

“The Computer Said it, Not Me”

Stakeholder Perspectives on AI-driven Dementia Detection using Routine Healthcare Data

Alicia Lu, Velandai Srikanth, Chris Moran, Richard Beare, Taya Collyer

Why does this matter?

- Many people with dementia remain unrecognised, delaying access to support, planning, and care.
- Artificial intelligence (AI) may help identify dementia signals within routine healthcare data and support earlier recognition.
- While considerable attention has focused on technical development, stakeholder perspectives on AI-driven dementia detection using routine data remain poorly understood.

Aim

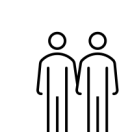
To explore stakeholder perspectives on the **acceptability** of AI-driven dementia detection using routinely collected healthcare data.

Methods

30 semi-structured interviews with:



9 healthcare workers



12 people with lived/living experience of dementia



9 members of the public aged >60yrs

Transcripts were analysed inductively using reflexive thematic analysis.

Stakeholders were not simply ‘for’ or ‘against’ AI-driven dementia detection.

Acceptability depended less on the technology itself, and more on how it was governed, communicated, and embedded within clinical care pathways.

Implications

Human oversight remains essential

Clear clinical pathways are required

Governance and communication are essential

Key Themes

The value of earlier dementia detection was contested

“If I was heading towards dementia and you were able to tell me that today, I have a very, very unhappy life.”

AI may facilitate recognition and discussion of dementia concerns

“What may emerge would be a possibility to amplify issues that are sitting unnoticed or have been overlooked.”

Potential harms extend beyond the AI model itself

“The way things are right now with the misunderstanding of dementia, if somebody comes in with a red flag saying this person's got dementia, they're going to be labelled.”

Real-world scaffolding matters more than technical performance

“It really comes down to how that result is acted upon. That the support structures and pathways around that are robust.”

CROSS-CUTTING FINDING

Cognitive vulnerability shapes both benefit and risk

“I feel like if I had dementia, I would get to the doctor's and forget what to say. I think that's the problem.”