

AI for dermatology - skin cancer: Reduce referrals by early detection of benign skin lesions

(provisional title)

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to help assess skin lesions suspected of being cancer is an emerging area in dermatology. An example is DERM (Deep Ensemble for the Recognition of Malignancy) which uses deep learning to assess images of skin lesions. These technologies could be used in primary care to assist GPs in referring people with suspected cancer and secondary care to triage cases on the suspected cancer pathway.

The use of AI-based technologies could reduce unnecessary referrals, prioritise people on long waiting lists and streamline workflow in dermatology. Improvement in detecting skin cancer earlier would be beneficial for patients and the healthcare system.

The NICE Health Technologies Programme will assess the clinical and cost-effectiveness of AI-based technologies used to assess skin lesions suspected of being skin cancer in order to make recommendations on their use in the NHS.