An Expert System for Diagnosing Mouth Ulcer Disease Using CLIPS

Walid F. Murad, Samy S. Abu-Naser
Department of Information Technology,
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology,
Al-Azhar University, Gaza, Palestine

Abstract: Mouth ulcers, also known as canker sores, are a common oral health issue affecting a significant portion of the population. Early and accurate diagnosis of mouth ulcers is crucial for effective treatment and prevention of complications. This paper presents an expert system developed using CLIPS (C Language Integrated Production System) to diagnose mouth ulcer disease. The expert system utilizes a rule-based approach, incorporating a comprehensive knowledge base consisting of symptoms, risk factors, and medical literature related to mouth ulcers. By employing an inference engine, the system evaluates patient input against the rules and generates a diagnosis based on the matching symptoms and relevant factors. The system also provides detailed explanations and recommendations for each diagnosis, aiding healthcare professionals and patients in understanding the condition and selecting appropriate treatment options. The development and validation of the expert system involved a multi-step process, including knowledge acquisition, rule formulation, and testing against a diverse dataset of mouth ulcer cases. The system's performance was evaluated by comparing its diagnoses with those made by medical professionals, demonstrating a high level of accuracy and consistency. The implementation of an expert system for diagnosing mouth ulcer disease offers several advantages, including the ability to provide timely and accessible healthcare services, reduce misdiagnosis rates, and assist healthcare professionals in decision-making processes. Moreover, it empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their health and seek appropriate medical intervention. This paper contributes to the field of medical expert systems by showcasing the practical application of CLIPS in the diagnosis of mouth ulcer disease. The results demonstrate the potential of expert systems as valuable tools for healthcare professionals and patients alike, enhancing the efficiency and accuracy of diagnosis in oral health care.

Keywords: mouth ulcers, canker sores, expert system, CLIPS, diagnosis, rule-based, inference engine, healthcare, decision-making.

Introduction:

Mouth ulcers, commonly known as canker sores, are a widespread oral health problem that affects a large section of the world's population. These painful sores can appear within the mouth, on the lips, or on the tongue, causing discomfort and interfering with daily tasks like eating and speaking. For efficient treatment and management of mouth ulcers, accurate and fast diagnosis is critical.

A possible option for identifying mouth ulcer illness is the construction of an expert system driven by the CLIPS (C Language Integrated Production System) computer language. Expert systems are computer-based programs that use human experts' knowledge and norms to imitate their decision-making processes. It may replicate the diagnostic skills of experienced doctors by putting expert information into the system, resulting in accurate and quick diagnoses.

CLIPS, a rule-based programming language, offers a versatile and powerful foundation for developing expert systems. It is well-suited for medical diagnosis applications because it allows for the representation of complicated knowledge structures, reasoning mechanisms, and decision-making procedures. An expert system for detecting mouth ulcer illness may effectively assess patient symptoms, medical history, and risk factors using CLIPS' knowledge base and inference engine to offer accurate diagnoses and propose appropriate treatment choices.

The purpose of this study is to show the design and implementation of a CLIPS-based expert system for detecting mouth ulcer illness. The system will have a comprehensive knowledge base comprised of symptoms, risk factors, and diagnostic guidelines acquired from field experts. CLIPS's inference engine will allow the system to reason and generate conclusions based on patient-specific data, allowing for tailored and accurate diagnosis.

2. EXPERT SYSTEM:

An expert system is a computer-based system that simulates a human expert's problem-solving abilities in a certain topic. It makes use of information, rules, and reasoning procedures to give advise, make judgments, and solve complicated issues. The overall operation of an expert system entails the following steps:

The expert system accumulates relevant knowledge from human specialists in the form of rules, facts, heuristics, and linkages. Typically, this knowledge is gathered by interviews, documentation analysis, or data mining.
Knowledge Representation: Acquired knowledge is organized and represented in a way understandable and process able by the expert system. Rule-based systems, semantic networks, frames, and ontologies are examples of common knowledge representation strategies.

The inference engine is the expert system's reasoning component that applies the gained knowledge to specific issue instances or user inquiries. Based on the inputs, it uses logical reasoning, pattern matching, and deduction to form conclusions and make judgments.

The expert system provides a user interface via which people may interact with the system, enter problem-specific information, and get replies. Depending on the system's design and requirements, the user interface might be text-based, graphical, or even voice-activated.

Explanation and Feedback: The capacity of expert systems to explain their reasoning and offer feedback to the user is critical. This contributes to the development of trust, transparency, and comprehension of the system's decision-making process.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

There are several expert systems meant to diagnose human and plant diseases [15-65], such as tooth and gum problems, skin diseases, cough, and other sorts of illness. However, there is no free specialist expert system for diagnosing mouth ulcer disorders, and you must use a language CLIPS. This expert system was designed to be simple to use by both professionals and users. The coordinated application interface is to blame for this. We created this expert method to assist physicians in identifying mouth ulcers and prescribing appropriate therapy. Depending on the etiology, the symptoms of mouth ulcer illness might vary. An expert system is a computer-based Artificial Intelligence (AI) application.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The aim expert system performs diagnosis for mouth ulcer diseases by presenting all symptoms. The aim expert system will ask the user to choose the type of symptoms. At the end expert system provides diagnosis, illness and recommendations for the user.
Mouth Ulcers Expert System

Expert System was designed by Waleed Murad

Knowledge-based system for diagnosis Mouth Ulcers

Choose the symptoms that appear on the patient from the following List

- a patient reports painful sores or lesions in the mouth that are not caused by pH
- beta-blockers
- the patient has a family history of mouth ulcers
- the patient has a history of autoimmune diseases such as lupus or inflammatory
- the patient has a history of gastrointestinal problems or use of nonsteroidal anti
- the patient has mouth ulcers that are large, deep, and very painful
- the patient has multiple recurrent mouth ulcers that appear in clusters
- the patient has one or more painful sores in the mouth on the lips
- the patient is taking medications such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
4. What Is a Knowledge Representation?

Perhaps the most fundamental question about the concept of knowledge representation is, What is it? We believe that the answer is best understood in terms of the five fundamental roles that it plays:

- **Role 1**: A Knowledge Representation Is a Surrogate Knowledge representation and reasoning
- **Role 2**: A Knowledge Representation Is a Set of Ontological Commitments
- **Role 3**: A Knowledge Representation Is a Fragmentary Theory of Intelligent Reasoning
- **Role 4**: A Knowledge Representation Is a Medium for Efficient Computation

Knowledge Representation in AI describes the representation of knowledge. Basically, it is a study of how the beliefs, intentions, and judgments of an intelligent agent can be expressed suitably for automated reasoning. One of the primary purposes of Knowledge Representation includes modeling intelligent behavior for an agent. Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (KR, KRR) represents information from the real world for a computer to understand and then utilize this knowledge to solve complex real-life problems like communicating with human beings in natural language. Knowledge representation in AI is not just about storing data in a database, it allows a machine to learn from that knowledge and behave intelligently like a human being.
The different kinds of knowledge that need to be represented in AI include:

- Objects
- Events
- Performance
- Facts
- Meta-Knowledge
- Knowledge-base

Now that you know about Knowledge representation in AI, let’s move on and know about the different types of Knowledge.

Here some overview about above DIAGNOSIS:

**Mouth ulcers:** also known as canker sores or aphthous ulcers, are painful, shallow sores that can form within the mouth or on the gums, tongue, or inner cheeks. They are a common ailment that usually resolves on its own within one to two weeks without the need for medical treatment. They can, however, be unpleasant and obstruct eating and speaking.

**Mouth ulcers can cause the following symptoms**

1- Sores that are small, round or oval in form, with a white or yellowish-gray core and a crimson border
2- Pain or discomfort, especially while eating or speaking
3- Tenderness or a burning feeling at the ulcer site
4- In extreme cases, lymph nodes swell

The specific etiology of mouth ulcers is unknown, however various variables are thought to have a role in their development.

These are some examples:

1- Ulcers can be caused by accidental biting, dental braces, hard brushing, or other types of oral trauma
2- Tissue damage: Certain dental treatments or sharp tooth surfaces can harm the sensitive mouth lining and cause ulcers
3- Acidic or spicy foods, such as citrus fruits, tomatoes, chocolate, and coffee, can cause or aggravate mouth ulcers in certain people
4- Hormonal swings: Some women may get mouth ulcers during hormonal fluctuations, such as menstruation
5- Nutritional deficiencies: Vitamin (particularly B-12, iron, and folic acid) and mineral shortages, as well as deficits in other vital elements, might increase the chance of developing mouth ulcers
6- Immune system problems: Immune system problems, such as Crohn's disease or lupus, might contribute to the development of mouth ulcers
7- Emotional stress and hormonal changes may also be associated with the development of mouth ulcers

**5. FUNCTION OF THE SYSTEM**

The proposed system performs many functions. It will conclude the mouth ulcer problems diagnosis based on answers of the user to specific question that the system asks the user. The questions provide the system for explanation for the symptoms of the patient that helps the expert system for diagnosis the disease by inference engine. It stores the facts and the conclusion of the inference of the system, and the user, for each case, in data base. It processes the data base in order to extract rules, which complete the knowledge base.
LIMITATIONS

Many questions were asked, and each inquiry was specific to mouth ulcers, allowing the patient to be diagnosed and the condition to be recognized.

7. CONCLUSION

In this paper, a proposed expert system is presented to help doctor and people with mouth ulcer problems to diagnose the problem with many questions different possible questions of mouth ulcer problems. This system enables the user to obtain a diagnosis quickly and more accurately than a traditional diagnosis. It is also easy to use and does not require any training before use. It was developed using clips Expert System language. An initial evaluation of the expert system was carried out and a positive feedback was received from the users. As future work we will constitute the expert system to cover all mouth ulcer problems.