

Researchers develop smartphone app to diagnose a rare disease

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The Neural Impairment Test Suite app is a collection of various tests available to smartphone users on Google Play.



A team of researchers at Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), Lithuania has created a mobile application, which helps recognise early symptoms of a rare Huntington's disease.

Designed in cooperation with physicians and Huntington Disease Association, the app provides its user with a series of tests in order to check the presence of the symptoms. If the probability of symptoms is detected, the user is informed and encouraged to contact medical professionals for further advice.

"Our app is aimed at the early detection – we are attempting to diagnose the disease when visually there are no symptoms", says Andrius Lauraitis, KTU doctoral student who is developing the model for evaluating the prevalence Huntington's disease symptoms.

The Neural Impairment Test Suite app is a collection of various tests available to smartphone users on Google Play. The tasks on the app are designed to evaluate the user's motor, cognitive skills, to detect voice and energy consumption disorders. The app can also be used for the evaluation of other neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's or dementia.

The researchers are planning to expand the concept and the applicability of the prediction model so as it could be used for other diseases.