

Iomt Data Server Risks and Vulnerabilities

¹Carlos Martínez Santander, ²Sebastià Galmès, ³Yolanda De La N Cruz Gavilánez

¹*Carrera de Medicina, Universidad Católica de Cuenca*

Cuenca – Ecuador

Email: carlos.martinez7@estudiant.uib.es

²*Dpto. Ciencias Matemáticas e Informática, Universidad de las Islas Baleares*

Islas Baleares – España

Email: sebastia.galmes@uib.es

³*Dpto. Ciencias Matemáticas e Informática, Universidad de las Islas Baleares*

Islas Baleares – España

Email: yolanda-de-la-nube.cruzi@estudiant.uib.cat

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ABSTRACT

The Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) is the convergence between technology and healthcare, in which data networks are used to support interconnected medical attention. That is an interconnection of medical devices, sensors, diagnostic equipment, information systems, and healthcare platforms through the Internet for the collection and analysis of data in real-time, allowing timely diagnosis and treatment, as well as the simplification of these processes. Despite the enormous advantages of IoMT, it also presents a significant challenge to the security, availability, and privacy of medical data and interoperability between different devices and platforms. If a hacker takes advantage of these vulnerabilities and manages to exploit them, he or she could engage in patient or healthcare institution extortion, medical identity theft, and even modification, alteration, or blocking of IoMT devices in use, endangering the health and lives of patients. It is essential to carry out different studies in this area to ensure the protection and welfare of people who use these means, thus maintaining trust in IoMT technologies in the medical field. The present study makes the following very important contributions to the field of IoMT security research. On the one hand, it evaluates the knowledge of healthcare professionals on the subject. On the other hand, it shows the main vulnerabilities in healthcare management data servers according to the Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) 3.1.

Keywords: Internet of Medical Things (IoMT), Security, Vulnerabilities, Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS).

1. INTRODUCTION

Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) is the convergence between technology and healthcare, in which data networks are used to support interconnected medical attention [1]–[3]. That is an interconnection of medical devices, sensors, diagnostic equipment, information systems, and healthcare platforms through the Internet for real-time data collection and analysis [4], [5]. This allows for improving the quality of health management, including early diagnosis of pathologies, prevention, and personalized treatment [6]. Through the use of IoMT devices, such as portable vital sign monitors, glucose sensors, wireless ECG (electrocardiogram) electrodes, digital pills, physical activity tracking devices, and sleep monitors, real-time valuable healthcare information can be provided to both the patients and the doctors.

However, despite the enormous advantages of IoMT, it also presents a significant challenge to the security, availability, and privacy of medical data as well as the interoperability between different devices and platforms [7]. In this context, it is essential to be concerned about mitigating all these challenges because, according to the Gartner report, in 2020, there were about 20.4 billion interconnected devices, and it is expected that by 2025 there will be 1.0 trillion, more than 50% being IoMT devices [8], [9]. In [10], the FBI revealed that IoMT solutions are highly vulnerable, complemented by the wireless transmission of data and that for subsequent analysis of these data, it is necessary to store them on remote servers. The vulnerabilities affecting IoMT technology represent a danger to the health and integrity of patients since these systems manage confidential health information, historical data, medication, and other identifiable personal data. If a hacker takes advantage of these vulnerabilities and manages to

1.1.1 IoMT wearable device

IoMT wearable devices are composed of body sensors that constantly monitor the behavior of organs or vital signs in real-time. These devices provide freedom to patients because they can perform their daily activities normally [17]. Examples are brain monitors, pacemakers, and stents for vascular and neurological diseases, among many others. Once IoMT devices collect user data, they send them to IoMT servers using wireless short and medium-range technologies, such as NFC (Near Field Communication), Bluetooth, and Wi-Fi, among others.

In Table 1, the technologies used and potential vulnerabilities in these first-line devices are detailed. If they are breached, the patient's life is at stake [4], [9], [18].

Table 1. Vulnerabilities of short-range link technologies

Wearable	Technology	Ports	Protocol	Vulnerabilities
Heart Rate Monitor (Smartwatch)	Bluetooth, ANT+	N/A	Bluetooth, ANT+	Insecure data exchange Spoofing attacks Firmware and software vulnerabilities Denial of service (DoS) attacks Falsification of health data
Glucose Sensor	Bluetooth, NFC		Bluetooth, NFC	Manipulation of glucose data Communication interruptions Denial of Service (DoS) attacks
Insulin Pump	Bluetooth	N/A	Bluetooth	Spoofing attacks Insulin dose manipulation Denial of Service (DoS) attacks Authentication and authorization failures
IoMT hearing aids	Bluetooth	N/A	Bluetooth	Unauthorized eavesdropping Service interruption attacks Bluetooth pairing vulnerabilities
Swallowable Capsules (Digital Pills)	Bluetooth, NFC	N/A	Bluetooth, NFC	Insecure data exchange Denial of service attacks (DoS) Falsification of medical data Privacy and confidentiality issues
Sleep Monitor	Bluetooth	N/A	Bluetooth	Unauthorized collection and transmission of sleep data Firmware and software vulnerabilities Identity theft

Source: Author of the research, (Martinez C,2023)

1.1.2 Networks

The connection at this first level is the smartphones with home wireless networks, thus representing significant security risks, especially with technologies such as Wi-Fi due to its multiple known vulnerabilities. Table 2 shows the main vulnerabilities present in this section of the system. Moreover, wired Ethernet technology has been included due to its prominence in domestic networks.

Table 2. Vulnerabilities in the transmission of IoMT data

Network	Technologies	Ports	Common Ports	Vulnerabilities
Wi-Fi	Wi-Fi 802.11a/b/g/n/ac/ax	80 (HTTP), 443 (HTTPS), and other ports, depending on the applications and services used	TCP, UDP, HTTP, HTTPS, DNS, and DHCP, among others	Unauthorized access to the Wi-Fi network
				Wi-Fi traffic interception
Bluetooth	Bluetooth Classic (2.1)	Based on profiles and services	RFCOMM, L2CAP, SDP	Spoofing attacks
	Bluetooth Low Energy (4.0 and subsequent)			Unauthorized pairing attacks
	Bluetooth 5.0			Bluetooth device spoofing
Zigbee	Zigbee (IEEE 802.15.4)	N/A	Zigbee	Bluetooth traffic interception
				Man-in-the-middle attack
NFC	Near Field Communication (NFC)	N/A	NFC	Zigbee spoofing
				NFC communication interception
				NFC tag counterfeiting
Mobile network	3G, 4G, 5G	80 y 443 para-HTTP/HTTPS	TCP, UDP, HTTP, HTTPS, among others	Unauthorized use of NFC functions
				Cellular infrastructure vulnerabilities
Ethernet	Ethernet	N/A	TCP, UDP	Denial of Service (DoS) attacks
				Cellular traffic interception
				Unauthorized wired network access attacks

Source: Author of the research, (Martinez C,2023)

1.1.3 IoMT Servers

The communication of IoMT devices with data management, storage, or administration servers is a critical aspect due to the nature of the data. This transmission opens the door to possible exploitations of vulnerabilities and security risks; as stated in previous points, attacks directed to IoMT servers can unleash serious consequences such as unauthorized access to sensitive health information, manipulation of patient data, sabotage of devices, or denial of services. Table 3 lists the main vulnerabilities linked to the lack of IoMT security standards the use of insecure protocols and weak encryption algorithms.

Table 3. IoMT data storage level vulnerabilities

IoMT Data Servers	Technologies	Ports	Protocols	Vulnerabilities
Cloud storage	N/A	N/A	HTTP, HTTPS, and others depending on the provider	Unauthorized access to data in the cloud Leakage of sensitive information

Database	SQL, NoSQL, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle	1433, 1434, 3306, 5432,1521	SQL, NoSQL, UDP, TDS	Denial of service attacks (DoS)
				SQL Injection Database Configuration Vulnerabilities Unauthorized database access
API (Application Programming Interface)	REST, GraphQL, other	80, 443	HTTP, HTTPS	Brute force API attacks
				Authentication and authorization failures Exposure of sensitive data through the API
Network Security	Firewall, VPN	20, 21, 22, 25, 53, 80, 443,143, 68,123,161, 5353, 4500	TCP, UDP	Denial of service attacks (DoS)
				Spoofing attacks (spoofing) Man-in-the-middle (man-in-the-middle) attacks

Source: Author of the research, (Martinez C,2023)

1.1.4 CVSS Vulnerability Score 3.1

CVSS (Common Vulnerability Scoring System) is a tool that presents a set of standards for assessing the severity of security vulnerabilities in devices or computing environments[19]–[23]. Nevertheless, when applied, although it is a valuable tool, it is not 100% perfect, so experts in the field should apply it with caution to avoid making mistakes. Table 4 shows some characteristics of these standards [24]–[30].

Table 4. CVSS Characteristics

Item	Advantages	Disadvantages	Uses
Standard evaluation	Provides a standardized way of rating vulnerabilities.	Subjectivity can still influence the final score l.	It helps security specialists identify and classify vulnerabilities.
Ease of use	It is relatively simple to understand and use.	It does not always capture all the complexities of vulnerabilities.	Allows different analysts or teams to perform consistent assessments.
Based on metrics	It is based on metrics and factors to assign scores.	It does not always reflect the actual risk for a specific environment.	Allows organizations to prioritize vulnerability mitigation.
Quantitative scale	It uses a numerical scale to express the severity of vulnerabilities.	It does not take into account the operational context of an organization.	It helps determine the severity of a vulnerability.
Effective communication	Allows clearer communication for decision-making.	It does not always take into account personalized impact factors.	Facilitates discussion on the relative importance of vulnerabilities.
Community support	Community of users and experts who contribute to	It does not always reflect the relevance of a	Encourages collaboration and sharing of vulnerability information.

its continuous
improvement.

vulnerability to a specific
use case.

Source: Author of the research, (Martinez C,2023)

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study has two phases. In the first phase, a survey was applied to 85 healthcare professionals, the instrument consisted of 15 questions on knowledge of patient information security. One of the questions gave rise to the second phase of the study, which focused on cloud-based medical data management and storage systems: "Which ones have you used, or do you use?". Respondents could select one of the proposed answers or even specify any others not included in the list. As indicated, in the second phase, starting from the IoMT applications or servers used by healthcare professionals Figure 7; proceeded to collect the main vulnerabilities present in these data servers for research purposes by passive scanning without damaging the data infrastructure or violating data security. Tools such as the Kali Linux operating system, vulnerability scanning applications (Nessus, Cadaver, Davtest, Nikto, Skipfish, Wapiti, Whatweb, Wpscan), and Nmap, among others, were implemented.

The Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) is a framework for the evaluation and subsequent reporting of vulnerabilities in computer systems, providing a numerical score to reflect the severity of a vulnerability. This tool is widely used in computer security. Scoring is done based on scale and equation provided by the National Vulnerability Database (NVD) Fig. 2, Table 5 [31]–[33].

CVSS v3 Equations
The CVSS v3.0 equations are defined below.

Base
The Base Score is a function of the Impact and Exploitability sub score equations. Where the Base score is defined as,

$$\text{Base Score} = \begin{cases} \text{Scope Unchanged} & \text{If (Impact sub score} \leq 0) \\ \text{Scope Changed} & \text{0 else,} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Scope Unchanged } 6.42 \times \text{ISC}_{\text{Base}}$$

$$\text{Scope Changed } 7.52 \times [\text{ISC}_{\text{Base}} - 0.029] - 3.25 \times [\text{ISC}_{\text{Base}} - 0.02]^{15}$$
and the Impact sub score (ISC) is defined as,

$$\text{ISC}_{\text{Base}} = 1 - [(1 - \text{Impact}_{\text{Conf}}) \times (1 - \text{Impact}_{\text{Integ}}) \times (1 - \text{Impact}_{\text{Avail}})]$$
And the Exploitability sub score is,

$$8.22 \times \text{AttackVector} \times \text{AttackComplexity} \times \text{PrivilegeRequired} \times \text{UserInteraction}$$

Temporal
The Temporal score is defined as,

$$\text{Roundup}(\text{BaseScore} \times \text{ExploitCodeMaturity} \times \text{RemediationLevel} \times \text{ReportConfidence})$$

Environmental
The environmental score is defined as,

$$\text{If (Modified Impact Sub score} \leq 0) \quad \text{0 else,}$$

$$\text{If Modified Scope is Unchanged} \quad \text{Round up(Round up (Minimum [(M.Impact + M.Exploitability) ,10]) \times Exploit Code Maturity \times Remediation Level \times Report Confidence)}$$

$$\text{If Modified Scope is Changed} \quad \text{Round up(Round up (Minimum [1.08 \times (M.Impact + M.Exploitability) ,10]) \times Exploit Code Maturity \times Remediation Level \times Report Confidence)}$$
And the modified Impact sub score is defined as,

$$\text{If Modified Scope is Unchanged } 6.42 \times [\text{ISC}_{\text{Modified}}]$$

$$\text{If Modified Scope is Changed } 7.52 \times [\text{ISC}_{\text{Modified}} - 0.029] - 3.25 \times [\text{ISC}_{\text{Modified}} - 0.02]^{15}$$
Where,

$$\text{ISC}_{\text{Modified}} = \text{Minimum} [(1 - (1 - \text{M. IConf} \times \text{CR}) \times (1 - \text{M. IInteg} \times \text{IR}) \times (1 - \text{M. IAvail} \times \text{AR})), 0.915]$$
The Modified Exploitability sub score is,

$$8.22 \times \text{M. AttackVector} \times \text{M. AttackComplexity} \times \text{M. PrivilegeRequired} \times \text{M. UserInteraction}$$

4 Where "Round up" is defined as the smallest number, specified to one decimal place, that is equal to or higher than its input. For example, Round up (4.02) is 4.1; and Round up (4.00) is 4.0.

Figure 2. The CVSS v3.0 equations

Source: Author of the research, (Martinez C,2023)

Table 5. Qualitative Severity Ratings

CVSS v2.0 Ratings		CVSS v3.0 Ratings	
Severity	Severity Score Range	Severity	Severity Score Range
		None*	0.0

Low	0.0-3.9	Low	0.1-3.9
Medium	4.0-6.9	Medium	4.0-6.9
High	7.0-10.0	High	7.0-8.9
		Critical	9.0-10.0

Fuente: <https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln-metrics/cvss>

3. RESULTS

The next part descriptive analysis of the responses to the most relevant questions asked of the healthcare professionals. Of the respondents, 40 stated that they were physicians by profession, followed by 13 nursing professionals, 10 pharmaceutical chemists, and 9 biochemists, among others, as shown in Fig 3. Most of the professionals were engaged in practice, teaching, or research they belonged to an educational institution in Ecuador.

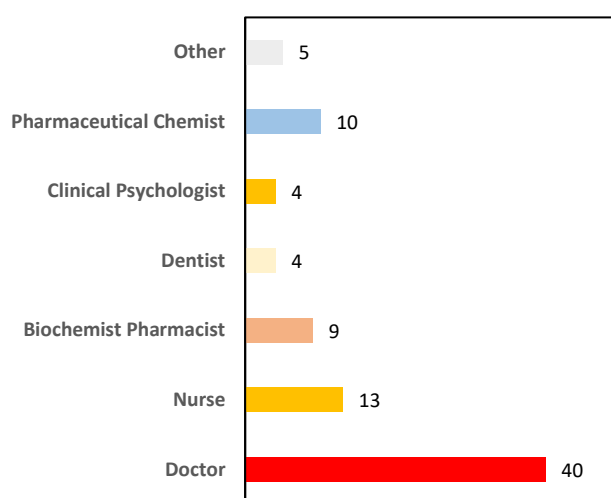


Figure 3. Professionals in the health field.

Source: Author of the research, (Martinez C,2023)

Another relevant question is whether healthcare professionals use electronic devices to store patient data. As shown in Fig 4, 64 professionals answered in the affirmative, while 21 stated that they do not use electronic devices, storing their patients' data in physical form, or paper medical records.

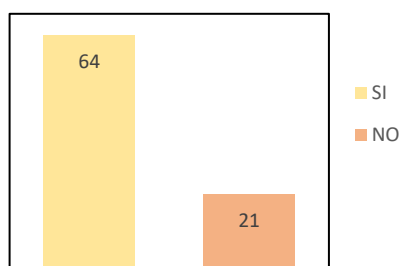


Figure 4. Count of professionals using electronic devices

Source: Author of the research, (Martinez C,2023)

Regarding the advantages of the use of electronic devices during patient consultation, it can be seen in Fig 5, that most of the professionals who previously responded affirmatively to the use of electronic devices say these

The professionals list applications used for patient data management systems in Figure 8, this information is important, it was used for the subsequent analysis of vulnerabilities present in the servers that housed the records. For this task free software allowed passive scanning for security errors to quantify according to CVSS 3.0.

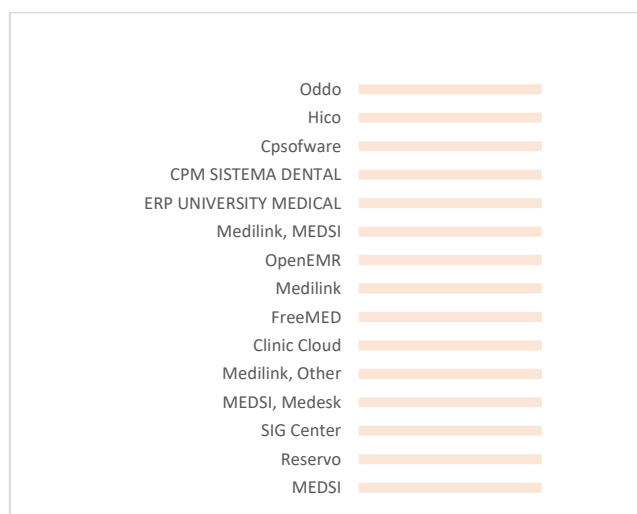


Figure 8. Patient data management systems used by healthcare professionals.

Source: Author of the research, (Martinez C,2023)

Table 6. IoMT Server Ports and Services

Name	IP	Country	Port/Service
SIG Center	34.74.107.247	ECUADOR	22/tcp open ssh 80/tcp open http 443/tcp open https 3306/tcp open mysql
SMARTSHEET	151.101.2.91	SPAIN	80/tcp open http 443/tcp open https 8008/tcp open http 80/tcp filtered http 135/tcp filtered msrpc
Athenahealth	208.78.141.209	USA	139/tcp filtered netbios-ssn 443/tcp filtered https 445/tcp filtered microsoft-ds 8008/tcp open http
Reservo	18.231.17.174	CHILE	80/tcp open http 443/tcp open https
Medilink	52.55.54.43	USA	80/tcp open http 443/tcp open https
Nimbo	199.36.158.100	USA	80/tcp open http 443/tcp open https
Clinic Cloud	3.67.61.128	SPAIN	443/tcp open https

OpenMRS	149.165.155.251	USA	22/tcp open ssh 80/tcp open http 113/tcp closed ident 443/tcp open https 8008/tcp open http 8010/tcp closed xmpp 80/tcp open http 135/tcp filter msrpc 139/tcp filtered netbios-ssn 443/tcp open https 445/tcp filtered microsoft-ds 8008/tcp open http 21/tcp open ftp 22/tcp open ssh 25/tcp closed smtp 80/tcp open http 113/tcp closed ident 443/tcp open https 587/tcp open submission 8008/tcp open http 8010/tcp closed xmpp 22/tcp open ssh 80/tcp open http 135/tcp filtered msrpc 139/tcp filtered net-bios-ssn 443/tcp open https 445/tcp filtered microsoft-ds 8008/tcp open http 8010/tcp closed xmpp 80/tcp open http 113/tcp closed ident 443/tcp open https 8008/tcp open http 8010/tcp closed xmpp 21/tcp open ftp 22/tcp open ssh 25/open smtp 53/tcp open domain 80/tcp open http 110/tcp open pop3 143/tcp open imap 443/tcp open https 465/tcp open smtps 587/tcp open submission 993/tcp open imaps 995/tcp open pop3s 8008/tcp open http
NextGen Office	206.71.175.203	USA	
FreeMED	173.236.229.94	USA	
OpenEMR	165.227.241.138	USA	
NOSH	192.0.78.12	USA	
Solismed	69.16.202.22	USA	

smarteCare	51.15.76.131	R UNITED KINGDOM	22/tcp open ssh
			80/tcp open http
Oscar EMR	Not available	Not available	113/tcp closed ident
			443/tcp open https
GNU Health	167.86.107.188	USA	8008/tcp open http
			8010/tcp closed xmpp
MEDSI	104.236.173.110	MÉXICO	Not available
			80/tcp open http
Nubimed	54.76.166.41	DUBLIN	135/tcp filtered msrpc
			139/tcp filtered netbios-ssn
CPM Sistema Dental	185.213.81.171		443/tcp open https
			445/tcp filterd microsoft-ds
			8008/tcp open http
			80/tcp open http
			113/tcp closed ident
			443/tcp open https
			481/tcp open dvs
			8008/tcp open http
			8010/tcp closed xmpp
			N/A
			20/tcp closed ftp-data
			21/tcp open ftp
			22/tcp closed ssh
			80/tcp open http
			113/tcp closed ident
			443/tcp open https
			3306/tcp open mysql
			7443/tcp open oracleas-https
			8008/tcp open http
			8010/tcp closed xmpp
			8443/tcp open https_alt
			60443/tcp closed unknown

Source: Author of the research, (Martinez C,2023)

Table 7 IoMT Server Vulnerabilities according to CVSS 3.1

DoS	Code Execution	Overflow	Memory Corruption	SQL Injection	XSS	Directory Traversal	HTTP Response Splitting	Bypass something	Gain Information	Gain Privileges	Cs
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	Y
YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	Y
YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	Y
YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	Y
YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	Y
YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	Y
YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	Y
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	Y
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	Y
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	Y

YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	Y
NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	Y
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	Y
YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	Y
NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	Y
YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	Y
YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	Y
NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	Y
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	Y

Source: Author of the research, (Martinez C,2023)

Table 6 shows the open ports and the services running on the IoMT servers. From the analyzed servers, only two have implemented security measures, such as solutions that prevent and scan for vulnerabilities. Conversely, despite the expectation for IoMT servers to maintain a higher standard of security protocols and policies, it's apparent that certain ports and services allow the exploitation of multiple vulnerabilities. This situation poses risks to both patient data and their well-being.

Concerning the vulnerabilities found in IoMT data management servers reported by healthcare professionals, subsequent quantification based on the CVSS score reveals that 42% of vulnerabilities pose a high risk, 26% are critical, 16% demonstrate a low level of risk, and 11% do not pose any threat. These findings hold significance as an increasing number of healthcare professionals rely on information and communication technologies for managing and storing patient data. Inadequate system security not only jeopardizes sensitive information but also places patients' lives at risk.

Vulnerabilidades de los servidores IoMT según CVSS 3.1

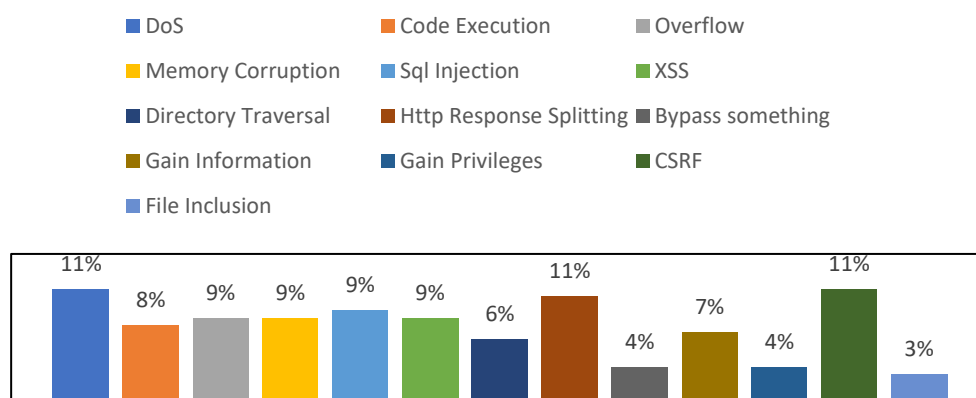


Figure 9 Count of IoMT server vulnerabilities according to CVSS 3.1

Source: Author of the research, (Martinez C,2023)

The identified recurrent vulnerabilities in the analyzed IoMT servers include susceptibility to DoS attacks, unauthorized data retrieval, and CSRF, among other potential threats. Once the multiple vulnerabilities that hackers could exploit have been identified, the next step is to mitigate them with good IT security practices.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This study presents the security threats that IoMT servers currently face. The obtained results show the various vulnerabilities present in this equipment and the serious threats they represent to privacy, confidentiality, and

availability of patients' medical information. This can lead to the publication of critical data, data theft, and even the death of the patient due to the risk of the availability of these services associated with treating a pathology.

IoMT devices, from biosensors to data servers, must be treated differentially compared to other applications; for example, the implementation of strong end-to-end encryption, complemented with strong authentication methods, constant security updates, separation of IoMT networks from others, constant monitoring, among others.

Education is a critical aspect of the evolution of IoMT technology. It is vitally important for patients and healthcare professionals to learn and be aware of IoMT security. The present study shows a lack of knowledge of security issues applied to patient data; therefore, the end user continues to be the weakest segment in the information security chain.

Another important aspect to consider is the collaboration that should exist between healthcare professionals, patients, and cybersecurity experts to address the problem of insecurity in IoMT systems. Moreover, this collaboration can lead to effective measures to strengthen the privacy, availability, and reliability of these environments.

One of the main vulnerabilities found in these servers is DoS, and it is necessary to apply security patches or implement hardware or software solutions to prevent cybercriminals from exploiting it and, in turn, putting patients' lives at risk. Some solutions may include firewalls such as network traffic filters, load balancers, connection limits, adequate bandwidth, SYN flood protection, and DoS mitigation services.

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