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Fraunhofer Center for Digital Diagnostics ZDD®

Modern diagnostics and digitally supported
healthcare



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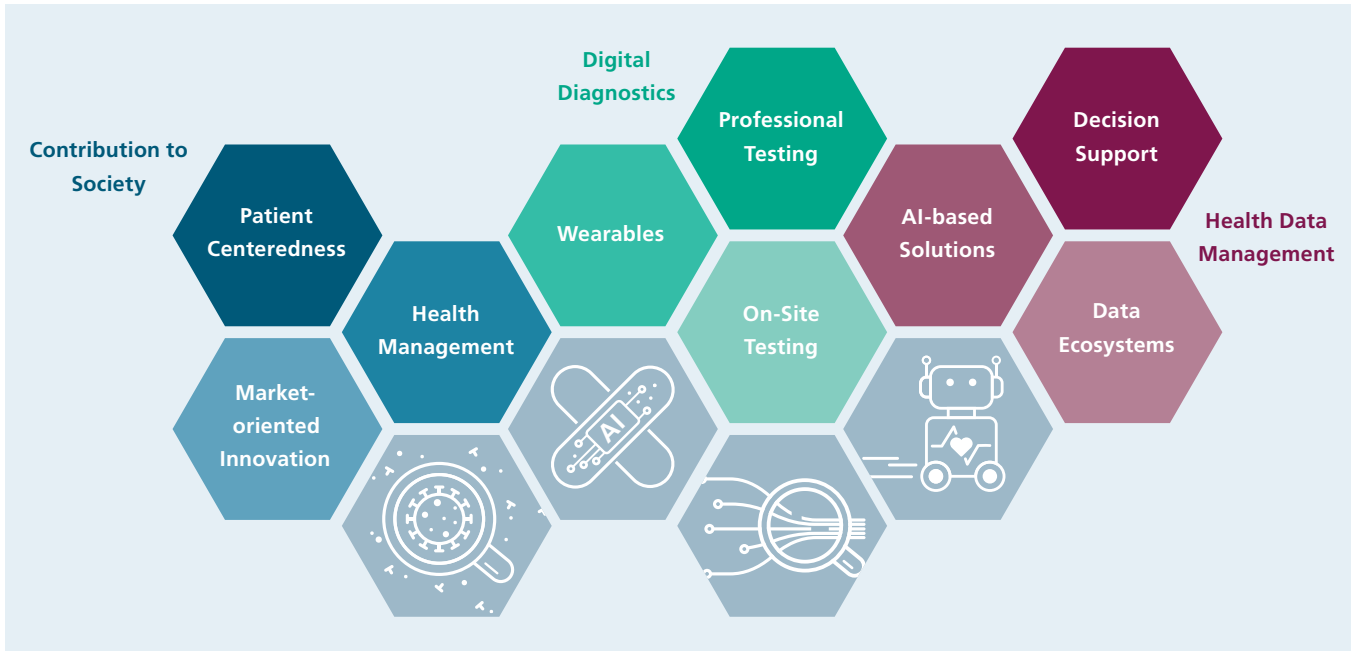
Healthcare in rural areas

Healthcare in rural areas faces several and urgent challenges. On the one hand, the average age of the population in rural areas is rising while population density in urban areas is increasing at the same time. This leads to new demands on medical care due to the fundamental shift in disease patterns toward more chronic diseases and increasing multimorbidity. On the other hand, the situation is exacerbated by the shortage of specialists. A structural problem exists, in particular, for family doctors, who are essential for care in rural areas, due to the lack of young professionals – despite incentivization of the quota for rural doctors.

In addition, the greater distances to medical facilities in rural areas can be a significant obstacle to adequate healthcare. Long journeys to regularly necessary medical appointments represent a great burden, especially for elderly and chronically ill patients.

Digital innovations can provide the necessary solutions to address these problems in rural areas. Integrative care concepts consisting of mobile diagnostics, telemedicine concepts, and digital ecosystems for networking all stakeholders can close gaps in care. These solution approaches can improve healthcare in rural areas and make it easier for patients to access high-quality medical services.

For better
healthcare
in rural areas



The Fraunhofer ZDD® has set itself the goal of developing competencies, technologies, and solutions that primarily address the diagnostic challenges in healthcare in rural areas. The state of Brandenburg serves as a model region in this regard.

The parties involved

In the Fraunhofer Center for Digital Diagnostics ZDD®, the competencies are represented in a nucleus of three contributing core institutes – Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology IZI, Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology, Branch Bioanalytics and Bioprocesses IZI-BB (as main location of Fraunhofer ZDD®), and Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering IESE. Beyond its core institutes, the Fraunhofer ZDD® has access to the expertise of the entire Fraunhofer network when implementing customer projects.

In the medium and long term, the Fraunhofer ZDD® aims to position itself as a partner for industry and healthcare providers – for the integration of patient-oriented diagnostics into digital ecosystems on the one hand, and as a diagnostic “enabler” of state-of-the-art telemedicine care models and digital healthcare applications on the other hand.

Beyond the primary and secondary healthcare market, the Fraunhofer ZDD® is present in application fields with comparable challenges. These include, for example, veterinary medicine and food and environmental analytics.

Further information

- Fraunhofer Center for Digital Diagnostics ZDD®, www.zdd.fraunhofer.de
- Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology, Branch Bioanalytics and Bioprocesses IZI-BB www.izi-bb.fraunhofer.de
- Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering IESE, www.iese.fraunhofer.de
- Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology IZI, www.izi.fraunhofer.de

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