

Who is at fault if the AI makes a mistake? Important to reflect that for the foreseeable future there must be a surgeon present to monitor all decisions and give the final ok

A key issue that is often raised around the principle of involving AI in difficult decisions, like using a self-driving car or involving robotics in a manufacturing process is the question of who would be at fault if something were to go wrong in the process. It seems like, at least at first when implementing AI within surgery, patients and their families may have a difficult time coming to terms with this as an issue. If complications arose due to a mistake made by a surgeon or another error that would be one thing, but having them be at the fault of an AI might be difficult for them to accept. At that point, the question of who would be at fault would arise too, and as such at this point I feel that for the application of AI in modern surgery to be successful, at least at first, it must only be used in addition to a competent surgeon or medical professional. This way, the practitioner is still in control of the process, simply receiving advice from the computer. This way, in the future when the technology is proven, complete AI takeover would be possible within surgery, when delivering drugs or any other time along the process. At this point, the wider population would likely be more comfortable with the proposition.

Overall however, I believe the advancement of the AI field within modern surgery is a hugely positive process. It advances everything – providing further training and assistance to those new to the field as well, producing a hugely net – positive result in general.