

Applications of ChatGPT in Otolaryngology–Head Neck Surgery: A State of the Art Review

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Abstract

Objective. To review the current literature on the application, accuracy, and performance of Chatbot Generative Pre-Training Transformer (ChatGPT) in *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*.

Data Sources. PubMed, Cochrane Library, and Scopus.

Review Methods. A comprehensive review of the literature on the applications of ChatGPT in otolaryngology was conducted according to Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses statement.

Conclusions. ChatGPT provides imperfect patient information or general knowledge related to diseases found in *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*. In clinical practice, despite suboptimal performance, studies reported that the model is more accurate in providing diagnoses, than in suggesting the most adequate additional examinations and treatments related to clinical vignettes or real clinical cases. ChatGPT has been used as an adjunct tool to improve scientific reports (referencing, spelling correction), to elaborate study protocols, or to take student or resident exams reporting several levels of accuracy. The stability of ChatGPT responses throughout repeated questions appeared high but many studies reported some hallucination events, particularly in providing scientific references.

Implications for Practice. To date, most applications of ChatGPT are limited in generating disease or treatment information, and in the improvement of the management of clinical cases. The lack of comparison of ChatGPT performance with other large language models is the main limitation of the current research. Its ability to analyze clinical images has not yet been investigated in otolaryngology although upper airway tract or ear images are an important step in the diagnosis of most common ear, nose, and throat conditions. This review may help otolaryngologists to conceive new applications in further research.

Keywords

artificial Intelligence, ChatGPT, generative, GPT, head neck, otolaryngology, otorhinolaryngology, surgery

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The development of artificial intelligence (AI)-powered language models, such as Chatbot Generative Pre-Training Transformer (ChatGPT) is emerging in medicine and surgery. ChatGPT is one of the most used chatbots, while the number of studies dedicated to the application of ChatGPT is increasing. ChatGPT has been found to respond to simple and complicated questions related to clinical and basic science research,¹ referencing,² medical examinations,³ clinical vignettes,⁴ and may improve scientific reports through spelling correction.⁵ To date, ChatGPT is accessible by an estimated 100 million users,⁶ which may encourage patients to use it for education prior to a medical consultation,⁶ while some young practitioners may consider ChatGPT as an adjunct clinical tool for improving their practice.⁷ Since the first report of ChatGPT application in *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*,⁸ the number of studies assessing the applications, accuracy, and performance is constantly increasing.^{9–12} The aim of this state of the art review was to review the current literature on the application, accuracy, and performance of ChatGPT in *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery* at the 1-year anniversary or the release of ChatGPT to the public.

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Methods

A PubMed, Cochrane Library, and Scopus database research was conducted for relevant peer-reviewed publications in English related to the application, accuracy, and performance of ChatGPT in *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*. The following terms were used: “ChatGPT,” “GPT,” “Chatbot,” “Otolaryngology,” “Head Neck,” “Surgery,” and “Ear Nose Throat.” Studies assessing ChatGPT application in the management of clinical vignettes, true clinical cases, surgery, scientific referencing, scientific paper improvement, patient information, or any other fields related to otolaryngology were considered. Case reports or letters to the editor without data were excluded. From this initial review of the literature, publications were selected for inclusion in the final review if authors provided enough information on methods used to conduct the study. Article selection by Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses criteria¹³ is summarized in the flowchart in **Figure 1**. The ChatGPT was used in several fields related to *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*, including the management of clinical vignettes, real clinical cases, the improvement of scientific publications or referencing, and generating patient or practitioner information (**Figure 1**). Critical analysis of this literature focused on the accuracy, performance, limitations, and strengths of ChatGPT in the related applications. Implications for practice were then summarized. Ethics committee approval was not required for this review.

Discussion

Patient Counseling, Guidance, and Education

The large majority of studies conducted in otolaryngology have investigated the accuracy of ChatGPT in patient counseling, guidance, and education in general otolaryngology,^{1,14-19} pediatric otolaryngology,²⁰ otology,²¹ facial and plastic surgery,²²⁻²⁵ endocrine otolaryngology,²⁶ sleep,²⁷⁻²⁹ head and neck oncology,³⁰⁻³⁴ and laryngology (**Table 1**).³⁵ Among them, the information provided by ChatGPT was compared to those provided by browser search or other large language models (LLMs) or websites, for example, Google Bard,^{29,31} Google search.^{16-18,21}

Seven investigations studied the accuracy of ChatGPT in general otolaryngology information.^{1,14-19} Depending on the method used to evaluate the accuracy, 56.7% to 89% of information provided by ChatGPT-3.5 or 4.0 were judged as accurate for education, medical advice, or understandability (**Table 1**).^{1,14-19} The ChatGPT information matched with the current guidelines of the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery in 68% to 89%,¹⁶ but Google search reported overall better results than ChatGPT-3.5 in terms of readability score (Flesch Reading Ease) or understandability (Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level).^{16,18} Among these studies, Vaira et al reported that ChatGPT-4 provided

50% of false references to support some answers,¹ while Langlie et al did not find major errors or hallucinations.¹⁹ Interestingly, Zalzal et al demonstrated that the initial ChatGPT-3.5 full and partial accuracy rates (56.7% and 86.7%) significantly improved (73.3% and 96.7%) after regenerated input into the application programming interface (API) and human feedback.¹⁴ The high accuracy of ChatGPT-3.5 in providing patient information regarding indications, procedures, alternative therapeutic options for common otolaryngological surgeries (eg, adenotonsillectomy, tympanoplasty, endoscopic sinus surgery, parotidectomy, total laryngectomy) was, however, tempered by authors who noted that ChatGPT-3.5 lacked precision in the description of procedural steps, details, and risks related to procedures.¹⁹

The accuracy of ChatGPT-3.5 in pediatric otolaryngology was evaluated towards parent information for tympanostomy.²⁰ ChatGPT-3.5 provided 95.7% of accurate responses regarding the guidelines of the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery.²⁰

In the same vein, the accuracy of the several versions of ChatGPT was high for general information related to upper aerodigestive tract cancers.³⁰⁻³⁴ However, the performance of ChatGPT decreased when authors investigated its ability to provide information dedicated to the follow-up of oropharyngeal cancer.³⁰ Lee et al compared the accuracy of ChatGPT-3.5 versus simple browser search for indications, risks, and recovery time for 5 common head and neck surgeries.³² In this study, judges preferred the ChatGPT-3.5 responses compared to those of publicly available websites in 48% of cases.³² ChatGPT-3.5 was compared with ChatGPT-4 and Google Bard in terms of safety and global quality of information provided for laryngeal cancer.³¹ Surprisingly, authors reported better results for ChatGPT-3.5 over ChatGPT-4 and Google Bard while ChatGPT-4 was expected to be better than the free version.³¹ In head and neck surgery, only Kuscu et al investigated the stability of ChatGPT-4 in regenerated questions, which reached 94.1% of similar regenerated outputs.³³ In this study, ChatGPT-4 reported 100%, 92.6%, 88.9%, and 80% accurate rates for prevention, diagnosis, treatment, surgical features (recovery, risks, complications, and follow-up), respectively.³³ Among the several cancer locations, Chiesa-Estomba et al observed that patients similarly appreciated the information of practitioners and ChatGPT-3.5 for salivary gland cancer but preferred the explanations of practitioners for laryngeal and oropharyngeal cancers.³⁴

The knowledge of ChatGPT was investigated in sleep medicine in 4 studies.^{27-29,36} Cheong et al reported in a first study that GPT-4 successfully achieved the pass mark of 80% in 5 of the 10 exam categories of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, which included the Normal Sleep and Variants Self-Assessment Exam (2021), Circadian Rhythm Sleep-Wake Disorders Self-Assessment Exam (2021), Insomnia Self-Assessment Exam (2022), Parasomnias Self-Assessment Exam (2022) and the Sleep-

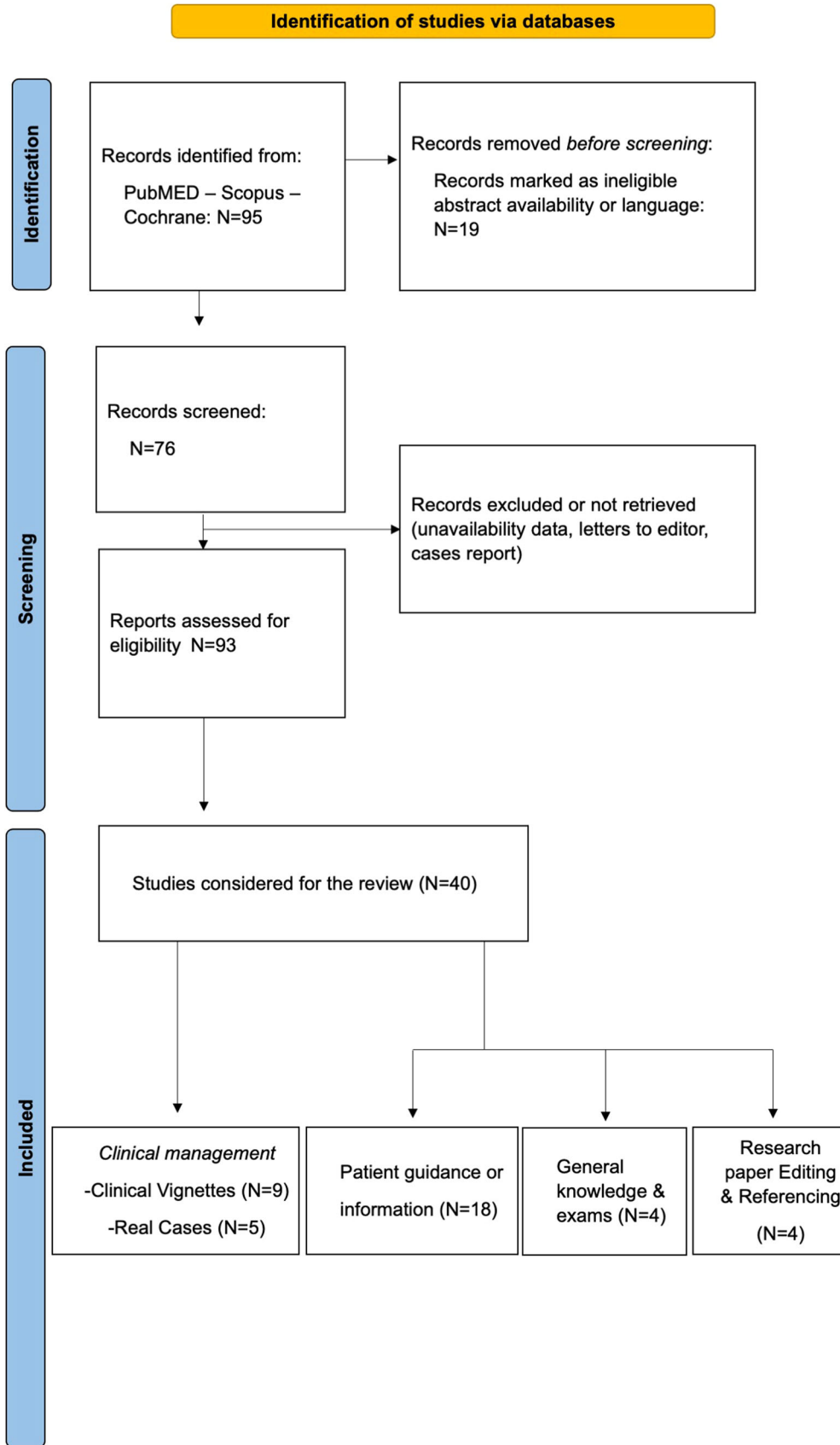


Figure 1. Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses flowchart.

Table 1. Application in Otolaryngological Knowledge and Patient Information

References	Accuracy assessment	Design	GPT	N	Tool	Outcomes	Results
Ayoub et al ¹⁶	GPT/Google search info	Prospective-CS	uGPT	Questions: 10	PEMAT-P	Medical advice	68%-89%
Vaira et al ¹	General otolaryngology Information and knowledge	Prospective-CS	Google GPT-4	AAOHNS GL Questions: 144 Experts: 18	GPT vs GS 6-point Likert scale	Patient education open question—AC-CO Closed question (AC, %)	87%-78% 5.43-2.7 84.7%
Shen et al ¹⁸	General otolaryngology	Prospective-CS	GPT-3.5	Questions: 54	PEMAT	Understandable (PEMAT)	Google>GPT
Langlie et al ¹⁹	General otolaryngology	Prospective-CS	Google GPT-3.5	AAOHNS GL Questions: 5	FKGL-FRE	FKGL-FRE	Google>GPT
Nielsen et al ¹⁵	Patient information Otolaryngology surgeries	Prospective-CS	GPT-4.0	Experts: 2 PO Questions: 27	None	Major aberrant errors Appropriate treatment	0 5/5
Zalzal et al ¹⁴	Patient information General otolaryngology	Prospective-CS	GPT-3.5	Experts: 13 Questions: 30	5-point Likert scale	Mean score (AC, RE, DE)	3.51-3.71-3.00
Moise et al ²⁰	Clinical questions General otolaryngology	Prospective-CS	GPT-3.5	Experts: 2 PO Questions: 23	3-point scale	Accuracy GPT Partial accuracy	56.7%-73.3% 86.7%-96.7%
Lee et al ³²	Patient information Pediatric tympanostomy	Prospective-CS	GPT-3.5	AAOHNS GL Surgeries: 5	Binary (correct/no)	Accurate responses	22/23 (95.7%)
Davis et al ³⁰	Preoperative counseling Head and neck surgery	Prospective-CS	GPT-3.5 BR	Experts: 5 PO Questions: 15	5-point Likert scale	Accuracy GPT Expert preference	5/5 48% for GPT info
Chiesa-Estomba et al ³⁴	Patient information Oropharyngeal cancer	Prospective-CS	GPT-3.5	Experts: 4 PO Questions: 5	5-point Likert scale	AC, CA, SA	3.88-3.80-3.67
Kusu et al ³³	Patient opinion in GPT head neck oncological advice	Prospective-CS	GPT-3.5	Experts: 10 Questions: 154	10-point Likert scale	Larynx-oropharynx Salivary gland	Posttreatment>diag. Experts>GPT Experts=GPT
Ostrowska et al ³¹	Patient information Head and neck oncology	Prospective-CS	GPT-4/3.5	Experts: 2 PO Questions: 36	4-point Likert scale	Total/partial/incorrect Stability of responses	86.4%-11%-2.6% 94.1%
Lechien et al ³⁵	Patient information Laryngeal cancer	Prospective-CS	Google GPT-4.0	Experts: 9 Questions: 25	3- and 5-point Likert scale	Safety score Global quality score	GPT-3.5>GPT-4>GB GPT-3.5>GPT-4>GB
Campbell et al ²⁸	Patient information Laryngopharyngeal reflux	Prospective-CS	GPT-3.5	Experts: 4 PO Questions: 24	5-point Likert scale	EP, CP, AE, T AC	4.1-4.5-3.8-4.2
Mira et al ²⁷	Patient information Sleep disorders	Prospective-CS	GPT-3.5	Experts: 2 RO Questions: 10	4-item Likert scale	Correct/perfect	58%-14%
Cheong et al ²⁹	Patient information Sleep apnea	Prospective-CS	GPT-3.5	Experts: 97 Questions: 46	5-point Likert scale	Incorrect/partially correct Common responses	1%-27% 75% of OTO/GPT Experts>GPT
Bellinger et al ²¹	GPT/Google search info in sleep disorder	Prospective-CS	Google GPT-3	Experts: 2 Questions: 29	PEMAT-P	Understandability Actionability	GPT>Google Bard GPT>Google Bard
Campbell et al ²⁶	Benign vertigo Patient information Thyroid and endocrine	Prospective-CS	Google GPT-3.5	Experts: 3 Questions: 30	PEMAT-P FKGL-FRE 4-item Likert scale	FKGL-FRE GPT AC (5-likert scale) Correct/correct and referenced Incorrect/partially correct	Google>GPT 4.2 47%-22% 2%-28%

Abbreviations: AAOHNS GL, American Academy of Otolaryngology Guidelines; AC, average accuracy; AE, additional examination; BR, browser search; CA, comprehensive accuracy; CO, completeness; CP, clinical presentation; CS, cross-sectional; DE, depth; diag, diagnosis; EP, epidemiology; FKGL, Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level; FRE, Flesch Reading Ease; GPT, Generative Pre-Trained Transformer; GS, Google Search; N, number; OTO, otolaryngologists; PEMAT-P, Patient Education Material Assessment Tool; PO, practitioner in otolaryngology; RE, relevance; RO, resident otolaryngologists; SA, similarity accuracy; uGPT, unspecified version of GPT.

Related Movements Self-Assessment Exam (2023).³⁶ Authors also reported better overall results of ChatGPT-4 over ChatGPT-3.5 (68.1% vs 46.8%) and Google Bard (45.5%), while ChatGPT-3.5 and Google Bard did not report significant differences.³⁶ A second study of this team reported that ChatGPT-3.5 scored higher than Google Bard in providing patient information for sleep disorders (understandability and actionability).²⁹ Mira et al interrogated 97 sleep practitioners and ChatGPT-3.5 for providing patient information related to sleep conditions and reported 75% of common answers despite higher performance of experts in term of overall accuracy.²⁷ The accuracy rates of ChatGPT-3.5 were however lower in the study of Campbell et al who reported only 14% and 58% of perfect and correct responses to sleep disorder questions.²⁸ The same team has conducted the only study investigating the accuracy of ChatGPT-3.5 in patient information on thyroid nodules and diseases.²⁶ Using a 4-item Likert scale assessment, they reported that ChatGPT-3.5 provided 47% and 22% of correct, and correct/referenced responses,²⁶ which is slightly worse than the findings of studies conducted in general otolaryngology or head and neck oncology (**Table 1**).

The performance of ChatGPT-3 was additionally compared to Google search information for benign vertigo.²¹ In this study using the third version of ChatGPT, authors reported better results of Google compared to ChatGPT-3 in terms of readability (Flesch Reading Ease) and understandability (Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level).²¹

In laryngology, ChatGPT-4 was interrogated for general knowledge on laryngopharyngeal reflux, and the responses were confronted to the Dubai Consensus on Laryngopharyngeal Reflux.^{35,37} Then, 4 laryngologists reported that the ChatGPT-4 accuracy was higher for clinical presentation and treatment compared to epidemiology and additional examinations. Precisely, ChatGPT-4 was not up to date regarding the use of impedance-pH monitoring and the existence of weakly acid or alkaline laryngopharyngeal reflux.³⁵ The worst performance by ChatGPT was noted in providing up-to-date information in additional testing of clinical vignettes or true clinical cases.^{4,9} ChatGPT's lack of consideration of the latest guidelines led Workman et al to develop a LangChain/OpenAI API-powered chatbot including International Consensus Statement of Allergy and Rhinology Rhinosinusitis (ICAR-RS), which is able to provide users with latest information and recommendations in this field.³⁸ The works of Workman et al is particularly relevant regarding the limitation of ChatGPT and other similar platforms for providing accurate and evidence-based information. Most LLMs source their information from publicly available websites or platforms, such as Bing, while the most reliable and evidence-based resources are often found in textbooks, and clinical sources (UpToDate) that are not open access. This limitation has been insufficiently investigated in the current literature and

the inaccurate information provided by ChatGPT and other LLMs could lead to misinformation for patients. The development of LLMs dedicated to medical information based on accurate database information is of major importance to improve patient information. In trying to address the inaccuracies and hallucinations produced by ChatGPT, Workman et al³⁸ have trained the OpenAI GPT-3.5 API on the ICAR-RS document to improve accuracy and reliability of LLM responses and align them with evidence-based medical information. While their pilot Chatbot did not perform significantly better than ChatGPT-3.5, Workman et al aim to continue refining their approach towards improved LLM query output.

Otolaryngological General Knowledge and Exams

The first ChatGPT study published in *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery* was conducted by Hoch et al, who evaluated the accuracy of ChatGPT-3 response to 2576 practice quiz questions designed for German otolaryngology board certification.³ Authors reported an overall accurate rate of 57% and they observed that ChatGPT-3 better responded to single-choice questions compared to multiple-choice questions (34% vs 63%). This study suggested that the performance of ChatGPT-3 was particularly high in allergology (72%) and low in the legal field (30%).³ The better performance of ChatGPT in single-choice questions was similarly supported in another study where authors input 1800 test questions from the American, Italian, French, United Kingdom, Indian, and Spanish medical licensing examination into the API of ChatGPT-3.5.¹⁰ They reported 22% to 73% of correct answers; the highest success being for the Italian exam, while the French exam reported the lowest performance. As observed by Hoch et al,³ ChatGPT-3.5 reported greatest difficulties for questions exhibiting multiple correct responses.¹⁰ Mahajan et al investigated the performance of ChatGPT-3.5 in responding to practice exam questions in *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*. From a methodological standpoint, authors compared the ChatGPT outputs with the benchmark of the answers and explanations and they reported that ChatGPT-3.5 correctly answered 53% of questions, and provided correct explanations in 54% of cases, respectively.¹¹ The performance of ChatGPT-4 was investigated in only 1 study.¹² Thus, 21 common questions of licensing exam in otolaryngology were submitted to ChatGPT-4 and the related outputs were analyzed by 2 independent practitioners with the Concordance, Validity, Safety, Competency model.¹² ChatGPT-4 scored 23.5/34 (accurate rate: 69.1%) but did not reach the minimum passing score for the examination (70%). Interestingly, authors provided further queries with explicitly indicating the focus of otolaryngology field, which led ChatGPT-4 to improve

its score, reaching an accurate rate of 75%.¹² In summary, the studies supported high but not fully accurate results with passing grade across different exam formats.

Scientific Publication Improvement or Referencing

ChatGPT was initially suggested as an interesting adjunct tool to enhance the quality and efficiency of scientific manuscript writing, acting as a reliable tool against linguistic imperfections.^{39–41} However, this was not confirmed in a recent study investigating the ability of ChatGPT for editing a manuscript in *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*.⁵ In this study, authors submitted 4 manuscripts written by a French native speaker, and 2 English native linguists compared the ChatGPT editing with that of a professional editing service.⁵ The linguists observed that ChatGPT-4 detected 86/171 errors (50.3%), and proposed appropriate corrections for 83.7% of detected errors. Interestingly, ChatGPT-4 claimed to change something that was already there in 82 cases, which may be considered as AI-related hallucinations.⁵

ChatGPT has been investigated for searching scientific database references in 2 studies.^{2,42} In the first one, Frosolini et al presented 20 clinical questions across different head and neck disciplines to ChatGPT-3.5 and ChatGPT-4.0 to produce texts on the assigned topics.⁴² Based on the ChatGPT outputs, authors observed that both versions displayed a tendency to provide erroneous references to support the content of the responses (hallucinations) even if ChatGPT-4.0 outperformed version 3.5 in terms of reference reliability.⁴² The risk of hallucinations and misreferences was supported in another study assessing the ability and accuracy of ChatGPT-3.5 and ChatGPT-4 to reference key papers in *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*, which consisted of the top-30 most cited papers in the past 40 years.² The accuracy of ChatGPT-4 ranged from 73% to 87%, while the accuracy of ChatGPT-3.5 was significantly lower, ranging from 47% to 60%, respectively. ChatGPT-3.5 and ChatGPT-4 provided 19 and 13 inaccurate references, respectively. Three references were invented by the chatbot (2 by the ChatGPT-3.5 and 1 by the ChatGPT-4, respectively). This study also demonstrated a poor reliability of ChatGPT-3.5 and ChatGPT-4 for regenerated answers.² UpToDate appears to be a better tool than ChatGPT in providing scientific references according to Karimov et al who observed that UpToDate supported all clinical outputs with references from peer-reviewed journals, conference papers, or book chapters, whereas ChatGPT-3.5 did not give references in some questions.⁴³

Clinical Vignette Assessment

Nine studies have investigated the accuracy and performance of ChatGPT in the management of theoretical clinical vignettes (**Table 2**).^{1,4,43–48} In studies using a 5-point Likert scale, the mean score of ChatGPT ranged from 2.89

to 4.4, varying according to specialties.^{4,47,48} In the field of head and neck surgery, Chiesa-Estomba et al confronted 10 practitioners versus ChatGPT-3.5 in the management of salivary gland diseases. In this study, authors reported that 10 practitioners scored higher than ChatGPT-3.5 in the overall management of 6 clinical vignettes dedicated to salivary gland conditions (4.1 vs 3.4) but ChatGPT-3.5 and practitioners similarly scored in providing information related to the treatment scores (3.3 vs 2.6).⁴ Based on the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines, Marchi et al reported ChatGPT-4 accuracy rates of 85% and 96% in providing primary and alternative treatments for 272 head and neck oncological vignettes.⁴⁹ The 5-point Likert scale scores of ChatGPT-3.5 were moderate in terms of consistency (2.89) and correctness (3.80) scores in the study of Dallari et al who observed that the performance of ChatGPT-3.5 did not vary regarding the difficulty of the clinical case.⁴⁷

Teixeira et al reported higher scores of ChatGPT-3.5 compared to others^{4,47} in the management of clinical vignettes in general otolaryngology.⁴⁸ The high performance of ChatGPT (unspecified version) was similarly observed in providing recommendations for the management of dizziness.⁴⁶ The overall high accuracy scores of ChatGPT in the management of clinical vignettes^{4,45,46,48} were tempered by Saibene et al⁴⁵ who reported mild-to-moderate scores of both ChatGPT-3.5 and ChatGPT-4 in providing recommendations in clinical vignettes of odontogenic rhinosinusitis,⁴⁵ and Vaira et al who reported only 56.7% of correct treatments in general otolaryngology and maxillofacial surgery practices.¹

Clinical Decision Support Tool in Real Clinical Scenarios

Five studies were conducted to evaluate the performance of ChatGPT as an adjunct tool for the management of real clinical cases in general otolaryngology, head and neck oncology, laryngology, or rhinology (**Table 3**).^{50–54} The same team used the Artificial Intelligence Performance Instrument for the assessment of the ability of ChatGPT-4 to provide correct primary and differential diagnoses, the most adequate additional examinations and treatments.^{50,52,53} Regardless of the subspecialty, ChatGPT-4 reported highest accuracy in providing a plausible primary diagnosis (47%–79%), and lowest scores for selecting the most adequate additional examinations (**Table 3**). Indeed, authors noted that the chatbot works as a virtual encyclopedia that proposed a list of potential additional examinations without selection of the most adequate.^{50,52,53} In laryngology, ChatGPT-3.5 was interrogated to make a differential diagnosis of 40 clinical cases, and to indicate the most adequate additional examinations.⁵¹ As for the aforementioned studies,^{50,52,53} the number of additional examinations recommended by ChatGPT-3.5 was significantly higher than those indicated by practitioners, while it reported highest accuracy for making a primary and differential diagnosis.⁵¹ Interestingly, as suggested by

Table 2. Accuracy of ChatGPT in Clinical Vignettes

References	Specialty	Design	N	Features	Tool	Outcomes	Results
Chiesa-Estomba et al ⁴	Salivary glands	Prospective Cross-sectional	6 CV 10 PO	GPT-3.5	5-point Likert scale	Mean agreement PO vs GPT Treatment N	4.1-3.4/5 PO>GPT 2.6-3.3/5 PO=GPT
Marchi et al ⁴⁹	Head and neck oncology	Prospective	272 CV	GPT-3.5 NCCN vs GPT	0-1 coefficient	PT, AT (SE, AC) Follow-up indication SE, AC	100%-85%-100%-96% 100%-94%/1%
Qu et al ⁴⁴	General otolaryngology	Prospective	20 CV	GPT-4	5-point Likert scale	Differential diagnosis Treatment plan	AP=GPT
Karimov et al ⁴³	General otolaryngology	Cross-sectional	11 PO	GPT-3.5	Composite score	Usefulness composite score CV related references	UpToDate>GPT UpToDate>GPT
Saibene et al ⁴⁵	Rhinology and dental	Prospective	25 CV 2 experts	UpToDate GPT-3.5	Total disagreement score	Total disagreement score	GPT-3.5>GPT-4
Chee et al ⁴⁶	Dizziness	Cross-sectional	8 experts	GPT-4 uGPT	Not provided	Disagreement expert vs GPT Accurate diagnosis	73/80 6/8 cases
Dallari et al ⁴⁷	General otolaryngology	Prospective	8 CV NP	GPT-3.5	5-point Likert scale	Correctness score Consistency score	3.80 2.89
Teixeria et al ⁴⁸	General otolaryngology	Cross-sectional	20 CV 3 experts	GPT-3.5	5-point Likert scale	Mean score (GPT vs PO) Regenerated mean score	4.4-4.92 4.15
Vaira et al ¹	General otolaryngology Maxillofacial surgery	Cross-sectional	5 PO 15 CV 18 experts	GPT-4	None	Nearly or fully correct PD Correct treatment	81.7% 56.7%

Abbreviations: AC, accuracy; AP, attending physicians; AT, adjuvant treatment; CV, clinical vignettes; GPT, Generative Pre-Trained Transformer; NCCNG, National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines; NP, not provided; PD, primary diagnosis; PO, practitioner in otolaryngology; SE, sensitivity; uGPT, unspecified version of GPT.

Table 3. Accuracy of ChatGPT in the Management of Clinical Cases

Authors	Specialty	Design	N	Features	Tool	Outcomes	Results
Lechien et al ⁴⁹	Head and neck oncology	Prospective	20 CC	GPT-4	AIPI	AE prescription (N)	GPT>OTO 25%-55%-95%
Lechien et al ⁵⁰	Laryngology	Cross-sectional	2 PO	PO vs GPT		AE, TT, cTNM	GPT>OTO
Radulesco et al ⁵¹	Rhinology and allergy	Prospective	40 CC	GPT-3.5	Ocat	AE prescription (N)	10%-33%-60%-79%-65%
Lechien et al ⁵²	General otolaryngology	Cross-sectional	2-3 PO	PO vs GPT	AIPI	AE, TT, PD/DD	GPT>OTO 7%-30%-7%-32%-47%-55%
Sievert et al ⁵³	Head and neck oncology	Prospective	40 CC	GPT-4	AIPI	AE prescription (N)	GPT>OTO 29%-22%-56%-71%
	Laser images	Cross-sectional	45 CC	PO vs GPT		AE, TT, PD	71.2%
		Prospective	2 PO	GPT-4		GPT cancer detection AC	88.5%
		Cross-sectional	139 CI	PO vs GPT	2-item score	Expert cancer detection AC	
			3 experts	PO vs GPT			

Abbreviations: AC, accuracy; AE, additional examination; AIPI, artificial intelligence performance instrument; CC, clinical cases; CI, clinical images; cTNM, clinical tumor node metastasis; GPT, Generative Pre-Trained Transformer; Ocat, Ottawa clinical assessment tool; OTO, otolaryngologists; PD/DD, primary diagnosis/differential diagnoses; PO, practitioner in otolaryngology; TT, treatment.

Dallari et al, ChatGPT-3.5 accuracy was not influenced by the level of difficulty of the clinical case.⁵¹ Moreover, authors observed that ChatGPT had difficulties in the management of some challenging diseases, particularly laryngopharyngeal reflux, which corroborated the data of another patient information study.³⁵ Finally, only 1 study explored the performance of ChatGPT-4 in the analysis of clinical images.⁵⁴ Thus, Sievert et al found that ChatGPT-4 and experts detected cancer at the microscopy in 71.2% and 88.5% of cases, respectively.⁵⁴

Implications for Practice

Many aspects of otolaryngology practice have the potential to be revolutionized by generative AI, including the preparation of the consultation, the identification of potential emergency, the analysis of mucosa lesions, and the improvement of research ideas and protocols. To date, most studies focused on ChatGPT since the publicized launch of GPT-4.0 in March 2023. The present review reports that most applications of ChatGPT are limited in generating disease or treatment information or in the improvement of the management of clinical cases. The lack of comparison of ChatGPT performance with other LLMs is the main limitation of the current research. In the current otolaryngology literature, ChatGPT was compared with other LLMs, including Google Bard and others, in only 4 studies, which reported different results.^{16,21,29,36} The landscape changes, and the continuous evolution of LLM's versions and performance make difficult the comparison between studies. The few studies in otolaryngology and beyond that exist have consistently demonstrated the superiority of ChatGPT-4.0 to other LLMs.²⁹ In the same vein, the stability of LLMs through regenerated responses is important for ensuring quality, consistency, and security in the provided information. However, the stability of ChatGPT has been explored in only a few studies, which reported conflicting results.^{2,47-50,52} Dallari et al reported that the intraclass correlation coefficients for the stability of the correctness and consistency of ChatGPT-4 responses were 0.763 and 0.837, respectively.⁴⁷ In the study by Teixeira-Marques et al, the regenerated responses of ChatGPT-3.5 regarding the management of 20 reality-inspired clinical cases were similar in 15 cases.⁴⁸ The stability of regenerated responses of ChatGPT-4 was moderate-to-high in other studies dedicated to the management of head and neck,⁵⁰ and rhinology⁵² cases, and in providing scientific references.² The rapid evolution of ChatGPT versions and the related changes in the landscape underscore the need for ongoing evaluation.

Moreover, compared to other applications of LLMs in the general medical literature, we found no applications of ChatGPT in medical education beyond its performance on professional exams. Given the implications of LLMs on learning and education, this finding highlights the urgent need for more scholarship in an aspect of otolaryngology that is bound to change with the rise of LLMs.

Another significant potential GPT application in otolaryngology that is not studied is its possible impact on clinical workflows, from electronic medical record search and summarization to ambient AI scribes and adverse event detection. This could have a significant impact on decreasing cognitive and work burden on otolaryngologists and is an important focus for investigation. Finally, ChatGPT's ability to analyze clinical images through the combination of LLM technology with image encoders has not yet been investigated in *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*. This point is a key research topic for the future because most clinical diagnoses performed in otolaryngological practice are based on clinical or imaging findings. The analysis of images by multimodal LLM is an ongoing topic of research in other specialties. For instance, a recent study in ophthalmology tested the capabilities of ChatGPT-4 in answering ophthalmic cases from a medical education platform, including multiple-choice questions with or without ophthalmic imaging. The authors found that ChatGPT-4.0 performed better questions that did not rely on the interpretation of imaging modalities.⁵⁵ The findings of the present review may help otolaryngologists to propose new ideas of applications in further research.

The ethical aspect of the use of generative AI, such as ChatGPT, in research or clinical practice is another important point that requires further recommendations in *Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery*. As it stands, entering patient information into the commercial version of ChatGPT infringes Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act rule and should be avoided. As of January 24, 2024, the European Commission has proposed a legal framework through a positional statement paper to address the risks generated by specific uses of AI, especially in health care, which highlights the need to strengthen efforts to regulate the use of AI, while emphasizing the importance of safe, transparent, and human-centered use of AI technologies.⁵⁶ In the United States, President Biden's Executive Order on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI has delineated new standards for safety and security, as well as the promotion of equity, civil right, consumer and worker protection, and innovation.⁵⁷

Author Contributions

Jérôme R. Lechien, design, acquisition of data, data analysis, and interpretation, drafting, final approval, and accountability for the work, final approval of the version to be published, agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved; **Anais Rameau**, design, acquisition of data, data analysis, and interpretation, revising the manuscript for important intellectual content, final approval of the version to be published, final approval, and accountability for the work, final approval of the version to be published, agreement to be

accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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