



ISSN: 2348-6295

Journal of Pharma Creations (JPC)

JPC |Vol. 13 | Issue 2 | Apr - Jun -2026

www.pharmacreations.com

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.61096/jpc.v13.iss2.2026.178-182>

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Modern Pharmacy

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Published by:
24.04.2026

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Abstract: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) have emerged as transformative tools in the field of modern pharmacy. They offer new possibilities in drug discovery, precision medicine, patient care, and pharmaceutical research. AI algorithms can process massive datasets, identify hidden patterns, and support decision-making, while ML models continuously improve their performance through experience. This review explores the current applications, benefits, and limitations of AI and ML in pharmacy, with a focus on their impact on drug development, disease prediction, and personalized treatment. The paper also highlights ongoing challenges and future directions in integrating these technologies into clinical and research settings.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Pharmacy, Drug Discovery, Personalized Medicine

1. INTRODUCTION

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) into healthcare and pharmacy has brought about a revolution in the way pharmaceuticals are developed, tested, and delivered. AI simulates human intelligence through machines, while ML—an AI subset—enables systems to learn from data and improve over time. In the pharmaceutical industry, these technologies are being used to optimize processes ranging from drug discovery to patient adherence. With the growth of big data and computational power, AI and ML are reshaping pharmacy practices to be more efficient, predictive, and personalized. In the pharmaceutical field, AI and ML are being used in various applications such as drug discovery, personalized medicine, clinical trials, inventory management, and patient counselling. With the help of algorithms that learn from data, ML systems can identify patterns, forecast disease trends, and suggest optimal treatment plans tailored to individual patients. This not only improves healthcare outcomes but also reduces costs and minimizes human error. In the context of modern pharmacy, AI and ML are being utilized across a wide range of applications—from drug discovery and development to personalized medicine, medication management, pharmacovigilance, and clinical decision support systems.

These technologies help in processing vast datasets, identifying trends and patterns, predicting patient responses to drugs, and automating routine tasks, thereby improving accuracy, efficiency, and overall patient care. For example, AI-powered platforms can screen thousands of chemical compounds in a short time to identify potential drug candidates, significantly reducing the time and cost involved in drug development. Similarly, ML models

can analyze patient histories and genetic profiles to suggest personalized treatment plans, improving therapeutic outcomes and reducing adverse effects. Furthermore, in retail and hospital pharmacies, AI-driven tools are aiding in inventory management, detecting prescription errors, monitoring patient adherence, and optimizing supply chains. This integration of smart technologies not only enhances the productivity of pharmacists but also supports the shift toward more predictive, preventive, and personalized healthcare. As AI and ML continue to evolve, their role in pharmacy will become even more integral, offering solutions to long-standing challenges and setting new standards for innovation, safety, and efficiency in pharmaceutical practice. The integration of AI and ML in pharmacy is paving the way for a more efficient, precise, and patient-centered healthcare system, making it a vital area of development in modern medical practice.

1.1 Advantages

- Drug Discovery and Development.
- Faster drug discovery: AI analyzes vast chemical databases to identify potential drug candidates quickly.
- Precision Medicine.
- Personalized treatment plans: AI helps tailor medications based on individual genetics and health data.
- Improved patient outcomes: Ensures more accurate and effective therapies.
- Optimized Drug Dosage.
- Individualized dosage recommendations: Based on patient age, weight, genetics, and condition.
- Reduced side effects: Prevents over/under-dosing, increasing treatment effectiveness.

1.2 Disadvantages

- Data Privacy and Security Concerns.
- Patient health data used in AI systems can be vulnerable to data breaches or misuse.
- Strict regulations like HIPAA or GDPR must be followed, increasing complexity.
- Lack of Human Judgment.
- AI may not understand context, emotions, or ethical considerations.
- In critical situations, human expertise is irreplaceable.
- High Implementation Costs.
- Setting up AI systems requires expensive software, hardware, and skilled professionals.
- Smaller pharmacies or developing countries may struggle to afford or maintain such technologies.

1.3 Applications in Drug Discovery and Development

One of the most promising applications of AI and ML is in drug discovery. Traditional drug development is expensive and time-consuming. AI algorithms can rapidly analyze vast biological datasets, identify molecular targets, and predict compound interactions. ML models help in virtual screening of drug candidates, reducing the need for extensive laboratory testing.

1. Drug Discovery and Development:

- **Accelerated Research:**

AI algorithms can analyze vast datasets to identify potential drug candidates, predict their properties (like efficacy and toxicity), and optimize their design, significantly speeding up the traditional drug discovery process.

- **Personalized Medicine:**

AI can analyze patient-specific data (genomics, medical history, lifestyle) to predict individual responses to medications and develop personalized treatment plans.

- **Virtual Clinical Trials:**

AI-powered platforms can simulate clinical trials, enabling researchers to test drugs on virtual patients, potentially reducing the need for traditional trials and accelerating the development of new therapies.

2. Pharmacy Operations and Patient Care

- **Automated Dispensing:**

AI can automate the dispensing process, improving accuracy, speed, and efficiency, especially in busy pharmacies, while also flagging potential drug interactions or allergies.

- **Inventory Management:**

AI algorithms can optimize inventory levels, predict demand, and minimize waste, ensuring that the right medications are available when needed.

- **Medication Adherence:**

AI-powered tools can help patients manage their medication schedules, provide reminders, and improve adherence to treatment plans.

- **Public Health Monitoring:**

AI can analyze health data to identify disease outbreaks, track medication usage patterns, and inform public health interventions.

3. Clinical Trials

- **Patient Recruitment:**

AI can identify suitable patients for clinical trials based on their medical history and characteristics, improving the efficiency of recruitment.

- **Data Analysis and Management:**

AI can streamline data collection, cleaning, and analysis in clinical trials, allowing for faster and more efficient data processing.

- **Predictive Modeling:**

AI can predict patient outcomes and optimize clinical trial designs, leading to more effective and efficient trials.

4. Manufacturing and Quality Control

- **Predictive Maintenance:**

AI can monitor equipment performance and predict potential failures, reducing downtime and improving manufacturing efficiency.

- **Quality Control:**

AI can be used to monitor product quality throughout the manufacturing process, ensuring consistent product quality and reducing waste

5. Drug Discovery and Development

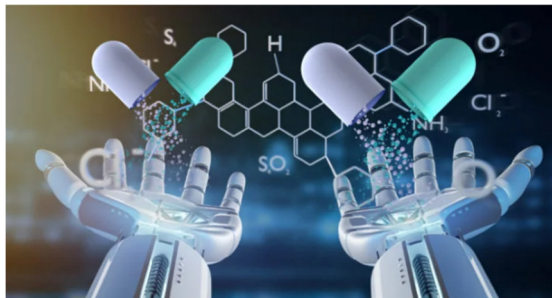
For example, AI has been used to identify existing drugs for repurposing in treating COVID-19. Deep learning techniques are also employed in predicting the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of new compounds.

- **Personalized Medicine :**

Personalized medicine aims to tailor treatments based on individual patient characteristics, such as genetics, lifestyle, and environment. ML algorithms analyze patient data to recommend optimized drug regimens and predict responses to specific therapies. For instance, in oncology, AI helps design personalized cancer treatment plans based on genomic profiles. Such approaches lead to better outcomes and fewer side effects, marking a shift from a "one-size-fits-all" to a patient-centric model of care.

- **AI in Pharmacy Practice and Patient Care :**

AI-powered tools are also transforming community and clinical pharmacy. Chatbots and virtual assistants provide drug information, medication reminders, and counseling. Clinical decision support systems (CDSS) use AI to alert pharmacists about drug interactions or inappropriate dosing. Furthermore, ML models assist in predicting medication non-adherence, helping pharmacists to intervene proactively. Robotic systems integrated with AI are used in automated dispensing and inventory management, increasing efficiency and reducing human errors.



Challenges and Limitations

- Despite its potential, the adoption of AI and ML in pharmacy faces several challenges:
- **Data Privacy and Security:** Patient data must be protected against misuse.
- **Bias in Algorithms:** ML models trained on biased data can produce skewed results.
- **Integration into Workflows:** There is a need for proper training and infrastructure to incorporate AI tools in daily pharmacy practice.
- **Regulatory Issues:** AI-driven systems must comply with healthcare regulations to ensure safety and efficacy.

Future Prospects

The future of pharmacy lies in the intelligent use of data. With advancements in wearable technology, real-time health monitoring, and genomics, AI and ML will become even more

central to personalized healthcare. Research is ongoing into explainable AI, which aims to make AI decision-making transparent and understandable to clinicians and patients alike.

Collaborations between tech companies, academic institutions, and healthcare providers will accelerate innovation and ensure ethical and practical integration.

6. Conclusion

AI and ML are reshaping the landscape of modern pharmacy by improving drug discovery, optimizing patient care, and enhancing decision-making processes. While challenges remain, their growing adoption signals a future where technology and pharmacy go hand in hand to deliver smarter, faster, and more personalized healthcare solutions.

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