to a Radiologist, be it for Ultrasound or Computed Tomography, then patient hearing to patient's complaints gives a sense of satisfaction and relief to patient. Oncology patients get a lot of comfort, when Radiologist listens patiently to them. Moreover, Radiologist can help patients is taking Informed decisions about their treatment, especially when Interventional Radiologist is involved in patient management. I hereby feel that AI will never ever be able to replace Human touch and comfort, which a Radiologist can provide to Oncology patients. But, AI will definitely be useful in saving Human effort and time for mundane tasks, which can be done efficiently by AI in Radiology. In this era of Personalised Medicine, AI will have to be used judiciously by Clinicians, especially Radiologist, to provide maximum benefit to patients.