



Jobs: those that will disappear and those that will appear

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In a few decades, we could find ourselves going to a robot doctor. However, the latter will not talk to us. We will be scanned: The diagnosis will be given to us automatically and we will spit in a glass to give our DNA. Drones will deliver our medicine directly without us having to go to the chemist's, which may even have disappeared by then. Looking even further ahead, perhaps we won't even have to go to a robot doctor. The analysis of our health data in real time would automatically prevent us from getting ill. Which professions will still exist in the future?

1. An end to the human role as part of patient treatment: a fantasy?

Will we still have cardiologists in 20 years time? Nothing is less certain. Artificial intelligence could take over the "core" of the profession, the electro-cardiogram. Cardiology skills, like other skills, could eventually be absorbed into a wider professional spectrum.

2. What artificial intelligence can do

Some professions disappear while others evolve. Those that have actually disappeared are those that can be automated. On an intellectual scale, it is wrong to think that professions with the least added value will be the first to disappear.

Artificial intelligence may be able to keep the accounts but cannot cook. It easily reproduces intellect rather than motor movement. Consequently, the electrocardiogram can be automated and will no longer be part of the cardiologist's profession. On the other hand, the way nurses handle their patients cannot be automated.

3. The borders of artificial intelligence are in motion

The borders of artificial intelligence are constantly being stretched. 20 years ago, voice recognition along with character recognition counted as artificial intelligence whereas today they are considered a simple commodity. In a few years, autonomous vehicles may be considered in the same way. The reason artificial intelligence is constantly gaining ground is

because it has transformed, what was previously considered a utopia, to an everyday commodity.

4. The specific case of pharmacists

With prescriptions being transmitted using digital technology and with the development of the delivery system, the pharmacist becoming a simple sale point remains questionable. To keep his place in the health care system, the chemist will probably have to develop his services on a wider scale.

5. Questioning the core of the doctor's profession

Today, the core of the doctor's profession revolves around the diagnosis. In 30 years, will robots be more skilled than man in establishing a diagnosis? The answer is an obvious "yes". Even so the doctor won't be at all redundant, on the contrary he will continue caring and looking after patients, especially when confronted with unusual situations. This questioning regarding the core of the profession will not necessarily bring about a reduction in the numbers of doctors.

6. Beyond professions: the future of the human workforce

Health care is mostly in need of professions that combine human and automated intervention. Future professions are the ones that are compatible with artificial intelligence. Our thoughts need to be centered on this factor. Unlike machines, humans can deal with unpredictable matters. Artificial intelligence has no common sense and cannot detect the nature of the situation it is confronted with. The machine cannot cheat, or be inventive and can only function according to established rules.

7. The fear of new professions

It is only natural to be afraid of change but it is our duty to face this fear. It is important to give meaning to these new professions and make them acceptable to the public.

To face the coming changes, it is essential to overcome one's fears, be confident and not waste time. Our work is not yet over.