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DeepMind's AI can spot eye disease just as well as top doctors

DEEPMIND'S artificial intelligence can spot key signs of eye disease as well as the world's top consultants.

Anonymous diagnostic data from almost 15,000 patients in the UK's National Health Service was used to help an AI system learn how to spot 10 key features of eye disease. The AI analysed complex optical coherence tomography (OCT) retinal scans, which generate 3D images of the back of the eye, revealing abnormalities.

The system was developed with scientists at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London and University College London. It assessed patients with more than 50 eye conditions correctly in more than 94 per cent of cases, matching the performance of leading doctors from around the world (*Nature Medicine*, doi.org/cszp).

The AI doesn't make a diagnosis, but recommends which patients should be seen urgently by a specialist or simply placed under observation. The team hopes it could be rolled out across many hospitals in the UK within three years.

This article appeared in print under the headline "AI now as good as best eye doctors"

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