New Hope for Better Cancer Treatment

The PrECISE Project leads to more personalized approaches to treatment of prostate cancer

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VILLACH, AUSTRIA—A team of doctors and scientists recently wrapped up a project aimed at collecting data from multiple sources and then using it to inform clinicians about the best treatment options for their patients suffering with prostate cancer. Project partners from Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, Germany, France and the USA worked in a highly specialized, EU funded consortium which took three years to complete.

When it comes to cancer, crafting a treatment plan is often difficult because each patient is unique and could react differently to prescribed therapies. If the patient population could be stratified, or put into categories of likelihood of success of certain therapies, the clinician would be better guided regarding next steps. The idea of the PrECISE project was to use artificial intelligence to sift through thousands of publications, journal articles and biopsy data, compare it against the patient sample and suggest treatment options by stratifying of treatment risks for the patient. Once this technology was created, the consortium built an interface which is user-friendly and available to the clinical research community.

While it takes many years to push the results of the PrECISE project to everyday clinical use, the project advanced the notion of utilizing AI in a real and useful way. Not only that, PrECISE paved the way for using AI for other types of cancer treatment as well because the framework created within the project is largely portable.

Many project partners from PrECISE are now working on a follow-up project called iPC (www.ipc-project.eu) which uses the same technologies to focus on treatments for paediatric cancer. For the latest information,podcast and video, visit the PrECISE project, website: www.precise-project.eu

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