

# The Future of Robotics in Healthcare and Orthopaedic Surgeries

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## Abstract

The use of robotics technology in healthcare has quickly changed clinical practices for the better in terms of accuracy, consistency, and outcomes for many disciplines. In orthopaedic surgery, robotic-assisted systems help facilitate a better approach by allowing surgeons to perform less invasive procedures with higher precision. In even more advanced systems like the MAKO, NAVIO, and ROSA, real-time imaging coupled with AI haptic-feedback systems, and other AI algorithms help orthopaedic surgeons improve accuracy in implant positioning, error reduction, and patient recovery time. Robotic systems technology goes beyond orthopaedics and advances robotic systems in telemedicine and diagnostic automation. Collaborative robotic systems specifically designed for cooperation with humans, autonomous navigation, and predictive AI systems for real-time surgery observation are current gaps in robotic assisted telemedicine. The introduction of AI predictive systems, AR, super connectivity, and advanced clinical robotics will reinvent most procedures in precision and personal medicine. This paper looks at current robotic technology in use in orthopaedic surgery, the technology being developed, and the transition to fully autonomous and intelligent surgical robots.

**Keywords:** Robotics in healthcare, orthopaedic surgery, robotic-assisted surgery, AI in medicine, surgical automation, precision medicine, MAKO, ROSA, NAVIO

## 1. Introduction

### What is a Robot

Robots are programmable machines designed to perform tasks automatically or with minimal human assistance. They combine mechanical design, sensors, control systems, and artificial intelligence to execute actions with speed, accuracy, and consistency. Initially used in manufacturing, robotics has now expanded into healthcare, education, defense, and daily life. In healthcare, robots assist in surgeries, rehabilitation, and patient care, improving precision and efficiency while reducing human error.

One of the most significant revolutionary changes that the application of robots in medicine has brought is how they are integrated into the healthcare system. Technologies based on robots that were once only things of an experimental future have turned out to be common instruments in everyday medical

practice over the last 20 years. Robots have come to be of a vital importance to the success of a wide range of medical fields in terms of precision, safety, and efficiency. The field of orthopaedic surgery is the one, among this variety, where robots can be used the most effectively. Orthopaedic surgeries are the ones where the bone structure must be aligned, the joint must be replaced, and the implant position must be done with great accuracy. For a long time, human inability to be particularly precise and the problem of human fatigue were obstacles to the realization of consistently optimal results. Now they are on their way to solving these problems through robotic-assisted systems that integrate not only mechanical but also digital elements. In the beginning, there were only the ROBODOC and MAKRO systems that pointed out the possibility and the way of performing robot-guided orthopaedic operations. These innovations have increased the accuracy of the surgery, shortened the patient's recovery time, and improved his/her health in the long run. The journey did not stop there with the help of the ever-evolving technologies in the field of AI, computer vision, and sensor.

Current robotic installations have the functions of getting the feedback in real-time, can change their motion based on it, and can also do the analytics on intraoperative data. Doing that, they give the opportunity to surgeons to prepare, see, and carry out the most difficult operations at a level of accuracy that was impossible before. In general, robotics has been used in diagnosis, rehabilitation, pharmacy automation, and patient support, besides surgery. These applications in different fields show that there is a growing interaction between robotics, data science, and biomedical engineering. Besides these, the worldwide escalated elderly populations together with the aged-related chronic musculoskeletal diseases are pointing out even more the necessity for robotic innovations. For example, the need for joint replacement surgeries keeps rising all over the world. Not only by bringing the best surgical performance of a human being, but also by employing minimal human intervention, robotic systems can allow this surge in demand to be satisfied. Moreover, as the size of the robotic parts is getting smaller, less invasive orthopaedic interventions are becoming closer to reality. On the other hand, the use of haptic and augmented reality in surgeon–robot coordination and training are being improved. Neural networks are currently used to develop predictive models that can be used in surgical planning and recovery after surgery. Robotics integration with real-time imaging and 3D printing is the key enabler of patient-specific implant customization. Data systems based on the cloud support surgical operation from distance and collaboration with other institutions. Additionally, ethical and regulatory structures are becoming mature to guarantee safety, accountability, and patient trust. Nevertheless, there are impediments such as expensive costs of implementation and the need of specialized training for the staff. Moreover, restriction of access in poor regions raises the issue of global healthcare equity. Furthermore, problems related to cyber-security and data privacy become very important issues that need to be addressed in the case of robot systems connected to the internet. Nevertheless, these issues are still there, ongoing research, and technological refinement still open more possibilities. Innovation trajectory points to the future when robotic systems will be autonomous or semi-autonomous.

These future systems, under human supervision, could carry out specific surgical tasks independently. The introduction of such features would not only make the procedures more consistent but also, for example, during long operations, the surgeon's fatigue would be reduced. The use of autonomous navigation and the help of AI for surgical planning in orthopaedic surgery are two development directions that are likely to have a major impact in the future and completely change the standard clinical practice.

The upcoming systems might use real-time biomechanical feedback to make adjustments to the surgical parameters on the fly. Wearable devices integration can make the rehabilitation process and recovery monitoring more efficient and effective. The ultimate aim behind it is not to take the place of surgeons but rather to empower them. One of the benefits brought by robotics is to extend the reach, precision, and safety of care delivery in different parts of the world. As the collaboration between different fields goes deeper, robotics will be more and more instrumental in defining medicine's next frontier. The amalgamation of mechanical engineering, computer science, and clinical expertise is what marks this new era. Being aware of the technological and ethical aspects involved is a prerequisite for the innovation that is informed by these facets. This paper deals with the rise of robotics in the medical field, focusing on the subsequent changes in orthopaedic surgery, upcoming trends, and the challenges that lie ahead. It especially emphasizes how robotic technologies will revolutionize orthopaedic surgery over the next 20 years.

## LITERATURE SURVEY

### a. Comprehensive study of robotics

**David Silvera-Tawil et al. [1]** Describes how Healthcare robotics have gradually become a big part of healthcare to the extent that one might wonder how healthcare was possible without the use of robotics. Robotics are transforming the face of modern healthcare by highlighting the technology progression on one side, and the variety of challenges related to the integration of the technology on the other side. **Bini, S. A. (n.d.). [13]** The COVID-19 crisis was identified as a major factor that has significantly sped up the whole process of digital transformation in the field of orthopaedic care treatment. What used to be frontier innovations in the case of technologies such as robot-assisted surgery, telemedicine, big data, and machine learning have now become essential clinical tools, thus, fundamentally changing the face of orthopaedic care delivery. **Holleran et al. [18] conclude** that shift towards integrating more robotics into healthcare systems is changing the architecture and dynamics of the healthcare labor market. Although robotic technologies boost efficiency and automate work processes with high levels of precision, they also create hurdles with respect to the adaptation of workforces, redefining skills, and managing organizational complexities. Rather than replacing clinical staff, the authors argue healthcare robotics can improve the provision of care as long as training, ethical considerations, and planning around the workforce are applied.

### b. Robotic Technologies

**Haddad, F. S., et al. [2] Describes** AI and robotic technologies will change the entire orthopaedic surgical pathway, diagnosis and preoperative planning, intraoperative execution and postoperative rehabilitation. These devices are already facilitating precision, reproducibility, and personalization in joint reconstruction and trauma surgery, thus providing tangible improvements in implant alignment and work-flow efficiency. **Taylor et al. [6]** Author of the article envision a scenario in which the combination of robotics, advanced imaging, computer-assisted planning, and artificial intelligence will essentially change orthopaedic surgery within the next few years. They propose that the future computer-integrated systems will not only be used for mechanically assisting the surgeon but also as intelligent, data-driven platforms which will be able to provide decision support in real-time and execute task autonomously.

### c. Orthopaedic surgeries

**Garcia, J. A., & Kim, H. S. [3]** The integration of robotic systems coupled with augmented reality (AR) innovations is a considerable leap in the direction of the next generation of orthopaedic surgical rooms. The symbiotic functioning of AR-powered visualization with the accuracy of a robot not only makes it possible to perform the surgical act at a superior level but also the mistakes that happen during the operation can be reduced, the positioning and alignment of the implant can be made best. **Mahmood, A., & Patel, N. [4]** Describes Robotics has been one of the main revolutions in the field of orthopaedic surgery in terms of increasing precision, reproducibility, and accuracy even at the stage of preoperative planning. Now with robotic systems surgeons can gain more control over implant placement, alignment, and bone resection to an extremely high degree of accuracy. **Papp et al. [9]** Robotic-assisted orthopaedic procedures have a major impact on the surgical accuracy and reproducibility as they are far superior to the conventional manual techniques. The study points out that the use of robotic systems is a constant factor in achieving better implant positioning, higher alignment precision, and more overall intraoperative consistency in different orthopaedic subspecialties. **Oettl et al. [10]** Robotics is the redefinition of surgery, no less, a fundamental change of the way orthopaedic operations are thought of, planned, and carried out. The authors point out that the use of robotic systems along with artificial intelligence, advanced imaging, and data analytics may raise the level of surgical precision, reproducibility, and patient-specific customization. **Abdelglil et al. [14]** The authors of the paper have basically agreed that robotic-assisted surgery has been a game-changing innovation in orthopaedic practice, which is now able to offer less than human precision, reproducibility, and probable patient outcome improvements. According to the authors, the use of robotic systems improves the precision of the surgery in the placement of the implant, alignment, and soft-tissue balancing, which results in postoperative outcomes that are more predictable.

### d. AI in Robotics

**Bini and Mahajan [5]**, conclude that Orthopaedic practice is changing significantly due to the infusion of AI and robotic technologies, the major changes being joint replacement surgery, imaging interpretation, and clinical decision support. It is stated that although the robotic systems have shown good surgical precision and reproducibility as well as some performance parameters, the real promise of AI is in data-driven personalization, that is to say patient selection can be optimized, predictions of outcomes can be made, and surgical planning can be improved. **Chen et al. [8]** Orthopaedic robotic navigation systems embedding machine learning (ML) is a giant step a breakthrough to higher surgical precision, automation, and personalization of orthopaedic care. The document states that ML algorithms can fundamentally change the surgical workflow at every stage - hence, they can be implemented for preoperative planning, image segmentation, intraoperative decision support, and also adaptive navigation - which, in turn, leads to increased accuracy, fewer human errors, and optimal patient outcomes customized according to their individual needs. **Elkohail, A., et al. [11]** Robot-assisted surgery is a major change to orthopaedic practice that has gone to a large extent to position implants with a precision never seen before, to make the surgical procedure more reproducible and to get better patient outcomes as compared to the use of the normal techniques.

**e. Robotics and Sensor Technologies**

**Tadros et al.** [7] At the core, the blend of advanced robots and sensor technology is radically transforming the face of ortho surgery by making the operation more accurate, it gives the surgeon the ability to see inside the body during the operation and also the final outcome of the surgery is better. Smart sensors—particularly those employing optical tracking, inertial measurement, and force feedback—are paving the way for real-time guidance and increased situational awareness in complex surgeries. **Ahern, D. P., et al.** [12] that the fusion of robotic and image-guided technologies is a significant revolution which, by far, changes the precision, safety, and reproducibility of spinal procedures. The authors claim that the employment of robotic-assisted devices in combination with high-tech imaging and navigation units results to a great extent to the accuracy of the pedicle screw placement, to the lowering of the radiation dose, and to the overall intraoperative planning that is more efficient and of a higher standard. **Yang, G. et al.** [16] They acknowledged that robotic systems have been quite successful in increasing the precision, reproducibility, and patient outcomes in orthopaedic surgery. However, they pointed out that the wider use of such systems needs careful consideration of regulations, ethics, and clinical aspects. The authors point out that it is not enough to have a technical breakthrough only—clinical safety and effectiveness need to be confirmed through standard clinical trials, regulatory authorities should have clear and transparent guidelines and there should be ethical committees to safeguard patient welfare. **Tadros et al.** [17] sensors are the basis for safe and smart clinical robotic systems. The authors end with the idea that the use of cutting-edge sensor technologies, such as force, tactile, vision, and proximity sensors, has substantially increased the precision, flexibility, and safety of robotic operations in medical facilities. By automation and ongoing sensor input, today's clinical robots are capable of executing complicated interventions with higher levels of conditions.

**f. Arthroplasty Systems**

**Mistry et al.** [15]The paper suggests that robotic knee arthroplasty systems have undergone a major transformation in their evolutionary journey, moving from simple mechanical alignment aids to fully integrated, data-driven surgical platforms. The authors assert that robotic technology has facilitated greater accuracy in bone preparation, implant alignment, and soft tissue balancing, and these technical improvements could result in better functional recovery and longer im-plant life.

## METHODOLOGY

### ROBOTICS IN HEALTHCARE

#### Purpose of a robot

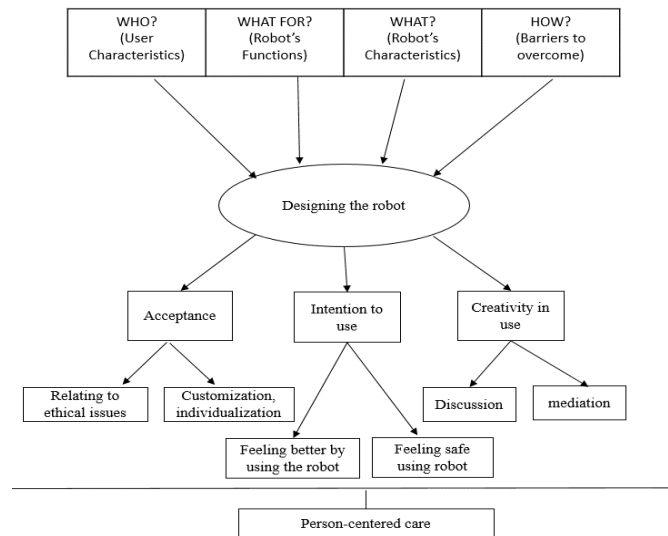


Fig : Identification categories

#### a. Research Designing

The research is designed to use mixed-methods exploratory design combining qualitative and quantitative approaches to understand technological, clinical, and ethical aspects of robotics in healthcare and orthopaedic surgery.

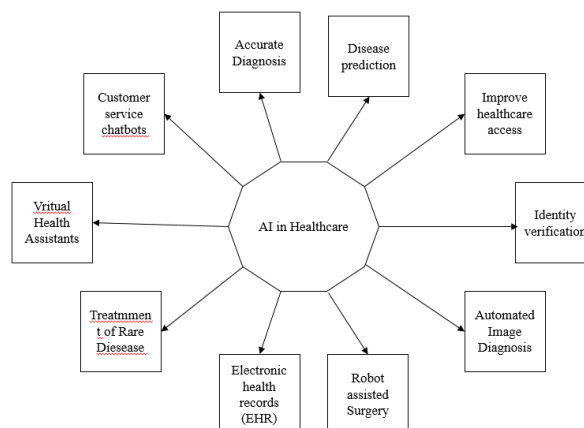


Fig: Roles of AI in healthcare



Artificial Intelligence enhances accuracy, efficiency, and personalization across clinical and administrative healthcare functions. AI analyses and assists in early disease detection, diagnosis, and treatment planning for various medical datasets including imaging scans, electronic health records, and genomic profiles. AI systems in radiology and pathology swiftly support clinicians in making precise decisions by pinpointing patterns and anomalies in medical images. In predictive personalized medicine, AI optimizes therapeutic drug monitoring by outcome prediction and assists in tailoring treatment plans. In addition to diagnostics, AI-assisted robotic systems provide pivotal support in complex surgical procedures with unyielding precision and real-time feedback. AI applications predict and improve operational efficiency in hospitals by streamlining workflows and managing patient scheduling. AI virtual assistants improve patient engagement through remote and real-time monitoring, symptom tracking, and telehealth. Overall, AI applications in healthcare delivery improve clinical and operational outcomes, minimize human error, and enhance accessibility and care.

**b. Purpose of the Study:**

Investigating the leading-edge trends, innovations, opportunities, and challenges related to the use of robotic systems in healthcare and surgical orthopaedics.

**c. Research Questions:**

- What are the future technological breakthroughs expected for medical and orthopaedic robotics?
- How surgical precision, patient outcomes, and healthcare efficiency be improved by using robotics?
- What kind of ethical and cost-related concerns are introduced by these changes?
- What kind of robotic methods are exists in orthopaedic surgeries?

**d. Data Sources:**

Secondary data will be gathered from peer-reviewed journal articles, medical reports, market research studies, and clinical trial publications dated from 2020 to 2025.

**e. Data Collection Method:**

Quantitative Data: The worldwide robotics market data, CAGR estimates, and metrics of surgical success, all of which are obtainable from legitimate databases and industry reports.

Qualitative Data: Interviews with Experts (10–15 orthopedic surgeons, AI researchers, and healthcare technologists) to gain deep knowledge of potential applications.

**f. Data Analysis Techniques:**

The quantitative dataset is going to be processed through descriptive statistics, trend analysis, and predictive modeling (to be used for rate of growth and market expansion).

Qualitative information will be subjected to thematic analysis for identifying recurring themes about benefits, limitations, and the ethical aspects.

**g. Technology Assessment Framework:**

This work shall consider Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and the Delphi method for ascertaining the extent of acceptance among healthcare workers.

**h. Case Study Analysis:**

Comparing case studies of systems like Stryker's MAKO, Zimmer Biomet's ROSA, and Medtronic's Mazor X for analyzing results of implementation in the real world.

**i. Reliability and Validity:**

The triangulation of data from various sources will secure the trustworthiness of the data, while validation by members will involve the experts confirming the findings.

**j. Ethical Considerations:**

Besides the adherence to ethical standards, the research ensures experts' confidentiality in their communications and admits the biases that may exist in secondary data.

**1. Ethical Concerns**

**a. Patient Safety and Accountability**

**Responsibility:**

In the event of a malfunction or surgical mistake caused by a robotic system, who should be held accountable—the surgeon, the hospital, or the manufacturer?

**Transparency:**

Clearly patients should understand and consent to the involvement of robotic systems in their surgery.

**b. Data Privacy and Security**

Robotic systems are equipped with the ability to collect and process large surgical data as well as patient data. Ensuring that this data is protected from breaches or misuse is an ethical necessity.

**c. Human Oversight and De-skilling**

The heavy dependence on robotics may cause the reduction of the surgeons' hands-on experience, especially in the case of the training environment.



There is an ethical concern to ensure that manual skills and decision-making abilities of surgeons shall be preserved.

#### **d. Equity of Access**

The state-of-the-art robotic systems may only be put to use in top-tier hospitals, thus creating a quality of care gap between underserved and well-off populations or regions.

### **2. Cost-Related Concerns**

#### **a. High Initial Investment**

The acquisition cost of a surgical robot may reach up to a few million dollars. The installation and maintenance cost may also put additional pressure on the hospital's budget or patients' wallets.

#### **b. Training and Maintenance**

Specialized training of surgeons and staff is necessary and hence additional expenses and time will be needed.

Periodically software updates, servicing, and calibration will also cost money.

#### **c. Cost vs. Benefit Analysis**

The long-term saving of money should be clear to make the investment worthwhile if robotics can result in shorter recovery times and fewer complications.

#### **d. Economic Inequality**

Poorly equipped hospitals may find it hard to compete or provide similar levels of care which in turn would lead to a widening of local and global healthcare gaps.

### **3. Balancing Ethics and Economics**

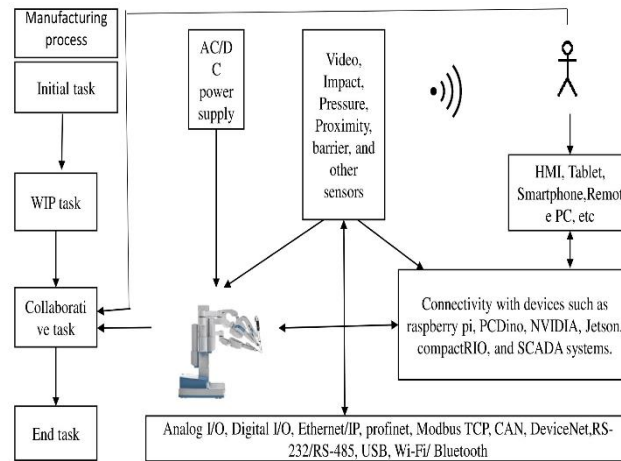
Future sustainable measures will include:

Clear ethical principles regulating responsibility and informed consent. Cost-sharing schemes or vouchers enabling wider accessibility of robot-assisted surgery. The ongoing assessment of patient benefit in relation to expenditure as a means of ensuring that technology implementation is primarily for patient's welfare.

#### **3.1 ORTHOPEDIC ROBOTICS RESEARCH**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly transforming orthopaedic surgery through applications in diagnostics, surgical planning, intraoperative guidance and post-operative care.

## Architecture of How a Robot works in surgeries



**Fig : Architecture of a surgical robot**

Designing a surgical robot specifically for orthopaedic procedures involves a unique blend of engineering, computing, and thoughtful balancing of control systems. fundamentally, there are three elements in the systems architecture: the robotic arms, the control unit, and the surgeon console. As the human-machine interface of the system, the surgeon console lets the doctor handle the robotic instruments using spatially oriented hand controllers and a control console. The console also provides a 3D stereoscopic view of the operation site, which the console's hand controllers facilitate movement. Control unit serves as the system's brain where all console inputs the console are processed. Control unit calculates motion scaling, applies filter hand tremors, and automates tool movement. Robotic arms perform actions of surgical ends - effectors and carryout actions of bone resections, drills and, implants as per the commands sequenced in the robotic console and controllers. In constructed robotic system, AI engines can be incorporated for surgical navigation and planning. These systems can be designed for adaptive guidance by using a combination of imaging data, pre-surgical imaging, and intra-surgical imaging for tracking. Integrated systems enhance control in orthopaedic procedures, reduce invasiveness, and promote healing in the patients.

### a) AI Diagnostic Assistance

AI-driven image analysis, especially deep learning, has been used to automate detection and grading of joint disorders such as osteoarthritis (OA) as well as fractures and soft tissue injuries. For instance, convolutional neural networks (CNNs) can diagnose hip and knee OA from radiographs with an accuracy that rivals that of seasoned radiologists. AI algorithms also enhance fracture detection even in difficult scenarios such as occult fractures, and boosting sensitivity and specificity beyond traditional methods.

### b) AI Surgical Planning and Workflow Improvement

AI models assist in preoperative planning, particularly for joint replacements, through automating patient-specific surgical plans, decreasing manual corrections and streamlining workflows. AI-powered

templating software assists with implant positioning and sizing, and can formulate surgical strategies based on patient data, thus enhancing surgical precision.

#### **c) AI-based Implant Research and Optimization**

Machine learning models simulate and optimize implant designs, improving long-term durability and performance. For instance, neural networks estimate loading conditions more quickly and accurately than traditional methods, assisting implant design and testing.

#### **d) Intraoperative Support and Training**

AI and computer vision technologies enhance intraoperative navigation and imaging analysis as well as training of surgeons. Improved visualization, AR overlays, and objective skill assessments enable surgical accuracy and precision to be enhanced, complication rates to be lowered and complications to be avoided altogether.

#### **e) Predictive Analytics**

AI uses predictive analytics to evaluate historical data and determine prospective surgical outcomes, complication risks, and patient recovery. These predictive tools support the formation of more personalized, data-driven treatment plans, and optimized resource utilization.

#### **f) Future Challenges and Study areas**

Research integrating AI into real-time surgical decision-making, improving explainability of the AI to boost clinician confidence, and extending AI-guided methods to additional orthopaedic subspecialties such as trauma, spine and tumors, remains unaddressed. Additionally, improvements in data quality and standardization and overcoming regulatory barriers will be key.

In conclusion, AI's ability to improve the field of orthopaedic surgery is remarkable; it makes diagnoses quicker, enhances the safety and precision of surgical procedures and makes outcomes more predictable. Research is in progress to enhance AI and ensure its clinical integration is practical and streamlined.

### **CONCLUSION**

The future of robotics in orthopaedic surgery represents a transformational change in the provision of care to the musculoskeletal system. Robotic technology and AI-assisted systems improve surgical precision and implant alignment, and support patient-specific planning, enhancing consistency in care, and improving outcomes over time. These improvements are the result of innovations in imaging technology, haptic feedback, and advanced analytics for predictive and minimally invasive procedures. Unquestionably, advanced robotics hold far greater potential, but the industry must first overcome considerable barriers to cost, accessibility, training, and ethical stewardship. Expense and cost-efficacy of robotic systems and ongoing maintenance are barriers to widespread adoption of robotic systems. Surgeons and clinical teams will need new training to mitigate the steep learning curve, and questions of accountability for errors, data security, and equity of access will all demand ethical solutions. AI, machine learning, and the integration of real-time data systems will empower robotic systems to become smarter, more autonomous, and increasingly responsive to individual patient needs. The future of robotic orthopaedic surgery hinges on new, balanced interdisciplinary partnerships between systems engineers, clinicians, regulators, and educators. Finally, robotics in the operating room will not replace the surgeon,

but will provide advanced precision in a partnership that bolsters efficiency and safety, emphasizing the human elements of care and commitment to quality.

## **FUTURE-WORK**

Robotics for orthopaedic surgeries in healthcare promises major improvements in precision, accessibility, and patient outcomes across a wide range of procedures. Key directions include expanding applications beyond hip and knee replacements to shoulder replacements, foot and ankle reconstructions, spine deformities, trauma fracture reductions, and oncology resections. Systems like ROSA Shoulder and TiRobot will help improve accuracy in complex anatomies. The deep integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning will provide real-time decision support, predictive analytics for complications, automated preoperative planning, and personalized implant design using 3D printing. Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) headsets will enhance intraoperative visualization and training through simulation. Innovations in hardware, such as smaller "smart instruments," advanced haptic feedback with soft-tissue protection, machine vision trackers, and multi-arm retraction systems will make workflows smoother, reduce surgery times, and decrease radiation exposure. Addressing key challenges like high costs, steep learning curves, and limited long-term data will be crucial. Cost-effective open-platform robots, telesurgery for remote access, and solid randomized controlled trials will help make these technologies more widely accepted. Robotic rehabilitation exoskeletons and regenerative therapies, such as bioprinted cartilage delivery, will also help improve postoperative recovery.

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