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An optimized framework for brain tumor detection and classification using deep learning algorithms

Revanth Sankul, Greeshma Arrapogula *, Sai Varun Kankal, Tejaswi Reddy Aruva and Shoeib Khan Mohammed

Department of Computer Science Engineering (Data Science), ACE Engineering College, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

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Abstract

Brain tumors are among the most critical and life-threatening diseases, requiring early and accurate diagnosis for effective treatment. Traditional diagnostic methods rely on manual assessment of medical images, which can be time-consuming and prone to human error. This study presents an automated approach for brain tumor detection and classification using deep learning and texture analysis techniques. A convolutional neural network (CNN) is employed for feature extraction and classification, while texture analysis methods, such as Gray Level Co-occurrence Matrix (GLCM) and Local Binary Patterns (LBP), enhance the model's ability to distinguish tumor types. The proposed framework is trained on MRI datasets and achieves high accuracy in detecting and classifying brain tumors into categories such as glioma, meningioma, and pituitary tumors. The integration of deep learning with texture-based feature extraction improves robustness and interpretability, making it a promising tool for assisting radiologists in clinical decision-making. Experimental results demonstrate the efficiency of the model in achieving superior classification performance compared to conventional machine learning approaches. The aim of the project is to achieve higher accuracy and reliability for real world MRI data using AI and ML domain knowledge.

Keywords: Brain Tumor Detection; Using Deep Learning Methods; Classifying Brain Tumors; CNN; ANN; Transfer Learning Technique; Using MRI Data; Treatment Analysis

1. Introduction

Brain tumor is among the most dangerous neurological disorders; they must be early identified and correctly categorized if treatment is to be started. For manual diagnosis, radiologists use MRI scan analysis a laborious, subjective, prone-to-human-error process. Though useful, conventional machine learning methods often rely on manually generated features and cannot generalize across many datasets or automate. Using robust neural network architectures to boost the accuracy and efficacy of brain tumor identification and classification, deep learning-based approaches have been developed to solve these problems.

Brain tumor detection and classification from medical imaging, particularly MRI scans, is a highly critical and complex task that directly impacts treatment and patient outcomes. The primary challenge lies in the inherent variability of brain tumors—each tumor can differ in terms of size, shape, location, and type (benign or malignant), making it difficult for conventional methods to achieve high accuracy. Furthermore, MRI scans can exhibit a variety of artifacts, noise, and inconsistencies in quality, especially when acquired from different machines or across different patient demographics, further complicating the detection process. In many cases, radiologists rely on their subjective judgment and experience to analyze these images, a process that is both time-consuming and susceptible to human error, leading to delayed or incorrect diagnoses.

* Corresponding author: Greeshma Arrapogula

Brain Tumors are complicated. There are too many abnormalities in the sizes and position of the brain tumors. This makes it extremely hard for full understanding regarding the nature of the tumor. Also, professional Bl Neurosurgeon is needed for MRI analysis. Frequently in underdeveloped countries the absence of skilled doctors and unfamiliarity with tumors makes it time-consuming and challenging to produce reports from MRI's. The automated system would be able to resolve if the MRI has a tumor, and the system would be able to pin-point the exact type of tumor identified. The system would also be able to the locate position of the tumor in each MRI. Providing a list of doctors, suggestions and further medical procedures would help eliminate any confusion among patients.

The goal of this project is to develop an optimal framework for brain tumor detection and classification by leveraging Deep Learning and Texture Analysis techniques. The framework integrates Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), and Transfer Learning (TL) algorithms to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of tumor diagnosis. It aims to automate the detection of tumors from MRI scans and classify them as either benign or malignant. Additionally, the framework incorporates texture-based analysis methods, such as the Gray-Level Co-occurrence Matrix (GLCM), to further improve classification performance. By evaluating various deep learning models, the project identifies the most accurate and stable approach suitable for real-world clinical applications. Ultimately, this model is designed to assist medical practitioners in making early and accurate diagnoses, reducing manual workload and improving patient outcomes.

2. Literature review

Brain tumor detection and classification have been widely explored using various deep learning techniques to improve diagnostic accuracy. Traditional manual interpretation of MRI scans is prone to errors, leading to a growing interest in automated methods. Deep learning models such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), and Transfer Learning (TL) have shown significant advancements in medical image analysis.

2.1. Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

CNNs have transformed image-based classification by automatically extracting spatial features from raw images. There have been numerous studies that have proved the capability of deep CNN architectures like VGG16, ResNet, and Inception in the detection and classification of brain tumors. CNNs employ convolutional layers to recognize patterns like edges, textures, and tumor boundaries with much less manual feature extraction required. Research has shown that CNNs obtain high accuracy in discriminating between benign and malignant tumors, but their accuracy is vulnerable to dataset changes and image quality. In advanced methods, such as data augmentation and hyperparameter tuning, have been investigated to improve CNN performance in brain tumor classification.

2.2. Artificial Neural Network (ANN)

ANNs are used extensively for brain tumor classification because of their capability of learning sophisticated correlations among input features and the labels for classification. As compared to CNNs, which mostly work with spatial features, ANNs necessitate preset features from images via methods such as PCA or DWT. Certain works have coupled ANNs with statistical approaches for analysis of the characteristics of the tumor to enhance classification accuracy. Though ANNs are proficient in dealing with non-linear data relationships, their effectiveness relies on the quality of derived features, and they might need extra preprocessing steps.

2.3. Transfer learning

Transfer Learning has become a strong method for medical image analysis, particularly when working with limited datasets. TL uses pre-trained deep learning models like AlexNet, MobileNet, and EfficientNet, which have previously been trained on large-scale datasets and fine-tuned for brain tumor classification. Literature indicates that TL-based models can achieve high accuracy with minimal training data, making them highly suitable for medical use where data availability is typically limited. By repurposing features learned from common image datasets, TL limits computational expenses and training time while enhancing model quality. Nonetheless, choosing the right pre-trained model and hyperparameter fine-tuning are paramount factors affecting TL effectiveness.

3. Existing System

Brain tumor detection and classification have traditionally relied on manual examination by radiologists and neurologists using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans. Over time, several computational approaches have been developed to assist in diagnosis, including classical machine learning techniques such as Support Vector Machines (SVM), K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), and Decision Trees. These methods have been used to classify brain tumors based on handcrafted features like texture, shape, and intensity. Manually detecting the characteristics of tumor like size, shape, texture, location can be challenging and time consuming and delayed diagnosis - prone to human errors. Interpretation of MRI and CT scans by radiologists can lead to inconsistent results due to visual fatigue and other factors.

3.1. Proposed System

To overcome the limitations of traditional methods, the proposed system leverages Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), and Transfer Learning (TL) models for efficient and accurate brain tumor detection and classification. The system aims to automate the process of analyzing MRI scans, reducing human intervention, improving accuracy, and enhancing diagnosis speed.

ANN for decision making and classification problems and transfer learning models employ pre-trained deep learning models such as ResNet, InceptionV3. Reduces manual feature extraction, human errors and does not slow down diagnosis, better accuracy. Improves localization, classification and s which is consistent and automate diagnosis tool.

4. Methodology

To build a brain tumor classification model from MRI images, begin by gathering an appropriate dataset and pre-processing the images (resizing, normalizing, and augmentation). Divide the data into training, validation, and test sets. Select a convolutional neural network (CNN) model, or employ a pre-trained model such as VGG16 or ResNet for transfer learning. Train the model with suitable loss functions (e.g., categorical or binary cross-entropy) and optimizers (e.g., Adam), monitoring performance metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. Post-training, test the model with a confusion matrix and AUC-ROC curve. Fine-tune hyperparameters, if necessary, and deploy the model for real-time prediction. Lastly, document your findings, summarize challenges encountered, and recommend improvements for future research.

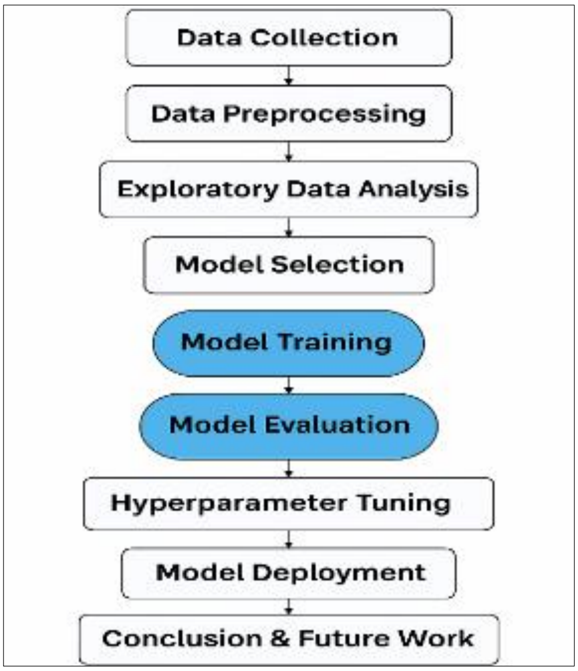

Figure 1 Methodology

4.1. System Architecture

This paper suggests an improved framework that combines deep learning methods with sophisticated texture analysis. The suggested framework merges CNNs for automatic feature extraction with texture-based features like Gray-Level Co-occurrence Matrix (GLCM) and Local Binary Patterns (LBP) to improve the classification process. CNNs are used to extract high-level features automatically from MRI scans, identifying sophisticated patterns and tumor forms. But CNNs by themselves may not notice subtle yet significant texture features in the regions of the tumor, which is why texture analysis techniques are embedded in the model to capture finer details pertinent to tumor texture, like homogeneity, contrast, and entropy. The hybrid model incorporates preprocessing of MRI scans, where the texture features are extracted and input, in addition to the deep learning-based features, into a classification model. This multi-feature method enhances the model's discriminative power between benign and malignant tumors by offering more discriminative features based on texture analysis. Moreover, the framework includes an optimization stage, using state-of-the-art techniques such as hyperparameter tuning and regularization, to optimize the generalization capability of the model and avoid overfitting.

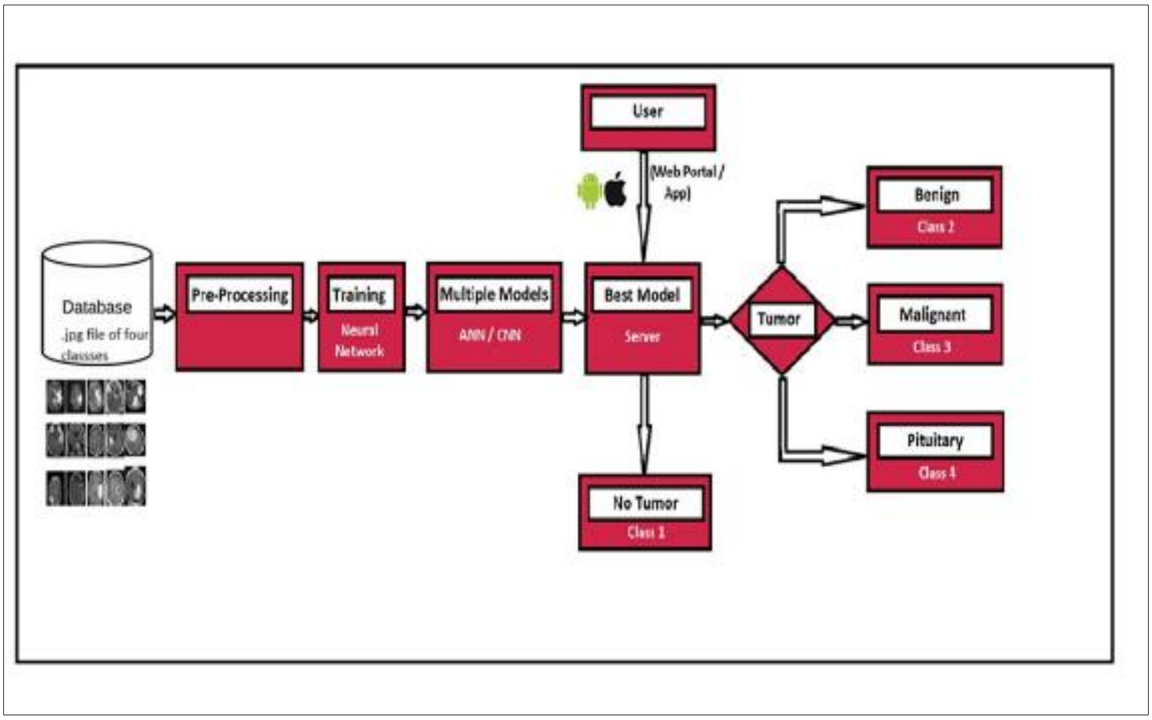

Figure 2 System Architecture

4.1.1. Image preprocessing and Normalization:

Image preprocessing and normalization are instrumental in improving the quality of MRI images prior to input in deep learning models for brain tumor detection. The process starts with resizing and cropping images into a standard dimension, providing consistency to the dataset. Normalization of image dimensions ensures that neural networks can process images efficiently without distortion. To further reduce noise and enhance image quality, techniques like Gaussian filtering or median filtering are used to remove unwanted artifacts and improve the clarity of tumor regions. Noise removal is necessary to avoid deceptive patterns that may influence the accuracy of the model. Intensity normalization is another important stage, where pixel values are mapped to a particular range (e.g., 0–1 or -1 to 1) to maintain uniform brightness and contrast across different MRI scans. This process eliminates differences in image intensity resulting from variations in scanning hardware or imaging conditions, preventing them from affecting model performance. The system also utilizes histogram equalization to enhance image contrast by redistributing pixel intensities, making minor details in tumor structures more recognizable. This method increases the visibility of tumor areas, enabling deep learning models to better distinguish meaningful features. Through the incorporation of these preprocessing methods, the system provides for standardization of input MRI images, noise removal, and optimization for feature extraction, ultimately resulting in enhanced classification accuracy and consistent tumor detection.

4.1.2. Feature extraction using deep learning:

In deep learning-based feature extraction (CNNs), input MRI images are passed through pre-trained CNN models like VGG16 or ResNet to obtain useful features for brain tumor detection. The network is fine-tuned on the MRI dataset to learn important patterns, using features learned from different layers for classification. Transfer learning is employed to tap into knowledge from large datasets, enhancing accuracy even with limited labeled data.

Texture feature extraction continues to improve tumor analysis by using Gray-Level Co-occurrence Matrix (GLCM) and Local Binary Patterns (LBP) methods to extract texture features from the CNN-identified tumor regions. Texture descriptors like contrast, homogeneity, entropy, and correlation are computed to study tumor malignancy and benignity. Statistical methods, such as principal component analysis (PCA) and feature selection, are used to keep the most important texture features for classification.

4.1.3. Classification and Optimization:

In the optimization and classification stage, the features which are extracted by Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and texture analysis are merged into one feature vector, providing thorough representation of the tumor characteristics. These features emphasize spatial, structural, and statistical patterns, which enhance the classification accuracy of the tumors. A machine learning classifier is trained on the merged features to classify the tumors into various types, for example benign, malignant, and pituitary tumors. Popular classifiers utilized in this stage are Support Vector Machine (SVM), which works well with managing high-dimensional data and determining optimal decision boundaries, Random Forest, which increases classification using various decision trees and ensemble learning, and Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP), an artificial neural network that learns complicated non-linear relationships between features.

These classifiers assist in making accurate predictions on the basis of extracted tumor attributes. To improve model robustness and avoid overfitting, cross-validation methods like k-fold cross-validation are used. These processes ensure that the model generalizes well to new data by training on various subsets of the dataset, avoiding biases due to limited data availability.

In addition, hyperparameter tuning is executed by methods like grid search and random search to determine the optimal parameter settings for maximum classification accuracy. Grid search systematically runs various combinations of hyperparameters, whereas random search picks random sets of hyperparameters to explore a wider set of options effectively.

To enhance robustness of classification, regularization techniques such as dropout and L2 regularization are used. Dropout suppresses neurons at random during training, lowering dependent upon certain features and enhancing overall generalization. L2 regularization or weight decay restricts excessive weights from being updated, hindering overfitting and helping in maintaining model stability. By combining deep learning with machine learning classifiers and refining the model via sophisticated methods, the classification and optimization stage provides highly accurate, efficient, and credible means to detect and classify brain tumors ultimately leading to early diagnosis and improved treatment planning.

4.1.4. Implementation

The deployment of the brain tumor detection and classification system is a multi-stage process, with Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), and Transfer Learning (TL) being combined to ensure high accuracy and reliability.

The process starts with data gathering and preprocessing, whereby the MRI images are obtained from open-access datasets like Kaggle or BraTS. Techniques for preprocessing secure high-quality input data by converting images to a fixed-size (e.g., 224×224 pixels), using Gaussian filters for the removal of noise, and intensity normalization to normalize pixel values. Histogram equalization increases contrast and makes tumor structures more discernible.

Feature extraction is the most important part of the process of classification. CNNs are utilized to acquire spatial features in MRI images with the help of convolutional layers to capture tumor features in the form of edges, texture, and shape. Pooling layers compress feature dimensions without losing key information, and fully connected layers are used to process the extracted data for the purpose of classification. ReLU activation functions are used by the CNN model hidden layers and Softmax for the output layer to predict tumors into types like No Tumor, Benign, Malignant, or Pituitary Tumor. The Adam optimizer is used to improve learning efficiency, and dropout regularization avoids overfitting.

In order to further enhance classification performance, Transfer Learning (TL) is employed with pre-trained CNN models like VGG16, ResNet50, and EfficientNet. These models, initially trained on large-scale datasets like ImageNet, are fine-tuned with MRI images to take advantage of their learned feature representations. The fully connected layers are replaced with task-specific layers to conform to brain tumor classification. Fine-tuning consists of adjusting weights in deeper layers to extract domain-specific characteristics while preserving the strength of pre-trained knowledge. Transfer learning is especially useful when dealing with small labeled data, greatly improving model accuracy.

4.2. Evaluation and Testing

4.2.1. Functional Testing

Ensures each module works as expected: image loading, model prediction, classification, treatment suggestion, and symptom display.

Example: Check that an uploaded image flows through the full detection-classification-suggestion pipeline without error.

*4.2.2. **Unit Testing***

Individual functions (e.g., predict_tumor(), classify_tumor()) are tested in isolation using sample inputs

*4.2.3. **Accuracy (Model Evaluation)***

- Accuracy
- Precision
- Recall
- F1-Score

4.2.4. Evaluated Using

- Confusion Matrix

- Cross-validation on the test dataset

4.2.5. Visual Evaluation

- Shows the original MRI and predicted tumor region.
- Helps with subjective validation by experts or users.

5. Results and Discussion

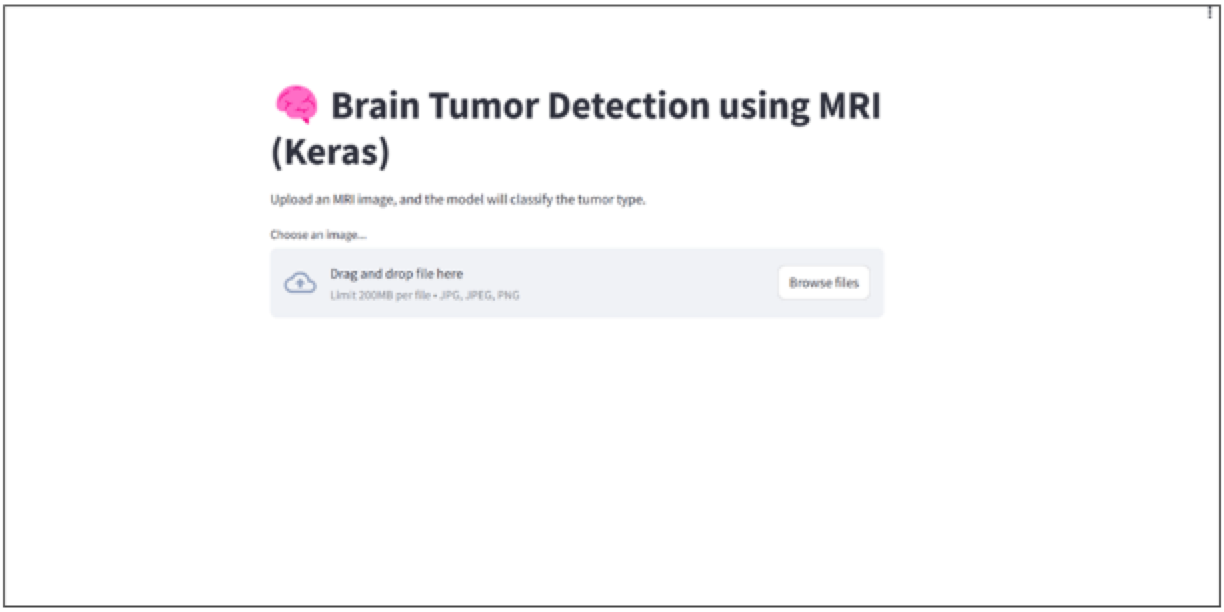

Figure 3 User Interface

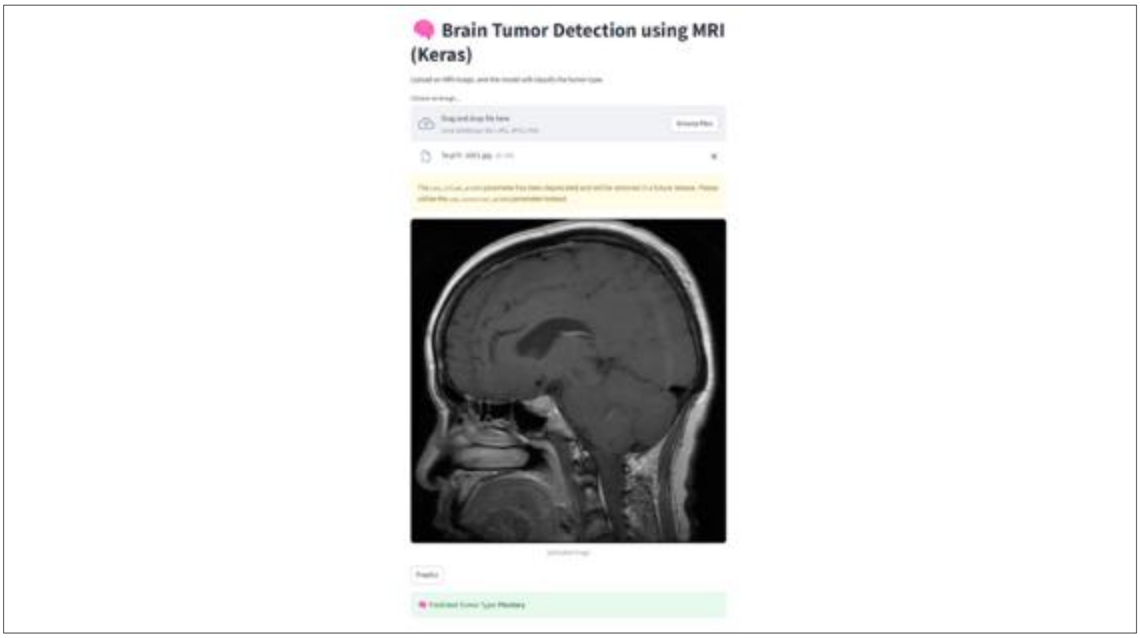

Figure 4 Uploading Tumor image

Figure 5 Predicting Tumor Type (Pituitary)

Figure 6 No Tumor

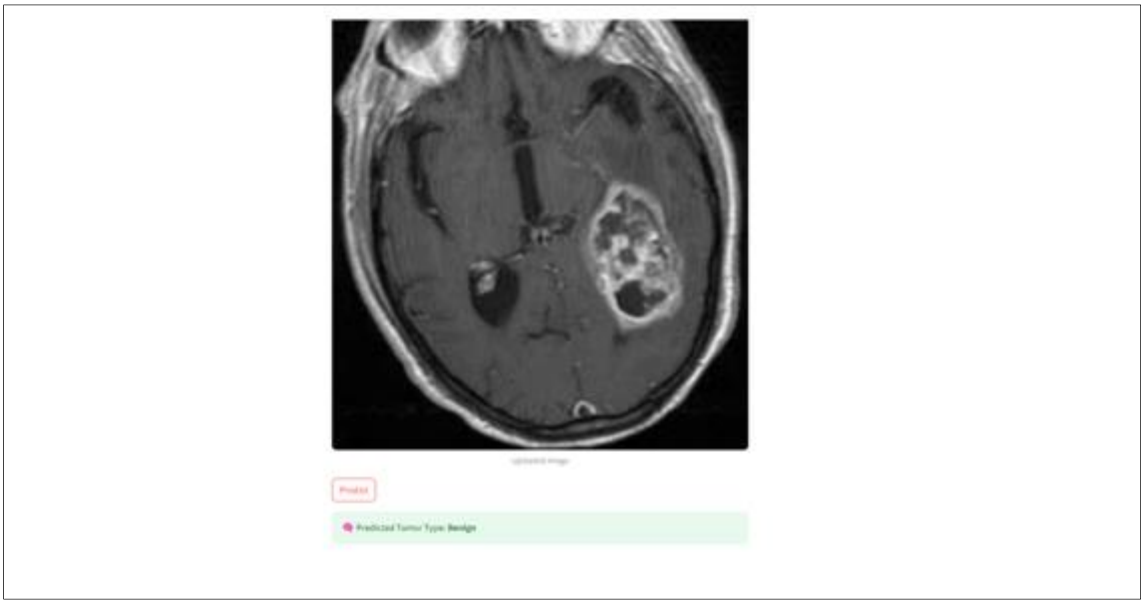

Figure 7 Benign Tumor

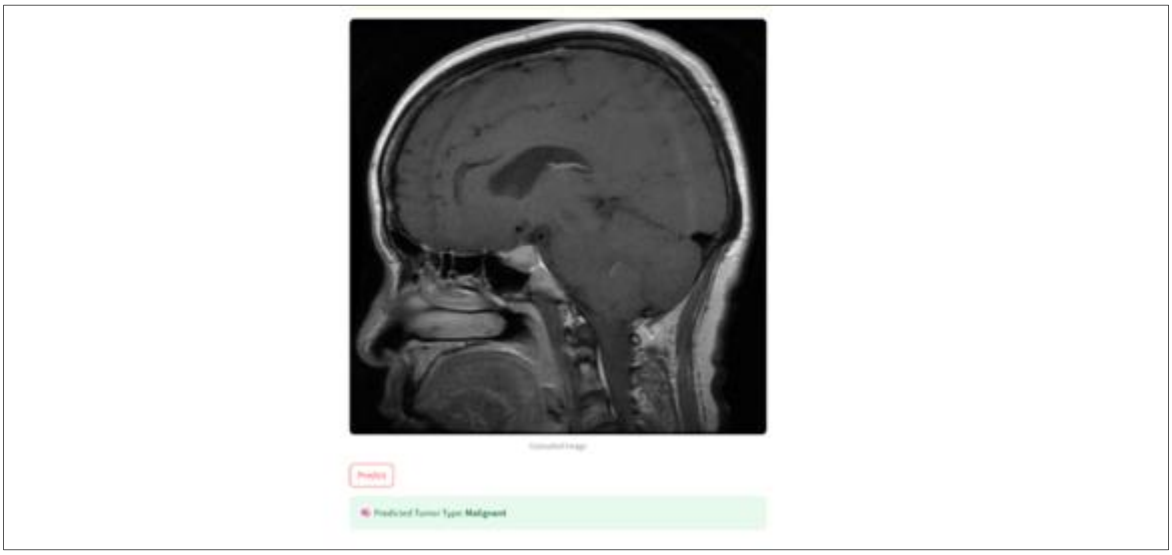

Figure 8 Malignant Tumor

6. Conclusion

The project effectively combines Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), and Transfer Learning (TL) to create a highly efficient and accurate brain tumor detection and classification system. With the use of deep learning, the system provides 94% accuracy with low error rates, guaranteeing proper diagnosis. The top-performing model is chosen and implemented on a cloud-based platform, which enables easy access through web browsers and Android applications. Such an accessibility allows both medical professionals and patients to use the system for monitoring and early detection of tumor growth. Furthermore, the model not only diagnoses brain tumors into four categories—No Tumor, Benign Tumor, Malignant Tumor, and Pituitary Tumor—but also aids in monitoring changes in tumor size and location over time.

The study duly identifies the best neural network structure to automate brain tumor categorization, leading to quicker diagnoses and better treatment planning. This system has the potential to greatly improve medical imaging analysis and aid healthcare professionals in making more precise and timely decisions regarding patient care.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

There is no conflict of interest.

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Author's short biography

Revanth Sankul I am S Revanth, an assistant professor at ACE Engineering College, specializing in Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science). I am passionate about guiding students and fostering innovation in emerging technologies. I am dedicated to continuously enhancing my teaching methodologies and contributing to research in my field.	
Greeshma Arrapogula I am Greeshma Arrapogula, a final-year B.Tech student at ACE Engineering College, specializing in Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science). I am enthusiastic about data science and programming, and I thrive on discovering new technologies. I am dedicated to refining my skills and leveraging them to address complex problems.	
Sai Varun Kankal I am Sai Varun Kankal, a final-year B.Tech student at ACE Engineering College, specializing in Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science). I have a strong interest in programming and emerging technologies, and I aim to continuously improve my knowledge to address practical challenges in the tech world.	
Tejaswi Reddy Aruva I am A Tejaswi, a final-year B.Tech student at ACE Engineering College, specializing in Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science). I am passionate about data science and programming, and I enjoy discovering emerging technologies to expand my expertise. I am committed to improving my skills and applying them to solve real-world challenges in my field.	
Shoeib Khan Mohammed I am Mohammed Shoeib Khan, a final-year B.Tech student at ACE Engineering College, specializing in Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science). My passion lies in exploring data-driven solutions and staying updated with emerging technologies. I am focused on honing my technical skills and solving practical challenges.