AI + ML

This article is more than **1 year old**

Researchers made an OpenAI GPT-3 medical chatbot as an experiment. It told a mock patient to kill themselves

We'd rather see Dr Nick, to be honest

82 💬

Katyanna Quach

Wed 28 Oct 2020 // 07:05 UTC

Developers trying to use OpenAI's powerful text-generating GPT-3 system to build medical chatbots should go back to the drawing board, researchers have warned.

For one thing, the artificial intelligence told a patient they should kill themselves during a mock session.

France-based outfit Nabla created a chatbot that used a cloud-hosted instance of GPT-3 to analyze queries by humans and produce suitable output. This bot was specifically designed to help doctors by automatically taking care of some of their daily workload, though we note it was not intended for production use: the software was built for a set of mock scenarios to gauge GPT-3's abilities.

The erratic and unpredictable nature of the software's responses made it inappropriate for interacting with patients in the real world, the Nabla team concluded after running their experiments. It certainly shouldn't diagnose people; indeed, its use in healthcare is "unsupported" by OpenAI.