

IOT for Monitoring Covid-19 Patients: Expressing Perspectives

Sir,

The COVID-19 pandemic has so far infected and killed many people.^[1] Due to the high rate of spread of the disease, the need for a technology to control the disease is felt,^[2] e.g., technologies that maintain social distance between people while providing services.^[3] Given that the Internet of Things (IoT) uses all available objects to provide services, it can be used as a remote technology to monitor COVID-19 patients.^[3]

For example, Central Medical Emergency Direction (CMED) in Bangladesh, with one million users, sends vital patient information to physicians via a mobile app. In China, it was a combination of smartphones, cloud servers, and wearables. Health monitoring sensors were used by wearable devices. These devices communicate with smartphones via Bluetooth. This communication includes sending messages about health status or receiving simple instructions. Then, it was possible to send the user's location with IoT technology and cloud servers.^[4] Another example of an IoT system for monitoring COVID-19 patients is the system in India. This system can inform the physician of the patient's condition in an emergency and save the lives of many COVID-19 patients.^[5]

In general, it can be concluded that IoT technology, due to the low cost imposed, maintains a social distance between the patient and the physician during the COVID-19 pandemic. IoT provides access to the physician at any time and place. It can play a very effective and important role in controlling the condition of COVID-19 patients.

To implement IoT in Iran, one must first provide a cloud computing infrastructure that stores and processes a large amount of information on the Internet. Another important parameter is the speed of the Internet, given that time is very important for transferring the information from the patient to the doctor, especially in emergencies. The next issue is convincing the physicians to use the technology and its effective role in the current situation. In general, it is recommended that IoT technology for COVID-19 patients be used first in hospitals with a small number of COVID-19 patients and then in other hospitals in the country.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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