Special Issue

Surgical Precision: The Impact of AI and Robotics in General Surgery

Message from the Guest Editor

The adoption of minimally invasive surgery (MIS) is arguably the most important surgical development over the past four decades, allowing for rapid recovery from many procedures. Computer-assisted laparoscopy in the form of robotic platforms has gained traction more recently, and we are witnessing a surge in the number of general surgical procedures performed robotically. There are many perceived benefits of robotic platforms compared to both laparoscopy and open surgery. However, there is no clear consensus on whether this results in improved patient outcomes. The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) has opened new avenues for applying computers to improve healthcare. There has been a rapid increase in AI across other specialties, notably radiology, which has laid the path for applying computer science to surgery. This issue will explore the evidence to date, comparing robotic and open operations in general surgery and highlight the technological advances being made to support surgical training, decision making, and operations, possibly improving surgical patient journeys in the future.

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