Is GPT-4 capable of passing MIR 2023? Comparison between GPT-4 and ChatGPT-3 in the MIR 2022 and 2023 exams

¿Es capaz GPT-4 de aprobar el MIR 2023? Comparativa entre GPT-4 y ChatGPT-3 en los exámenes MIR 2022 y 2023

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Summary:

Introduction: Artificial intelligence (AI) is generating new controversies, opportunities and risks in medical education. This study evaluates the capacity of the artificial intelligence (AI) versions ChatGPT-3 and GPT-4 to answer the questions of the entrance exam to specialized medical training MIR in Spain, comparing performance between the 2022 and 2023 calls.

Methodology: A cross-sectional descriptive study was carried out, using GPT-4 to answer the 210 questions of the MIR 2023 exam, comparing the results with those of ChatGPT-3 in the MIR 2022 exam. Statistical analysis was used to determine the percentage of correctness in depending on the specialty, type of question and its content.

Results: GPT-4 achieved 173 correct answers out of a total of 210 questions, a higher performance than ChatGPT-3, which obtained 108 correct answers in the previous exam session. Notable improvement was seen in specialties such as Rheumatology, Pediatrics, Geriatrics and Oncology, although some fields such as Pulmonology and Ophthalmology showed less progress or even inferior results.

Conclusion: GPT-4 demonstrated better performance compared to ChatGPT-3, indicating advances in AI’s processing and analysis of data, as well as its contextual understanding and application of medical knowledge. However, the importance of recognizing the limitations of AI and the need for a critical approach in its use in medical education is emphasized.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, ChatGPT-3, GPT4, medical education, MIR, resident doctor

Resumen:

Introducción: La inteligencia artificial (IA) está generando nuevas controversias, oportunidades y riesgos en la educación médica. Este estudio evalúa la capacidad de las versiones de inteligencia...
artificial (IA) ChatGPT-3 y GPT-4 para responder a las preguntas del examen de acceso a la formación médica especializada MIR en España, comparando el rendimiento entre las convocatorias de 2022 y 2023.

**Metodología:** Se realizó un estudio descriptivo transversal, utilizando GPT-4 para responder a las 210 preguntas del examen MIR 2023, comparando los resultados con los de ChatGPT-3 en el examen MIR 2022. Se utilizó análisis estadístico para determinar el porcentaje de acierto en función de la especialidad, tipo de pregunta y contenido de la misma.

**Resultados:** GPT-4 consiguió 173 aciertos de un total de 210 preguntas, rendimiento superior al de ChatGPT-3, que obtuvo 108 aciertos en el examen de la convocatoria anterior. Se observó una mejora notable en especialidades como Reumatología, Pediatría, Geriatría y Oncología, aunque algunos campos como Neumología y Oftalmología mostraron menos progreso o incluso resultados inferiores.

**Conclusión:** GPT-4 demostró un mejor rendimiento en comparación con ChatGPT-3, indicando avances en el procesamiento y análisis de datos por parte de la IA, así como en su comprensión contextual y aplicación de conocimientos médicos. Sin embargo, se enfatiza la importancia de reconocer las limitaciones de la IA y la necesidad de un enfoque crítico en su uso en educación médica.

**Palabras clave:** Inteligencia Artificial, ChatGPT-3, GPT4, educación médica, MIR, médico residente

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1. **Introduction**

The rapid evolution of artificial intelligence (AI) in the 21st century has led to notable innovation in numerous fields of knowledge and professional practice, including medical education (1). Large multimodal language models (LLMs), characterized by their ability to learn, adapt and perform complex tasks, are transforming the landscape of teaching and learning in medicine. In this context, natural language processing tools such as ChatGPT (2) are at the center of debate and innovation in the field of learning and teaching in health sciences. This AI model has the ability to interact in human language, provide detailed explanations, and potentially solve questions that require the integration of several levels of analysis, especially in the field of evaluations and examinations of medical knowledge (3).

Thus, these tools have begun to be used to generate educational content of great interest. Despite their brief history, there is already literature on their use as complements and assistants for teaching, personalized learning, quick access to various sources of information, the generation of clinical cases and exam questions, while they can perform translations. almost immediate to different languages (4).

At the same time, multiple risks associated with the use of AI in medical education have been described. On the one hand, they offer us information whose veracity, ethics and professionalism is not verified or reviewed by a professional, which could pose a risk to students and patients (5). In this sense, it is striking that various examples of factual errors, invented content (known as hallucination in the field of AI), as well as gender, racial and political biases have been observed (6-7). On the other hand, some authors warn that it could foster dynamics in which students have fewer incentives to develop and integrate their own reflective processes; causing a dependency on the use of these tools and consequently reducing their learning abilities (8). However, a considerable number of publications show an optimistic attitude regarding the use of this technology as a tool to be implemented in learning processes (9).

One of the applications of tools like ChatGPT that has sparked interest in the scientific and educational community is its application when responding to evaluation tests and exams for medical professionals. One of these examples would be the entrance exam to
Specialized Health Training in Spain, known as the MIR exam. In one of the first studies published in this area (10), it was determined that ChatGPT-3 was capable of passing the MIR exam (11), with approximately 51% correct answers. Subsequently, with GPT-4, higher percentages of correct answers have been observed in exams carried out in Spain (12-13), reaching between 80-90% correct answers.

Despite this, the number of studies and information published is limited, and no study has been published so far with the results of the MIR 2023 exam, held in January 2024.

International literature published in other countries such as the United States (14), Japan (15), China (16), Germany (17) or Italy (18) also suggests that the GPT-4 version offers higher success rates, with the majority of studies being between 70 and 90% correct with the GPT-4 version and between 50 and 70% with the ChatGPT-3 version. In addition to this, studies have been carried out that try to understand the competence of this tool in specific areas or in question formats. Studies have been carried out in specialties such as traumatology (19), radiology (20) or anatomy (21), obtaining very high percentages of success. However, as in the situation described in the Spanish bibliography, studies have only begun to appear 1 year ago and from the analysis of the existing literature we conclude the need to increase our knowledge in this area.

For all of the above, the main objective of this study is to analyze the capacity of GPT-4 to correctly answer the questions of the call for the MIR 2023 exam, held in January 2024. As secondary objectives, it is intended first Firstly, carry out a specific analysis of the response capacity of the tool based on the specialty, content and typology of the different questions and, secondly, carry out a comparison of the ability to answer correctly with the ChatGPT-3 version in the MIR exam. 2022, carried out in January 2023.

2. Methods

A cross-sectional descriptive study was carried out that evaluated the capacity of the tool based on artificial intelligence, GPT-4, to answer the questions of the MIR 2023 exam, comparing its performance with the results of the previous study (MIR 2022 exam) where the ChatGPT model (also known as GPT-3) (2). To do this, the 210 questions were introduced in a standardized way into GPT-4 in blocks of 50 questions.

A separate analysis of each of the image questions was subsequently carried out in order to assign the task of answering the question together with the corresponding visual content. Two databases were created, one with the GPT-4 answers and the other with the official answers published by the Ministry of Health, classifying as correct when a match occurred between the two. Each question on the MIR 2023 exam was classified with the same variable used in the previous study, using specialty type, question type and question content. To do this, the methodology described in previous articles (11) was used. The percentage of correctness of each variable was calculated through a comparison between the performances of the two versions of ChatGPT of each MIR exam. The results of each exam and each tool were compared using radar charts. The statistical analysis was performed with R version 4.3.0 and specialized libraries.

3. Results

The GPT-4 tool was able to correctly answer 173 questions out of a total of 210 questions on the MIR 2023 exam, which is 65 more correct answers than those obtained in the MIR 2022 exam with ChatGPT-3 (108/210) (table 1). In the comparison by specialties (figure 1), GPT-4 showed greater accuracy in most specialties, with a special difference in Rheumatology, Dermatology, Pediatrics and Neurology. However, in some specialties such as
Pulmonology, Maxillofacial and Otorhinolaryngology (ENT), the increase in correct answers was less pronounced. The same success rates were observed in Nephrology, Legal and Ethical Medicine and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and a worse performance was only observed in Ophthalmology.

Performance by question type (figure 2) showed a substantial improvement with GPT-4 in all question categories, being higher in clinical case type questions and lower in those formulated in a negative format. When comparing the results between the tools by the type of content of the questions (figure 3), GPT-4 outperformed ChatGPT-3 especially in areas such as Pathophysiology, Treatment, Statistics and Diagnosis.
When transposing the number of correct questions to the net result of answers subtracting the proportional percentage of failed questions, GPT-4 obtained 153.3 net correct answers. By including the information in the different MIR position calculators, GPT-4 obtained a position compared to the opponents of the MIR 2023 exam of between 1,100 and 1,300, which would mean a percentile between 90 and 92.

![Figure 3. Comparison of percentages of correct answers in each MIR exam by ChatGPT by type of question content.](image)

**Table 1.** Total and correct answers by specialty, question type and content according to the MIR exam and ChatGPT version.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>MIR 2022 GPT3</th>
<th>MIR 2023 GPT4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total N = 210</td>
<td>Correct N = 108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry and Genetics</td>
<td>4 (1.9%)</td>
<td>3 (2.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiology</td>
<td>12 (5.7%)</td>
<td>5 (4.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatology</td>
<td>5 (2.4%)</td>
<td>2 (1.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digestive</td>
<td>14 (6.7%)</td>
<td>7 (6.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endocrinology</td>
<td>14 (6.7%)</td>
<td>8 (7.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>5 (2.4%)</td>
<td>4 (3.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>4 (1.9%)</td>
<td>2 (1.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geriatrics</td>
<td>6 (2.9%)</td>
<td>2 (1.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gynecology</td>
<td>9 (4.3%)</td>
<td>5 (4.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematology</td>
<td>5 (2.4%)</td>
<td>3 (2.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious</td>
<td>8 (3.8%)</td>
<td>5 (4.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunology</td>
<td>4 (1.9%)</td>
<td>2 (1.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxillofacial and ENT</td>
<td>3 (1.4%)</td>
<td>2 (1.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal and Ethical Medicine</td>
<td>6 (2.9%)</td>
<td>3 (2.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Discussion

The results obtained in the MIR 2023 exam by GPT-4 mark a milestone in the evolution of artificial intelligence in the field of medical education. This advancement represents a notable increase in performance, with 65 more hits compared to the previous version, ChatGPT-3, in the MIR 2022 exam (11). This progress is indicative not only of improvements in AI's data processing and analysis capabilities, but also of a refinement in contextual processing and the application of databases and medical knowledge. The variability in performance by medical specialties, with considerable improvements in areas such as Rheumatology, Pediatrics, Geriatrics and Oncology, possibly reflects a greater ability of GPT-4 to integrate and apply complex knowledge in these disciplines. These improvements can be attributed to larger and more diversified data sets, the inclusion of question banks and information sources related to assessments such as the MIR exam, as well as optimized algorithms that allow for deeper analysis of questions and more precise selection of the responses (9).

The percentage of correct answers was similar to that of articles published in other countries with the GPT-4 version (14-16). This confirms the trend that new versions of AI have a better capacity to correctly answer medical questions and challenges, exceeding a success rate of more than 75% in the vast majority of cases. A significant finding of the
The present study lies in illustrating what type of questions present the greatest difficulty for GPT-4, which has not been described in previous studies. In this sense, negative questions stand out (formulated from a denial), on complementary tests and those that integrate content from different categories, which are, for the second consecutive year, the questions with the greatest difficulty in being answered correctly by an AI tool (11).

The implications of these advances for medical education are significant. GPT-4 could serve as a complementary tool for teaching and learning, offering medical students an interactive and adaptive way to reinforce their clinical knowledge and skills (3). It also emerges as a tool for trainers, with which to generate questions, clinical cases, tools and learning exercises with which to enrich the training of their students (2).

However, the fascination generated by an AI that passes a MIR exam deserves critical reflection. It is essential to recognize that, although this achievement highlights the evolution and potential of LMMs, it should not be interpreted as a direct comparison to human clinical competence. An exam, by its nature, evaluates knowledge under specific conditions and formats, which differs substantially from the complexity and dynamism and unpredictability of real medical practice. An AI’s ability to navigate structured questions and provide data-driven answers contrasts with the clinical judgment, empathy, and decision-making in uncertain contexts that define clinical medicine. This distinction underlines the importance of not transferring AI’s ability to process and recognize text patterns to clinical contexts (8).

An essential part of learning in medical education lies in the integration of complex knowledge, pattern recognition, establishing a strong doctor-patient relationship, and ethical and contextual analysis of clinical situations. The use of technological tools, such as AI, that simplify exam solving can create an illusion of competence, potentially disincentivizing students from developing these critical skills. This approach could divert medical training from its fundamental objective: to prepare professionals with a deep and multidimensional understanding of medicine, capable of practicing with empathy, critical judgment and adaptability in the complex clinical environment (4).

The integration of emerging technologies, especially in the field of information and communication, has not yet permeated the training curricula in undergraduate teaching and Specialized Health Training. It is crucial that health professionals, in general and doctors in particular, acquire basic knowledge and skills about how these technologies operate, their benefits, failures and risks in order to develop minimum competence to perform a risk-benefit analysis, understand the responsibility of the professional and the potential harm to third parties when implementing them. This becomes more necessary given the current debate on their use as support tools in clinical decision making, a reality that is already present in some specialties and that is providing enormous help, but that also suggests a risk that must be evaluated. continuously.

Limitations

Given the tremendous speed with which these types of technologies evolve, a limitation of the present study is the short period of time in which the results of GPT-4 are likely to be surpassed by those of other AI tools or by new versions of the same. In this sense, the results of this study need to be contextualized in the time in which they were published. On the other hand, given that the ChatGPT tool has been developed mainly in English, it is possible that the results of our study, having been presented to the tool in the language of the MIR exam (Spanish), underestimate the ability of this tool to correctly medical content questions. However, contrary to this possibility, the results generally coincide with those that have been published in English-speaking countries. Finally, the comparison made between
ChatGPT-3 and GPT-4 corresponds to two different exams respectively, the MIR 2022-2023 exam and the 2023-2024 exam. However, given the representativeness that these examinations show of general medical knowledge and the marked coincidence with the international bibliography in the percentage of correct answers of both tools, we consider that the comparison continues to be valid and interesting for the scientific debate in this area.

5. Conclusions

- The present study reveals that GPT-4 not only outperforms its predecessor ChatGPT-3 in the MIR exam, but also sets a new standard in the ability of AIs to process and analyze highly complex medical information.
- These results underscore the continued evolution and improvement of AI tools in the field of medical education. However, it is crucial to maintain a critical approach and be aware of the inherent limitations of AI, especially in comparison to human clinical competence and decision-making in real medical situations.
- This advance in AI technology opens a promising path towards more effective integration in medical education, enhancing the learning and preparation of future doctors, although always complementing and not replacing human judgment and experience in training processes.

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