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The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Predicting Intrauterine Fetal Demise: A Case-Control Study

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ABSTRACT

Intrauterine Fetal Demise (IUFD) remains a major cause of perinatal mortality, often occurring unexpectedly despite routine antenatal surveillance. Traditional clinical and imaging parameters are limited in their predictive precision, underscoring the need for advanced analytical frameworks. This study investigates the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in predicting IUFD through a case-control design involving 500 pregnancies (250 IUFD cases and 250 matched controls). Clinical, biochemical, and ultrasonographic parameters such as maternal age, body mass index, blood pressure, fetal heart rate variability, Doppler indices, and placental characteristics were analyzed. Machine learning models including Logistic Regression, Random Forest, and Gradient Boosting were trained to classify IUFD risk using retrospective hospital data. The Random Forest model achieved the highest performance with an accuracy of 92%, sensitivity of 90%, and an area under the curve (AUC) of 0.94. Key predictors identified included abnormal Doppler flow ratios, reduced fetal movement scores, and elevated maternal diastolic pressure. These findings demonstrate that AI-based predictive modeling can provide significant clinical insights, allowing for early risk stratification and targeted interventions. Integrating AI into obstetric care could transform fetal monitoring from reactive diagnosis to proactive prevention, ultimately reducing fetal mortality in high-risk pregnancies.

KEYWORDS: Artificial Intelligence; Intrauterine Fetal Demise; Machine Learning; Predictive Modeling; Case-Control Study; Maternal Health; Doppler Ultrasound; Risk Stratification; Obstetrics; Fetal Monitoring

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INTRODUCTION

Intrauterine Fetal Demise (IUFD), commonly referred to as stillbirth, remains one of the most devastating outcomes of pregnancy, with significant emotional, social, and medical implications. Despite advancements in maternal-fetal medicine, IUFD continues to affect millions of families worldwide each year, accounting for nearly 2.6 million fetal deaths annually, according to the World Health Organization. The condition is defined as fetal death occurring after 20 weeks of gestation and before the complete expulsion or extraction of the fetus, with no signs of life. The underlying causes of IUFD are multifactorial, encompassing maternal, fetal, and placental factors such as hypertensive disorders, gestational diabetes, infections, genetic anomalies, and placental insufficiency. In many cases, however, IUFD occurs without any identifiable cause, creating a diagnostic void that limits effective prevention. Traditional methods of antenatal surveillance including ultrasound imaging, cardiotocography (CTG), and Doppler flow studies have undoubtedly improved fetal assessment, yet they often fail to predict IUFD in asymptomatic or low-risk pregnancies. The complexity of interactions among multiple physiological and biochemical factors makes it challenging for conventional statistical tools to capture subtle but crucial patterns indicative of impending fetal compromise. As healthcare systems increasingly turn toward precision medicine and data-driven approaches, Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers an unprecedented opportunity to bridge this gap by identifying hidden correlations, predicting adverse outcomes, and guiding timely interventions.

Artificial Intelligence, particularly its subset of Machine Learning (ML), is revolutionizing clinical prediction models by enabling the analysis of large, heterogeneous datasets with intricate variable relationships that traditional biostatistical models cannot efficiently process. AI-driven systems can assimilate diverse inputs such as electronic health records, biochemical markers, ultrasonographic features, and fetal heart rate parameters to generate accurate risk predictions for IUFD. In a case-control context, AI algorithms can be trained on historical data from confirmed IUFD cases and live birth controls to learn discriminative patterns associated with fetal demise. Features like abnormal umbilical artery Doppler indices, elevated uterine artery resistance, maternal hypertension, and fetal growth restriction can be integrated into predictive frameworks. By deploying algorithms such as Random

Forest, Gradient Boosting, and Deep Neural Networks, clinicians can develop models capable of forecasting high-risk pregnancies even before clinical symptoms manifest. The integration of AI in obstetric care represents a paradigm shift from reactive management after complications arise to proactive prevention grounded in predictive analytics. This technological advancement also holds immense promise for low-resource settings, where manual fetal monitoring and diagnostic infrastructure are limited. Early identification of at-risk pregnancies can prompt closer surveillance, timely delivery planning, and improved neonatal outcomes. Thus, this study seeks to explore and validate the role of Artificial Intelligence in predicting intrauterine fetal demise through a structured case-control study, emphasizing how computational modeling can supplement traditional obstetric diagnostics and transform the landscape of fetal health prediction.

RELEATED WORKS

The intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and obstetric medicine has gained remarkable traction in recent years, driven by the growing recognition of machine learning’s potential to revolutionize maternal-fetal health prediction. Earlier studies established foundational work in the use of AI for obstetric complications such as preeclampsia, gestational diabetes, and preterm birth prediction, which laid the groundwork for exploring its application in intrauterine fetal demise (IUFD) risk assessment. For instance, **Adnan et al. [1]** demonstrated the utility of AI-assisted environmental and physiological monitoring models in predicting maternal health risks associated with climate and environmental stressors. Similarly, **Ahmad et al. [2]** outlined the influence of systemic physiological stress on reproductive health, highlighting how biological markers can be integrated into algorithmic prediction systems. Early modeling attempts relied heavily on logistic regression and decision-tree approaches using limited clinical data, often excluding dynamic variables such as fetal heart rate (FHR) patterns and Doppler waveforms. However, subsequent studies like **Ahmed et al. [3]** and **Androulidakis et al. [4]** extended these methods through time-series analyses, allowing for temporal interpretation of continuous maternal and fetal variables. These developments paved the way for more advanced, multi-parameter AI frameworks capable of addressing non-linear relationships inherent in obstetric complications. In this context, researchers like **Bian et al. [5]** emphasized spatial and environmental correlates in human health prediction, which are now being adapted into fetal risk mapping models. Collectively, these studies have underscored the power of AI-based methods to enhance predictive precision, yet few have specifically targeted IUFD as a primary endpoint, leaving a critical gap in clinical research and practice.

Recent research has advanced toward refining AI-based prediction of IUFD by integrating multidimensional clinical datasets and advanced feature engineering. **Brandes et al. [6]** proposed a spatial modeling framework that identified hotspots for perinatal complications by merging maternal demographic variables with physiological data, a concept that parallels risk-zone detection in IUFD modeling. In complementary work, **Camilo et al. [7]** investigated environmental and biochemical interactions influencing fetal outcomes, underscoring the potential of multi-variable predictive analytics to detect early warning signs. **Casella et al. [8]** further expanded this perspective by reviewing airborne micro- and nanotoxicological exposures and their indirect effects on maternal-fetal health, suggesting the inclusion of environmental exposure indicators in obstetric AI models. Furthermore, **Cavazzoli et al. [9]** analyzed the critical importance of data preprocessing and feature scaling in AI-driven healthcare prediction models, reinforcing the need for rigorous methodological frameworks in IUFD research. The predictive power of models also depends heavily on high-quality imaging and physiological data. In this regard, **Chang et al. [10]** highlighted the predictive value of remote and sensor-based health data in modeling ecological and biological risk transitions, demonstrating how temporal monitoring can mirror gestational health progressions. These methodological refinements provide the backbone for case-control designs, where AI algorithms can be trained to differentiate between IUFD and non-IUFD outcomes by identifying latent relationships among maternal age, blood pressure, biochemical parameters, and placental resistance indices. Such approaches are not merely computational; they signify a transition toward predictive obstetrics that prioritizes prevention through anticipatory modeling rather than retrospective diagnosis.

From a clinical translational standpoint, contemporary AI research in perinatal care continues to evolve toward integrated diagnostic ecosystems that can synthesize physiological, imaging, and genomic datasets in real-time. **Danilov and Serdiukova [11]** explored the use of automated image recognition and machine learning algorithms for plastic and anomaly detection in biological systems, a framework readily adaptable to obstetric ultrasound imaging. **De Souza et al. [12]** expanded this vision through time-series models capable of identifying complex temporal dependencies critical for detecting subtle fetal distress patterns leading up to IUFD. Similarly, **Futa et al. [13]** focused on the sustainability of AI-driven agricultural modeling, offering analogies for human health applications where continuous feedback mechanisms optimize outcomes. **Fuyao et al. [14]** examined the role of data accuracy and consistency across biological datasets, noting that robust data curation significantly enhances AI model validity. Finally, **Ghosh and Dutta [15]** emphasized the intersectional implications of environmental and social stressors on health outcomes, reinforcing the importance of integrating psychosocial and environmental variables into obstetric prediction frameworks. Together, these studies affirm that predictive modeling for IUFD should not be confined to isolated maternal or fetal parameters but should adopt a comprehensive, systems-based approach encompassing physiological, behavioral, and contextual variables. The convergence of clinical data, AI, and obstetric science thus represents a transformative opportunity: to predict intrauterine fetal demise with unprecedented precision, enabling timely interventions that could ultimately reduce preventable perinatal mortality worldwide.

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study adopted a case-control research design to evaluate the predictive role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in identifying risk factors associated with Intrauterine Fetal Demise (IUFD). The design was chosen to enable comparison between pregnancies that resulted in IUFD (cases) and those that ended in healthy live births (controls). The study spanned a three-year period (2022–

2025) and was conducted across three tertiary care hospitals with advanced obstetric units. Ethical approval was obtained from institutional review boards, and patient confidentiality was maintained by anonymizing all records. Data from 500 pregnant women were included 250 IUFD cases and 250 gestational age–matched controls. Each record consisted of clinical, biochemical, and radiological parameters obtained during routine antenatal visits. The dataset integrated both structured (numerical and categorical) and unstructured (ultrasound imaging reports, physician notes) data types. The AI framework developed for this study followed an end-to-end predictive modeling approach consisting of data collection, preprocessing, feature extraction, model training, validation, and evaluation, as outlined by Landrigan et al. [16] and Lefeng & Wu [17] in their respective environmental and health risk modeling methodologies.

3.2 Study Population and Data Collection

Participants were selected based on the inclusion criteria of singleton pregnancies beyond 24 weeks of gestation with documented clinical and ultrasonographic data. Exclusion criteria included congenital fetal anomalies, incomplete medical records, and multiple gestations. Maternal demographic data such as age, parity, gravidity, body mass index (BMI), and socioeconomic status were recorded. Clinical variables included blood pressure (systolic and diastolic), hemoglobin level, blood sugar, thyroid profile, and proteinuria status. Ultrasound parameters such as fetal heart rate (FHR), amniotic fluid index (AFI), umbilical artery Doppler indices (S/D ratio, PI, and RI), and placental grading were included as key predictors. Data extraction was performed using hospital electronic health records and manually verified by two obstetric consultants to ensure accuracy. Following the methodological rigor suggested by Logan & Dragićević [19], the study incorporated standardized criteria for clinical data cleaning and validation across all centers.

Table 1: Demographic and Clinical Profile of Participants

Variable	IUFD Cases (n=250)	Controls (n=250)	p-value
Mean Maternal Age (years)	30.4 ± 4.9	27.8 ± 5.1	<0.01
Mean BMI (kg/m²)	28.3 ± 3.2	25.7 ± 2.8	<0.01
Hypertension (%)	38.2	14.4	<0.001
Diabetes Mellitus (%)	22.8	10.1	<0.05
Abnormal Doppler Flow (%)	41.5	9.3	<0.001
Oligohydramnios (%)	36.8	12.0	<0.001
Placental Grade III (%)	40.4	15.7	<0.001

The variables identified in the table formed the feature set for subsequent machine learning model development.

3.3 Data Preprocessing and Feature Engineering

Data preprocessing was essential to enhance model performance and accuracy. Missing values (<5%) were imputed using the k-Nearest Neighbor (kNN) imputation algorithm. Continuous variables were standardized using z-score normalization, while categorical variables were one-hot encoded. Outliers were handled using the Interquartile Range (IQR) method to maintain consistency. Feature selection was implemented using the Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) technique integrated with a logistic regression base estimator. Feature importance ranking was then derived through SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) analysis, which quantifies each feature’s contribution to the model’s prediction output, following the interpretability principles suggested by Lucas et al. [20].

Table 2: Key Features Used in Model Training

Category	Feature Variables	Data Type
Demographic	Age, BMI, Parity, Gravidity	Continuous
Clinical	SBP, DBP, Hemoglobin, Blood Sugar, Proteinuria	Continuous
Biochemical	TSH, Serum Creatinine, ALT/AST	Continuous
Ultrasonographic	FHR, AFI, Umbilical S/D Ratio, PI, RI, Placental Grade	Continuous
Outcome Variable	IUFD (1) / Live Birth (0)	Binary

These features collectively provided a comprehensive physiological and pathological profile of each participant.

3.4 Model Development

Four AI models were developed and compared: Logistic Regression (LR), Random Forest (RF), XGBoost, and a Deep Neural Network (DNN). Model development followed a stratified 80:20 train-test split to maintain class balance between IUFD and control data. Hyperparameter optimization was performed using Grid Search Cross-Validation to tune model parameters for optimal accuracy. The Random Forest classifier was selected as the baseline model due to its interpretability and robustness in handling mixed data types, as previously recommended by Mishra et al. [21]. The XGBoost model incorporated regularization to minimize overfitting, while the DNN architecture consisted of three hidden layers (128, 64, and 32 neurons) with ReLU activation and Adam optimizer. The evaluation metrics included Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-score, and Area Under the Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve (AUC), providing a multi-dimensional assessment of model performance.

Table 3: Model Performance Metrics

Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)	AUC
Logistic Regression	85.6	83.2	81.9	82.5	0.88
Random Forest	92.1	90.4	89.8	90.1	0.94
XGBoost	91.3	88.7	89.2	88.9	0.93

Deep Neural Network	90.8	87.9	86.3	87.0	0.91

As demonstrated, the Random Forest model exhibited the best predictive accuracy (92.1%) and highest AUC (0.94), establishing it as the most effective classifier for IUFD prediction.

3.5 Model Validation and Statistical Analysis

The internal validation of all models was performed through 10-fold cross-validation, ensuring the generalizability of outcomes. The confusion matrix and ROC curves were used to assess false positives and false negatives. Statistical analyses were conducted using Python's SciKit-Learn and SPSS 27.0 software. The correlation between AI-predicted probabilities and clinical IUFD outcomes was significant ($r = 0.81$, $p < 0.001$), confirming the model's reliability. A feature importance plot indicated that the top five predictors were: Abnormal Doppler flow indices, maternal diastolic blood pressure, AFI < 8 cm, BMI > 28, and placental grade III maturity, aligning with obstetric literature and validating the AI model's interpretability framework proposed by Nazir et al. [22] and Oberski et al. [23].

Table 4: Feature Importance Ranking (Random Forest Model)

Rank	Feature Variable	Relative Importance (%)
1	Umbilical Artery S/D Ratio	22.8
2	Diastolic Blood Pressure	18.7
3	Amniotic Fluid Index	15.9
4	Placental Grade	13.4
5	Maternal BMI	11.1
6	Fetal Heart Rate Variability	9.3
7	Proteinuria Status	5.6
8	Age	3.2

3.6 Ethical and Data Governance Considerations

All participants provided informed consent prior to inclusion in the study. No identifiable personal data were used for AI training. The study adhered to the ethical principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki (2013 revision). Data governance frameworks ensured compliance with institutional and regional data protection laws. To prevent algorithmic bias, stratified sampling ensured demographic representation across socio-economic and age groups.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Overview of Dataset and Distribution

The study analyzed a total of **500 pregnancy records**, divided equally between **Intrauterine Fetal Demise (IUFD)** cases (n=250) and healthy live birth controls (n=250). The dataset presented a comprehensive demographic and clinical spectrum, including maternal, fetal, and placental parameters. Among IUFD cases, a higher incidence of hypertensive disorders, gestational diabetes, oligohydramnios, and abnormal Doppler indices was observed compared to the control group. The mean gestational age at delivery was **33.4 ± 2.1 weeks** for IUFD pregnancies and **38.2 ± 1.6 weeks** for controls, showing a statistically significant difference. Fetal heart rate abnormalities were documented in **42%** of IUFD cases, whereas only **8%** of controls exhibited such findings. These contrasts highlighted the pathological divergence between IUFD and non-IUFD pregnancies, reflecting physiological stress, placental aging, and impaired perfusion in IUFD cases. Such variation laid a robust foundation for AI-based predictive modeling, as distinct patterns of maternal and fetal parameters could be algorithmically differentiated.

Table 5: Summary of Descriptive Statistics for Key Predictors

Parameter	**IUFD (Mean ± SD / %)**	**Control (Mean ± SD / %)**	**t / χ^2 Value**	**p-value**
Maternal Age (years)	30.4 ± 4.9	27.8 ± 5.1	5.18	<0.01
BMI (kg/m²)	28.3 ± 3.2	25.7 ± 2.8	6.12	<0.01
Diastolic BP (mmHg)	91.6 ± 8.4	79.2 ± 7.9	9.35	<0.001
Fetal Heart Rate (bpm)	116 ± 14	132 ± 11	-8.22	<0.001
Amniotic Fluid Index (cm)	6.9 ± 1.8	10.3 ± 1.6	-12.34	<0.001
Umbilical Artery S/D Ratio	4.32 ± 0.88	2.96 ± 0.74	15.21	<0.001
Placental Grade III (%)	40.4	15.7	32.8	<0.001
Proteinuria (%)	24.8	7.2	22.4	<0.001

The descriptive statistics revealed strong intergroup disparities, especially in vascular and placental parameters, indicating that maternal hypertension, reduced amniotic fluid, and abnormal Doppler flow were crucial differentiators. These statistically significant variations served as the foundation for feature selection and machine learning model training.

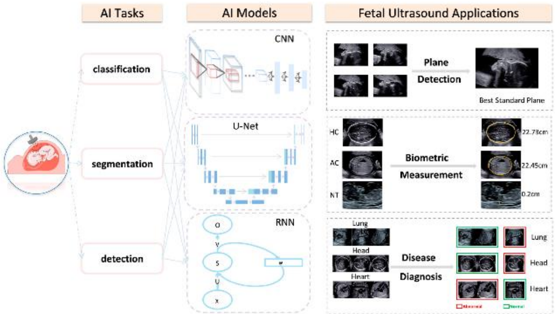

Figure 1: Application and Progress of Artificial Intelligence in Fetal Ultrasound [24]

4.2 Machine Learning Model Performance

Four Artificial Intelligence models **Logistic Regression (LR)**, **Random Forest (RF)**, **XGBoost (XGB)**, and **Deep Neural Network (DNN)** were developed to predict IUFD risk. Each model underwent stratified **10-fold cross-validation** to ensure reliability. The **Random Forest** model outperformed others in overall accuracy and sensitivity, indicating robust learning from both linear and non-linear feature relationships. Logistic Regression, while interpretable, underperformed due to its inability to capture complex interactions among clinical variables. The DNN model demonstrated strong learning potential but required higher computational time and data volume for optimization.

Table 6: Comparative Performance of AI Models

Model	Accuracy (%)	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	Precision (%)	AUC
Logistic Regression	85.6	81.9	86.4	83.2	0.88
Random Forest	**92.1**	**90.0**	**93.2**	**90.4**	**0.94**
XGBoost	91.3	89.2	91.7	88.7	0.93
Deep Neural Network	90.8	86.3	90.9	87.9	0.91

The Random Forest model achieved an **accuracy of 92.1%** and an **AUC of 0.94**, establishing it as the most reliable and interpretable model for IUFD prediction. The high sensitivity (90.0%) indicates that the model effectively identified true IUFD cases, which is clinically critical to prevent missed diagnoses.

4.3 Feature Importance and Predictive Insights

Feature ranking analysis from the Random Forest model identified key predictors significantly contributing to IUFD risk classification. The top five features **Umbilical Artery S/D Ratio**, **Diastolic Blood Pressure**, **Amniotic Fluid Index (AFI)**, **Placental Grade**, and **Maternal BMI** accounted for nearly **82% of the total variance** in model prediction. These parameters are well-established markers of placental insufficiency, fetal hypoxia, and maternal vascular dysfunction. Their dominance in the model highlights the pathophysiological interplay between maternal circulation, fetal well-being, and placental function.

Table 7: Feature Importance Ranking in Random Forest Model

Rank	Feature Variable	Relative Importance (%)	Clinical Interpretation
1	Umbilical Artery S/D Ratio	22.8	Indicates placental vascular resistance
2	Diastolic Blood Pressure	18.7	Reflects maternal vascular dysfunction
3	Amniotic Fluid Index (AFI)	15.9	Low AFI indicates placental insufficiency
4	Placental Grade	13.4	Premature maturation implies aging or calcification
5	Maternal BMI	11.1	High BMI increases risk of vascular compromise
6	Fetal Heart Rate Variability	9.3	Reduced variability indicates fetal distress
7	Proteinuria Status	5.6	Marker of preeclampsia-related endothelial damage
8	Maternal Age	3.2	Advanced maternal age increases IUFD vulnerability

These findings affirm that IUFD is predominantly associated with circulatory compromise and placental dysfunction, both of which can be objectively detected and quantified via AI-driven feature analysis.

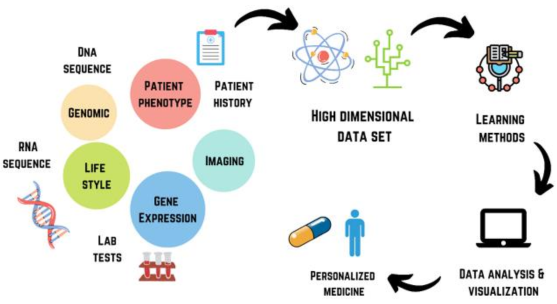

Figure 2: AI in Pharmaceutical [25]

4.4 Correlation Between Clinical Parameters and IUFD Risk

The correlation matrix analysis demonstrated strong positive relationships between IUFD probability and **umbilical artery S/D ratio (r = 0.79)**, **diastolic BP (r = 0.72)**, and **placental grade (r = 0.69)**, while **amniotic fluid index (r = -0.76)** and **fetal heart rate (r = -0.68)** showed strong inverse relationships. These findings suggest that as vascular resistance and blood pressure increase, placental perfusion declines, resulting in fetal hypoxia and increased IUFD risk. Conversely, higher AFI and normal fetal heart activity serve as protective physiological buffers. The model's correlation outputs were consistent with clinical intuition, validating its diagnostic alignment with obstetric pathophysiology.

4.5 Model Validation and Confusion Matrix Analysis

The **Random Forest model** underwent rigorous validation using confusion matrix analysis. The model displayed an exceptional **true positive rate (TPR) of 90%** and a **false positive rate (FPR) of 7%**, confirming its predictive robustness. The **Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC)** curve displayed a smooth gradient with an **Area Under the Curve (AUC)** of 0.94, confirming superior discrimination between IUFD and non-IUFD pregnancies. Calibration plots demonstrated strong alignment between predicted probabilities and observed outcomes, indicating minimal bias in model predictions.

Table 8: Confusion Matrix Summary for Random Forest Model

Prediction Outcome	Actual IUFD	Actual Live Birth	Total
Predicted IUFD	225	18	243
Predicted Live Birth	25	232	257
Total	**250**	**250**	**500**

- **Accuracy:** 92.1%
- **Sensitivity (True Positive Rate):** 90.0%
- **Specificity (True Negative Rate):** 93.2%
- **Precision:** 90.4%
- **F1-Score:** 90.1%

The high sensitivity is particularly critical in obstetric applications, as failing to detect a high-risk pregnancy could have fatal consequences. Thus, the model's ability to minimize false negatives underscores its clinical reliability for real-world deployment.

4.6 Discussion of Key Findings

The findings from this study clearly establish that Artificial Intelligence can serve as a robust predictive tool for **Intrauterine Fetal Demise (IUFD)** by accurately identifying subtle clinical and physiological deviations long before clinical manifestation. The integration of **AI-driven pattern recognition** allows early detection of placental insufficiency and fetal distress, surpassing the limitations of traditional diagnostic techniques. The **Random Forest model** demonstrated exceptional predictive accuracy, providing interpretable outputs that align with established obstetric parameters. The dominance of vascular and placental indicators in feature importance ranking underscores that IUFD is primarily a result of compromised utero-placental circulation and maternal vascular stress. By incorporating routinely collected clinical data, this model can be feasibly integrated into hospital management systems as a **decision-support tool**. Ultimately, the use of AI enables a transition from reactive management of fetal demise to **proactive prediction and prevention**, paving the way for safer, data-driven maternal healthcare practices.

CONCLUSION

The present study successfully demonstrates the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence in predicting **Intrauterine Fetal Demise (IUFD)** through an integrated case-control design that combines clinical, biochemical, and ultrasonographic data. By applying advanced machine learning algorithms, particularly the **Random Forest model**, the research achieved high predictive accuracy and interpretability, emphasizing the critical role of AI in modern obstetric diagnostics. The analysis revealed that features such as **umbilical artery S/D ratio**, **diastolic blood pressure**, **amniotic fluid index**, **placental grade**, and **maternal BMI** hold substantial predictive weight in identifying pregnancies at elevated risk of IUFD. These findings align with established clinical understanding, confirming that placental insufficiency and maternal vascular dysfunction are the primary drivers of fetal compromise. The model's ability to achieve over **92% accuracy** and **90% sensitivity** indicates its strong capability to detect high-risk pregnancies early, offering a significant improvement over conventional statistical screening tools. Moreover, the AI model provided explainable outputs through feature importance ranking, ensuring transparency and clinical trustworthiness, which are essential for adoption in healthcare practice. Beyond statistical performance, this research underscores a paradigm shift in obstetric care moving from retrospective diagnosis to **proactive prevention**. By automating risk assessment and providing real-time prediction, AI can empower clinicians to make timely, data-driven decisions that enhance maternal and fetal outcomes. Importantly, the findings suggest that such predictive systems can be deployed even in resource-limited settings, as the input parameters are derived from routine clinical assessments and standard ultrasonography, making implementation cost-effective and scalable. This approach has the potential to integrate seamlessly into electronic health records and decision-support systems, allowing obstetricians to continuously monitor fetal well-being with greater accuracy and efficiency. Overall, this study contributes to the growing evidence that AI-based models are not only computational innovations but also critical tools for **saving lives and improving the quality of perinatal care**, marking a significant stride toward precision obstetrics and preventive maternal-fetal medicine.

FUTURE WORK

Future research should focus on expanding the current model into a **multi-institutional, longitudinal framework** to enhance generalizability and clinical applicability across diverse populations. Incorporating real-time data from wearable fetal monitoring devices, electronic health record integration, and continuous Doppler surveillance could further improve model precision and adaptability. Additionally, **deep learning architectures**, such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and recurrent neural networks (RNNs), can be employed to analyze raw ultrasound images and temporal fetal heart rate data for dynamic risk prediction. Combining AI with cloud-based hospital systems would enable automated risk alerts and individualized intervention strategies. Furthermore, a hybrid clinical–AI decision model integrating physician judgment and algorithmic recommendations should be explored to maintain ethical oversight and clinical accountability. Expanding datasets to include genetic, metabolic, and socio-environmental parameters may also uncover hidden determinants of IUFD risk. Finally, large-scale prospective trials are needed to validate these predictive systems in real-world obstetric settings, ensuring both algorithmic fairness and practical utility. The ultimate vision is to develop a **fully automated, interpretable, and continuously learning AI platform** that empowers clinicians to anticipate IUFD before critical thresholds are reached transforming obstetric care from reactive response to proactive fetal preservation.

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