



Artificial Intelligence-Based Signal Detection for Improving Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety Surveillance

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DESCRIPTION

Artificial intelligence has introduced new opportunities for improving pharmacovigilance by supporting the early identification of potential medicine-related safety concerns. Signal detection is one of the most important activities in pharmacovigilance because it involves recognizing information that may indicate previously unknown adverse drug reactions or changes in the characteristics of known reactions [1]. Traditional signal detection methods continue to play an important role, but the increasing volume of healthcare information has created a need for computational approaches capable of processing extensive datasets efficiently. Artificial intelligence-based signal detection assists healthcare professionals by examining large amounts of information while supporting timely scientific evaluation [2].

Medicines undergo extensive safety assessment before receiving regulatory approval. Clinical studies provide valuable evidence regarding effectiveness and adverse reactions, but they involve limited numbers of participants under carefully controlled conditions [3]. Once medicines become available for widespread clinical use, they are prescribed to patients with diverse medical conditions, varying ages, multiple concurrent therapies, and different genetic backgrounds. These broader patterns of medicine use may reveal uncommon or delayed adverse reactions that were not identified during pre-approval investigations. Continuous signal detection therefore remains an important component of medicine safety monitoring [4].

Artificial intelligence refers to computer systems capable of performing analytical tasks that normally require human reasoning. Within pharmacovigilance, artificial intelligence assists in identifying unusual reporting patterns, evaluating complex healthcare information, and recognizing possible associations between medicinal products and adverse events. These technologies complement the expertise of pharmacovigilance specialists by accelerating data processing while supporting more comprehensive safety assessments [5,6].

Machine learning represents one of the most frequently used artificial intelligence techniques in signal detection. Machine learning algorithms examine historical pharmacovigilance data and identify statistical relationships between medicine exposure and reported adverse events. As additional information becomes available, these algorithms continuously improve their ability to recognize reporting patterns associated with potential safety concerns. Rather than replacing scientific judgment, machine learning provides decision-support information that guides experts toward areas requiring further clinical investigation [7].

Large pharmacovigilance databases contain millions of individual case safety reports submitted by healthcare professionals, patients, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and regulatory agencies. Reviewing these reports manually requires considerable time and resources. Artificial intelligence systems rapidly organize, classify, and prioritize incoming reports according to clinical characteristics, seriousness, reporting frequency, and other relevant features. This efficient organization allows pharmacovigilance teams to focus attention on reports with greater scientific importance [8,9].

Signal prioritization represents another practical application of artificial intelligence. Pharmacovigilance databases often contain numerous statistical observations, but not all require immediate investigation. Artificial intelligence systems evaluate multiple factors simultaneously, including reporting frequency, seriousness of adverse events, biological plausibility, consistency among reports, and existing scientific evidence. Signals receiving higher priority scores can then undergo detailed clinical assessment by experienced pharmacovigilance professionals [10].

CONCLUSION

Artificial intelligence also contributes to duplicate report detection. The same adverse event may be reported by multiple healthcare professionals, pharmaceutical companies, or regulatory authorities. Duplicate reports may distort statistical analyses if not identified appropriately. Advanced computational

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Received: 11-Aug-2025, Manuscript No. PDS-26-32260; **Editor assigned:** 13-Aug-2025, Pre QC No. PDS-26-32260 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 27-Aug-2025, QC No. PDS-26-32260; **Revised:** 03-Sep-2025, Manuscript No. PDS-26-32260 (R); **Published:** 10-Sep-2025, DOI: 10.35841/2167-1052.25.14.406

Citation: Hughes D (2026). Artificial Intelligence-Based Signal Detection for Improving Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety Surveillance. J Adv Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf. 14:406.

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methods compare patient characteristics, clinical descriptions, treatment information, and event timing to identify potential duplicate submissions while preserving accurate pharmacovigilance databases. Artificial intelligence-based signal detection has strengthened modern pharmacovigilance by improving the efficiency of safety surveillance and expanding the ability to evaluate large healthcare datasets. Machine learning, natural language processing, electronic health record analysis, and automated literature surveillance provide valuable support for identifying potential medicine-related safety concerns.

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