

# Systematic reviews of prognostic studies 3

# meta-analytical approaches in systematic reviews of prognostic studies

Thomas PA Debray, Karel GM Moons for the Cochrane Prognosis Review Methods Group









We have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this presentation



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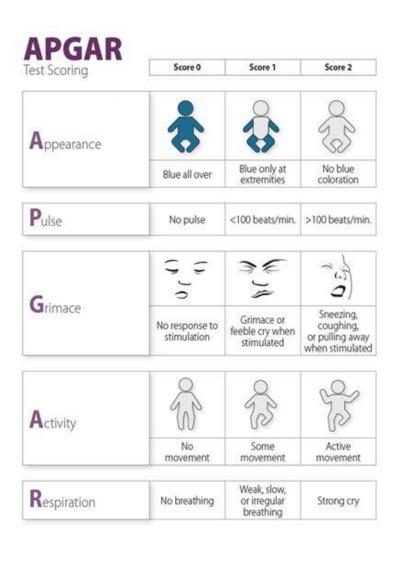


- Risk prediction = foreseeing / foretelling
   ... (probability) of something that is yet unknown
- Turn available information (predictors) into a statement about the probability:
  - ... diagnosis
  - ... prognosis

What is the big difference between diagnostic and prognostic 'prediction'?



# **Prediction models**



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Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)

#### Four main types of prognosis studies PROGRESS series 2013: BMJ and Plos Med

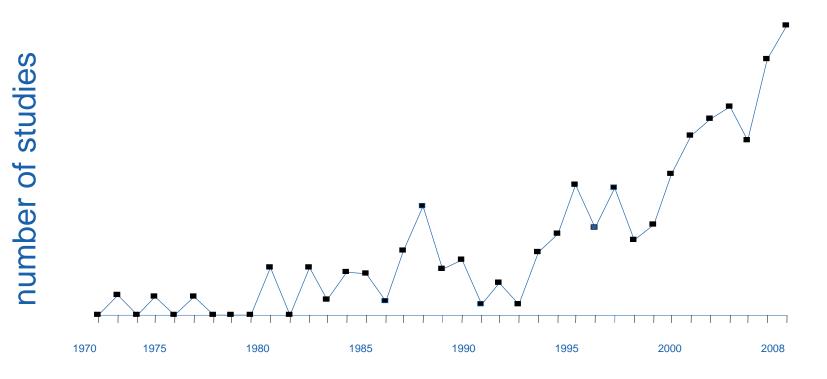
- Average/overall prognosis: 'What is the most likely course (outcome) of people with this health condition?'
- Prognostic factors: 'What factors are associated with that outcome?
- Prognostic (prediction) models: 'Are there risk groups who are likely to have different outcomes?'
- Treatment selection/factors predicting treatment response

Focus this workshop: MA of prediction model studies

#### **BOTH: PROGNOSTIC AND DIAGNOSTIC**



#### Why focus on prediction models? Steyerberg 2009



Year of publication



#### **Three phases of Prediction Modelling** BMJ series 2009 (Altman, Moons, Royston, Vergouwe)

- 1. Developing a prediction model
- 2. Validate (+update) the model in other subjects
- 3. Quantify model's impact on doctor's decision making and patient outcome (cost-effectiveness)

What is big difference between 3 versus 1-2?

Focus on 1-2



# **External validation**

#### What is it?

- Assess model performance in a new sample
- Compare predicted probabilities to observed outcomes
- Quantify model discrimination and calibration

#### Why do we need it?

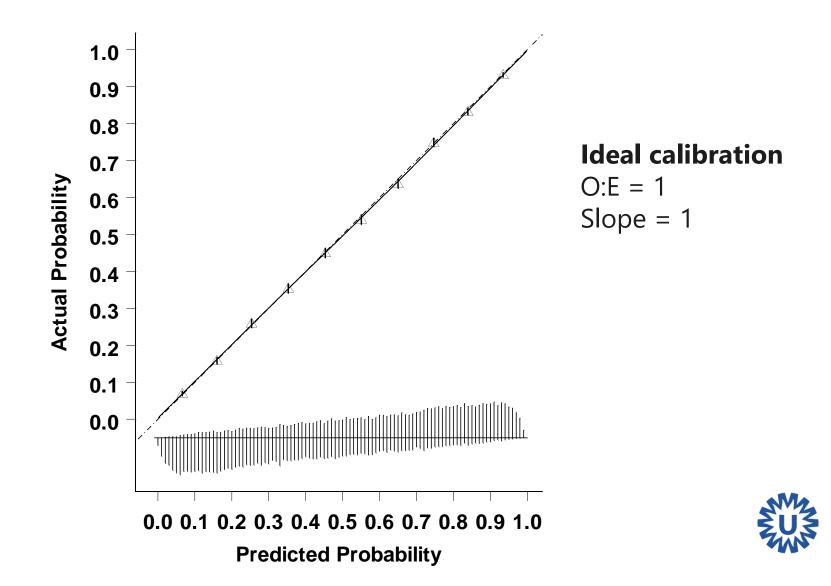
- Is the model reliable?
- Does the model generalize well across populations?
- Does the model require improvements/changes?
- Or, should we rather develop a new model from scratch?



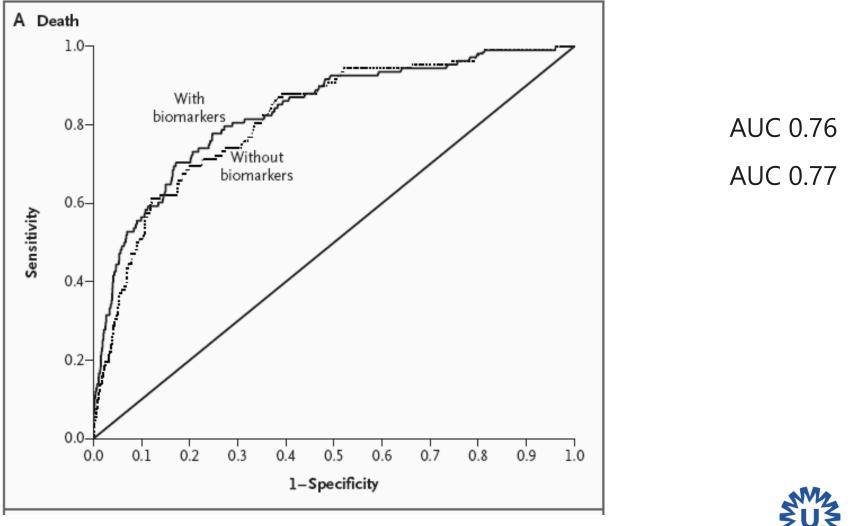
# **Prediction model performance measures**



# **Calibration plot – good model?**



# Model to predict cardiovascular outcomes – added value biomarkers?



Wang TJ, et al. NEJM

# **Prediction model performance measures**

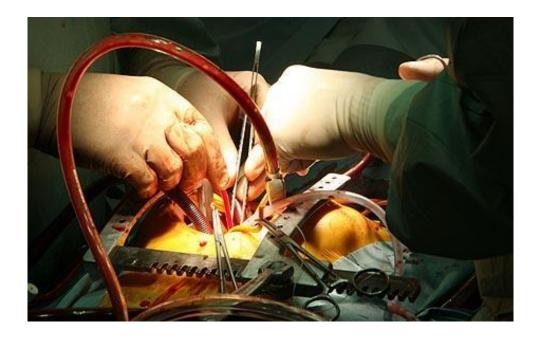
- Calibration
  - plot (for specific time point in case of survival models)
  - Ratio of observed and expected events
  - Calibration slope, calibration-in-the-large
- Discrimination
  - C-statistic (ROC area for logistic regression)
- (Re)classification  $\rightarrow$  requires probability thresholds
  - Two by to tables → diagnostic test accuracy MA procedures
  - NRI → in case of model comparison / addition of new predictor → requires thresholds → beyond this workshop



# Example

**Predicting mortality after cardiac surgery** 

- Cardiac surgery in high-risk population
- Need for risk stratification
- Establish risk profile of cardiac surgical patients using multivariable prediction models





#### **Example** Predicting mortality after cardiac surgery

Development of EuroSCORE model



European Journal of Cardio-thoracic Surgery 15 (1999) 816-823

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF CARDIO-THORACIC SURGERY

# Risk factors and outcome in European cardiac surgery: analysis of the EuroSCORE multinational database of 19030 patients<sup> $\ddagger$ </sup>

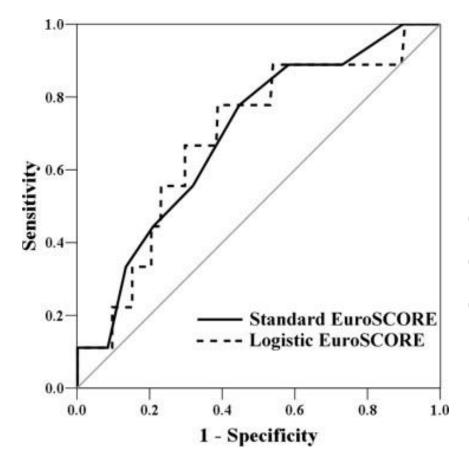
F. Roques<sup>\*</sup>, S.A.M. Nashef, P. Michel, E. Gauducheau, C. de Vincentiis, E. Baudet, J. Cortina, M. David, A. Faichney, F. Gabrielle, E. Gams, A. Harjula, M.T. Jones, P. Pinna Pintor, R. Salamon, L. Thulin

Service de chirurgie cardiovasculaire, CHU de Fort de France, 97200 Martinique, France

Received 22 September 1998; received in revised form 8 March 1999; accepted 11 March 1999



#### Discrimination

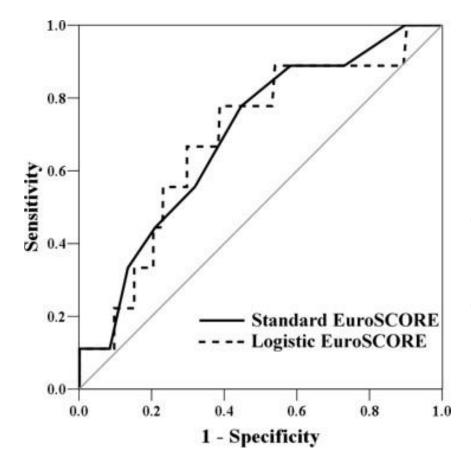


What c-statistic does the ROC curve indicate?

(a) 0.75 - 1.00 (b) 0.60 - 0.75 (c) < 0.60



#### Discrimination



What c-statistic does the ROC curve indicate?

(a) 0.75 - 1.00
(b) 0.60 - 0.75 (0.71)
(c) < 0.60</li>



#### **Calibration**

Expected mortality (%) versus observed in-hospital mortality

Score	Ν	Expected	Observed
0-2	201	1.4	0.5
3-5	309	4.0	1.0
6-8	181	6.8	2.2
>= 9	66	10.5	3.0

**How well does the standard EuroSCORE calibrate?** 

- (a) <u>Good</u>
- (b) <u>Poor</u>, due to over-prediction
- (c) <u>Poor</u>, due to under-prediction



#### Calibration

Expected mortality (%) versus observed in-hospital mortality

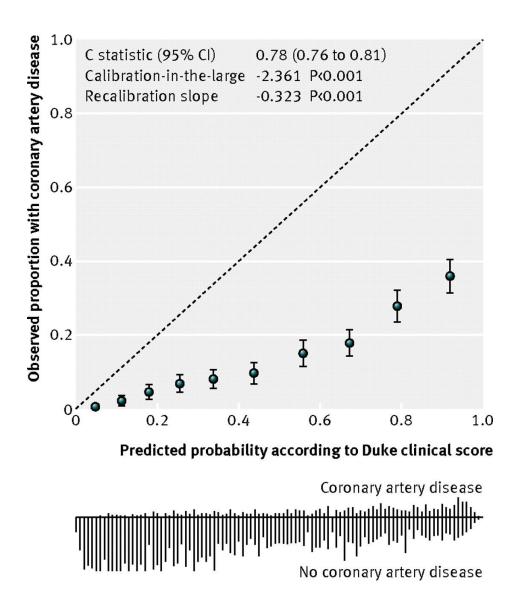
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>= 9	66	10.5	3.0



- (a) <u>Good</u>
- (b) **<u>Poor</u>**, due to over-prediction
- (c) <u>Poor</u>, due to under-prediction



# **Calibration plot – good model?**





**Ref**: Genders et al. Prediction model to estimate presence of coronary artery disease: retrospective pooled analysis of existing cohorts. BMJ 2012



# **Caveats in prediction modeling research**

- Lack of external validation studies
- Lack of head-to-head comparisons
- Lack of data to tailor the model to local circumstances





# Numerous models for same target population + outcomes

"Comparing risk prediction models should be routine when deriving a new model for the same purpose" (Collins 2012)



"Substantial work is needed to understand how competing prediction models compare and how they can best be applied to individualize care." (Wessler 2015)



"There is an excess of models predicting incident CVD in the general population. The usefulness of most of the models remains unclear." (Damen 2016)



# We need systematic review and metaanalysis of validation studies

#### Aims

- Summarize model performance
- Investigate generalizability

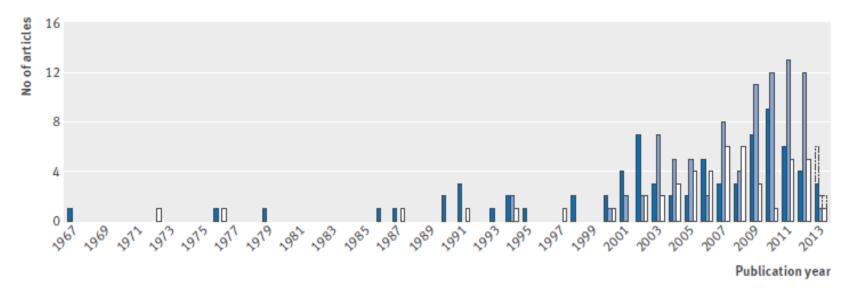
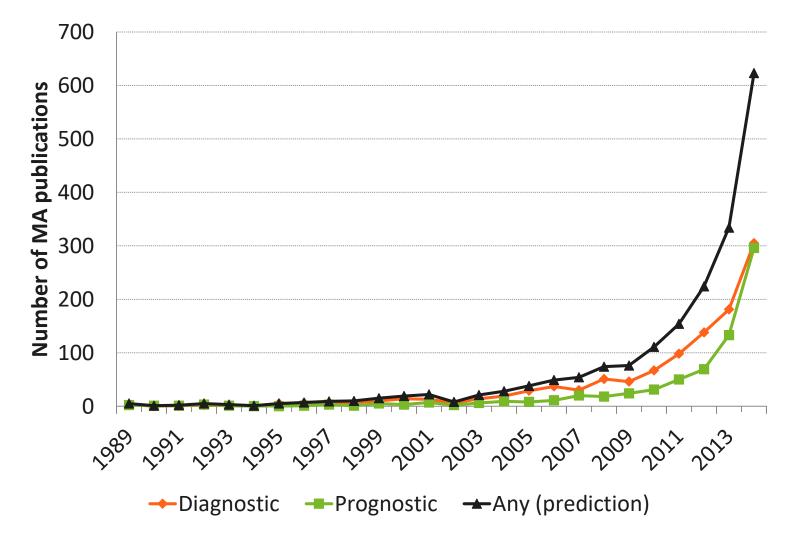


Fig 2 | Numbers of articles in which only one or more models were developed (dark blue), only one or more models were externally validated (light blue), or one or more models were developed and externally validated (white), ordered by publication year (up to June 2013). Predictions of the total numbers in 2013 are displayed with dotted lines

# Systematic review and meta-analysis of prediction models increasingly popular





# **Recommended steps**



- 1. Formulating the review question
- 2. Formulating the search strategy
- 3. Critical appraisal (CHARMS & PROBAST)
- 4. Quantitive data extraction
  - Discrimination
  - Calibration
- 5. Meta-analysis
- 6. Reporting (TRIPOD)



## **Focus of today**

# Systematic review and meta-analysis of prediction model performance

Illustration: 22 validations of the the additive European system for cardiac operative risk evaluation (EuroSCORE)



Important: The previous additive and logistic EuroSCORE models are out of date. A new model has been prepared from fresh data and is launched at the 2011 EACTS meeting in Lisbon. The model is called EuroSCORE II - we strongly advise that you use this model - <u>available here</u>. If you really wish to calculate the older "additive" or "logistic" EuroSCORE you can use it below.

	Patient-related factors			Cardiac-related factors	
Age (years)	0	0	Unstable angina <sup>6</sup>	No 🔻 0	
Gender	Select V	0	LV function	Select V 0	
Chronic pulmonary disease <sup>1</sup>	No 🔻	0	Recent MI <sup>7</sup>	No 🔻 0	
Extracardiac arteriopathy <sup>2</sup>	No 🔻	0	Pulmonary hypertension <sup>8</sup>	No 🔻 0	
Neurological dysfunction <sup>3</sup>	No 🔻	0		Operation-related factors	
Previous Cardiac Surgery	No 🔻	0	Emergency <sup>9</sup>	No ▼ 0	
Creatinine > 200 μmol/ L	No 🔻	0	Other than isolated CABG	No <b>T</b> 0	
Active endocarditis <sup>4</sup>	No 🔻	0	Surgery on thoracic aorta	No 🔻 0	
Critical preoperative state <sup>5</sup>	No 🔻	0	Post infarct septal rupture	No ▼ 0	
Standard TEUroSCORE	0				
Note: Logistic is now default	calculator Calculate Clear				

## **Step 1** Formulating the review question and protocol



## **Step 1** Formulating the review question and protocol

- Describe rationale, objectives, design, methodology and statistical considerations of the systematic review
- Define the PICOTS

Extensively discussed in the CHARMS workshop!



# **Step 1** Formulating the review question and protocol

#### **Predictive performance of the EuroSCORE**

<b>P</b> opulation	Patients undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting
<u>Intervention</u>	The (additive) EuroSCORE model
<u><b>C</b></u> omparator	Not applicable
<u>O</u> utcome(s)	All cause mortality
<u>T</u> iming	30 days, predicted using peri-operative conditions
<u>S</u> etting	risk stratification in the assessment of cardiac surgical results



## **Step 2** Formulating the search strategy



# **Step 2** Formulating the search strategy

- Use information from the PICOTS
- Combine with existing search filters
- Evaluate citations of the development paper

**Tools**: electronic databases, conference abstracts, hand searching, online registers





# **Step 3 Critical appraisal**



## **Step 3 Critical appraisal**

#### Evaluate **bias and applicability** of each validation study

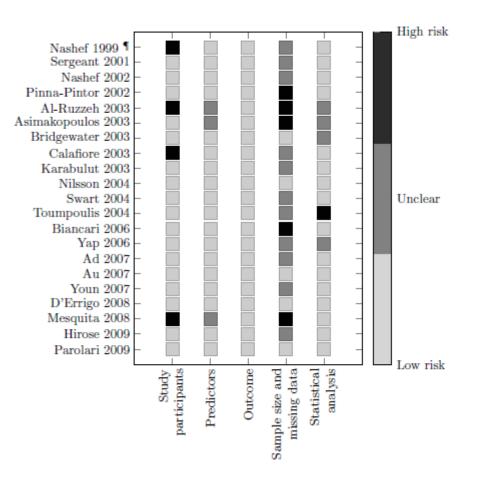
- CHARMS checklist
- PROBAST (2017) see previous workshop

Decide whether studies should be excluded due to low quality and/or applicability with respect to the current review



## **Step 3 Critical appraisal**

#### **Predictive performance of the EuroSCORE**





# **Step 4** Quantitative data extraction and preparation



# **Step 4** Quantitative data extraction and preparation



What statistics can we summarize when reviewing external validation studies?



Quantitative data extraction and preparation

#### What statistics can we summarize?

- Overall performance
- Model discrimination
- Model calibration



Quantitative data extraction and preparation

#### **Measures of overall performance**

- Explained variation (R<sup>2</sup>)
- Brier score

However, studying the discriminative ability and calibration of a model is often more meaningful than an overall performance measure when we want to appreciate the quality of model predictions for individuals.

**Ref**: Steyerberg. Clinical prediction models: a practical approach to development, validation and updating. Springer 2009.



#### Discrimination

Quantifies the model's ability to distinguish between events and non-events

- Summary statistics
  - Concordance (c) index
  - Area under the ROC curve (AUC)
  - Discrimination slope
- Visual inspection
  - Receiving Operating Characteristics (ROC) curve



#### Calibration

Agreement between observed outcomes and predictions

- Summary statistics
  - O:E statistic (#observed events / #predicted events)
  - Calibration-in-the-large
  - Calibration slope
- Visual inspection
  - Calibration plot



Quantitative data extraction and preparation

#### **Common problems in data extraction**

- Selective reporting
- Inconsistent measures of model performance
- Incomplete assessments (e.g. calibration)
- Missing estimates of precision (e.g. standard error)



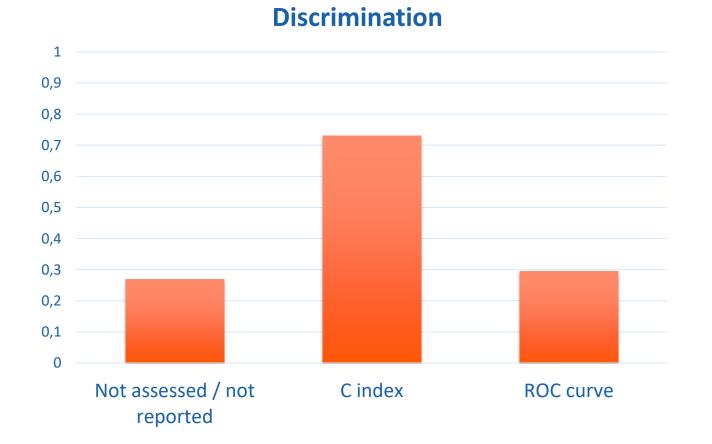
	Discrimination; c-statistic (95% CI)			
Study	Development	Validation	Calibration	
Ando et al. [32]	Not reported	0.841 (0.799–0.894)	Not assessed	
Bang et al. [37]	Not reported	0.88 and 0.71	Not assessed	
Chien et al. [33]	0.768 (0.738-0.798)	0.667 (0.631-0.703)	Hosmer–Lemeshow, $P > 0.1$	
Fisher and Taylor [38]	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	
Halbesma et al. [34]	0.84 (0.82-0.86)	0.84 (bootstrap)	Not assessed	
Hemmelgarn et al. [40]	0.59	0.59	Hosmer–Lemeshow, $\chi^2 = 0.77$	
Hippisley-Cox and Coupland [31] (chronic kidney disease)	Not reported	0.877 and 0.875 (women) 0.878 and 0.875 (men)	Calibration plot	
Hippisley-Cox and Coupland [31] (end-stage kidney disease)	Not reported	0.843 and 0.818 (women) 0.846 and 0.839 (men)	Calibration plot	
Keane et al. [41]	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	
Kshirsagar et al. [35]	0.70	0.70	Hosmer–Lemeshow, $P > 0.2$	
Tangri et al. [36]	0.917 (0.901–0.933)	0.841 (0.825–0.857)	Nam and D'Agostino, $\chi^2 = 19$ calibration plot	
Thakkinstian et al. [39]	0.770	0.741	0.045 <sup>a</sup>	

Table 2. Summary of performance data and reporting

**Ref:** Collins et al. A systematic review finds prediction models for chronic kidney were poorly reported and often developed using inappropriate methods. JCE 2012.

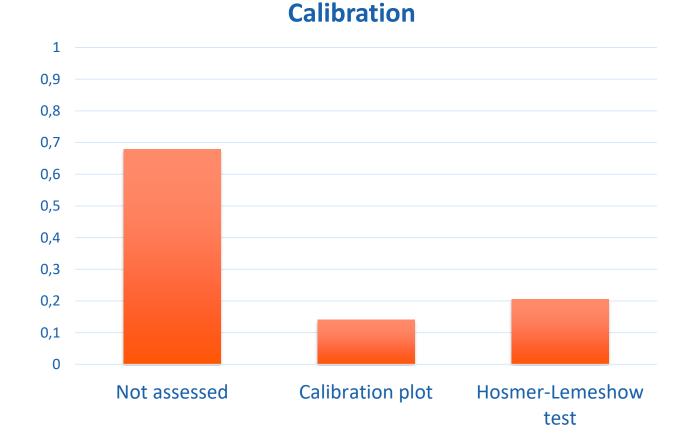


## **Reporting of performance measures**





## **Reporting of performance measures**



NMA US

Quantitative data extraction and preparation

#### **Dealing with incomplete reporting**

- C-statistic
  - Directly related to Somer's D statistic
  - Can be approximated from the distribution of the LP
  - Can be approximated from the log-odds ratio of the LP
  - Can be approximated from Cohen's effect size
- O:E ratio (or E:O ratio)
  - Can be calculated from O and E, or, from Pr(O) and Pr(E)
  - Can be derived from calibration-in-the-large
  - Can often be derived from calibration plots and/or tables



Quantitative data extraction and preparation

#### **Dealing with incomplete reporting**

- SE of the C-statistic
  - can be retrieved from 95% CI
  - can be estimated from #events, #non-events and total sample size
- SE of the O:E ratio
  - Can be retrieved from 95% CI
  - Can be retrieved from p-values
  - Can be approximated from O and/or Pr(O)



Quantitative data extraction and preparation

#### **Other information to extract**

- Information on case-mix variation
  - Mean & standard deviation of key subject characteristics
  - Mean & standard deviation of the linear predictor
- Information on key study characteristics
  - Location
  - Standards w.r.t. treatments, patient referral, ...

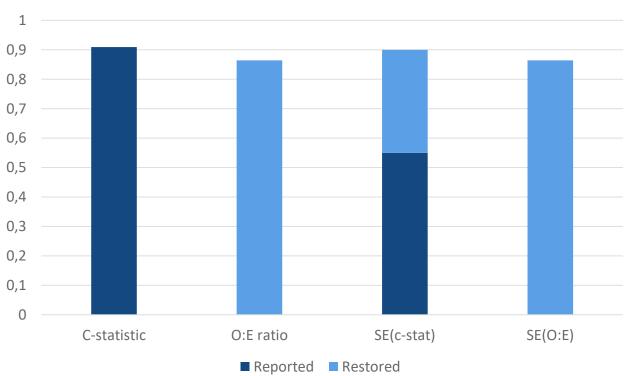


#### **Predictive performance of the EuroSCORE**

- C-statistic
  - Summary statistic reported in 20 validations
  - SE approximated for 7 studies
- O:E
  - Relevant information obtained for 21 validations
- Case-mix
  - Distribution of the LP obtained for 15 validation studies



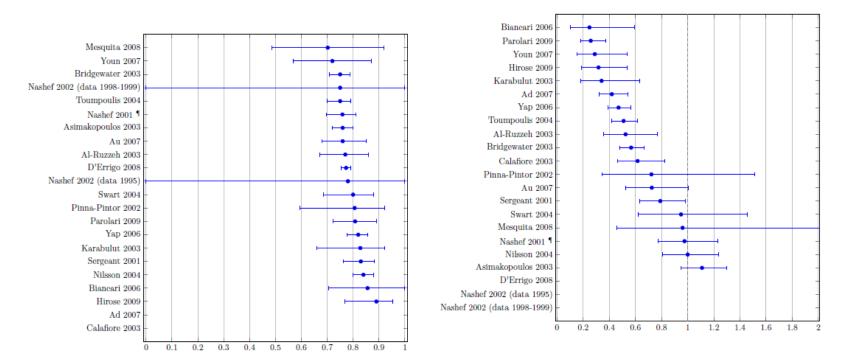
#### **Predictive performance of the EuroSCORE**



Data extraction



#### **Predictive performance of the EuroSCORE**



(i) Forest plot of the study-specific c-statistics. All 95% confidence intervals were estimated on the logit scale.

(ii) Forest plot of the study-specific total O:E ratios. When missing, 95% confidence intervals were approximated on the log scale using the equations from Appendix 7.





#### Recap

- Fixed effect meta-analysis
  - The model's *true* predictive accuracy is the same for all validation studies
  - Variation in predictive accuracy only appears due to chance
- Random effects meta-analysis
  - The model's *true* predictive accuracy differs across validation studies
  - Variation in predictive accuracy arises from sampling error and between-study heterogeneity



#### **Fixed or random effects?**

- Assumption of homogeneity (fixed effect) often unrealistic because validation studies typically differ in design, execution and case-mix variation
- Ignoring heterogeneity leads to an overly precise summary result
- Summary estimates of predictive accuracy have limited usefulness when there is strong heterogeneity



#### **Other considerations**

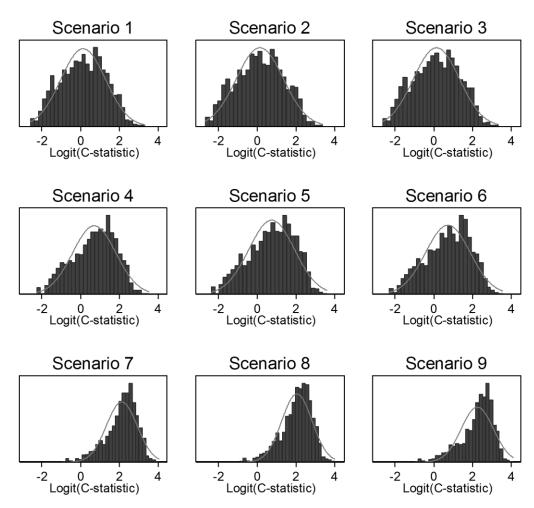
- Traditional meta-analysis methods assume normality of performance statistics within and across studies
- Normality assumption often challenged because:
  - Some performance measures are bounded: c-statistic (between 0 and 1), total O:E ratio (between 0 and +Inf)
  - Central Limit Theorem not applicable in small samples
- Potentially leading to misleading estimates of uncertainty, and to biased summary estimates



#### Recommendations

- Allow for random effects
- Rescaling of C-statistics using **logit** transformation
- Rescaling of total O:E ratios using **log** transformation
- No rescaling needed for calibration slope or calibration-in-the-large
- Apply restricted maximum likelihood estimation
- Use Hartung-Knapp-Sidik-Jonkman method for deriving 95% confidence intervals

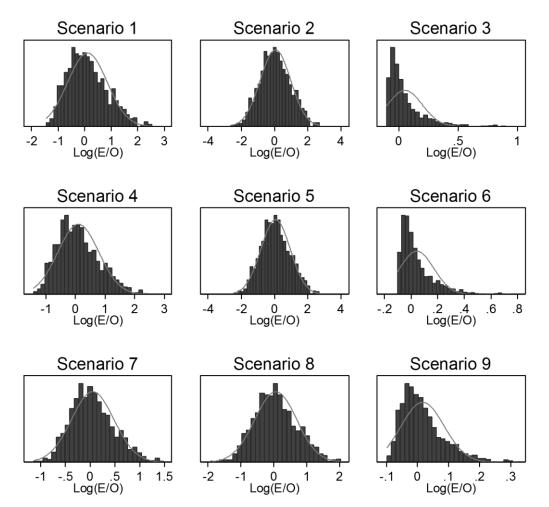




Histograms for the **logit(c-statistic)** in hypothetical validation studies with strong variation in *true* predictor effects

**Ref**: Snell KIE et al, Prediction model performance across multiple studies: which scale to use for the c-statistic and calibration measures? *In preparation* 





Histograms for the total **log(E:O)** ratio in hypothetical validation studies with strong variation in baseline risk

**Ref**: Snell KIE et al, Prediction model performance across multiple studies: which scale to use for the c-statistic and calibration measures? *In preparation* 



**Random effects models** 

- C-statistic  $logit(c_i) \sim N(\mu_{discr}, var(logit(c_i)) + \tau_{discr}^2)$
- Total O:E ratio

 $\log(O:E_i) \sim N(\mu_{cal}, \operatorname{var}(\log(O:E_i)) + \tau_{cal}^2)$ 



## Formula

• Discrimination:

• 
$$\operatorname{logit}(c_i) = \operatorname{log}\left(\frac{c_i}{1-c_i}\right)$$

• 
$$\operatorname{var}(\operatorname{logit}(c_i)) = \frac{\operatorname{var}(c_i)}{(c_i(1-c_i))^2}$$

• Calibration

• 
$$\log(O:E_i) = \log\left(\frac{O_i}{E_i}\right)$$

• 
$$\operatorname{var}(\log(O:E_i)) = \frac{1 - Po_i}{O_i} \approx \frac{1}{O_i}$$





**Guidance** paper

More information for obtaining relevant estimates of predictive performance and uncertainty soon to appear:

Debray TPA et al. A guide to systematic review and meta-analysis of prediction model performance. BMJ. *Provisionally accepted*.



## **Quantifying heterogeneity**

l<sup>2</sup> statistic

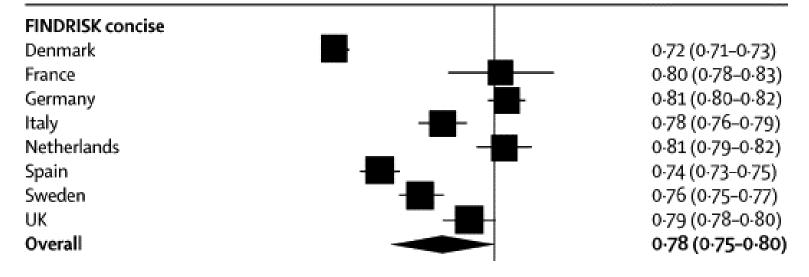
- Describes the percentage of total variation across studies that is due to heterogeneity rather than chance
- A value of 0% indicates no observed heterogeneity, larger values show increasing heterogeneity (max: 100%)

Relevance of I<sup>2</sup> depends on the precision of individual studies Large I<sup>2</sup> values may be misleading and vice versa





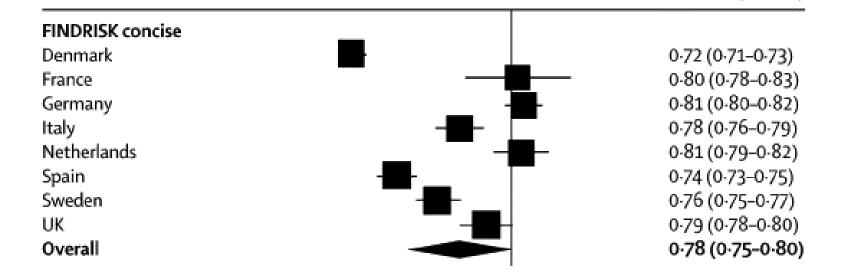
#### C statistic (95% CI)



**Ref**: Kengne et al. Non-invasive risk scores for prediction of type 2 diabetes (EPIC-InterAct): a validation of existing models. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol 2014.



**I**<sup>2</sup> = **98%** 







C statistic (95% CI)

#### **Quantifying heterogeneity**

Prediction interval

- Combines the standard error of the summary estimate with the estimate for between-study variability
- Typically based on a T distribution
- Provides a range for the potential predictive accuracy in a new validation study
- Ideally calculated from 10 or more validation studies



#### **Quantifying heterogeneity**

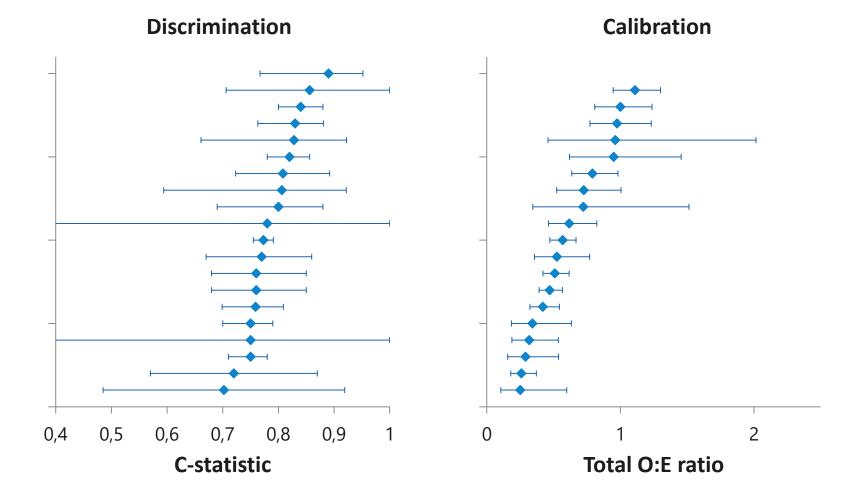
Probability of "good" performance

- Calculate the likelihood of achieving a certain c-statistic and/or total O:E ratio in a new validation study
- Rough indication of model generalizability

**Ref**: Snell et al. Multivariate meta-analysis of individual participant data helped externally validate the performance and implementation of a prediction model . JCE 2015.



#### **Results for EuroSCORE**



#### **Results for EuroSCORE**

Meta-analysis	Ν	Summary	95% CI	95% PI
C-statistic	18	0.78	0.76 - 0.80	0.73 – 0.83
O:E ratio	19	0.55	0.43 - 0.69	0.20 - 1.53

Probability of "good" discrimination (c > 0.75) = **89%** Probability of "good" calibration ( $0.8 \le 0:E \le 1.2$ ) = **15%** 



# **Step 6** Investigating heterogeneity across studies



Investigating heterogeneity across studies

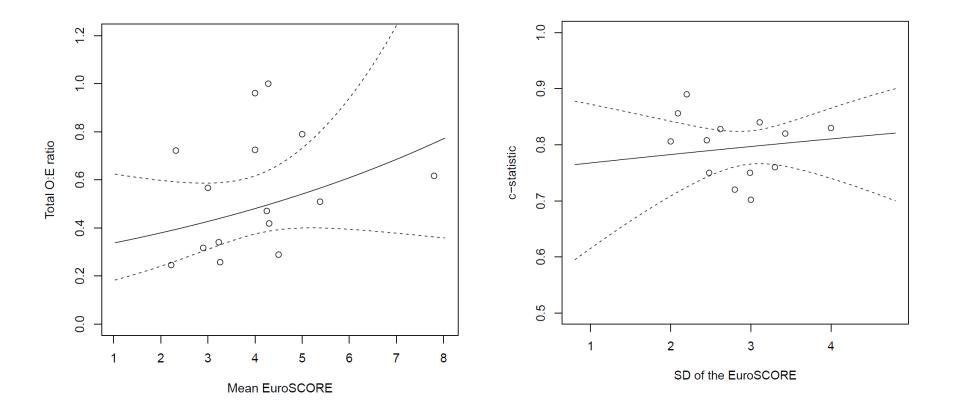
- Summary estimates of limited value in presence of strong heterogeneity
- Heterogeneity in model performance should be expected
  - C statistic may vary due to differences in "true" regression coefficients and/or due to differences in case-mix
  - Total O:E ratio may vary due to differences in outcome prevalence
- Need for meta-regression / subgroup analysis



## **Step 6** Investigating heterogeneity across studies

#### **Meta-analysis of EuroSCORE performance**

Adjustment for case-mix variation







## **Step 7** Sensitivity analyses

#### **Evaluate the robustness of drawn conclusions**

- Influence of low(er) quality validation studies
- Influence of key modelling assumptions
- ...



#### **Step 7** Sensitivity analyses

#### **Results for EuroSCORE**

Meta-analysis	ROB	М	Summary	95% CI	95% PI
C-statistic	All	18	0.78	0.76 - 0.80	0.73 – 0.83
	Low	4	0.80	0.73 – 0.85	0.66 - 0.89
O:E ratio	All	19	0.55	0.43 - 0.69	0.20 - 1.53
	Low	3	0.57	0.10 - 3.33	0.02 - 19.15



#### **Step 7** Sensitivity analyses

#### Multivariate meta-analysis

- Joint pooling of model discrimination and calibration
- Borrow information across different performance measures within and across studies
- Make joint inferences on different aspects of model performance in new populations



Original Article

Multivariate meta-analysis of individual participant data helped externally validate the performance and implementation of a prediction model







# **Step 8** Reporting





#### **Relevant guidelines**

- PRISMA
- TRIPOD
- GRADE





# **Closing remarks**



# **Concluding remarks**

- Many similarities to other types of meta-analysis, however,
  - Data extraction more difficult
  - Heterogeneity more common
  - Summary estimates less meaningful
- Recommendations
  - Need for better reporting
  - Need for (minimal set of) standard performance measures
  - Need for IPD



#### **Conducting systematic reviews of prediction model studies**

Reporting of primary study	Transparent reporting of prediction models for prognosis and diagnosis (TRIPOD) – Collins et al. 2015 Ann Intern Med; Moons et al. 2015 Ann Intern Med				
Defining review question and developing criteria for including studies	Guidance for defining review question, design of the review and checklist for critical appraisal and data extraction (CHARMS) – <i>Moons et al 2014 PLOS Med</i>				
Searching for studies	Search filters for prediction studies – Geersing et al. 2012 PLOS One; Ingui et al. 2002 J Am Med Inform Assoc; Wong et al. 2003 AMIA Annual Symp Proc				
Selecting studies and collecting data	Guidance for defining review question, design of the review and checklist for critical appraisal and data extraction (CHARMS) – <i>Moons et al 2014 PLOS Med</i>				
Assessing risk of bias and applicability in included studies	Assessment of risk of bias and applicability (PROBAST) – Wolff et al. Publication in 2017, Moons et al. Publication in 2017				
Analysing data and undertaking meta-analyses	Meta-Analysis of clinical prediction models Ahmed et al. BMC Res Meth 2014; Debray et al. Stat Med 2012; Debray et al. Stat Med 2014 + Debray et al BMJ 2016				
Interpreting results and drawing conclusions	Guidance for interpretation of results Ahmed et al. BMC Res Meth 2014; Debray et al. Stat Med 2012; Debray et al. Stat Med 2014; PROBAST				
Reporting of systematic reviews	Transparent reporting of systematic reviews and meta- analysis (PRISMA) Moher et al. PLOS Med 2009				
Assessing risk of bias of systematic reviews	Risk of bias in systematic reviews (ROBIS) Whiting et al. J Clin Epid 2015				
Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions Version 5.1.0 - http://handbook.cochrane.org/					

Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions Version 5.1.0 - http://handbook.cochrane.org/

### Handy tools / Papers

- Debray TPA et al. A new framework to enhance the interpretation of external validation studies of clinical prediction models. J Clin Epidemiol. 2015.
- Debray TPA et al. A guide to systematic review and meta-analysis of prediction model performance. BMJ. Provisionally accepted.
- Snell KIE et al. Multivariate meta-analysis of individual participant data helped externally validate the performance and implementation of a prediction model. Journal of Clinical Epidemiology. 2015 May;69:40–50.
- Snell KIE et al. Prediction model performance across multiple studies: which scale to use for the c-statistic and calibration measures? In preparation



## Workshop aftercare

- Questions about workshop?
- Assistant needed with review of studies of prognosis studies?
- Please contact:
  - PMG Coordinator: Alexandra Hendry (Alexandra.Hendry@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)
  - PMG Co-convenor: Karel Moons (K.G.M.Moons@umcutrecht.nl)





# **Advanced topics**



# **Recall - In case no own (validation) IPD set**

#### Options

- SR and MA of a specific prediction model across multiple 'model-validation-studies'
   → Investigate heterogeneity in model performance
- SR and MA of a specific predictor when added to a specific model across multiple 'added-value-studies'
   → Investigate heterogeneity in the added value of a certain predictor



## **Option 2. SR and MA of specific model across multiple added-value studies**



What statistics can we summarize when reviewing added-value studies?



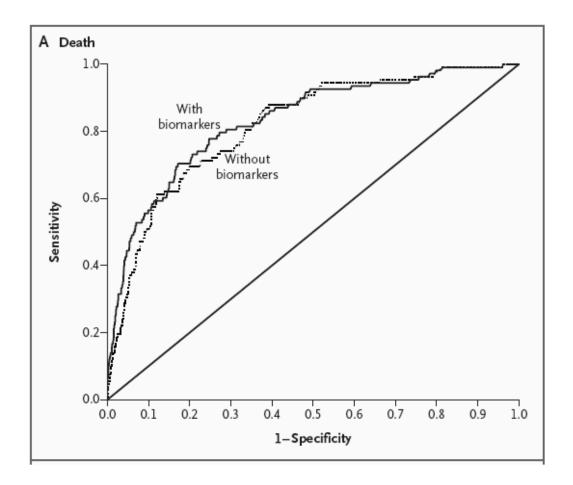
# 2. SR and MA of specific model across multiple added-value studies

#### What statistics can we meta-analyze?

- Change in overall performance
- Change in model discrimination
- Change in model calibration
- Model reclassification
- Adjusted regression coefficients



# Model to predict cardiovascular outcomes – added value biomarkers?



AUC 0.76 AUC 0.77

**Ref**: Wang et al. Multiple biomarkers for the prediction of first major cardiovascular events and death. NEJM 2006





#### Added value of new (bio)markers in Framingham Risk Score

Systematic review of studies that ...

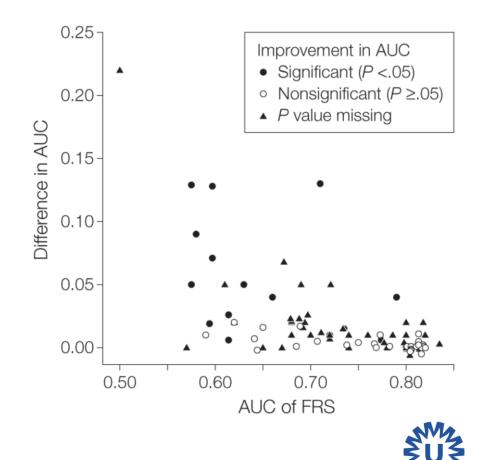
- ... evaluated various candidate prognostic factors in their ability to improve prediction of coronary hearth disease or other outcomes
- ... beyond what the Framingham risk score (FRS) can achieve



# Added value of new (bio)markers in Framingham Risk Score

#### **Reported test statistics**:

- AUC of FRS alone
- AUC of FRS with additional predictor(s)
- Δ AUC



### **Meta-analysis of discriminative improvement**

- Pooling of  $\Delta$  AUC statistic can be achieved using the same methods as for pooling AUC of a specific model!
- It is well known that measures of discrimination are insensitive to detecting (small) improvements in model performance when a new marker is added to a model that already includes important predictors



# Meta-analysis of model reclassification

Compare alternative models or evaluate addition of a new predictor

• Requires probability thresholds



Procedures

- Two by two tables
   → diagnostic test accuracy MA procedures
- Net reclassification index (NRI)
  - $\rightarrow$  beyond this lecture



# **Reclassification without probability thresholds**

**Integrated Discrimination Improvement** (IDI) integrates the NRI over all possible cut-offs for the probability of the outcome

- Equivalent to the difference in discrimination slopes of 2 models
- Equivalent to the difference in Pearson R<sup>2</sup> measures
- Equivalent to the difference in scaled Brier scores

So, we are back to meta-analysis of change in overall performance or discrimination



# Meta-analysis of adjusted regression coefficients

- Added value studies often correct for *similar* well-known predictors
- It is possible to pool adjusted log-odds (or log-hazard) ratio
- Methods similar to intervention research!

#### Interpretation of pooled estimates less straightforward



# Take home messages

- Strong focus on model (re-)development
  - Little efforts on model validation
  - Model performance often worse than anticipated
- Model updating recommended in many settings

#### Problems:

- Which literature model should be updated/used?
- How extensively should the model be updated?
- How to account for evidence from other models?



# **Basic & Advanced courses**

in Systematic Reviews, Meta Analysis, Clinical Epidemiolgy and Statistics



#### Face to Face & Online

- Systematic Reviews of Randomised Intervention Studies
- Systematic Reviews of Diagnostic Studies
- Systematic Reviews of Prognostic Studies
- Meta Analysis with Individual Participants Data
- Clinical Trials and Drug Risk Assessment
- Diagnostic Research
- Prognostic Research
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