

Doctors are excited, concerned about AI's role in medicine: Poll

December 15 2023, by Ernie Mundell



American physicians have mixed feelings on the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) into mainstream medical practice, a new survey shows.

The [survey](#) of nearly 1,100 [doctors](#), conducted by the American Medical Association (AMA) in August, found 41% of [physicians](#) saying they were "equally excited and concerned" about AI in the workplace.

"Physicians are optimistic about the advantages that properly designed AI-enabled tools can have for patient care, and nearly two-thirds of physicians see an advantage to AI if key requirements are met," AMA President Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld said in an AMA news release.

"The AMA [survey](#) illustrates that physicians' greatest hope for AI rests in reducing the crushing administrative burdens that plague [modern medicine](#), which drain health care resources and pull physicians away from patient care."

That's the "up" side, according to the poll: Sixty-nine percent of doctors thought AI would help with workflow efficiency during their busy days; another 54% said they were enthusiastic about AI that might ease the burden around "documentation;" and another 48% hoped it might cut down on the red tape of prior authorization for insurance coverage.

As for actual [patient care](#), 72% thought AI could be helpful in better diagnosing patients, and 61% hoped it might help improve clinical outcomes for patients.

Worries around AI centered on its impact on patient-doctor interactions, with 39% of doctors concerned the technology might harm that relationship. Another 41% had concerns about AI's impact on patient privacy.

AI is already making inroads in hospitals and doctors' office, the AMA survey found: More than a third (38%) of physicians said they were already using it.

While only 11% said they'd used it to so far to help with diagnosis, larger percentages said they'd used AI to help with office paperwork or translation services.

More information: There's more on the role of AI in medicine at [Harvard University](#).

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Citation: Doctors are excited, concerned about AI's role in medicine: Poll (2023, December 15) retrieved 8 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-12-doctors-ai-role-medicine-poll.html>

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