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SLE PREDICTOR: AN AI-DRIVEN CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR EARLY RISK ASSESSMENT OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Asmitha T[1], Dr. P. Deepika[2]
[1]*Student, Department of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Dr. N.G.P Arts and Science College, Tamil Nadu, India*
[2]*Associate Professor, Department of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Dr. N.G.P Arts and Science College, Tamil Nadu, India*

ABSTRACT

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), commonly known as lupus, is a chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system attacks healthy tissues of the body. Early detection of lupus is difficult because symptoms vary widely among individuals and often resemble other diseases. This research presents a Lupus Risk Prediction System using Machine Learning that analyzes various medical and lifestyle factors to estimate the risk of lupus.

The proposed system uses parameters such as age, gender, ANA level, ESR level, UV exposure, fatigue score, stress index, sleep hours, family history, and rash symptoms. Machine learning algorithms are applied to analyze these health indicators and predict lupus risk levels.

The system is implemented using the Random Forest Classifier and deployed through a Flask-based web application, allowing users to enter their health parameters and obtain real-time lupus risk predictions categorized as Low Risk, Moderate Risk, or High Risk. The system aims to assist healthcare awareness and early disease risk assessment.

KEYWORDS – *Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Machine Learning, Disease Prediction, Random Forest, Flask*

1. INTRODUCTION

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), commonly known as lupus, is a chronic autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks its own healthy tissues and organs. Under normal conditions, the immune system protects the body by identifying and destroying harmful pathogens such as bacteria and viruses. However, in individuals with lupus, the immune system becomes dysregulated and produces autoantibodies that target normal cells. This abnormal immune response leads to inflammation and damage to various parts of the body, including the skin, joints, kidneys, heart, lungs, blood vessels, and nervous system. Due to its ability to affect multiple organs, SLE is considered one of the most complex autoimmune disorders.

The symptoms of lupus can vary widely among individuals and may appear intermittently, often in cycles known as flare-ups and remissions. Common symptoms include fatigue, joint pain and swelling, skin rashes (particularly the butterfly-shaped rash on the face), fever, hair loss, and sensitivity to sunlight. In severe cases, lupus can lead to serious complications such as kidney inflammation (lupus nephritis), neurological problems, and cardiovascular disorders. Because many of these symptoms are similar to those of other diseases, lupus is often referred to as "the great imitator," making accurate and timely diagnosis challenging.

Traditional diagnostic methods for lupus involve a combination of clinical evaluation and laboratory testing. Physicians typically rely on blood tests such as antinuclear antibody (ANA) testing, anti-dsDNA testing, and other immunological markers to confirm the presence of autoimmune activity. However, these diagnostic procedures can be time-consuming and often require repeated testing and long-term monitoring. As a result, patients may experience delays in diagnosis, which can lead to disease progression and increased health complications.

With the rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), new approaches are being developed to support medical diagnosis and disease prediction. Machine learning techniques are capable of analyzing large volumes of medical data, identifying hidden patterns, and generating predictive insights that may not be easily detected through traditional methods. In healthcare, these technologies are increasingly used to assist doctors in early disease detection, risk assessment, and clinical decision-making.

In this project, a Machine Learning-based Lupus Risk Prediction System is proposed to assist in the early identification of individuals who may be at risk of developing SLE. The system analyzes patient-related data such as demographic information, clinical symptoms, and laboratory test indicators to train predictive models. By learning from historical medical data, the machine learning model can identify patterns associated with lupus and estimate the probability of disease occurrence.

To make the system accessible and easy to use, the trained model is integrated into a web-based application. Users can enter their health parameters into the system, and the application provides an instant prediction regarding their potential lupus risk. This tool is intended to serve as an early screening and decision-support system that can encourage timely medical consultation. Although it does not replace

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professional medical diagnosis, the system can contribute to improved awareness and early detection of lupus through intelligent data-driven analysis.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Several research studies have explored the use of machine learning in disease prediction and healthcare analytics.
Smith et al. (2020) studied the application of machine learning algorithms in autoimmune disease prediction and found that predictive models can assist in identifying early disease indicators.

Kumar and Sharma (2019) proposed a machine learning framework for early disease detection using medical datasets and demonstrated that predictive models can improve diagnosis accuracy.

Zhang and Patel (2018) applied data mining techniques for predicting autoimmune disorders and highlighted the potential of machine learning in analyzing complex medical data.

However, many existing studies focus on specific symptoms or limited datasets. The proposed system aims to combine multiple health indicators to develop a more comprehensive lupus risk prediction model.

3. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system is a Machine Learning-based Lupus Risk Prediction System that analyzes health parameters to estimate the risk of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus.
The system follows several stages including:

- Data Collection
- Data Preprocessing
- Feature Selection
- Model Training
- Prediction Generation

The dataset used in this system contains health-related attributes such as:

- Age
- Gender
- ANA Level
- ESR Level
- UV Exposure
- Fatigue Score
- Stress Index
- Sleep Hours
- Family History
- Rash Symptoms

After preprocessing the data, machine learning algorithms are applied to train prediction models. The trained model analyzes user input data and generates lupus risk predictions.
The system is integrated with a Flask web interface that allows users to enter health parameters and obtain prediction results.

4. METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the lupus prediction system consists of the following stages:

Data Collection

The dataset used for this project contains lupus-related health indicators including demographic information, medical test results, and lifestyle parameters.

Data Preprocessing

Data preprocessing involves cleaning the dataset, handling missing values, encoding categorical variables, and normalizing numerical features.

Feature Selection

Feature selection techniques are used to identify the most relevant attributes affecting lupus risk prediction.

Model Training

Machine learning algorithms such as:

- Random Forest
- Logistic Regression
- Decision Tree
- Support Vector Machine

can be used to train predictive models.
Among these models, Random Forest Classifier was selected due to its higher prediction accuracy and ability to handle complex datasets.

Model Evaluation

The trained model is evaluated using performance metrics such as:

- Accuracy
- Precision
- Recall
- F1-score
- Confusion Matrix

The best-performing model is used for final prediction.

Comparison Of Existing System And Proposed System

Parameter	Existing System	Proposed System
Diagnosis Method	Manual medical diagnosis	Machine learning-based prediction
Speed	Time-consuming	Fast prediction
Data Analysis	Limited manual analysis	Automated data analysis
Accuracy	Depends on doctor interpretation	Improved accuracy using ML
Accessibility	Requires hospital visits	Accessible through web application
Automation	Low	Fully automated prediction

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The experimental results demonstrate that the machine learning model can effectively predict lupus risk based on health parameters.
The Random Forest model achieved the highest accuracy among the tested algorithms.

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The system successfully classified risk levels into:

- Low Risk
- Moderate Risk
- High Risk



Figure 1: SLE Predictor Dashboard

Feature importance analysis revealed that parameters such as ANA level, ESR level, fatigue score, and UV exposure significantly influence lupus risk prediction.

The system also provides visualizations such as confusion matrix heatmaps and feature importance charts to better understand the prediction performance.
The results show that machine learning-based healthcare systems can assist in early disease awareness and risk analysis.

6. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This research presented a Lupus Risk Prediction System using Machine Learning to estimate the risk of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus based on health parameters.

The proposed system demonstrates how machine learning can be applied in the healthcare domain to support early disease risk assessment. By analyzing medical indicators and lifestyle factors, the system provides an efficient and automated prediction process.
Although the system shows promising results, it should be considered as a support tool rather than a replacement for professional medical diagnosis.

Future work can focus on:

- Using real-world hospital datasets
- Integrating IoT health monitoring devices
- Developing mobile applications for prediction
- Implementing deep learning models for improved accuracy

With further improvements, such predictive systems can play an important role in preventive healthcare and early disease detection.

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