International Journal of Scientific Research in Computer Science, Engineering and Information Technology

ISSN : 2456-3307 OPEN ACCESS

Available Online at : www.ijsrcseit.com

DOI: https://doi.org//10.32628/IJSRCSEIT

IoT-Based Smart Surgical Instruments

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ARTICLEINFO

Article History:

Accepted: 10 Feb 2024

Published: 19 Feb 2024

Publication Issue

Volume 10, Issue 1

January-February-2024

Page Number

330-332

ABSTRACT

Advanced IoT technologies improve accuracy, monitoring, and patient outcomes, revolutionizing surgical operations. Additionally, advanced IoT is used to create an automated surgical monitoring system. A medical professional data entry and access system decreases mistakes and paperwork time, improving clinical results and care. Similarly, connected surgical tools use sensors, real-time data analytics, and AI to increase precision and eliminate mistakes. Therefore, this paper explores the AI-guided controls, remote monitoring, and improved biosensors that allow surgeons to conduct difficult surgeries with remarkable accuracy. Despite cybersecurity threats, high implementation costs, and technical training needs, IoT-enabled surgical technology may alter healthcare delivery. Additionally, the paper discusses how these technologies enable real-time data transfer, collaborative surgical treatments, and predictive analytics to optimize surgical operations and reduce complications and potential benefits, challenges, and future directions for smart surgical instruments in healthcare.

Keywords: IoT, precision surgery, artificial intelligence, robotic surgery, Da Vinci

Introduction

The Internet of Things (IoT) connects medical equipment and systems via a network, transforming healthcare technology. IoT technology embeds sensors and connectivity modules in surgical equipment to gather and transfer real-time data. This connection allows continuous operative monitoring, easy interaction with EHRs, and better surgical tool coordination. IoT-enabled tools can measure temperature, pressure, and movement, improving surgical accuracy and efficacy. Through real-time assistance, IoT-enabled surgical equipment gives surgeons updated patient and instrument information, which improves decision-making. They increase surgical control, provide feedback, and enhance automation. Additionally, IoT is needed for more minimally invasive and robotic-assisted surgeries. These techniques optimize surgeries, increase patient outcomes, and reduce postoperative symptoms. Therefore, this paper explores how IoT-based surgical tools function, their benefits, challenges, and the future scope of this technology in transforming surgical practices.

The Role of IoT in Improving Surgical Precision

IoT-enabled surgical equipment improves accuracy with real-time monitoring, AI-driven decision-making, and robotic help. According to Haleem et al. (2020), through continuous sensing, surgeons may micro-adjust pressure, temperature, and motion in real time. Additionally, IoT imaging, with AESOP and ZEUS, the da Vinci system (Fig. 1) represents a robotic surgical milestone. Two components make up Da Vinci. The surgeon's ergonomic console unit contains the display system, user interface, and controller (Thai, 2020). Four slave manipulators, three for EndoWrist Instrument telemanipulation and one for the endoscopic camera, make up the second unit (Avgousti et al., 2016). The device gives doctors a realistic operating environment with high-quality stereo visualization and a man-machine interface that immediately converts hand movements to instrument tip movement within patients. Thus, the use of the IoT concept within the surgery domain is a widely incorporated but less investigated concept.

Figure 1*: The da Vinci® surgical system*

IoT-Enabled Monitoring and Data Analytics in Surgery

IoT-based surgical instruments integrate advanced monitoring systems that analyze real-time data to improve procedural efficiency and safety. These tools have biosensors that detect oxygen saturation, tissue perfusion, and temperature. Besides, smart surgical tools embedded with IoT sensors continuously collect and transmit pressure, temperature, and motion data, allowing artificial intelligence (AI) to analyze patterns and predict complications (Haleem et al., 2020). These technologies help surgeons make data-driven adjustments during procedures, reducing errors and improving patient outcomes. Furthermore, real-time data sharing enables remote surgical guidance, encouraging collaboration among experts worldwide (Oniani et al., 2020). For instance, as shown in Figure 2, AI-powered systems integrated with IoT devices support decision-making by detecting abnormalities and recommending corrective actions, enhancing surgical robotics's efficiency.

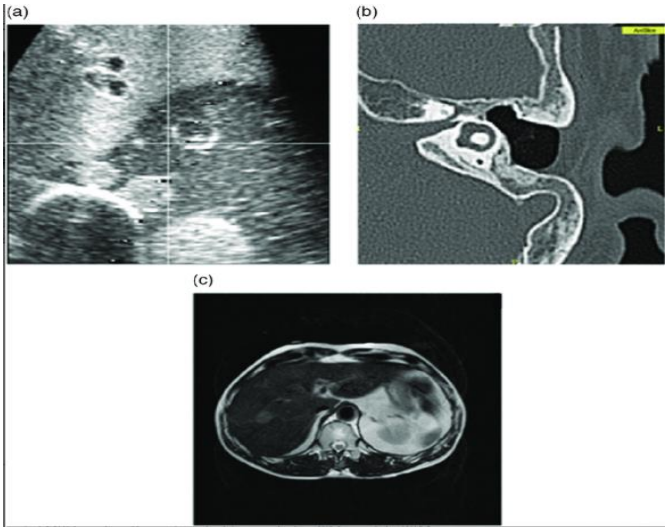

Figure 2. Comparison between a) US, b) CT, and c) MRI imaging.

Challenges and Limitations of IoT in Surgical Instruments

IoT-enabled surgical tools offer numerous advantages, but their widespread adoption requires addressing several challenges. Increased healthcare data breaches due to poor security, weak authentication mechanisms, and insider threats expose internet-connected medical equipment to cyber-attacks (Seh et al., 2020). Research conducted by Thai (2020) states that secure data transfer and patient data protection are crucial. Smart surgical devices are expensive to buy and maintain, which hinders adoption, especially in underdeveloped countries. Additionally, technology dependency increases worries about system breakdowns or malfunctions, which might cause major surgical

mistakes (Oniani et al., 2020; Seh et al., 2020). Therefore, technical advances and regulatory measures must be balanced to maintain safety, cost, and efficiency in IoT-assisted surgical operations.

Conclusion and Future Scope

IoT-based smart surgical devices improve accuracy, monitoring, and patient outcomes. Additionally, integrated solutions provide smart record surgical data access because the smart surgical system double-checks patients' surgical markings preoperatively to avoid medical disputes from faulty surgery. These techniques avoid operational data maintenance mistakes and let surgeons conduct complicated surgeries more accurately and safely using real-time data analytics, AI, and robots. Despite the many benefits of IoT in surgery, we must address cybersecurity dangers, high costs, and the need for specialized training. Innovations in this sector may include AI-driven automation, cybersecurity, and remote surgery. IoT, machine intelligence, and augmented reality might improve surgical efficiency and accessibility globally. IoT-based surgical devices will shape healthcare as technology advances, boosting patient safety and surgical accuracy.

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