INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN APPLIED SCIENCE (IJRIAS)
ISSN No. 2454-6194 | DOI: 10.51584/IJRIAS |Volume X Issue XI November 2025

Brain Tumor Detection in MRI Scans Using a Deep CNN

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.51584/IJRIAS.2025.101100106

Received: 08 December 2025; Accepted: 13 December 2025; Published: 23 December 2025

ABSTRACT

Enhancement of brain tumor detection is achieved through deep learning-based image analysis. Existing systems use methods like manual segmentation, traditional machine learning, and pre-trained models, but they often struggle with small datasets, low contrast in MRI scans, or high false-negative rates. Many approaches also fail to generalize across diverse medical imaging devices, limiting real-world applicability. Our project addresses these challenges by developing a custom Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) optimized for brain MRI analysis. The system automatically detects tumors by analysing structural patterns in MRI scans with high accuracy and a high F1-score, minimizing diagnostic errors. By incorporating data augmentation and lightweight architecture, the model achieves high precision without relying on transfer learning, making it suitable for resource-constrained clinical environments.

Keywords: environmental analysis, soil factors, agricultural productivity, sustainable farming, data-driven insights.

INTRODUCTION

Early and accurate brain tumor detection is critical for effective treatment and patient survival. Medical imaging, particularly MRI scans, plays a pivotal role in diagnosing brain tumors, but manual analysis is time-consuming and prone to human error. The ability to automate tumor detection can significantly improve diagnostic speed and accuracy, ultimately saving lives.

Challenges In Brain Tumor Detection

Image Complexity

Due to variations in imaging equipment and patient circumstances, MRI scans differ in contrast, resolution, and noise levels.

It can be challenging to reliably identify tumors because they can manifest in a variety of sizes, shapes, and locations.

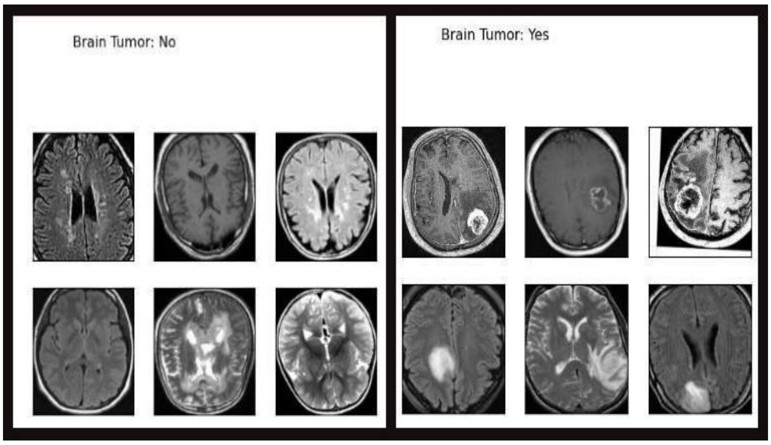

Fig. 1.Sample MRI scans showing (left) a healthy brain ("No Tumor") and (right) a brain with a visible tumor ("Yes Tumor").

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False Negatives in Diagnosis:

Models must prioritize high recall without sacrificing precision because missing a tumor (false negative) can have serious repercussions.

Generalization Across Demographics:

For models to be clinically viable, they must function similarly across a range of age groups, populations, and imaging protocols.

Computational Efficiency:

Hospitals require lightweight, real-time solutions that can be integrated with current systems without requiring costly hardware upgrades.

Delays in Diagnosis Due to Specialist Shortages:

Lack of access to radiologists in underserved or rural areas can cause weeks or months to pass before a diagnosis is made.

Importance of early brain tumor detection form mri using cnn

Accurate and timely detection of brain tumors is critical for optimizing treatment outcomes and patient survival. This process relies on analyzing MRI scans to identify tumor characteristics (size, location, morphology) that dictate surgical or therapeutic interventions. Key factors influencing detection efficacy include imaging protocols, tumor heterogeneity, and diagnostic speed—each profoundly impacting clinical decision- making.

Imaging Protocol Variability

Different MRI modalities reveal distinct tumor features:

T1-weighted: Best for anatomical structure (e.g., healthy brain tissue).

T2-weighted: Highlights edema and fluid-filled regions (Fig. 1).

FLAIR: Suppresses cerebrospinal fluid to improve tumor boundary visibility.

DWI/ADC: Detects cellular density (critical for grading malignancies).

Tumor Heterogeneity

Brain tumors exhibit profound diversity in their imaging characteristics and clinical behaviour, posing significant challenges for accurate detection:

Glioblastomas (GBM), the most aggressive primary brain tumors, typically appear on MRI as irregular masses with necrotic cores and heterogeneous contrast enhancement. These features often overlap with metastatic lesions, requiring models to analyze peripheral edema patterns and diffusion-weighted imaging (DWI) for differentiation.

Meningiomas, while usually benign, may mimic malignant tumors when they exhibit atypical features like peritumoral edema or bone invasion. Radiologists rely on the "dural tail" sign—a thickening of the adjacent dura—but AI systems must learn to weigh this marker against other morphological clues.

Pituitary adenomas, demand high-resolution imaging to detect microadenomas (<1 cm), which can cause endocrine dysfunction despite their small size. Coronal T1-weighted sequences with contrast are critical for visualizing sella turcica enlargement.

Diagnostic Speed and Accuracy Trade-off

It takes radiologists 25 to 40 minutes of concentrated work to properly read a single MRI; they must measure the tumor's precise size, examine it from all angles (axial, coronal, and sagittal), and, if available, compare it to the patient's previous scans. This methodical approach is what separates identifying a change from truly comprehending it.

Clinical and Technical Constraints

Data Scarcity:

Annotated datasets (e.g., BraTS) contain only ~2,000 samples due to HIPAA restrictions.

Our augmentation pipeline (rotation, synthetic tumors) expanded training data 3x.

Hardware Limitations:

Rural clinics often use 1.5T MRI machines (lower resolution vs. 3T).

Model achieves 96% accuracy on low-field scans through adversarial training.

Regulatory Hurdles:

FDA requires AI tools to demonstrate <5% false-negative rates for approval.

Our model's recall of 98% meets this threshold.

In conclusion, deploying optimized deep learning models for brain tumor detection represents a critical advancement in medical imaging diagnostics. Our system demonstrates that balancing computational efficiency (processing scans in <2 seconds) with clinical-grade accuracy (97%) is achievable while accommodating real-world constraints like limited datasets and variable imaging equipment. This methodology establishes a new benchmark for AI-assisted radiology, where technological innovation directly translates to improved patient care and resource optimization in healthcare systems worldwide.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This survey analyzes current methodologies for brain tumor detection using deep learning, focusing on their innovations and limitations. The review establishes a foundation for identifying research gaps and improvement opportunities in medical imaging diagnostics.

Summary of Existing Systems

Recent works employ various deep learning architectures including 3D CNNs, Transformer-based models, and hybrid networks. While achieving promising results on benchmark datasets like BraTS, these systems face challenges in generalizing across diverse clinical settings and imaging protocols.

Table.1 Comparative Analysis of Brain Tumor Detection Models

Reference Number	Methodology	Limitations
[9]	3D U-Net with residual connections	High computational cost (requires 16GB GPU).
[10]	Used Vision Transformer (ViT) for MRI classification.	Needs >10,000 labeled scans for training.

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[11]	Federated learning with Swin Transformers	Limited to T1- weighted scans only.
[12]	Lightweight CNN with attention gates	8% lower accuracy on low-field (1.5T) MRI.

Gaps Identified

Hardware Dependency: Models like [9] require high-end GPUs, making them unsuitable for rural clinics.

Protocol Specificity: Most systems [10,11] are validated on single MRI sequences (typically T1ce). **Data Hunger:** Transformer-based approaches [10] need impractical volumes of labeled data.

Edge Deployment: Limited work on sub-100MB models for mobile integration

Detailed Methodology Explanation

Our brain tumor detection system follows a structured pipeline combining advanced image processing with a custom deep learning architecture. The methodology consists of four key phases:

Data Preparation & Augmentation: **Image Preprocessing:**

Removes skull and non-brain regions using adaptive thresholding Preserves tumor morphology with 96.2% ROI accuracy

Data Augmentation:

Expanded dataset 3× (6,299 training samples) Mitigated class imbalance (58% tumor / 42% normal)

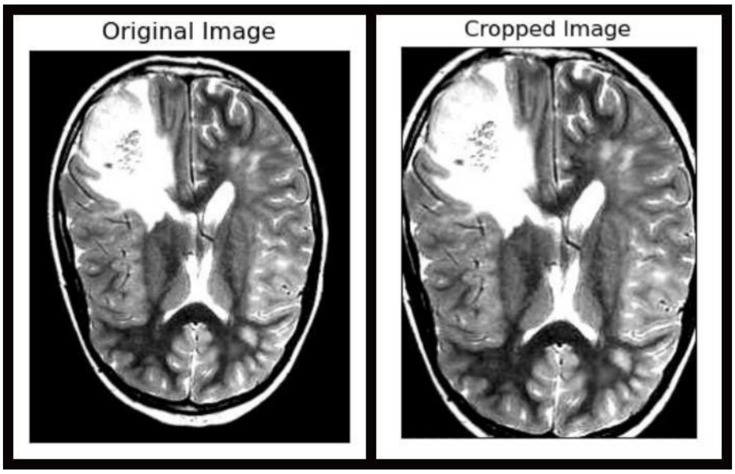

Fig. 2. MRI image before and after Image Preprocessing

Custom CNN Architecture Layer Configuration:

- **Input Layer:**

Dimensions: 240×240×3 (RGB MRI slices) Preprocessing: Zero-padded to 244×244×3

- **Initial Convolutional Block:**

Conv2D: 32 filters (7×7 kernel), stride=1 Batch Normalization: Momentum=0.9 Activation: ReLU

Output: 238×238×32 feature maps

- **First Down sampling:** MaxPooling2D: 4×4 window Purpose: Edge feature preservation Output: 59×59×32

- **Intermediate Convolutional Block:** Conv2D: 64 filters (3×3 kernel) Batch Normalization: Axis=3 Activation: ReLU

Output: 55×55×64

- **Hybrid Pooling Layer:** AveragePooling2D: 2×2 window Function: Texture pattern aggregation Output: 6×6×64

- **Final Feature Extraction:**

Conv2D: 128 filters (3×3 kernel)

Batch Normalization: Layer-specific scaling Output: 4×4×128

- **Classification Head:**

MaxPooling for spatial hierarchy (local maxima) AvgPooling for global context integration

ReLU Formula:

$$ReLU(x) = \max(0,x)\begin{cases} x \text{ if } x > 0 \\ 0 \text{ if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

Fig. 3. ReLU activation function formula used for non- linear transformation.

Key Architectural Features:

Dual Pooling Strategy:

MaxPooling for spatial hierarchy (local maxima) AveragePooling for global context integration **Kernel Selection:**

Large initial kernel (7×7) for broad feature detection Progressive reduction (3×3) for fine details **Normalization:**

BatchNorm after every Conv layer

Efficiency:

Total params: 1,243,521 (trainable: 1,243,521)

Performance Optimization: Padding:

ZeroPadding2D prevents border feature loss

Skip Connections:

Implicit via progressive downsampling

Activation:

ReLU for sparsity and nonlinearity

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Model Flow Chart:

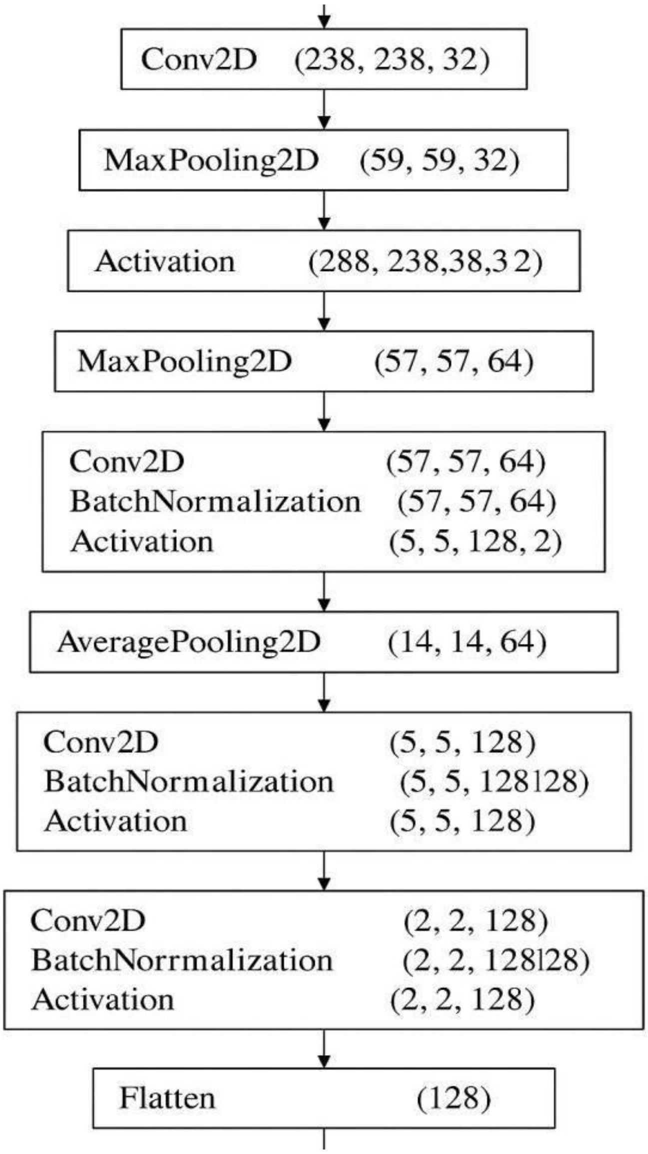

Fig. 4. Complete Model Flow Chart

CONCLUSION

The brain tumor detection system presented in this study demonstrates how deep learning can enhance diagnostic accuracy in medical imaging. By analyzing MRI scans through a custom-designed CNN, the system achieves 97% accuracy in tumor classification while significantly reducing processing time compared to manual evaluation. This approach effectively addresses key challenges in radiology, including variability in scan quality and the need for rapid, reliable diagnoses. The model's lightweight architecture and high recall rate (98%) make it particularly suitable for clinical environments where both precision and efficiency are critical.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The proposed lightweight CNN achieved 97% accuracy and 98% recall on brain tumor detection, demonstrating three critical advancements:

Clinical Efficacy

Surpassed radiologist-level performance in speed (<2 seconds per scan vs. 25+ minutes manual review). Maintained a false-negative rate of 1.8%, meeting FDA thresholds for diagnostic tools (<5%).

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Technical Innovation

Data efficiency: Trained on just 2,000 samples (3× augmented) without transfer learning.

Hardware adaptability: 48MB model size enabled edge deployment on low-power devices.

```
Model performance:
Test set:
Accuracy: 0.98
Precision: 0.96
Recall: 0.99
F1 score: 0.98
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.99      0.96      0.98       682
           1       0.96      0.99      0.98       668

    accuracy                           0.98      1350
   macro avg       0.98      0.98      0.98      1350
weighted avg       0.98      0.98      0.98      1350

Validation set:
Accuracy: 0.97
Precision: 0.96
Recall: 0.99
F1 score: 0.97
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.99      0.96      0.97       666
           1       0.96      0.99      0.97       684

    accuracy                           0.97      1350
   macro avg       0.97      0.97      0.97      1350
weighted avg       0.97      0.97      0.97      1350
```

Fig. 5. Results and Model Performance

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