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# A Review of Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and Hybrid Artificial Intelligence Techniques for Breast Cancer Histopathological Image Analysis

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**Abstract:** *Breast cancer is one of the most prevalent malignancies and a leading cause of cancer-related mortality among women worldwide. Early and accurate diagnosis is essential for improving patient survival, reducing treatment costs, and enhancing clinical outcomes. Histopathological examination remains the gold standard for breast cancer diagnosis because it provides detailed information about tissue morphology, cellular architecture, and nuclear characteristics. However, manual interpretation of histopathological images is time-consuming, labor-intensive, and subject to inter-observer variability, motivating the development of artificial intelligence (AI)-based computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) systems. Over the past decade, AI techniques have significantly transformed breast cancer diagnosis by enabling automated feature extraction, image classification, lesion detection, and decision support with high accuracy and efficiency. This review provides a comprehensive analysis of recent advances in artificial intelligence techniques for automated breast cancer detection using histopathological images. It systematically examines conventional machine learning algorithms, deep learning architectures, transfer learning methods, vision transformer models, and emerging hybrid AI frameworks employed for breast cancer classification. The review also discusses commonly used image preprocessing techniques, feature extraction strategies, publicly available datasets such as BreakHis, BACH, CAMELYON, and Breast Histopathology Images (IDC), as well as standard evaluation metrics including accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, specificity, and area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC). Furthermore, the strengths, limitations, and comparative performance of different AI approaches are critically analyzed to provide insights into their clinical applicability. In addition, this review highlights key research challenges, including class imbalance, staining variability, limited annotated datasets, model interpretability, computational complexity, and generalization across diverse clinical settings. Emerging trends such as explainable artificial intelligence (XAI), self-supervised learning, multimodal learning, federated learning, foundation models, and reinforcement learning-based diagnostic frameworks are also discussed as promising directions for future research. By synthesizing the latest developments and identifying current research gaps, this review offers a comprehensive reference for researchers, clinicians, and healthcare professionals seeking to develop robust, interpretable, and clinically deployable AI systems for automated breast cancer diagnosis using histopathological images.*

**Keywords:** Breast Cancer, Histopathological Images, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Transfer Learning, Vision Transformers, Hybrid Models, Computer-Aided Diagnosis, Explainable Artificial Intelligence.

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## I. LITERATURE SURVEY

Artificial intelligence (AI) has revolutionized breast cancer diagnosis by enabling automated analysis of histopathological images with high accuracy and efficiency. Recent research has focused on developing machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), transfer learning, vision transformers, and hybrid AI models to improve diagnostic performance while reducing the workload of pathologists [1–3].

### 1.1 Machine Learning-Based Breast Cancer Detection

Early computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) systems primarily employed machine learning algorithms such as Logistic Regression (LR), Support Vector Machine (SVM), Decision Tree (DT), Random Forest (RF), K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), Naïve Bayes (NB), and Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost). These methods depend on handcrafted features extracted from histopathological images, including texture, shape, color, and morphological characteristics. Although machine learning models demonstrated satisfactory classification performance, their dependence on manual feature engineering limited their ability to capture complex tissue structures and microscopic variations [1–5].

### 1.2 Deep Learning-Based Breast Cancer Detection

Deep learning has significantly improved breast cancer diagnosis by automatically learning hierarchical feature representations directly from histopathological images. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) eliminate the need for handcrafted feature extraction and effectively capture complex cellular morphology, tissue architecture, and nuclear patterns. Several architectures, including AlexNet, VGG16, ResNet50, DenseNet121, InceptionV3, EfficientNet, and MobileNet, have demonstrated excellent performance for breast cancer classification using publicly available histopathological datasets [6–11].

### 1.3 Transfer Learning and Vision Transformers

Transfer learning has become an effective strategy for medical image analysis by utilizing pretrained deep learning models to improve classification accuracy while reducing training time and computational cost. More recently, Vision Transformers (ViTs) and transformer-based architectures have shown promising results by modeling long-range spatial dependencies in histopathological images. These approaches have demonstrated competitive performance compared with conventional CNN-based models, particularly when trained on large datasets [12–15].

### 1.4 Hybrid Artificial Intelligence Models

Hybrid AI models integrate deep learning with machine learning, ensemble learning, or reinforcement learning to enhance diagnostic accuracy and robustness. Frameworks such as CNN–SVM, CNN–XGBoost, ResNet50–XGBoost, and reinforcement learning-based models combine powerful feature extraction with advanced classification techniques. These hybrid approaches have consistently outperformed standalone classifiers by improving feature representation, reducing classification errors, and increasing model generalization [16–20].


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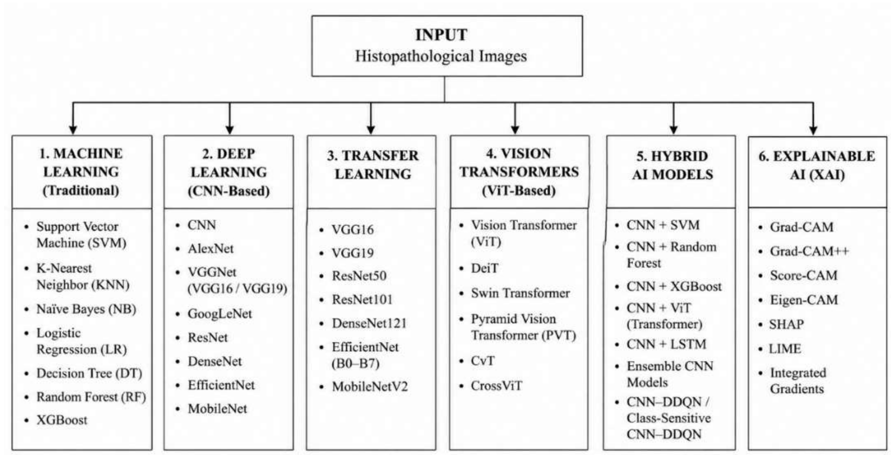


Figure 1. Taxonomy of Artificial Intelligence Techniques for Breast Cancer Detection Using Histopathological Images

### 1.5 Publicly Available Histopathological Datasets

The availability of benchmark datasets has accelerated research in AI-based breast cancer diagnosis. Frequently used datasets include BreakHis, BACH, CAMELYON16, CAMELYON17, and the Breast Histopathology Images (IDC) dataset. These datasets contain digitized histopathological images with expert annotations and provide standardized benchmarks for evaluating machine learning and deep learning algorithms under comparable experimental conditions [21–24].

### 1.6 Image Preprocessing and Data Augmentation

Image preprocessing is a crucial stage in histopathological image analysis. Common preprocessing techniques include image resizing, stain normalization, color normalization, noise removal, contrast enhancement, and label encoding. Data augmentation methods such as rotation, flipping, scaling, cropping, brightness adjustment, and random transformations increase dataset diversity, reduce overfitting, and improve the generalization capability of AI models [25–28].

### 1.7 Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI)

Although deep learning models achieve high classification accuracy, they often function as black-box systems. To improve transparency and clinical trust, Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) techniques such as Grad-CAM, Class Activation Mapping (CAM), LIME, and SHAP have been widely adopted. These methods generate visual explanations that highlight important tissue regions influencing the model's prediction, thereby improving interpretability and supporting clinical decision-making [29–32].

### 1.8 Challenges and Future Directions

Despite remarkable progress, several challenges remain in AI-based breast cancer diagnosis, including class imbalance, staining variability, limited annotated datasets, domain adaptation, computational complexity, model interpretability, and clinical deployment. Future research is expected to focus on foundation models, multimodal learning, federated learning, self-supervised learning, vision-language models, explainable AI, and hybrid reinforcement learning frameworks to develop robust, scalable, and clinically deployable diagnostic systems [33–36].

### 1.9 Research Gap

The literature demonstrates that machine learning and deep learning techniques have substantially improved automated breast cancer diagnosis. However, most studies evaluate individual algorithms or specific model families under different datasets and experimental settings, making direct performance comparison difficult. Furthermore, limited attention has

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been given to comprehensive reviews that simultaneously analyze conventional machine learning, deep learning, transfer learning, transformer-based models, hybrid AI approaches, explainable AI, publicly available datasets, and emerging research trends. This review addresses these gaps by providing a systematic and comprehensive analysis of artificial intelligence techniques for automated breast cancer detection using histopathological images while highlighting current challenges and future research opportunities [37–40].

## II. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNIQUES FOR BREAST CANCER DETECTION USING HISTOPATHOLOGICAL IMAGES

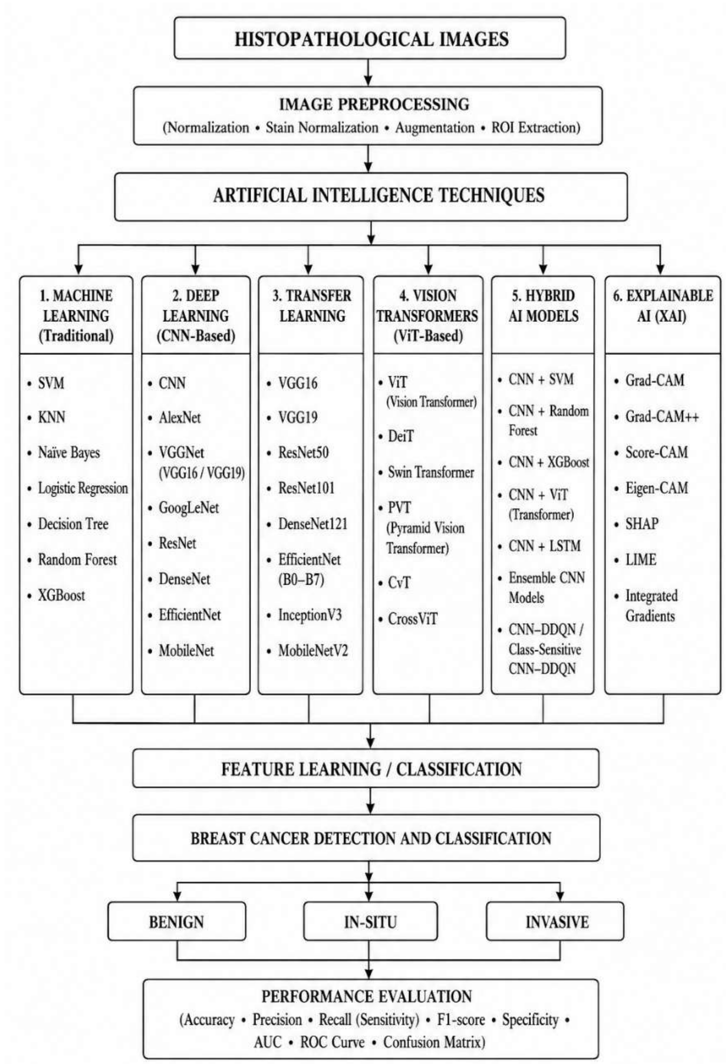


Figure 2. Comprehensive Flowchart of Artificial Intelligence Models for Automated Breast Cancer Detection Using Histopathological Images

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative technology for automated breast cancer detection by improving the accuracy, efficiency, and reliability of histopathological image analysis. It reviews conventional machine learning algorithms, deep learning architectures, transfer learning approaches, vision transformer models, hybrid artificial intelligence frameworks, and explainable AI techniques. AI-based computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) systems assist pathologists in identifying malignant and benign breast tissue by automatically extracting meaningful image features and performing accurate classification. Over the past decade, significant advancements in machine learning, deep learning, transfer learning, vision transformer models, hybrid artificial intelligence, and explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) have considerably enhanced the performance of breast cancer diagnosis systems [41–43].

### 2.1 Machine Learning Techniques

Machine learning (ML) techniques have played a significant role in the early development of computer-aided diagnosis (CAD) systems for breast cancer detection using histopathological images. Unlike deep learning approaches, conventional machine learning algorithms rely on handcrafted feature extraction methods to capture texture, shape, color, and morphological characteristics of breast tissue. These extracted features are then used to train classification models for distinguishing benign and malignant tissue samples. Although machine learning algorithms require domain expertise for feature engineering, they remain computationally efficient, interpretable, and suitable for small- and medium-sized datasets [44–48].

#### 2.1.1 Logistic Regression (LR)

Logistic Regression is a supervised learning algorithm widely used for binary classification problems. It estimates the probability of an input image belonging to either the malignant or benign class using a logistic (sigmoid) function. LR is computationally efficient, easy to interpret, and provides a strong baseline for breast cancer classification. However, its performance is limited when dealing with highly complex and nonlinear histopathological image features [44].

#### 2.1.2 Naïve Bayes (NB)

Naïve Bayes is a probabilistic classifier based on Bayes' theorem that assumes feature independence. It is computationally fast and performs well on high-dimensional datasets with limited training samples. However, the independence assumption often limits its classification accuracy when applied to complex breast histopathological images containing correlated tissue features [45].

#### 2.1.3 K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN)

K-Nearest Neighbors is an instance-based learning algorithm that classifies images based on the labels of their nearest neighboring samples. KNN is simple to implement and can achieve satisfactory classification performance for breast cancer detection. Nevertheless, its prediction time increases significantly with larger datasets, and its performance is highly dependent on the choice of the value of k and the distance metric [46].

#### 2.1.4 Decision Tree (DT)

Decision Tree is a rule-based supervised learning algorithm that recursively partitions the feature space into homogeneous regions. It is easy to interpret and provides transparent decision rules, making it suitable for medical diagnosis. However, decision trees are prone to overfitting and often exhibit reduced generalization performance on unseen histopathological images [46].

#### 2.1.5 Random Forest (RF)

Random Forest is an ensemble learning algorithm that combines multiple decision trees to improve classification accuracy and robustness. By aggregating predictions from numerous trees, Random Forest reduces overfitting and handles high-dimensional medical image features effectively. It has been widely applied to breast cancer diagnosis due to its strong predictive capability and robustness against noise [47].

### 2.1.6 Support Vector Machine (SVM)

Support Vector Machine is one of the most widely used machine learning algorithms for medical image classification. It constructs an optimal decision boundary that maximizes the margin between benign and malignant tissue classes. SVM performs well on high-dimensional feature spaces and provides excellent generalization performance. However, selecting appropriate kernel functions and tuning hyperparameters can be computationally demanding for large histopathological datasets [47].

### 2.1.7 Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost)

Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost) is an advanced ensemble learning algorithm based on gradient boosting decision trees. It iteratively minimizes classification errors by combining multiple weak learners into a powerful predictive model. XGBoost offers high classification accuracy, efficient computation, and excellent handling of nonlinear relationships, making it one of the most effective machine learning algorithms for breast histopathological image classification [48]. Advantages of Machine Learning Techniques Simple and computationally efficient. Easy to interpret and implement. Suitable for small- and medium-sized datasets. Effective when informative handcrafted features are available. Lower computational requirements compared with deep learning models. Limitations of Machine Learning Techniques Depend heavily on handcrafted feature extraction. Limited ability to learn complex hierarchical image features. Performance decreases with highly heterogeneous histopathological images. Require careful feature selection and parameter tuning. Generally achieve lower classification accuracy than modern deep learning and hybrid AI models for breast cancer detection [44–48].

## 2.2 Deep Learning Techniques

Deep learning has significantly transformed automated breast cancer detection by enabling end-to-end learning directly from histopathological images without the need for handcrafted feature extraction. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) automatically learn hierarchical feature representations, capturing low-level features such as edges and textures, as well as high-level features including cellular morphology, nuclear structures, and tissue organization. The remarkable feature learning capability of deep learning models has led to substantial improvements in the accuracy and reliability of computer-aided breast cancer diagnosis systems [49–55].

### 2.2.1 Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are the foundation of most deep learning-based medical image classification systems. CNNs consist of convolutional, pooling, and fully connected layers that automatically extract discriminative features from histopathological images. Their ability to learn complex tissue patterns has made CNNs one of the most widely adopted architectures for breast cancer diagnosis [49].

### 2.2.2 AlexNet

AlexNet was one of the earliest deep learning architectures to demonstrate the effectiveness of CNNs in large-scale image classification. It introduced deep convolutional layers, Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) activation, dropout regularization, and data augmentation, significantly improving image classification performance. AlexNet has also been successfully applied to breast histopathological image analysis through transfer learning [50].

### 2.2.3 VGG16

VGG16 is a deep convolutional neural network composed of sixteen learnable layers using small $3 \times 3$ convolution filters. Its simple and uniform architecture enables effective feature extraction from histopathological images. VGG16 has achieved high classification accuracy in breast cancer diagnosis and is widely used as a pretrained model for transfer learning applications [51].

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### 2.2.4 GoogLeNet (Inception Network)

GoogLeNet introduced the Inception module, which performs multiple convolution operations of different sizes simultaneously to capture multi-scale image features. This architecture significantly reduces computational complexity while improving feature extraction efficiency. GoogLeNet has demonstrated strong performance in medical image classification tasks, including breast cancer histopathological image analysis [52].

(ResNet) employs residual learning through skip connections, allowing the training of very deep neural networks while overcoming the vanishing gradient problem. ResNet50 is one of the most widely used architectures for breast cancer detection because of its excellent feature extraction capability and superior classification accuracy on histopathological datasets [53].

### 2.2.6 DenseNet

DenseNet introduces dense connectivity, where each layer receives feature maps from all preceding layers. This design promotes feature reuse, improves gradient flow, and reduces the number of trainable parameters. DenseNet121 has demonstrated excellent performance in breast histopathological image classification due to its efficient feature propagation and improved learning capability [54].

### 2.2.7 EfficientNet

EfficientNet utilizes a compound scaling strategy that simultaneously scales network depth, width, and input image resolution. This balanced scaling approach enables EfficientNet to achieve high classification accuracy with fewer model parameters and lower computational cost. EfficientNetB0 has consistently shown superior performance in breast cancer histopathological image classification compared with many conventional CNN architectures [55].

### 2.2.8 MobileNet

MobileNet is a lightweight deep learning architecture designed for resource-constrained environments such as mobile and embedded devices. By employing depthwise separable convolutions, MobileNet significantly reduces computational complexity while maintaining competitive classification accuracy. It is particularly suitable for real-time computer-aided breast cancer diagnosis applications requiring fast inference and low memory consumption [55]. Advantages of Deep Learning Techniques Automatically learn hierarchical features without handcrafted feature engineering. High classification accuracy for complex histopathological images. Capable of learning discriminative tissue morphology and cellular structures. Suitable for large-scale medical image datasets. Compatible with transfer learning and hybrid AI frameworks. Limitations of Deep Learning Techniques Require large annotated datasets for effective training. Computationally intensive with high memory requirements. Susceptible to overfitting when training data are limited. Often operate as black-box models with limited interpretability. Require specialized hardware, such as GPUs, for efficient training and deployment [49–55].

### 2.3 Transfer Learning Techniques

Transfer learning has become one of the most effective approaches for automated breast cancer detection using histopathological images. Instead of training a deep learning model from scratch, transfer learning utilizes models that have been pre-trained on large-scale image datasets, such as ImageNet, and adapts them to medical image classification tasks. This approach significantly reduces training time, improves classification accuracy, and enables effective learning even when annotated medical datasets are limited [56–59].

### 2.3.1 ImageNet Pretrained Models

ImageNet pretrained models provide learned feature representations from millions of natural images, which can be transferred to breast histopathological image classification. Popular pretrained architectures include VGG16, ResNet50, DenseNet121, EfficientNet, and MobileNet. These models serve as powerful feature extractors and have demonstrated

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excellent performance in breast cancer diagnosis by effectively capturing complex tissue morphology and cellular structures [56].

### 2.3.2 Fine-Tuning

Fine-tuning is a transfer learning strategy in which the pretrained model is further trained on a target histopathological dataset. Initially, the lower convolutional layers are retained because they capture general image features, while the higher layers are retrained to learn domain-specific characteristics of breast tissue. Fine-tuning improves classification performance by adapting the pretrained network to the unique features of histopathological images [57].

### 2.3.3 Feature Extraction

Feature extraction is another transfer learning approach where the pretrained network is used only to extract deep feature representations, while the final classification layer is replaced with a new classifier. The extracted features can be directly classified using fully connected layers or integrated with machine learning algorithms such as Support Vector Machine (SVM) and XGBoost, resulting in improved classification accuracy and computational efficiency [58].

### 2.3.4 Medical Applications

Transfer learning has been successfully applied to various medical image analysis tasks, including breast cancer, lung cancer, skin cancer, brain tumor, retinal disease, and COVID-19 detection. In breast histopathological image classification, transfer learning has consistently improved diagnostic accuracy, reduced computational cost, minimized overfitting, and enabled reliable computer-aided diagnosis even with limited labeled datasets. Consequently, transfer learning has become a standard technique in modern AI-based medical imaging systems [59]. Advantages of Transfer Learning Reduces training time and computational cost. Achieves high classification accuracy with limited annotated datasets. Minimizes overfitting by utilizing pretrained knowledge. Improves feature learning and model generalization. Widely applicable to various medical image analysis tasks. Limitations of Transfer Learning Performance depends on the similarity between the source and target datasets. Large domain differences may reduce transfer learning effectiveness. Fine-tuning requires careful hyperparameter optimization. Pretrained models may contain redundant features for specific medical imaging tasks. Very deep pretrained models require considerable computational resources [56–59].

## 2.4 Vision Transformer Models

Vision Transformer (ViT) models have recently emerged as a promising alternative to Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for medical image analysis. Unlike CNNs, which process images using convolutional operations, Vision Transformers divide an image into smaller patches and treat them as sequential tokens. By employing a self-attention mechanism, transformer models effectively capture long-range spatial relationships and global contextual information, resulting in improved feature representation and classification performance for breast histopathological images [60–63].

### 2.4.1 Vision Transformer (ViT)

Vision Transformer (ViT) is the first transformer architecture designed specifically for image classification. It divides an input image into fixed-size patches, embeds them into feature vectors, and processes them using transformer encoder layers. ViT has demonstrated competitive performance in breast cancer histopathological image classification by effectively learning global dependencies and complex tissue structures [60].

### 2.4.2 Swin Transformer

The Swin Transformer introduces a hierarchical architecture with shifted window-based self-attention, enabling efficient computation while preserving local and global image information. Compared with the original ViT, Swin Transformer

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requires fewer computational resources and has achieved excellent performance in various medical image analysis tasks, including breast cancer detection from histopathological images [61].

### 2.4.3 Data-efficient Image Transformer (DeiT)

Data-efficient Image Transformer (DeiT) improves the training efficiency of Vision Transformers by employing knowledge distillation techniques. It enables transformer models to achieve high classification accuracy using relatively smaller datasets, making DeiT particularly suitable for medical imaging applications where annotated histopathological data are limited [62].

### 2.4.4 Hybrid CNN–Transformer Models

Hybrid CNN–Transformer models combine the local feature extraction capability of convolutional neural networks with the global contextual learning ability of transformers. CNN layers extract low-level spatial features, while transformer modules capture long-range dependencies among tissue structures. This complementary learning strategy has demonstrated improved classification accuracy, robustness, and generalization for automated breast cancer detection using histopathological images [63]. Advantages of Vision Transformer Models Effectively capture long-range spatial dependencies. Learn global contextual information through self-attention. Achieve high classification accuracy on large-scale image datasets. Improve feature representation by combining local and global image characteristics. Hybrid CNN–Transformer models further enhance diagnostic performance. Limitations of Vision Transformer Models Require large annotated datasets for effective training. Computationally intensive with high memory requirements. Training complexity is higher than conventional CNN models. Performance may decrease when training data are limited. Model interpretability and computational cost remain important challenges in clinical applications [60–63].

## 2.5 Hybrid Artificial Intelligence Models

Hybrid Artificial Intelligence (AI) models combine the powerful feature extraction capability of deep learning with the efficient classification and decision-making ability of machine learning or reinforcement learning algorithms. By integrating multiple AI techniques, hybrid models improve classification accuracy, robustness, and generalization while overcoming the limitations of individual approaches. In breast cancer histopathological image analysis, hybrid frameworks have demonstrated superior performance by effectively capturing complex tissue characteristics and reducing classification errors [64–68].

### 2.5.1 CNN–SVM

The CNN–SVM hybrid model combines Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for automatic feature extraction with Support Vector Machine (SVM) for final classification. CNN extracts deep discriminative features from histopathological images, while SVM effectively separates benign and malignant tissue samples using an optimal decision boundary. This combination improves classification accuracy and generalization compared with conventional CNN classifiers [64].

### 2.5.2 CNN–XGBoost

The CNN–XGBoost framework integrates CNN-based deep feature extraction with the XGBoost classifier. CNN automatically learns hierarchical image features, whereas XGBoost improves classification performance through gradient boosting and ensemble learning. This hybrid approach has demonstrated higher accuracy, faster convergence, and better robustness in breast cancer histopathological image classification [65].

### 2.5.3 ResNet50–XGBoost

The ResNet50–XGBoost model combines the deep residual feature extraction capability of ResNet50 with the powerful classification performance of XGBoost. ResNet50 effectively captures complex cellular and tissue structures, while

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XGBoost enhances classification by minimizing prediction errors. This hybrid framework has achieved excellent diagnostic performance for automated breast cancer detection [66].

### 2.5.4 CNN–DDQN

The CNN–Double Deep Q-Network (DDQN) model integrates convolutional neural networks with reinforcement learning. CNN performs automatic feature extraction from histopathological images, whereas DDQN learns an optimal classification policy through reward-based decision-making. Compared with conventional classifiers, CNN–DDQN improves adaptive learning and enhances classification stability by reducing overestimation errors during training [67].

### 2.5.5 Class-Sensitive CNN–DDQN

The Class-Sensitive CNN–DDQN framework extends the conventional CNN–DDQN model by incorporating a class-sensitive reward mechanism that assigns higher rewards for correctly identifying malignant tissue samples while imposing stronger penalties for false-negative predictions. This clinically informed learning strategy improves sensitivity, diagnostic reliability, and balanced classification performance, making it a promising framework for intelligent breast cancer diagnosis [68]. Comparative Advantages of Hybrid AI Models Hybrid AI models combine the strengths of multiple learning techniques, resulting in improved feature representation, higher classification accuracy, and better generalization compared with standalone machine learning or deep learning models. They effectively reduce false-positive and false-negative predictions while enhancing robustness and clinical reliability. Consequently, hybrid frameworks represent a promising direction for the development of intelligent computer-aided breast cancer diagnosis systems [64–68].

## 2.6 Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI)

Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) has become an essential component of AI-based medical image analysis by improving the transparency and interpretability of deep learning models. Since many deep learning algorithms operate as black-box systems, XAI techniques provide visual and quantitative explanations that help clinicians understand the reasoning behind model predictions. In breast cancer diagnosis, XAI enhances trust, supports clinical decision-making, and facilitates the adoption of artificial intelligence in healthcare applications [69–72].

### 2.6.1 Class Activation Mapping (CAM)

Class Activation Mapping (CAM) is one of the earliest visualization techniques used to identify the image regions that contribute most to a classification decision. CAM generates heat maps highlighting discriminative tissue regions associated with malignant or benign breast lesions, thereby improving model interpretability and diagnostic confidence [69].

### 2.6.2 Gradient-weighted Class

Activation Mapping (Grad-CAM) Grad-CAM extends CAM by utilizing gradient information from convolutional layers to produce localization maps without requiring architectural modifications. It effectively highlights important histopathological regions influencing the model's prediction and has become one of the most widely used explainability techniques in medical image analysis [70]. 3.6.3 Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations (LIME) LIME is a model-agnostic explainability method that explains individual predictions by approximating the behavior of complex models with simpler interpretable models. It identifies the image regions that have the greatest influence on classification decisions, allowing clinicians to better understand the predictions generated by artificial intelligence systems [71].

### 2.6.4 SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP)

SHAP is an explainability technique based on game theory that assigns importance scores to individual features contributing to model predictions. It provides both local and global explanations by quantifying the contribution of each

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feature to the final decision. SHAP has been widely adopted for interpreting machine learning and deep learning models in breast cancer diagnosis due to its consistency and reliability [72]. Clinical Interpretability Explainable Artificial Intelligence enhances the clinical applicability of AI-based breast cancer diagnosis by providing transparent and interpretable predictions. Visualization techniques such as CAM, Grad-CAM, LIME, and SHAP enable pathologists to verify whether the model focuses on clinically relevant tissue regions, thereby increasing confidence in automated diagnostic systems. Consequently, XAI plays a vital role in improving model reliability, supporting clinical decision-making, and promoting the safe deployment of artificial intelligence in breast histopathological image analysis [69–72].

## III. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS, RESEARCH CHALLENGES, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNIQUES FOR BREAST CANCER DETECTION

This chapter presents a comprehensive comparative analysis of artificial intelligence techniques used for automated breast cancer detection using histopathological images. It critically compares machine learning, deep learning, transfer learning, vision transformer models, hybrid artificial intelligence frameworks, and explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) based on classification accuracy, computational complexity, feature learning capability, interpretability, and clinical applicability. In addition, the chapter discusses the strengths and limitations of existing approaches and summarizes their contributions to computer-aided breast cancer diagnosis [91–94].

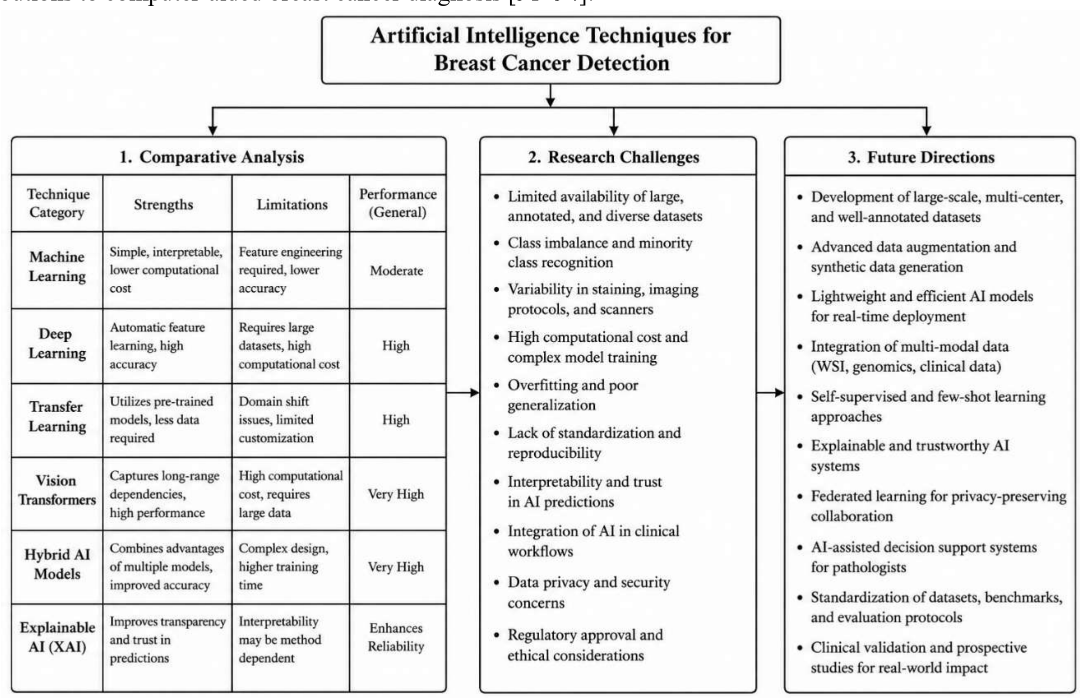


Figure 3. Comparative Analysis, Research Challenges, and Future Directions of Artificial Intelligence Techniques for Breast Cancer Detection Using Histopathological Images

Furthermore, this chapter highlights the major research challenges affecting the practical deployment of artificial intelligence in digital pathology, including class imbalance, limited annotated datasets, staining variability, model interpretability, computational complexity, and generalization across different clinical environments. Finally, emerging research trends such as foundation models, self-supervised learning, federated learning, multimodal artificial intelligence, vision-language models, explainable AI, and hybrid intelligent frameworks are discussed to provide future research directions for developing robust, accurate, and clinically deployable breast cancer diagnostic systems [95–98].

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## IV. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

This chapter summarizes the major findings of the comprehensive review on artificial intelligence techniques for automated breast cancer detection using histopathological images. It highlights the contributions of machine learning, deep learning, transfer learning, vision transformer models, hybrid artificial intelligence frameworks, and explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) in improving the accuracy and reliability of computer-aided diagnosis systems. Furthermore, the chapter discusses the current limitations of existing AI techniques and outlines promising future research directions for developing robust, interpretable, and clinically deployable breast cancer diagnostic systems [99–101].

Artificial intelligence has significantly advanced automated breast cancer detection using histopathological images by improving diagnostic accuracy, efficiency, and reproducibility. Conventional machine learning techniques established the foundation for computer-aided diagnosis, while deep learning architectures enabled automatic feature extraction and achieved remarkable improvements in classification performance. More recently, transfer learning, vision transformer models, hybrid artificial intelligence frameworks, and explainable AI have further enhanced diagnostic reliability, interpretability, and clinical applicability. Despite these advances, challenges such as limited annotated datasets, class imbalance, computational complexity, and model transparency remain barriers to widespread clinical deployment. Future research should focus on developing robust, explainable, privacy-preserving, and multimodal AI systems that support pathologists in accurate and efficient breast cancer diagnosis. Overall, the continued integration of advanced artificial intelligence techniques with digital pathology has the potential to transform breast cancer screening, diagnosis, and personalized patient care [123–125].

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