TCGA-pancancer

Code from the Science Translational Medicine article about predicting patients' prognosis based on their transcriptomic phenotype

This R Markdown document is part of a series containing the code that was used to perform some of the analyses from the article "Loss of TGFB signaling increases alternative end-joining DNA repair that sensitizes to genotoxic therapies across cancer types", published on Science Translational Medicine on 2021 (link: https://stm.sciencemag.org/content/13/580/eabc4465).

Specifically, this is the code that was used to analyze the pancancer dataset from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA). Many of the results from this analysis can be seen in Figure 6 of the article.

PART 1: PREPARE THE ENVIRONMENT

#Step 1: Load (+/- install) the necessary packages.

```
library("GSVA")
library("GSEABase")
library("methods")
library("edgeR")
library("geneplotter")
library("genefilter")
library("BiocGenerics")
library("Biobase")
library("graph")
library("XML")
library("lattice")
library("limma")
library("shinythemes")
library("shiny")
library("RColorBrewer")
library("parallel")
library("cluster")
library("Matrix")
library("locfit")
library("snow")
library("dplyr")
library("ggplot2")
library ("remotes")
library("OIsurv")
library("survival")
library("KMsurv")
library("splines")
library("survminer")
library("readxl")
library("reshape2")
library("data.table")
```

PART 2: IMPORT THE FILES FOR THE ANALYSIS

#Step 1: Import the files with the ssGSEA scores.

```
sBLCA = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/BLCA.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sBRCA = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/BRCA.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sCOAD = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/COAD.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sESCA = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/ESCA.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sGBM = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/GBM.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sHNSC = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/HNSC.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sKIRC = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/KIRC.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sLIHC = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/LIHC.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sLUAD = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/LUAD.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sLUSC = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/LUSC.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sOV = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/OV.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sPAAD = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/PAAD.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sPRAD = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/PRAD.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sSKCM = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/SKCM.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sTGCT = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/TGCT.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sTHCA = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/THCA.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
sUCEC = fread("Input/ssgsea scores/UCEC.ssgseas.tsv", data.table=FALSE)
##These files were sent by collaborators (Miquel Angel, Roderic and Luis) on March 2020.
##Contain the ssSGSEA scores from TCGA-pancancer patients calculated by them.
```

#Step 2: Merge all the ssGSEA scores in one file.

```
ssgsea <- rbind(sBLCA,sBRCA,sCOAD,sESCA,sGBM,sHNSC,sKIRC,sLIHC,sLUAD,sLUSC,sOV,sPAAD,sPRAD,sSKCM,sTGCT,ssgsea$sampleID <- ssgsea$V1
ssgsea$sampleID <- chartr(".", "-", ssgsea$sampleID) #turn "."s into "-"s
ssgsea$sampleID <- substring(ssgsea$sampleID,1,15) #keep only characters 1-15
##Dimensions: 7115 samples x 5 variables.
```

#Step 3: Import the file with clinical information.

```
PanCancer_ClinicalInformation <- read_excel("Input/PanCancer_ClinicalInformation.xlsx")

##This file contatins clinical information from TCGA-pancancer patients with primary solid tumors.

##It was sent by a collaborator (Mao) on March 2020, who generated it from the from the integrated TCGA

##Dimensions: 10967 samples x 13 variables.
```

PART 3: PUT ALL THE INFORMATION THAT WE WILL NEED FOR FURTHER ANALYSES IN ONE SINGLE DATAFRAME

#Step 1: Merge the "ssgsea" and the "PanCancer ClinicalInformation" dataframes.

[1] 6949 18

#Step 2: Prepare the survival variables so that they are in the appropriate format.

PART 4: ELIMINATE RECURRENT AND NORMAL TISSUE SAMPLES

#Step 1: Create a variable that shows the sample type.

```
ALL$Sample.type.2 <- substr(ALL$ID2, 13, 15) #Keep only sample type numbers.
table(ALL$Sample.type.2) #6949 primary; 0 normal; 0 recurrent.

##
## -01
## 6949
```

PART 5: CALCULATE THE BALT SCORE OF EACH SAMPLE

#Step 1: Create a new variable that is be the Balt score.

PART 6: ANALYSIS OF THE CORRELATION BETWEEN TGFB AND ALTEJ SSGSEA SCORES

#Step 1: Create a scatterplot of TGFB versus ALTEJ ssGSEA scores, coloring the cancer type.

```
ggplot(ALL, aes(x=ALL$Upregulated_TGF_beta, y=ALL$ALT_EJ_repair, col=ALL$`TCGA PanCanAtlas Cancer Type
geom_point() +
geom_smooth(method = "lm", fill = NA) +
labs(x = "TGF ssGSEA score", y = "Alt-EJ ssGSEA score", color = "Cancer type") +
theme(legend.title=element_text(size=8))
```



#Step 2: Calculate Pearson correlation coefficient.

sample estimates:

-0.2022518

cor

##

```
##
## Pearson's product-moment correlation
##
## data: ALL$Upregulated_TGF_beta and ALL$ALT_EJ_repair
## t = -17.213, df = 6947, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true correlation is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -0.2246959 -0.1795933</pre>
```

cor.test(ALL\$Upregulated_TGF_beta, ALL\$ALT_EJ_repair, method = "pearson")

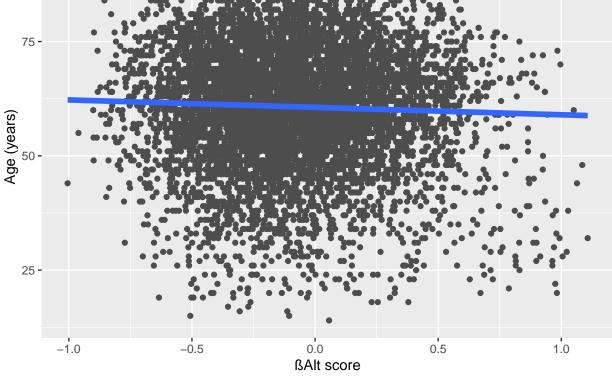
#Step 3: Calculate the Pearson correlation coefficient BY CANCER TYPE.

```
library(broom)
TumCor <- ALL %>%
  group_by(`TCGA PanCanAtlas Cancer Type Acronym`) %>%
  do(tidy(cor.test(.$Upregulated_TGF_beta, .$ALT_EJ_repair, method = "pearson"))) #All anticorrelated.
```

PART 7: ANALYSIS OF THE CORRELATION OF "AGE VS BALT SCORE"

#Step 1: Calculate Pearson correlation coefficient of age vs BAlt score.

```
cor.test(ALL$balt, ALL$`Diagnosis Age`, method = "pearson") #PCC=-0.0396
##
   Pearson's product-moment correlation
##
##
## data: ALL$balt and ALL$`Diagnosis Age`
## t = -3.267, df = 6793, p-value = 0.001092
\#\# alternative hypothesis: true correlation is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -0.06332505 -0.01584447
## sample estimates:
##
           cor
## -0.03960712
#Step 2: Create a scatterplot of Age vs BAlt score.
ggplot(ALL, aes(x=ALL$balt, y=ALL$`Diagnosis Age`)) + geom_point(col="grey30") +
  labs(x = "Alt score", y = "Age (years)") +
  theme(legend.title=element_text(size=8)) +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", fill = NA, size=2)
   75 -
```



PART 8: SELECT PATIENTS WHO PROBABLY RECEIVED GENOTOXIC TREATMENT

#Step 1-A: Create a subdataframe with patients treated with RT.

```
table(ALL$`Radiation Therapy`)
ALL_RT <- ALL[which(ALL$`Radiation Therapy`=="Yes"),] #6.949-->1.737 patients.

dim(ALL_RT)
## [1] 1737 21
```

#Step 2-A: Create a new variable that represents the tertile that each patient belongs to, according to the value of the BAlt score.

```
ALL_RT <- ALL_RT %>% mutate(tertile = ntile(balt,3))
table(ALL_RT$^TCGA PanCanAtlas Cancer Type Acronym^, ALL_RT$tertile)
ALL_RT$Tertile <- ifelse(ALL_RT$tertile == 2, NA, ALL_RT$tertile)
```

#Step 1-B: Create a subdataframe with patients who, based on their cancer type and stage, their standard of care treatment includes RT and/or genotoxic ChT.

dim(ALL_RTChT)

[1] 3577 21

```
##Inclusion criteria. RT yes or:
##BLCA: Stage 4.
##BRCA: RT.
##COAD: Stage not 1.
##ESCA (Esophageal): Stage not 1 nor 2a.
##GBM: All.
##HNSC: Stage not 1.
##KIRC (Renal): RT.
##LIHC (Liver): RT.
##LUAD and LUSC: Stage not 1.
##OV: Stage not 1a.
##PAAD (Pancreas): All.
##PRAD (Prostate): RT.
##SKCM: RT.
##TGCT seminoma: RT.
```

```
##THCA (Thyroid): RT.
##UCEC (Endometrial): RT.
##Reasoning behind the inclusion criteria:
##BLCA: Stage 4 usually includes genotoxic ChT with platin agents and earlier stages are frequently tre
##BRCA: Usually treated with surgery + RT +/- HT +/- Trastuzumab +/- ChT. ChT frequently consists of an
##COAD: Stage I may be treated with surgery alone. In other stages ChT usually includes genotoxic Plati
##ESCA: Stages T1-2NOMO (stages <IIB) may be treated with surgery alone. Otherwise RT, ChT or both are
##GBM: Standard treatment is usually surgery + RT + ChT. ChT usually consists of genotoxic Temozolamide
##HNSC: Stage I may be treated with surgery alone. Otherwise treatment usually includes RT, ChT or both
##KIRC: RT is rarely indicated. Many times treated with surgery alone and the systemic treatment, when
##LIHC: Many treated with surgery alone. Systemic treatment rarely includes genotoxic drugs, as the mos
##LUAD and LUSC: Stage I may be treated with surgery alone. Otherwise treatment usually includes RT, Ch
##OV: Stage Ia may be treated with surgery alone and stage>Ia usually receive ChT. ChT usually includes
##PAAD: Rarely treated with surgery alone. RT and/or ChT are frequently added. ChT most usually include
##PRAD: Usually treated with HT combined with surgery, RT or both. ChT is given only in some stage IV p
##SKCM: Many treated with surgery alone. Systemic treatment rarely includes genotoxic drugs.
##TGCT: Treated with surgery. In seminomas, RT is usually added (and/or ChT if stage >I) and, in non-se
##THCA: Most of them are treated with surgery alone. Few exceptions are treated with both RT and ChT, s
##UCEC: Stage I may be treated with surgery alone. Otherwise RT is usually given. ChT is used mainly in
```

#Step 2-B: Create a new variable that represents the tertile that each patient belongs to, according to the value of the BAlt score.

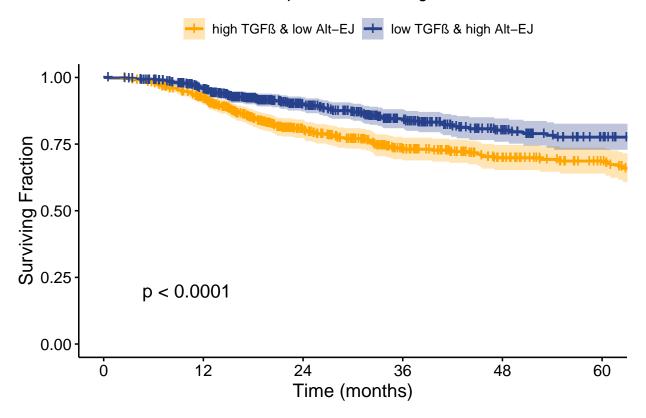
```
ALL_RTChT <- ALL_RTChT %>% mutate(tertile = ntile(balt,3))
table(ALL_RTChT$^TCGA PanCanAtlas Cancer Type Acronym^, ALL_RTChT$tertile)
ALL_RTChT$Tertile <- ifelse(ALL_RTChT$tertile == 2, NA, ALL_RTChT$tertile)
```

PART 9: OVERALL SURVIVAL CURVES OF THE BALT SCORE GROUPS

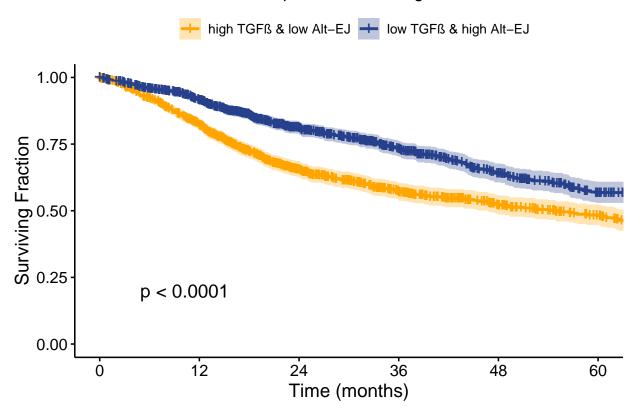
#Step 1: Plot and compare the OS curves between Balt score top and bottom tertiles.

##TGCT non-seminoma: All.

OS in tertiles 1 versus 3 of patients according to their ßAlt score



OS in tertiles 1 versus 3 of patients according to their ßAlt score



PART 10: CALCULATE THE HAZARD RATIOS OF THE SURVIVAL CURVES FROM PART 9

#Step 1: In the variable tertile, make "high TGFB and low ALTEJ" the reference level so that the Hazard Ratios are expressed as 0.x instead of 1.x.

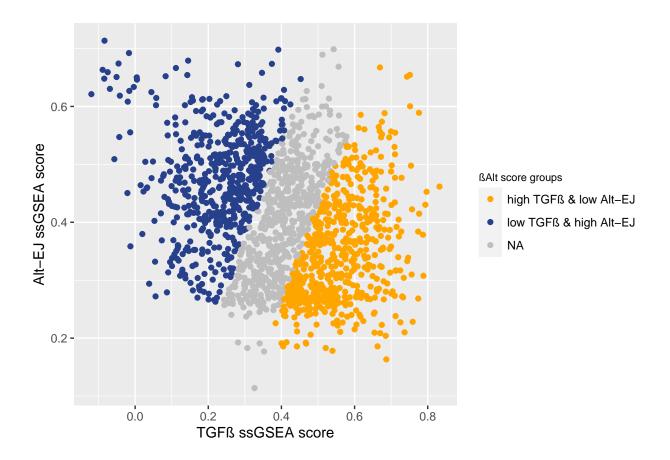
#Step 2: Calculate the OS hazard ratio of BAlt tertile 1 versus 3.

```
##In patients treated with RT
my.surv.object <- Surv(time=ALL_RT$^Overall Survival (Months)^, event=ALL_RT$OSstatus)
cox<-coxph(my.surv.object ~ ALL_RT$Tertile)
summary(cox) #HR=0.56</pre>
```

```
## Call:
## coxph(formula = my.surv.object ~ ALL_RT$Tertile)
##
##
    n= 1157, number of events= 243
      (580 observations deleted due to missingness)
##
##
                                            coef exp(coef) se(coef)
                                                             0.1332 -4.345
## ALL_RT$Tertilelow TGFB and high ALTEJ -0.5788
                                                    0.5606
##
                                         Pr(>|z|)
## ALL_RT$Tertilelow TGFB and high ALTEJ 1.4e-05 ***
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
                                         exp(coef) exp(-coef) lower .95 upper .95
## ALL_RT$Tertilelow TGFB and high ALTEJ
                                            0.5606
                                                       1.784
                                                                 0.4318
                                                                           0.7278
##
## Concordance= 0.575 (se = 0.017)
## Likelihood ratio test= 19.62 on 1 df,
                                           p=9e-06
                       = 18.88 on 1 df,
## Wald test
                                           p=1e-05
## Score (logrank) test = 19.41 on 1 df,
                                           p=1e-05
##In patients treated with RT and/or genotoxic ChT
my.surv.object <- Surv(time=ALL_RTChT$\)Overall Survival (Months)\, event=ALL_RTChT\)OSstatus)
cox<-coxph(my.surv.object ~ ALL_RTChT$Tertile)</pre>
summary(cox) #HR=0.60
## Call:
## coxph(formula = my.surv.object ~ ALL_RTChT$Tertile)
##
##
    n= 2370, number of events= 861
##
      (1207 observations deleted due to missingness)
##
                                                coef exp(coef) se(coef)
                                                       0.60333 0.06925 -7.296
## ALL_RTChT$Tertilelow TGFB and high ALTEJ -0.50528
                                            Pr(>|z|)
## ALL_RTChT$Tertilelow TGFB and high ALTEJ 2.96e-13 ***
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
                                            exp(coef) exp(-coef) lower .95
## ALL RTChT$Tertilelow TGFB and high ALTEJ
                                               0.6033
                                                          1.657
                                            upper .95
## ALL_RTChT$Tertilelow TGFB and high ALTEJ
                                                0.691
##
## Concordance= 0.577 (se = 0.009)
## Likelihood ratio test= 54.04 on 1 df,
                                            p=2e-13
## Wald test
                       = 53.23 on 1 df,
                                           p=3e-13
## Score (logrank) test = 54.35 on 1 df,
                                           p=2e-13
```

PART 11: SCATTERPLOTS SHOWING THE TWO BALT SCORE GROUPS COMPARED IN PART 9

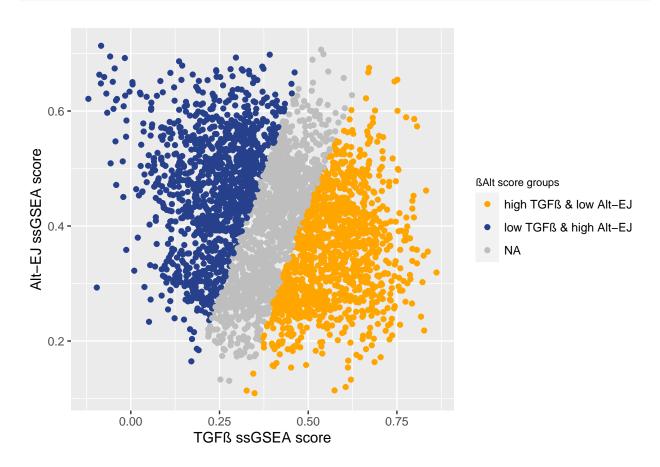
#Step 1: Create a scatterplot of TGFB versus ALTEJ ssGSEA scores, coloring the BAlt tertiles.



cor.test(ALL_RT\$Upregulated_TGF_beta, ALL_RT\$ALT_EJ_repair, method = "pearson") #PCC=-0.23

```
##
## Pearson's product-moment correlation
##
## data: ALL_RT$Upregulated_TGF_beta and ALL_RT$ALT_EJ_repair
## t = -10.048, df = 1735, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true correlation is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -0.2784559 -0.1895514
## sample estimates:
## cor
## -0.2344939</pre>
```

##In patients treated with RT and/or genotoxic ChT



cor.test(ALL_RTChT\$Upregulated_TGF_beta, ALL_RTChT\$ALT_EJ_repair, method = "pearson") #PCC=-0.16

```
##
## Pearson's product-moment correlation
##
## data: ALL_RTChT$Upregulated_TGF_beta and ALL_RTChT$ALT_EJ_repair
## t = -9.6255, df = 3575, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true correlation is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -0.1907181 -0.1268263
## sample estimates:
## cor
## -0.1589386</pre>
```

PART 12: MULTIVARIATE COX OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BALT SCORE WITH OS, ADJUSTED FOR AGE AND STAGE

#Step 1: Group stages into 4 groups (1, 2, 3 and 4)

```
##In patients treated with RT
table(ALL_RT$ Neoplasm Disease Stage American Joint Committee on Cancer Code )
ALL_RT$stage <- ALL_RT$`Neoplasm Disease Stage American Joint Committee on Cancer Code`
ALL RT$stage <- ifelse(ALL RT$stage == "STAGE I", "1",
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE IA", "1",
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE IB", "1",
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE II", "2",
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE IIA", "2",
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE IIB", "2",
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE IIC", "2",
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE III", "3",
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE IIIA", "3";
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE IIIB", "3",
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE IIIC", "3",
                          ifelse(ALL RT$stage == "STAGE IS", "1",
                          ifelse(ALL RT$stage == "STAGE IV", "4",
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE IVA", "4",
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE IVB", "4",
                          ifelse(ALL_RT$stage == "STAGE IVC", "4", NA))))))))))))))
table(ALL_RT$stage)
##In patients treated with RT and/or genotoxic ChT
table(ALL_RTChT$`Neoplasm Disease Stage American Joint Committee on Cancer Code`)
ALL_RTChT$stage <- ALL_RTChT$`Neoplasm Disease Stage American Joint Committee on Cancer Code`
ALL RTChT$stage <- ifelse(ALL RTChT$stage == "STAGE I", "1",
                            ifelse(ALL RTChT$stage == "STAGE IA", "1",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE IB", "1",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE II", "2",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE IIA", "2",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE IIB", "2",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE IIC", "2",
                            ifelse(ALL RTChT$stage == "STAGE III", "3",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE IIIA", "3",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE IIIB", "3",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE IIIC", "3",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE IS", "1",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE IV", "4",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE IVA", "4",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE IVB", "4",
                            ifelse(ALL_RTChT$stage == "STAGE IVC", "4", NA))))))))))))))
table(ALL_RTChT$stage)
```

#Step 2: Calculate survival multivariate Cox regression adjusted for age and stage of the BAlt score continuous variable.

```
##In patients treated with RT
my.surv.object <- Surv(time=ALL_RT$^Overall Survival (Months)^, event=ALL_RT$OSstatus)
cox<-coxph(my.surv.object ~ ALL_RT$balt + ALL_RT$^Diagnosis Age^ + ALL_RT$stage)
summary(cox) #P=0.003</pre>
```

```
## Call:
## coxph(formula = my.surv.object ~ ALL_RT$balt + ALL_RT$`Diagnosis Age` +
      ALL RT$stage)
##
##
    n= 1311, number of events= 235
     (426 observations deleted due to missingness)
##
##
##
                            coef exp(coef) se(coef)
                                                        z Pr(>|z|)
## ALL RT$balt
                        ## ALL_RT$`Diagnosis Age` 0.045386 1.046432 0.005654 8.027 9.97e-16 ***
## ALL_RT$stage2
                        0.745358 2.107196 0.272021 2.740 0.00614 **
                        1.168182 3.216141 0.264604 4.415 1.01e-05 ***
## ALL_RT$stage3
## ALL_RT$stage4
                        1.666491 5.293561 0.265038 6.288 3.22e-10 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
##
                        exp(coef) exp(-coef) lower .95 upper .95
## ALL RT$balt
                          0.4804
                                    2.0815
                                              0.2982
                                                       0.7741
                                    0.9556
                                              1.0349
## ALL_RT$ Diagnosis Age
                          1.0464
                                                       1.0581
## ALL RT$stage2
                          2.1072
                                    0.4746
                                              1.2364
                                                       3.5913
## ALL_RT$stage3
                          3.2161
                                    0.3109
                                              1.9147
                                                       5.4022
## ALL_RT$stage4
                          5.2936
                                    0.1889
                                              3.1488
                                                       8.8992
##
## Concordance= 0.744 (se = 0.015)
## Likelihood ratio test= 183.2 on 5 df,
                                       p=<2e-16
## Wald test
                      = 152.8 on 5 df,
                                        p=<2e-16
## Score (logrank) test = 173.9 on 5 df,
                                        p=<2e-16
##In patients treated with RT and/or genotoxic ChT
cox<-coxph(my.surv.object ~ ALL_RTChT$balt + ALL_RTChT$ Diagnosis Age + ALL_RTChT$stage)
summary(cox) #P<0.001</pre>
## Call:
## coxph(formula = my.surv.object ~ ALL_RTChT$balt + ALL_RTChT$`Diagnosis Age` +
##
      ALL_RTChT$stage)
##
##
    n= 2626, number of events= 797
     (951 observations deleted due to missingness)
##
##
##
                               coef exp(coef) se(coef)
                                                           z Pr(>|z|)
## ALL_RTChT$balt
                          -1.111831 0.328956 0.129779 -8.567 < 2e-16 ***
## ALL_RTChT$`Diagnosis Age` 0.037804 1.038527 0.003046 12.410 < 2e-16 ***
## ALL RTChT$stage2
                           1.136611 3.116189 0.211973 5.362 8.23e-08 ***
                           1.301994 3.676621 0.214494 6.070 1.28e-09 ***
## ALL RTChT$stage3
## ALL_RTChT$stage4
                           1.899419 6.682014 0.211929 8.963 < 2e-16 ***
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
##
                           exp(coef) exp(-coef) lower .95 upper .95
## ALL_RTChT$balt
                              0.329
                                       3.0399
                                                 0.2551
                                                          0.4242
## ALL_RTChT$`Diagnosis Age`
                              1.039
                                       0.9629
                                                 1.0323
                                                          1.0447
```

```
## ALL_RTChT$stage2
                          3.116
                                     0.3209
                                              2.0568
                                                     4.7212
## ALL_RTChT$stage3
                            3.677
                                     0.2720 2.4147 5.5979
## ALL_RTChT$stage4
                            6.682
                                     0.1497 4.4108 10.1228
##
## Concordance= 0.717 (se = 0.009 )
## Likelihood ratio test= 529.6 on 5 df, p=<2e-16
## Wald test = 409.4 on 5 df, p=<2e-16
## Score (logrank) test = 465.2 on 5 df, p=<2e-16
```