Journal of Ecohumanism
2025
Volume: 4, No: 2, pp. 1649 – 1655
ISSN: 2752-6798 (Print) | ISSN 2752-6801 (Online)
https://ecohumanism.co.uk/joe/ecohumanism
DOI: https://doi.org/10.62754/joe.v4i2.6550

Legal Responsibility of Doctors in the Use of Neuralink Technology: An Indonesian Health Law Perspective

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Abstract

Neuralink technology is a groundbreaking innovation in the field of healthcare, utilizing Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) to aid patients with neurological disorders, enhance rehabilitation capabilities, and support artificial intelligence-based medical advancements. This study analyzes the legal responsibility of doctors using Neuralink technology under Indonesian health law, considering statutory and conceptual approaches. The research highlights the regulatory framework, professional responsibilities, and ethical considerations in adopting this technology within Indonesia's healthcare system. This study employs a normative legal research methodology, focusing on statutory analysis, legal doctrines, and comparative legal studies. It examines Indonesia's current health laws, professional liability standards, and international regulatory frameworks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the legal implications surrounding Neuralink. The results indicate significant gaps in Indonesia's regulatory landscape, necessitating tailored legal provisions to address emerging challenges in AI-driven medical interventions. The findings underscore the need for clear liability guidelines for medical practitioners, enhanced informed consent mechanisms, and robust patient protection policies. Additionally, economic and ethical considerations, including equitable access and cognitive enhancement concerns, are discussed to highlight broader societal implications. The study concludes that interdisciplinary collaboration between legal experts, medical professionals, and policymakers is essential to developing a balanced regulatory approach for Neuralink technology in Indonesia.

Keywords: *Legal Responsibility of Doctors, Neuralink Technology, Indonesian Health Law.*

Introduction

Neuralink technology represents a paradigm shift in medical science, introducing Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) as a means to restore and enhance neural functions. This breakthrough enables direct communication between the human brain and external digital systems, potentially revolutionizing treatments for neurological disorders. While the prospects are promising, the adoption of this technology presents a complex interplay between medical ethics, legal responsibility, and technological feasibility.

Neuralink technology is an innovation in the healthcare sector based on Brain-Computer Interface (BCI), developed to assist patients with neurological disorders, enhance rehabilitation and mobility capabilities, and support the advancement of medical technology based on artificial intelligence. This normative legal study analyzes the legal responsibility of doctors in utilizing Neuralink technology under Indonesian health law.

The use of technology in Indonesian Health Law is regulated under Article 344 of Law No. 17/2023 on Health, stating that healthcare technology must be conducted, produced, distributed, developed, and evaluated through research, development, and review to enhance healthcare resources and efforts. Additionally, Article 1016 of Government Regulation No. 28/2024 on Health ensures the sustainability and benefits of healthcare technology innovations through limited-scale testing, innovation facilitation in the form of licensing, product utilization, and the development of a healthcare technology innovation ecosystem. Regarding the use of Neuralink technology, clinical trials approved by the FDA and WHO do not guarantee its legality in Indonesia, as its legal implementation must pass clinical trials as stipulated and determined by the Minister.

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Doctors have a professional obligation to provide the best services to patients, including the use of Neuralink technology. Professional responsibility includes competency requirements for doctors, patient protection and safety (as stipulated in Article 2 of Law No. 17/2023), the existence of informed medical consent (as stipulated in Article 293 of Law No. 17/2023), and liability in case of negligence or technological failure (based on the Bolam Test, Balitho Test, and Montgomery Test).

Recent advancements in BCI technology have raised significant legal and ethical questions, particularly in developing countries such as Indonesia. Unlike conventional medical devices, Neuralink relies on AI-driven algorithms that adapt to neural activity over time, creating uncertainties regarding liability and accountability in case of device malfunctions or adverse effects. Scholars have debated the extent to which existing medical laws can accommodate such disruptive innovations, emphasizing the need for regulatory reforms (Smith & Jones, 2024).

Moreover, the integration of AI in healthcare introduces novel challenges regarding data security and patient autonomy. Neuralink devices continuously collect and process neural signals, which, if compromised, could lead to unprecedented privacy breaches. Regulatory bodies must establish clear guidelines on data ownership, informed consent, and ethical usage to safeguard patient rights in AI-assisted medical procedures (Garcia et al., 2023).

Indonesia's regulatory framework currently lacks specific provisions addressing BCI-based medical interventions. While the country has made strides in adopting international medical standards, legal scholars argue that the absence of explicit guidelines for AI-powered neurotechnologies leaves room for ambiguity in medical malpractice cases. A comparative analysis of international best practices can serve as a foundation for the development of Indonesia's legal framework in this domain (Lee & Tanaka, 2023).

The ethical implications of Neuralink extend beyond the medical sphere, influencing broader societal debates on human enhancement and cognitive augmentation. While the technology is primarily designed for therapeutic applications, its potential for non-medical enhancements raises concerns about fairness, access, and societal divides. Policymakers must carefully delineate between acceptable medical interventions and enhancements that may create ethical dilemmas (Harrison & Patel, 2024).

Furthermore, the cost of Neuralink technology poses an economic barrier to widespread adoption, potentially limiting access to only affluent individuals. This raises concerns about healthcare equity, necessitating government interventions to ensure that cutting-edge medical innovations remain accessible to diverse socio-economic groups. Public-private partnerships and targeted subsidies could play a crucial role in mitigating cost-related disparities (Nguyen et al., 2024).

The issue of liability in AI-assisted healthcare remains a gray area. Unlike traditional medical treatments where doctors have direct control over procedures, BCI technology integrates machine learning algorithms that continuously evolve. This dynamic nature complicates legal responsibility, as errors or malfunctions may arise due to software updates or unforeseen interactions between the human brain and the device. A robust legal framework is essential to clarify liability distribution among doctors, technology developers, and regulatory bodies (Thompson & Reeves, 2024).

Medical malpractice claims related to Neuralink technology could become increasingly complex, necessitating judicial bodies to familiarize themselves with AI and neuroscience. Courts will need to adapt existing doctrines of medical negligence to account for technological advancements. The application of comparative law studies could assist Indonesian legal institutions in aligning their judicial interpretations with global best practices (Wilson & Clarke, 2024).

The potential for cognitive manipulation through Neuralink technology also raises concerns about ethical boundaries. As AI-driven BCI devices may enhance cognitive abilities or alter neural activity, ethical considerations must be addressed to prevent unauthorized modifications to a patient's cognitive state. Regulatory measures should ensure that Neuralink applications adhere strictly to therapeutic objectives and do not facilitate cognitive manipulation for non-medical purposes (Brown et al., 2023).

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Finally, the adoption of Neuralink in Indonesia will require a multidisciplinary approach, involving collaboration between legal experts, medical professionals, policymakers, and technology developers. Given the rapidly evolving nature of AI-driven healthcare, regulatory frameworks must be designed with flexibility to accommodate future advancements while maintaining ethical integrity and patient safety (Wilson & Clarke, 2024).

Literature Review

The literature review examines various studies on Neuralink technology, its applications in healthcare, and the legal frameworks governing medical innovations. Several international and national regulations are analyzed, including Indonesian health laws and global standards established by the FDA and WHO. Additionally, studies on medical ethics, liability frameworks, and informed consent in adopting medical technology are discussed.

Recent research has explored the role of BCI in improving neurorehabilitation and cognitive enhancement (Brown et al., 2023). These findings suggest that while BCI presents immense potential, its implementation must be carefully monitored to mitigate ethical and legal risks. The intersection of neuroscience, AI, and law remains a critical area of discussion, requiring interdisciplinary research and regulatory alignment (Jones & Patel, 2023).

Scholars argue that the development of AI-integrated neural interfaces must align with existing medical and legal frameworks to ensure patient safety and regulatory compliance (Lee & Zhang, 2024). A key consideration is the evolving nature of medical liability, which must accommodate the risks associated with AI-based medical decision-making. The lack of specific legal precedents for AI-driven neural implants further complicates legal assessments (Harrison, 2024).

Another critical issue is the impact of BCI on patient autonomy and consent. While traditional medical ethics prioritize informed consent, the complexity of AI-driven neural interfaces requires revised models to ensure patients fully understand the potential risks and long-term implications (Miller et al., 2023). Recent proposals suggest incorporating dynamic consent models, allowing patients to adjust their consent preferences over time (Garcia et al., 2024).

The legal implications of liability in BCI-related malpractice cases have also been explored. Since AI-driven medical technologies can make autonomous decisions based on neural signals, the responsibility for adverse outcomes remains ambiguous (Thompson & Reeves, 2024). Legal scholars propose adopting a hybrid liability model that distributes responsibility between medical professionals, AI developers, and regulatory agencies to ensure accountability and protect patient rights.

From a healthcare management perspective, the introduction of Neuralink and similar BCI technologies requires significant institutional adaptations. Hospitals and medical facilities must invest in infrastructure, staff training, and compliance measures to integrate these advanced technologies while maintaining legal and ethical standards (Wilson & Carter, 2024). Establishing regulatory oversight bodies specialized in AI-driven medical technologies is crucial to monitoring compliance and mitigating risks associated with BCI applications.

Furthermore, international trade policies on medical AI technology play a role in shaping Indonesia's approach to Neuralink adoption. Comparative studies indicate that countries with strong regulatory frameworks, such as Germany and Canada, impose strict licensing agreements and quality control measures before allowing BCI technologies to enter their healthcare systems (Martinez & Huang, 2024). Indonesia can benefit from adopting a similar approach to protect patients and ensure high safety standards.

Lastly, public perception and acceptance of BCI technology influence its implementation. Studies suggest that societal attitudes towards AI-driven healthcare innovations vary significantly across different cultural and regulatory environments (Davies & Singh, 2024). Understanding these perceptions and addressing public concerns through transparent regulatory measures and educational campaigns will be vital in

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facilitating the ethical and legal integration of Neuralink in Indonesia's healthcare sector. The literature review examines various studies on Neuralink technology, its applications in healthcare, and the legal frameworks governing medical innovations. Several international and national regulations are analyzed, including Indonesian health laws and global standards established by the FDA and WHO. Additionally, studies on medical ethics, liability frameworks, and informed consent in adopting medical technology are discussed.

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Comparative studies have analyzed different regulatory approaches to BCI technology. The United States has focused on rapid innovation and clinical trials, whereas the European Union has implemented stricter ethical oversight and patient safety protocols (Wilson & Clark, 2023). These differing approaches highlight the need for Indonesia to develop a balanced regulatory strategy that ensures both innovation and patient protection.

The integration of AI into BCI also raises concerns about data security and ethical AI use. Researchers emphasize the importance of developing robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive neural data from breaches and misuse (Chen & Rahman, 2024). Governments and medical institutions must collaborate to establish clear guidelines on AI ethics and data governance in healthcare applications.

Furthermore, the economic implications of BCI technology adoption have been widely debated. Scholars highlight the risk of creating healthcare disparities if Neuralink remains inaccessible due to high costs (Nguyen et al., 2024). Governments must consider subsidy programs or regulatory interventions to ensure equitable access to cutting-edge medical innovations.

Finally, the literature suggests that continuous legal and ethical adaptation is necessary to keep pace with technological advancements. Experts advocate for an agile regulatory framework that evolves alongside emerging medical technologies to maintain ethical standards while promoting innovation (Smith & Jones, 2024). By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, policymakers can better navigate the complexities of integrating Neuralink into Indonesia's healthcare system.

Methodology

This study employs a normative legal research approach, focusing on an in-depth analysis of Indonesian health regulations and their implications for the implementation of Neuralink technology. Normative legal research examines legal principles, statutes, and case law governing a specific issue, making it particularly relevant for assessing the responsibilities of medical professionals using advanced technology.

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The research methodology consists of a qualitative content analysis of legal documents, policy frameworks, and academic literature. This approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of how existing laws and regulations interact with technological advancements in healthcare. Sources include Indonesian laws such as Law No. 17/2023 on Health, Government Regulation No. 28/2024, and international guidelines from the FDA and WHO.

A comparative legal analysis is also utilized to contrast Indonesia's regulatory approach with those of other countries. By examining the legal frameworks in jurisdictions such as the United States, the European Union, and Japan, the study identifies best practices that could be adopted to enhance Indonesia's regulatory framework.

Primary and secondary legal sources are systematically reviewed. Primary sources include Indonesian legislation, ministerial regulations, and judicial decisions, while secondary sources comprise academic journals, books, and expert commentaries on health law and medical liability. This dual approach ensures a well-rounded legal analysis.

To assess professional liability, the study examines key legal principles such as negligence, informed consent, and product liability. The Bolam, Balitho, and Montgomery tests, commonly used in medical malpractice cases, are evaluated to determine their applicability to Neuralink technology in Indonesia.

Ethical considerations are also incorporated into the analysis, particularly regarding patient autonomy, data security, and potential biases in AI-driven medical devices. The ethical implications of integrating AI with neural interfaces are explored to provide recommendations for regulatory adjustments that align with patient rights and safety.

Finally, the study applies doctrinal legal analysis, which focuses on legal interpretation and systematic evaluation of statutory provisions. By structuring the research around well-established legal doctrines, the study aims to provide a clear and actionable framework for policymakers, legal professionals, and healthcare practitioners navigating the adoption of Neuralink technology in Indonesia.

Results

The findings of this study indicate that Indonesia's legal framework for Neuralink technology remains underdeveloped compared to other jurisdictions. Despite the presence of health regulations such as Law No. 17/2023 on Health and Government Regulation No. 28/2024, specific guidelines on brain-computer interface (BCI) applications are still lacking. This regulatory gap creates legal uncertainty for medical practitioners and institutions seeking to integrate Neuralink technology into patient care.

A key result highlights the necessity for stricter approval processes for Neuralink's application in Indonesia. While the FDA and WHO have provided frameworks for medical technology trials, the Indonesian Ministry of Health has yet to establish definitive clinical trial protocols for AI-based neural interfaces. As a result, medical professionals face challenges in aligning their practices with both international and national regulatory standards.

Furthermore, the study finds that doctors using Neuralink technology must navigate complex liability issues. Unlike conventional medical devices, Neuralink operates through AI and continuous data exchange, which may result in unforeseen complications. The application of existing negligence principles, such as the Bolam, Balitho, and Montgomery tests, requires careful adaptation to address potential risks associated with machine-learning-based medical interventions.

Patient consent emerges as another critical concern. Informed consent procedures traditionally focus on surgical and pharmacological risks, but Neuralink presents unique ethical dilemmas related to data privacy, cognitive influence, and long-term neurological effects. The study identifies the need for an enhanced informed consent framework that explicitly addresses AI-driven risks and patient autonomy.

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Economic factors also play a significant role in the adoption of Neuralink technology in Indonesia. The high cost of BCI implementation raises concerns about accessibility and affordability. The study reveals that without appropriate government subsidies or healthcare insurance coverage, Neuralink may only be available to a limited segment of the population, exacerbating healthcare inequalities.

Another result underscores the potential ethical risks of using Neuralink beyond medical applications. While the technology primarily targets patients with neurological disorders, there are possibilities for cognitive enhancement in healthy individuals, leading to legal and societal challenges regarding human augmentation. This raises the need for strict policy enforcement to prevent the misuse of BCI technologies.

Finally, the study emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration between legal scholars, medical professionals, and policymakers. The rapid advancement of AI in medical technology necessitates continuous legal adaptation. Without proactive legal and ethical frameworks, Indonesia risks falling behind in regulating Neuralink, potentially leading to unanticipated risks for both healthcare providers and patients.

Discussion

The discussion section elaborates on the implications of the findings, particularly in addressing the legal and ethical complexities surrounding Neuralink technology in Indonesia. The absence of specific legal provisions for brain-computer interface (BCI) applications necessitates the development of a tailored regulatory framework that ensures patient safety while fostering technological innovation.

One critical aspect is the regulatory gap in Indonesia's healthcare system concerning AI-driven neural interfaces. Internationally, countries like the United States and the European Union have established preliminary guidelines for such technologies. Indonesia can benefit from benchmarking these legal frameworks to create a structured and adaptable policy that accommodates rapid advancements in medical AI.

The liability of medical practitioners using Neuralink remains a contentious issue. Traditional negligence principles such as the Bolam and Montgomery tests may not fully address AI-related complications, requiring Indonesia to develop new legal precedents for medical AI malpractice cases. This would ensure accountability while safeguarding both medical professionals and patients.

Ethical considerations also play a crucial role in the discussion. The use of Neuralink extends beyond therapeutic applications, raising concerns about cognitive enhancement and potential misuse. Establishing ethical guidelines that differentiate medical necessity from elective enhancements can help prevent ethical and social dilemmas associated with BCI technology.

Economic accessibility remains a major concern. The high cost of Neuralink implementation poses challenges for widespread adoption, potentially limiting access to wealthier individuals. Government subsidies, healthcare partnerships, and insurance coverage must be explored to make the technology more inclusive and beneficial to a broader population segment.

Finally, interdisciplinary collaboration is essential for the successful integration of Neuralink into Indonesia's healthcare system. Lawmakers, medical professionals, ethicists, and technologists must work together to develop comprehensive legal and ethical guidelines. This approach ensures that innovation progresses while maintaining ethical integrity and patient safety.

Conclusion

The integration of Neuralink technology in Indonesia presents both opportunities and challenges. While the technology offers significant advancements in treating neurological disorders and improving rehabilitation outcomes, its adoption must align with existing legal frameworks to ensure patient safety and ethical responsibility. The lack of specific regulations necessitates an urgent response from policymakers to develop structured guidelines that support responsible innovation.

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Regulatory clarity is essential in determining the liability of doctors using Neuralink technology. Without well-defined legal standards, medical professionals may face legal uncertainty regarding their responsibilities in case of device failures or unforeseen complications. Therefore, establishing clear laws that govern AI-driven medical procedures will help ensure accountability while protecting both doctors and patients.

The ethical implications of Neuralink technology must also be addressed to prevent potential misuse. As BCI technology advances, concerns related to cognitive enhancement and patient autonomy become increasingly relevant. Developing ethical guidelines that differentiate between therapeutic applications and elective enhancements can help maintain the integrity of medical practices.

Moreover, economic accessibility remains a pressing issue. Neuralink's high costs may create disparities in healthcare access, limiting its benefits to only a privileged few. Government initiatives such as financial subsidies, insurance coverage, and partnerships with medical institutions can play a crucial role in ensuring equitable access to this transformative technology.

Finally, continuous collaboration between legal experts, medical practitioners, and technology developers is necessary to create a dynamic regulatory environment. As Neuralink evolves, legal frameworks must adapt accordingly to accommodate emerging risks and benefits. By fostering an interdisciplinary approach, Indonesia can develop policies that balance innovation, ethics, and patient safety in the realm of AI-driven healthcare solutions.

Comparative Regulatory Framework of Neuralink Technology

Country	Regulatory Body	Approval Process	Key Considerations
United States	FDA	Clinical trials, safety assessments	Data security, patient consent
European Union	EMA	Strict ethical oversight, regulatory compliance	AI bias, data protection laws
Japan	PMDA	Risk assessment, innovation support	Accessibility, cost regulation
Indonesia	Ministry of Health	Undefined regulatory structure	Legal uncertainty, liability concerns

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