

Enhancing Liver Cirrhosis Diagnosis Using Machine Learning With Explainable AI and Cross-Validated Hyperparameter Tuning Techniques

Dhande Sujal Prashant¹, Prof. P. B. Chandane², Dr. H. B. Jadhav³

Student, Department of Computer Engineering¹

Guide, Department of Computer Engineering²

Co-Guide, Department of Computer Engineering³

Adsul Technical Campus Chas, Ahilyanagar, India

Abstract: Cirrhosis is a form of Chronic Liver Disease (CLD) resulting from sustained liver damage from several causes, including viral infection, autoimmune disorders, cholestatic and metabolic disease Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) or heavy alcohol use. Testing for the presence of Liver Cirrhosis (LC) is one of the most critical diagnostics and prognostic assessments for patients. Detecting liver illness in its early stages is challenging as initial symptoms are often mild and difficult to diagnose. Cirrhosis may not present symptoms until an advanced stage, posing a challenge for identification and diagnosis. The lack of explanations for a complex model's decision-making process creates clinician distrust by concealing the reasoning behind its choices. This research sought to design and assess a novel and non-invasive proposed model by utilizing the XGBoost classifier with Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) for diagnosing liver cirrhosis. In this work XAI framework enhances transparency in complex models, offering valuable insights into decision-making, thereby guiding treatment strategies, and improving cirrhosis diagnosis. The experimental results have shown superiority for the proposed method compared with various machine learning models. The proposed method has achieved significantly 91.19% using XGBoost for cirrhosis dataset with K-fold validation(K=10) approach.

Keywords: Liver Cirrhosis, Machine Learning, Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), Hyperparameter Tuning, Cross-Validation, Predictive Modeling, Feature Selection, Classification, Model Optimization

I. INTRODUCTION

With the advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI), cough sounds can be analyzed automatically to identify patterns associated with different respiratory conditions. Liver cirrhosis is a chronic liver disease characterized by progressive damage to liver tissue and the formation of scar tissue, which affects normal liver function. It can develop due to several factors, including chronic hepatitis infections, excessive alcohol consumption, and metabolic liver diseases. Early identification of liver cirrhosis is important for timely medical intervention, appropriate treatment, and effective disease management. Machine Learning (ML) techniques have gained attention in healthcare because they can analyze clinical data and identify patterns associated with different diseases.

Traditional diagnosis of liver cirrhosis generally depends on medical history, physical examination, laboratory tests, imaging techniques, and, in some cases, liver biopsy. Although these methods are essential for clinical assessment, they may involve significant time, cost, and specialized medical expertise. Machine Learning provides a data-driven



approach that can support the analysis of clinical parameters and help identify patients who may be at risk of developing liver cirrhosis. By processing relevant medical features, ML models can assist in disease classification and support clinical decision-making.

Various machine learning algorithms, including Logistic Regression, Decision Tree, Random Forest, Support Vector Machine (SVM), and Gradient Boosting, can be explored for liver cirrhosis prediction. However, the performance of these models depends on data quality, feature selection, algorithm selection, and hyperparameter settings. Cross-validation techniques can be used to evaluate model performance across different subsets of the dataset, while hyperparameter tuning helps identify suitable model configurations. These techniques can improve the reliability of model evaluation and reduce the risk of selecting a model based on a single train-test split.

Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) is another important component of this research. Although machine learning models can identify complex patterns in clinical data, some models may not clearly explain how their predictions are generated. Explainability techniques, such as SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP) and Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations (LIME), can help identify the clinical features that contribute to individual predictions. This can improve the interpretability of model outputs and help healthcare professionals better understand the factors associated with predicted liver cirrhosis risk.

However, existing machine learning approaches may face challenges such as missing clinical values, imbalanced datasets, noisy data, overfitting, and limited generalization to unseen patients. Inconsistent model evaluation and insufficient interpretability may also reduce confidence in prediction results. Therefore, this research focuses on enhancing liver cirrhosis diagnosis using machine learning algorithms, explainable AI techniques, and cross-validated hyperparameter tuning. The proposed approach aims to evaluate model performance systematically, identify important predictive features, and provide more interpretable predictions that may support clinical assessment. The developed system is intended to assist healthcare professionals and is not a replacement for professional medical diagnosis.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Liver cirrhosis is a serious chronic disease that damages the liver and affects its normal functioning. Early diagnosis is important for providing appropriate treatment and preventing further complications. However, identifying liver cirrhosis can be challenging because its symptoms may not be noticeable during the early stages. Traditional diagnosis methods often require clinical examinations, laboratory tests, and other medical investigations.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers a promising approach to analyzing cough sounds and identifying patterns associated with different respiratory diseases. By using machine learning and deep learning techniques, recorded cough sounds can be processed and classified into multiple disease categories.

III. RESEARCH GAP

Existing Approach	Limitation	Proposed Improvement
Traditional liver cirrhosis diagnosis	May require multiple clinical examinations and medical tests	Machine learning-based liver cirrhosis prediction
Basic machine learning models	Performance may depend on the selected algorithm and dataset	Comparison of multiple machine learning algorithms
Default hyperparameter settings	May not provide the best model performance	Cross-validated hyperparameter tuning
Black-box prediction models	Predictions may be difficult to interpret	Explainable AI techniques such as SHAP and LIME



Single train-test split evaluation	Results may depend on how the dataset is divided	Cross-validation for more reliable model evaluation
Limited analysis of clinical features	Important factors influencing predictions may remain unclear	Feature importance analysis to identify influential clinical parameters
Models evaluated on limited data	May overfit and perform poorly on unseen data	Systematic model evaluation using Suitable performance metrics and cross-validation.

IV. OBJECTIVES

To study how Machine learning can be used to predict liver cirrhosis based on clinical data.

To explore different machine learning algorithms for improving prediction and classification of liver cirrhosis.

To evaluate the effectiveness of cross-validation and hyperparameter tuning techniques in improving model performance and reliability.

To apply Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) techniques to identify important clinical features and understand the factors influencing liver cirrhosis predictions.

V. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system focuses on enhancing liver cirrhosis diagnosis using Machine Learning (ML), Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), and cross-validated hyperparameter tuning techniques. In this system, clinical data is collected and preprocessed to handle missing values, improve data quality, and prepare the dataset for analysis. Relevant clinical features are then used to train machine learning models to predict liver cirrhosis. Different machine learning algorithms, such as Logistic Regression, Decision Tree, Random Forest, Support Vector Machine (SVM), and Gradient Boosting, can be evaluated to identify suitable prediction models. Cross-validation is applied to assess model performance across different data subsets, while hyperparameter tuning is used to identify appropriate model settings. Explainable AI techniques, such as SHAP and LIME, are incorporated to identify important clinical features and explain how they influence model predictions. The system also considers challenges such as imbalanced datasets, missing clinical values, overfitting, and differences in model performance. Appropriate evaluation metrics, including accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC-AUC, are used to compare the models. This approach aims to improve prediction reliability and make the results easier to interpret. The proposed system may support healthcare professionals in clinical assessment and decision-making, but it is intended as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for professional diagnosis.

VI. PROPOSED SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The proposed system architecture explains how Machine Learning (ML), Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), and cross-validated hyperparameter tuning techniques are used to enhance liver cirrhosis diagnosis. The process begins with collecting a suitable liver cirrhosis dataset containing relevant clinical parameters. The collected data is then preprocessed to handle missing values, remove inconsistencies, and prepare the dataset for analysis. After preprocessing, important clinical features are selected and provided to different machine learning algorithms for training and prediction.



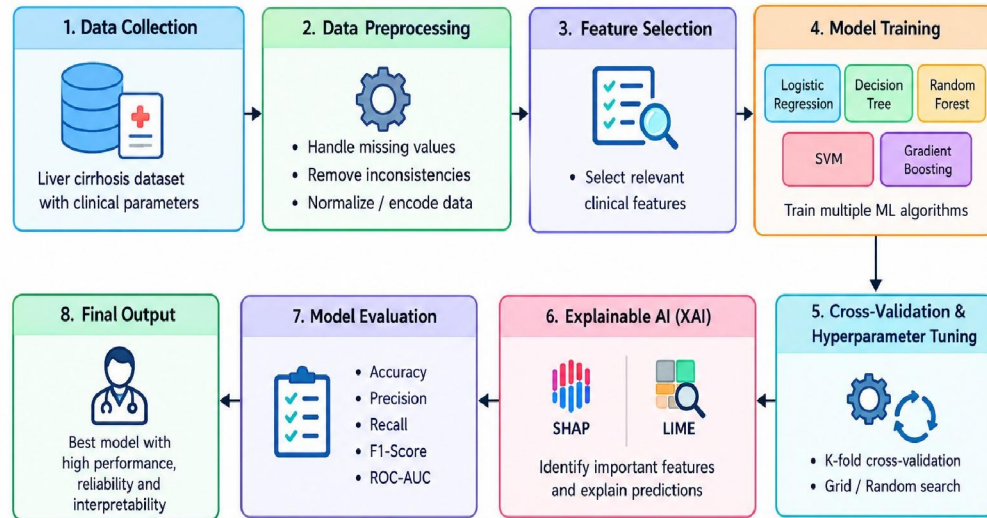


Fig: Proposed System Architecture

VII. EXISTING SYSTEM

In recent years, Machine Learning (ML) has been increasingly used to analyze clinical data and support the prediction of liver cirrhosis. Traditional methods of liver cirrhosis diagnosis generally depend on medical history, clinical examinations, laboratory tests, and imaging techniques. Machine learning-based systems analyze clinical parameters to identify patterns associated with liver disease and predict the possibility of cirrhosis. Different algorithms, such as Logistic Regression, Decision Tree, Random Forest, and Support Vector Machine (SVM), have been explored for disease prediction.

However, the performance of existing systems may be affected by missing data, imbalanced datasets, inappropriate hyperparameter settings, and overfitting. Some models may also provide predictions without clearly explaining the factors influencing their results. Furthermore, evaluating models using a single train-test split may not provide a complete understanding of their performance on unseen data. Therefore, there is a need to improve model evaluation, optimize hyper parameters through cross-validation, and use Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) techniques to understand the contribution of important clinical features. This research focuses on addressing these limitations to support more reliable and interpretable liver cirrhosis prediction.

VIII. ADDITIONAL FEATURES OF THE SYSTEM

The proposed system focuses on enhancing liver cirrhosis diagnosis using Machine Learning (ML), Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), and cross-validated hyperparameter tuning. Some additional features can improve the quality of clinical data analysis, model performance, and the interpretability of prediction results.

Clinical data quality checking: The system checks the quality of the clinical dataset before analysis. Missing values, duplicate records, and inconsistent data are identified and handled to prepare the data for model training.



Data Preprocessing: The system applies preprocessing techniques such as missing-value handling, data encoding, and feature scaling where required. This helps prepare clinical parameters for effective machine learning analysis.

Feature Extraction: Important characteristics of cough sounds are extracted to identify patterns that may be associated with different respiratory diseases. These features help the AI model analyze the recordings more effectively.

Cross-Validated Hyperparameter Tuning: The system uses cross-validation and hyperparameter optimization techniques, such as Grid Search or Random Search, to identify suitable model settings and evaluate performance across different data subsets.

Liver Cirrhosis Prediction Accuracy = (Correctly Predicted Cases / Total Cases Tested) × 100

For example, if the machine learning model correctly predicts 85 out of 100 liver cirrhosis cases, the prediction accuracy will be 85%. This measure helps evaluate how effectively the model predicts liver cirrhosis. However, accuracy alone may not provide a complete picture of model performance, especially when the dataset is imbalanced. Therefore, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC-AUC should also be considered. Cross-validation and hyperparameter tuning can further help evaluate and optimize model performance, while Explainable AI (XAI) techniques can identify the clinical features influencing the predictions.

IX. NEW FEATURES FOR BETTER DATA SHARING

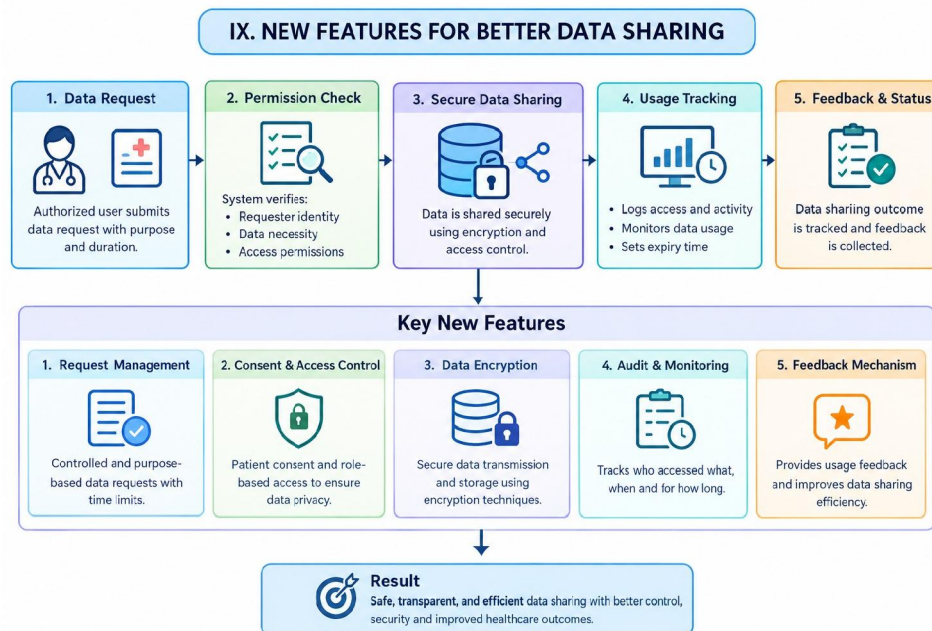


Fig. 1. Proposed Data Sharing Improvement Process

The proposed system focuses on enhancing liver cirrhosis diagnosis using Machine Learning (ML), Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), and cross-validated hyperparameter tuning techniques. It includes several features that help prepare clinical data, identify important patterns, predict liver cirrhosis, explain model predictions, and evaluate model performance.

Clinical Data Collection:

The process begins with collecting liver cirrhosis-related clinical data from suitable datasets. The dataset may contain patient information and medical parameters relevant to liver disease prediction. The quality, completeness, and variety of the data are important because they can influence the performance and reliability of the machine learning model.



Clinical Data Preprocessing:

Before analyzing the data, the system processes the dataset to handle missing values, remove duplicate records, and correct inconsistencies. Depending on the dataset and selected algorithm, data encoding and feature scaling may also be applied. This step prepares the clinical data for machine learning analysis.

Feature Selection and Analysis:

After preprocessing, relevant clinical features are selected for model training. These may include age, bilirubin levels, albumin levels, platelet count, and other available clinical parameters. Feature analysis helps identify patterns associated with liver cirrhosis and may improve the efficiency of model training.

Machine Learning-Based Prediction:

The selected clinical features are analyzed using machine learning algorithms such as Logistic Regression, Decision Tree, Random Forest, Support Vector Machine (SVM), and Gradient Boosting. The models learn patterns from the training data and use them to predict liver cirrhosis outcomes.

Cross-Validated Hyperparameter Tuning:

The system uses cross-validation to evaluate model performance across different subsets of the training data. Hyperparameter tuning techniques, such as Grid Search and Random Search, are used to identify suitable model configurations. This process helps reduce the risk of overfitting and provides a more reliable basis for comparing models.

Explainable AI and Model Evaluation:

The system evaluates model performance using accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC-AUC. The results help researchers compare different models, understand their strengths and limitations, and identify areas for improvement. The system is intended to support clinical assessment rather than replace professional medical diagnosis.

IX. REVIEW METHODOLOGY

This study follows a review-based approach to understand how Machine Learning (ML), Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), and cross-validated hyperparameter tuning techniques can be used to enhance liver cirrhosis diagnosis. The main focus is on existing machine learning methods, their prediction performance, and their ability to provide understandable results. First, research papers related to liver cirrhosis prediction, machine learning algorithms, explainable AI, clinical data analysis, cross-validation, and hyperparameter optimization were identified from relevant research databases. Greater attention was given to studies that discuss liver disease prediction, model evaluation, and recent developments in explainable machine learning techniques.

After collecting the research papers, their titles and abstracts were reviewed to identify studies relevant to the research topic. Papers that focused on unrelated diseases or did not involve machine learning-based liver cirrhosis prediction, model interpretability, or optimization techniques were excluded from further consideration.

The selected studies were then examined based on important factors, including the datasets used, clinical features, preprocessing methods, machine learning algorithms, hyperparameter tuning strategies, cross-validation methods, explainability techniques, and evaluation metrics. The limitations of each approach were also considered, particularly issues related to missing data, class imbalance, overfitting, inconsistent model evaluation, limited interpretability, and generalization to unseen patients. The findings of this review help identify research gaps and potential improvements for developing more reliable and interpretable liver cirrhosis prediction models.

X. PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Clinical data used for liver cirrhosis prediction may contain sensitive personal and medical information, so it must be handled carefully. In machine learning-based diagnosis, patient data should be collected and used responsibly. Personal details should be protected, and access to clinical information should be restricted to authorized researchers and



healthcare professionals. The collected data should be stored securely, and appropriate privacy measures should be followed during preprocessing, model training, and analysis. Whenever patient data is used for research, informed consent, data anonymization, and applicable ethical guidelines should also be considered. Explainable AI techniques should be used responsibly to provide meaningful information about model predictions without unnecessarily exposing sensitive patient details. These measures help protect patient privacy and support the safe and ethical use of Machine Learning and Explainable Artificial Intelligence for liver cirrhosis prediction.

XI. AI-BASED COUGH SOUND RECOGNITION ALGORITHM

Input: Liver Cirrhosis Clinical Dataset and Machine Learning Models

Output: Predicted Liver Cirrhosis Outcome, Model Explanation, and Performance Evaluation.

The system collects clinical data related to liver cirrhosis from suitable datasets.

The collected clinical data is preprocessed to handle missing values, duplicate records, and inconsistencies.

Relevant clinical features are selected to identify useful patterns associated with liver cirrhosis.

The processed data is provided to machine learning algorithms for model training and prediction.

Cross-validation is applied to evaluate model performance across different subsets of the training data.

Hyperparameter tuning techniques, such as Grid Search or Random Search, are used to identify suitable model configurations.

The trained model predicts the liver cirrhosis outcome based on the available clinical parameters.

Explainable AI techniques, such as SHAP and LIME, are applied to understand the features influencing the model's predictions.

The model's performance is evaluated using measures such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC-AUC.

Prediction errors and model limitations are analyzed to identify areas that require improvement.

The evaluation and explanation results help researchers compare machine learning models and identify a suitable approach for more reliable and interpretable liver cirrhosis prediction.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The proposed system is expected to provide a better understanding of how Machine Learning (ML), Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), and cross-validated hyperparameter tuning can be used to enhance liver cirrhosis diagnosis. Different machine learning algorithms are expected to identify patterns in clinical data and predict liver cirrhosis outcomes.

The use of data preprocessing and feature selection is expected to improve data quality and help machine learning models identify relevant clinical patterns. Cross-validation and hyperparameter tuning are expected to support more reliable model evaluation and help identify suitable model configurations. Comparing different models using measures such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC-AUC will help researchers understand their performance and identify an appropriate prediction model.

The application of Explainable AI techniques, such as SHAP and LIME, is expected to provide insights into the clinical features influencing model predictions. The study is also expected to highlight common challenges, including missing data, imbalanced datasets, overfitting, limited interpretability, and differences in model performance on unseen data. Understanding these limitations can help identify opportunities for future research and the development of more reliable and interpretable liver cirrhosis prediction systems. The results are intended to support clinical assessment and not replace professional medical diagnosis.

COMPARISON WITH EXISTING SYSTEM

Point	Existing System	Our Approach
Liver Cirrhosis Diagnosis	Traditional diagnosis and basic machine learning models may have limitations in identifying disease patterns.	Uses machine learning techniques to improve liver cirrhosis prediction using clinical data.



Disease Prediction	Some models may provide predictions without detailed analysis of the factors influencing the result.	Predicts liver cirrhosis outcomes and examines the clinical features influencing the predictions.
Data Preprocessing	Missing values, duplicate records, and inconsistent data may affect prediction results.	Applies data preprocessing techniques to improve data quality and support reliable predictions.
Feature Selection	Some approaches may use a limited set of features or provide little information about their importance.	Analyzes relevant clinical features to understand their contribution to liver cirrhosis prediction.
Machine Learning Techniques	May use a single machine learning algorithm with default settings.	Compares different machine learning algorithms and identifies suitable models for the task.
Hyperparameter Tuning	Default parameters may reduce model performance or lead to less suitable results.	Uses hyperparameter tuning techniques, such as Grid Search or Random Search, to identify suitable model settings.
Model Validation	A single train-test split may not fully represent model performance on different data samples.	Uses cross-validation to evaluate model performance across multiple data splits and reduce dependence on one split.
Explainable AI	Some models provide predictions without clearly explaining why a particular result was produced.	Uses Explainable AI techniques, such as SHAP or LIME, to explain the factors influencing model predictions.

XII. ADVANTAGES

Early Disease Prediction:

Machine learning models can analyze clinical data to identify patterns associated with liver cirrhosis and support early risk assessment.

Improved Prediction Performance:

Comparing different machine learning algorithms can help identify suitable models for predicting liver cirrhosis outcomes.

Reliable Model Evaluation:

Cross-validation evaluates model performance across multiple data splits, providing a more robust assessment than relying on a single train-test split.

Optimized Model Performance:

Hyperparameter tuning techniques, such as Grid Search and Random Search, help identify suitable model settings and may improve predictive performance.

Explainable Predictions:

Explainable AI techniques, such as SHAP and LIME, help explain which clinical features influence the model's predictions

XIII. LIMITATIONS

The use of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning for liver cirrhosis diagnosis has several limitations that need to be considered. The performance of a machine learning model may depend on the quality, quantity, and reliability of the clinical data used for training. Missing values, incorrect records, and inconsistent data can affect prediction results. The model may also find it difficult to make accurate predictions when different patients have similar clinical characteristics. Another limitation is the availability of reliable and diverse datasets. If the training data does not represent different patient groups and stages of liver disease, the model may not perform equally well for all patients.



Class imbalance, where some disease categories have fewer samples than others, can also affect classification performance. Different machine learning algorithms and hyperparameter settings may produce different results depending on the dataset and selected features. Another limitation is the availability of reliable and diverse datasets. If the training data does not represent different patient groups and stages of liver disease, the model may not perform equally well for all patients. Class imbalance, where some disease categories have fewer samples than others, can also affect classification performance. Different machine learning algorithms and hyperparameter settings may produce different results depending on the dataset and selected features.

Although cross-validation and hyper parameter tuning can help improve model evaluation and identify suitable model settings, they cannot guarantee accurate predictions in every situation. Explainable AI techniques, such as SHAP and LIME, can help explain the influence of clinical features, but these explanations do not necessarily establish causal relationships or confirm a medical diagnosis.

Therefore, further research and validation using diverse, reliable clinical datasets are required to improve the reliability and practical usefulness of machine learning for liver cirrhosis diagnosis. The proposed system should be considered a decision-support tool for healthcare professionals rather than a replacement for professional medical diagnosis.

FUTURE SCOPE

In the future, machine learning-based liver cirrhosis diagnosis can be improved by using larger and more diverse clinical datasets collected from different patient groups and healthcare settings. This can help researchers develop models that provide more reliable predictions and perform better on new patient data.

The system can also be improved by exploring advanced machine learning algorithms and feature selection techniques. Cross-validation and hyperparameter tuning can be further optimized to identify suitable model configurations and evaluate their performance more reliably. In addition, Explainable AI techniques such as SHAP and LIME can be enhanced to provide clearer explanations of how different clinical features influence the prediction results.

Another possible improvement is to develop a user-friendly web or mobile application that allows authorized healthcare professionals to enter clinical data and obtain preliminary prediction results with explanations. The system could also be integrated with electronic health records to support clinical assessment, subject to appropriate privacy and security measures.

XIV. CONCLUSION

Liver cirrhosis is a serious chronic liver disease, and identifying it at an early stage is important for appropriate medical management. Machine learning offers a promising approach to analyzing clinical data and identifying patterns associated with liver cirrhosis. This review focuses on enhancing liver cirrhosis diagnosis using machine learning, Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), and cross-validated hyper parameter tuning techniques.

The review discusses important stages such as clinical data preprocessing, feature selection, model training, hyper parameter tuning, cross-validation, and model evaluation. It also highlights the importance of comparing different machine learning algorithms using performance measures such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC-AUC. Furthermore, Explainable AI techniques such as SHAP and LIME can help researchers understand how clinical features influence model predictions. Challenges such as missing data, class imbalance, over fitting, limited dataset diversity, and model interpretability must also be considered.

Overall, combining machine learning with cross-validation, hyperparameter tuning, and Explainable AI may help develop more reliable and understandable liver cirrhosis prediction systems. However, the effectiveness of these approaches depends on data quality, appropriate validation, and testing on independent datasets. Further research and clinical validation are required before such systems can be used in practical healthcare settings. In conclusion, this approach has the potential to support healthcare professionals in assessing liver cirrhosis while maintaining the importance of professional medical judgment and diagnosis.



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