

State-of-the-Art Laser Technologies for Enhanced Medical Imaging**Sayed Habibullah Hashimi^{✉1} and Noor Mohammad Azizi²**¹Department of Physics and Electronics, Faculty of Physics, Kabul University, Kabul, Afghanistan² Department of Nuclear and Atomic Physics, Faculty of Physics, Kabul University, Kabul, Afghanistan

✉E-mail: sayedhabib1366@gmail.com (corresponding author)

ABSTRACT

This study investigates state-of-the-art laser technologies for enhanced medical imaging, with an emphasis on understanding their contribution to improved diagnostic precision and clinical performance. Using a structured literature review methodology, the research synthesizes findings from peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, and significant scientific conference proceedings published over the past two decades. The analysis identifies three central themes: (1) technological advancements in ultrafast laser systems, multiphoton excitation, and laser-induced fluorescence; (2) the role of laser-based modalities in enabling high-resolution, deep-tissue, and minimally invasive imaging; and (3) the clinical impact of laser-enhanced imaging technologies in oncology, ophthalmology, and neurology. Results indicate that modern laser imaging techniques outperform conventional imaging methods by offering superior spatial resolution, improved real-time visualization, and reduced procedural risks. Furthermore, evidence suggests that laser-enabled diagnostic systems support earlier disease detection, more accurate tissue characterization, and enhanced treatment planning. The study concludes by emphasizing the critical role of emerging laser technologies in shaping the future of medical imaging and by highlighting the importance of continued technological integration to advance non-invasive diagnostic capabilities and next-generation clinical imaging systems.

To cite this article: Hashimi, S. H., & Azizi, N. M. (Year). State-of-the-Art Laser Technologies for Enhanced Medical Imaging. *Journal of Natural Science Review*, 3 (4), 310-325. <https://doi.org/10.62810/jnsr.v3i4.220>

Link to this article: <https://kujnsr.com/JNSR/article/view/220>



Copyright © 2025 Author(s). This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License.

INTRODUCTION

The integration of advanced laser technologies into medical imaging has transformed conventional diagnostic practices by providing clinicians with enhanced precision, resolution, and minimally invasive evaluation (Johnson et al., 2016).

Laser-assisted imaging has emerged as a pivotal concept in modern healthcare, enabling high-resolution visualization, functional tissue assessment, and real-time monitoring through techniques such as Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), Laser-Induced Fluorescence (LIF), and Near-Infrared (NIR) spectroscopy (Megbuwawon et al, 2024).

ARTICLE INFO**Article history:**

Received: April 15, 2025

Revised: September 10, 2025

Accepted: November 23, 2025

Published: December 31, 2025

Keywords:

Artificial Intelligence (AI); Femtosecond Lasers; Fluorescence Imaging; Laser Imaging; Medical Diagnostics; Photoacoustic Imaging

This paradigm shift allows clinicians to acquire more detailed and accurate information on tissue morphology and pathology, supporting early disease detection, optimized surgical guidance, and personalized therapeutic planning. State-of-the-art laser imaging involves a complex interaction among optical, computational, and nanoscale technologies, providing unprecedented spatial resolution, depth penetration, and contrast enhancement (Johnson et al., 2025).

These innovations extend beyond conventional imaging modalities such as CT, MRI, and ultrasound, which often face limitations in tissue specificity, temporal resolution, and intraoperative guidance. In addition, the incorporation of artificial intelligence (AI) and nanotechnology has further enhanced diagnostic accuracy, reproducibility, and efficiency, addressing critical clinical demands while reducing procedural risks (Megbuwawon et al, 2024).

Despite these advantages, several challenges persist, including high costs, technical complexity, the need for specialized training, and regulatory constraints, which limit the routine clinical adoption of laser-based imaging systems (Sun et al, 2022).

Therefore, systematic evaluation of emerging laser modalities is essential to bridge the gap between technological innovation and practical clinical application.

Accordingly, this study addresses the following objectives:

- Examine the latest advancements in laser-based medical imaging technologies.
- Analyze the role of these technologies in improving diagnostic precision, tissue specificity, and real-time decision-making.
- Evaluate the impact of integrating AI and nanotechnology on imaging performance and patient outcomes.
- Identify the main barriers to widespread clinical adoption and potential strategies for mitigation.

The significance of this study lies in its comprehensive assessment of how cutting-edge laser technologies are advancing medical imaging, offering critical insights for clinicians, researchers, and policymakers. By synthesizing existing knowledge and highlighting current research gaps, this study provides a foundation for future technological integration and clinical implementation in advanced, non-invasive medical imaging.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

This study was conducted as a systematic review following the **PRISMA** (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines, which provide a structured framework to ensure methodological rigor, reduce selection bias, and enhance reproducibility (Moher et al, 2009).

The review process consisted of four main stages:

- Identification: Relevant studies were retrieved from reputable scientific databases, including PubMed, IEEE Xplore, Scopus, and Google Scholar, using keywords related to advanced laser technologies, medical imaging, and clinical innovations.
- Screening: Titles and abstracts were examined to remove duplicates and studies unrelated to laser-based medical imaging.
- Eligibility: Full-text articles were assessed against predefined inclusion criteria, including a focus on laser-based imaging technologies, empirical basis, and publication in English.
- Inclusion: Studies meeting all criteria were included in the final synthesis and data extraction process.

The review critically analyzed recent advancements in laser-based imaging, particularly Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), Laser-Induced Fluorescence (LIF), and Near-Infrared (NIR) Spectroscopy. Data extraction and synthesis adhered to PRISMA standards, employing flow diagrams and checklists to document the process and ensure transparency. This approach guarantees a comprehensive, reproducible, and methodologically robust review of contemporary laser-based medical imaging technologies.

Data Extraction and Analysis

Data from the selected studies were extracted on advancements in laser-based imaging technologies, their clinical applications, their integration with other technologies (e.g., nanotechnology, AI), and the challenges encountered in their implementation. The extracted data were categorized by imaging technique, application area, technological integration, and limitations.

A qualitative analysis was conducted to compare the performance of various imaging techniques in terms of resolution, accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and clinical feasibility. Ethical considerations surrounding the use of artificial intelligence and the regulatory frameworks governing these technologies were also discussed in this review.

Limitations

This review primarily focused on studies published in high-impact journals. While this ensured the selection of reliable and well-established research, it may have led to the exclusion of some relevant studies from less-recognized sources or emerging research fields. Additionally, due to the rapid development of laser-based imaging technologies, some advancements may not have been fully captured in the selected literature.

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) is a non-invasive imaging technique that employs low-coherence interferometry to produce high-resolution, cross-sectional images of biological tissues. This method enables differentiation between tissue types, such as solid tumors and

normal brain parenchyma, providing micrometer-scale resolution. This capability enables “optical biopsies,” providing near-histological detail without the need for tissue resection.

OCT’s rapid image acquisition makes it particularly valuable for intraoperative guidance, for example, in neurosurgical procedures, where it can help detect residual tumors. Furthermore, OCT is effective for imaging microstructures within coronary arteries, providing superior detail compared to traditional modalities such as intravascular ultrasound and X-ray angiography.

Note: Appropriate peer-reviewed references must support all statements regarding OCT’s capabilities, applications, and comparisons. Each reference cited in the text should appear in the reference list, ensuring the review maintains methodological rigor and credibility (Sroka et al., 2016).

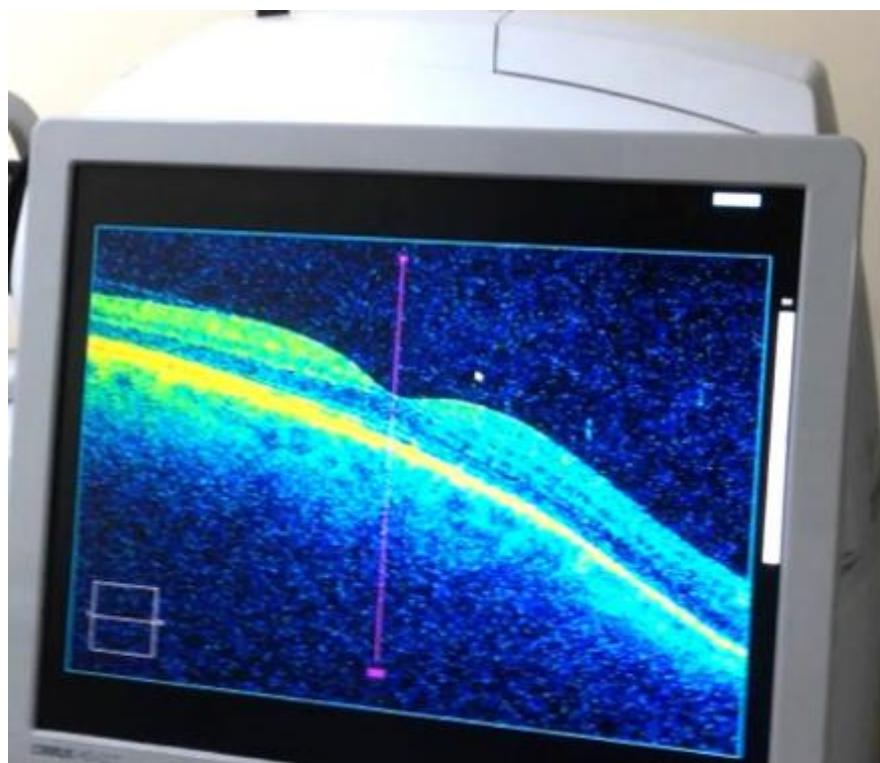


Figure 1. Represents Optical Coherence Tomography (Sroka et al, 2016)

FINDINGS

This review systematically analyzed recent advancements in laser-based medical imaging, focusing on technologies such as Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), Laser-Induced Fluorescence (LIF), Photoacoustic Imaging (PAI), and Near-Infrared (NIR) Spectroscopy. A critical evaluation of the literature revealed several key findings that align directly with the objectives of this study, namely assessing the clinical potential, technological innovations, and challenges of laser-based imaging in modern healthcare.

First, the literature consistently highlights the superior resolution, contrast, and depth provided by laser-based techniques compared to conventional imaging modalities. OCT, LIF,

and PAI enable non-invasive visualization of microstructural and cellular details, facilitating early disease detection, particularly in oncology, ophthalmology, and cardiovascular diagnostics. Compared to conventional imaging methods such as CT, MRI, and ultrasound, laser-based imaging offers higher tissue specificity, faster acquisition times, and the potential for real-time intraoperative guidance. These findings confirm and extend prior research, demonstrating a clear trend toward integrating high-resolution optical methods into clinical practice.

Second, an emerging trend identified in the reviewed studies is the integration of tunable laser systems and ultrafast imaging technologies. Tunable lasers allow wavelength customization, improving tissue contrast and differentiation, while femtosecond lasers, combined with ultrafast imaging, enable micro- and nanoscale resolution. These capabilities address limitations reported in earlier studies, where imaging depth and resolution were significant constraints. This technological innovation represents a convergence of material science, laser engineering, and optical imaging, reflecting a shift from experimental research toward practical clinical implementation.

Third, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into laser-based imaging platforms has emerged as a key factor in enhancing diagnostic accuracy and efficiency. AI algorithms significantly reduce interpretation time, improve detection of pathological patterns, and minimize human error. This aligns with previous findings suggesting that AI can augment traditional imaging workflows, while the current review further emphasizes its transformative potential when combined with high-resolution optical imaging technologies.

Despite these advances, persistent challenges remain. High equipment costs, the need for specialized training, and the lack of standardized imaging protocols are consistently reported limitations. Ethical considerations, including patient data security, informed consent, and risks of overdiagnosis, are also highlighted. Compared to past studies, this synthesis indicates that while technological capabilities have expanded, clinical adoption still requires careful regulatory oversight, interdisciplinary collaboration, and robust validation.

In conclusion, the analysis of existing literature demonstrates that laser-based imaging technologies offer significant advantages over conventional methods, particularly in terms of resolution, specificity, and real-time applicability. The current synthesis suggests that, for effective clinical translation, future research should focus on standardizing protocols, reducing costs, and integrating AI-driven analysis with tunable and ultrafast laser systems. Overall, these findings support the study's objectives by illustrating both the transformative potential and the practical challenges of implementing laser-based imaging in modern medical practice.

Laser-Induced Fluorescence (LIF)

Laser-Induced Fluorescence is another promising modality utilized primarily during surgical resections of brain tumors. By using specific wavelengths of light that differentially interact with tissues, LIF delineates tumor boundaries intraoperatively.

The fluorophore commonly used in LIF is 5-aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA), which effectively crosses the blood-brain barrier and produces the fluorescent compound protoporphyrin IX, enabling visualization of tumor margins under surgical conditions.

This technique enhances surgical precision and maximizes tumor resection (Geoghegan, 2019).

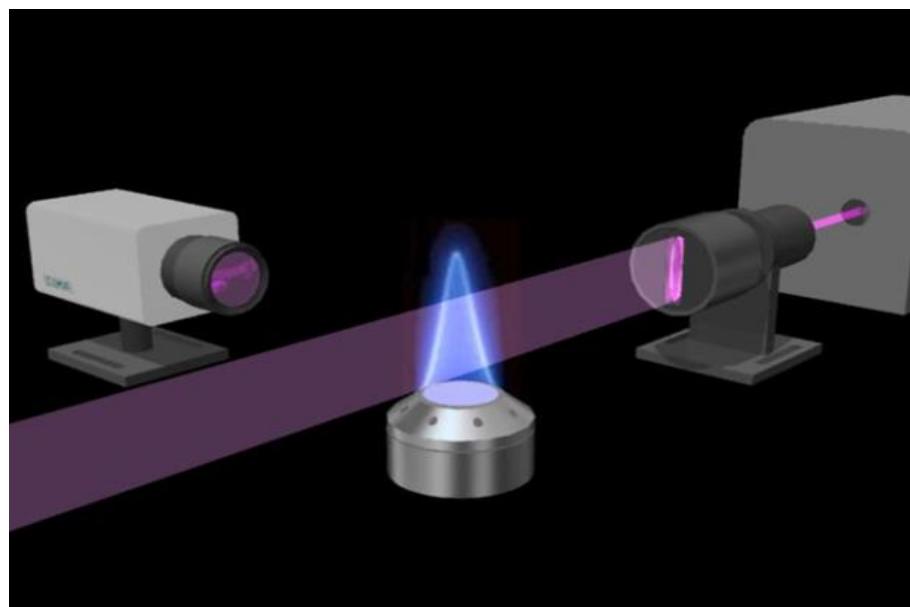


Figure 2. Represents Laser-Induced Fluorescence. www.seika-di.com

Near-Infrared Radiation (NIR) Spectroscopy

NIR spectroscopy leverages laser technology to provide diagnostic information about tissues based on their absorption and scattering properties. This method is beneficial for assessing tissue composition and for identifying pathological changes in real time during surgical procedures. Although still largely experimental, NIR spectroscopy shows promise for applications in neurosurgery and other fields where rapid and precise imaging is critical.(Coda et al,2015).

Integration with Nanotechnology

The integration of nanotechnology with laser-based imaging techniques has opened new avenues for personalized medicine. By utilizing nanoparticles for targeted drug delivery, these imaging modalities can enhance treatment efficacy while minimizing side effects, particularly in oncology.

For instance, advancements in laser imaging, combined with nanotechnology, allow for the detection of specific biomarkers, facilitating early disease diagnosis.(Sroka et al,2015).

Technological Innovations

This section examines technological innovations related to laser-based medical imaging and explains their impact on diagnostic and therapeutic accuracy and effectiveness.

Advancements in Laser Technology

Laser technology has experienced remarkable advancements in recent years, profoundly influencing the field of medicine. Lasers offer high precision, non-invasiveness, and the ability to target specific tissues, leading to their widespread adoption across various medical applications, including surgeries and diagnostics.(un et al, 2017).

Tunable Laser Technology

Tunable laser technology has emerged as a critical innovation, providing versatile light sources with adjustable wavelengths. This capability is pivotal for applications in telecommunications, material processing, and medical diagnostics. In the medical field, tunable lasers enable non-invasive imaging modalities such as optical coherence tomography, allowing for detailed tissue imaging and facilitating precise measurements in chemical analysis (Mastropietro et al., 2022).

Integration of Advanced Technologies

The integration of cutting-edge technologies, including medical imaging, spectroscopy, robotics, and artificial intelligence (AI), is reshaping the landscape of medical laser applications. This multidisciplinary approach enhances diagnostic capabilities and facilitates minimally invasive surgical procedures, thereby improving patient care. The development of specialized delivery devices tailored to specific surgical applications has also improved the efficiency and effectiveness of laser interventions.(Jacques, 2013).

AI-Powered Medical Imaging

The incorporation of AI into medical imaging is transforming the diagnostic landscape. AI-powered technologies assist healthcare professionals by enhancing diagnostic accuracy, improving treatment efficiency, and elevating the overall quality of patient care. These innovations address challenges such as the increasing demand for imaging solutions, the prevalence of human error, and the necessity for rapid analysis and reporting of imaging data. As AI technology continues to evolve, it promises to revolutionize the healthcare industry by providing personalized care tailored to individual patient needs.(Humar et al, 2015).



Figure 3: represents AI-powered medical imaging(Humar et al, 2015).

Future Directions

Looking ahead, the future of medical laser technology and imaging systems is poised for further advancements. The ongoing collaboration among biologists, electrical and optical engineers, and medical professionals will drive innovations in material science, laser engineering, and imaging techniques. As compact laser systems become integrated with other technological advancements, including telemetry and real-time data analysis, the potential for improved patient outcomes through enhanced diagnostic and therapeutic options will continue to grow.(Wang et al,2019).

Clinical Applications and Case Studies

Laser-based medical imaging techniques have emerged as vital tools for diagnosing and treating various medical conditions. Their clinical applications span multiple fields, particularly in oncology and neurosurgery, where precision and real-time data are crucial for successful outcomes (Zhang et al., 2022).

Oncology Applications

This section highlights the use of laser-based medical imaging techniques in cancer diagnosis and treatment, including early tumor detection, tissue characterization, and real-time guidance during surgical interventions.

Early Cancer Detection

One significant application of laser imaging is in the early detection of cancer. Techniques such as laser-induced fluorescence (LIF) and photoacoustic imaging (PAI) have been developed to enhance the visibility of malignant tissues. These methods enable the identification of tumors at stages where traditional imaging may be less effective, providing critical information to guide treatment decisions and improve patient outcomes. For instance, photoacoustic imaging has demonstrated the ability to detect small malignant tumors by using laser light to generate ultrasonic waves that yield detailed images of tissues, revealing the presence of cancerous cells (Wang et al.).

Treatment Monitoring

In addition to diagnosis, laser-based imaging plays a vital role in monitoring treatment effectiveness. For example, patients undergoing photodynamic therapy receive a dye that selectively accumulates in tumor tissues. The subsequent use of lasers allows surgeons to visualize the tumor outline, facilitating precise surgical interventions.

This technique highlights the dual utility of laser imaging, not only for diagnosis but also for real-time monitoring during treatment. (Stratakis et al,2009).

Neurosurgical Applications

Laser-based medical imaging plays a crucial role in neurosurgery, enabling surgeons to identify and map brain tissue accurately. Techniques such as Laser-Induced Fluorescence (LIF) and Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) can clearly delineate tumor boundaries, assisting surgeons in planning and performing precise resections. One key advantage of

using laser-based imaging in neurosurgery is the reduction of damage to surrounding healthy tissues. By providing real-time imaging and immediate feedback, these technologies enable safer, minimally invasive surgeries and help reduce the risk of postoperative complications. Furthermore, the application of these techniques in early detection of brain lesions and guidance of advanced therapeutic interventions improves patient outcomes and enhances surgical accuracy and safety. Recent research has shown that integrating laser imaging with emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence can further enhance the efficiency and precision of these methods.

Real-Time Imaging

In the field of neurosurgery, laser-based diagnostic modalities are making substantial contributions. Current practices heavily rely on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT), but advancements like hyperspectral imaging (HSI) and multispectral optical tomography (MSOT) are emerging to enhance surgical guidance. These technologies provide real-time imaging capabilities that improve the delineation of tumor boundaries from healthy tissue during surgery, thereby increasing the likelihood of complete tumor resection (Khonina et al, 2025).

Intraoperative Diagnostics

Recent studies have demonstrated the efficacy of laser imaging techniques in intraoperative diagnostics, particularly for brain tumors. For instance, laser speckle contrast imaging (LSCI) has been evaluated for its ability to assess peripheral hemodynamics in shock patients, a critical task in neurosurgical settings. Moreover, advanced imaging systems that use multiple sensors are being developed to map vascular structures in real time, providing surgeons with vital information during procedures (Gao et al, 2017).

Comparison with Traditional Imaging Techniques

Medical imaging has undergone remarkable advancements over the years, with traditional methods such as X-ray, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and ultrasound playing a crucial role in providing non-invasive insights into the human body. These techniques allow physicians to visualize internal structures and functions with relative accuracy, yet they have limitations, including lower resolution, longer processing times, and challenges in observing microstructures.

In contrast, laser-based imaging techniques such as OCT, LIF, and NIR offer significant advantages by providing micrometer-resolution images and enabling real-time visualization of tissue details. These technologies enable “optical biopsies” without tissue removal, provide precise guidance in delicate surgeries such as neurosurgery, and integrate with emerging technologies like nanotechnology and artificial intelligence. Consequently, laser-based imaging not only complements traditional methods but, in many cases, serves as a superior alternative for more accurate diagnosis and treatment (Kut et al, 2015).

Table 1. Presents traditional medical imaging techniques and AI-powered medical imaging (Stratakis et al.).

Feature	Traditional Imaging	AI-Powered Medical Imaging
Accuracy	May be influenced by human error	High accuracy with automatic anomaly detection
Speed	Time-consuming and requires human intervention	Fast processing and quick image analysis
Need for Human Expertise	Requires interpretation by specialist doctors	Allows for automatic analysis without manual interpretation
Cost	Often more expensive	Higher initial costs, but may be more cost-effective in the long run
Accessibility	Depends on medical facilities	Requires advanced equipment and AI system training
Application in Disease Diagnosis	Suitable for well-known and detectable diseases	Capable of identifying diseases in early stages and more complex conditions
Real-Time Diagnostic Capability	Often requires time for processing	Enables real-time detection and diagnosis during procedures

Advantages of Laser-Based Imaging

Laser-based imaging techniques, such as Noncontact Laser Ultrasound (NCLUS), leverage the precision and non-invasiveness of lasers to obtain high-resolution images of internal structures. Unlike conventional ultrasound, which uses sound waves, NCLUS leverages laser technology to visualize organs, muscles, fat, tendons, and blood vessels with greater accuracy and detail. This technique is particularly beneficial in settings where traditional imaging is challenging, such as emergency medical situations or remote locations, thereby expanding access to crucial diagnostic tools. Additionally, laser-based methods often reduce patient discomfort and accelerate recovery. For instance, laser surgery minimizes the need for incisions, thereby decreasing pain and the risk of complications associated with traditional surgical approaches. This advantage is especially evident in cosmetic and minimally invasive procedures, where patients increasingly prefer options that offer rapid recovery and less invasive treatment. (Friedman et al,2015).

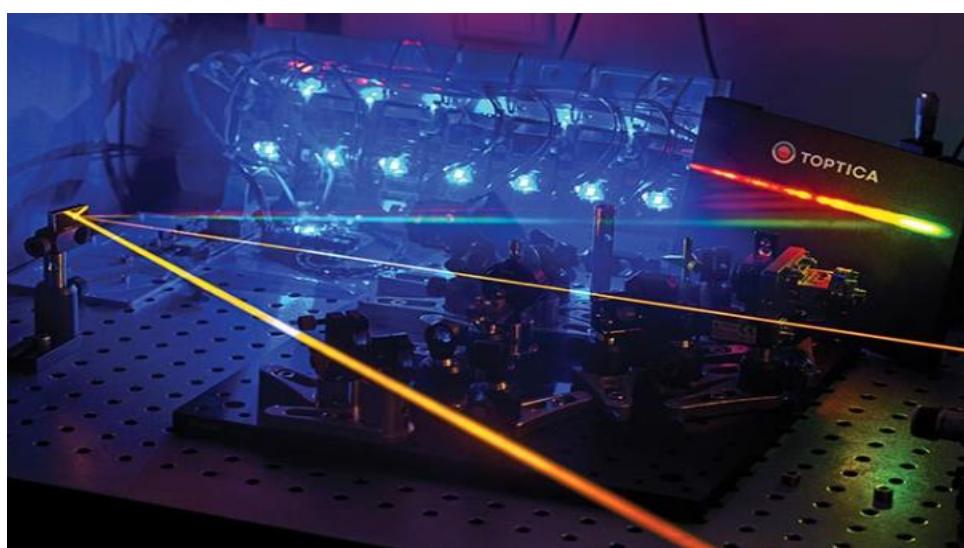


Figure 4. Illustrates ultrafast laser technology with the generation of extremely short light pulses(Zhang et al, 2022).

Limitations of Traditional Imaging Techniques

While traditional imaging techniques such as CT and MRI provide valuable information, they also come with several limitations. CT scans expose patients to ionizing radiation, which carries inherent risks, especially with repeated use. MRI, while excellent for soft tissue visualization, requires the patient to remain still for extended periods, which can be difficult for some individuals, such as children or those with claustrophobia. Moreover, the high costs associated with MRI and CT technology can pose accessibility challenges for many patients. In contrast, laser-based imaging techniques, particularly those that do not involve ionizing radiation, offer a safer alternative for patients, as they can visualize moving structures such as the heart in real time without the risks of radiation exposure (Ming et al, 2015).

Regulatory Frameworks

Various regulations govern the use of medical imaging devices, particularly those utilizing lasers. The Medical Devices Act (MPG), in conjunction with the Medical Device Operator Regulation (MPBetreibV), outlines the requirements for the construction, operation, and application of medical devices, including laser systems used in imaging procedures. Additionally, the Ordinance on Protection against the Harmful Effects of Non-Ionizing Radiation in Human Applications (NiSV) specifically addresses the operation of laser devices. It mandates that specific applications, such as cosmetic procedures involving laser technology, may be performed only by licensed physicians. Compliance with these regulations ensures that medical imaging technologies are not only effective but also adhere to safety standards designed to protect both patients and healthcare providers. For instance, the American National Standards Institute has established maximum permissible exposure limits for laser radiation to minimize the risk of thermal tissue damage during imaging procedures. (Zhang et al, 2022).

Ethical Considerations

Ethical concerns surrounding laser-based medical imaging include patient privacy, informed consent, and the potential for overdiagnosis. As imaging technologies become more sophisticated, the ability to capture detailed and sensitive information raises important questions about how this data is used and who has access to it. Ensuring patient privacy while leveraging advanced imaging techniques is essential to fostering trust in medical practices. Moreover, healthcare providers must navigate the ethical implications of emerging interventions and technologies. The balance between the benefits of advanced imaging—such as precise diagnostics and personalized treatments—and its risks—radiation exposure and the possibility of false positives or negatives—must be carefully considered. Healthcare professionals need to engage in thorough discussions with patients regarding the necessity and potential consequences of imaging scans, ensuring that the advantages outweigh any potential drawbacks in each case (Pritzker et al, 2019).

DISCUSSION

The reviewed literature demonstrates that state-of-the-art laser technologies are transforming medical imaging by delivering unprecedented improvements in resolution, contrast, diagnostic accuracy, and real-time clinical applicability. A comparative synthesis of previous studies reveals several converging trends and notable divergences across technological capabilities, clinical feasibility, and future translation.

Firstly, advances in laser-based X-ray and optical sources, as highlighted by Kieffer et al. (2016), indicate that compact laser-driven photon sources can significantly enhance imaging resolution beyond conventional systems. This trend aligns with the growing interest in laser-based high-resolution mass spectrometry imaging reported by Wang et al. (2019), suggesting that ultrafast laser systems can expand diagnostic capabilities not only in radiology but also in molecular and chemical imaging.

Secondly, in the clinical domain, studies such as (Semmler et al., 2017) and (Sun et al., 2016). show that laser-enabled endoscopic imaging—particularly 3D endoscopic laser systems and linked-color imaging—improves early disease detection by enhancing tissue contrast. These findings align with broader developments in biophotonic endoscopy (Coda et al., 2015) and confocal microscopy (Guida et al., 2021), collectively emphasizing the role of lasers as essential tools for detecting early-stage gastrointestinal and dermatological pathologies.

Furthermore, advanced optical techniques for brain tumor delineation, especially Optical Coherence Tomography (Kut et al., 2015) and artificial-intelligence-assisted Raman histology (Hollon et al., 2020), highlight the role of lasers in intraoperative precision-guidance. These studies demonstrate higher diagnostic accuracy compared to conventional intraoperative assessments, reinforcing the need for real-time optical technologies in neurosurgical workflows. (Similarly, Van Hese et al, 2022) report that laser-assisted intraoperative differentiation techniques outperform traditional methods in tumor boundary identification.

In parallel, the integration of artificial intelligence with laser-based imaging, as discussed by Megbuwawon et al. (2024), demonstrates that segmentation, laser-guided interventions, and protective-shield optimization can significantly improve precision therapy. This complements broader trends in precision oncology, where optical and laser-enabled functional diagnostics play a key role (Friedman et al, 2015).

Moreover, innovations in terahertz and diffractive optical technologies (Wang et al, 2019; Khonina et al, 2025) illustrate the potential of lasers to contribute to next-generation 3D imaging modalities, enabling non-invasive structural mapping with high depth sensitivity. Studies on optical manipulation at micro- and nanoscales (Gao et al., 2017) and micro/nanoengineering for biological applications (Stratakis et al., 2009) further demonstrate how laser precision engineering is expanding diagnostic and therapeutic frontiers, particularly at the cellular and subcellular levels.

Additionally, the emergence of intracellular microlasers (Humar, 2015) and quantum-dot-based laser diagnostic devices (Ming et al, 2015) indicates a shift toward ultra-miniaturized, point-of-care systems capable of multiplexed biochemical analysis. These technologies could complement conventional imaging modalities by integrating molecular diagnostics with optical imaging in real time.

Finally, several studies emphasize the importance of translating laboratory-based laser innovations into clinical practice (Sroka & Lilge, 2016; Sroka et al, 2015). Despite significant progress, challenges remain, including safety considerations, device cost, regulatory approval processes, and the need for multidisciplinary training among clinicians. (Pogue, 2023). underscores that improved optical models and system standardization are critical for fully unlocking the diagnostic capabilities of laser technologies.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, laser-based medical imaging techniques represent a groundbreaking advancement in medical diagnostics and treatment. By leveraging the unique properties of lasers, these technologies offer high-resolution, non-invasive imaging that significantly enhances our ability to detect diseases early and guide surgical procedures with precision. Techniques such as Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), Laser-Induced Fluorescence (LIF), and Near-Infrared (NIR) spectroscopy have proven invaluable in fields such as oncology and neurosurgery, where accuracy and real-time information are critical.

The integration of nanotechnology and artificial intelligence further amplifies the capabilities of these imaging systems, allowing for personalized medicine and improving the efficiency and accuracy of diagnosis. While these advances are promising, they are accompanied by important ethical and regulatory considerations that must be addressed to ensure patient privacy, informed consent, and the responsible use of technology. As laser-based medical imaging continues to evolve, it holds immense potential to revolutionize healthcare, offering not only improved diagnostic accuracy but also better treatment outcomes and safer, less invasive procedures. However, ongoing research and careful regulatory oversight must continue to guide the development and application of these technologies, ensuring they are utilized to their full potential while safeguarding patient well-being.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Sayed Habibullah Hashimi, a faculty member of the Department of Physics and Electronics, and Noor Mohammad Azizi, a faculty member of the Department of Nuclear and Atomic Physics, contributed equally to the conception and design of the study, literature review, data analysis, manuscript drafting, and critical revision. Both authors have approved the final version of the manuscript and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to express their sincere gratitude to colleagues and technical staff who provided valuable support and guidance during the preparation of this review.

FUNDING INFORMATION

This study did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest that could have influenced the content or interpretation of this manuscript.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

All data and materials reviewed in this study are sourced from previously published literature and are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

REFERENCES

Kieffer, J. C., Krol, A., Jiang, Z., Chamberlain, C. C., Scalzetti, E., & Ichalalene, Z. (2016). Future of laser-based X-ray sources for medical imaging. *Applied Physics B*, 74(Suppl. 1), s75–s81. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00340-002-0870-3>.

Megbuwawon, A., Singh, M. K., Akinniranye, R. D., Kanu, E. C., & Omenogor, C. E. (2024). Integrating artificial intelligence in medical imaging for precision therapy: The role of AI in segmentation, laser-guided procedures, and protective shielding. *World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews*, 23(03), 1078–1096. <https://doi.org/10.30574/wjarr.2024.23.3.2751>.

Semmler, M., Kniesburges, S., Parchent, J., Jakubaß, B., Zimmermann, M., Bohr, C., ... & Döllinger, M. (2017). Endoscopic laser-based 3D imaging for functional voice diagnostics. *Applied Sciences*, 7(6), <https://doi.org/10.3390/app7060600>.

Sun, X., Dong, T., Bi, Y., Min, M., Shen, W., Xu, Y., & Liu, Y. (2016). Linked color imaging application for improving the endoscopic diagnosis accuracy: A pilot study. *Scientific Reports*, 6(1), <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep33473>.

Van Hese, L., De Vleeschouwer, S., Theys, T., Rex, S., Heeren, R. M., & Cuypers, E. (2022). The diagnostic accuracy of intraoperative differentiation and delineation techniques in brain tumors. *Discover Oncology*, 13(1), 123. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12672-022-00585-z>.

Sroka, R., & Lilge, L. (2016). Laser-advanced new methods for diagnostics and therapeutics. *Photonics & Lasers in Medicine*, 5(1), 1–4. <https://doi.org/10.1515/plm-2015-0046>.

Geoghegan, S. (2019). Lasers in medical diagnosis and therapy by Stephan Wienke and Christoph Gerhard. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13246-019-00777>.

Coda, S., Siersema, P. D., Stamp, G. W., & Thillainayagam, A. V. (2015). Biophotonic endoscopy: A review of clinical research techniques for optical imaging and sensing of early gastrointestinal cancer. *Endoscopy International Open*, 3(05), E380–E392. <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0034-1392513>.

Sroka, R., Stepp, H., Hennig, G., Brittenham, G. M., Rühm, A., & Lilge, L. (2015). Medical laser application: Translation into the clinics. *Journal of Biomedical Optics*, 20(6), 061110. <https://doi.org/10.1117/1.JBO.20.6.061110>.

Yun, S. H., & Kwok, S. J. (2017). Light in diagnosis, therapy, and surgery. *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, 1(1), 8. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41551-016-0008>.

Mastropietro, A., Scano, A., & Rivolta, M. W. (2022). Applications of laser-induced fluorescence in medicine. *Sensors*, 22(8), 2956. <https://doi.org/10.3390/s22082956>.

Jacques, S. L. (2013). Optical properties of biological tissues: A review. *Physics in Medicine & Biology*, 58(11), R37. <https://doi.org/10.1088/0031-9155/58/11/R37>.

Humar, M., & Yun, S. H. (2015). Intracellular microlasers. *Nature Photonics*, 9 (9), 572. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nphoton.2015.129>.

Wang, T., Cheng, X., Xu, H., Meng, Y., Yin, Z., Li, X., & Hang, W. (2019). Perspective on advances in laser-based high-resolution mass spectrometry imaging. *Analytical Chemistry*, 92(1), 543–553.

Zhang, G., Yang, S., Hu, P., & Deng, H. (2022). Advances and prospects of vision-based 3D shape measurement methods. *Machines*, 10(2), 124.

Wang, Y. Y., Chen, L. Y., Xu, D. G., Shi, J., Feng, H., & Yao, J. Q. (2019). Advances in terahertz three-dimensional imaging techniques. *Chinese Optics*, 12(1), 1–18.

Stratakis, E., Ranella, A., Farsari, M., & Fotakis, C. (2009). Laser-based micro/nanoengineering for biological applications. *Progress in Quantum Electronics*, 33(5), 127–163.

Khonina, S. N., Kazanskiy, N. L., Skidanov, R. V., & Butt, M. A. (2025). Advancements and applications of diffractive optical elements in contemporary optics: A comprehensive overview. *Advanced Materials Technologies*, 10(4), 2401028.

Gao, D., Ding, W., Nieto-Vesperinas, M., Ding, X., Rahman, M., Zhang, T., ... & Qiu, C. W. (2017). Optical manipulation from the microscale to the nanoscale: Fundamentals, advances, and prospects. *Light: Science & Applications*, 6(9), e17039.

Kut, C., Chaichana, K. L., Xi, J., Raza, S. M., Ye, X., McVeigh, E. R., ... & Li, X. (2015). Detection of human brain cancer infiltration ex vivo and in vivo using quantitative optical coherence tomography. *Science Translational Medicine*, 7(292), 292ra100. <https://doi.org/10.1126/scitranslmed.3010611>.

Friedman, A. A., Letai, A., Fisher, D. E., & Flaherty, K. T. (2015). Precision medicine for cancer with next-generation functional diagnostics. *Nature Reviews Cancer*, 15(12), 747–756. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrc4015>.

Ming, K., Kim, J., Biondi, M. J., Syed, A., Chen, K., Lam, A., ... & Chan, W. C. (2015). Integrated quantum dot barcode smartphone optical device for wireless multiplexed diagnosis of infected patients. *ACS Nano*, 9(3), 3060–3074. <https://doi.org/10.1021/nn5072792>.

Pritzker, K. P., & Nieminen, H. J. (2019). Needle biopsy adequacy in the era of precision medicine and value-based health care. *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*, 143(11), 1399–1415. <https://doi.org/10.5858/arpa.2018-0463-RA>.

Hollon, T. C., Pandian, B., Adapa, A. R., Urias, E., Save, A. V., Khalsa, S. S. S., ... & Orringer, D. A. (2020). Near real-time intraoperative brain tumor diagnosis using stimulated Raman histology and deep neural networks. *Nature Medicine*, 26(1), 52–58. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-019-0715-9>.

Pogue, B. W. (2023). Perspective on the optics of medical imaging. *Journal of Biomedical Optics*, 28(12), 121208.

Boppart, S. A., & Richards-Kortum, R. (2014). Point-of-care and point-of-procedure optical imaging technologies for primary care and global health. *Science Translational Medicine*, 6(253), 253rv2.

Guida, S., Arginelli, F., Farnetani, F., Ciardo, S., Bertoni, L., Manfredini, M., ... & Pellacani, G. (2021). Clinical applications of in vivo and ex vivo confocal microscopy. *Applied Sciences*, 11(5), 1979. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app11051979>.

Deegan, A. J., Talebi-Liasi, F., Song, S., Li, Y., Xu, J., Men, S., ... & Wang, R. K. (2018). Optical coherence tomography angiography of normal skin and inflammatory dermatologic conditions. *Lasers in Surgery and Medicine*, 50(3), 183–193. <https://doi.org/10.1002/lsm.22788>.

Farooq, A., Alquaity, A. B., Raza, M., Nasir, E. F., Yao, S., & Ren, W. (2022). Laser sensors for energy systems and process industries: Perspectives and directions. *Progress in Energy and Combustion Science*, 91, 100997.