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Letter to the Editor

Comment on "Postoperative Management of Tympanoplasty with ChatGPT–4.0"

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Dear Editor,

The publication on "Postoperative Management of Tympanoplasty with ChatGPT-4.0" is hereby discussed.[1] Patients in rural and underserved areas may have limited access to medical professionals; therefore, the concepts offered in this study are very valuable. Using ChatGPT-4 as an auxiliary tool to deliver postoperative care recommendations for middle ear surgery could help close a huge access gap in healthcare. However, various potential confounding variables must be considered. First, the study used a small sample of 10 frequently requested questions, which may not have captured the patient's concerns and the intricacies of postoperative care well. In fact, patients' enquiries may be more complex and variable than conventional postoperative questions, affecting the generalizability of the findings.

Another key issue is that it only considered feedback from 10 medical professionals. This small group may not accurately represent the diversity of medical experts, particularly in otolaryngology. Healthcare experts from various fields and levels of experience may have diverse perspectives on the artificial intelligence's (AI) responses. Furthermore, the study did not clarify whether the professionals were aware of the AI's responses, which could have introduced bias into the evaluation process. Additionally, the accuracy was graded between 80% and 100%, but the mechanism utilized to calculate this number was imprecise, and it is unclear how conflicts between AI-generated responses and medical guidelines were addressed. Accuracy, clarity, and relevance are helpful statistical concepts. However, it lacks in-depth statistical analysis, such as confidence intervals and *P*-values, which could improve the reliability of the findings. Without a more precise statistical technique, it is difficult to determine the true importance of the reported data. Furthermore, investigating how patients use the data (e.g., follow-up questions or question sets) may provide a better understanding of ChatGPT-4's ability to sustain and dynamically engage with users.

Future Directions A larger and more diversified sample of patients and healthcare professionals will increase the generalizability of the study's findings. Longitudinal assessments could help comprehend the AI's long-term accuracy and patient satisfaction. Further advancements could involve the creation of AI models specifically built for post-surgery recovery scenarios, allowing for more precise adaptation to individual patient demands.

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