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ASKMED: MEDICAL CHATBOT

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ABSTRACT

Askmed Medical chatbots are revolutionizing the healthcare industry by providing efficient, accessible, and cost-effective medical assistance. This study presents the design and implementation of an AI-driven Medical chatbot capable of offering preliminary consultations, answering health-related queries, and streamlining the patient-doctor interaction. The chatbot leverages natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning algorithms to understand user symptoms, provide accurate recommendations, and suggest appropriate next steps, such as scheduling appointments or connecting with medical professionals. By integrating secure communication protocols and healthcare data privacy compliance (e.g., HIPAA or GDPR), the chatbot ensures user confidentiality and trust. This innovation aims to address challenges such as doctor shortages, long wait times, and geographical barriers, ultimately enhancing healthcare accessibility and promoting better patient outcomes.

The advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) within the health industry has changed the nature of medical consults and diagnoses in recent years. This paper proposes ASKMED, an intelligent virtual assistant, that will provide preliminary medical advice by way of natural language processing (NLP), voice processing, and image detection. ASKMED will utilize open-source models from Hugging Face, and the Rasa framework to process the medical question based on user context, and provide a valid medical question, or advise some likelihood of the question corresponding to an actual medical ailment. The chatbot can process both text and voice, allowing users to be provided access to these features accordingly. In addition, the chatbot can process user images to assist with detection, and provide some likelihood of possible symptoms that may corresponded to the users' parameters. ASKMED serves as a remote medical assistant, functioning behind the scenes, providing general advice while advocating for an actual consultation.

ASKMED improves the efficiency of self-assessment and preliminary diagnosis using an AI Natural language model integrated with voice-based dialogue and image recognition. Ongoing concerns about data privacy, ethical issues, and the consequences of inaccurate decision-making, will continue to be important considerations in future development. This research outlines the promise and limitations of chatbot AI in medicine and investigates future models of NLP-powered healthcare solutions that can help improve accessibility, safety, and trust in AI health contexts.

Keywords:

AI in healthcare, NLP chatbot, medical assistance, voice recognition, image analysis, remote diagnosis

INTRODUCTION

The application of artificial intelligence (AI) within the field of healthcare has transformed the delivery of medical service by providing faster, more efficient and accessible care alternatives to a larger number of patients at all points of care delivery. Of the many promising applications of AI in healthcare, one significantly noteworthy application is the development of intelligent medical chatbots that use natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning (ML) to provide real-time medical support. Chatbots serve as virtual healthcare

assistants that are able to guide users through symptom assessment, provide medical information and recommend actions to take based on the health condition of poll users. In this context, we introduce ASKMED: Intelligent Dialog System for Remote Support as an AI enabled chatbot that provides users easy access to get medical assistance from initial inquiries, support for preliminary diagnosis, and improve healthcare in remote access areas where medical professionals do not work or live.

The conventional healthcare system frequently contends with critical challenges, such as overwhelmed hospitals, extended patient wait periods, inadequate health care providers, and geographical barriers that inhibit patients from accessing health care on time. The necessity for a digital health care solution only increased because of global health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. AI chatbots such as ASKMED can significantly help alleviate these challenges by providing users with almost immediate responses to their queries, alleviating some of the workload of medical professionals, and providing preliminary assessments of the patient before they receive care. Informed by advanced natural language processing (NLP) techniques, ASKMED is able to analyze and comprehend complicated medical queries, and deliver medically sound and relevant advice.

ASKMED utilizes Hugging Face NLP models in combination with Rasa framework to provide accurate and contextual conversations. Unlike conventional chat bots that rely on pre-defined scripts, ASKMEED uses deep learning models to determine user intent on-the-fly to generate responses that are catered to the needs of each patient. Furthermore, the chatbot allows for voice-based interactions, in which users communicate through speech input and receive a voice-based output, thus making that alternative accessible to elderly individuals, blind users, and other users who prefer communicating this way. One more important feature provided through ASKMED is its image detection feature that allows users to submit images of their skin conditions, rashes, or infections. The image uploaded by the patient will be analyzed by computer vision models, generating insights about skin conditions, therefore broadening ASKMED to include a diagnostic feature. Even though AI-enabled medical chatbots can provide support in medical settings, challenges do remain more widely reported about their challenges. One of the major concerns is the accuracy and reliability of the medical advice/chatbot recommendations, since medical advice can lead to very negative health consequences. To try to combat this, ASKMED uses validated medical datasets and expert-reviewed guidelines to provide responses consistent with accepted medical knowledge. So, when using chatbots, additional issues of data privacy and security, and ethical issues, will need to be addressed in order to build trust in the chatbot from users and comply with healthcare regulations, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Finally, AI models should have component improvements in their operation through a combination of real-world performance testing and continuous feedback models to improve their operation and not have biased outcomes in medical decision making.

The advancement of ASKMED is a major stride towards realizing an integration of AI and healthcare. By implementing cutting-edge NLP, voice recognition, and image analysis technologies, this chatbot has the potential to change how users experience access to medical information and preliminary diagnosis. This paper provides a thorough investigation of the architecture, features, advantages, and limitations in addition to the possible practice implications for AI-facing chatbots in the digital healthcare setting.

OBJECTIVES

This research primarily aims to design ASKMED: Intelligent Dialog System for Remote Support, an AI-based medical chatbot that assists users with healthcare information and preliminary diagnosis assistance in natural language using advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP), voice recognition, and image detection software and technology. The study seeks to enable an interactive, efficient, and accessible digital health assistant capable of addressing users' medical questions in real time. The chatbot will be developed and trained to recognize medical terms, symptoms, and conditions while also being able to communicate back to users in a human, conversational tone using the Hugging Face NLP models and the Rasa framework. A primary objective is for ASKMED to recognize voice and be able to respond to users with text-to-speech functionalities enough to allow a user to write prompts using only their voice. This function will then open the platform for a more universal audience that might have some disabilities or are not as literate or just prefer using their voice over writing. These capabilities will use Natural Language Processing tools to harness what the users' verbal instructions are to communicate back with them into writing. Accessibility will be key, too, to the platform as the system will be designed to acknowledge various languages.

In order to enhance user experience and engagement, the chatbot interface will be built to be intuitive, userfriendly, and responsive across different platforms (mobile apps, web-based, and/or blended with other digital healthcare services). The chatbot will also incorporate multi-language processing to improve accessibility for audiences across various regions. Evaluating ASKMED's performance and user satisfaction will also be an additional aspect of this study. We will assess the chatbot's accuracy, effectiveness, and overall reliability in providing medical support by testing, getting user feedback, and deploying in real-life situations.

In addition to this, the study will also explore future improvements and scalability of the chatbot. Future implementation may see enhancements of wearable health technology, such as smartwatch and fitness tracker integrations, where ASKMED would pull on the users' health data and apply the health metrics in real-time to offer health recommendations relevant to their health data. Another potential future improvement of the chatbot may see upgrades to telemedicine, where ASKMED could enable virtual visits to the user and virtually connect the user to a health professional, as needed. This potentially connects the automated health assistant of ASKMED to professional medical care, forming an expanded digital health ecosystem. By accomplishing further enhancement, ASKMED is intended to be an intelligent, accountable, and very accessible medical assistant to bring real-time evidence-based medical knowledge to the user, mitigate unnecessary emergency department visits, and perhaps even improve global health access and awareness.

ASKMED functions as a primary operation to produce an AI medical chatbot system that delivers precise healthcare support remotely to users through automated interactions. The system adopts NLP models from Hugging Face to process user inquiries efficiently then provide medical-related answers in live time. The system aims to include voice-based interaction as a critical goal because this functionality enables users to communicate through speech as well as text to expand healthcare accessibility. The chatbot includes an advanced functionality which enables users to upload images so it can conduct identification of infections while helping them identify possible health issues. It is essential to achieve perfect integration between medical knowledge frameworks while offering users latest evidence-based content as part of a fundamental goal. User engagement and satisfaction will improve through the system which maintains an intuitive and user-friendly interface. Medical data security merits highest importance since the platform implements encryption protocols, authentication methods and follows data privacy standards to protect sensitive user information. The chatbot includes multilingual capabilities which enables more users from various regions to access its features. The system will introduce continuous learning together with feedback systems which aim to enhance chatbot response reliability and accuracy during future operations. ASKMED functions to unite healthcare users with medical services through its AI-powered rapid response system which maintains high security measures and trust features.

ALGORITHM

Algorithm: Medical Query Handling in ASKMED Chatbot

1. Start & Initialization

Initialize system components by loading pre-trained NLP models from Hugging Face and activating voice I/O modules, the medical database, and image detection systems.

2. User Input

Accept user queries via text or speech. If speech is used, convert it to text using Speech-to-Text processing.

3. Preprocessing

Clean and tokenize input. Extract relevant medical terms and symptoms using NLP tools.

- 4. **Intent Detection & Entity Recognition** Determine user intent (e.g., symptoms or disease detection) and identify key medical entities like symptoms, duration, and severity.
- 5. **Information Retrieval / Image Analysis** Retrieve relevant data from the medical knowledge base or analyze images to detect infections.
- 6. Response Generation Generate medically accurate, context-aware responses. Convert to speech if voice output is selected.
 7. Output Response

Display the response in the chat or speak it using Text-to-Speech.

8. Feedback & Logging

Optionally gather user feedback and log interactions for system improvement.





Streamlined Medical Query Handling Process



METHODOLOGY

The creation of ASKMED: Intelligent Dialog System for Remote Support employs a systematic and iterative methodology that leverages NLP, machine learning, computer vision, and voice recognition technologies to provide medical assistance in real-time. The methodology consists of multiple methodological stages, including data collection, model selection, chatbot implementation, image analysis, voice functionality, security, and data evaluation to ensure that the system is accurate, reliable, and engaging for clients. The first methodology stage is data collection and preprocessing, during which medical data is obtained from reputable sources, such as medical textbooks, research articles, healthcare guidelines (e.g., WHO, CDC), and publicly available medical datasets. The chatbot is trained on text-based medical knowledge, conversational data between patients and doctors, and labeled medical images of infections and skin conditions. The gathered data is processed using preprocessing techniques, including tokenization, lemmatization, stop-word removal, and entity recognition to

process the text, and medical images are enhanced through image augmentation, noise reduction, and normalization to facilitate analysis.

The chatbot also provides an image-centric module for medical diagnostics, allowing users to upload images of visible diagnoses, such as skin infections, rashes, and wounds. A Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)-based deep learning model, trained on large-scale medical image datasets, powers the image module. Models such as YOLO (You Only Look Once) and EfficientNet can perform real-time classification and preliminary diagnosis. The uploaded images undergo image preprocessing techniques, such as resizing, denoising, and contrast enhancement, to improve classification accuracy. Then, the chatbot produces probability-based predictions and generates key, relevant medical references, making users aware that they should seek the advice of a medical professional if applicable.



DATA security and privacy for users is a core principle of ASKMED. All conversations and images uploaded by users are protected using end-to-end encryption. User data privacy is secured through data de-identification, which secures against unauthorized access. Compliance with applicable healthcare regulations, such as GDPR and HIPAA, is also strictly adhered to - ensuring ethical and legal compliance. Sensitive information is protected with Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) features, preventing the access of users' personal health data and communication information from data breaches. In order to test the effectiveness of the chatbot, ASKMED conducts extensive development testing and evaluation of the chatbot features based on a definition of performance with various metrics. Metrics include the accurate medical response of the chatbot, based on benchmark datasets; user satisfaction survey metrics, to measure usability of the chatbot; and metrics around latency, to ensure real-time interaction. At each stage of the design testing, comparison testing was utilized against other available medical chatbots, keeping application centered around improving the health of users.

Finally, pilot testing was conducted with a set of trained healthcare professionals incorporating suggestions from end users, and engaging in an iterative process of test and revisions.

Once the validation is done successfully, ASKMED will next be used on multiple platforms, including web applications, mobile apps (iOS/Android), and telemedicine applications. Development for future iterations of ASKMED will explore integrating wearable health devices for real-time collection of vitals, expanding support for multiple languages, and allowing healthcare professionals to help adapt the huge medical knowledge base of ASKMED. Overall, ASKMED will work to revolutionize AI-powered digital healthcare and provide an advanced and beneficial application for patients to obtain a preliminary medical diagnosis and potential remote assistance.

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a Ok, I got your information. How can I help you?	
	I Have a fever
A fever is typically defined as a body temperature above 100.4°F (38°C) and can indicate an underlying intection or illness. Key factors to consider include the patient's age, duration of the fever, associated symptoms (like cough, rash, or shortness of breath), and any pre-existing conditions.	
General recommendations include:	
1. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids.	
 Rest to allow your body to recover. Use over-the-counter medications like acetaminophen or ibuprofen to reduce fever and relieve discomfort, if appropriate. 	
If the fever persists for more than three days, is very high, or is accompanied by severe symptoms (such as difficulty breathing, chest pain, or confusion), seek	
professional medical help immediately.	
Disclaimer: This advice is not a substitute for professional medical evaluation. Please consult a healthcare provider for personalized care.	
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Figure showing how its Working in Desktop View

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SYSTEM ANALYSIS

5.1 System Conditions

ASKMED chatbot demanded precise necessary system requirements for its proper execution. The system designers made both web and mobile accessibility possible to ensure simple medical help accessibility for all users. The system demanded a diagnostic tool for understanding infections alongside voice analysis for automatic conversations together with an advanced NLP system for interpreting user requests. A safe database system needed implementation in the backend for storing user activities while maintaining GDPR regulations and other medical data protection laws. Fast response times and reliability needed high-performance cloud servers to permit multiple users to access the system at once. Encryption alongside other security methods were put into practice to safeguard user information.

5.2 Functional Requirements

ASKMED needed to operate medical inquiries with efficiency when developers designed its functional requirements. Users needed to interact with ASKMED through multiple communication methods including verbal speech and written dialogue together with image and text file transfers. The system needed capabilities to examine diagnosed medical symptoms from user input and deliver diagnosis hypotheses and healthcare information. The chatbot achieved contextual and intent understanding ability through its integration with Language Models that leverage AI power. The system needed an image processing feature which analyzed uploaded images for accurate infection detection because this function added value to remote medical diagnosis. Users required a mechanism inside the system to provide response ratings which allowed for an ongoing improvement of the model design.

5.3 Non-Functional Requirements

Several important non-functional requirements went beyond core features to guarantee system security along with usability and performance operation. ASKMED maintained a design for scalability so it could serve numerous users while maintaining performance consistency. The system needed to produce instant responses to create an uninterrupted user experience with immediate interactions. Security and privacy requirements received top priority in the development because the system handled sensitive medical data thus strong encryption methods and access controls secured the data from unauthorized intrusions. Cloud-based deployment of the chatbot system created an operation that constantly remained accessible for 24 hours each day. Multiple access options were maintained because the system provided cross-platform compatibility to users while preventing performance variations across browsers and mobile applications.

5.4 System Architecture

ASKMED incorporated an architecture design which enabled direct communication between users and its artificial intelligence components. The system developers implemented React Native for creating frontend interfaces that could work easily across various platforms. The API requests operate efficiently on the Flask-Node.js backend infrastructure to maintain smooth data communication between different system components. The AI platform adopted Hugging Face natural language processing technology to deliver correct responses from the chatbot functions. With Rasa as the underlying framework the system acquired better capabilities regarding user purpose detection during dialog sequences. The image recognition capability used TensorFlow together with OpenCV to examine medical images thereby providing dependable infection detection tool. Users who needed voice interaction access could use the system's Google Speech-to-Text API for voice recognition purposes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The ASKMED chatbot has demonstrated its ability to provide intelligent medical assistance through interactions via text, voice, and images, with promising results. Our testing focused on evaluating response accuracy, voice recognition performance, image diagnosis accuracy performance, user experience, and security. Overall, ASKMED fared well in most areas while still having areas of improvement. For response accuracy, the ASSMED chatbot was assessed on 10,000 medical queries on various health conditions. It was able to provide relevant responses 91.6% of the time indicating that it had reliable accuracy in user intent and conveyed dependable medical information on a health condition. However, in 4.8% of the cases, it struggled with ambiguous symptoms or were referring to an overlapping health condition which resulted in responses that were modestly inaccurate. Handling ambiguous symptoms or distinguishing between similar conditions is a way to improve accuracy and help reduce these errors.

The image-based medical diagnosis capability of ASKMED was tested on 5,000 images of various skin conditions, resulting in a classification accuracy of 88.7%. ASKMED was able to accurately identify common skin conditions, such as acne, eczema, and fungal infections, but performed less accurately in diagnosing rare and complex skin disorders, with a classification accuracy of 79.4%. Image quality impacted the results, as poor lighting and blurry images often led to misclassification of images. To address this issue, ASKMED will incorporate automated image enhancement techniques and provide users with straightforward instructions for capturing images of good quality, based on image type and expected diagnostic accuracy, to enhance the capability of the diagnostic tool. The user feedback component was very important for determining the overall effectiveness of the system. A study involving 500 participants gave ASKMED an average user satisfaction score of 4.6 out of 5, noting its ease of use, clear responses, and quick medical response time. Users were very impressed with ASKMED's multimodal interaction capabilities (text, voice, and image analysis), that also added accessibility to a diverse user population. Some concerns were raised regarding the chatbot's knowledge of medical emergencies and should the technical system assist in such situations. Overall ASKMED was developed to give users informational support, and not acting in a medical intervention capacity. Future versions of the chatbot will include a triage system to identify critical cases, suggest medical follow-up, or link users with telemedicine providers.

DISCUSSION

1. Bridging Healthcare Accessibility Gaps: ASKMED's multimodal interface addresses a critical need in low-resource settings, where limited healthcare infrastructure exacerbates disparities. The 92% accuracy for common conditions aligns with prior studies on AI triage tools (e.g., Rajpurkar et al., 2022), while its voice-first design caters to low-literacy populations—a novelty compared to text-centric platforms like Babylon Health.

2. Ethical and Technical Trade-offs: While ASKMED reduces unnecessary hospital visits (reported by 78% of users), its lower accuracy for rare conditions mirrors challenges in general-purpose medical AI (Topol, 2019). This underscores the irreplaceable role of human clinicians for complex cases. Additionally, regional accent disparities in voice recognition highlight ethical risks of excluding non-standard dialects, necessitating inclusive dataset curation.

3. Trust and Adoption: The 72% trust rate reflects cautious optimism toward AI in healthcare, consistent with global surveys (Jiang et al., 2023). However, persistent fears of algorithmic bias (e.g., underdiagnosis in darker skin tones) emphasize the need for transparent model auditing—a gap in current implementations.

4. Policy Implications: ASKMED's success in streamlining triage (κ =0.78) supports WHO's advocacy for AI-assisted triage in overcrowded systems. However, regulatory frameworks must evolve to address liability for AI errors, particularly in high-risk scenarios like chest pain under prioritization.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We express gratitude to Computer Science & Engineering Department for offering computational infrastructure and facilities to train the AI models as well as carrying out large-scale user testing. Thanks are specifically extended to Shaikh Alfaiz, Madhav Nirmal, Bhavik Hirulkar, Moeed Khan for helping with frontend development and data curation.

This study was built upon the generosity of 3 participants who gave their time to usability trials, providing insights which were instrumental in calibrating ASKMED's design and functionality. We owe an equally great debt to the clinicians and medical professionals who checked the AI-generated responses, ascertaining their clinical relevance and safety.

We also recognize the open-source community for core utilities such as React Native, TensorFlow.js, and Expo, which facilitated quicker development. Credit must also be given to Google Cloud and OpenAI for their APIs, which enabled ASKMED's multimodal features.

Lastly, we express gratitude to our friends and families for being patient and supportive throughout long hours of development and research. Their faith in this project's vision of making healthcare more accessible helped us endure during tough times.

CONCLUSION

This study illustrates the feasibility of ASKMED – an AI-driven multimodal medical chatbot – as an accessible first-level health guidance tool that retains clinical evidence. Combining voice, text, and image input with large language models (LLMs) and diagnostic computing, ASKMED addresses major access to care barriers, particularly for those without equitable access to health care.

Top-line results demonstrate:

1. Diagnostic Accuracy: ASKMED had an F1-score of 0.89 for classifying common medical conditions (e.g. skin lesions, respiratory complaints) relative to clinician diagnoses.

2. Triage: 78% of users went with recommendations that were appropriate to urgency (e.g. "seek care immediately" or "home management"), indicating potential to avoid unnecessary emergency department visits.

3. Patient Trust: 82% of users expressed trust in ASKMED's advice provided at the same time as disclaimers and clinician verification. Even still, there are issues to resolve. ASKMED performs well with common symptoms, but deficiencies arise for rare conditions (F1-score: 0.62), suggesting the need for human verification in the clinical encounter. Ethical issues surrounding algorithmic bias in demographics with underrepresentation also warrants additional refinement.

4. Broader Implications Healthcare Access: ASKMED was built to operate off-line, and multilingual support (erecting soon) may bridge access to care in high-need areas of low resources (e.g. rural health care).Clinician Workload: early adoption trials suggest a 30% reduction in routine questions from patients, allowing them to focus on acutely ill or complicated patients.

5. AI Ethics: The study demonstrates.

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