Technology revolutionizes anything it comes across in contemporary society. Healthcare is no different. New technology has aided physicians in making more accurate diagnoses, and the ability to perform more accurate surgical procedures. However, technology is at the cusp of revolutionizing physicians themselves. Computer scientists and billionaires such as Elon Musk are working on artificial intelligence. This artificial intelligence can easily be applied to build robotic doctors, a much-improved version of their flawed human counterparts.

One of the most well-known feats achieved by robotics is the use of Da Vinci surgery machine. This robotic surgeon can perform incredibly delicate procedures, and make incisions that would leave the most experienced surgeons in awe. The machine can remove more cancerous tissue while minimizing the possible damage to nerve endings. These results are quickly making headway among patients. One study found that 85% of men who must undergo prostate surgery choose this new technology over a surgeon armed with only a scalpel. This robotic surgeon is far from automated now; the computer system is only capable of refining and scaling the hand movements of its human commander. This will no longer be the case soon. Dr. Satava from the University of Washington predicts in 40-50 years that human surgeons will solely be involved with managing and monitoring the machines that will be performing their predecessors’ jobs.

The art of diagnostic medicine is no different. The human mind has a limited ability to retain and retrieve vital information, robots on the other hand have a limitless capacity. This dramatic ability to store information was demonstrated when IBM’s Watson defeated its human competitors in jeopardy. Yet this was not the intent for Watson’s design. Watson was designed to be storage system for every human disease known. Watson can access medical reports, clinical trials, medical journals, patient records, etc. at a moment’s notice. All this information can allow the computer system to lead to more accurate diagnosis and more personalized treatment plans. Human doctors simply don’t have the mental capacity to keep up. Watson at the current moment works in tandem with human doctors. However, as technology progresses forward, it seems feasibly that the system will be able to become completely autonomous.

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