

## Psychiatrists' Attitudes Toward Artificial Intelligence: Tasks, Job Security and Benefits

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Researchers have predicted that artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) will affect the future practice of physicians and their job security including the mental health industry.

**Objective:** The objective of this study is to assess local psychiatrists' opinions regarding the future impact of AI/ML on their daily 10 key practice tasks in addition to determine the benefits and drawbacks of AI/ML.

**Methods:** The design was cross-sectional and included psychiatrists (n = 62) registered in Bahrain, who participated via a Google survey. Independence samples t-test or Pearson Chi<sup>2</sup> Statistics were computed to detect differences between groups.

**Results:** Out of 52 eligible participants, there were 43 survey respondents (81.3%). Only 4 (9.3%) of respondents felt it was likely that AI/ML will replace average physicians in providing empathetic care. Physicians speculated that AI/ML is likely to replace average physicians in tasks such as establishing prognosis 29 (67%), synthesizing information to reach diagnosis 31 (72.1%) and obtaining medical/psychiatric histories 22 (51.2%); however, they were uncertain regarding other tasks, such as performing medical and mental status examinations 32 (74.4%) and providing empathetic care 39 (81.4%). The main benefits of AI/ML were perceived to be facilitating a quicker diagnosis 30 (69.8%) and replacing the physician role 33 (76.7%). The study findings were not related to age group, gender, seniority or level of AI/ML knowledge.

**Conclusions:** Our findings provide useful data on the impact of AI/ML on job security as well as its benefits. Participants were worried that machines will replace human skills.

**Keywords:** Artificial intelligence, Attitude, Bahrain knowledge, Benefits, Psychiatrists

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