

An Insight Into Smart Infrastructure With Artificial Intelligence-Driven Predictive Maintenance: Transforming the Future of Urban Systems

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Abstract

The advancement of urban infrastructure is undergoing a transformative shift with the integration of artificial intelligence (AI), reshaping traditional maintenance strategies into dynamic, data-driven processes. AI-enabled predictive maintenance stands at the forefront of this evolution, facilitating real-time assessment and preemptive interventions to mitigate system inefficiencies and prevent failures. This paper examines the role of AI in predictive maintenance, showcasing its ability to harness data from IoT sensors, machine learning models, and analytics to optimize the management of infrastructure assets, including transportation networks, bridges, energy systems, and utilities. Key techniques such as anomaly detection, fault diagnosis, and predictive forecasting are explored, alongside the challenges of data integration, model scalability, and system reliability. The study highlights the economic and environmental benefits of AI-enabled predictive maintenance, including reduced operational disruptions, cost savings, prolonged asset lifespan, and enhanced sustainability. Offering a comprehensive review, this work underscores the transformative impact of AI in creating resilient, efficient, and sustainable smart city ecosystems while identifying critical research opportunities for advancing its practical implementation.

Categories: AI applications, IoT Devices and Hardware, Machine Learning (ML)

Keywords: ai-based maintenance, infrastructure sustainability, iot-driven predictive analytics, smart cities, machine learning application

Introduction And Background

The growing urban population and the need for infrastructure systems are posing significant challenges to cities around the globe. As cities transform into smart cities, special defining technologies are being integrated into infrastructure for its excellence, sustainability, and resilience. Being one amongst the new technologies, AI supported by internet of things (IoT) devices has emerged as a transformative technology that gathers data in real time and predicts future conditions to bring paradigm shifts in the management of urban infrastructures.

Conventional framework the board approaches transcendently depends on receptive and preventive support strategies. Responsive support, or restorative upkeep, is started solely after a framework or part falls flat, bringing about impromptu personal time, high fix expenses, and disturbances in fundamental administrations [1]. Preventive upkeep, however more proactive, depends on fixed timetables or utilization limits, frequently dismissing the genuine state of the framework [2]. This can prompt failures, like over-upkeep or under-support, subsequently heightening functional costs and lessening viability.

Today, it is possible to analyze yesterday as well as optimize it with AI-based predictive maintenance, which changes the landscapes of maintenance infrastructure monitoring and real-time construction experience by detecting faults as they occur through data analysis collected from embedded sensors. Anomalies that indicate a possible failure in the system are captured using machine learning algorithms trained on historical data as well as real-time data to extend equipment lifecycles, decrease downtime, and balance allocation of resources, enabling them to be efficient and timely [2,3]. Additionally, predictive maintenance can play a critical role in enhancing safety and reliability of critical infrastructures such as transportation, energy, and water distribution networks [4,5].

In the early stage of research and development for AI-enabled predictive maintenance, there is growing adoption and integration in the sectors of urban infrastructure. Although such technology offers considerable possibilities, integration into data systems, issues in scalability, and system incompatibility remain the greatest challenges preventing the broader application of AI-based predictive maintenance

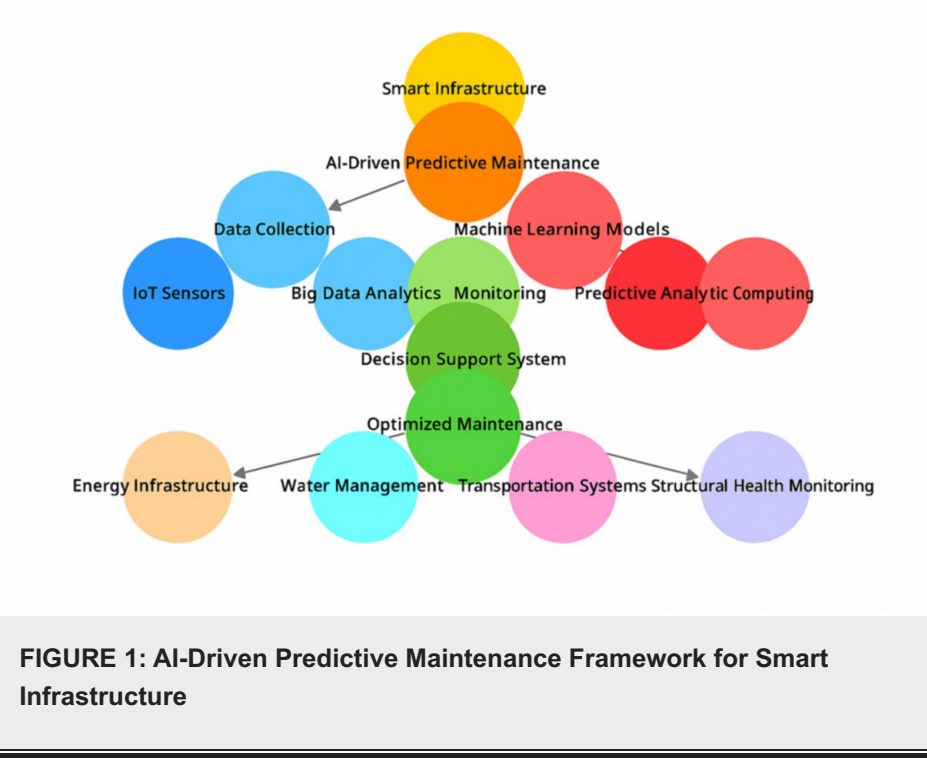
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[6,7]. This work presents a critical review of AI-predictive maintenance for urban infrastructure and contrasts it with conventional maintenance systems along with the benefits and constraints of implementation.

AI-predictive maintenance uses IoT, big data analytics, and machine learning algorithms for condition monitoring in near real-time to optimize resource use and reduce operational disturbances. A data-informed decision makes such systems reliable, green, and smart while addressing some issues related to the interoperability of existing systems and data standardization [8].

Figure 1 presents a schematic or an outline of the AI-driven predictive maintenance framework for smart infrastructure, depicting the interaction between core components, such as IoT sensors, machine learning models, big data analytics, and decision support systems within the solution architecture. It highlights this transition from reactive maintenance to optimized maintenance strategy and shows how technologies integrated into this framework collectively contribute to the concept of smart infrastructure.



Comparison between conventional methodology and AI-driven advances

Conventional Maintenance Methodology

Infrastructure maintenance has historically mostly depended on preventative and reactive methods. Reactive maintenance, also known as corrective maintenance, is only carried out following a malfunction. Traditional systems that do not have real-time monitoring or sophisticated sensor technology have frequently used this technique. Unplanned power failures, for example, might result in many service disruptions, significant financial losses, and a decline in consumer trust in the energy industry [9]. Even if reactive maintenance fixes problems right away, it also leads to unscheduled downtime, higher repair costs, and a higher chance of cascade failures that might further impair system performance [10].

Preventive maintenance entails planned interventions according to predetermined time intervals or anticipated use metrics. Although this method adds a degree of predictability, it frequently lacks accuracy since it ignores the state of infrastructure components in real time [8]. Two major difficulties can result from this limitation: under-maintenance, where important issues are neglected until they become more serious, and over-maintenance, where resources are wasted on systems that are operating efficiently [11]. Despite being more proactive than reactive maintenance, preventive approaches' poor resource allocation causes them to fall short of optimising maintenance results.

In contrast, Figure 2 contrasts the conventional methodology and AI-driven advances in smart infrastructure for predictive maintenance. AI systems, in general, outperformed traditional methods in terms of key performance indicators like data collection, operational and cost efficiency, accuracy in

predicting and response time. This can be cited as a capability of AI in transforming urban infrastructure management.

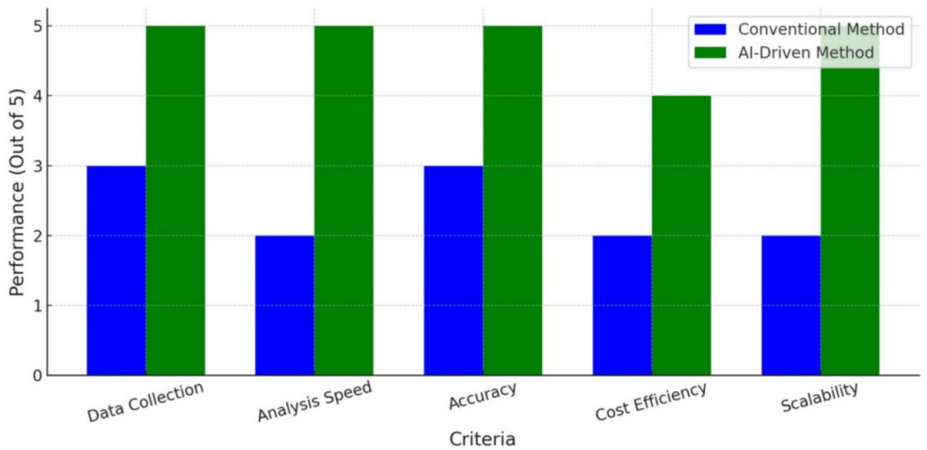


FIGURE 2: Comparison of Conventional Methodology vs. AI-Driven Advances in Smart Infrastructure for Predictive Maintenance

AI-Driven Predictive Maintenance

Predictive maintenance based on artificial intelligence has become a viable substitute for conventional reactive and preventative maintenance techniques. Using the real-time data from sensors mounted on the infrastructure components, predictive maintenance continuously monitors the asset health [12]. With the processing of this data, and machine learning algorithms are being built to provide timely preventive intervention to detect errors or abnormalities before they occur [3]. The accuracy and focused analysis of AI make maintenance work more efficient by reducing operational costs and downtime [13].

Maintenance done with predictions is right now being utilized in almost every corner and aspect of the entire infrastructure. AI models in the transport industry can predict breakdowns in important utility items, such as railway rails, locomotives, and traffic signal systems [14]. AI forecasts failures in substations and grid components allowing intervention before major outages occur in the electricity sector [15]. AI equally helps municipalities detect and resolve issues such as leakages and pump failures in water supply systems before they escalate into horrendous problems [16].

Some of the key advantages of AI-powered predictive maintenance are as follows:

Less Downtime: Maintenance performed solely when required prevents unnecessary shutdowns and service disruptions [17].

Financial Savings: Predictive maintenance minimizes the cost of repairs by preventing catastrophic failures and increasing the asset lifespan with respect to infrastructure [18].

Safety Improvements: Safety threats are substantially reduced when AI models predict possible malfunctions in advance, converting into better urban infrastructure safety reliability [19].

Better Use of Resources: In contrast to fixed schedules, AI distributes maintenance resources according to real-time information emerging from the system [20].

Review

Previous work

Integrating AI into smart infrastructure and predictive maintenance has opened up new avenues for improving efficiency, reliability, and sustainability across various sectors. Recent studies introduced AI into the sectors of energy systems, transportation networks, water management, and building operations, all of which have shown the capacity of AI to enhance operational performance and optimize resource use [21]. Another major advancement for infrastructure management that AI has endowed is the ability for early failure detection via predictive maintenance algorithms, thereby substantially reducing downtime and maintenance costs. This section extensively elaborates on the present advancements in the AI and predictive maintenance fields while outlining the significant contributions made by various researchers

and their overall conclusions [22].

Carvalho et al. [1] studied that applications of AI in the management of smart grid systems will enhance the effectiveness in energy distribution and forecasting of consumption pattern. The study is about how AI algorithms can complement optimize energy flows and lessen the operating losses with a view to a highly reliable and sustainable configuration of energy systems. Such conclusion was inevitably made regarding the introduction of AI into smart grid management with enormous benefits in energy distribution performance with an additional enhancement on the predictive capacity for energy trend analysis.

Luusua et al. [2] reviewed the AI in intelligent transport systems, used for predicting vehicle behavior and traffic patterns. The research showed that AI could improve the public transport scheduling and timing of traffic signals, thus reducing the congestion of traffic movement and making it efficient. According to the authors, traffic intelligence applications may change delay management and efficient urban transport systems.

Adelakun and Omolola [3] state the development of an AI-based model for water demand forecasting and supply control in the urban water system was initiated. The aforementioned method was tailored to prevent common complications, such as overflow, leakage, and pressure imbalance, while assuring an uninterrupted and balanced supply of water. The authors concluded that AI applications in water management aid in cost reduction while increasing the overall efficiency of urban water distribution networks.

Tang et al. [4] studied AI as a tool for optimizing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) in smart buildings where AI models control the operation based on environmental condition. The results point to the possibility of enhancing energy efficiency and reducing costs through real-time adaptation of HVAC performance by AI. The authors concluded that an AI-controlled HVAC system could be an effective way of enhancing energy efficiency and building management through reduced energy consumption and cost of operations.

Carvalho et al. [5] forecast urban water demand in Fortaleza, Brazil, training models on historical consumption and meteorological variables. Their approach improved short-term demand prediction over conventional techniques, enabling utilities to plan pumping, storage, and distribution more efficiently. This evidence illustrates how AI supports data-driven water-resource optimization distinct from power-grid applications.

Ahmed et al. [6] develop a machine-learning-based energy-management model for smart grids serving multiple renewable districts (wind and solar). The system forecasts key variables generation, demand, prosumer energy surplus and cost, and grid revenue then uses those predictions to coordinate dispatch, trading, and season-aware contracts between utilities and prosumers. Trained on spring, summer, and winter datasets, the ML controller (e.g., Gaussian process regression) consistently outperforms optimization-only baselines such as Genetic Algorithm/Particle Swarm Optimization, yielding lower consumer costs, higher grid revenue, and broader mutually beneficial operating regions. Overall, the study shows ML can robustly manage stochastic renewables and demand variability while keeping online control lightweight.

Xie et al. [7] develop predictive model for urban water supply systems based on machine learning functions to predict incidents of leaks and pump failures. Predicting such incidents would thus allow taking actions at an early stage to prevent dire consequences. The authors conclude, however, that the integration of AI into maintenance of water infrastructure helps in saving costs and extending the life of the system by enabling proactive interventions.

Yan et al. [8] proposed a hybrid deep learning framework integrating convolutional neural network and long short-term memory for real-time fault detection in smart manufacturing systems. Their model achieved superior prediction accuracy and robustness in identifying abnormal patterns in equipment behavior, contributing to proactive maintenance strategies and minimizing production losses.

Hou et al. [9] explored reinforcement learning applications for dynamic scheduling in predictive maintenance of urban rail transit systems. Their findings emphasize that adaptive AI agents can significantly reduce maintenance delays and improve system uptime by learning optimal maintenance intervals from operational data.

Mazzetto [10] presented a cross-domain AI model for integrated predictive maintenance across energy and building systems. The model employs federated learning to ensure privacy while enabling predictive capabilities across multiple infrastructures. Results indicate strong potential in multi-sector AI applications to optimize resource allocation and reduce downtime.

Figure 3 represents the network diagram of keywords showing the major relationships in topics and trends pertaining to research activities in such areas of interest. Seemingly, the main core terminologies have often been expanding their areas of concern and the evolution in the research area. In the two above-links hence, it opens new insight into developing topics, research shortage, and possible avenues for future exploration [23,24].

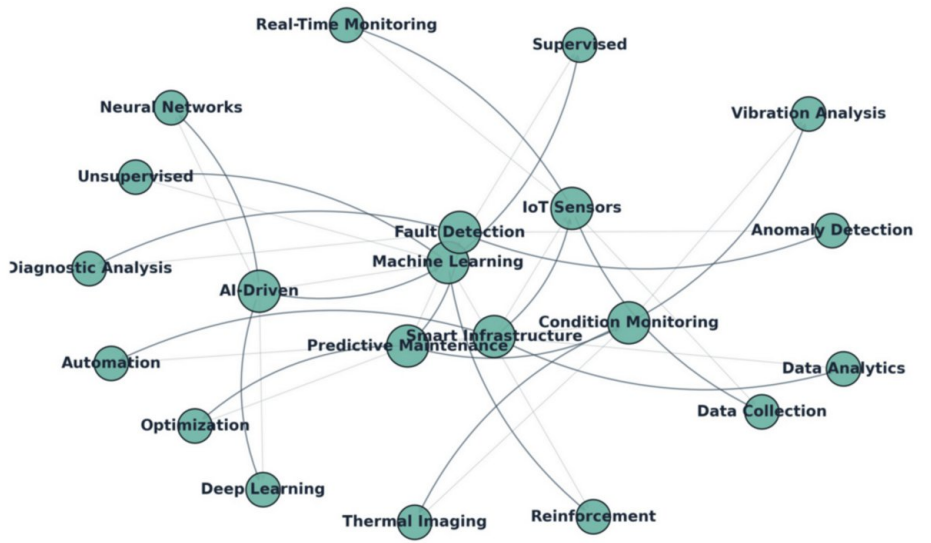


FIGURE 3: Keyword Network Diagram for AI-Driven Smart Infrastructure and Predictive Maintenance

Challenges in AI-driven predictive maintenance

Predictive maintenance through AI comes with several pros and certainly some cons as well. The major challenges faced with regard to predictive maintenance are these-two: the quality and reliability of data [25]. Sensor data must be flawless for AI models; any deviations from the norm produce erroneous predictions. Zhou et al. [26] underscored the importance of using effective cleaning and anomaly detection methods for reliable predictions while alluding to the fact that noise and error in sensor strength adversely influence the performance of predictive models.

The scalability issue is a major drawback in the real implementation of predictive maintenance in a considerable number of networks [27]. Applications of AI have been used successfully in small systems. Still, extending such applications to cover vast urban infrastructures is an arduous task. For example, Ucar et al. [28] indicate that as the metropolitan area grows, so does the overall quantity of data generated by the infrastructure systems within it. This, in turn, requires sophisticated algorithms and computing resources to ensure adequate real-time predictive capabilities.

The ethical and regulatory aspects are critical when AI is being applied for public infrastructure. There are concerns about equity, accountability, and transparency when AI systems are invoked in critical maintenance decisions. Lawal et al. [29] stress the need for regulations to govern AI ethically and responsibly in the context of infrastructure management systems.

Methodology of review

This review follows a structured approach to identify, evaluate, and analyze relevant literature on AI-driven predictive maintenance in smart infrastructure. A comprehensive search was performed across major scientific databases including Scopus, IEEE Xplore, SpringerLink, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar. The keywords used were “AI predictive maintenance”, “smart infrastructure”, “IoT maintenance”, “machine learning for infrastructure”, and “urban systems maintenance”.

The inclusion criteria were:

Peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers published between 2016 and 2025

Papers focusing on predictive maintenance using AI technologies in civil, transport, energy, and water

infrastructure

Studies providing experimental data, frameworks, or comparative evaluations

Exclusion criteria included:

Non-peer reviewed sources (e.g., blogs, editorials)

Articles without sufficient technical details

Studies not written in English

Out of over 150 initial records, 41 peer-reviewed articles were shortlisted based on relevance, quality, and availability. All references were cross-verified for accessibility and citation accuracy. The review adheres to the principles of transparency and reproducibility to ensure academic rigor.

Literature gap

The swift advancement of AI-based predictive maintenance technologies has significantly influenced diverse sectors within urban infrastructure. Despite these notable strides, certain critical research gaps remain, often closely tied to specific application areas [30]. For instance, in transportation infrastructure, AI and robotic technologies have successfully handled tasks like pothole detection, optimizing traffic patterns, and executing autonomous maintenance operations. Yet, these applications frequently operate independently, lacking integration into broader networks such as bridges or comprehensive public transportation systems.

In the realm of building infrastructure, machine learning approaches have notably improved energy management in HVAC systems, effectively reducing consumption. However, research is still scarce regarding the full integration of predictive maintenance methods within complex multi-functional buildings and wider urban energy networks. Similarly, although AI has effectively enhanced leak detection and demand forecasting in water distribution systems, there remains a noticeable gap in the development of holistic frameworks capable of real-time monitoring and coordinated predictive maintenance across interconnected urban water infrastructure. Power grid systems have likewise benefited substantially from AI adoption, especially in identifying faults and balancing load demands. Nevertheless, significant challenges persist in designing adaptive and interoperable solutions capable of responding dynamically to real-time fluctuations within intricately connected energy infrastructures [31]. Moreover, digital twin technologies, despite their promise in predictive maintenance, have faced limited implementation. This limitation stems primarily from challenges in achieving real-time data synchronization, scaling simulations effectively, and automating complex decision-making processes within extensive urban infrastructures [32].

A particularly pressing gap relates to the interpretability of AI-driven predictive models. Transparent and understandable AI frameworks are critical to gaining trust and ensuring broader acceptance among key stakeholders such as engineers, urban planners, and decision-makers. Currently, numerous AI-based solutions operate as "black boxes," diminishing their utility in scenarios where accountability, transparency, and safety are paramount [33].

For urban infrastructure management to evolve effectively from isolated, sector-specific AI deployments toward a cohesive, integrated system, addressing these highlighted gaps is crucial. Successfully overcoming these challenges will play a vital role in the development of smarter, resilient, and more adaptive infrastructure systems, thereby ensuring sustainable development and long-term resilience within future smart urban environments [34].

Appraisal of literature

This review paper examines the impact of AI-based predictive maintenance on advancing smart infrastructure, particularly emphasizing enhancements in the performance, reliability, and sustainability of urban systems [31]. It thoroughly analyzes existing predictive maintenance frameworks, assessing their flexibility and applicability across essential sectors such as water, energy, and transportation [35]. While recognizing the widely documented benefits of AI such as reduced operational expenses, prompt fault detection, and efficient resource allocation, the review also identifies critical limitations and associated risks.

A prominent issue highlighted is the absence of standardized data protocols across various infrastructure systems, significantly hindering seamless integration and real-time data exchange crucial for comprehensive AI-driven decision-making [36]. Furthermore, ethical concerns surrounding AI deployment, including potential algorithmic bias, lack of transparency in decision-making, and data

privacy risks, emerge as significant challenges in public infrastructure contexts. Addressing these ethical challenges requires clear regulatory frameworks and robust governance structures to ensure the safe, accountable, and responsible use of AI technologies [37,38].

Despite considerable technological advancements and growing enthusiasm for real-time applications, practical deployment continues to encounter several barriers. High initial costs, the complexity involved in integrating AI solutions with legacy infrastructure, and stakeholder resistance accustomed to traditional maintenance approaches are substantial hurdles. For instance, Singapore's PUB Smart Water Grid successfully deployed AI for leak detection, significantly enhancing system efficiency but also revealing limitations regarding scalability in older water networks. Similarly, London's Underground has effectively implemented AI-based predictive maintenance to substantially reduce unexpected service disruptions, yet it required significant investments and workforce adaptation. Therefore, the review underscores the necessity for rigorous evidence-based assessments, pilot implementations, and sector-specific case studies to accurately evaluate AI capabilities and limitations in real-world contexts [39,40]. Ultimately, this paper seeks to foster a nuanced understanding of strategically leveraging AI to develop resilient, sustainable, and future-ready urban infrastructure.

Conclusions

The application of AI-driven predictive maintenance presents a transformative opportunity for managing smart infrastructure by enabling real-time, data-driven decision-making powered by advanced machine learning techniques. This study proposes an integrated framework combining standardized data handling protocols with flexible AI algorithms, designed to offer scalable solutions across multiple domains such as transportation networks, water distribution systems, energy grids, and urban building infrastructure. By addressing persistent challenges including disparate data formats, interoperability issues, and the complexity of integrating heterogeneous systems, this approach aims to overcome limitations frequently highlighted in earlier research. Empirical evidence suggests that AI-enabled maintenance strategies can deliver substantial reductions in operational expenses, enhance system reliability, and support more effective asset management. However, the realization of these advantages depends heavily on developing frameworks that are not only technically robust but also practically implementable within organizational environments. The synchronization of data infrastructure capabilities with the expertise of human operators is crucial for successful deployment. Accordingly, this paper advocates for a predictive maintenance framework that balances standardization with adaptability to suit diverse urban settings. Such a framework could form the backbone of efforts to build resilient and sustainable infrastructure for future cities. Nonetheless, achieving this goal will require ongoing research focused on large-scale implementations and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. Additionally, critical considerations such as regulatory adherence, ethical responsibilities, and the explainability of AI models must be addressed. These factors are essential to cultivate trust among key stakeholders including policymakers, engineers, and technology providers and to ensure that AI integration in urban infrastructure proceeds in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Additional Information

Author Contributions

All authors have reviewed the final version to be published and agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Concept and design: Mahesh A. Lokhande, Shutika Lokhande, Dhairyashil Bhosale, Aniket Renavikar, Vaishnavi Kaldade

Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data: Mahesh A. Lokhande, Shutika Lokhande, Dhairyashil Bhosale, Aniket Renavikar, Vaishnavi Kaldade

Drafting of the manuscript: Mahesh A. Lokhande, Shutika Lokhande, Dhairyashil Bhosale, Aniket Renavikar, Vaishnavi Kaldade

Critical review of the manuscript for important intellectual content: Mahesh A. Lokhande, Shutika Lokhande, Dhairyashil Bhosale, Aniket Renavikar, Vaishnavi Kaldade

Supervision: Mahesh A. Lokhande, Shutika Lokhande, Dhairyashil Bhosale, Aniket Renavikar, Vaishnavi Kaldade

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have no financial relationships at present or within the previous three years with any organizations that might have an interest in the submitted work. **Other relationships:** All authors have declared that there are no other relationships or activities that could appear to have influenced the submitted work.

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