

Large language models for neurosurgery

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A specialized type of [machine learning](#) model, specifically designed to understand, generate, and manipulate [natural language](#) text.

[Large language models](#) (LLMs), such as [ChatGPT](#), have transformative potential in neurosurgery by enhancing clinical decision-making, patient care, and research.

Clinical Decision Support

LLMs can assist neurosurgeons by processing complex [clinical data](#) and providing [recommendations](#) based on vast [medical literature](#):

- **Preoperative Planning:** Analyzing patient-specific data to suggest surgical approaches, risks, and alternatives.
- **Intraoperative Guidance:** Supporting neurosurgeons with real-time queries during procedures, such as anatomical details or technique clarifications.
- **Postoperative Care:** Offering evidence-based guidelines for managing complications or optimizing recovery protocols.

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2. Patient Communication and Education Neurosurgical procedures are often complex and daunting for patients. LLMs can: - **Simplify Medical Information:** Translate technical jargon into accessible language. - **Personalized Patient Interactions:** Generate tailored explanations of

conditions like brain tumors, spinal disorders, or vascular malformations. - **Virtual Assistance:** Provide 24/7 access to patient queries, improving satisfaction and understanding.

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3. Research and Knowledge Management LLMs streamline access to and analysis of vast scientific resources: - **Literature Summarization:** Condensing thousands of research articles into key takeaways. - **Data Synthesis:** Identifying trends, gaps, and future directions in neurosurgical research. - **Hypothesis Generation:** Suggesting innovative research questions by linking interdisciplinary knowledge.

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4. Training and Education LLMs can enhance neurosurgical education through: - **Simulated Learning:** Creating realistic scenarios for decision-making training. - **Question and Answer:** Serving as a resource for residents to clarify doubts. - **Surgical Protocol Guidance:** Detailing step-by-step instructions for procedures.

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5. Administrative Efficiency Neurosurgery often involves substantial administrative work. LLMs can automate tasks such as: - **Documentation:** Generating operation notes, discharge summaries, and referral letters. - **Scheduling and Coordination:** Assisting in the logistics of complex surgical cases. - **Regulatory Compliance:** Ensuring documentation aligns with institutional and legal standards.

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6. Predictive Analytics LLMs integrated with machine learning models can: - **Outcome Prediction:** Anticipating surgical outcomes based on patient data. - **Risk Stratification:** Identifying high-risk patients for tailored interventions.

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7. Ethical and Practical Considerations While LLMs have immense potential, they must be used responsibly: - **Bias and Accuracy:** Ensuring outputs are evidence-based and free from bias. - **Confidentiality:** Protecting sensitive patient information. - **Reliability:** Using LLMs as adjuncts, not replacements, for professional judgment.

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Future Directions Integration of LLMs with neurosurgical tools like neuronavigation systems, robotic platforms, and real-time imaging could revolutionize intraoperative and perioperative care. Collaborative AI-driven platforms can also foster global neurosurgical research and training.

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