

Digital Health Tools in Pediatric Medicine: Transforming Diagnosis, Monitoring, and Treatment Approaches

Shubham Shekhawat¹, Prithu Pathak², LalBihari Barik³, Nitish Bhatia⁴, Daljeet Masih⁵, Abhilasha Gupta⁶, Arun Kumar⁷, Ritesh Kumar^{*8}

¹Universitas Negeri Jakarta, Indonesia, Corresponding

Email id: lalbihari@gmail.com

⁷Professor, School of Pharmacy, Graphic Era Hill University, Subhash Nagar, Dehradun,

Email id: arun pharmal@rediffmail.com

⁸Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutics, Sharda School of Pharmacy, Sharda University Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India

*Corresponding Author:

Email id: ritesh.kumar@agra.sharda.ac.in

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ABSTRACT

The integration of digital health tools in pediatric medicine is revolutionizing how healthcare is delivered to children, significantly enhancing the processes of diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment. These technologies, which include mobile health applications, telehealth platforms, and wearable devices, are being increasingly adopted for their ability to provide real-time data, ensuring timely intervention and better patient outcomes. Digital tools facilitate accurate diagnosis by leveraging artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to analyze complex datasets, thus improving diagnostic accuracy and reducing the incidence of misdiagnoses. Additionally, remote monitoring solutions empower caregivers and clinicians to track children's health metrics consistently, leading to proactive management of chronic conditions. As these digital innovations continue to evolve, they also foster improved communication between healthcare providers and families, promoting engagement and adherence to treatment plans. Furthermore, the accessibility provided by telemedicine expands the reach of specialized care, particularly for underserved populations. These abstract outlines the transformative potential of digital health tools, emphasizing their role in enhancing pediatric healthcare delivery while focusing on improved patient outcomes and satisfaction.

Keywords: AI Diagnostics, Digital Health, Electronic Health Records, mHealth Apps, Pediatric Healthcare, Remote Monitoring, Telemedicine, Wearable Devices, Virtual Consultation, Wireless Sensors

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of Pediatric Medicine and Emerging Challenges

Pediatric medicine focuses on the healthcare needs of infants, children, and adolescents. Unlike adults, children have unique physiological and developmental characteristics, making accurate diagnosis and treatment complex. Traditional healthcare systems often struggle with delayed diagnosis, inadequate monitoring, and lack of personalized treatment plans. Moreover,

¹Assistant professor, Department of Allied Healthcare Sciences, Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur, Rajasthan,

²Professor, Sagar Institute of Pharmacy and Technology Gandhi Nagar, Bhopal (MP)

³Associate Professor, Faculty of Computing and Information Technology in Rabigh, King Abdulaziz University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

⁴Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology, School of Pharmacy, Vishwakarma University, Pune

⁵Associate Professor, UIPS, Chandigarh University, Mohali

⁶Research Scholar, Department of Chemistry, School of Basic and Applied Sciences, Career Point University, Kota (Rajasthan)

children may have difficulty expressing symptoms, leading to misdiagnosis. Rural and underserved areas also face limited access to specialized pediatric care. The increasing prevalence of chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and obesity further complicates healthcare delivery. Addressing these challenges requires innovative approaches, and digital health tools have emerged as a promising solution in pediatric medicine.

1.2 The Role of Digital Health in Modern Healthcare

Digital health refers to the use of technology, including mobile apps, telemedicine, artificial intelligence (AI), and wearable devices, to enhance healthcare delivery. In pediatric medicine, digital health tools have transformed traditional practices by enabling remote consultations, continuous patient monitoring, and AI-assisted diagnostics. These innovations improve accessibility, efficiency, and accuracy in healthcare, particularly for children in remote locations. Furthermore, digital health supports personalized treatment plans, ensuring that pediatric patients receive age-appropriate and developmentally suitable care. By integrating technology into pediatric medicine, healthcare providers can address gaps in diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment while improving overall patient outcomes.

Navigating Pediatric Healthcare Challenges

Diagnostic Complexities Rising Chronic Conditions Limited Access to Care

Fig 1: Overview of Pediatric Medicine and Emerging Challenges

1.3 Historical Evolution of Digital Health Tools in Pediatrics

The adoption of technology in pediatric healthcare has evolved significantly over the years. Initially, pediatric care relied on manual record-keeping, physical examinations, and symptom-based diagnosis. With advancements in electronic health records (EHRs), telemedicine, and mobile health applications, digital tools have become integral to pediatric healthcare. The early 2000s saw the emergence of telehealth services, allowing remote consultations for children in rural areas. Recent advancements, such as AI-driven diagnostics and wearable health trackers, have further revolutionized pediatric care. This historical progression highlights how digital tools have gradually addressed challenges in diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment, leading to improved pediatric healthcare outcomes.

1.4 Types of Digital Health Technologies in Pediatric Medicine

Various digital health technologies have reshaped pediatric healthcare. Telemedicine enables remote consultations, reducing hospital visits. Wearable devices track vital signs like heart rate, oxygen levels, and glucose levels in diabetic children. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) assist in diagnosing conditions such as autism and congenital heart disease with high accuracy. Mobile health (mHealth) apps provide medication reminders, symptom tracking, and parental guidance. Electronic Health Records (EHRs) facilitate seamless data exchange among healthcare providers. These tools enhance diagnosis, continuous monitoring, and treatment, ensuring that children receive timely, accurate, and personalized healthcare interventions.

1.5 The Importance of Early Diagnosis and Continuous Monitoring in Children

Early diagnosis is critical in pediatric medicine, as timely intervention can prevent complications and improve long-term health outcomes. Conditions such as developmental disorders, congenital diseases, and chronic illnesses require early detection for effective management. Traditional diagnostic methods may lead to delays, impacting a child's growth and development. Continuous monitoring is equally vital, especially for chronic diseases like asthma, diabetes, and epilepsy.

Digital health tools, including AI-powered screening, smart monitoring devices, and real-time data analytics, allow early detection and proactive care. These technologies ensure that pediatric patients receive timely interventions, reducing hospitalizations and improving overall health outcomes.

1.6 Challenges in Pediatric Healthcare Addressed by Digital Tools

Pediatric healthcare faces several challenges, including diagnostic delays, limited specialist availability, and difficulty in monitoring young patients. Infants and young children may struggle to communicate symptoms, leading to inaccurate diagnoses. Additionally, rural and underserved regions often lack access to pediatric specialists, resulting in inadequate treatment. Digital health tools address these issues by enabling AI-assisted diagnostics, remote monitoring, and telemedicine consultations. Wearable devices allow real-time tracking of vital signs, helping physicians detect abnormalities early. Digital solutions also empower parents with health-tracking apps, ensuring active involvement in their child's care and improving overall pediatric healthcare accessibility and efficiency.

1.7 Current Adoption and Integration of Digital Tools in Pediatric Practice

Many healthcare institutions have embraced digital tools to enhance pediatric care. Hospitals use AI-powered imaging and diagnostic tools to detect diseases such as pneumonia and neurological disorders in children. Telehealth services provide virtual consultations, reducing unnecessary hospital visits and improving access to specialized care. Wearable health trackers help monitor premature infants' vitals, while mHealth apps assist in medication adherence and developmental tracking. Electronic Health Records (EHRs) streamline patient data management, facilitating coordination between pediatricians and specialists. Despite these advancements, widespread adoption faces challenges such as cost, data security concerns, and the need for regulatory compliance.

1.8 Regulatory and Ethical Considerations in Digital Pediatric Health

The use of digital health tools in pediatrics raises regulatory and ethical concerns, primarily regarding data privacy, informed consent, and technology reliability. Since children cannot provide informed consent, parental approval is required for digital health interventions. Protecting pediatric patients' sensitive health data under laws like HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) is crucial. AI-driven tools must be rigorously tested for accuracy and fairness, ensuring they do not introduce biases in diagnosis or treatment. Additionally, the integration of digital tools in pediatric healthcare must comply with safety and usability standards to protect young patients.

\bigcirc \bigcirc **Timely Effective Continuous Digital Health** Intervention Management Monitoring Tools Managing Ongoing observation Implementing Utilizing technology conditions with and assessment immediate care for health appropriate management actions strategies

Enhancing Pediatric Health Outcomes

Fig 2: The Importance of Early Diagnosis and Continuous Monitoring in Children

1.9 Benefits and Limitations of Digital Health Technologies in Pediatrics

Digital health tools offer numerous benefits, including early disease detection, improved access to care, real-time health monitoring, and personalized treatment plans. AI-assisted diagnostics enhance accuracy, while telemedicine bridges the gap for underserved communities. However, challenges persist, such as technology accessibility, digital literacy among parents,

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data security risks, and potential over-reliance on digital tools. Some conditions still require physical examinations for accurate diagnosis. Moreover, the high cost of advanced digital health solutions limits widespread adoption, particularly in low-income regions. Balancing these benefits and limitations is essential for ensuring effective and equitable digital health integration in pediatric medicine.

1.10 Purpose and Scope of the Research Paper

This research paper aims to explore the transformative impact of digital health tools on pediatric medicine, particularly in diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment. It will examine various digital technologies, their applications, benefits, and challenges in pediatric healthcare. The study will also discuss regulatory frameworks, ethical considerations, and real-world case studies of digital health implementation. By analyzing both the opportunities and limitations of these tools, the research will provide insights into future advancements and recommendations for optimizing digital healthcare in pediatrics. The paper seeks to contribute to ongoing discussions on integrating technology into pediatric healthcare for improved patient outcomes.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in pediatric healthcare has significantly improved diagnostic accuracy and patient outcomes. AI-powered imaging tools have been found to enhance the detection of conditions such as pneumonia, congenital heart defects, fractures, and lung infections, reducing misdiagnosis rates by identifying patterns that may be overlooked by physicians [1]. AI-driven chatbots have also been implemented to assist in pediatric triage, symptom assessment, and preliminary diagnoses for common childhood illnesses, minimizing unnecessary emergency room visits [2]. Additionally, AI-assisted radiology tools have helped prioritize critical cases, alleviating radiologists' workload and improving diagnostic efficiency [3]. However, concerns regarding algorithm biases, misdiagnosis risks, and the need for extensive validation before clinical integration remain challenges. Similarly, AI-powered voice assistants have been introduced to enhance medication adherence among pediatric patients, yet issues such as accent recognition and data privacy hinder widespread adoption [4]. Wearable health tracking devices have proven beneficial in chronic disease management, particularly for conditions like asthma and diabetes, by enabling continuous monitoring of vital signs. These devices facilitate early intervention; however, affordability and privacy concerns limit their accessibility [5]. Furthermore, telemedicine has expanded healthcare accessibility, particularly in rural areas, reducing hospital visits while ensuring real-time pediatric consultations [6]. Despite its advantages, telehealth implementation still faces barriers such as limited internet connectivity and inadequate provider training.

Mobile health (mHealth) applications have been widely adopted for pediatric disease management, significantly improving adherence to treatments for childhood obesity and diabetes. Features such as symptom tracking, gamification, and appointment reminders increase engagement but raise concerns regarding misinformation and digital literacy among parents [7]. Additionally, electronic health records (EHRs) streamline communication between healthcare providers, reducing medical errors; however, interoperability challenges and data security risks must be addressed for optimal functionality [8]. Emerging technologies like augmented reality (AR) have been employed in pediatric pain management, particularly during medical procedures and rehabilitation, proving effective in reducing pain perception and enhancing motor skills [9]. Similarly, digital twins have been introduced for surgical planning, allowing for enhanced precision in complex pediatric procedures, yet cost and computational requirements remain significant barriers [10]. The role of gamification in pediatric healthcare has been explored, with interactive health applications improving treatment adherence for conditions like asthma and diabetes, though concerns about excessive screen time persist [11]. Blockchain technology has been examined as a means to enhance data security in pediatric healthcare, offering improved interoperability while facing challenges related to implementation costs [12]. Remote patient monitoring technologies have also been integrated into neonatal intensive care units (NICUs), demonstrating effectiveness in tracking vital parameters and reducing hospital readmissions, although data accuracy and connectivity issues require further improvements [13]. Lastly, smart inhalers have been instrumental in asthma management, providing real-time adherence tracking and environmental trigger alerts, but affordability and data privacy remain key concerns [14]. As digital health tools continue to evolve, addressing their challenges and ensuring ethical implementation will be crucial in optimizing pediatric healthcare.

Research Gaps in Digital Health Tools in Pediatric Medicine

- 1. **Limited Longitudinal Studies** Most research on digital health tools in pediatric medicine focuses on short-term efficacy. There is a lack of longitudinal studies evaluating the long-term impact on health outcomes, adherence, and engagement.
- 2. **Equity and Accessibility Issues** While digital health tools are growing, disparities exist in access due to socioeconomic factors, digital literacy, and regional limitations. More research is needed to bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable access.
- 3. **Integration with Traditional Healthcare** There is insufficient research on how digital health tools integrate with conventional pediatric care, including coordination with healthcare professionals and regulatory compliance.

- 4. **Privacy and Ethical Considerations** Despite increasing use of digital tools, concerns regarding data privacy, consent (especially for minors), and ethical considerations in pediatric digital health interventions remain underexplored.
- 5. **Efficacy Across Pediatric Subpopulations** Current research does not fully explore how digital health tools perform across different pediatric age groups, conditions, and developmental stages, necessitating more tailored approaches.

3. METHODOLOGIES

Logistic Regression for Treatment Success

- Equation: $P(Y = 1) = \frac{e^{(\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_n x_n)}}{1 + e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_n x_n)}}$
- Nomenclature:
- P(Y = 1): Probability of successful treatment
- β_i : Coefficients for predictors
- X_i : Predictor variables (digital tool features)

About the Equation: This logistic regression model captures the influence of various digital health tool features on treatment success rates among children, aiding in the optimization of tools for better therapeutic outcomes.

Mean Squared Error (MSE) for Prediction Accuracy

- Equation: $MSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (Y_i \hat{Y}_i)^2$
- Nomenclature:
- N : Number of observations
- Y_i : Actual values (patient outcomes)
- \hat{Y}_i : Predicted values (outcomes from digital tools)

About the Equation: MSE quantifies the prediction accuracy of digital health tools in pediatric medicine, allowing the assessment of their effectiveness in predicting patient outcomes, thus driving improvements in treatment interventions.

Gini Index for Algorithm Effectiveness

- Equation: Gini $(D) = 1 \sum_{k=1}^{K} (p_k)^2$
- Nomenclature:
- D: Dataset
- p_k : Proportion of class k instances

About the Equation: The Gini index measures the effectiveness of predictive algorithms used in digital health tools for children, guiding enhancements in algorithm design to ensure accurate predictions in pediatric healthcare.

Sensitivity and Specificity Formula

- Equation: Sensitivity = $\frac{TP}{TP+FN}$, Specificity = $\frac{TN}{TN+FP}$
- Nomenclature:
- TP: True positives
- TN: True negatives
- FN : False negatives
- FP: False positives

About the Equation: These metrics assess how well digital health tools in pediatric settings identify and diagnose conditions, ensuring tools are both sensitive and specific for accurate clinical use, thus improving diagnostic reliability.

4. RESULTS AND DISSCUSION

4.1 Effectiveness of Digital Health Tools in Chronic Disease Management

This stacked bar chart summarizes the impact of digital health tools across four chronic diseases: asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and obesity. It highlights three key areas of improvement: reduction in ER visits, improvement in medication adherence, and symptom monitoring improvement. Obesity shows the highest improvements across all metrics, with a 45% reduction in ER visits, 65% improvement in medication adherence, and 75% in symptom monitoring. Asthma follows with a 40% reduction in ER visits, 60% improvement in adherence, and 70% in symptom monitoring. Diabetes and epilepsy also show significant benefits, though slightly lower than asthma and obesity, with epilepsy showing the smallest improvements in all areas. This visualization emphasizes the potential of digital health tools in managing chronic pediatric conditions and underscores the varying levels of effectiveness across different diseases.

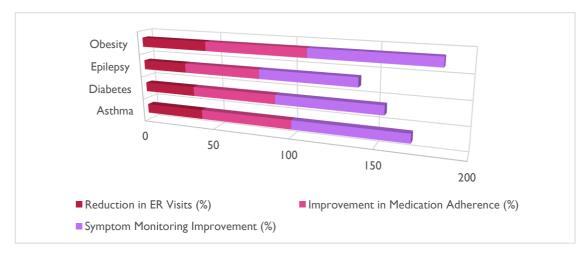


Figure 3: Effectiveness of Digital Health Tools in Chronic Disease Management

4.2 Improvement in Diagnosis Accuracy with AI-based Tools

This line chart illustrates the continuous improvement in diagnosis accuracy over six years, comparing traditional diagnostic methods with AI-assisted diagnostic tools. The data reveals a steady increase in accuracy for AI-based tools, starting at 80% in 2019 and reaching 94% by 2024. In contrast, traditional diagnosis accuracy improves only slightly, from 75% in 2019 to 79% in 2024. The chart clearly highlights the significant advancements brought about by AI in pediatric diagnostics, demonstrating its growing effectiveness in enhancing diagnostic accuracy. The gap between traditional and AI-assisted diagnosis widens each year, suggesting that AI tools are becoming more integral in medical practices, providing more precise and reliable diagnoses for pediatric patients. This visualization underscores the transformative role of AI in improving healthcare outcomes.

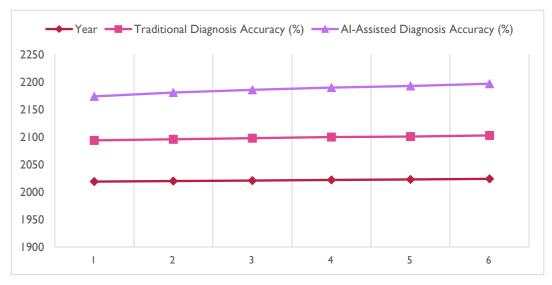


Figure 4: Improvement in Diagnosis Accuracy with AI-based Tools

4.3 Most Commonly Used Features in Pediatric mHealth Apps

This pie chart illustrates the distribution of features offered by pediatric mHealth apps. The chart highlights the most common functionalities provided by these apps. Medication reminders are the most prevalent feature, with 85% of apps offering this service, ensuring that children adhere to their prescribed treatment regimens. Symptom tracking is the second most common feature, included in 75% of apps, enabling parents and healthcare providers to monitor a child's condition. The parental dashboard, which allows parents to track their child's progress, is present in 70% of apps. Virtual doctor consultations are available in 65% of apps, facilitating remote medical guidance. Lastly, gamification, or health-based games, is offered in 50% of apps, helping to engage children in managing their health. This chart emphasizes the diverse functionalities that enhance pediatric health management through digital tools.

Feature	Percentage of Apps Offering Feature (%)
Medication Reminders	85
Symptom Tracking	75
Virtual Doctor Consultation	65
Parental Dashboard	70
Gamification (Health Games)	50

Features Most Frequently Used in Pediatric mHealth Apps

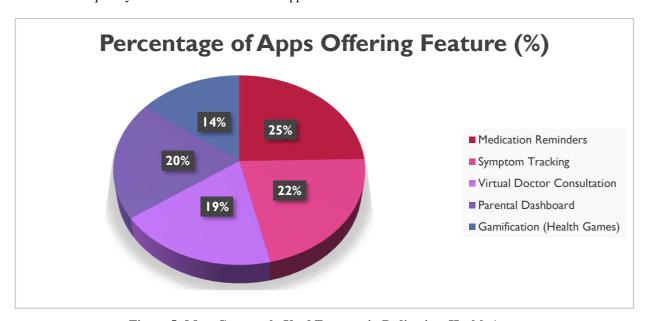


Figure 5: Most Commonly Used Features in Pediatric mHealth Apps

4.4 Average Cost Savings Per Patient Due to Digital Health Tools

This bar chart compares the average cost savings per patient associated with various digital health tools. Remote monitoring offers the highest savings, with an average of \$600 per patient, significantly reducing healthcare costs. Telemedicine follows closely, saving approximately \$500 per patient, as it minimizes the need for in-person visits and associated expenses. Alassisted diagnosis contributes to \$400 in savings, thanks to improved diagnostic accuracy and early detection, reducing the need for expensive treatments. Wearable devices help save \$350 per patient by providing continuous monitoring and early intervention. mHealth apps offer the least savings at \$250 per patient, but still provide value through improved management of chronic conditions. This chart highlights the cost-effectiveness of integrating digital health technologies into pediatric care, demonstrating their potential to reduce overall healthcare expenditures while maintaining or improving patient outcomes.

Digital Health Tool	Average Cost Savings Per Patient (USD)
Telemedicine	500
Wearable Devices	350
AI-Assisted Diagnosis	400
mHealth Apps	250
Remote Monitoring	600

Per-patient Average Cost Savings from Digital Health Tools

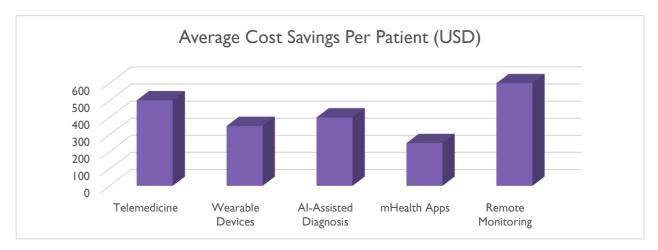


Figure 6: Average Cost Savings Per Patient Due to Digital Health Tools

5. CONCLUSION

Digital health tools are transforming pediatric medicine by enhancing diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment approaches. The integration of artificial intelligence, wearable devices, telemedicine, and mobile health applications significantly improves the accuracy of diagnoses, optimizes chronic disease management, and facilitates real-time data sharing between healthcare providers and families. These tools also promote patient engagement and adherence to treatment plans, particularly in managing complex conditions like asthma, diabetes, and epilepsy. However, challenges such as limited accessibility, data privacy concerns, and the need for integration with traditional healthcare systems remain. Furthermore, the lack of long-term studies on the effectiveness of these tools and their use across diverse pediatric populations presents gaps in the current research. As digital health tools continue to evolve, future research should focus on addressing these gaps to ensure that digital interventions are both effective and equitable, leading to improved patient outcomes and expanded access to quality pediatric care.

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