

AI-Powered Threat Intelligence for Proactive Risk Detection in 5G-Enabled Smart Healthcare Communication Networks

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Publication Date 2024/11/28

Abstract

The convergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and 5G technology in smart healthcare communication networks offers transformative capabilities, enabling real-time diagnostics, remote surgeries, continuous patient monitoring, and high-speed medical data exchange. However, this integration also introduces new and complex cybersecurity threats, ranging from data breaches and denial-of-service attacks to AI model manipulation and privacy violations. This review explores the potential of AI-powered threat intelligence systems in proactively identifying, predicting, and mitigating cybersecurity risks in 5G-enabled smart healthcare ecosystems. Emphasis is placed on how AI techniques such as machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing can automate threat detection, anomaly identification, and threat actor profiling in dynamic and latency-sensitive healthcare environments. Furthermore, the study analyzes how federated learning, edge AI, and explainable AI enhance data security, maintain patient confidentiality, and ensure compliance with regulatory frameworks such as HIPAA and GDPR. By surveying recent advances in threat intelligence platforms and examining their integration with 5G infrastructure, this paper highlights the critical role of AI in establishing resilient, adaptive, and secure healthcare communication systems. The review concludes with a discussion of open challenges, ethical considerations, and future research directions for AI-driven security architectures in next-generation medical networks.

Keywords: *AI-Powered Threat Intelligence; 5G Smart Healthcare; Proactive Risk Detection; Cybersecurity in Medical Networks; Secure Healthcare Communication.*

I. INTRODUCTION

➤ Background on Smart Healthcare and 5G Communication

Smart healthcare systems have evolved rapidly with the proliferation of digital technologies and the advent of the Internet of Medical Things (IoMT). These systems enable real-time patient monitoring, remote diagnosis, and mobile health services by leveraging interconnected medical devices and cloud infrastructures. The integration of 5G technology into smart healthcare ecosystems is a significant enabler, offering ultra-reliable low-latency communication (URLLC), massive device connectivity,

and enhanced bandwidth capacity. These attributes facilitate delay-sensitive operations such as telesurgery, autonomous robotic assistance, and AI-driven diagnostics in hospital settings (Khan et al., 2022).

The 5G-enabled smart healthcare paradigm shifts from reactive to predictive care through continuous data acquisition and real-time analytics. Wearable sensors, smart implants, and telehealth platforms now communicate instantaneously across vast distances, ensuring constant access to patient vitals and medical records. This shift necessitates robust and secure infrastructure capable of handling dynamic network

demands without compromising performance or data integrity (Gupta et al., 2021).

However, this seamless communication relies heavily on centralized and distributed computing environments, which can be exposed to multiple vulnerabilities. Therefore, understanding the interplay between 5G architectures and smart healthcare communication systems is essential for building scalable, secure, and responsive healthcare services. As 5G matures, its role in enhancing the intelligence, reliability, and interoperability of smart medical services continues to expand, demanding deeper integration with advanced cybersecurity and AI-based risk management frameworks.

➤ *Emerging Cybersecurity Risks in 5G-Enabled Medical Networks*

The integration of 5G into medical networks introduces a complex threat landscape, significantly expanding the attack surface of healthcare infrastructures. Despite offering transformative benefits like low latency and ubiquitous connectivity, 5G-enabled systems are prone to sophisticated cybersecurity risks including unauthorized access, man-in-the-middle attacks, data exfiltration, and supply chain threats (Moglia, et al., 2022). The architectural complexity of 5G—comprising network slicing, virtualized functions, and distributed edge components—magnifies the difficulty of securing the healthcare ecosystem.

In particular, the Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) devices connected via 5G are typically resource-constrained and lack robust security features, making them prime targets for cybercriminals. These devices often transmit sensitive patient data that, if intercepted or tampered with, can lead to life-threatening scenarios, including inaccurate diagnoses or erroneous clinical decisions (Hasan et al., 2020). Moreover, 5G's dependence on software-defined networking (SDN) and network function virtualization (NFV) opens additional vulnerabilities, as malicious actors can exploit these layers to compromise entire communication channels.

Additionally, multi-access edge computing (MEC)—a vital component of 5G smart healthcare—poses new privacy and integrity risks due to its distributed nature. Attacks targeting MEC nodes can disrupt mission-critical services such as remote surgeries or emergency response systems. The lack of harmonized global security standards for 5G compounds these issues, resulting in fragmented protection strategies across healthcare providers. Therefore, proactive identification and mitigation of these evolving cybersecurity threats are imperative for maintaining the resilience of 5G-enabled medical systems. Addressing these risks requires a multilayered security framework reinforced by AI-driven threat intelligence for dynamic and context-aware risk management.

➤ *Role of Artificial Intelligence in Modern Threat Detection*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a cornerstone of modern threat detection frameworks, particularly in complex environments like 5G-enabled smart healthcare networks. The sheer volume, velocity, and variety of medical data generated across distributed platforms necessitate intelligent systems capable of real-time pattern recognition, anomaly detection, and proactive response strategies. AI-driven techniques such as supervised learning, unsupervised clustering, and reinforcement learning allow for continuous monitoring and adaptive detection of evolving threat vectors (Zhang & Leung, 2022). In healthcare communication systems, AI can predict and neutralize threats before they manifest operationally. For example, anomaly detection models trained on baseline network behavior can flag deviations indicative of insider threats or zero-day exploits. Additionally, Natural Language Processing (NLP) algorithms analyze threat intelligence feeds, security blogs, and darknet data to identify emerging malware trends, attack signatures, and adversarial tactics. This contextual understanding enhances the relevance and accuracy of risk assessments in smart hospitals (Choi et al., 2021).

Machine learning-based intrusion detection systems (IDS) also leverage AI to reduce false positives, prioritize alerts, and enable automated responses. Furthermore, federated learning offers a privacy-preserving approach by allowing distributed healthcare nodes to collaboratively train models without sharing sensitive patient data (Idika, et al., 2024). This decentralized intelligence aligns well with edge computing paradigms in 5G, ensuring threat detection remains both secure and timely. As threats become increasingly adaptive, AI provides the agility and scalability needed to counteract adversarial tactics effectively, supporting a shift from reactive to predictive cybersecurity models in smart healthcare environments.

➤ *Objectives and Scope of the Review*

The primary objective of this review is to examine the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in enhancing threat intelligence for proactive risk detection within 5G-enabled smart healthcare communication networks. With the growing deployment of 5G infrastructures in the medical domain, there is an urgent need to assess how AI can address emerging cybersecurity vulnerabilities, ensure data confidentiality, and maintain the integrity of mission-critical health services. This paper aims to synthesize current advancements, identify practical applications, and explore the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing AI-driven security mechanisms in smart healthcare environments.

The scope of the review encompasses technical, operational, and architectural aspects of AI-powered threat intelligence systems, particularly as they relate to the dynamic and latency-sensitive requirements of 5G-connected medical infrastructures. It includes discussions on AI methodologies—such as machine learning, natural

language processing, and federated learning—applied to threat prediction, anomaly detection, and automated incident response. Moreover, this study analyzes how these technologies interact with 5G features like network slicing, edge computing, and ultra-reliable low-latency communication to build secure healthcare systems. The review also evaluates case studies from real-world deployments and presents insights into regulatory, ethical, and implementation challenges. Ultimately, this work serves as a foundation for guiding future research and policymaking in secure, AI-integrated, 5G-enabled smart healthcare systems.

➤ *Structure of the Paper*

This paper is structured into six main sections. Section 1 introduces the background, significance, and technological context of 5G-enabled smart healthcare systems, outlines the emerging cybersecurity challenges, and defines the objectives and scope of the review. Section 2 delves into the fundamental components of smart healthcare networks and highlights how 5G communication enhances their functionality, efficiency, and scalability. Section 3 explores the core AI techniques used in threat intelligence systems and discusses their relevance to healthcare cybersecurity.

Section 4 investigates the integration of AI-based threat detection mechanisms with 5G infrastructure, emphasizing predictive risk models, real-time anomaly detection, and intelligent intrusion prevention systems. Section 5 presents practical case studies and real-world applications where AI and 5G have been successfully employed to secure healthcare communication networks. Finally, Section 6 identifies research gaps, discusses ethical and regulatory considerations, and proposes future directions for advancing secure, intelligent healthcare networks in the era of ubiquitous connectivity.

II. FUNDAMENTALS OF 5G-ENABLED SMART HEALTHCARE NETWORKS

➤ *Architecture and Communication Protocols*

The architecture of 5G-enabled smart healthcare communication networks is inherently complex, characterized by multilayered and modular components that support seamless interaction among heterogeneous devices. At its core, the architecture integrates patient monitoring systems, diagnostic tools, cloud platforms, and edge computing nodes within a 5G framework. This setup leverages the unique properties of 5G—such as network slicing and ultra-reliable low-latency communication (URLLC)—to allocate dedicated virtual resources for different healthcare services (Ameen et al., 2022). Communication protocols in this ecosystem must be both adaptive and robust to support the volume, variety, and velocity of medical data. Protocol stacks generally incorporate MQTT for lightweight data transmission in IoMT devices, alongside HTTPS and CoAP for secure and

resource-efficient exchanges between edge devices and cloud servers. Additionally, data plane segmentation and control plane flexibility are ensured through software-defined networking (SDN) and network function virtualization (NFV), allowing centralized orchestration and dynamic reconfiguration of healthcare services (Mhetre & Bhosale, 2021).

Interoperability is another critical component, as smart healthcare systems often rely on legacy and modern platforms. Therefore, standardized protocols and APIs, such as HL7 FHIR (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources), are integrated to facilitate seamless data exchange across vendor-specific systems (Ijiga, et al., 2023). This architectural and protocol-level cohesion supports real-time diagnostics, predictive analytics, and AI-assisted clinical decisions in a resilient and scalable communication environment tailored for 5G smart healthcare operations.

➤ *Key Use Cases: Remote Surgery, IoMT, and Telemedicine*

The adoption of 5G has enabled transformative use cases in smart healthcare, particularly in remote surgery, Internet of Medical Things (IoMT), and telemedicine. Remote surgery relies on URLLC features of 5G to facilitate haptic feedback, robotic control, and real-time video transmission with minimal latency. This capability allows surgeons to operate on patients across geographical boundaries without compromising precision or safety (Kiran et al., 2021) as shown in figure 1.

IoMT represents an expansive ecosystem of interconnected wearable and implantable devices that monitor vital signs such as ECG, blood pressure, glucose levels, and respiratory rates. These devices communicate with edge servers and cloud platforms to analyze trends, detect anomalies, and trigger emergency alerts. The role of 5G in this context is to ensure seamless communication, minimal jitter, and energy-efficient transmissions, making continuous and autonomous health monitoring viable even in resource-constrained environments (Mohan et al., 2020).

Telemedicine, another critical application, has evolved beyond video consultations to include remote diagnostics, AI-assisted prescriptions, and mobile radiology. Enabled by 5G's massive machine-type communication (mMTC), telemedicine platforms can handle thousands of concurrent sessions, deliver high-resolution medical imaging, and support multilingual, real-time interpretation services (Ijiga, et al., 2022). These technologies significantly expand access to healthcare, especially in rural and underserved regions. Collectively, these use cases showcase the potential of 5G to reimagine healthcare delivery by supporting latency-sensitive, high-throughput, and intelligent medical services across the care continuum.



Fig 1 Picture of AI-Assisted Remote Surgery Enabled by 5G and IoMT Technologies in a Smart Healthcare Operating Room (Mariotti, M. 2020).

Figure 1 shows a real-world example of remote surgery, one of the key use cases in 5G-enabled smart healthcare. A surgical team is shown operating in a technologically advanced operating room where one surgeon is using robotic-assisted tools to perform a minimally invasive procedure. The screen displays high-resolution, real-time visuals of the internal anatomy, likely transmitted via high-bandwidth, low-latency 5G communication infrastructure. This setup exemplifies how ultra-reliable low-latency communication (URLLC) facilitates precision control and haptic feedback in robotic surgeries. Supporting personnel assist while monitoring vital data, emphasizing the role of Internet of Medical Things (IoMT)—a network of connected surgical tools, monitoring devices, and diagnostic sensors that transmit patient data to edge or cloud systems for continuous analysis. The scene also reflects the principles of telemedicine, where remote specialists could guide or monitor the procedure in real time from different locations, enabled by AI-enhanced streaming and communication tools. Collectively, the image highlights how 5G, AI, and connected medical devices converge to enable scalable, responsive, and life-saving healthcare interventions beyond traditional hospital boundaries.

➤ *Challenges in Real-Time, Low-Latency Medical Applications*

Real-time, low-latency medical applications are among the most demanding use cases within 5G-enabled smart healthcare. These include robotic surgeries, AI-guided diagnostics, continuous remote patient monitoring, and augmented reality-assisted interventions. While 5G promises ultra-reliable low-latency communication (URLLC), several technical challenges must be addressed to meet stringent performance requirements. These challenges include inconsistent latency, jitter, and resource allocation inefficiencies in dynamic network environments (Zhou et al., 2022).

One major hurdle is network congestion due to simultaneous demand from diverse healthcare services. Even microseconds of delay can significantly affect the outcome of remote surgical procedures or emergency alerts. Moreover, the vertical mobility of devices, such as ambulance-mounted diagnostic systems, complicates handover efficiency and session continuity. Managing these scenarios demands highly intelligent and adaptive orchestration mechanisms that can dynamically allocate bandwidth, prioritize packets, and adjust network slices in real time (Moglia, et al., 2022). Another significant challenge lies in the synchronization of distributed computing elements at the edge and core of the network. If the edge server experiences latency or computational overload, it can delay critical medical decisions or real-time alerts (Ijiga, et al., 2021). Environmental factors such as electromagnetic interference in hospital settings may also degrade signal quality, further exacerbating latency concerns. Thus, while 5G provides the technical foundation, overcoming real-time constraints requires enhanced protocol designs, AI-based traffic optimization, and robust quality of service (QoS) enforcement to deliver consistently low-latency performance in mission-critical healthcare applications.

➤ *Data Privacy and Integrity Requirements in Smart Healthcare*

In 5G-enabled smart healthcare environments, data privacy and integrity are paramount due to the sensitivity of patient records, diagnostics, and treatment histories. The ubiquity of Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) devices and edge computing platforms introduces numerous points of vulnerability, from data capture to storage and transmission. Ensuring compliance with legal frameworks such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) becomes increasingly challenging when handling high-velocity data across decentralized

infrastructures (Abdullahi et al., 2020) as presented in table 1.

Privacy-preserving techniques such as differential privacy, homomorphic encryption, and secure multi-party computation are being integrated into healthcare systems to safeguard patient data while enabling real-time analytics. Additionally, federated learning frameworks allow collaborative training of AI models across distributed nodes without directly sharing sensitive data. This approach maintains data localization, thereby reducing the risk of breaches during inter-node communication (Tang et al., 2021). Data integrity is

equally critical, especially for ensuring the authenticity and accuracy of clinical decisions. Blockchain technologies are increasingly adopted to create immutable audit trails and tamper-proof logs for medical transactions. By recording patient consent, diagnostic procedures, and access logs on a decentralized ledger, healthcare providers can enhance trust, accountability, and forensic traceability (Ijiga, et al., 2021). As data continues to drive intelligent healthcare solutions, ensuring privacy and integrity through technical, organizational, and legal mechanisms is essential to maintaining user trust and clinical efficacy in 5G-connected environments.

Table 1 Summary of Data Privacy and Integrity Requirements in Smart Healthcare

Aspect	Description	Example	Technological Solutions
Privacy Requirements	Protection of sensitive patient data from unauthorized access and misuse	Patient identity, medical history, biometric sensor data	Differential privacy, homomorphic encryption, secure multi-party computation
Data Integrity Concerns	Ensuring medical data is accurate, unaltered, and traceable	Medication orders, diagnostic results, treatment history	Blockchain for audit trails, hash functions, integrity verification systems
Regulatory Compliance	Adherence to legal standards and health data governance frameworks	HIPAA (USA), GDPR (EU), and data localization laws	Federated learning, data anonymization, secure data storage protocols
System-Level Challenges	Vulnerabilities due to decentralized devices and heterogeneous infrastructures	IoMT device spoofing, edge computing vulnerabilities, unauthorized data flow	End-to-end encryption, access control policies, real-time monitoring

III. AI-POWERED THREAT INTELLIGENCE: TECHNIQUES AND TOOLS

➤ Machine Learning and Deep Learning Models for Threat Detection

Machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) models are instrumental in detecting and mitigating cyber threats in 5G-enabled smart healthcare environments. These systems generate enormous data streams from IoMT devices, wearable sensors, and communication endpoints, requiring scalable and intelligent frameworks capable of pattern recognition and behavioral analysis. ML algorithms such as random forests, support vector machines (SVM), and k-nearest neighbors (KNN) have been applied successfully to classify malicious activities, flagging anomalies within the network traffic of telemedicine and remote patient monitoring systems (Umer et al., 2021). Deep learning models, particularly convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and recurrent neural networks (RNNs), enhance these capabilities by learning temporal and spatial features from encrypted or non-linear data patterns (Igba, et al., 2024). Autoencoders and long short-term memory (LSTM) architectures further support intrusion detection by modeling normal system behavior and identifying deviations in real time. For instance, in a distributed 5G architecture, LSTM-based detection can identify data exfiltration attempts or distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks by analyzing sequential access logs (Hossain & Muhammad, 2020).

Moreover, ML/DL systems can be retrained and optimized using federated learning to accommodate evolving threat patterns without centralizing sensitive healthcare data. These models not only reduce false positives but also improve threat response times by prioritizing alerts and automating decision-making. The continuous feedback loop between data ingestion and prediction improves over time, making these AI models essential for achieving adaptive, predictive cybersecurity in smart healthcare infrastructures.

➤ Natural Language Processing for Threat Intelligence Extraction

Natural Language Processing (NLP) plays a pivotal role in automating cyber threat intelligence extraction for smart healthcare networks. In the context of 5G-enabled systems, threat vectors evolve rapidly and are often discussed in real time across unstructured sources such as social media, dark web forums, security blogs, and incident databases as presented in table 2. NLP enables systems to analyze, parse, and interpret these vast textual corpora to extract actionable threat indicators such as IP addresses, malware signatures, attack tactics, and vulnerabilities (Sabottke et al., 2020).

NLP pipelines typically include entity recognition, syntactic parsing, sentiment analysis, and topic modeling to understand context and assess threat relevance. For instance, in a hospital network scenario, NLP-enabled systems can correlate data breaches reported on external feeds with internal system logs to detect intrusion attempts

or vulnerability exploits (Enyejo, et al., 2024). By automating threat intelligence workflows, NLP reduces analyst workload and ensures that healthcare networks remain responsive to emerging threats. Hybrid NLP models that combine rule-based systems with machine learning approaches have shown superior performance in precision and contextual understanding. For example, integrating deep learning-based sequence labeling with named entity recognition (NER) improves the

identification of cyber terms embedded in informal or domain-specific language (Gao et al., 2021). When implemented at the edge or within security operations centers (SOCs), NLP pipelines enrich knowledge graphs and threat databases used for predictive modeling and incident response. Thus, NLP enhances proactive cybersecurity posture by transforming fragmented data into coherent, threat-relevant intelligence for smart healthcare systems.

Table 2 Summary of Natural Language Processing for Threat Intelligence Extraction

Component	Descriptions	Examples	NLP Techniques/Tools
Data Sources	Unstructured text streams from internal and external sources	Threat reports, security blogs, dark web forums, incident logs	Web scraping, corpus creation, text normalization
Threat Entity Identification	Detecting and classifying indicators of compromise (IOCs)	IP addresses, malware signatures, attacker aliases, CVEs	Named Entity Recognition (NER), pattern matching
Contextual Analysis	Understanding threat intent and severity through semantic interpretation	Distinguishing between low-risk phishing mentions and active ransomware campaigns	Sentiment analysis, topic modeling, syntactic parsing
Knowledge Integration	Feeding extracted intelligence into automated security systems and dashboards	Enriching SIEMs, knowledge graphs, alerting systems with real-time contextual threat indicators	Taxonomy mapping, data fusion, API-based integration with threat platforms

➤ *Role of Edge AI and Federated Learning in Distributed Environments*

Edge Artificial Intelligence (Edge AI) and federated learning are critical enablers of decentralized threat detection in 5G-enabled smart healthcare environments. Edge AI brings computational intelligence closer to the data source—such as IoMT sensors or hospital gateways—reducing latency and preserving privacy by avoiding data transfers to centralized servers. This is particularly valuable for mission-critical healthcare applications like insulin pump control or automated defibrillator response, where real-time decision-making is paramount (Abdellatif et al., 2021).

Federated learning (FL), on the other hand, allows AI models to be trained across multiple decentralized devices or servers while keeping sensitive patient data localized. In the context of cybersecurity, FL can be employed to detect distributed attacks by learning from patterns across multiple institutions without exposing raw data. For instance, hospitals under a federated system can collaboratively improve a malware detection model using encrypted weight updates, preserving both model utility and privacy (Yang et al., 2019).

These technologies address critical challenges in 5G healthcare, including data sovereignty, bandwidth optimization, and compliance with regulatory frameworks. Additionally, combining FL with differential privacy techniques further enhances confidentiality by introducing statistical noise into the learning process (Uzoma, et al., 2024). Edge AI-enabled threat detection models can also operate with reduced energy and compute requirements, allowing deployment on resource-

constrained medical devices. Together, Edge AI and federated learning offer scalable, adaptive, and privacy-conscious frameworks for real-time, intelligent cybersecurity in complex, geographically distributed healthcare networks.

➤ *Explainable AI for Transparent Cybersecurity Decision-Making*

Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) is increasingly essential in cybersecurity for smart healthcare systems, where trust, accountability, and regulatory compliance intersect with complex machine learning models. Unlike traditional AI models, which often operate as opaque "black boxes," XAI frameworks provide interpretable outputs that elucidate how decisions are made. This transparency is crucial in high-stakes healthcare environments, where understanding the reasoning behind a flagged intrusion or a blocked communication request can influence patient outcomes and legal accountability (Samek et al., 2021).

In the realm of 5G-enabled healthcare, XAI can be used to explain why an anomaly detection system classified a network event as malicious. Tools like SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) and LIME (Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations) allow clinicians and cybersecurity professionals to trace decision boundaries, visualize feature importance, and validate the integrity of predictive models in real time. This interpretability is especially relevant in scenarios where human oversight is mandatory for threat containment or patient data management.

XAI also enhances incident response effectiveness by reducing false alarms and enabling targeted forensics. When paired with federated learning and edge AI, explainable models can be deployed across distributed infrastructures while maintaining coherent interpretability across nodes. This promotes model validation, continuous

learning, and ethical AI governance (Ononiwu, et al., 2023). As healthcare systems embrace automation, XAI bridges the gap between algorithmic complexity and human understanding, fostering a more transparent, safe, and compliant cybersecurity ecosystem in smart healthcare.



Fig 2 Picture of Visualizing Explainable AI in Smart Healthcare Cybersecurity (IDC, 2021).

Figure 2 visually represents the concept of *Explainable AI (XAI)* in cybersecurity decision-making for smart healthcare environments. A healthcare professional, equipped with a tablet, engages with a complex, data-rich digital interface comprising layered visuals of diagnostics, biometric scans, AI-generated insights, and a DNA helix—symbolizing personalized, data-driven care. This environment illustrates how XAI empowers medical personnel by translating AI decisions into understandable, actionable insights. In the context of cybersecurity, such systems not only detect threats—like unauthorized access to electronic health records or unusual IoMT behavior—but also explain *why* those threats were flagged. For instance, a model might justify blocking a user session due to mismatched login location and biometric ID, and present that reasoning in a format the physician can interpret. The layered holographic data panels suggest real-time contextual feedback, indicative of systems using tools like SHAP or LIME to make neural network outputs transparent. The interaction between human judgment and AI analysis reinforces a collaborative decision-making model where clinicians can trust, verify, and audit automated security responses. Thus, the image captures how explainable AI enhances clinical workflows by offering visibility into algorithmic operations, supporting ethical compliance, reducing false positives, and maintaining trust in AI-augmented healthcare cybersecurity.

IV. INTEGRATION OF AI WITH 5G INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PROACTIVE RISK DETECTION

➤ *AI-Enhanced Network Slicing for Security Management*

AI-enhanced network slicing plays a pivotal role in the secure orchestration of 5G-enabled smart healthcare services. Network slicing allows multiple virtual networks to operate on shared physical infrastructure, each tailored for specific application requirements such as latency, reliability, and security as represented in figure 3. In healthcare, this translates into dedicated slices for applications like telemedicine, emergency response, and wearable monitoring, all operating with isolated performance parameters. AI augments this architecture by dynamically adjusting slice configurations based on real-time usage, threat intelligence, and device behavior (Elavarasan et al., 2021). Deep reinforcement learning (DRL) and policy-based AI systems are increasingly used to automate slice lifecycle management. For example, in a hospital setting, DRL can reallocate bandwidth from a low-priority administrative network to a high-priority telesurgery slice during peak usage or emergencies. This not only ensures consistent service quality but also enhances resilience to targeted attacks like bandwidth flooding or denial-of-service scenarios (Khettab et al., 2020). Moreover, AI models can identify malicious traffic patterns specific to each slice, isolate compromised virtual segments, and reconfigure paths to minimize disruption. This fine-grained segmentation, supported by machine

learning classifiers, provides a robust framework for attack surface reduction and rapid threat containment (Ononiwu, et al., 2023). By leveraging AI-driven slicing, healthcare systems achieve adaptive, real-time security management

without sacrificing speed or availability—key requirements for high-assurance 5G medical environments.

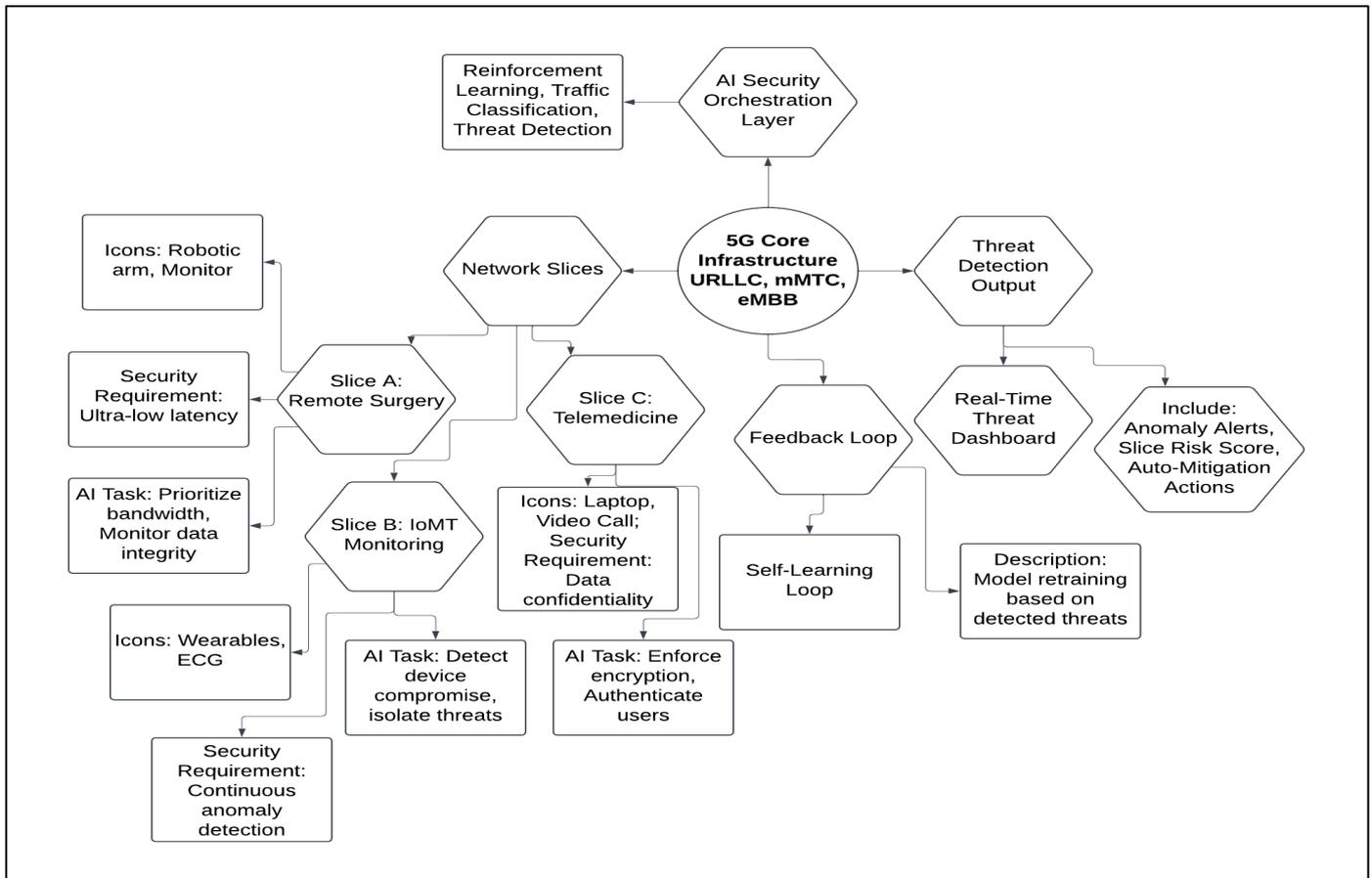


Fig 3 Diagram Illustration of AI-Driven Network Slicing Architecture for Secure 5G Smart Healthcare Services

Figure 3 represents a layered architecture where an AI-driven security orchestration system dynamically manages multiple network slices within a 5G core network. At the center, the 5G Core Infrastructure supports various service types (URLLC, mMTC, and eMBB), enabling diverse performance characteristics. Sitting atop is the AI Security Orchestration Layer, which uses reinforcement learning and real-time analytics to allocate resources, detect anomalies, and apply custom security policies across the slices. Each network slice represents a virtual, logically isolated segment tailored for specific healthcare services: Remote Surgery demands ultra-low latency and precise bandwidth management, IoMT Monitoring requires continuous anomaly detection across numerous wearable devices, and Telemedicine emphasizes confidentiality and secure access control. The AI system enforces appropriate security protocols for each slice, adapting to real-time threat intelligence. On the right, a Threat Dashboard displays alerts and slice-specific risk scores, while a feedback loop ensures the system continuously learns and updates its defense strategies. This diagram showcases how AI-integrated network slicing enhances both performance and cybersecurity in smart healthcare environments using 5G infrastructure.

➤ Intelligent Anomaly Detection in Healthcare IoT (IoMT) Devices

Intelligent anomaly detection in Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) devices is essential for ensuring data integrity, system uptime, and patient safety in smart healthcare networks. These devices continuously generate sensitive physiological data and are often deployed in unattended, low-resource environments, making them vulnerable to both internal malfunctions and external cyber intrusions. Advanced deep learning frameworks are now employed to detect abnormalities in device behavior and communication patterns by modeling baselines from historical data streams (Alsalman, 2024).

Hybrid deep learning models that combine convolutional neural networks (CNNs) with gated recurrent units (GRUs) have shown promise in capturing both spatial and temporal anomalies in patient monitoring systems. For example, a wearable heart monitor that begins transmitting anomalous frequency or volume of data can be flagged by the detection system for further investigation (Ononiwu, et al., 2024). These models operate in near real time, enabling immediate isolation or mitigation of the affected device. Edge-assisted detection frameworks also enhance performance by bringing intelligence closer to the data source. Using temporal

convolutional networks (TCNs), systems deployed at the edge can process streaming IoMT data, identify threats, and trigger alerts without relying on cloud infrastructure, thereby reducing latency and exposure (Liu, et al., 2023). Additionally, intelligent systems can distinguish between

benign anomalies—such as firmware updates—and actual threats like botnet behavior or spoofed commands. This precision improves detection reliability and minimizes false positives, reinforcing operational trust in critical healthcare IoT systems.

Table 3 Summary of Intelligent Anomaly Detection in Healthcare IoT (IoMT) Devices

Components	Descriptions	Examples	AI Techniques Used
Anomaly Types	Deviations from normal device or network behavior	Unusual heart rate transmissions, abnormal data packet size, device malfunction	Autoencoders, clustering algorithms, statistical profiling
Detection Context	Environment and operational factors influencing detection accuracy	Location, user habits, device usage history, time-based patterns	Context-aware AI models, behavior-based filtering
Edge-Based Detection	Performing detection on-device or near-device to reduce latency	On-device analysis of wearable ECG data before cloud transmission	Lightweight deep learning models, temporal convolutional networks (TCNs)
Threat Response	System actions taken when anomalies are detected	Alert generation, device isolation, data encryption enforcement	Real-time classification, rule-based policy enforcement, federated alerts

➤ *Predictive Analytics and Threat Forecasting Models*

Predictive analytics is transforming the landscape of cybersecurity in 5G-enabled smart healthcare networks by enabling proactive identification and mitigation of threats before they manifest. Unlike traditional reactive systems, predictive threat modeling leverages historical data, behavioral patterns, and machine learning algorithms to anticipate future attack vectors. For instance, anomaly trends from connected infusion pumps, ECG monitors, or telemetry gateways can be analyzed to predict ransomware infiltration or data exfiltration attempts (Sarker et al., 2020).

Ensemble learning methods such as random forests, gradient boosting, and stacked generalization improve model accuracy by combining multiple weak learners (James, et al., 2023). These models excel in forecasting multi-stage attacks or complex threat behaviors that evolve across network layers. In a hospital infrastructure, for example, ensemble-based predictive analytics can track anomalous login attempts, unauthorized port scans, and suspicious lateral movements to forecast coordinated attack campaigns (Abraham et al., 2021).

Moreover, these systems utilize feature engineering techniques to incorporate time-series trends, system configurations, and threat intelligence feeds, enriching the model's ability to distinguish genuine threats from environmental noise. Such models can also be updated continuously using feedback from intrusion detection systems (IDS) and security incident data, ensuring they remain adaptive to new threats (Ijiga, et al., 2024). The integration of predictive analytics with security orchestration platforms further enables automated mitigation actions such as access revocation or firewall updates, providing a cohesive defense strategy for highly dynamic 5G healthcare ecosystems.

➤ *Real-Time Intrusion Detection and Response Systems (IDRS)*

Real-time Intrusion Detection and Response Systems (IDRS) form the backbone of adaptive cybersecurity defense in smart healthcare networks powered by 5G. These systems are tasked with detecting malicious activities across endpoints, edge nodes, and core infrastructure, and initiating countermeasures within milliseconds to prevent service disruption or data compromise. Unlike batch-processed systems, real-time IDRS must process high-throughput medical telemetry and transaction data without introducing latency that could hinder patient care (Zhang et al., 2022).

Recent implementations of IDRS employ deep reinforcement learning (DRL) to enhance threat detection accuracy and automate response mechanisms. DRL agents learn optimal response policies through simulated attack environments and are capable of autonomously managing firewall rules, initiating quarantine procedures, or adjusting access privileges in response to detected threats (Ijiga, et al., 2024). These systems are particularly effective against zero-day exploits and polymorphic malware, which evade traditional signature-based defenses.

Adaptive intrusion response strategies also leverage context-aware analytics to minimize false positives. For example, a legitimate large file transfer during shift changes can be distinguished from data exfiltration attempts by correlating timestamps, user roles, and system logs (Ghosh et al., 2021). Real-time dashboards powered by stream processing engines offer visibility into threat landscapes, enabling healthcare IT administrators to monitor system health, trace incidents, and conduct post-event forensics (Ijiga, et al., 2024). As healthcare environments become more digitized and interconnected,

real-time IDRS are essential to maintaining continuous system availability, operational trust, and data security.

V. CASE STUDIES AND IMPLEMENTATION SCENARIOS

➤ Deployment of AI-Driven Security in Telehealth Networks

The rise of AI-driven telehealth platforms has enabled real-time virtual consultations, diagnostics, and chronic disease management across diverse geographies. However, the vast digital footprint of telehealth systems—encompassing video conferencing, electronic health records (EHRs), and cloud storage—exposes them to significant cybersecurity risks. AI-powered security systems have been deployed in telehealth environments to mitigate these risks by continuously monitoring user behavior, device integrity, and network anomalies (Das, et al., 2024).

These systems utilize supervised and unsupervised learning algorithms to detect patterns of compromise, such as abnormal login attempts, data exfiltration signals, or usage anomalies in cloud-hosted EHRs. One prominent

example is the use of recurrent neural networks (RNNs) for session-based anomaly detection during teleconsultations, identifying sudden spikes in data transfer that may indicate a man-in-the-middle attack.

AI models are also integrated into virtual private networks (VPNs) and multi-factor authentication (MFA) systems to assess user risk profiles in real time, ensuring that sensitive patient data is only accessible to authorized entities (Ijiga, et al., 2024). Additionally, federated learning frameworks allow AI models to be trained across telehealth nodes without centralized data aggregation, preserving patient privacy and complying with HIPAA regulations.

By combining intelligent intrusion detection, behavior analysis, and privacy-aware architectures, AI-driven security ensures telehealth platforms maintain integrity, confidentiality, and availability—key components of healthcare cybersecurity (Idoko, et al., 2024). These technologies also reduce reliance on manual monitoring, enabling automated, scalable threat mitigation in complex telemedicine networks.

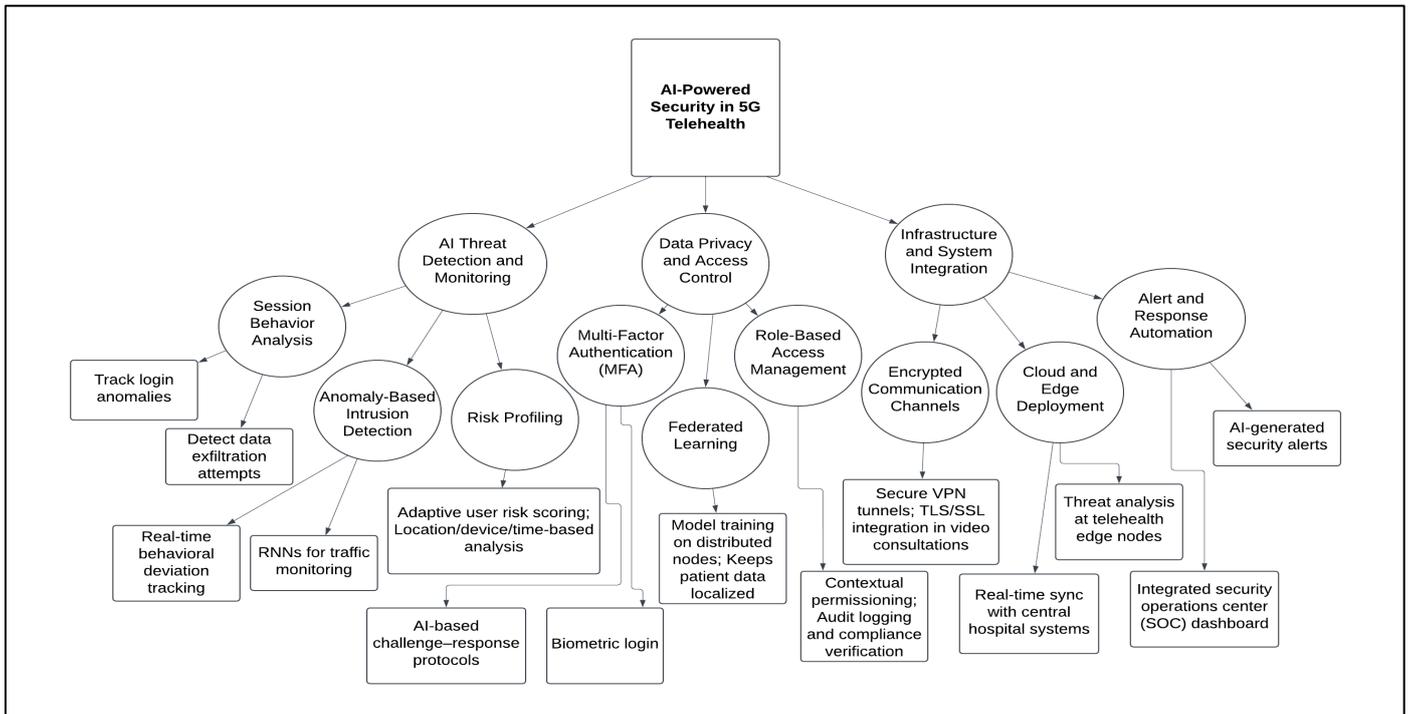


Fig 4 Diagram Illustration of AI-Powered Security Architecture for Telehealth Networks in 5G Smart Healthcare

Figure 4 presents a structured visualization of AI-powered security deployment within 5G-enabled telehealth networks, branching into three core domains. The first branch, AI Threat Detection and Monitoring, highlights intelligent mechanisms like session behavior analysis, anomaly-based intrusion detection using RNNs, and adaptive risk profiling based on user and device context. These systems continuously analyze communication streams during teleconsultations to detect suspicious activity in real time. The second branch, Data Privacy and Access Control, focuses on safeguarding patient information using AI-enhanced multi-factor

authentication, federated learning for decentralized model training, and role-based access controls that restrict sensitive data to authorized users only. The third branch, Infrastructure and System Integration, demonstrates how telehealth security extends across the technical stack, integrating encrypted communication protocols like TLS for video consultations, deploying AI at both edge and cloud levels for distributed threat analysis, and connecting to centralized SOC dashboards for real-time alerting and automated incident response. Together, these branches illustrate a holistic, multi-layered approach to fortifying telehealth platforms against cybersecurity threats, while

ensuring compliance, privacy, and uninterrupted healthcare service delivery.

➤ *Threat Intelligence Applications in Wearable Health Systems*

Wearable health devices—such as smartwatches, fitness trackers, ECG patches, and glucose monitors—are revolutionizing patient monitoring by enabling continuous, remote, and real-time health tracking. However, the proliferation of these devices introduces a distributed attack surface susceptible to data breaches, spoofing, and unauthorized access. AI-integrated threat intelligence systems are essential for identifying, classifying, and responding to cybersecurity incidents in wearable health ecosystems (Rauf et al., 2020).

AI models are employed to analyze telemetry data patterns, sensor behaviors, and communication protocols to detect abnormal activities. For instance, unsupervised clustering algorithms can distinguish legitimate user movement from spoofed sensor input in accelerometer data, helping detect malicious firmware manipulation (Ihimoyan, et al., 2024). Furthermore, anomaly detection frameworks using decision trees or autoencoders are capable of identifying abnormal communication frequency or packet size, which may indicate malware infiltration.

Threat intelligence in wearables is increasingly augmented with contextual awareness—such as user location, physiological status, and device usage history—to refine detection accuracy. Real-time alerts generated by these models can be shared across networked devices or healthcare monitoring centers, enabling prompt response and system containment (Idoko, et al., 2024). Edge AI plays a critical role by deploying lightweight threat detection models directly on the devices, reducing latency and dependency on cloud infrastructures. Combined with distributed threat intelligence platforms, these solutions create a resilient defense architecture capable of protecting sensitive biometric data in motion and at rest (Idoko, et al., 2024). The convergence of wearable technology and AI-enhanced security transforms patient-centric care while ensuring robust cybersecurity enforcement at the periphery of the medical network.

➤ *AI-Based Monitoring in Emergency Medical Services (EMS)*

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) rely on rapid communication, uninterrupted data access, and reliable decision-making under high-pressure conditions. In 5G-enabled EMS networks, AI-driven monitoring systems are being deployed to detect cybersecurity threats in real time, ensuring continuity of care and integrity of mobile health operations. These systems are embedded into ambulances, field diagnostic tools, and mobile triage platforms to secure transmissions and monitor anomalous activity patterns (Nguyen et al., 2021).

AI models analyze diverse data streams including patient vitals, vehicle telemetry, location data, and medical

device logs. Deep learning algorithms such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) are used to recognize signal inconsistencies or noise injection in vital sign transmissions—signs of attempted data corruption or sensor spoofing (Idika, et al., 2023). In parallel, natural language processing (NLP) tools are applied to EMS communication transcripts to detect social engineering attempts or impersonation in emergency scenarios.

Moreover, reinforcement learning agents within EMS systems can autonomously adjust encryption protocols or reroute communication channels when network anomalies are detected (Enyejo, et al., 2024). This ensures uninterrupted connectivity between paramedics, hospitals, and emergency coordinators, especially in environments with dynamic network coverage or high interference.

These intelligent systems also support forensic analysis by maintaining immutable logs of all EMS-related communication and sensor activity, facilitating post-incident investigations and compliance reporting (Azonuche, & Enyejo, 2024). AI-based security monitoring transforms mobile healthcare response by ensuring cyber-resilient EMS operations while optimizing speed, safety, and accuracy during critical medical interventions.

➤ *Comparative Analysis of Industry Solutions and Standards*

Industry adoption of cybersecurity frameworks in smart healthcare varies significantly, with a mixture of proprietary AI-driven solutions and standardized practices guiding implementation. Comparative analysis reveals that while commercial platforms often offer advanced anomaly detection and response capabilities, interoperability and transparency remain inconsistent (Enyejo, et al., 2024). Many solutions rely on closed-source AI models, limiting auditability and regulatory acceptance in critical environments (Al-Turjman & Alturjman, 2020) as presented in table 4.

Open standards such as NIST's Cybersecurity Framework and ISO/IEC 27001 offer foundational guidelines but lack prescriptive support for AI integration in 5G and IoMT settings. Vendors such as IBM, Palo Alto Networks, and Cisco have introduced AI-enhanced security suites tailored for healthcare, often featuring real-time behavioral analytics, threat hunting automation, and centralized dashboards (Atalor, et al., 2023). These tools leverage threat intelligence feeds and heuristic modeling, but their effectiveness can be limited by vendor lock-in and lack of interoperability with third-party systems. By contrast, emerging modular frameworks emphasize microservices architecture, federated learning, and standards-based communication protocols (e.g., HL7 FHIR and MQTT). These offer more scalable and transparent alternatives for healthcare providers seeking adaptable, future-proof cybersecurity solutions (Ayoola, et al., 2024). Furthermore, industry consortia are actively developing guidelines for integrating AI governance,

explainability, and cross-platform threat intelligence sharing into baseline standards.

This comparative analysis underscores the need for harmonized, AI-centric standards that balance innovation

with security assurance (Azonuche, & Enyejo, 2024). Intelligent standardization will be critical for unifying disparate industry practices, ensuring safe deployment of AI security tools, and supporting regulatory compliance across diverse healthcare environments.

Table 4 Summary of Comparative Analysis of Industry Solutions and Standards

Category	Description	Examples	Key Insights
Proprietary Industry Solutions	Vendor-specific AI cybersecurity platforms with advanced threat features	IBM QRadar, Cisco SecureX, Palo Alto Cortex XDR	High performance but limited transparency and interoperability
Open Standards and Frameworks	Widely accepted guidelines for security practices in healthcare	NIST Cybersecurity Framework, ISO/IEC 27001, HL7 FHIR	Provide baseline security but lack native support for AI and 5G-specific threats
Emerging Modular Approaches	Scalable, standards-compliant architectures integrating AI and federated learning	Microservices-based AI engines, federated anomaly detection frameworks	Enable cross-platform collaboration and easier updates
Standardization Challenges	Issues in unifying disparate solutions under common governance	Conflicting APIs, lack of explainability standards, vendor lock-in	Need for intelligent standardization to ensure secure, interoperable systems

VI. FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS AND CONCLUSION

➤ *Ethical and Legal Implications of AI in Healthcare Cybersecurity*

The integration of AI into cybersecurity operations in 5G-enabled smart healthcare networks introduces a complex web of ethical and legal concerns. AI systems that process patient data, monitor behaviors, and automate threat detection inherently access sensitive health records, raising critical questions regarding consent, transparency, and accountability. For instance, AI-based intrusion detection systems may monitor encrypted communications for anomaly detection, potentially infringing on patient privacy if safeguards are not meticulously enforced.

Bias in AI models also presents a substantial ethical risk. Algorithms trained on non-representative data may overlook threats affecting underrepresented groups or produce skewed risk assessments. In a healthcare context, this could lead to disparities in incident response or misclassification of device behavior, particularly in edge-based IoMT systems.

From a legal standpoint, assigning liability for automated decisions remains unresolved. When an AI system incorrectly flags—or fails to flag—a cybersecurity threat leading to patient harm, determining whether responsibility lies with the system designer, healthcare provider, or third-party vendor is unclear. Additionally, regulatory frameworks such as GDPR and HIPAA mandate strict data governance practices, which may conflict with the adaptive and self-learning nature of AI. To ensure ethically responsible deployment, organizations must prioritize explainability, establish audit trails, and adopt privacy-preserving mechanisms like federated learning. Legal compliance frameworks must evolve to

accommodate dynamic AI capabilities while preserving patient trust and system integrity.

➤ *Scalability and Interoperability in AI Threat Intelligence Systems*

Scalability and interoperability are central challenges in the deployment of AI-powered threat intelligence across 5G-enabled smart healthcare environments. As healthcare systems grow increasingly interconnected—encompassing hospitals, telehealth platforms, mobile units, and home-based IoMT devices—security solutions must efficiently adapt to vast, heterogeneous data streams and device ecosystems without performance degradation.

Scalability concerns are amplified by the real-time requirements of medical systems. AI models must ingest, analyze, and respond to high-throughput telemetry from wearables, diagnostic machines, and remote servers simultaneously. Edge computing partially addresses this challenge by distributing processing closer to the data source. However, without a coordinated orchestration layer, AI services may encounter bottlenecks, inconsistent model updates, or fragmented risk visibility. Interoperability poses another formidable barrier. Threat intelligence systems rely on shared semantics, protocols, and APIs to correlate data across multiple platforms. Yet, healthcare organizations often use vendor-specific devices and proprietary formats, complicating the integration of AI engines trained on dissimilar data schemas. This limits the effectiveness of AI in detecting cross-domain threats or in collaborating across institutions.

Achieving scalable and interoperable AI security solutions requires standardization of data models, unified threat taxonomies, and API-level compatibility across vendors. Modular, containerized AI architectures and decentralized learning frameworks also enable seamless updates and cross-network collaboration. Without

resolving these issues, AI's transformative potential in healthcare cybersecurity will remain constrained.

➤ *Open Research Challenges and Future Trends*

Despite the promising advancements in AI-powered threat intelligence for 5G smart healthcare networks, several unresolved research challenges persist. One key challenge is adversarial robustness. Many AI models remain vulnerable to adversarial attacks, where subtle input manipulations cause misclassification. In a healthcare context, this vulnerability could allow malicious actors to evade detection or trigger false alarms, undermining trust in AI-assisted defenses. Another open challenge is the development of lightweight AI models suitable for constrained IoMT devices. These devices lack the computational power to run complex neural networks, yet they form the frontlines of medical data acquisition and patient monitoring. Research is ongoing to adapt neural architecture search (NAS) and model compression techniques to achieve low-latency inference without compromising detection accuracy.

Moreover, explainability in high-stakes medical environments is still evolving. Black-box AI models limit the ability of healthcare administrators and legal entities to understand why specific decisions are made. Future models must be inherently interpretable or paired with real-time explanation modules to meet regulatory and operational demands.

Emerging trends point toward autonomous cybersecurity systems capable of self-healing, threat hunting, and cross-domain learning. Integrating blockchain for verifiable audit trails and combining reinforcement learning with graph analytics for threat propagation modeling are also promising directions. These innovations must be coupled with continuous ethical oversight and technical validation to ensure safe deployment.

➤ *Summary of Findings and Concluding Remarks*

This review has demonstrated the pivotal role of artificial intelligence in fortifying cybersecurity within 5G-enabled smart healthcare communication networks. AI enhances the agility, precision, and responsiveness of security systems, enabling proactive threat detection and dynamic risk mitigation. By integrating machine learning, deep learning, natural language processing, and federated architectures, healthcare institutions can secure sensitive operations such as remote surgeries, real-time diagnostics, and continuous patient monitoring across distributed infrastructures. The findings highlight the necessity of AI-enhanced frameworks to manage the complex and dynamic threat landscape introduced by 5G connectivity. Solutions like intelligent network slicing, anomaly detection in IoMT, and predictive analytics contribute significantly to operational resilience. However, the review also reveals that technical and institutional challenges—including ethical risks, legal ambiguities, scalability limitations, and interoperability barriers—must be addressed to ensure sustained adoption.

Looking ahead, future systems must embrace explainability, modularity, and regulatory alignment while remaining adaptable to evolving attack vectors. Multidisciplinary collaboration will be essential in developing AI systems that are not only technically robust but also ethically grounded and legally defensible. As digital health ecosystems expand, the convergence of AI and 5G presents a transformative opportunity to secure and optimize healthcare delivery—provided that innovation is tempered by responsibility, transparency, and foresight.

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