



7 Healthcare Technologies You Might Be Using in 10 Years

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:
[How technology is revolutionizing medical diagnostics](#)

There's plenty of innovation happening around the world when it comes to healthcare technology, and some of them are almost ready to be used by healthcare practices like yours.

Here are a few examples of experimental tech that your practice might be using in the next decade.

1. Blockchain for EHR/EMR

Despite being around for a few years, electronic healthcare systems are still in their infancy. Technology like blockchain — which currently works as a digital ledger for managing financial transactions (like Bitcoin) — could be used to help improve the exchanging of data between systems.

While this may not be something your practice needs to look into directly, your cloud-based EHR/EMR provider will certainly be investigating the potential benefits of using blockchain to provide faster and more secure data storage for your organization.

2. Continuous monitoring devices

One of the biggest challenges with monitoring patient health is that visits to the doctor are often intermittent. You can collect samples as they come in, but there's not a great way to monitor health over a continuous period of time.

The Gambhir lab is hoping to change that by creating technology that would allow continuous health monitoring without require bulky or burdensome devices, like a bra designed to regularly image breast tissue, or a smart toilet that analyses samples as they are received.

3. Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is used behind the scenes in healthcare technology more often than you'd think, but it's still in its early development. The future of AI is one that's designed to help practitioners create treatment plans, manage medications, and reduce administrative workloads.

Predictive AI is also a growing market. According to a report by Accenture, investments in predictive medicine tools are expected to reach \$10 billion by 2024.

4. Hands-free Augmented Reality

Augmented Reality (AR), much like AI, is transforming the way practitioners work, and is likely to become more popular over time. AR for healthcare was first used when a doctor performed

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surgery with the help of Google Glass in 2013, but failed to catch on when Google Glass underperformed in the general market.

AR as a healthcare tool is expected to grow into the future, however, with other hands-free devices being designed specifically for use in medical and surgical situations.

5. 3D printed drugs and medical devices

The use of 3D printing has been mostly related to manufacturing since its inception, but that's all about to change. A specific type of printing known as stereolithography allows any object to be created by fusing together different materials.

This could include 3D printing of things like prosthetics and dental implants as well as printing things like customizable oral tablets and other medications. The ease-of-use for 3D printing also opens doors for personalized medication prescriptions in a way never seen before.

6. Experimental treatments

Scientists have been experimenting with healthcare solutions for many years, and in the next decade it's likely we'll see the fruition of that research.

From using plants to create working hearts to using fish skin to heal burns, the combination of nature and healthcare may become more than just science fiction in the future.

7. The "Internet of Things" for healthcare

The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to the internetworking of physical devices ("smart" devices, for example). It defines the relationship between electronics, software, and hardware that make up the components of technology.

When it comes to healthcare, the future of IoT is massive. For example, some senior care facilities are taking advantage of real-time location services using smart devices to locate wayward patients.

Other technology trends, like online healthcare services, telecommunication technology, and smart (wearable) devices are sure to be implemented in practices all around the world.