

How to Handle Imbalanced Data:

To balance the dataset and make sure rare cancer types are adequately learned, the following strategies need to be considered:

1) Data Augmentation: Generate more images for underrepresented classes (like vascular lesions) using:

- Rotation, flipping, zooming
- Color jittering, brightness/contrast adjustment
- Advanced method: Use GANs (Generative Adversarial Networks) to synthesize realistic images

2) Class Re-weighting in Loss Function:

- Tell the model: “Make more effort to correctly classify rare cancers” by assigning higher weight in the loss function to underrepresented classes.
- Common technique: Weighted Cross-Entropy Loss

3) Resampling (Under/Over-sampling)

- Oversample rare classes by duplicating or augmenting images
- Undersample common classes (only use a subset of melanocytic nevi images)

4) Focal Loss

- Modify the loss function so the model focuses more on hard-to-classify examples, often from the minority classes.