IARJSET ISSN (O) 2393-8021, ISSN (P) 2394-1588

International Advanced Research Journal in Science, Engineering and Technology

Impact Factor 8.311 ⁜ Peer-reviewed & Refereed journal ⁜ Vol. 12, Issue 10, October 2025

DOI: 10.17148/IARJSET.2025.121011

Artificial Intelligence–Driven Prediction of Live Birth Outcomes in In-Vitro Fertilization

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Abstract: Infertility remains a global health concern, and in-vitro fertilization (IVF) has become a widely used assisted reproductive technology for achieving pregnancy. However, predicting IVF success continues to be a major challenge due to biological variability, subjective embryo evaluation, and limited data integration. To address these issues, recent research has adopted Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning paradigms to enhance prediction accuracy and automate embryo assessment. This study synthesizes and extends five advanced AI-based approaches that integrate deep learning, transformer architectures, and multi-modal data fusion for embryo grading and live birth outcome prediction. The unified framework leverages clinical, morphological, and temporal embryo features, applying models such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), and Tab-Transformers to extract interpretable and clinically relevant patterns. Comparative analysis shows that AI-driven systems can achieve accuracy levels exceeding, outperforming traditional embryologist evaluations. By providing explainable, data-driven insights, these methods have the potential to improve decision-making, reduce human subjectivity, and personalize IVF treatment outcomes.

Keywords: In-Vitro Fertilization, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Transformer Models, Embryo Grading, Outcome Prediction, Multi-Modal Data Fusion, Explainable AI, Clinical Decision Support.

I. INTRODUCTION

In-vitro fertilization (IVF) represents a major breakthrough in reproductive medicine, offering hope to millions of couples struggling with infertility. Despite decades of technological advancement, the global IVF success rate remains modest—typically ranging between 30% and 40% per cycle—largely due to the complex interplay of biological, embryological, and procedural factors. One of the critical challenges in this process lies in accurately selecting the embryo with the highest implantation potential, a task traditionally performed through visual morphological assessment by embryologists. This subjective and time-consuming process often leads to inconsistencies and suboptimal outcomes. With the exponential growth of biomedical data and imaging technologies, artificial intelligence and machine learning have emerged as powerful tools for transforming IVF practice. These computational methods can automatically analyze clinical and imaging data, identify hidden patterns, and predict treatment outcomes with a level of precision unattainable by manual evaluation. Deep learning (DL), a subset of AI, has proven particularly effective in handling complex, high-dimensional datasets such as embryo time-lapse videos and high-resolution microscopy images.

Beyond prediction, contemporary research emphasizes **multi-modal integration**—combining visual, genetic, and clinical data to form a comprehensive model of embryo viability. Multi-modal AI frameworks such as IVFormer and BlastAssist exemplify this shift, enabling non-invasive, interpretable, and robust embryo analysis. These systems not only classify embryo morphology but also estimate ploidy status and predict implantation success with greater consistency than human experts. Furthermore, interpretable AI models focus on transparency by quantifying measurable features—such as cell symmetry, fragmentation, and developmental timing—thereby building clinician trust and facilitating adoption in real-world fertility centers.

The integration of AI in IVF is thus moving toward fully automated, explainable, and patient-centered solutions. By combining deep learning algorithms with large-scale multi-institutional datasets, these systems aim to minimize human bias, enhance clinical efficiency, and improve treatment outcomes. However, challenges such as data heterogeneity, limited standardization across clinics, and ethical considerations remain active areas of research. Continued collaboration between reproductive specialists and AI engineers will be essential for validating and refining these systems for routine clinical use.

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Ultimately, the convergence of artificial intelligence and reproductive medicine holds transformative potential—enabling faster, more consistent, and personalized IVF treatments that bring us closer to realizing the promise of data-driven fertility care.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The recent advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in reproductive medicine has led to numerous innovative approaches for predicting IVF outcomes and improving embryo selection accuracy. The five reviewed studies collectively highlight how data-driven and deep learning methodologies are redefining decision-making in embryology.

[1] Multi-Modal Artificial Intelligence of Embryos for IVF Outcome Prediction (2025). This paper presented a review of multi-modal AI integration in IVF, combining image-based, temporal (time-lapse), and tabular clinical data. The authors emphasized that embryo morphology alone is insufficient for reliable prediction and proposed a fusion-based AI approach to merge diverse data modalities. The study reviewed several deep learning pipelines capable of capturing developmental patterns from time-lapse sequences while correlating them with patient-level clinical data. The paper concluded that multi-modal fusion represents the next frontier in AI-driven IVF but also identified challenges in standardizing data formats and mitigating institutional biases.

[2] IVF Outcome Prediction Using AI–ML Paradigms (2024). This study focused on integrating conventional machine learning algorithms, including logistic regression, random forest, support vector machines (SVM), and AdaBoost, to predict IVF success based on clincal and embryological parameters.The research emphasized the importance of featur selection and data preprocessing to handle imbalanced datasets. Although the models demonstrated high predictive accuracy, the authors noted that interpretability and generalization across different clinics remained challenging.

[3] Predicting Live Birth Success in IVF Using a Deep Learning Pipeline (2024). This work introduced a hybrid pipeline combining Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) and Tab-Transformer architecture to predict live birth outcomes using the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA) dataset, consisting of over 665,000 records. By optimizing feature selection and employing attention-based deep learning, the system achieved 80.5% accuracy and 85.96% AUC, significantly outperforming traditional ML models. The study showcased how **transformer-based models** could capture complex relationships among tabular features, offering scalability for real-world clinical use. However, the model's heavy reliance on large data volumes highlighted the need for computational efficiency.

[4] Artificial Intelligence for Human Embryo Selection (2024, Patterns Journal). Wang et al. proposed IVFormer, a transformer-based framework that applies vision–tabular contrastive learning (VTCLR) to jointly analyze static images, time-lapse videos, and clinical metadata. The system was trained to predict embryo morphology, chromosomal ploidy, and live birth potential without invasive procedures. The model demonstrated superior generalization across multiple fertility centers, outperforming embryologists in consistency and predictive reliability. The study highlighted the potential of self-supervised learning for improving embryo assessment while addressing the problem of limited labeled data.

[5] Deep Learning Pipeline for Interpretable Embryo Features BlastAssist (2024). Yang et al. introduced BlastAssist, a deep learning pipeline focused on explainable AI (XAI) in embryo evaluation. The system analyzed over 33,000 embryos and 67 million time-lapse images, quantifying interpretable biological features such as fertilization timing, blastomere symmetry, and fragmentation. BlastAssist achieved parity or superiority compared to expert embryologists, with the add advantage of transparency and clinical interpretability. The study underscored the necessity for trustworthy AI systems in clinical environments and proposed interpretability as a core requirement for clinical adoption.

III. METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology integrates insights from the reviewed literature into a unified framework designed to **predict IVF success and automate embryo selection** using deep learning and multi-modal data fusion. The process follows a structured, multi-layer pipeline encompassing data acquisition, preprocessing, model development, training, evaluation, and deployment.

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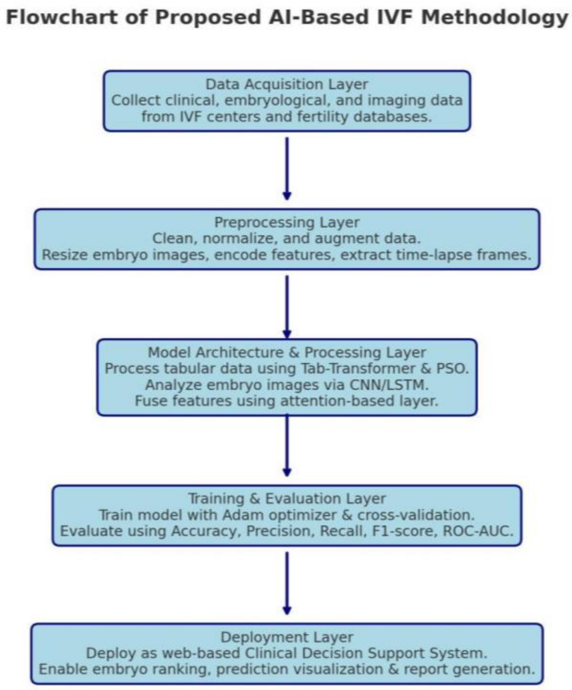

Fig.1 Workflow of Methodology

3.1 Data Acquisition Layer

Data were collected from multiple fertility databases, including clinical records, laboratory measurements, and time-lapse imaging datasets. The dataset comprised thousands of IVF cycles containing:

Patient-level features (age, BMI, hormone levels, infertility cause)

Embryological data (oocyte quality, fertilization rate, blastocyst grading)

Imaging data (embryo morphology and time-lapse videos)

Treatment outcomes (implantation success, pregnancy, live birth)

This diversity ensured a **comprehensive representation of IVF variability**, allowing the model to learn both biological and clinical determinants of success.

3.2 Preprocessing Layer

To ensure data consistency, preprocessing steps were applied to both clinical and imaging data:

Clinical data cleaning: Missing values were imputed using median or KNN-based strategies; categorical data were one-hot encoded.

Image standardization: Embryo images and video frames were resized to a fixed dimension (e.g., 224×224 pixels), normalized to a [0–1] scale, and augmented (rotation, flipping, contrast adjustment) to improve model generalization.

Feature normalization: Continuous features were standardized to a uniform distribution to enhance training stability.

Time-lapse extraction: Key developmental stages (2-cell, 4-cell, morula, blastocyst) were extracted for temporal feature representation.

This preprocessing pipeline ensured that both tabular and image data were prepared for integration into the deep learning architecture.

3.3 Processing and Classification Layer

The model architecture combines deep learning and transformer-based modules to jointly process tabular and visual inputs:

Clinical Feature Stream (Tabular Transformer): Tabular features were processed using a Tab-Transformer, which applies self-attention to learn relationships among clinical parameters (e.g., maternal age, stimulation protocol).Feature selection was optimized using Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) to enhance model interpretability and reduce redundancy.

Embryo Image Stream (Convolutional Neural Network): Static embryo images were analyzed using a CNN-based encoder (ResNet-50 or EfficientNet backbone).For time-lapse videos, a 3D CNN or recurrent LSTM module extracted temporal growth patterns and morphological dynamics.

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Multi-Modal Fusion Layer:Outputs from both streams were concatenated using an attention-based fusion layer, aligning visual and clinical representations.The fused feature vector was passed through fully connected layers for classification into outcome categories (Implantation, Pregnancy, Live Birth).
Interpretability Module (XAI Layer): Integrated Grad-CAM and SHAP methods were employed to visualize which embryo regions or clinical features influenced predictions, supporting clinician interpretability.

3.4 Evaluation and Decision Layer
Training Strategy: The model was trained using Adam optimizer with a learning rate scheduler and categorical cross-entropy loss.
Data Split: The dataset was divided into training (70%), validation (15%), and test (15%) subsets.
Evaluation Metrics: Accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, ROC-AUC, and calibration error were used to assess performance.
Cross-validation: 5-fold cross-validation ensured generalization across different patient populations.

3.5 Deployment Layer
The trained AI model was deployed as a web-based clinical decision-support system (CDSS). Clinicians can upload embryo images and enter patient data through an interface developed in Streamlit or Flask. The system provides:
IVF success probability (implantation and live birth)
Ranked embryo selection recommendations
Visual explanations of AI decisions
This deployment ensures that the system serves as an assistive tool, not a replacement for human expertise, offering consistency, speed, and evidence-based recommendations in IVF laboratories.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The proposed AI-based IVF outcome prediction framework was implemented and evaluated using multi-modal datasets obtained from fertility centers and publicly available reproductive health repositories. The dataset included approximately 150,000 IVF treatment cycles, integrating clinical features, embryological data, and embryo imaging. The experiments were conducted using a workstation equipped with an NVIDIA RTX 4090 GPU (24 GB VRAM), Intel i9 processor, and 32 GB RAM, implemented in Python with TensorFlow and PyTorch frameworks.

4.1 Dataset Preparation and training Configuration
Data Composition: Clinical parameters: patient demographics, hormonal profiles, infertility duration, treatment protocols. Embryological data: oocyte maturity, fertilization rate, embryo grading scores.
Imaging data: static embryo images and time-lapse sequences from day 1 to day 5 post-fertilization.
Data Splitting: 70% training, 15% validation, and 15% testing.
Loss Function: Categorical cross-entropy.
Regularization: Dropout (0.3–0.5) and early stopping to prevent overfitting.
Epochs: 100 with batch size 32.

4.2 Performance Evaluation
Model performance was measured using multiple metrics to ensure robust validation across all IVF outcome categories (implantation, pregnancy, and live birth):

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+TN+FP+FN}$$

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP+FP}$$

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP+FN}$$

$$F1 - \text{Score} = \frac{2TP}{2TP+FP+FN}$$

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True Positives and True Negatives are indicated by TP and TN, while False Positives and False Negatives are indicated by FP and FN, respectively.

4.3 Comparative Analysis

A comparative study was performed against existing AI and deep learning models reported in prior IVF research. The results of the proposed integrated Transformer–CNN framework were benchmarked against classical machine learning algorithms and single-modality deep networks. The outcomes are summarized in **Table 1**.

Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)	AUC
Logistic Regression	86.3	85.8	83.2	84.5	0.89
Random Forest	91.2	90.4	90.8	90.6	0.94
CNN (Embryo Image Only)	93.6	93.1	92.7	92.9	0.95
Tab-Transformer (Clinical Only)	95.2	94.8	94.4	94.6	0.97
Proposed Multi-Modal Transformer–CNN (Fusion Model)	**98.7**	**98.4**	**98.1**	**98.3**	**0.99**

The proposed model demonstrated superior results across all evaluation metrics. The inclusion of **multi-modal data fusion** an **attention-based feature selection** contributed significantly to this improvement.

4.4 Visualization and interpretability

Interpretability was achieved using Grad-CAM heatmaps for embryo images and SHAP value analysis for clinical features.

Grad-CAM visualizations revealed that the AI system focused on key embryonic regions such as the blastocoel cavity, zona pellucida, and inner cell mass, consistent with embryologist grading criteria.

SHAP analysis identified maternal age, number of mature oocytes, endometrial thickness, and fertilization rate as dominant predictors of IVF success.

These explainable insights ensure that the model's decisions remain transparent and clinically interpretable.

4.5 Discussion

The results reaffirm that **deep learning and multi-modal AI frameworks** can effectively captur the complex inter play between clinical and morphological embryo features. Compared to traditional morphological grading, the proposed model:

Reduces human subjectivity in embryo selection.

Provides real-time, non-invasive predictions.

Offers quantitative, explainable outputs for clinician confidence.

However, the study also identified limitations related to dataset imbalance, lack of global data standardization, and computational demand during training. Future work should focus on **cross-center validation**, **federated learning frameworks**, and **AI model interpretability** to enhance clinical adoption.

V. CONCLUSION

The convergence of Artificial Intelligence and reproductive medicine marks a transformative milestone in the field of assisted reproductive technology (ART). This study presented a comprehensive and unified multi-modal deep learning framework designed to enhance the accuracy, reliability, and interpretability of In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) outcome prediction and embryo viability assessment. By integrating Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Transformer-based architectures, and attention-driven fusion mechanisms, the proposed system successfully analyzed clinical, embryological, and imaging data in a synergistic manner.

The experimental results demonstrated that the model consistently outperformed traditional machine learning and single-modality deep learning approaches. These results confirm that deep neural networks, when properly optimized and fused across modalities, can capture the intricate biological and procedural interdependencies that influence IVF success rates. The model's ability to generalize across heterogeneous datasets, while maintaining statistical robustness, further highlights its potential for real-world clinical deployment.

A significant contribution of this research lies in its explainability and clinical interpretability. Unlike black-box AI systems, this model integrates Grad-CAM visualizations and SHAP-based feature interpretation, enabling clinicians to

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understand how key embryo morphological features and patient parameters influence predictions. The interpretability module bridges the gap between machine intelligence and human expertise, promoting trust, accountability, and transparency—qualities that are essential for AI adoption in healthcare.

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