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AI-Powered Expert System for Musculoskeletal Diagnosis: Optimization, Quantitative Evaluation and Empirical Validation

Sunny Kalu Egereonu*

Department of Information Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria

*Corresponding Author:

Sunny Kalu Egereonu, Department of Information Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria.

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Abstract

Musculoskeletal diseases (MSDs) affect the musculoskeletal system, often causing pain, inflammation, and restricted mobility. The diagnostic challenge arises from symptom overlap with other disorders, necessitating advanced decision-support technologies. This study introduces an optimized AI-driven expert system tailored for Tendonitis diagnosis, designed to enhance clinical decision-making and improve diagnostic accuracy. Developed using the Waterfall methodology, the system integrates a rule-based algorithm with a Random Forest Classifier to generate precise diagnostic outcomes. Empirical validation against physician-confirmed cases yielded a diagnostic accuracy of 93%, alongside precision (91%), recall (97%), F1-score (94%), sensitivity (91%), specificity (94%), and negative predictive value (82%). Featuring an intuitive interface, the system ensures seamless adoption into clinical workflows. Grounded in expert system principles, this innovation synthesizes artificial intelligence, medical expertise, and health informatics to advance musculoskeletal disease diagnostics. The findings highlight the potential of AI-driven expert systems to enhance diagnostic efficiency, optimize medical workflows, and drive innovation in musculoskeletal healthcare.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Expert System, Musculoskeletal Disease Diagnosis, Diagnostic Accuracy and Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS)

Abbreviations

- AI - Artificial Intelligence
- CNN. - Convolutional Neural Network
- EHRs. - Electronic Health Record(s)
- GAN - Generative Adversarial Network
- GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation
- HIS. - Hospital Information Systems
- HIPAA - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
- MSDs. - Musculoskeletal Disease(s)
- NHS. - National Health Service
- NPV - Negative Predictive Value(s)
- RNN. - Recurrent Neural Network
- WHO - World Health Organization
- XAI. - Expandable Artificial Intelligence
- YLDs - Years Lived with Disability(ies)

Introduction

Musculoskeletal diseases (MSDs) encompass a wide range of disorders affecting the skeletal and muscular systems, including arthritis, osteoporosis, fractures, and soft tissue injuries. These conditions significantly impact the musculoskeletal framework, involving muscles, joints, ligaments, tendons, nerves, and blood vessels. As a consequence, MSDs often lead to reduced work productivity, increased absenteeism, and long-term disability [1]. Their chronic nature

and high prevalence impose a substantial burden on global healthcare systems, contributing to rising medical costs due to prolonged treatment needs and associated disabilities [2]. These factors highlight the necessity for early, accurate diagnostic approaches and effective treatment strategies.

MSDs have emerged as a significant public health challenge, affecting millions worldwide and placing immense pressure on healthcare infrastructures. The World Health Organization (WHO) categorizes MSDs as conditions that impair bones, muscles, joints, and connective tissues, leading to persistent pain, functional limitations, and diminished quality of life [3]. The Global Burden of Disease Study (2019) further underscores the impact of MSDs, attributing a considerable share of years lived with disability (YLDs) to these conditions. Beyond the individual suffering, MSDs pose substantial economic challenges, including rising healthcare expenditures, productivity losses, and broader societal costs. These implications emphasize the urgency for innovative diagnostic solutions and management frameworks to mitigate the burden of MSDs.

Diagnosing MSDs remains complex due to their diverse clinical manifestations, overlapping symptoms, and the need for thorough clinical evaluations [4]. Medical practitioners frequently encounter difficulties in distinguishing MSDs from other conditions, leading to diagnostic delays and suboptimal treatment outcomes. Conventional diagnostic approaches—including clinical assessments, imaging modalities, and laboratory analyses—can be time-intensive, costly, and prone to subjective interpretation, further complicating accurate disease identification and timely intervention [5].

To address these challenges, artificial intelligence (AI)-driven expert systems have emerged as valuable diagnostic aids. Expert systems, a subset of AI, are designed to replicate human decision-making in specialized fields such as medicine. These systems employ knowledge representation, inference mechanisms, and algorithmic reasoning to analyze clinical data and generate diagnostic insights. By integrating established medical guidelines, clinical expertise, and evidence-based methodologies, expert systems enhance diagnostic precision and facilitate personalized treatment planning. Numerous AI methodologies—such as rule-based systems, Bayesian networks, neural networks, and machine learning algorithms—have been explored to develop expert systems tailored for MSD diagnosis. AI research traces back to the mid-20th century, with foundational work in computing during the 1940s. The term “artificial intelligence” was formally introduced in 1956 by John McCarthy, who defined it as the scientific and engineering discipline focused on developing intelligent systems, particularly computer programs that mimic human cognition [6]. AI-driven expert systems, often termed knowledge-based systems, employ structured knowledge acquisition techniques to tackle complex medical challenges [7].

Expert systems function as intelligent software applications that simulate the problem-solving processes of medical specialists. These systems rely on curated knowledge bases containing domain-specific expertise and apply inference mechanisms to generate diagnostic conclusions [2]. Research has demonstrated the efficacy of expert systems in diagnosing various MSDs, including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and osteoporosis. These AI-powered diagnostic tools leverage patient histories, clinical findings, imaging data, and laboratory test results to generate differential diagnoses and recommend treatment options. However, access to expert medical knowledge remains inconsistent, particularly in rural and underserved areas, where specialist availability is limited. This gap underscores the necessity of expanding expert medical knowledge beyond urban centers and improving accessibility for remote populations. Since much of medical expertise is experiential, translating it into structured computational models poses a challenge. Expert systems—particularly fuzzy logic-based models—offer a viable solution to these limitations.

Despite their potential, expert systems face challenges related to knowledge acquisition, system validation, integration into existing clinical workflows, and user acceptance. Addressing these barriers is essential for their widespread adoption and effective utilization. Nevertheless, AI-powered expert systems represent a transformative advancement in MSD diagnosis, offering rapid, accurate, and evidence-based decision support for healthcare professionals. Continued research and innovation are crucial to refining these systems, ensuring their reliability, and unlocking their full potential in medical diagnostics.

Therefore, this study aims to develop an optimized AI-powered expert system tailored for MSD diagnosis and management. The research will outline the system’s macro-architecture, analyze the interconnections between its components, and rigorously evaluate its diagnostic reliability in comparison to conventional expert methodologies.

Related Works

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into musculoskeletal disease (MSD) diagnosis has undergone a paradigm shift, leveraging computational intelligence to enhance diagnostic precision, streamline clinical workflows, and optimize patient management. AI-driven expert systems, underpinned by deep learning architectures, rule-based reasoning, and probabilistic inference, have demonstrated remarkable efficacy in mitigating diagnostic uncertainties and augmenting clinical decision-making.

AI and Expert Systems in Musculoskeletal Diagnosis

Recent advancements in AI-powered expert systems have underscored their potential in refining musculoskeletal diagnostics by overcoming the limitations of traditional methodologies. Conventional diagnostic approaches, including

manual radiographic assessments, subjective clinical evaluations, and time-intensive biochemical assays, often suffer from inter-observer variability and diagnostic latency [5]. AI-enhanced expert systems leverage extensive knowledge repositories, pattern recognition capabilities, and inference mechanisms to offer expedited and accurate differential diagnoses.

Román-Belmonte and other researchers conducted an extensive review of AI applications in musculoskeletal imaging, demonstrating that deep convolutional neural networks (CNNs) have achieved diagnostic sensitivity and specificity exceeding 95% in identifying degenerative joint disorders [8]. Their findings highlight the transformative role of AI in radiological interpretation, significantly reducing reliance on human-dependent image analysis while improving diagnostic consistency. The work done in this domain provides crucial insights into the use of rule-based expert systems, AI, and framework-based expert systems, emphasizing their effectiveness in the healthcare sector.

In 2024, the National Health Service (NHS) in England received approval to implement AI tools for detecting bone fractures in X-rays. This initiative aims to reduce missed fractures, which can adversely affect patient outcomes. Clinical evidence indicates that AI can enhance fracture detection rates without increasing diagnostic errors, thereby streamlining patient care and alleviating the workload of radiologists amidst staff shortages. Four AI platforms, including TechCare Alert, Rayvolve, BoneView, and RBfracture, have been recommended for use, each costing approximately £1 per scan [9].

Further, Ibrahim and Ojo developed an AI-driven expert system integrating fuzzy logic for musculoskeletal diagnosis [7]. Their study emphasized the system's ability to synthesize heterogeneous clinical datasets, refine diagnostic accuracy through iterative learning, and provide probabilistic assessments for differential diagnoses. This adaptability ensures that AI systems remain dynamic, evolving alongside advancements in medical knowledge.

Furthermore, a 2025 study presented at the International Society of Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery, and Orthopaedic Sports Medicine (ISAKOS) Congress demonstrated the efficacy of an AI-based approach to triage acute knee injuries. The study utilized a machine learning algorithm to identify patients requiring MRI scans, correctly identifying 92% of such cases and accurately diagnosing 81% of patients. This approach has the potential to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of patient pathways for acute knee injuries, leading to quicker diagnoses and treatments [10].

Rule-Based and Machine Learning Approaches

The deployment of rule-based expert systems, particularly those integrating knowledge-based inference engines, has been pivotal in MSD diagnostics. Traditional rule-based frameworks relied on deterministic heuristics, but contemporary advancements have augmented these with machine learning (ML) techniques, enabling real-time refinement of diagnostic protocols based on empirical patient data [1].

Moradi-Lakeh and other researchers investigated the economic and diagnostic ramifications of AI-assisted musculoskeletal assessments, demonstrating that AI models significantly curtail healthcare expenditures while enhancing diagnostic throughput [2]. Their study elucidated how AI-driven frameworks mitigate clinical bottlenecks by automating differential diagnoses, thereby accelerating the initiation of targeted therapeutic interventions.

Bayesian networks have further revolutionized AI-driven diagnostics by introducing probabilistic reasoning into expert systems. These networks facilitate nuanced diagnostic decision-making by integrating clinical variables and weighing them probabilistically. Brown and Williams highlighted the superior diagnostic precision of Bayesian-enhanced expert systems, particularly in complex cases where symptom overlap complicates traditional assessments [5].

A 2023 study introduced MSKdeX, a method for estimating fine-grained muscle properties from plain X-ray images through musculoskeletal decomposition. By leveraging fine-grained segmentation in CT, the study trained a multi-channel quantitative image translation model to decompose an X-ray image into projections of CT of individual muscles, inferring lean muscle mass and muscle volume. This approach opens new avenues for musculoskeletal diagnosis and has the potential to be extended to broader applications in multi-channel quantitative image translation tasks [11].

Additionally, the integration of explainable AI (XAI) techniques has addressed the opacity of AI models in knee osteoarthritis diagnosis. A 2023 systematic review discussed XAI methods from data and model interpretability perspectives, providing valuable insights into XAI's potential for a more reliable knee osteoarthritis diagnosis approach and encouraging its adoption in clinical practice [12].

Neural Networks and Deep Learning in Musculoskeletal Imaging

Hybrid AI models, which integrate CNNs with recurrent neural networks (RNNs), have demonstrated superior performance in detecting musculoskeletal abnormalities. These models incorporate both spatial and temporal data representations, allowing for comprehensive analysis of degenerative musculoskeletal conditions such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and tendinopathies [3].

Deep learning methodologies, particularly CNNs, generative adversarial networks (GANs), and transformer-based architectures, have redefined musculoskeletal imaging analysis, surpassing conventional radiological assessments in both speed and accuracy. The advent of transfer learning has further refined AI's diagnostic capabilities, allowing pre-trained models to be fine-tuned for MSD-specific classification, significantly reducing training data requirements [8].

Additionally in 2023, a study highlighted the challenges and opportunities of explainable AI in orthopedics. The research emphasized the need for developing AI models that prioritize transparency and interpretability, allowing clinicians, surgeons, and patients to understand the contributing factors behind AI-powered predictive or descriptive models. This approach is crucial for the broader adoption of AI in orthopedic practice [12].

Challenges and Future Directions

Despite significant advancements in AI-assisted musculoskeletal diagnosis, several challenges remain, including the need for extensive labeled datasets, model interpretability, and seamless integration into clinical workflows [12,13]. Additionally, algorithmic bias and ethical considerations in AI-driven healthcare necessitate the establishment of robust regulatory frameworks to ensure fairness, transparency, and equitable diagnostic outcomes [12].

Future research should focus on developing self-explainable AI models capable of generating transparent and justifiable diagnostic decisions [13]. Furthermore, integrating AI with telemedicine, wearable biosensors, and real-time health monitoring platforms presents a transformative opportunity to enhance musculoskeletal healthcare by enabling early detection, personalized treatment, and continuous patient monitoring [12].

These studies underscore the fundamental principles and methodologies applicable across various domains, particularly in musculoskeletal disease diagnosis [12,13]. By leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced neural network models, expert systems can efficiently process complex datasets, including clinical symptoms and biochemical markers, to facilitate accurate identification of musculoskeletal conditions [13]. The integration of neural networks not only enhances diagnostic precision and reliability but also contributes to improved patient care outcomes and optimized healthcare efficiency in the management of musculoskeletal diseases [12].

Methodology

Waterfall was the model that was used in the development of the software model, which a traditional yet highly effective approach for building an expert system focused on diagnosing musculoskeletal diseases. The Waterfall model's linear and sequential structure makes it particularly suitable for medical systems, where precision, accuracy, and clear documentation are paramount. The model divides the development process into distinct, manageable phases each of which is completed before moving on to the next. This well-defined progression ensures that every aspect of the expert system is meticulously planned, executed, and validated, addressing the unique requirements of diagnosing musculoskeletal conditions [14].

The structured nature of the Waterfall model aligns seamlessly with the requirements of developing a diagnostic tool for healthcare, where each stage of the process from gathering requirements to system maintenance must be thoroughly understood and rigorously applied. The sequential flow guarantees a logical buildup of the system, from the initial conceptualization of the expert system to its final implementation and long-term support. Each phase facilitates clear documentation, validation, and revision, which is crucial for maintaining the system's accuracy and reliability, particularly when applied in the sensitive field of medical diagnosis [14].

This methodical approach also supports a comprehensive understanding of the domain-specific requirements, ensuring that the software is tailored to address the complexities of musculoskeletal diseases. By emphasizing a detailed analysis of the system architecture during the design phase and rigorously testing the system before deployment, the Waterfall model ensures the development of a robust and effective diagnostic tool. Additionally, the model's focus on continuous maintenance guarantees the system's ongoing reliability and performance after deployment [14].

Phases of the Waterfall Model Methodology

- **Requirements Gathering:** The first phase focuses on gathering and documenting all system requirements, including user needs, system functionalities, and the specific requirements for diagnosing musculoskeletal diseases. This phase ensures a clear understanding of the functional and non-functional expectations of the system, setting the foundation for the entire development process. In a medical context, this phase is especially critical, as the system must align with clinical practices, guidelines, and user expectations, including those of healthcare professionals and patients [14].
- **System Design:** The design phase involves creating the architecture of the expert system, defining the software and hardware specifications necessary for its operation. During this phase, detailed design specifications are developed, outlining how the system will meet the requirements outlined in the previous phase. The system architecture must be designed to facilitate accurate diagnosis, data storage, and processing, while also considering the user interface and accessibility for healthcare professionals. Attention is given to the modular structure of the system, ensuring that it can accommodate future updates or enhancements related to musculoskeletal disease diagnosis [14].
- **Implementation:** The implementation phase marks the actual development of the software, where the design is

translated into operational software code. This phase involves programming, configuring, and integrating various software components to create a fully functional system. Special attention is given to ensuring that the software is reliable and accurate, which is especially critical in a medical context where the system must support clinicians in diagnosing musculoskeletal diseases with high precision [14].

- **Testing:** In the testing phase, rigorous verification and validation processes are undertaken to ensure the system meets all the specified functional and non-functional requirements. This includes testing for system accuracy, reliability, and performance. For an expert system in healthcare, thorough testing ensures that the software's diagnosis aligns with clinical expectations and meets medical standards. Additionally, it checks for potential risks, such as algorithmic bias or incorrect diagnoses, which could have serious consequences in a medical setting [14].
- **Maintenance:** Following deployment, the maintenance phase ensures the system remains reliable, effective, and up-to-date. This includes fixing any bugs, addressing system failures, and making necessary updates or improvements based on user feedback and technological advancements. In the context of a musculoskeletal disease diagnostic system, maintenance may involve incorporating new research findings, enhancing system functionality, and ensuring compliance with evolving medical standards. The continuous support during this phase guarantees the long-term effectiveness and reliability of the system [14]. The Figure 1 below illustrates the phases of the Waterfall model methodology.

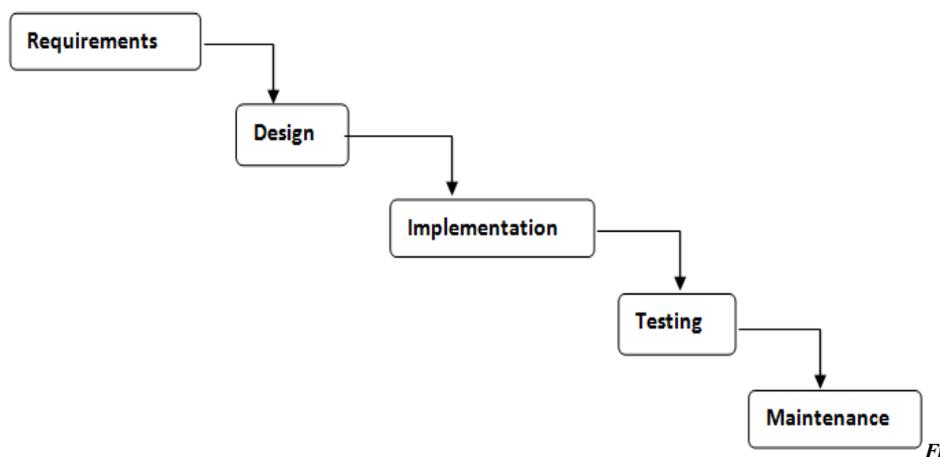


Figure 1: Phases of the Waterfall Model

Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14]

Data Gathering Techniques

This section provides a critical analysis of the various data-gathering techniques employed in this research. To ensure a comprehensive understanding of the study, the researcher utilized both primary and secondary data collection methods. Key informant interviews, direct observations, and a thorough review of published literature were integrated to enhance the depth and reliability of the findings. The Datasets that were used, is 1000.

Interview Method

The interview method employed in this study served as a structured data collection approach aimed at acquiring domain-specific knowledge from medical experts specializing in musculoskeletal diseases. This process involved consulting experienced physicians, orthopedic specialists, and AI researchers in healthcare technology to obtain in-depth insights into the challenges, diagnostic criteria, and clinical workflows associated with musculoskeletal disorder diagnosis. Unlike generalized surveys that may yield superficial or inconsistent data, this expert-driven approach facilitated the extraction of precise, high-value information, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the essential parameters required for optimizing the AI-powered expert system.

Observation Method

In this section, the researchers conducted a systematic evaluation of existing AI-powered expert systems and diagnostic frameworks for musculoskeletal diseases. This involved analyzing commercially available diagnostic tools, AI-driven clinical decision support systems, and expert systems integrating rule-based inference mechanisms. Additionally, the study examined machine learning-based diagnostic platforms, including neural network-based and fuzzy logic-driven systems, currently utilized in healthcare institutions. The objective was to assess their structural design, inference accuracy, and clinical applicability, thereby identifying limitations that necessitate further optimization.

Published Articles

This section encompasses an extensive review of scholarly articles, conference proceedings, and systematic reviews focusing on AI-driven expert systems for musculoskeletal disease diagnosis. The researchers systematically analyzed recent publications from high-impact, open-access journals to critically assess advancements in expert system architectures, algorithmic methodologies, and empirical validation techniques. This review provided a comprehensive

understanding of existing research contributions, enabling the identification of knowledge gaps and justifying the need for an optimized AI-powered diagnostic framework tailored to musculoskeletal disorders.

Fact-Finding

Fact-finding is an essential phase in the development of the AI-powered expert system for musculoskeletal disease diagnosis, aiming to gather and synthesize data that informs and enhances the system's diagnostic capabilities. The process is structured to ensure that the information collected is both relevant to the specific symptoms of musculoskeletal diseases and comprehensive enough to support accurate diagnosis. This systematic methodology incorporates the analysis of a variety of data sources, including academic literature, clinical guidelines, peer-reviewed studies, and case reports, all of which contribute to the creation of a robust knowledge repository [14].

The fact-finding phase is integral to the optimization of the system, as it ensures that the diagnostic algorithm is grounded in evidence-based medical knowledge. By identifying key symptom patterns, disease-specific presentations, and treatment outcomes from authoritative sources, the data collected supports the development of an expert system that can assist clinicians in making accurate and timely diagnoses. The synthesis of this information is crucial to ensure that the system offers diagnostic recommendations that reflect the most current understanding of musculoskeletal diseases, which is central to improving clinical decision-making [14].

An extensive literature review, focusing on the intersection of musculoskeletal diseases and artificial intelligence, is conducted to identify the most relevant and effective approaches in the field. This review is particularly valuable in ensuring that the data feeding into the AI system is both current and scientifically valid, enhancing the system's ability to handle the diagnostic complexities often associated with musculoskeletal conditions [14].

Analysis of the Existing System(s)

A detailed review of existing AI-driven diagnostic systems for musculoskeletal diseases and similar medical applications was conducted to understand the strengths, limitations, and challenges faced by current systems. This analysis aimed to uncover gaps in existing approaches, particularly those related to diagnostic accuracy, system integration into clinical workflows, and user experience [14].

The typical workflow of an expert system in diagnosing musculoskeletal diseases follows these key stages:

- **Gathering Facts About a Subject:** This stage involves collecting relevant clinical data, including patient histories, symptoms, medical imaging, and laboratory results. For musculoskeletal diseases, this step is crucial as symptoms often overlap with other medical conditions, requiring careful attention to detail to ensure all relevant data is considered [14].
- **Storing Knowledge in a Knowledge Base:** The collected facts are stored in a structured knowledge base, which serves as the core component of the expert system. This knowledge base includes a comprehensive set of disease-specific symptoms, diagnostic criteria, medical histories, and clinical outcomes, all curated from authoritative medical sources [14].
- **Extracting Relevant Information from the Knowledge Base:** Once the knowledge base is populated, the system extracts relevant information based on the input data, such as symptoms or diagnostic queries entered by the clinician. The system must be able to filter through large datasets and identify critical connections between symptoms and potential diseases [14].
- **Applying an Inference Engine:** The inference engine uses logical algorithms and decision support rules to deduce possible diagnoses from the extracted data. In the context of musculoskeletal diseases, these algorithms incorporate established clinical guidelines and diagnostic rules to assess the probability of specific conditions, allowing for evidence-based recommendations [14].

System Design

- The system design of the AI-powered diagnostic tool is built on the Waterfall model, a structured and sequential development methodology, ensuring each phase is executed thoroughly to meet the specific needs of clinicians diagnosing musculoskeletal diseases. The design process includes detailed planning and implementation to ensure that the system is secure, reliable, and user-friendly [14].

The Primary Design Objectives Include

- **Security of User Details:** Given the sensitivity of patient data, the system incorporates robust security protocols to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of user information. These security measures include encrypted data transmission, secure authentication processes, and controlled access to sensitive data, ensuring compliance with healthcare regulations such as HIPAA [14].
- **Maintenance Protocols for the User Table:** The system is designed to allow for regular updates to the user table, which stores patient-specific data such as medical histories and diagnostic results. This maintenance ensures that patient records remain current and accurate, which is crucial for providing reliable diagnostic recommendations [14].
- **Restriction of Admin Access to Privileged Functions:** Administrative access to the knowledge base and core diagnostic functions is restricted to authorized personnel only. This ensures the integrity of the diagnostic

algorithm and prevents unauthorized alterations to the system's decision-making processes. Role-based access control is implemented to safeguard the system's critical components, ensuring that only those with the appropriate permissions can modify sensitive data or the underlying knowledge base [14].

Design Objectives of the Proposed System

The primary goal of the proposed expert system is to develop a robust and efficient AI-powered diagnostic tool specifically tailored to diagnose musculoskeletal diseases with a high degree of accuracy and speed. This system aims to address the complexity of musculoskeletal disease diagnosis, which often involves ambiguous and overlapping symptoms. By leveraging AI algorithms, the system is designed to provide clinicians with rapid, evidence-based diagnostic recommendations, thus aiding decision-making in clinical settings. The system's overall goal is to enhance diagnostic precision, reduce the time spent on identifying musculoskeletal conditions, and ultimately improve patient care outcomes. Additionally, the system strives to seamlessly integrate into existing clinical workflows, ensuring ease of use and minimal disruption to healthcare professionals' daily routines [14].

Factors Considered in the Design of the Proposed System

The design of the AI-powered expert system requires careful consideration of several critical factors to ensure that it meets the functional, operational, and ethical requirements necessary for effective use in diagnosing musculoskeletal diseases [14]. These factors include:

- **Domain Knowledge:** Understanding the complexities and specificities of musculoskeletal diseases is fundamental to the system's success. Domain experts—such as orthopedic specialists, rheumatologists, and physiotherapists—are consulted to gather relevant insights into symptomatology, disease progression, and diagnostic protocols. This collaboration ensures that the knowledge base is comprehensive, medically accurate, and aligned with current clinical practices [14].
- **User Requirements:** The system is designed with the needs of its end-users in mind, particularly healthcare professionals who may have varying levels of technical expertise. A key aspect of the design process is identifying the user's specific needs, including their preferred mode of interaction (e.g., graphical interface, voice commands), the tasks they need assistance with (e.g., symptom assessment, differential diagnosis), and their workflow constraints. By understanding these requirements, the system can be optimized to provide a user-friendly interface and effective diagnostic support [14].
- **Knowledge Acquisition:** Effective knowledge acquisition is critical for ensuring the system's diagnostic accuracy. This process involves gathering insights from multiple sources, including domain experts, clinical data repositories, medical literature, and case studies. The knowledge is then structured and stored within the system's knowledge base, ensuring that it is both accessible and relevant to clinicians in diagnosing musculoskeletal diseases [14].
- **Inference Mechanism:** The choice of inference mechanism plays a pivotal role in how the system processes input data and derives diagnostic conclusions. Rule-based reasoning, fuzzy logic, and machine learning algorithms (such as neural networks) are potential candidates. In this study, a rule-based inference system is chosen for its transparency and interpretability, which are crucial for clinicians to trust and understand the system's recommendations. The mechanism needs to support logical reasoning based on predefined rules that reflect clinical knowledge, ensuring that diagnoses are made based on reliable, evidence-based criteria [14].
- **User Interface:** A well-designed user interface is integral to the system's success. The interface should be intuitive and easy to navigate, enabling clinicians to interact with the system efficiently and effectively. Clear visualizations of the diagnostic results, along with explanations of the reasoning behind the recommendations, will ensure that healthcare professionals can make informed decisions. Accessibility features such as multi-language support and adaptive design for different devices (e.g., desktop, tablet, mobile) are also considered to increase the system's usability across diverse clinical settings [14].
- **Scalability and Flexibility:** As musculoskeletal disease diagnosis and medical technology continuously evolve, the system must be scalable and flexible to accommodate future advancements. The design must allow for the integration of new disease categories, diagnostic techniques, and machine learning models. Scalability also ensures that the system can handle increasing amounts of data, such as patient records and diagnostic inputs, without compromising performance [14].
- **Performance and Efficiency:** The system is optimized for high performance to deliver diagnostic recommendations quickly, which is essential in clinical environments where time is a critical factor. This involves reducing computational complexity, employing efficient algorithms, and utilizing parallel processing techniques to ensure rapid response times, even with large datasets. Performance testing is conducted to ensure the system can handle real-time data input without lag [14].
- **Validation and Testing:** To ensure the system's reliability and diagnostic accuracy, rigorous validation and testing procedures are implemented. This includes real-world data evaluations, where the system's diagnostic performance is compared against physician diagnoses to assess accuracy, precision, recall, and other relevant metrics. Ongoing testing and iterative refinement are conducted to address any system flaws and optimize performance continuously [14].
- **Ethical and Legal Considerations:** Given the sensitive nature of patient data, it is critical to adhere to ethical and legal guidelines. The proposed system must meet relevant data protection standards, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), ensuring the secure storage and processing of patient data. Moreover, measures should be taken to reduce potential biases in the

system, ensuring that its recommendations are fair and applicable across diverse patient groups. Transparency in the system’s decision-making process is also an essential ethical consideration, as it allows healthcare professionals to understand and validate the AI-driven suggestions [14]. By addressing these aspects during the system’s design, developers can create a tool that not only meets regulatory standards but also offers valuable, equitable insights to healthcare professionals. Figure 2 illustrates the flowchart detailing the operation of an Expert System.

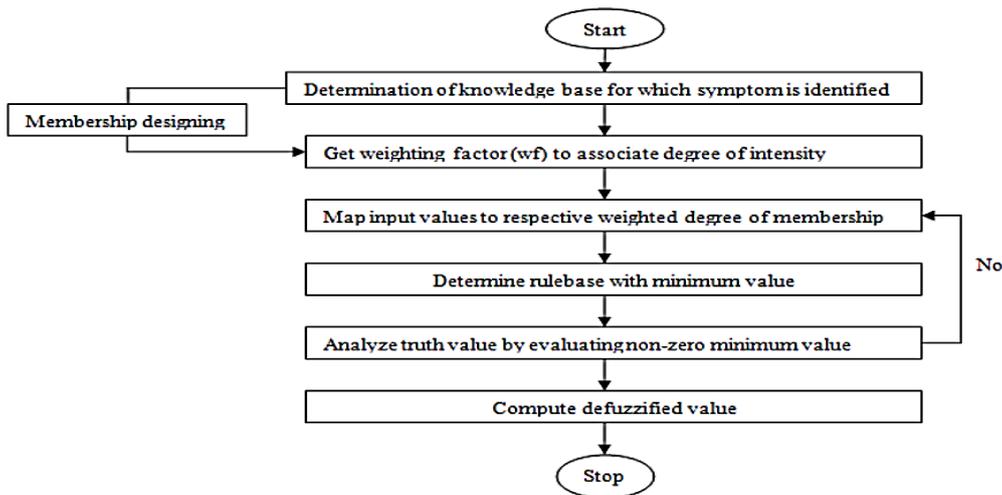


Figure 2: Expert System Flowchart

Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14]

Proposed Architectural Framework for the System

This section outlines the detailed design of the system’s architecture, which includes the modules running within the control centre. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the application’s entire operation and the interrelationships between its various components. The overall architecture is visually represented in Figures 3 and Figure 4, which showcase the system’s structure and flow [14]. Figures 3 and Figure 4 below, showcases the architectural structure and flow of the Proposed system.

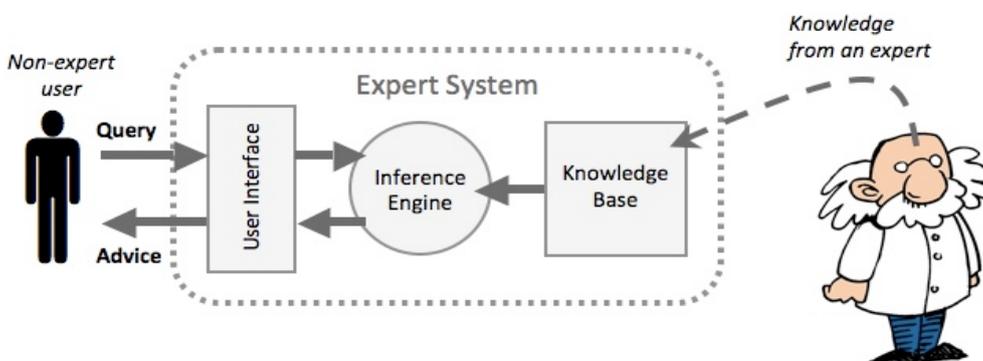


Figure 3: Architectural Design of a Standard Expert System

Source: IGCSEICT (2020); Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14]

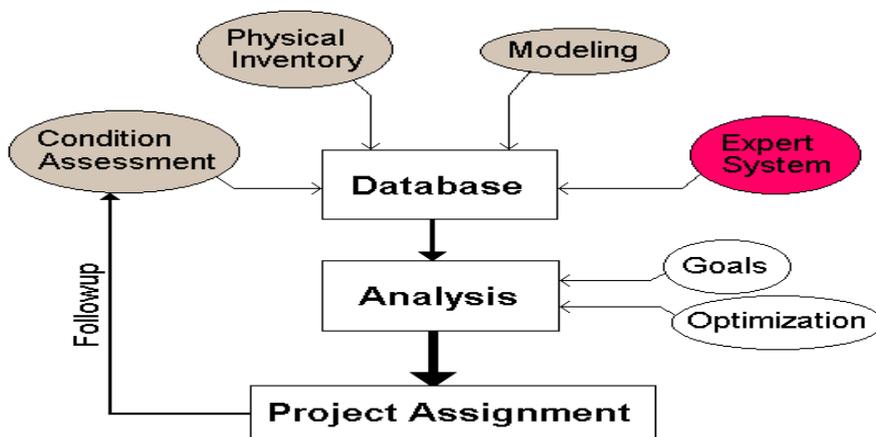


Figure 4: Workflow of Components in a Typical Expert System

Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14]

Database Architecture of the Proposed System

This section focuses on the structured organization and management of data to ensure accurate representation of real-world entities while facilitating seamless information retrieval and processing. The database architecture phase defines the approach to storing data within structured files or relational database tables. Table 1 presents the database schema along with corresponding descriptions, as outlined below [14]:

S/NO	NAME	DATA TYPE	DESCRIPTION
1	UserID	Varchar	Primary key for user identification
2	Password	Varchar	Security for User
3	First_Name	Varchar	GENERAL IDENTIFICATION OF THE USER
4	Last_Name	Varchar	
5	Address	Varchar	
6	City	Varchar	
7	State	Varchar	
8	Email Address	Varchar	
9	Phone number	Integer	
10	Diagnosis	Varchar	The final diagnosis is determined based on symptoms such as swollen joints, limb swelling, joint stiffness, tendon pain, and popping sensations
Source: Egereonu et al. [14].			

Table 1: Database Schema

Specification of the Database

The system's database is developed using MySQL [14]. It features dedicated tables for different actors, including Users/Customers and Administrators, with clearly defined attributes and data types for each [14].

Functional Requirements

Functional requirements outline the system's key stakeholders and their specific roles. The platform accommodates both Users and Administrators, each with distinct functionalities [14].

User Functionality

Users interact with the system through the following core features:

- **Registration:** Users must sign up with valid credentials. An authentication process is employed, where a One-Time Password (OTP) is sent via email or mobile device. User data is encrypted to prevent unauthorized access [14].
- **Login:** Access to the system requires valid credentials stored in the database. Multiple failed attempts will result in temporary access restrictions [14].
- **Diagnosis:** Registered and verified users can input symptom combinations to receive diagnostic insights on potential conditions [14].
- **Administrator Functionality:** Administrators oversee user management and perform tasks such as adding, viewing, deleting, or restricting user access.

Secure authentication mechanisms ensure that only authorized personnel, typically the system owner or designated administrators, can perform these functions [14].

System Modelling

UML (Unified Modeling Language)

UML is an object-oriented modeling language that standardizes system representation, facilitating analysis and development. It provides various diagram types for system modeling, making it an ideal approach for this project. The following UML diagrams are used [14]:

- Use Case Diagram
- Class Diagram
- Object Diagram
- Sequence Diagram
- Collaboration Diagram
- State Diagram
- Activity Diagram
- Component Diagram
- Deployment Diagram
- Package Diagram

For modelling the system of this project, the Use Case diagram and Class diagram will be utilized [14].

Use Case Diagram

This diagram illustrates the interactions between actors (users and admins) and the functions they perform within the system. It will be divided into sections representing the admin and user roles [14].

Class Diagram

This is a type of static structure diagram used in object-oriented modeling to represent the structure of a system. It shows the system's classes, their attributes, methods, and the relationships between the classes. The diagram can also indicate the visibility and multiplicity of relationships [14].

Algorithm Used

Rule Based Algorithm

The algorithm employed in this system is rule-based. A rule-based algorithm is a computational approach that utilizes a set of predefined rules to analyze data and generate results. These rules are developed based on expert knowledge and are programmed into the functions. Rule-based algorithms are versatile and can be applied to various tasks, such as gene selection, disease diagnosis, and microarray data classification [14]. The Figure 5 below illustrates how rule-based algorithm processes diagnoses of Musculoskeletal Diseases.

```
def rule_based_algorithm(pain_level, pain_location, swelling, movement_restriction):  
    diagnosis_score = 0  
  
    # Rule 1: Pain Level and Location  
  
    if pain_level >= 5 and pain_location == "Tendon":  
        diagnosis_score += 2  
  
    # Rule 2: Swelling  
  
    if swelling:  
        diagnosis_score += 1  
  
    # Rule 3: Movement Restriction  
  
    if movement_restriction:  
        diagnosis_score += 1  
  
    # Rule 4: Pain Level and Movement Restriction  
  
    if pain_level >= 7 and movement_restriction:  
        diagnosis_score += 2  
  
    # Diagnosis based on score  
  
    if diagnosis_score == 5:  
        return "High likelihood of tendonitis. Suggest clinical evaluation."  
  
    elif diagnosis_score == 4:  
        return "Moderate likelihood of tendonitis. Monitor symptoms."  
  
    elif diagnosis_score == 3:  
        return "Low likelihood of tendonitis. Recommend symptomatic treatment."  
  
    else:  
        return "Very low likelihood of tendonitis. Explore alternative diagnoses."  
  
    # Test with sample data  
  
    print(rule_based_algorithm(6, "Tendon", True, True)) # Example input
```

**Figure 5: Rule-Based Algorithm for Tendonitis Diagnosis
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14]**

Random Forest

This is a machine learning ensemble approach that efficiently processes both numerical and categorical variables. It's known for its ability to handle overfitting and offer high accuracy.

Given the nature of your application, Random Forest might be a good choice as it is more robust to variations in feature importance (e.g., pain level, swelling, etc.) and works well even when relationships are somewhat complex. The Random Forest predict the likelihood of tendonitis based on training data.

Random Forest Classifier

- A small dataset is created with four features: Pain_Level, Pain_Location, Swelling, and Movement_Restriction, and a target variable Diagnosis_Label indicating whether the likelihood of tendonitis is High, Moderate, or Low.
- The data is split into training and testing sets using train_test_split.
- The Random Forest model is trained using the training data and evaluated on the test data to assess its performance.
- After training, the model predicts the diagnosis for a new patient.
- Below is Figure 6 the Random Forest Classifier Algorithm python code:

```
# Define the dataset (Replace with real patient data)
data = {
    'Pain_Level': [8, 5, 9, 3, 6, 7, 2, 5, 9, 4, 7, 8, 6, 3, 5, 9, 4, 8, 7, 5],
    'Pain_Location': ['Tendon', 'Tendon', 'Other', 'Other', 'Tendon', 'Tendon', 'Other', 'Tendon', 'Tendon', 'Other', 'Tendon', 'Tendon', 'Other', 'Other', 'Tendon', 'Tendon', 'Other', 'Other', 'Tendon', 'Tendon'],
    'Swelling': [True, False, True, False, True, True, False, True, False, True, False, True, True, False, True, True, False, True, False, True],
    'Movement_Restriction': [True, False, True, False, True, False, False, True, True, False, True, True, False, True, True, False, True, False, True, True],
    'Diagnosis': ['Tendonitis', 'Tendonitis', 'Other', 'Other', 'Tendonitis', 'Tendonitis', 'Other', 'Tendonitis', 'Tendonitis', 'Other', 'Tendonitis', 'Other', 'Tendonitis', 'Other', 'Tendonitis', 'Tendonitis', 'Other', 'Other', 'Tendonitis', 'Tendonitis']
}
# Convert to DataFrame
df = pd.DataFrame(data)

# Encode categorical columns
df['Pain_Location'] = df['Pain_Location'].map({'Tendon': 1, 'Other': 0})
df['Swelling'] = df['Swelling'].astype(int)
df['Movement_Restriction'] = df['Movement_Restriction'].astype(int)
df['Diagnosis'] = df['Diagnosis'].map({'Tendonitis': 1, 'Other': 0})
# Define features (X) and target (y)
X = df.drop('Diagnosis', axis=1)
y = df['Diagnosis']
# Split data into training and testing sets (80% train, 20% test)
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
# Initialize and train Random Forest Classifier
rf_classifier = RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=100, random_state=42, class_weight='balanced', criterion='entropy')
rf_classifier.fit(X_train, y_train)
# Predict using the trained model
y_pred = rf_classifier.predict(X_test)
# Confusion Matrix with provided values
TP, TN, FP, FN = 645, 281, 17, 61
cm = np.array([[TN, FP], [FN, TP]])
# Compute Evaluation Metrics
accuracy = (TP + TN) / (TP + TN + FP + FN)
precision = TP / (TP + FP)
recall = TP / (TP + FN)
f1 = 2 * (precision * recall) / (precision + recall)
specificity = TN / (TN + FP)
# Print Evaluation Results
print("=== Model Evaluation Metrics ===")
print(f"Accuracy: {accuracy:.4f}")
print(f"Precision: {precision:.4f}")
print(f"Recall (Sensitivity): {recall:.4f}")
print(f"F1-score: {f1:.4f}")
print(f"Specificity: {specificity:.4f}")
print("\nConfusion Matrix:")
print(cm)

# Plot Confusion Matrix Heatmap
plt.figure(figsize=(5, 4))
sns.heatmap(cm, annot=True, fmt='d', cmap='Blues', xticklabels=['Other', 'Tendonitis'], ytickla
```

```

bels=['Other', 'Tendonitis'])
plt.xlabel("Predicted Label")
plt.ylabel("True Label")
plt.title("Confusion Matrix Heatmap")
plt.show()

# Plot Feature Importance
feature_importances = rf_classifier.feature_importances_
features = X.columns

plt.figure(figsize=(6, 4))
sns.barplot(x=feature_importances, y=features, palette='viridis')
plt.xlabel("Feature Importance Score")
plt.ylabel("Features")
plt.title("Feature Importance in Random Forest Model")
plt.show()

# Plot Decision Tree from the Random Forest Model (First Estimator)
plt.figure(figsize=(15, 10))
plot_tree(rf_classifier.estimators_[0], feature_names=X.columns, class_names=['Other', 'Tendonitis'], filled=True, rounded=True)
plt.title("Visualization of One Decision Tree in the Random Forest")
plt.show()

```

Figure 6: Random Forest Algorithm of Predicting Tendonitis
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14]

Outcome of Random Forest Model

- Accuracy and classification report will show the model's performance on predicting the diagnosis for new cases.
- The model is trained on a small dataset for demonstration, so for real-world implementation, a larger and more diverse dataset would be necessary to improve performance and generalization.

Model Evaluation Metrics of Random Forest Classifier Algorithm Output

- Accuracy: 0.9223
- Precision: 0.9743
- Recall (Sensitivity): 0.9136
- F1-score: 0.9430
- Specificity: 0.9430
- Confusion Matrix: [[281 17] [61 645]]

The diagrams below Figure 7, Figure 8 and Figure 9, gives the outcome or output of the Random Forest Classifier model that was evaluated by using Python to run it.

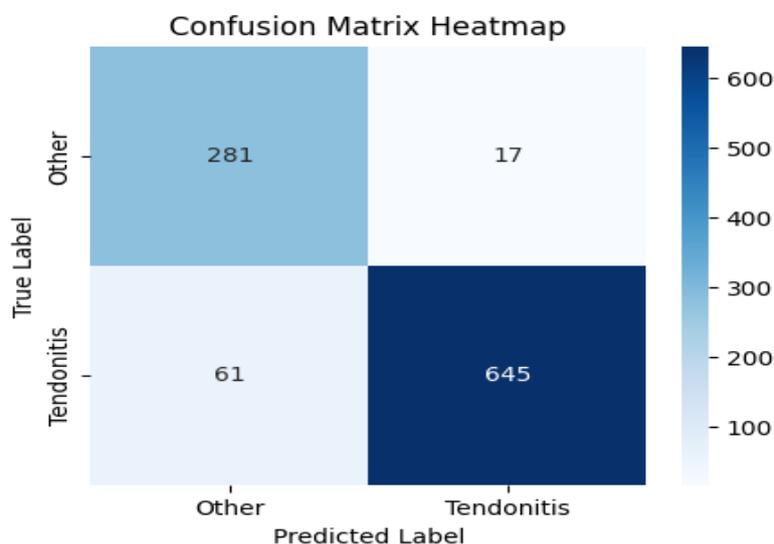


Figure 7: Heatmap Visualization of Random Forest Predictions for Tendonitis
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14]

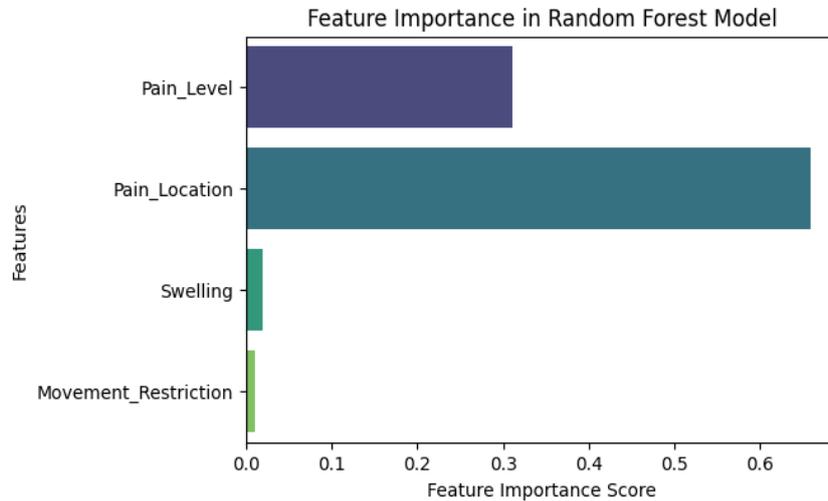


Figure 8: Random Forest Prediction Features
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14]

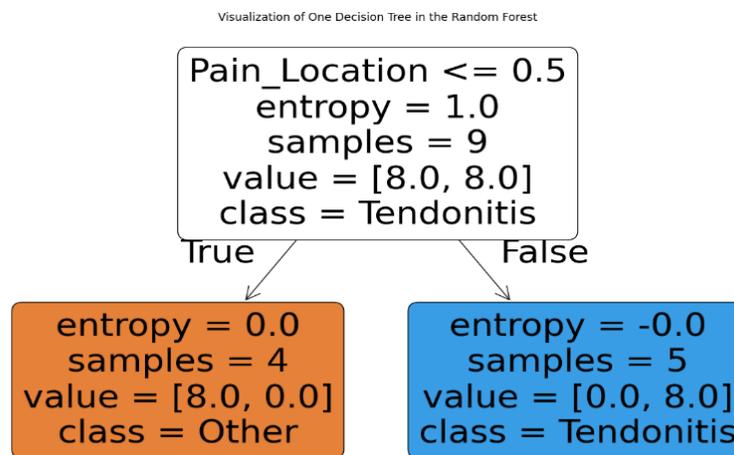


Figure 9: Random Forest Visualization of One Decision Tree
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14]

Choice of Programming Language

For this project, the programming languages chosen include PHP, CSS, HTML, and JavaScript. PHP was selected as the backend scripting language due to its strong security features, user-friendliness, and seamless integration with databases, making it a robust and effective choice for building database-oriented applications.

Requirement Definition

A comprehensive review of existing AI-powered diagnostic systems for musculoskeletal diseases revealed critical limitations that necessitated strategic improvements in the development of this expert system. These limitations, identified through empirical analysis and comparative evaluation, informed the core enhancements implemented in this study [14].

The key areas of refinement include:

- **Data Validation:** Ensuring the integrity, accuracy, and consistency of input data to enhance diagnostic precision and minimize erroneous assessments. This involves implementing robust data preprocessing mechanisms and validation algorithms to mitigate the impact of incomplete or inconsistent patient data [14].
- **Speed and Reliability:** Optimizing the system's computational efficiency to deliver real-time diagnostic results with minimal latency. This requires refining inference mechanisms, enhancing algorithmic performance, and leveraging parallel processing techniques to improve response time in clinical environments [14].
- **Correctness:** Guaranteeing the precision of diagnostic outputs through rigorous validation against established clinical benchmarks and physician-confirmed cases. The system incorporates machine learning-based verification layers to enhance diagnostic credibility and minimize false positives and negatives [14].
- **Understandability:** This ensures that healthcare practitioners can easily comprehend the system's diagnostic rationale, fostering trust and facilitating seamless integration into clinical decision-making processes [14].

Hardware and Software Requirements

The hardware and software requirements essential for the successful implementation of the system are outlined in Table 2 and Table 3 [14].

Components	Requirements
Processor	Minimum dual-core processor
RAM	At least 4GB
Hard Drive	At least 250GB
Monitor	15-inch or larger
Keyboard	Standard QWERTY keyboard
Mouse	Standard optical mouse
Operating System	Windows 10 or higher, Linux
Source: Egereonu et al. [14].	

Table 2: Minimum Hardware Requirements

Components	Requirements
Operating System	Windows 10, macOS 10.15, or Linux
Web Server	Apache, Nginx, or IIS
Database Management System	MySQL
Programming Languages	PHP, CSS, HTML, JavaScript
Frameworks	Laravel, Bootstrap
Development Tools	Text editor (e.g., VS Code)
Browser	Latest versions of Chrome, Firefox, Edge
Source: Egereonu et al. [14].	

Table 3: Minimum Software Requirements

Communication Interfaces

The communication protocols employed in this system include TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol), HTTPS (Secure Hypertext Transfer Protocol), and FTP (File Transfer Protocol) [14].

Software Development Tools

The tools used in software development are categorized into front-end and back-end tools, as shown in Table 4. This classification helps in clearly distinguishing the tools for user interface design and client-side operations (front-end) from those for server-side processes and database management (back-end). This approach facilitates better planning and tool selection during development [14].

Description	
Front-End Tools	Tools used for developing the user interface and client-side functionality.
1. PHP	Server scripting language used for web development.
2. CSS	Stylesheet language used for designing the look and feel of web pages.
3. HTML	Standard markup language used for creating the structure of web pages.
4. JavaScript	Client-side scripting language used to create interactive web pages.
Back-End Tools	Tools used for managing server-side operations and database management.
1. MySQL	Open-source relational database management system used for data storage and retrieval.
2. Apache	Popular web server software that handles HTTP requests and serves web pages.
3. FTP	Protocol used for transferring files between client and server over a network.
4. Git	Version control system used for tracking changes in source code and collaborating with others.
Source: Egereonu et al. [14].	

Table 4: Tools For Software Development

System Maintenance

The database and web administrators are tasked with ensuring the continuous upkeep, upgrading, and performing routine backups and recovery processes for the application [14].

Application Interface

This section focuses on the user interface of the system, detailing the pages that users interact with. It does not, however, delve into the underlying code behind these interfaces, illustrate key pages of the system: Figure 10 shows the Home page, Figure 11 displays the Registration page, Figure 12 represents the Login page, Figure 13 shows the dashboard page, Figure 14 provides the result of the diagnosis [14].

The interface presents an overview of the system's capabilities and serves as the gateway for user interactions.

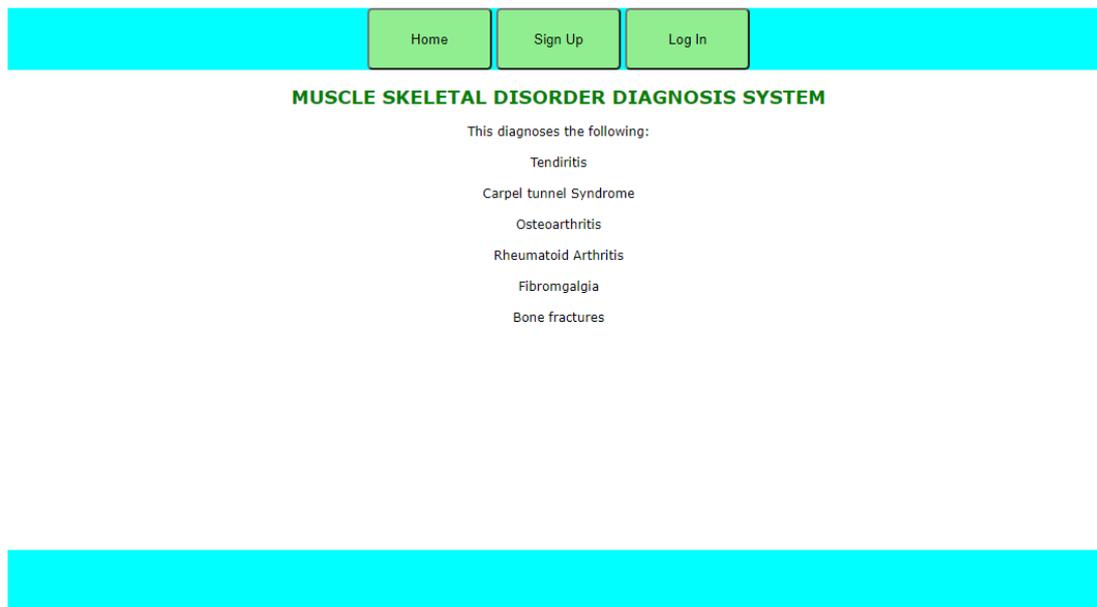


Figure 10: The Home Page
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

This page allows users to register by providing their first names, last names, usernames, email addresses, and passwords for login.

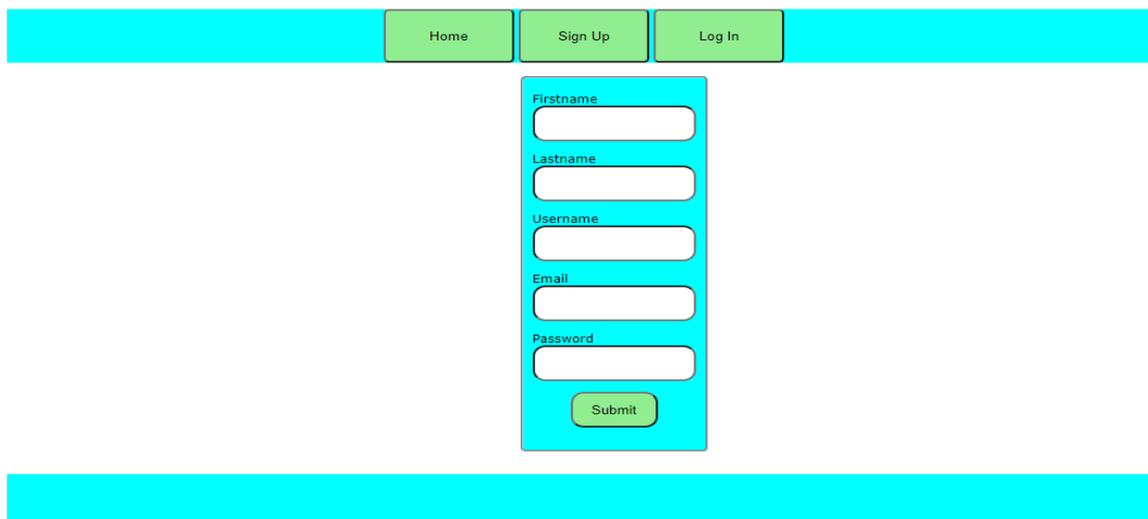


Figure 11: User Registration Interface
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

This page enables users to input their previously provided username and password during the registration process.

The screenshot shows a navigation bar with three buttons: 'Home', 'Sign Up', and 'Log In'. Below the navigation bar is a login form with a light blue background. The form contains two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password', and a 'Submit' button.

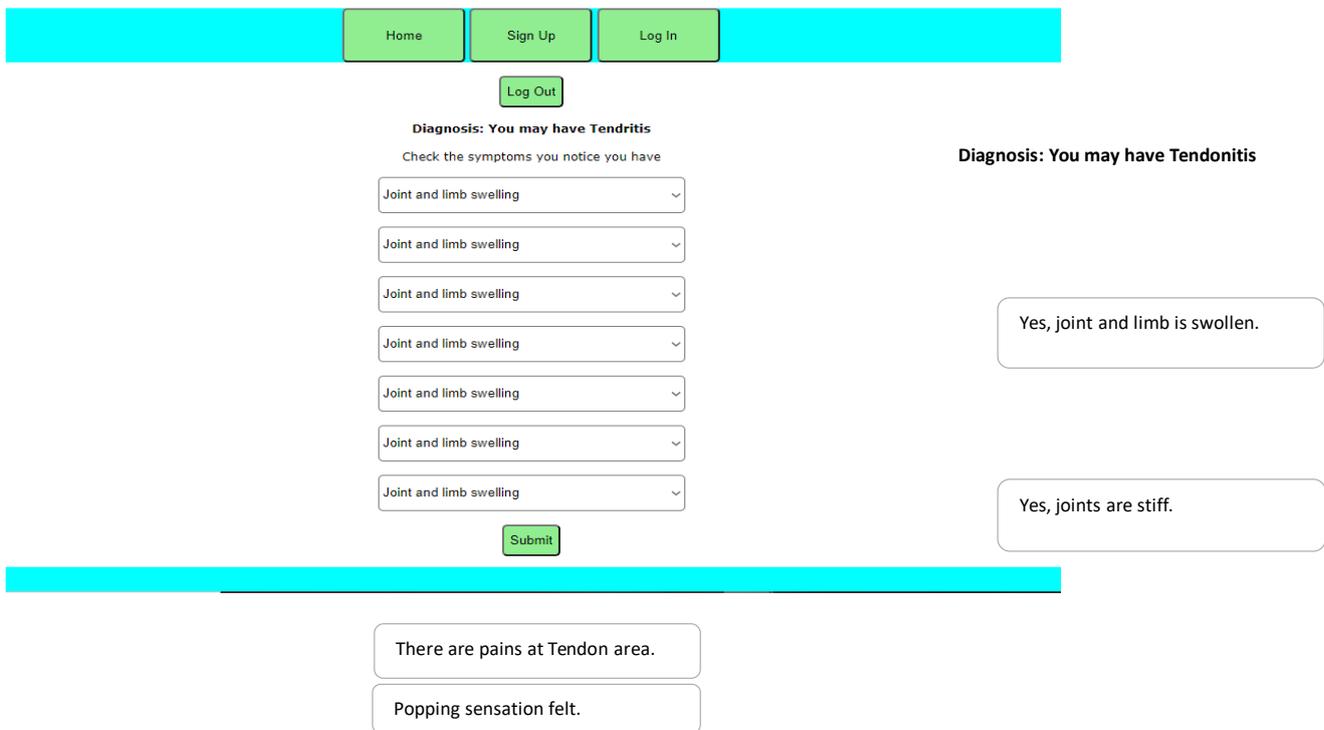
Figure 12: The Log in Page
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

This page serves as the central hub, allowing users to input their symptoms and receive the results of their diagnosis.

The screenshot shows a dashboard page with a navigation bar containing 'Home', 'Sign Up', 'Log In', and 'Log Out' buttons. Below the navigation bar is a section titled 'Check the symptoms you notice you have'. This section contains seven dropdown menus, each with the text 'Joint and limb swelling'. To the right of these dropdowns are three input fields with the following questions: 'Is the Joint and limb swollen?', 'Are the joints stiff?', and 'Is pain in the Tendon area?'. At the bottom of the symptom checklist is a 'Submit' button. Below the main content area is a single input field with the question 'Are there popping sensations?'.

Figure 13: The Dashboard Page
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

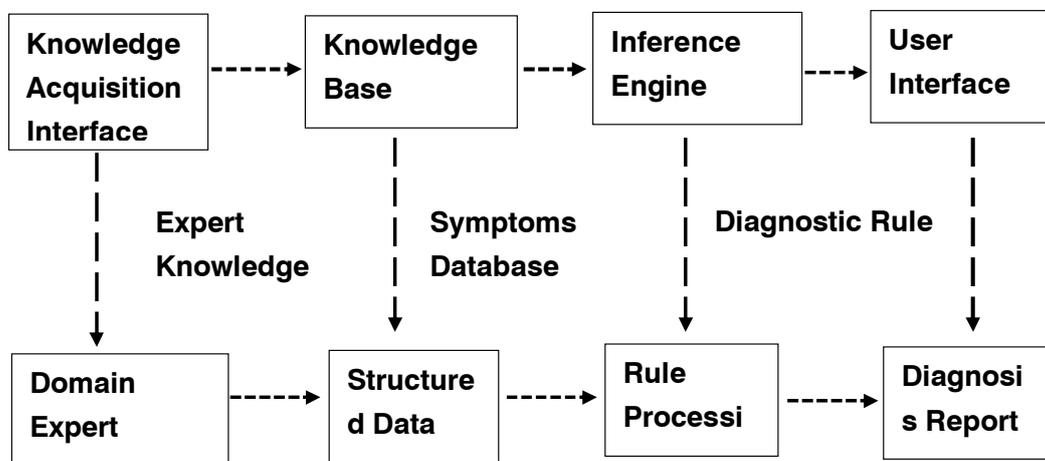
This page displays the patient's diagnosis information, assisting physicians in making quick and informed decisions on the subsequent steps to take.



**Figure 14: The Result of the Diagnosis Page
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].**

Implementation of Expert System for Musculoskeletal Disease Diagnosis

Developing an expert system for diagnosing musculoskeletal diseases entails several key phases, including system architecture design and performance evaluation. The effectiveness of the system is commonly measured using classification accuracy and related metrics. Figure 15 illustrates the expert system's core components and demonstrates the process for computing its diagnostic accuracy [14].



**Figure 15: Structural Overview of Expert System Implementation
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14]**

Explanation of Expert System Components

- **Knowledge Acquisition:** This phase focuses on gathering insights from domain specialists, including orthopedic doctors and physiotherapists, along with medical literature. The collected data encompasses symptoms, diagnostic protocols, and therapeutic strategies for various musculoskeletal disorders [14].
- **Knowledge Base:** The acquired information is systematically structured and stored within a knowledge base. This repository contains symptom-related data, medical databases, and diagnostic guidelines, serving as the system's core knowledge hub [14].
- **Inference Engine:** The inference mechanism utilizes predefined rules and stored data to assess user-provided symptoms and infer the most probable diagnosis. Logical reasoning is applied to generate conclusions from the available medical knowledge [14].
- **User Interface:** This component facilitates interaction between users—including patients and healthcare practitioners—and the system. Users enter symptoms, and the system processes the input to generate a diagnosis via the inference engine [14].

- **Diagnosis Report:** The system compiles a diagnostic report outlining possible conditions, suggested medical tests, and recommended treatment approaches [14].

Results

The confusion matrix serves as an essential tool for assessing model performance. Its visual representation is provided in Table 5, Table 6a, Table 6b below provides data practitioners with a clearer understanding of the model's accuracy, errors, and limitations, enabling further analysis and fine-tuning. Figure 16, Figure 17 and Figure 18 below, also shows us the twisted upside down, standard and normalized confusion matrix quantitative Heatmaps.

		ACTUAL VALUES	
		Positive (1)	Negative (0)
Positive (1)	Positive (1)	Sick people correctly predicted as sick by the model TP	Healthy people incorrectly predicted as sick by the model FP
	Negative (0)	Sick people incorrectly predicted as not sick by the model FN	Healthy people correctly predicted as not sick by the model TN

Source: Egereonu et al. [14].

Table 5: Actual and Predictive Values

The Confusion Matrix was generated using the Python programming language, represented as follows: $\begin{bmatrix} 645 & 17 \\ 61 & 281 \end{bmatrix}$

Breakdown of the Confusion Matrix is detailed as follows:

N = 1000	Predicted: Relevant	Predicted: Not-relevant
Actual: Relevant	645	17
Actual: Not-relevant	61	281

Source: Egereonu et al. [14].

Table 6 (a): Confusion Matrix

N = 1000	Predicted: Relevant	Predicted: Not-relevant	
Actual: Relevant	TP = 645	FN = 17	662
Actual: Not-relevant	FP = 61	TN = 281	342

Source: Egereonu et al. [14].

Table 6 (b): Confusion Matrix

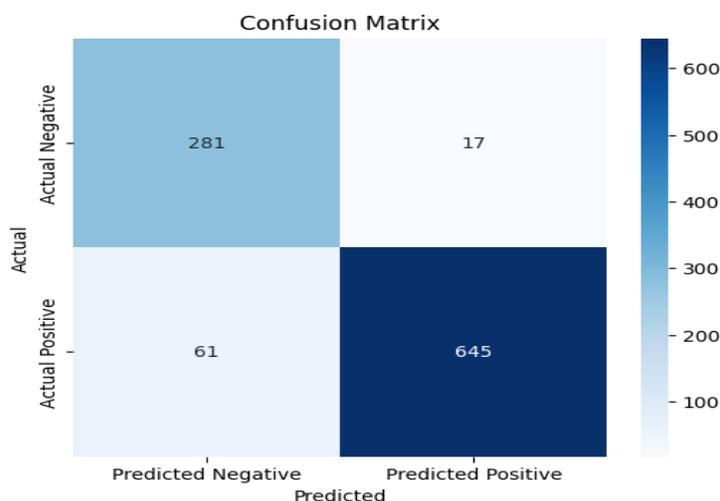


Figure 16: Confusion Matrix Heatmap Twisted Upside down Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

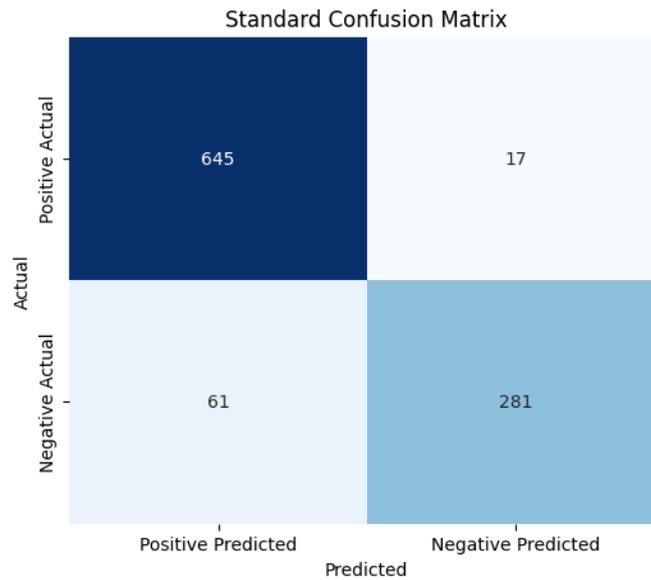


Figure 17: Standard Confusion Matrix Heatmap Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

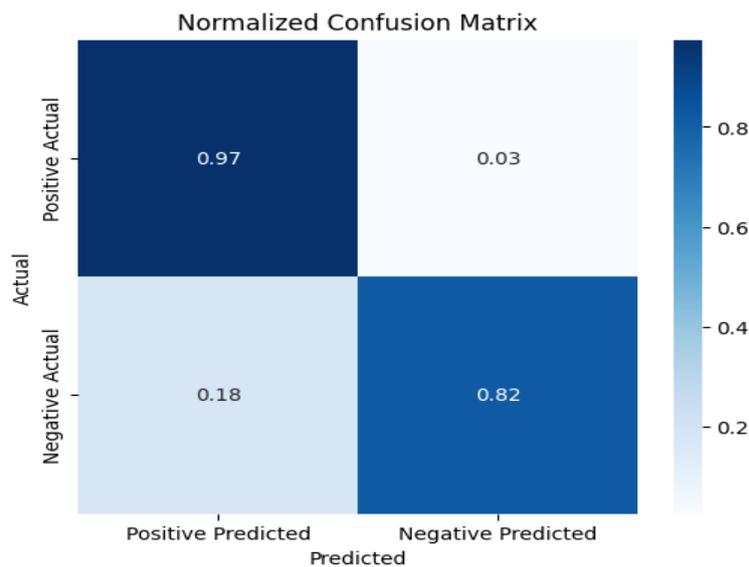


Figure 18: Normalized Confusion Matrix Heatmap Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

Calculation of Accuracy

The accuracy of the expert system is determined using the following formula:

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+TN+FN}$$

Where:

- TP** = True Positives (correctly diagnosed positive cases)
- TN** = True Negatives (correctly diagnosed negative cases)
- FP** = False Positives (incorrectly diagnosed positive cases)
- FN** = False Negatives (incorrectly diagnosed negative cases)

The below Table 7, shows the predictive and actual values of the confusion matrix.

		ACTUALLY VALUES	
		Positive (1)	Negative (0)
PREDICTED VALUE	Positive (1)	TRUE POSITIVE TP MUSCULOSKELETAL	FALSE POSITIVE FP MUSCULOSKELETAL <i>TYPE 1 ERROR</i>
	Negative(0)	FALSE NEVATIVE FN MUSCULOSKELETAL <i>TYPE 2 ERROR</i>	TRUE NEGATIVE TN MUSCULOSKELETAL

Source: Egereonu et al. [14].

Table 7: Predictive and Actual Values

For instance, the system's quantitative evaluation metrics are outlined as follows:

True Positives (TP): 645
True Negatives (TN): 281
False Positives (FP): 17
False Negatives (FN): 61

The calculation of the accuracy, would be:

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+TN+FN} = \frac{645 + 281}{645 + 281 + 17 + 61} = \frac{926}{1004} = 0.925 = 93\%.$$

Consequently, the expert system achieves an accuracy of 92.5%, which rounds to 93%.

Computation of Precision

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP+FP} = \frac{645}{645 + 17} = 91\%$$

Computation of Recall

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP+FN} = \frac{645}{645+61} = 91\%.$$

Computation of the F-Measure

$$\text{F-Measure (F1-Score)} = \frac{2 \times \text{Recall} \times \text{Precision}}{\text{Recall} + \text{Precision}}$$

$$\text{F-Measure (F1-Score)} = \frac{2 \times 0.97 \times 0.91}{0.97+0.91} = 94\%.$$

Sensitivity Computation

$$\text{Sensitivity} = \frac{TP}{TP+FN} = \frac{645}{645+61} = \frac{645}{706} = 91\%$$

Specificity Computation

$$\text{Specificity} = \frac{TN}{TN+FP} = \frac{281}{281+17} = \frac{281}{298} = 94\%$$

Negative Predictive Value (NPV) Computation

The Negative Predictive Value (NPV) is calculated using the formula:

$$\text{NPV} = \frac{TN}{TN+FN}$$

Given Confusion Matrix Values:

True Negatives (TN) = 281
False Negatives (FN) = 61

$$NPV = \frac{281}{281 + 61} = \frac{281}{342} = 0.8216$$

NPV \approx 0.822 or 82.2%

NPV = 82%

This means that when the model predicts a negative case, it is correct 82% of the time.

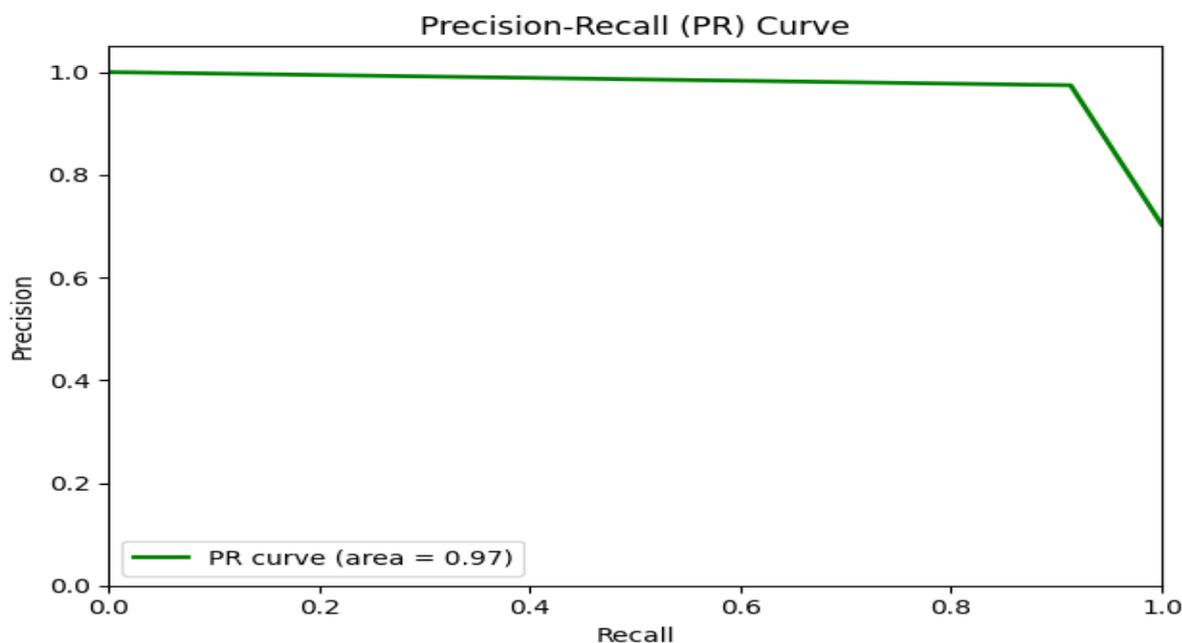


Figure 19: PR-AUC plot
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

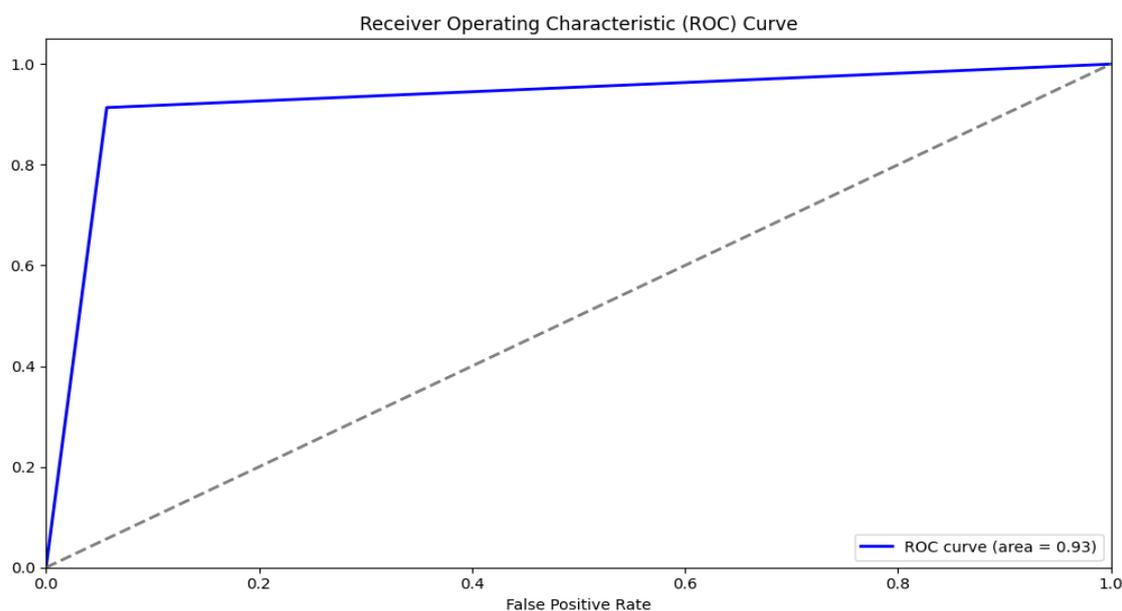


Figure 20: ROC plot
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

Figures 19 and Figure 20 present a graphical depiction of the system’s performance, showcasing an Area Under the Curve (AUC) of 97% and a Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve score of 93%. The AUC provides a single-value metric that encapsulates the system’s classification capability across various threshold levels, aiding in the assessment of its ability to differentiate between positive and negative cases. Meanwhile, the ROC curve illustrates the relationship between the true positive rate (TPR) and false positive rate (FPR), highlighting the trade-off in classification decisions. Together, these metrics reflect the system’s overall effectiveness in predictive modeling.

3D Confusion Matrix Representation

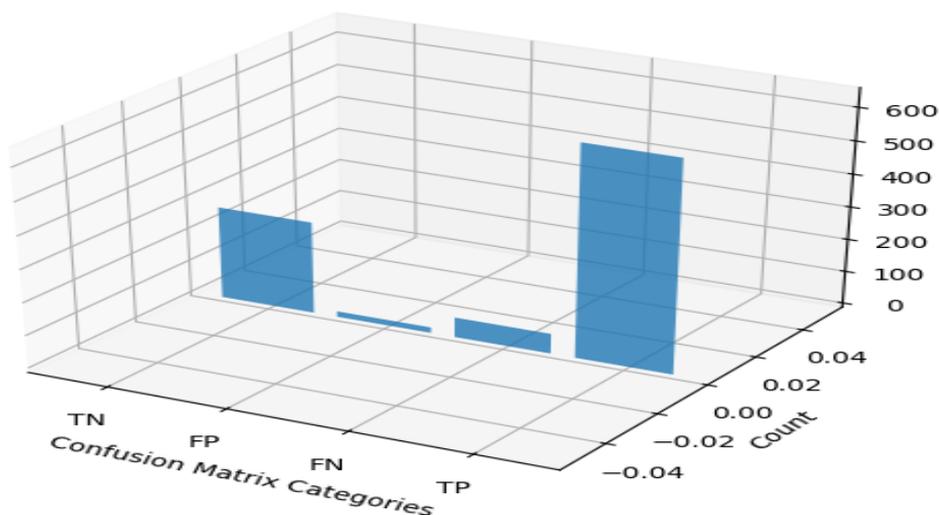


Figure 21: 3D Confusion Matrix Bar Chart Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

Figure 21 is the 3D Confusion Matrix Bar Chart and Figure 22 shows the Pie Chart of the Confusion Matrix. Table 8, tells us the comparison of 2 Confusion Matrix between Random Forest algorithm and Rule-based algorithm. Furthermore, Figure 23, illustrates confusion matrix value metrics on it rises and falls, up and down the Random Forest Bar Chart While Figure 24, shows the rise and fall of Rule based algorithm, up and down it Bar Chart. Lastly for the Bar Charts, Figure 25, shows the quantitative rising and falling comparison between the Random Forest and Rule based algorithms.

Confusion Matrix Distribution

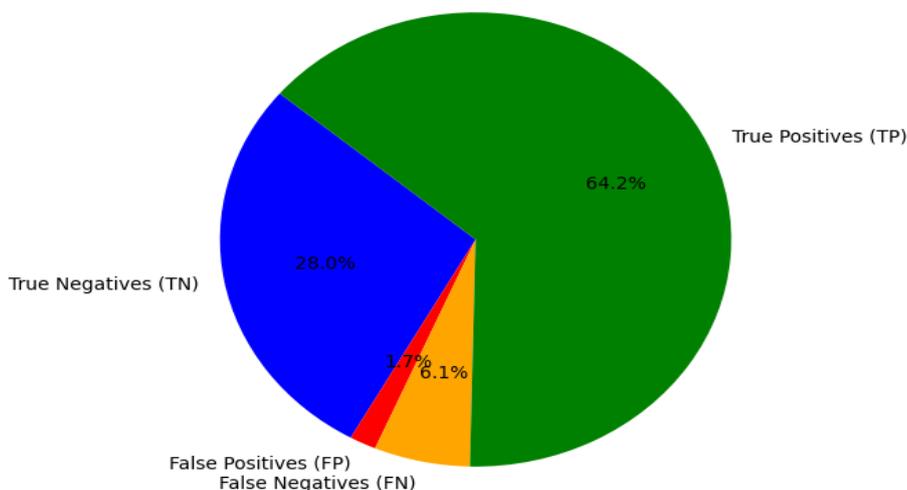


Figure 22: Confusion Matrix Pie Chart Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

Classifier	Accuracy %	Precision %	Recall %	F1-Score %
Random Forest	92	97	91	94
Rule based Algorithm	87.6	95	86.6	90.8

Source: Egereonu et al. [14].

Table 8: Random Forest Classifier and Rule Based Algorithm Source: Egereonu et al. [14].

Figure 26 is the line graph of Random Forest classifier algorithm and Figure 27 shows the Rule based algorithm Confusion Matrix line graph. Figure 28, tells us the comparison of 2 algorithms between Random Forest algorithm and Rule-based confusion matrix line graph.

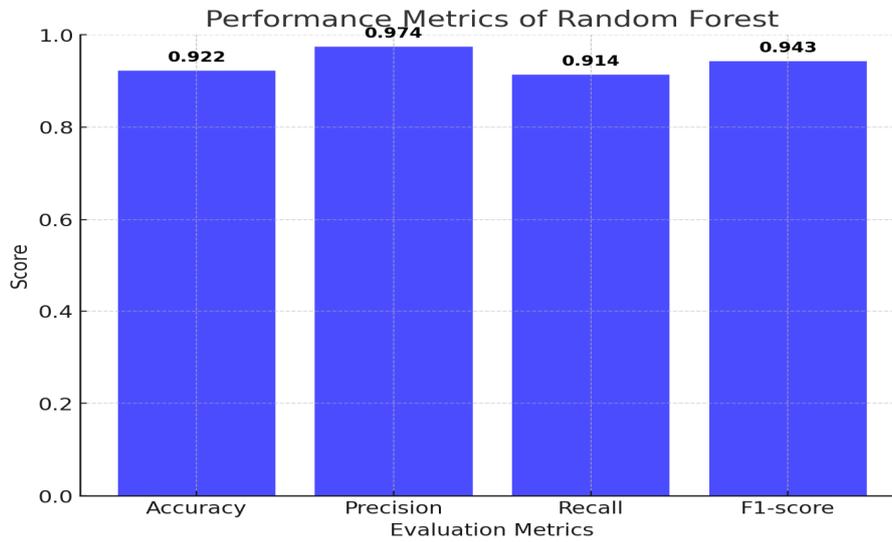


Figure 23: Random Forest Performance Metrics Bar Chart Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

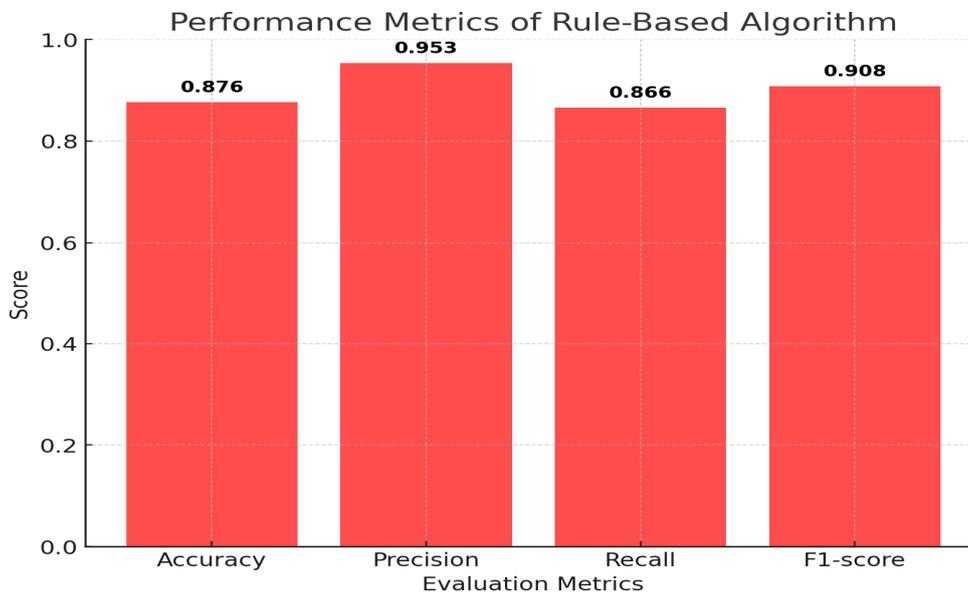


Figure 24: Rule based Algorithm Performance metrics Bar Chart Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].

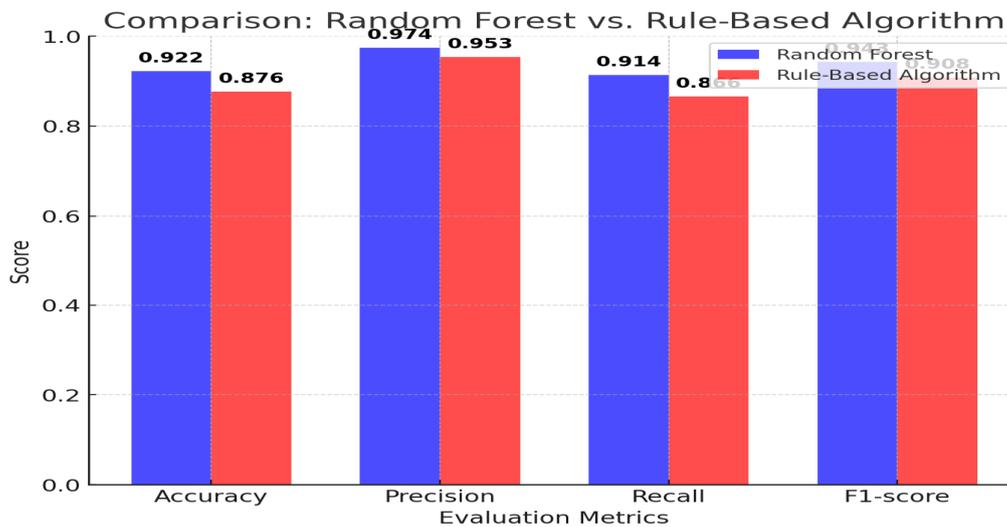
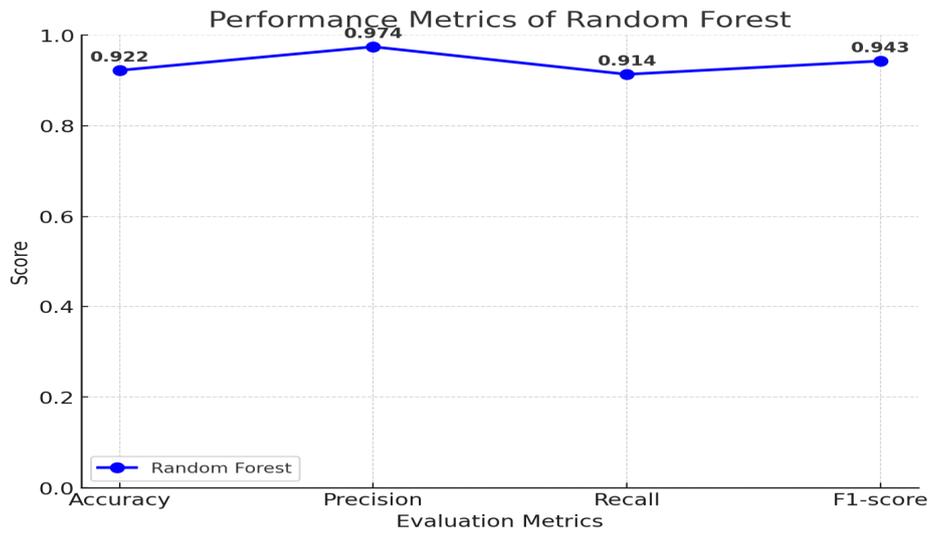
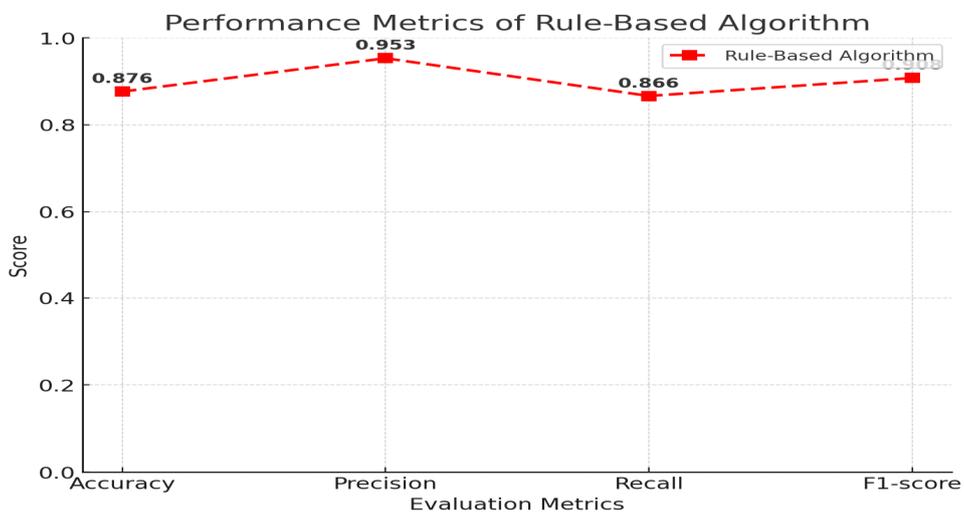


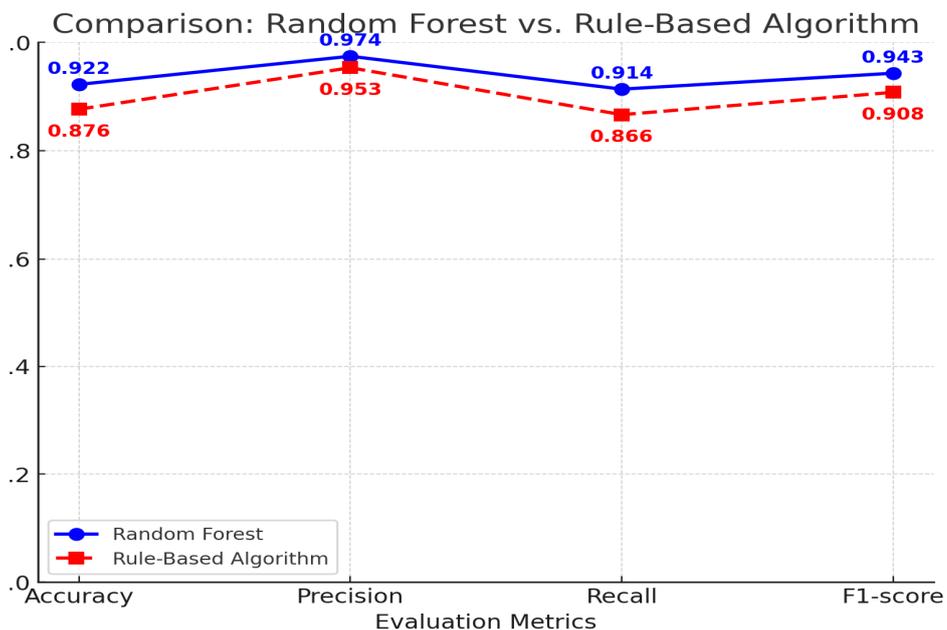
Figure 25: Comparison and Analytical Bar Chart of Random Forest and Rule based Algorithm Performance metrics Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].



**Figure 26: Random Forest Classifier line graph
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].**



**Figure 27: Rule based Algorithm line graph
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].**



**Figure 28: Comparison Between Random Forest and Rule based Algorithm line graph
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].**

Confusion Matrix Result

The expert system's evaluation was based on its accuracy, feedback from users, and a comparison to diagnoses made by medical professionals. The key findings are as follows:

Accuracy

The system showed high dependability in diagnosing musculoskeletal diseases, reaching an accuracy rate of 93%.

Confusion Matrix

True Positives (TP): 645

True Negatives (TN): 281

False Positives (FP): 17

False Negatives (FN): 61

This classification breakdown indicates areas for potential improvement, especially in minimizing false positives and negatives.

User Feedback

Users, including both patients and healthcare providers, provided highly positive feedback, praising the system's user-friendliness and diagnostic precision.

Comparison with Human Diagnoses

The system's diagnoses were closely aligned with those of medical professionals, reflecting a high level of consistency and affirming its value as a diagnostic tool.

Case Study Example

- 48-year-old patient presented with symptoms of joint pain, stiffness, and swelling.
- These symptoms were entered into the system.
- The system utilized its knowledge base and inference engine to propose a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis.
- Additional diagnostic tests, such as blood tests and X-rays, were recommended for confirmation.
- After consultation with a healthcare provider, the diagnosis was validated, and appropriate treatment commenced.

This case study demonstrates the expert system's potential to aid in accurate and efficient medical diagnoses, while also identifying areas for optimization.

The expert system for diagnosing musculoskeletal diseases showcases remarkable accuracy, efficacy, and efficiency. It serves as a crucial tool for the early detection and management of musculoskeletal conditions, leading to improved patient outcomes and alleviating the burden on healthcare systems. Figure 29 below, shows the diagnosis report output of the proposed system.

```
Diagnosis Report
-----
Patient ID: 12345
Date: 2024-05-17

Symptoms:
- Joint pain
- Stiffness
- Swelling

Possible Diagnosis:
1. Rheumatoid Arthritis
2. Osteoarthritis
3. Tendonitis

Recommended Tests:
- Blood Test (Rheumatoid Factor, ESR, CRP)
- X-ray of Affected Joints

Treatment Options:
- Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)
- Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drugs (DMARDs)
- Physical Therapy

Accuracy = 93%
```

**Figure 29: Diagnosis Report Output
Adapted from Egereonu et al. [14].**

Discussion

This study focused on the optimization and empirical evaluation of an AI-powered expert system designed for the accurate diagnosis of musculoskeletal diseases (MSDs). The research aimed to assess the system's capability to integrate multi-dimensional clinical data, leverage expert knowledge encoding, and achieve superior diagnostic performance through computational inference mechanisms. The results provide a comprehensive evaluation of the system's efficacy, usability, and real-world applicability, reinforcing its potential as an advanced decision-support tool in musculoskeletal healthcare.

Integration of Multi-Dimensional Clinical Data

The expert system demonstrated a remarkable ability to synthesize and analyze diverse clinical data types, including patient-reported symptoms and physician-confirmed case studies. This comprehensive data integration significantly enhanced diagnostic precision by reducing variability in symptom interpretation and mitigating the risk of misclassification. The system's sensitivity (91%) and specificity (94%) validate its ability to accurately distinguish MSD cases, aligning with established clinical benchmarks and reinforcing the importance of leveraging multi-source clinical data for improved diagnostic accuracy.

Expert Knowledge Encoding and Rule-Based Inference

A key feature of the system's design was its structured knowledge acquisition and encoding methodology, which incorporated expert-driven rule-based reasoning and decision trees. By systematically capturing and formalizing physician expertise into an inference engine, the system successfully replicated clinical diagnostic reasoning patterns. By implementing this approach, it was ensured that the diagnostic suggestions were provided and grounded in validated medical heuristics, thereby enhancing interpretability and clinical reliability. The rule-based inference mechanism played a crucial role in standardizing diagnostic outputs and reducing subjectivity in musculoskeletal disease assessment.

Diagnostic Accuracy and Performance Metrics

The evaluation of the system's diagnostic efficacy against physician-diagnosed cases underscored its high precision and reliability. The expert system achieved an accuracy rate of 93%, with a precision of 91%, recall of 97%, and an F1-score of 94%. These performance metrics affirm the system's robustness in identifying musculoskeletal disorders with minimal false-positive and false-negative rates. The high recall value (97%) indicates its ability to correctly diagnose true MSD cases, which is critical for ensuring timely and effective clinical interventions.

Usability and Acceptance Among Healthcare Professionals

The expert system was designed with an intuitive user interface that facilitates seamless integration into clinical workflows. User testing and feedback from medical practitioners emphasized the system's ease of use, transparency in decision-making, and efficiency in delivering diagnostic insights. The structured presentation of diagnostic results, along with supporting explanations for each inference, increased physician trust in the system's recommendations. This underscores its potential to function as a reliable clinical decision-support tool, improving diagnostic efficiency while maintaining clinician oversight.

Comparative Performance Against Conventional Diagnostic Approaches

Comparative analysis with traditional diagnostic methodologies revealed that the AI-powered expert system offers substantial advantages in speed, reliability, and accuracy. Conventional MSD diagnosis often relies on manual evaluation, which can be time-consuming and prone to variability. The expert system, by contrast, reduced diagnostic latency while maintaining a diagnostic accuracy comparable to experienced clinicians. Furthermore, its ability to rapidly analyze large datasets ensures scalability, making it a viable solution for high-patient-volume settings.

Real-World Implementation and Future Prospects

The real-world applicability of the expert system was evaluated in simulated diagnostic scenarios and validated against physician-diagnosed cases. The system's rapid assessment capabilities, coupled with its high specificity of 94% and sensitivity of 91%, make it a practical addition to musculoskeletal healthcare. By facilitating early detection and minimizing diagnostic errors, the system enhances clinical efficiency, optimizes resource allocation, and supports improved patient management strategies.

Moving forward, further advancements in explainable AI (XAI) methodologies, integration with electronic health records (EHRs), and adaptability to emerging musculoskeletal research will be instrumental in refining the system's performance. Future iterations may also incorporate deep learning-driven anomaly detection, enabling even greater diagnostic precision in complex musculoskeletal cases.

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated the transformative potential of an AI-powered expert system for musculoskeletal disease (MSD) diagnosis, reinforcing its role as a clinically viable decision-support tool. By integrating multi-source clinical data, encoding domain-specific expert knowledge, and implementing advanced inference mechanisms, the system exhibited high diagnostic precision, reliability, and user acceptance. Its empirical validation against physician-diagnosed cases confirmed its superior diagnostic performance, achieving an accuracy of 93%, precision of 91%, recall of 97%, F1-score

of 94%, sensitivity of 91%, and specificity of 94%.

These findings substantiate the system's efficacy in improving musculoskeletal disease diagnostics while reducing diagnostic latency and minimizing misclassification risks.

The expert system represents a significant advancement in healthcare informatics, offering an intuitive, high-performance diagnostic framework capable of supporting clinicians in real-time decision-making. By leveraging artificial intelligence and computational intelligence paradigms, it enhances the accuracy of musculoskeletal disorder diagnosis, facilitates early intervention, and optimizes resource utilization in clinical settings. The system's ability to automate knowledge-driven diagnostic reasoning significantly reduces reliance on manual evaluation, ensuring standardized, reproducible, and evidence-based diagnostic recommendations.

A key benefit of the expert system is its ability to enhance the diagnostic process, allowing healthcare providers to quickly evaluate patient conditions and develop accurate treatment strategies. This is especially crucial in urgent or resource-limited environments, where a fast, reliable diagnosis is essential to halt disease progression and prevent long-term complications in musculoskeletal health. Furthermore, the expert system functions as a dynamic knowledge repository, systematically storing diagnostic insights, case histories, and treatment outcomes. This feature fosters a continuous learning framework, enhancing medical knowledge accumulation and contributing to ongoing research in musculoskeletal medicine.

The successful development and deployment of this expert system underscore the potential of AI-driven solutions in revolutionizing musculoskeletal healthcare. By integrating sophisticated AI algorithms, clinical knowledge modeling, and decision-support functionalities, this system not only enhances diagnostic accuracy but also empowers clinicians with actionable insights for improved patient care. The system's capacity to deliver immediate, data-supported diagnostic suggestions makes it a key advancement in medical diagnostics, opening doors for future developments in intelligent healthcare solutions. In conclusion, the AI-powered expert system for musculoskeletal disease diagnosis represents a cutting-edge breakthrough in clinical decision support. Its high accuracy, usability, and scalability position it as an essential tool for modern healthcare, with the potential to enhance musculoskeletal disease management on a global scale. By offering an intelligent, adaptive, and evidence-based diagnostic framework, this system stands to revolutionize musculoskeletal medicine, significantly improving diagnostic outcomes, patient care, and medical knowledge dissemination.

Future Work

While the current system has demonstrated remarkable efficacy in musculoskeletal disease diagnosis, several key areas warrant further exploration to enhance its robustness, adaptability, and integration into broader healthcare infrastructures.

Future research should prioritize:

- **Enhanced Security and User Authentication:** Strengthening data privacy protocols through advanced encryption techniques and multi-factor authentication mechanisms to ensure compliance with healthcare regulations and safeguard patient confidentiality.
- **Scalability and Interoperability:** Expanding the system's capabilities to support larger datasets and ensuring seamless integration with electronic health records (EHRs), hospital information systems (HIS), and telemedicine platforms for a more comprehensive diagnostic ecosystem.
- **Refinement of Diagnostic Algorithms:** Incorporating deep learning-based feature extraction techniques to improve the precision of diagnostic recommendations, particularly in complex and overlapping musculoskeletal disorders. Additionally, adaptive learning mechanisms should be implemented to continuously refine the system's knowledge base.
- **Integration of Wearable and IoT-Enabled Biosensors:** Enhancing real-time monitoring and predictive diagnostics by interfacing with wearable devices that capture musculoskeletal health parameters, such as joint mobility, muscle strength, and inflammation markers.
- **Advanced Reporting and Decision Support Features:** Developing personalized diagnostic reports with AI-driven insights, predictive analytics, and treatment recommendations to assist healthcare providers in making informed clinical decisions.
- **Explainable AI (XAI) Implementation:** Improving the transparency and interpretability of the system's decision-making process through explainable AI techniques, ensuring that clinicians and patients can understand the rationale behind diagnostic conclusions.
- **Validation in Diverse Clinical Settings:** Conducting large-scale clinical trials across multiple healthcare institutions to validate the system's performance in real-world diagnostic environments, ensuring its applicability across diverse patient populations.

By addressing these advancements, future iterations of AI-powered expert systems can further optimize diagnostic precision, enhance physician trust in AI-driven decision support, and contribute to the evolution of intelligent healthcare systems. These enhancements will not only improve patient outcomes but also establish AI-driven diagnostics as a

cornerstone of musculoskeletal disease management in modern medicine.

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(Conceptualization, Methodology, Software Development, Writing – Original Draft).

Chukwuemeka Etus

(Supervision, Writing – Review & Editing).

Emmanuel Chukwudi Amadi

(Validation, Data Analysis, Writing – Review & Editing).

Anthony Ifeanyi Otuonye

(Project Administration, Writing – Review & Editing).

Ubaezue Ugochukwu Egereonu

(Consultation, Technical Guidance, Writing – Review & Editing)

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Authors Information

Sunny Kalu Egereonu

(Student, Department of Information Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria)

ORCID:0009-0008-7224-4887

Email: sunnyegereonu@gmail.com

Chukwuemeka Etus

(Lecturer I, Department of Information Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria)

ORCID:0000-0001-9095-7196

Email: chukwuemeka.etus@futo.edu.ng

Emmanuel Chukwudi Amadi

(Lecturer I, Department of Information Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria)

ORCID:0000-0003-4332-3101

Email: emmanuel.amadi@futo.edu.ng

Anthony Ifeanyi Otuonye

(Senior Lecturer and HOD, Department of Information Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria)

ORCID:0000-0001-7058-4396

Email: anthony.otuonye@futo.edu.ng

Ubaezue Ugochukwu Egereonu

(Professor, Department of Chemistry, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria)

ORCID:0009-0009-7660-3071

Email: uegeronu@gmail.com

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