"High Hopes for 'Deep Medicine'? AI, Economics, and the Future of Care" by Sparrow and Hatherley critically examines the potential impact of AI on healthcare. The essay questions the optimistic view that AI will enhance the doctor-patient relationship, and identifies economic and institutional factors that may hinder its realisation. Concerns are raised about the erosion of the therapeutic relationship, increased administrative burden, reduced time for patient interaction, and diminished trust in doctors. While acknowledging the benefits of AI in diagnosis, the authors call for a more balanced approach, suggesting specific recommendations and exploring successful examples of AI integration to prioritise patient-centred care and protect the doctor-patient relationship.

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Abstract

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"High Hopes for 'Deep Medicine'? AI, Economics, and the Future of Care" by Robert Sparrow and Joshua Hatherley explores the potential impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on healthcare. The essay challenges the optimistic view that AI will improve the doctor-patient relationship, arguing that economic and institutional factors are likely to hinder the realisation of these expectations. While acknowledging the potential benefits of AI in improving diagnosis, the authors raise concerns about the erosion of the therapeutic relationship and the negative impact on professional and patient satisfaction.

Sparrow and Hatherley argue that introducing AI in healthcare will not necessarily lead to a return to the 'golden age of the doctor'. They argue that economic considerations, particularly in for-profit healthcare systems, will prioritise increasing patient throughput over fostering meaningful patient-physician interactions. In addition, institutions tend to focus on measurable outcomes, potentially neglecting the intangible aspects of care. The authors question the ability of physicians to mobilise politically to protect the therapeutic relationship, citing historical failures in advocating for improved healthcare conditions. They also highlight the potential demoralisation and disempowerment of the medical profession due to the disruptive nature of AI, which could shift power away from frontline practitioners to IT system managers.

The authors make valid points about the economic and institutional forces that could hinder the positive impact of AI on healthcare. Their critique highlights the potential negative consequences of AI implementation, such as increased administrative burden, reduced time for patient interaction, and diminished trust in physicians.

**JOSHA’s conclusion:** It is important to note that the essay focuses primarily on potential pitfalls and challenges, with limited exploration of possible solutions or mitigation strategies. To improve the essay, the authors could provide specific recommendations to address the issues identified. For example, they could propose policy changes to prioritise patient-centred care and protect the doctor-patient relationship. In addition, exploring successful examples of AI integration in healthcare systems that prioritise care and patient satisfaction would provide a more comprehensive analysis. In conclusion, the essay by Robert Sparrow and Joshua Hatherley raises valid concerns about the potential negative impact of AI on the doctor-patient relationship and overall care in healthcare. However, a more
A balanced approach that considers both the challenges and opportunities would contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the future of AI in medicine.

**JOSHA's Critical Reviews** focus on recent studies and discoveries in medicine and science that may impact patient care. Our editors aim to stimulate thoughts and reflections on new developments and interventions. While our opinions are subjective, we hope this service is helpful. We welcome comments from our readers!

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