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Internet of Medical Things and the Evolution of Healthcare 4.0: Exploring Recent Trends

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ABSTRACT Enhanced patient care and remote health monitoring have always been important issues. Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) is a subsection of Healthcare 4.0 that uses recent technologies like mobile computing, medical sensors, and cloud computing to track patients' medical information in real-time. These data are stored in a cloud computing framework that may be accessed and analyzed by healthcare experts. IoMT and Healthcare 4.0 have immense potential for revolutionizing patient care and diagnostics, despite facing numerous complex challenges. This paper thoroughly analyzes technical, structural, and regulatory obstacles encountered by the healthcare sector. Challenges in IoMT implementation include cost considerations, network stress, interoperability issues, ethical limitations, policy intricacies, security concerns, and vulnerabilities jeopardizing patient privacy. However, amidst these challenges, the study highlights the prospective long-term benefits, including diminished medical costs and enhanced patient care. In this study, we have portrayed a comprehensive exploration of the field of IoMT and different related technologies from more than 100 papers to represent the transformation and growth in this decade. We have illustrated some of the significant findings of applications and innovations in the domain of IoMT. This paper delves into IoMT's application in dementia detection and care, improved data management, fortified cybersecurity measures, and modernizing existing healthcare systems. The study also offers valuable insights into potential mitigation strategies, offered by ongoing research and innovation to address emerging trends and challenges, propelling the trajectory of Healthcare 4.0 towards an optimized and transformative future for patient well-being. Hence future research needs to integrate more prudent technologies addressing challenges including security, privacy, interoperability, and implementation costs.

INDEX TERMS: Cybersecurity measures, dementia detection, Ethics, Healthcare 4.0, IoMT, patient privacy

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of "Internet of Things (IoT)" refers to the integration of internet connectivity into physical or embedded devices ("things"), enabling them to communicate with other devices, services, and individuals worldwide. This interconnectedness enhances reliability, sustainability, and efficiency through better information accessibility [1]. The IoT has evolved into a sprawling network of interconnected physical objects, facilitating data exchange through the Internet. The exponential growth of IoT has resulted in approximately 10 billion connected devices, with projections soaring to 25 billion by 2025. These "smart" entities, embedded with software, either enhance existing functionalities or introduce new features. Amid this technological revolution, the healthcare sector has witnessed a paradigm shift with the emergence of the Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) [2]. IoMT is a rapidly growing sector of the IoT, and it is attracting increasing interest from researchers because of its extensive potential in Smart

Healthcare systems (SHS)[3]. The COVID-19 pandemic witnessed the crucial need for continuous health monitoring during pre- and post-infection stages. IoMT seamlessly stepped into this critical role, enabling remote patient monitoring, screening, and treatment through telehealth[4]. The revenue generated by IoMT-based systems has grown a few billion. This growth trajectory is poised to attract many investors into IoMT-based systems.

While IoMT promises transformative benefits, security remains an issue. The heterogeneous environment of IoT, encompassing devices, protocols, and operating systems, elevates susceptibility to cyber-attacks. The primary motivation for targeting IoMT is the high value of patient data for monitoring and treatment, with the estimated mean cost of IoMT data being 50 times higher than in other sectors. Compounding the challenge, IoMT devices, such as CCTV (closed-circuit television cameras), often lack patch update facilities, necessitating replacement in the face of identified

vulnerabilities. Recognizing the imperative nature of security, diverse strategies are employed to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of IoMT-based systems. Symmetric and asymmetric key cryptography are the tools for safeguarding against data leakage. Keyless techniques, such as the use of biometry, blockchain technology, and proxy-based security, play a crucial role in addressing broader security and privacy concerns. These keyless techniques exhibit sensitivity to anomalies in the system, aiding in the detection of both known and novel cyber-attacks.

Rizk, et al. have significantly enhanced IoMT security [5]. Innovative microarchitectures, taxonomic reviews, and generalized IoMT structures have been proposed to improve efficiency, security, and understanding of heterogeneous features in IoMT applications. Integration of advanced technologies such as cloud as well as edge computing and artificial intelligence has been explored to fortify IoMT against evolving cyber threats. Despite these efforts, a comprehensive understanding of the security and privacy aspects of IoMT is still evolving. This paper takes a holistic approach, presenting motivations, security requirements, concerns, and future research directions. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of IoMT applications, paving the way for further advancements in this emerging research area.

Healthcare 4.0 signifies a fundamental shift in healthcare systems, driven by digitization and the integration of technologies like the IoT, AI, and cloud computing. This paradigm embraces adjustments in health-management systems, employing cloud computing and mobile communications for continuous and precise clinical image

assessments through digitalization. Sun et al. focused on optimizing healthcare resource utilization within existing constraints, particularly in the prompt processing and evaluation of medical big data [6]. Ghubaish et al. proposed innovative security measures for IoMT systems, analyzing potential physical and network threats [7]. Amidst global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, where healthcare systems face strain, Healthcare 4.0 responds with AI-driven diagnostics and personalized medicine, improving treatment outcomes and healthcare access through telehealth services [8]. IoMT is poised to revolutionize the healthcare sector further and is anticipated to expand with advancements in data analytics, sensor technology, and connectivity. IoMT can connect more devices whether it be medical or lifestyle, enabling early detection of health issues and facilitating early intervention to reduce complications, remote patient care, and real-time monitoring [9]. The symbiosis of IoT, IoMT, and Healthcare 4.0 (FIGURE 1) offers a transformative path towards a future where healthcare is not only accessible but also technologically advanced, ensuring improved outcomes and enhanced quality of life for individuals globally.

This paper aims to comprehensively explore the contribution possibilities of IoMT in healthcare infrastructure and its role in the transition towards Healthcare 5.0. The integration of IoT with healthcare systems necessitates robust security and privacy measures due to the vast amount of data it generates, making it an attractive target for malicious actors. The article also aims to discuss recent research outcomes for seamless integration and data exchange among diverse IoMT devices. Finally, the paper also deals with AI/ML-mediated insights

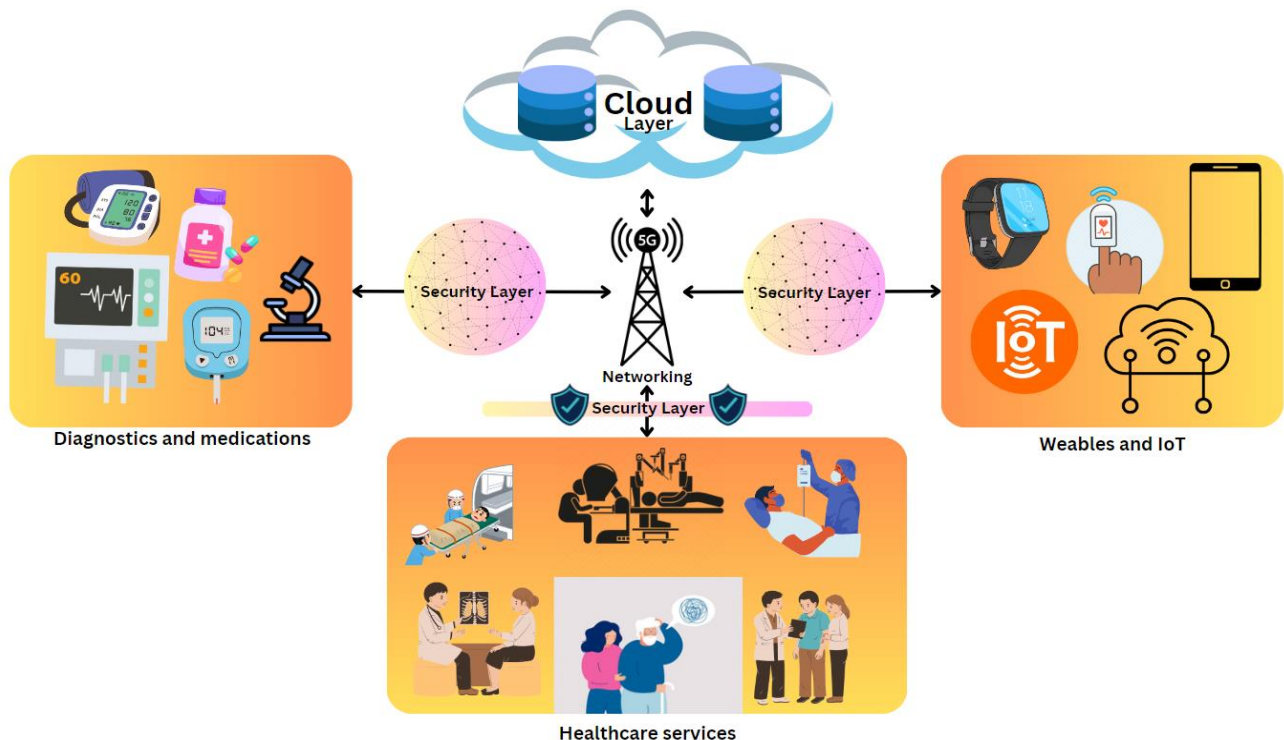


FIGURE 1. IoMT and healthcare infrastructure

into the huge data generated for disease prediction, biomarker identification, and the adoption of IoMT technologies in real-life clinical practice.

A. IoMT transforming healthcare infrastructure

In this comprehensive review, we aim to embark on an exploration of the dynamic intersection between the IoMT and Healthcare 4.0, unraveling the evolution and intricacies of these transformative paradigms.

B. IoMT and prospective security

Beginning with the Evolution of the IoMT, we trace its origins and transformative journey. We then dissect the mechanics of IoMT, elucidating how IoMT works by examining its layers, diverse technologies, and the effective management of interconnected components. Technologies

Integrated with IoMT, showcase the fusion of Virtual Reality (VR), Merged Reality (MR), Augmented Reality (AR), networking solutions, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Big data Visualization, and analytics (BDVA), and Blockchain in shaping the future of healthcare. Highlighting the main aspects and challenges of IoMT and Healthcare 4.0, the review concludes with an examination of the present and future interplay between Healthcare 4.0 and IoMT, providing a holistic perspective on the ongoing transformation in the realm of healthcare.

II. EVOLUTION OF THE IOMT AND HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

The IoMT evolution marks a transformative era in healthcare, integrating diverse technologies. AI and ML enhance diagnostics and monitor conditions. Blockchain

TABLE 1
Emerging technological confluence in healthcare: a multifaceted integration with IoMT

Technology	Methodology	Purposes	References
Artificial Intelligence /Machine Learning	ML and AI	Diagnostics	[10]
	DL	Computed Tomography scans	[11]
	L-RNN	Forecasting missing data	[12]
	Partial Tree & Random Forest	Brain tumor detection	[13]
	AI/ML	Cardiovascular Disease Monitoring	[14]
	Deep RNN methods	More efficient in terms of latency, error rate, etc.	[15]
	Big-Data	Addressing issues in sustainable ICT	[16], [17]
	AI/ML	Detect DDoS attacks	[18]
Blockchain	Blockchain mediated IoMT	Stress Vigilance	[19]
	Blockchain-based authentication	Decentralization, reliability, and security.	[20]
	Blockchain	Secure management of EHR	[21], [22]
Cryptography	Symmetric and Asymmetric	Security Criteria of Medical Data	[23]
PUF	Host tracking	Tracing in the crowded area.	[24]
	Sensors	Secure physical measurements	[25]
	Devices	Securely monitor patients	[26]
SDN	SDN orchestration	Cyber threats mitigation	[27]
	IoMT cyber training framework	Orthopedic surgery	[28]
	Non-Orthogonal Multiple Access scheduling method	Improved in energy efficiency, network delay	[29]
	IoT-enabled e-healthcare temperance system	Traffic Vigilance	[30]
	IoMT + AI + blockchain	Security management	[31]
CPS	Big data	Mobile healthcare environmental monitoring	[32]
WSN	Public health intelligent systems based on wireless sensor networks	Home care monitoring systems	[33]
Computing Technology	DL	Wearable device for diagnosis	[34]
	Embedded NN Techniques	Healthcare mobile devices	[35]
	Cloud Computing	Healthcare solutions	[36]
	Edge Computing	Healthcare Framework	[37]
	Edge computing + cloud framework	Voice disorder treatments	[38]

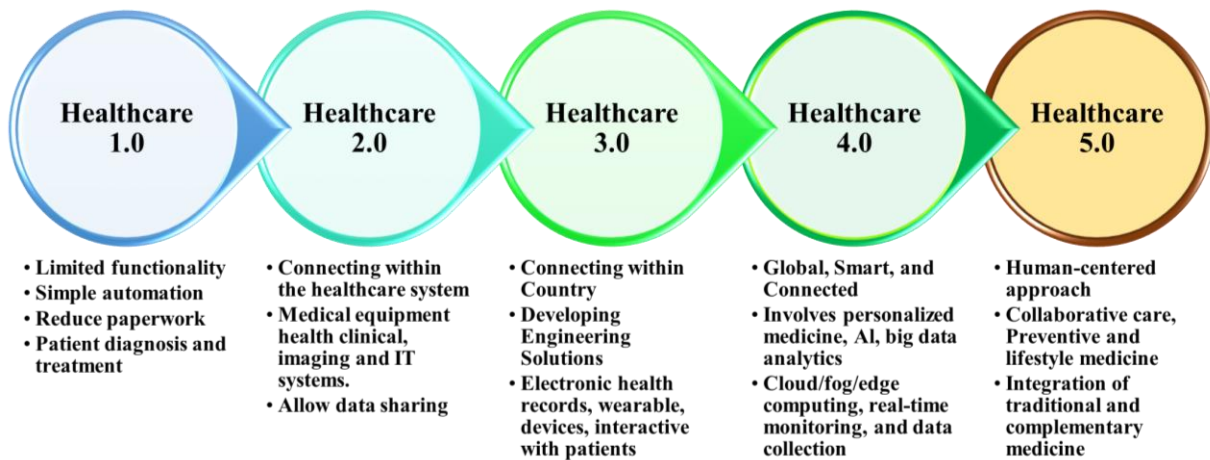


FIGURE 2. Healthcare evolution

ensures secure medical devices and health record management. Cryptography protects sensitive data, while Physical Unclonable Function (PUF) tech enables secure tracking. Software-defined networking (SDN) and IoMT collaborate to manage cyber threats. Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) monitor environments and Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN) aid public health and home care. This amalgamation (TABLE 1) fosters a connected, efficient, and secure healthcare ecosystem, vital for improved patient care and management. Similarly, in a work by Jabeen et al., an intelligent healthcare system is proposed utilizing Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN) [39]. Nano-sensors collect real-time health data and transmit it to a server. To mitigate concerns regarding time consumption and security, a genetic-based encryption method and an authentication procedure are suggested. Results demonstrate notable enhancements in efficiency and security.

The healthcare industry has undergone a transformative journey, evolving from Healthcare 1.0 to Healthcare 5.0, [41] driven by technological advancements and a focus on patient-centric care. This development anticipates a future where technology seamlessly becomes part of every facet of healthcare, granting patients more control and enhancing outcomes with the adoption of IoMT technologies. Illustrated in FIGURE 2, this evolution delineates the potential development of healthcare, aligning with the transformative capabilities of IoMT.

III. LAYERS OF IoMT: THE SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

Most IoMTs have three layers namely the things layer, fog layer, and cloud layer as depicted in FIGURE 3. The “things” layer consists of devices directly in contact with the patients, viz., patient monitoring devices, medical records, sensors, pharmacy management tools, and a nutrition plan generator. Data from patient wearables and remote healthcare services are collected in this layer and considered very sensitive. The collected data is then processed further at the fog and cloud layers to derive valuable insights. Healthcare professionals can access patient data via local routers, ensuring fast and efficient healthcare delivery [42]. The fog layer acts as an intermediary between the devices and the cloud layer,

comprising local servers as well as gateway devices that form a sparsely distributed fog-networking framework. Utilizing local processing power, it enables real-time responses to users and directs data from servers to the cloud layer. The cloud layer comprises data storage. It provides extensive coverage for integrating large-scale medical and healthcare systems to manage daily operations efficiently[43].

Within this layer, data generated from medical infrastructure is stored and retrieved when required. The Security Layer employs firewalls and encryption to protect against cyber threats [44]. The Application Layer provides access to data for healthcare professionals through electronic health records and apps. The Regulatory Layer ensures compliance with standards like HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.) and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), establishing a secure IoMT framework [45], [46].

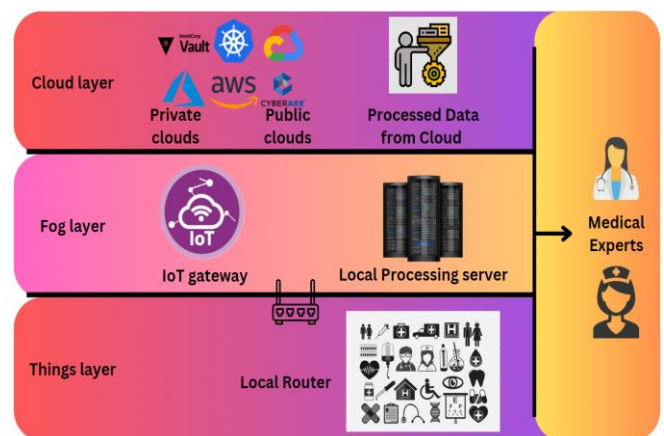


FIGURE 3. The interconnections of layers and medical experts

IV. ADVANCED SENSORS AND IoMT INTEGRATION FOR PERSONALIZED PATIENT CARE

IoMT applications rely on distinct sensor types within the architecture. They can be categorized as Disposable sensors, connected sensors, market cap sensors, and miscellaneous sensors. Disposable e-health sensors like MAX30205 and

MLX90614 respond to parameters such as temperature and pressure [47]. Connected e-health sensors maintain continuous connectivity, ensuring consistent communication [48]. IoMT market cap sensors like Kardia Heart (KH) and Smart Thermometer (ST) are prominent for home-based health monitoring, including wearable fitness sensors. Specialized miscellaneous sensors focus on the well-being of gravid women. The Internet of DNA (IoDNA) is pivotal for predicting genetic defects in newborns, representing a milestone in advanced medication systems and genome mapping. TABLE 2 provides a summary of their costing and product aspects.

V. IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGIES USED FOR IoMT

A. BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

It embodies the potential to revolutionize healthcare by securely storing and transferring patient data through a resistant to modification chain. It ensures accuracy, transparency, and security in managing medical records, reducing errors, and improving data security. Essential elements include data provenance, decentralized management, robustness, security, and privacy [49]. Blockchain plugin technology establishes a secure and immutable connection among data repositories. An example is 'MedBlock,' which provides highly secure access control for efficient Electronic Medical Record (EMR) access. 'Healthcare Data Gateway (HDG)' by Yue et al. leverages blockchain for privacy-compliant patient information sharing [50]. In the context of combating COVID-19, 'CoviChain' facilitates secure data transfer of infected persons to the hospital system using edge infrastructure [51]. Alsamhi et al. implemented a blockchain configuration for multi-robot and decentralized multi-drone systems addressing COVID-19 challenges [52].

B. PHYSICALLY UNCLONABLE FUNCTION (PUF)

PUF devices generate unique fingerprints or cryptographic keys for vulnerable elements. These distinctive fingerprints or signatures result from variations in the fabrication process of these devices, enhancing the security of devices

particularly when the end devices, such as sensors, are susceptible to hardware tampering attacks [53].

C. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

AI/Machine Learning (ML) and Natural Language Processing (NLP), are integral parts of IoMT and Healthcare 4.0, particularly in precision medicine and various healthcare applications. AI facilitates real-time solutions, analyzing historical and current data for personalized treatment plans, diagnostics, and decision-making processes [54]. AI-based classifiers can automate tasks such as patient information capture, appointment scheduling, lab test determination, treatment planning, medication recommendations, and surgical procedures. NLP assists in extracting information from unstructured data, such as lab reports and examination notes. In Healthcare 4.0, AI revolutionizes diagnostics through the analysis of medical images, patient data, and genetic information. It expedites drug discovery by predicting pharmaceutical compound efficacy and identifying potential lead compounds. AI also enhances remote monitoring, enabling prompt intervention based on detected anomalies. AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants are very popular. Disease prediction, telesurgery, and real-time communication in Healthcare 4.0 leverage AI, transforming healthcare delivery and patient care.

D. SOFTWARE-DEFINED NETWORKING (SDN)

SDN divides IoMT network architecture into the data plane and control plane components. The data plane forwards traffic, while the control plane enables informed decision-making. SDN, with standardized protocols like OpenFlow, Open Switch Database Management Protocol, and OF-CONFIG, facilitates interaction between the data and control planes. Through standardized interfaces, data from the IoMT's data plane can be collected externally, potentially from a cloud-based server using OpenFlow, enabling various e-healthcare applications [55]. Similarly, in a work by Rahaman et.al.[56]present a patient-centric agent-based medical framework for IoMT networks, focusing on information security and utilizing Hyperledger Fabric Network for secure data maintenance and communication. They propose a mobile application for easy adaptation of the

Table 2:
Commercial Biosensors used in IoMT and their respective usage

Product	Cost	Disease/ Monitoring	Type of Sensor	Reference
Proteus Digital Monitor	Very high	Diabetes and Hypertension	Clinical biometric	https://www.proteus.com/
OM signal	High	Wellness care	Brain and fitness	http://omsignal.com/
Thalmic Labs	High	Virtual reality of health status	Home monitoring	https://www.bynorth.com/
BabyBe	High	Biosignal between mother and premature infant	Sleep, infant, and woman care	http://www.babybemedical.com/
AdhereTech	Low	Regular medication	Clinical	https://www.adheretech.com/
CYCORE	Average	Cancer	Clinical Biometric	http://cycore.ucsd.edu/
Halo Neuroscience	Average	Cognitive task management	Brain and fitness	https://www.haloneuro.com/
Volunits	Very High	Cancer self-management	Clinical	https://www.volunitis.com/

model, enabling convenient access to healthcare services and facilitating remote healthcare monitoring. In **FIGURE 4**, SDN-enabled IoMT architecture IoMT devices are shown to connect to e-healthcare applications, potentially in the cloud, using the SDN control plane at the fog layer. The control plane aggregates IoMT device data for specific areas like security, privacy, patient diagnosis, or safety. The northbound interface is crucial for communication between the SDN control plane and AI applications, allowing data collection and command implementation onto IoMT devices.

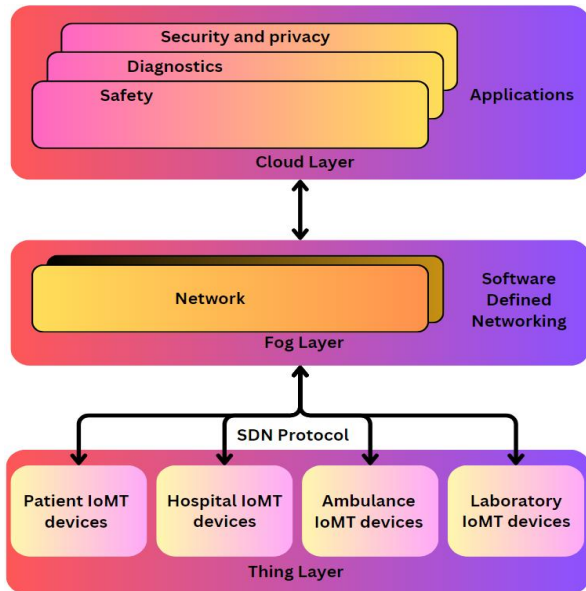


FIGURE 4: The Architectural structure of SDN with Fog and Cloud layers in IoMT.

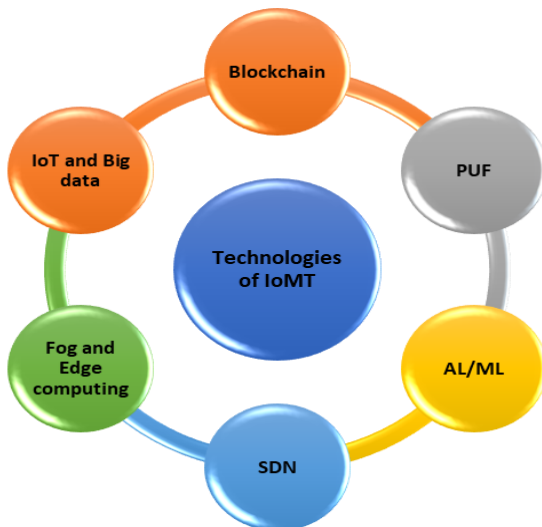


Figure 5. Representation of different technologies in IoMT

E. FOG COMPUTING AND EDGE COMPUTING

Healthcare cloud computing provides access to a shared pool of customizable resources, streamlining rapid provisioning and release with minimal management involvement. It securely stores, processes, and shares medical data in the cloud, offering a cost-effective solution that promotes seamless collaboration and accessibility to data from

anywhere at any time. Fog computing integrates cloud computing into the IoT, decentralizing data processing for improved response times and reduced latency, providing flexibility in data processing operations, and allowing rapid adaptation to changing demands [57]. Edge computing (**FIGURE 5**) minimizes network latency by locally processing data instead of transmitting it to a cloud-based server. This enhances processing speed, reduces costs, and improves the security of patient data. Edge computing enables the storage of large data volumes closer to the network edge, facilitating faster and more secure data processing [58].

F. VIRTUAL, MIXED, AND AUGMENTED REALITY

Virtual, Mixed, and Augmented Reality (VR, MR, and AR) offer a wide range of applications within the Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) framework, spanning clinical/therapeutic, business/industry, and education/training domains in healthcare. VR aids in treating mental health conditions such as anxiety disorders, stress, and PTSD through exposure therapy and relaxation techniques, and enables customized rehabilitation programs for motor skill recovery and cognitive training. VR distracts patients from pain sensations by immersing them in engaging virtual environments, reducing the need for analgesics. It also facilitates lifestyle interventions by simulating healthy behaviors and promoting physical activity and assists in monitoring patients undergoing cancer treatment, providing immersive experiences for distraction during chemotherapy sessions [59]. AR superimposes computer-generated images onto the real world and is beneficial for visualizing invisible concepts, annotating navigation, and reducing stress and anxiety in quarantined patients [60]. In medical training, Fundamental VR provides simulation training for surgeons, XVision Augmedics incorporates 3D representation for an X-ray vision-like effect [61], and Oxford VR focuses on alleviating fear and other attributes associated with mental disorders[62]. These applications showcase the broad impact of immersive technologies in the healthcare sector within the IoMT framework.



FIGURE 6. Comprehensive characteristics of BDVA

G. BIG DATA VISUALIZATION AND ANALYTICS

Big Data involves the collection, storage, and analysis of vast datasets to gain insights into patient care and health outcomes. Data-driven analytics and machine learning help in the prediction of early diagnoses, treatment plans, and medication choices [63]. Big Data Visualization and Analytics (BDVA) has emerged as a crucial tool for analyzing the substantial volume of data generated by IoMT devices. BDVA collects data from wearable sensors, climate, temperature, environment, location, and medical sources, presenting it in structured, unstructured, and semi-structured formats [64]. Cloud computing integrates and visualizes the data, while database analytics processes it for extraction, cleaning, and statistical analysis before use by doctors or remotely [65]. BDVA principles are encapsulated in the "V's" of big data analytics as shown in [FIGURE 6](#) [66]. Visualization and Visibility are pivotal in the coherent representation and accessibility of healthcare insights, while Virality acknowledges the transformative potential of medical data. The Virtual dimension integrates intelligence into IoMT datasets, fostering innovation and optimizing patient-centric healthcare paradigms.

VI. THE TREND AND APPLICATION OF HEALTHCARE 4.0 AND IoMT

A. DRONES AND ROBOTICS

Drones serve as versatile and cost-effective tools in healthcare, efficiently delivering medical supplies to remote areas and enhancing emergency services. They are crucial in mass testing, surveillance, and medical deliveries during global health challenges. Diagnostic drones equipped with thermal imaging contribute to early infection detection. Additionally, drones are deployed for efficient disinfection, showcasing their potential to revolutionize medical logistics and emergency response systems, improving healthcare delivery [67], [68]. The integration of robotics in smart healthcare applications represents a transformative advancement, enhancing diagnostic precision and enabling swift responses to medical emergencies. Robots automate routine tasks, streamline operations, and improve efficiency while safeguarding healthcare workers. Despite benefits, there are risks, including over-reliance on technology [69]. Striking a balance between technological integration and human-centric care is crucial for preserving the quality of patient care. Comprehensive risk management strategies are necessary to address potential malfunctions and errors in healthcare settings [58, 59].

B. SMART HOMES

Assisted living, an important form of long-term care, supports elderly as well as disabled individuals with daily activities, promoting comfort and minimizing hospitalization [72]. Telepresence and videoconferencing robotic solutions ensure continuous monitoring, fostering communication, and offering educational and therapeutic activities [73]. Integrating AI into ambient intelligence systems enhances data processing, enabling automatic alerts and emergency

assistance [74]. Smart homes with IoT devices revolutionize healthcare through IoMT integration, monitoring vital health data. Smart Healthcare at Home (SHAH) combines Digital Twins, IoMT, and AI for real-time monitoring and safety [75]. IoMT-based remote patient monitoring faces challenges, yet breakthroughs in wearable technology, AI, edge computing, and 5G are propelling Healthcare 4.0 systems, transforming healthcare delivery [76]. In summary, IoT and IoMT integration in smart homes bring personalized healthcare, while ongoing advancements shape the trajectory of Healthcare 4.0 systems. Smart home environments with IoMT devices enable personalized medical care, reducing the need for hospitalization.

C. PERSONALISED HEALTHCARE AND DIGITAL TWINS

Personalized healthcare utilizes technology to tailor medical treatments to individual patient characteristics, incorporating data on medical history, lifestyle, and genetics to design customized treatment plans [77]. Digital Twins (DT), initially used in industrial manufacturing, are now integrated into healthcare, notably in the IoMT context [78]. DT models optimize medical resource allocation, aiding in personnel, equipment, and appointment management. These models also assist in understanding patient needs and predicting future trends, proving valuable during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. In healthcare, Digital Organs create models based on extensive medical data to investigate hypotheses and improve services without human experimentation [79]. AI/ML methods are used to train models for reliable predictions and diagnoses.

D. REHABILITATION

The integration of IoMT technologies into smart rehabilitation systems is facilitated through an ontology-based automated design method [80]. This approach ensures efficient remote consultations within comprehensive rehabilitation programs. Notable examples include an integrated application system designed for correctional facilities, a medical rehabilitation system tailored for smart cities [69, 70], and a language training system designed to support children with autism. These IoMT-based rehabilitation systems showcase the versatility and potential impact of smart healthcare services in improving accessibility, personalization, and efficiency within the realm of physical medicine.

E. TELEMEDICINE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The IoMT has transformed healthcare management, particularly in chronic disease care. Continuous monitoring through IoMT allows early intervention, such as with COPD patients monitored via smartphone platforms, which detect exacerbation signs and reduce hospitalizations [83]. IoMT improves medication management systems, ensuring accurate prescription, administration, and documentation, with examples like intelligent packaging and RFID tags enhancing medication control. Additionally, IoMT facilitates telemedicine, granting access to medical data from various locations, and offering real-time drug monitoring and

personalized dosing through innovations like smart pills. In wheelchair management, IoMT enhances patient safety and efficiency by providing safe movement, reducing risks of falls, and optimizing staff time. IoT-based wheelchair healthcare systems demonstrate IoMT's potential in evaluating location accessibility through vital signs and environmental data, enhancing patient care, safety, and efficiency. Notable healthcare apps like Aarogya Setu for COVID-19 contact tracing and Beat-O for diabetes management exemplify the evolving digital health landscape, while alternative devices like One or Fitbit's Zip regale to fitness tracking independently of smartphones, addressing diverse user preferences [84].

F. IoMT-DRIVEN CONTINUOUS HEALTH MONITORING

Continuous health monitoring, driven by the IoMT, is transforming healthcare by providing real-time insights into patients' vital signs, reducing unnecessary doctor visits, and enabling personalized treatment plans [85]. Wearable multi-parameter continuous cardiac monitoring systems are particularly valuable for managing chronic conditions like diabetes, diabetic retinopathy, and heart diseases, ensuring ongoing health surveillance [86], [87]. Despite IoMT's potential, concerns about privacy and safety risks persist, especially with health data transmission. However, IoMT adoption has improved patient and healthcare provider experiences, particularly through remote patient monitoring, facilitating timely care delivery and real-time health assessments. Continuous glucose monitoring, like, Dexcom Continuous Glucose Monitoring and DexcomG7 (pediatric), key IoMT components, revolutionizes diabetes management by automating glucose level monitoring and issuing alerts for deviations [40]. While IoMT-driven continuous health monitoring holds promise, careful attention to privacy, security, and potential risks is crucial. Continuous monitoring of depression and mood using IoT devices empowers individuals to recognize triggers and manage mental health proactively. Clinicians benefit from tracking depression and mood data over time, enabling personalized treatment plans and collaboration with mental health professionals, enhancing understanding of depression's long-term effects [88]. Monitoring Parkinson's disease progression through IoT devices provides valuable insights for doctors, facilitating adjustments to treatment plans and leading to the identification of more effective therapies. Utilizing IoT devices for monitoring movements and behavioral changes enables informed adjustments to therapies, optimizing disease management and improving patient outcomes in Parkinson's disease [89].

G. DEMENTIA AND MANAGING EARLY SIGNS OF COGNITIVE DECLINE

As a network of interconnected devices and applications, the IoMT serves as a healthcare-focused extension, providing timely support to patients through wired or wireless connections. This significantly enhances healthcare infrastructure and improves quality of life. Catarinucci et al. [90] introduced a real-time smart hospital system based on IoT, utilizing wireless sensor networks and mobile devices

interconnected through REST architecture. Patient data collected by this system is transmitted to a central repository, accessible via a monitoring app. Islam et al. [91] explored diverse IoT-based healthcare architectures, emphasizing applications in child and elderly care, and utilizing various medical sensors for patient monitoring. Baker et al. [92] proposed an IoT-based healthcare model applicable to routine outpatient department (OPD) visits and emergency medical conditions. Dziak et al. [93] suggested an IoT-based home care system for the elderly, focusing on those with health or memory issues. These examples showcase the diverse applications of IoT and IoMT in healthcare, reflecting efforts to enhance patient care and well-being. Specific research initiatives also target early detection and monitoring of neurodegenerative conditions like dementia and Parkinson's disease, utilizing IoT technologies for early detection and personalized care approaches.

H. APPLICATIONS OF AI/ML AND IoMT

Jiang et al. (2017) highlighted AI applications in various diseases, including cancers, nervous system disorders, cardiovascular issues, urogenital conditions, pregnancy-related concerns, digestive disorders, respiratory issues, skin conditions, and endocrine/nutritional disorders [94]. Pantanowitz et al. (2020) developed AI algorithms for detecting and evaluating digitized slides of prostate core needle biopsies [95]. IBM Watson, as demonstrated by Somashekhar et al. [96], showed reliability in cancer diagnosis. Esteva et al. (2017) employed AI to analyze clinical images and identify skin cancer subtypes. Bouton et al. (2018) created an AI system for quadriplegic patients to restore movement control [85, 86]. AI applications extend to controlling upper-limb prostheses, improving congenital anomaly diagnosis accuracy, diagnosing heart disease through cardiac images, automating ventricle segmentations with 'Arterys' Cardio DL, diagnosing gastric cancer based on abnormal genetic expression of long non-coding RNAs, and localizing neural injuries using electrodiagnosis support systems, as developed by Shin et al. These advancements highlight AI's multifaceted role in enhancing healthcare diagnosis and treatment [99].

VII. THREATS IN IoMT COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

In the perception layer, various communication technologies, including Infrared (IR), RFID, Near Field Communication (NFC), Bluetooth/BLE, and Z-Wave, present inherent security challenges that can be susceptible to compromise. IR communications lack embedded security controls, exposing vulnerabilities if an attacker intercepts the IR beam, though this threat can be mitigated by requiring proximity [100]. RFID communications, despite widespread use, often lack inherent protection for embedded data. RFID implementations can be strengthened through symmetric key encryption or signature-based integrity control. NFC security employs protocols for key exchange, data encryption, and integrity checks using the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) algorithm, introducing unique security considerations

for each operational mode [101]. Wearable devices, like smartwatches acting as pulse oximeters, are vulnerable due to Bluetooth communication protocols. Attackers can gain unauthorized access by pairing with the device during data transmission to a smartphone, accessing sensitive medical data due to the lack of authentication between connections. Strengthening authentication processes and avoiding automatic pairing are crucial to mitigate such threats. Bluetooth/BLE, in a secure simple pairing (SSP) in mode 4 can enhance service-level security, mitigating Man-In-The-Middle (MITM) attacks through encryption based on device-specific identifiers [102]. Z-Wave protocols incorporate encryption and behavior detection, ensuring data confidentiality and integrity through AES encryption and shared keys. Monitoring devices, including cameras and alarm systems, are susceptible to hacking. Protection involves advanced intrusion detection systems and robust authentication protocols to detect and prevent misuse or interference with patient care. COAP and MQTT protocols, primarily at the application layer, are at risk, emphasizing the need for comprehensive security measures across all IoMT communication layers [103].

VIII. CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS: HEALTHCARE 4.0 AND IOMT

IoMT encounters technological limitations, emphasizing the need to overcome challenges in accurate data acquisition, interoperability, bandwidth constraints, service quality, extended battery life, and sensor compatibility (FIGURE 7). Advances in wearable technology, AI, edge computing, and 5G are critical drivers for overcoming limitations and enhancing IoMT effectiveness in healthcare [104]. IoMT implementation incurs significant costs, covering hardware, software, and data management, with long-term benefits of reduced medical costs and improved outcomes. Network stress arises due to healthcare organizations lacking seamless IoMT device integration infrastructure. Interoperability demands standardization for smooth data exchange. Ethical concerns on patient data privacy accompany IoMT, urging a balance between leveraging data for healthcare and privacy protection [105].

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020–2025 aimed at bolstering health systems globally through digital health technologies, with a focus on empowering patients, health professionals, and healthcare providers toward achieving universal health coverage. Across various regions, countries have embraced digital health policies, such as the European Union's reinforcement of privacy laws through GDPR since May 2018. In Asia, particularly Southeast and East Asia, countries like Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand have witnessed remarkable strides in digital healthcare adoption. However, India faces hurdles in implementing widespread digitization due to capacity shortages, rural transportation challenges, financial constraints, and social stigmas surrounding certain health conditions. Indian officials are insisting on a growing call for a clear and comprehensive

data protection framework, as advocated by former Supreme Court justice B. N. Srikrishna, emphasizing the need to prevent arbitrary government interventions. Moreover, in light of high out-of-pocket healthcare expenses in India, it is imperative for the government to prioritize the development of such a framework and invest in enhancing infrastructure, personnel, and facilities to ensure widespread access to affordable and user-friendly digital healthcare services for the population[106].

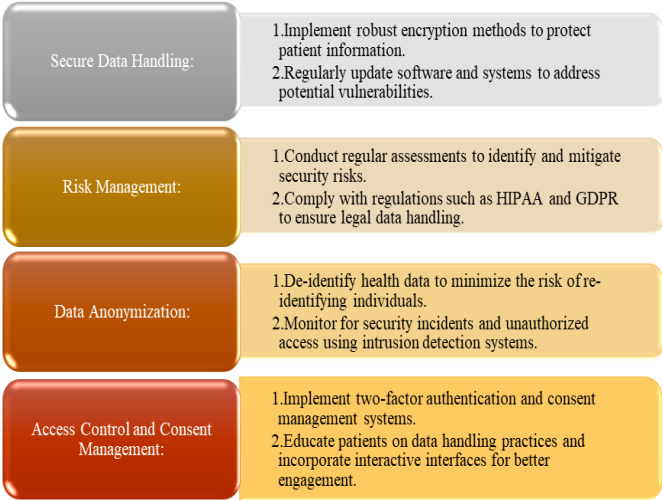


FIGURE 7. The challenges and possible mitigation strategies in IoMT implementation and execution

Policies and standardization issues complicate IoMT progress, with efforts for unified policies. Security vulnerabilities necessitate secure databases and regular updates. Challenges specific to IoMT in dementia care include processing vast healthcare data, network security, outdated infrastructure, and lacking standard IoMT equipment. Addressing these challenges is crucial for unlocking IoMT's full potential in healthcare [107].

IX. CONCLUSIONS

The integration of the IoMT and Healthcare 4.0 promises a revolutionary impact on healthcare services, emphasizing advancements in hardware, communication technology, and transformative applications. Despite the potential for enhanced proactivity and efficiency, critical concerns related to data security, privacy, and implementation challenges must be addressed for the full realization of benefits. Challenges persist, including the cost of IoMT implementation, network stress, interoperability issues, ethical considerations, and security vulnerabilities. Addressing these challenges requires substantial investment, upgraded infrastructure, standardization efforts, and robust cybersecurity measures. In the realm of IoMT applications in dementia, innovative solutions show promise in early detection and personalized care, necessitating ongoing research and modernization efforts. Collaboration between stakeholders, ongoing research, and commitment to addressing challenges is imperative for fully realizing the

potential of IoMT in revolutionizing healthcare delivery. Emerging technologies such as AI, virtual reality, and advanced connectivity, along with Blockchain and Software-Defined Networking, are central to mitigating vulnerabilities. Future research directions aim to refine and advance these technologies to improve global healthcare outcomes. The complexity of the IoMT networks means no single network protocol can meet the diverse requirements of the various setups. Different healthcare settings demand distinct approaches to data processing, communication, and device interconnectivity. Holistic solutions, encompassing infrastructure upgrades, advanced processing techniques, and responsible frameworks, are essential for the ethical and efficient transformation of healthcare delivery through Healthcare 4.0 and IoMT. The swift integration of IoMT technologies within the healthcare industry indicates a growing trend toward more complex and expansive use of Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN) and sensor networks in medical services.

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