
Innovative AI software for the detection of pancreatic diseases: first-in-human application successful

Important milestone in the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in sight

Achenmuehle, May 12th 2022. Diseases of the pancreas can have serious consequences for patients and are difficult to diagnose. Early detection is crucial for the patient's chance of survival. In Europe today, more than 90 percent of patients die of pancreatic cancer within the first five years after diagnosis. The Medi-Globe Group, a leading international MedTech company based in Achenmühle, Bavaria, will, in cooperation with the French Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire (IHU) Strasbourg, develop the world's first AI software for the detection of diseases of the pancreas in endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) examination. The key technology here is artificial intelligence. As part of large-scale clinical studies prior to market introduction, the AI software has now gone into clinical test with patients, so-called first-in-human applications.

"The new software has the potential to revolutionize the diagnosis of pancreatic diseases and, above all, the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. That would be a dream for society as a whole and an important milestone in medicine and for medical technology," says Prof. Dr. Leonardo Sosa Valencia, one of the leading gastroenterologists in the world and a top expert in the field of pancreatic disease detection.

"With the AI software, in the future we will be able to provide gastroenterologists with a virtual expert and give them the opportunity to significantly improve the diagnostics that determine therapy. Very good results have already been achieved in the first clinical applications. Small lesions were detected, even in complex cases. This gives the treating physicians and, above all, the patients great hope for improvement of patient care in the medium term," says Dr. Markus Schönberger, Director of Business Development at the Medi-Globe Group.

Deep Learning: Clinical experience from the world's leading gastroenterologists

The AI software brings together the clinical experience of the world's most experienced gastroenterologists. It bundles the knowledge from countless EUS examinations of the pancreas in an algorithm and transforms it into use in endoscopic ultrasound. The expert knowledge is used to train a neural network according to the deep learning method. When examining the pancreas, the innovative diagnostic software will find details that may remain hidden from the doctor's view. For the diagnosis, it is crucial to recognize pathologically altered areas in the pancreas at an early stage so that a fine needle biopsy can accurately take tissue samples for further analyses and as basis for therapy decisions.

"The interpretation of EUS images is demanding and heavily depending on the physician as it requires several years of training and specialization. The partnership with the Medi-Globe Group aims to demonstrate the benefits of modern AI approaches in analyzing these complex images and to support gastroenterologists in diagnosing pancreatic cancer more effectively," explains Prof. Dr. Nicolas Padoy, Director of AI Research at IHU Strasbourg.

"We cooperate very closely with the leading international university hospitals. With the help of artificial intelligence, we, together with the researchers at the IHU, will be able to make the clinical experience of the world's leading gastroenterologists available to all doctors in the future. In doing so, we are consistently expanding our role as an innovation leader in minimally invasive diagnostics and therapy," says Marc Jablonowski, Chief Technology & Innovation Officer (CTIO) at the Medi-Globe Group.

About Medi-Globe Group

The Medi-Globe Group is an innovative, fast-growing and internationally oriented medical technology group in the fields of urology, gastroenterology and pneumology. The head office is in Achenmuehle in Chiemgau, Bavaria, around 70 kilometers south of Munich. Around 670 employees work for the Medi-Globe Group, which was founded in 1990, in Germany, France, the Czech Republic, China, Brazil, the Netherlands and Austria. Customers include university clinics, specialist clinics, special medical facilities and specialists in gastroenterology, urology and pneumology in around 120 countries worldwide. The managing directors are Martin Lehner (CEO), Christian Klein (COO), Dr. Nikolaus König (CFO) and Marc Jablonowski (CTIO).

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