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Enhancing Patient Data Security in Healthcare Through Blockchain Technology

[1]Mansi Mishra, [2]Rohini Bhosale
[1]Student at Sheth L.U.J. and Sir M.V. College of Arts, Science and commerce, [2]Asst. Professor at Sheth L.U.J. and Sir M.V. College of Arts, Science and commerce

Abstract: Blockchain technology is transforming healthcare by enhancing data security, transparency, and efficiency. This study explores its role in securing patient records, improving trust, and optimizing healthcare operations. A chi-square test analysis of survey data confirms that blockchain significantly strengthens data protection. However, challenges such as regulatory uncertainty, interoperability, and scalability must be addressed for successful implementation. The findings highlight blockchain's potential to revolutionize healthcare, provided that technological and regulatory barriers are overcome.

IndexTerms -Blockchain Technology, Healthcare Data Security, Smart Contracts, Electronic Medical Records (EMR), Interoperability, Scalability, Fraud Prevention, Internet of Medical Things (IoMT).

I. INTRODUCTION

Blockchain technology, originally developed as the foundation for cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, has evolved into a powerful tool for securing and managing sensitive data across various industries, including healthcare. Blockchain is especially helpful for tackling important issues like data security, smooth information sharing, and fraud prevention because of its decentralised and immutable nature, which guarantees that data cannot be readily changed or tampered with (Zhang et al., 2020). Blockchain integration in healthcare has the potential to enhance EHR management, safeguard digital transactions, and foster trust among stakeholders, including insurance companies, healthcare providers, and patients (Kuo, Kim, & Ohno-Machado, 2017).

Safeguarding patient data while providing effective and secure access to medical information is a major problem for the healthcare sector. Conventional centralised systems are susceptible to ineffective data interchange, illegal access, and data breaches (Agbo, Mahmoud, & Eklund, 2019). Blockchain technology may be used by healthcare institutions to create a transparent, decentralised data management system in which patient records are safely kept and distributed only to those who are permitted. Additionally, decentralised apps (DApps) and smart contracts built on the blockchain can automate administrative procedures, save operating expenses, and lower the possibility of fraud in the healthcare industry (Azaria et al., 2016).

Blockchain technology offers a revolutionary way to increase medical data management's efficiency, openness, and interoperability in light of growing worries about data security and privacy in the industry. This study examines how blockchain may be used in the healthcare industry, emphasising how it can improve data security, facilitate secure data exchange, stop fraud, and streamline patient record administration. This study seeks to illustrate the possible advantages and difficulties of blockchain adoption in the healthcare sector by examining current developments and case examples.

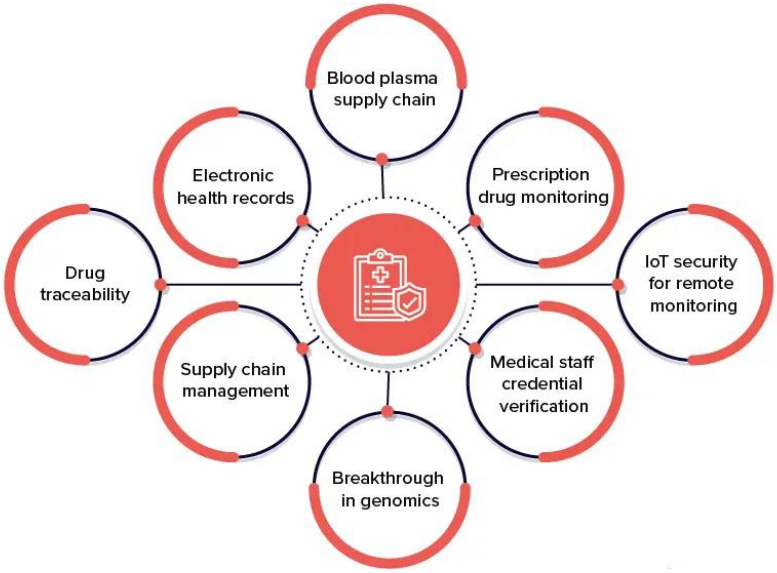

Figure 1. Different Ways Blockchain Technology Helps in Healthcare

1.1.Literature Review

Khezr, Moniruzzaman, Yassine, and Benlamri (2019) highlight blockchain's growing adoption due to its decentralization, security, and transparency. In healthcare, it enhances data security, patient control, and cost efficiency while addressing challenges like cross-border data sharing, transaction speed, and scalability. Blockchain improves drug traceability, strengthens clinical trial integrity, and mitigates fraud in billing and IoMT security. Future research should focus on regulatory frameworks, faster processing, and standardized global policies for seamless blockchain integration in healthcare.

Haleem, Javaid, Singh, Suman, and Rab (2021) emphasize blockchain's revolutionary impact on healthcare, driven by its robust cryptographic security and decentralized framework. This technology fortifies patient data protection, facilitates the monetization of health information, fosters seamless collaboration among medical institutions, and combats counterfeit pharmaceuticals. Various healthcare sectors can harness blockchain, particularly through smart contracts that eliminate intermediaries, reducing costs and improving efficiency. Its widespread integration depends on synergizing with complementary technologies such as supply chain tracking, insurance authentication, drug validation, and clinical trial monitoring. Hospitals can leverage blockchain to enhance patient care management, oversee medical device usage, and streamline administrative workflows. Additionally, it elevates record-keeping precision, accelerates clinical procedures, and optimizes insurance claim settlements. In the long term, blockchain holds the potential to redefine medical data governance and revolutionize healthcare service delivery.

Farouk, Alahmadi, Ghose, and Mashatan (2020) underscore blockchain's pivotal role in fortifying sensitive medical records while enabling secure and efficient data exchange among healthcare stakeholders. However, its effective deployment hinges on selecting an appropriate consensus protocol, blockchain architecture, and stringent access controls to thwart unauthorized access. Key hurdles such as scalability constraints, regulatory adherence, and seamless integration with legacy systems persist. Future research should prioritize refining blockchain frameworks to facilitate real-time healthcare applications, streamline interoperability, and accelerate its widespread adoption across the global medical landscape.

Hölbl, Kompara, Kamišalić, and Zlatolas (2018) examined emerging blockchain research trends in healthcare, highlighting its transformative potential in safeguarding sensitive medical data. Their study meticulously analyzed 33 scholarly publications from nine digital repositories spanning 2008–2019, following a structured methodology. The findings reveal a surge in blockchain adoption, predominantly for data interoperability, electronic health records, and access governance, while its application in pharmaceutical supply chains and prescription tracking remains largely untapped. Most research introduces innovative blockchain frameworks but often lacks crucial technical specifics, such as underlying platforms, consensus mechanisms, and the integration of smart contracts. Moving forward, research should delve deeper into real-world implementations, harness automation through smart contracts, and uncover novel applications of

blockchain in healthcare systems.

A.A. Siyal, A.Z. Junejo, M. Zawish, K. Ahmed, A. Khalil, and G. Soursou (2019) blockchain technology has gained significant recognition, with applications spanning data management, finance, cybersecurity, IoT, food science, healthcare, and brain research. In healthcare, blockchain enhances data security and integrity, enabling seamless and protected medical record sharing, improving diagnosis and treatment. Looking ahead, it has the potential to create a personalized, transparent, and secure healthcare ecosystem by integrating real-time clinical data. This paper explores recent advancements in blockchain-driven healthcare solutions, highlighting its applications, challenges, and future prospects.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

- Explore how blockchain improves data security and blocks unauthorized access.
- Identify the benefits and challenges of using blockchain in healthcare.
- Study how blockchain can securely manage patient data, process insurance claims, and handle digital health transactions.
- Examine how blockchain builds patient trust and keeps medical records private.

Hypothesis H0: The blockchain technology does not make patient data more secure in healthcare.
Hypothesis H1: The blockchain technology help to make patient data more secure in healthcare.

1.3 Scope

This study includes individuals from various professions, such as doctors, nurses, IT professionals, and patients, to gain diverse perspectives on blockchain technology in healthcare. The data analysis considers factors like age, occupation, familiarity with blockchain, its usage, impact on healthcare processes, and other relevant aspects gathered from the survey.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Data Collection

This study uses primary data acquired through a questionnaire in the Mumbai region. The acquired data were examined using the chi-square test to reach a study result.

2.2 Data Analysis and Interpretation

AGEGROUP	NO.OF PEOPLE	PERCENTAGE
Under 18	1	1.6%
18-25	48	78.7%
25-35	8	13.1%
35-45	1	1.6%
Above 45	3	4.9%

Table 1. Age group of Respondents.
Out of 61 responses, above are the division according to the age groups of respondents, where the maximum respondents were aged between 18-25 years and the least were from under 18 and 35-45 years of age.

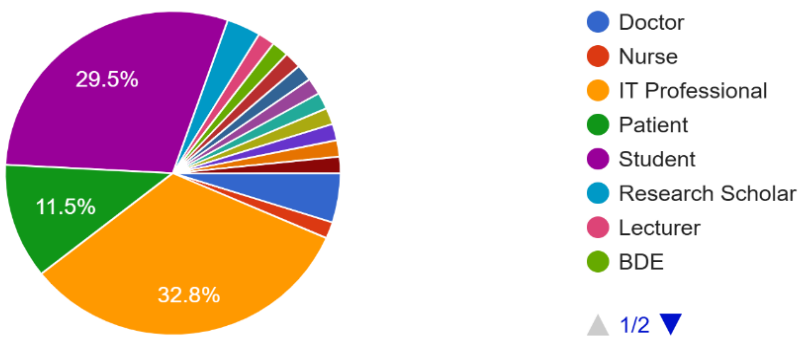

Figure 2. Sector-wise distribution of respondents.
Division of respondents based on their sector or industry.

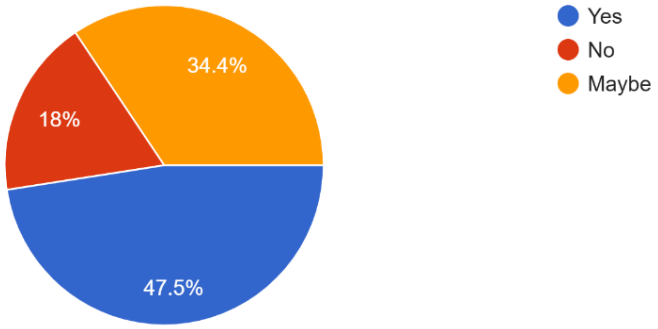

Figure 3. Patient Data Security
Personal opinions of the people on whether their data is secure by using blockchain.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Chi-square test

The chi-square test is used to find out the relation between Blockchain Technology and Healthcare and the impact of it's on the people across various sectors on the bases of stated hypothesis.

Formula:

Chi-square (χ 2) Test = $\sum(O - E)^2/E$; with E=N*P, P=0.5
Where: O =Observed values, E = Expected values, P= Probability

Table 1: Calculation of Chi square Test χ2

O	E	O – E	$(O - E)^2$	$(O-E)^2/E$
29	**20.3**	**8.7**	**75.69**	**3.72**
11	**20.3**	**-9.3**	**86.49**	**4.26**
21	**20.3**	**0.7**	**0.49**	**0.02**
			Total	**8**

To test the hypothesis at $\alpha = 0.05$ level of significance-from the Table 1: Calculated $\chi^2 = 8$
Decision criterion: n=3
Reject H0 if: calculated $\chi^2 > \chi^2_{n-1, 0.05} = \chi^2_{3-1, 0.05} = \chi^2_{2, 0.05} = 3.84$
Do not reject H0 if $x^2 \leq 3.84$

IV. FINDINGS

Calculated χ2 > Critical Value (χ2), i.e., 8 > 3.84, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis at α = 0.05 level of significance. This confirms the acceptance of the alternative hypothesis, indicating that blockchain technology enhances patient data security in healthcare. The findings provide evidence that blockchain has a promising future in safeguarding medical records, improving trust, and optimizing healthcare processes.

V. CONCLUSION

The study confirms that blockchain technology significantly improves patient data security in healthcare. By leveraging decentralization, encryption, and smart contracts, blockchain ensures secure and transparent medical data transactions. The chi-square test results indicate a strong correlation between blockchain adoption and enhanced data protection, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis. Additionally, blockchain addresses key challenges in healthcare, such as data breaches, fraud, and inefficiencies in patient record management. However, despite its potential, successful implementation requires overcoming obstacles such as scalability, compliance with healthcare regulations, and interoperability with existing systems. Future research should focus on optimizing blockchain infrastructure to enhance efficiency, standardizing regulatory frameworks, and improving transaction speeds to facilitate seamless integration into the healthcare sector.

VI. SUGGESTIONS

Using blockchain in healthcare has many challenges that make it hard to adopt, such as:

1. **Regulatory Uncertainty:** The absence of clear legal frameworks and compliance requirements creates hurdles for blockchain adoption in healthcare.
2. **Interoperability Issues**: Different healthcare institutions use varied data formats and systems, making seamless blockchain integration challenging.
3. **Scalability Constraints:** Blockchain networks face processing limitations, which can hinder large-scale adoption in data-intensive healthcare environments.
4. **High Implementation Costs:** Setting up blockchain infrastructure requires significant investment in technology, training, and system integration.
5. **Limited Awareness and Expertise:** Many healthcare professionals and IT personnel lack the necessary knowledge and training to implement blockchain effectively.
6. **Data Privacy Concerns:** While blockchain enhances security, managing access control and ensuring compliance with patient privacy regulations remains complex.
7. **Slow Transaction Speeds:** Some blockchain frameworks have latency issues that can delay real-time medical data processing and decision-making.
8. **Resistance to Change:** Healthcare institutions may be reluctant to transition from traditional systems to blockchain due to uncertainties and operational disruptions.

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