



Ninth ISIC Skin Image Analysis Workshop @ MICCAI 2024

# Lesion Elevation Prediction from Skin Images Improves Diagnosis



Kumar Abhishek



Ghassan Hamarneh



SIMON FRASER  
UNIVERSITY

# Deep Learning for Skin Lesion Diagnosis

**nature**

Letter | Published: 25 January 2017

## Dermatologist-level classification of skin cancer with deep neural networks

Andre Esteva , Brett Kuprel , Roberto A. Novoa , Justin Ko , Susan M. Swetter , Helen M. Blau & Sebastian Thrun

*Nature* 542, 115–118 (2017) | [Cite this article](#)

2017

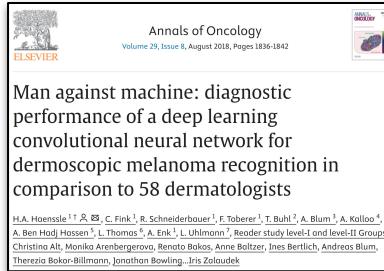
**nature medicine**

Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 05 February 2024

## Deep learning-aided decision support for diagnosis of skin disease across skin tones

Matthew Grob , Omar Badri , Roxana Daneshiou , Arash Koocheh , Caleb Harris , Luis R. Soenksen , P. Murali Doraiswamy & Rosalind Picard

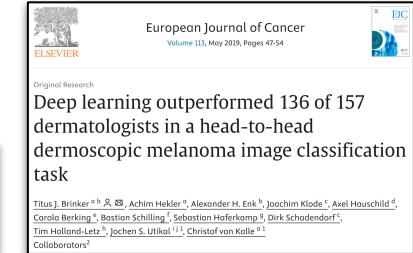
*Nature Medicine* 30, 573–583 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)



2018



2019



2024

2020

**nature medicine**

**nature medicine**

Article | Published: 18 May 2020

## A deep learning system for differential diagnosis of skin diseases

Yuan Liu , Ayush Jain , Clara Eng , David H. Way , Kang Lee , Peggy Bui , Kimberly Kanada , Guilherme de Oliveira Marinho , Jessica Gallegos , Sara Gabriele , Vishakha Gupta , Nalinini Singh , Vivek Narayanan , Rainer Hoffmann-Wollenhagen , Greg S. Corrado , Lily H. Peng , Dale R. Webster , Dennis Al , Susan J. Huang , Yun Liu , R. Carter Dunn & David Cox

*Nature Medicine* 26, 900–908 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

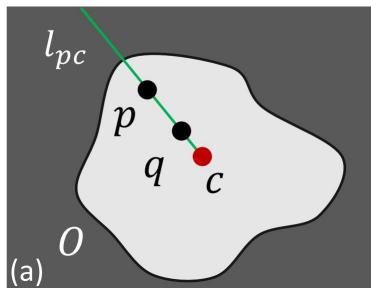


Systematic outperformance of 112 dermatologists in multiclass skin cancer image classification by convolutional neural networks

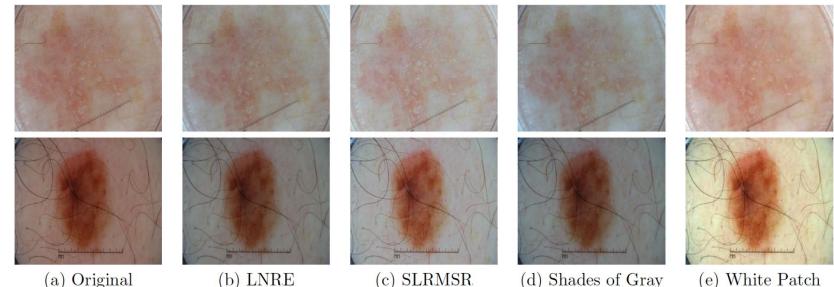
Roman C. Marion <sup>a,1</sup> , Michael Weichenthal <sup>b,1</sup> , Jochen S. Utikal <sup>c,4</sup> , Achim Hekler <sup>d</sup> , Wiebke Solloss <sup>e</sup> , Max Schmitt <sup>f</sup> , Jöochim Klode <sup>a</sup> , Dirk Schodendorf <sup>a</sup> , Sebastian Hoferkamp <sup>a</sup> , Cindy Franklin <sup>f</sup> , Felix Bestvater <sup>b</sup> , Michael J. Fluri <sup>a</sup> , Dietrich Krohl <sup>a</sup> , Christof von Kalle <sup>a</sup> , Stefan Fröhling <sup>a</sup> , Titus J. Brinker <sup>a</sup> , Ulrike Wehkamp <sup>a</sup> , Alexander Thiem



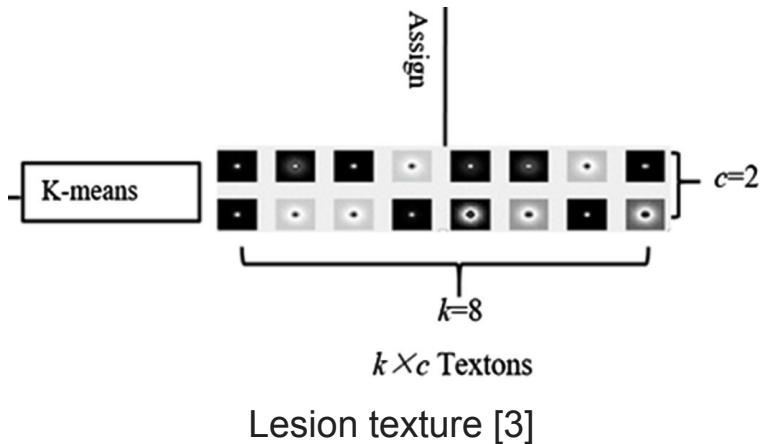
# Additional Features Improve Skin Image Analysis



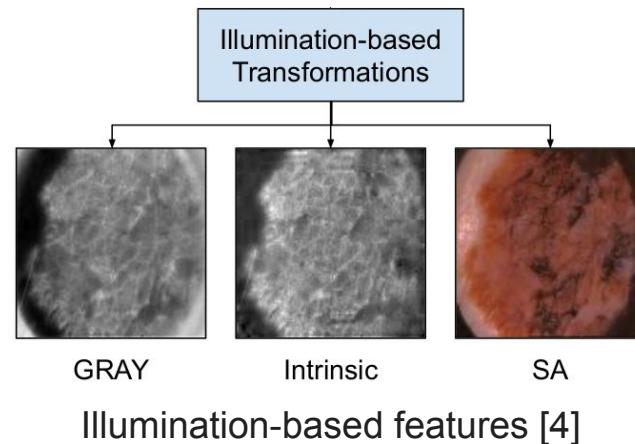
Shape prior [1]



Color constancy algorithms [2]

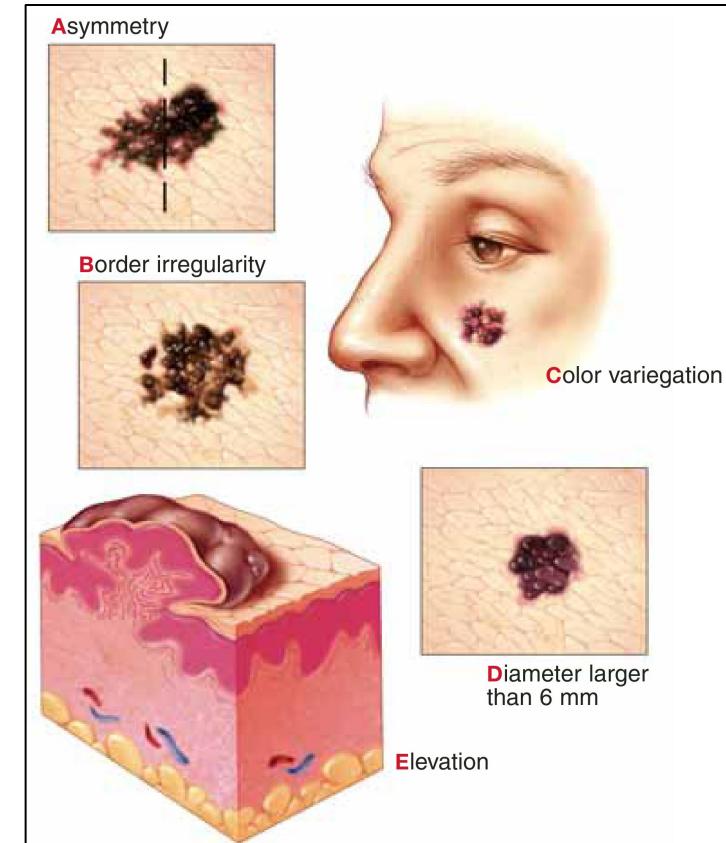


Lesion texture [3]



# Lesion Elevation in Clinical Practice

- Part of the American Cancer Society's ABCDE criteria.

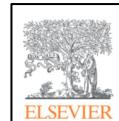


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Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology  
Volume 56, Issue 6, June 2007, Pages 949-951



Report  
**A literally blinded trial of palpation in dermatologic diagnosis**  
Neil H. Cox MD, BSc(Hons), FRCP(Lond & Edin)  

## RESULTS

In 14 of 16 cases, the correct diagnosis was chosen ( $P = .012$ ,  $\chi^2$  test). The incorrect diagnoses were multiple small lesions of psoriasis that had been

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**BJD** British Journal of Dermatology  
IMPROVING PATIENT OUTCOMES IN SKIN DISEASE WORLDWIDE 

|  [Full Access](#)

**Teledermatology: a review**

D.J. Eedy, R. Wootton

First published: 22 August 2002 | <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-2133.2001.04124.x> |

training per year.<sup>23</sup> By comparison, dermatologists' criticisms were usually concerned with picture quality, lack of rapport with patients, inability to palpate lesions or carry out diagnostic tests and that the systems were time-consuming and unsatisfying.<sup>29,44,57</sup> In a study using high

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JRSM  
JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

[J R Soc Med](#): 2006 Dec; 99(12): 598–600.  
doi: [10.1258/jrsm.99.12.598](https://doi.org/10.1258/jrsm.99.12.598)

PMCID: PMC1676320  
PMID: [17139058](#)

Palpation of the skin—an important issue  
[Neil H Cox](#)

adequately close to show fine detail. Also, even good quality photos are two-dimensional; raised lesions of urticaria, for example, may be difficult to distinguish from flat lesions of a similar colour, and quality of scaling can only be guessed at. Touching the skin is a modality that is omitted in teledermatology, but there are clearly situations where it can be important. Indeed, the inability to palpate lesions has also been given as a reason for dermatologists being less satisfied than primary care physicians with the results of teledermatology.<sup>7</sup> Even enthusiasts admit that this can be a problem.

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**Lesion elevation information as a proxy for in-person palpation may benefit teledermatology.**

# Lesion Elevation in Deep Learning-based Methods

**Skin Research & Technology**  **Forward Series**

ORIGINAL ARTICLE |  Open Access |   

**A feature fusion system for basal cell carcinoma detection through data-driven feature learning and patient profile**

P. Kharazmi, S. Kalia, H. Lui, Z. J. Wang, T. K. Lee 

First published: 22 October 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/srt.12422> | Citations: 53

## 3.4 | Patient profile

Patient profile information consists of lesion location, lesion size, lesion elevation (a binary variable indicating whether the lesion is flat or elevated) along with age and gender of the patients. Figure 7 demon-

As it can be seen from Table 1, integrating the condensed feature maps with patient information increases the diagnosis accuracy of BCC. The BCC lesions of our dataset are mostly of the nodular type,

## IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics

### Seven-Point Checklist and Skin Lesion Classification Using Multitask Multimodal Neural Nets

Publisher: IEEE

Cite This

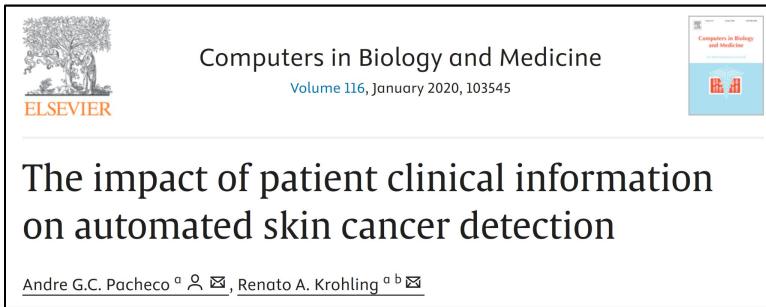
PDF

Jeremy Kawahara ; Sara Daneshvar  ; Giuseppe Argenziano ; Ghassan Hamarneh [All Authors](#)

*2) Classify Using Image and Meta-Data:* As the meta-data (gender, lesion location, and lesion elevation) is categorical, we one-hot encode the meta-data to produce a meta-data vector.

ible under dermoscopy. The classification layer that uses clinical, dermoscopic, and meta-data together yields the highest average accuracy. However, we note including clinical images

# Lesion Elevation in Deep Learning-based Methods



Computers in Biology and Medicine  
Volume 116, January 2020, 103545

The impact of patient clinical information on automated skin cancer detection

Andre G.C. Pacheco <sup>a</sup>  , Renato A. Krohling <sup>a b</sup> 

We summarize the presented analysis as follows:

- It is expected that these features improve the model performance for pigmented and non-pigmented lesions detection.
- Certain features, such as a change in the lesion pattern and elevation are important for MEL detection.

## scientific reports

Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 08 April 2021

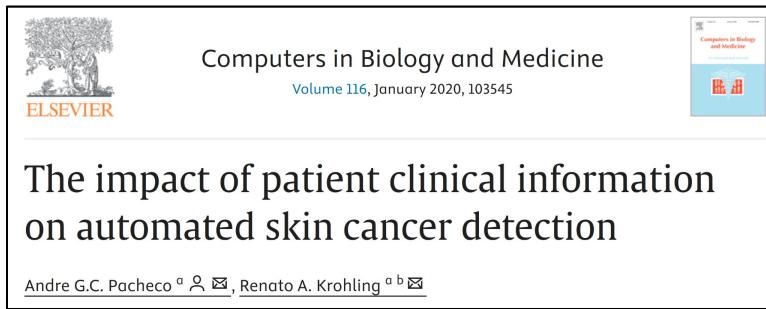
### Predicting the clinical management of skin lesions using deep learning

Kumar Abhishek , Jeremy Kawahara & Ghassan Hamarneh

evaluate our prediction models. The dataset contains clinical and dermoscopic images of skin lesions, patient metadata (patient gender and the location and the elevation of the lesion), the corresponding seven-point criteria<sup>32</sup> for the dermoscopic images, and the diagnosis and the management labels for 1011 cases with mean [standard deviation] age of 28.08 [18.70] years; 489 males (48.37%); 294 malignant cases (29.08%); skin lesion diameter of 8.84 [5.39] mm.

3. *The inclusion of patient metadata may improve the management prediction accuracy.* When using only clinical images ('CM' versus 'C'), only dermoscopic image ('DM' versus 'D'), or both ('CDM' versus 'CD'), all but one metrics improved with the inclusion of metadata by  $2.23 \pm 2.68\%$ , with the most impactful contribution of metadata being in the 10.63%

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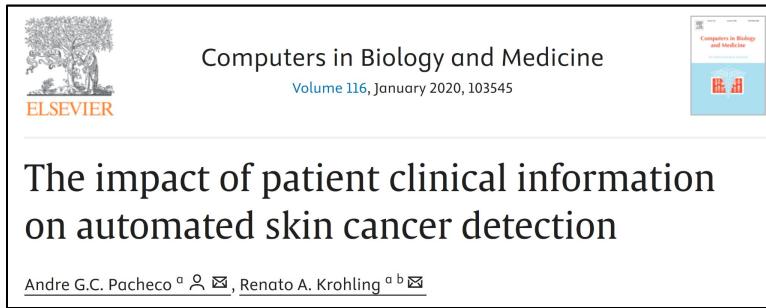
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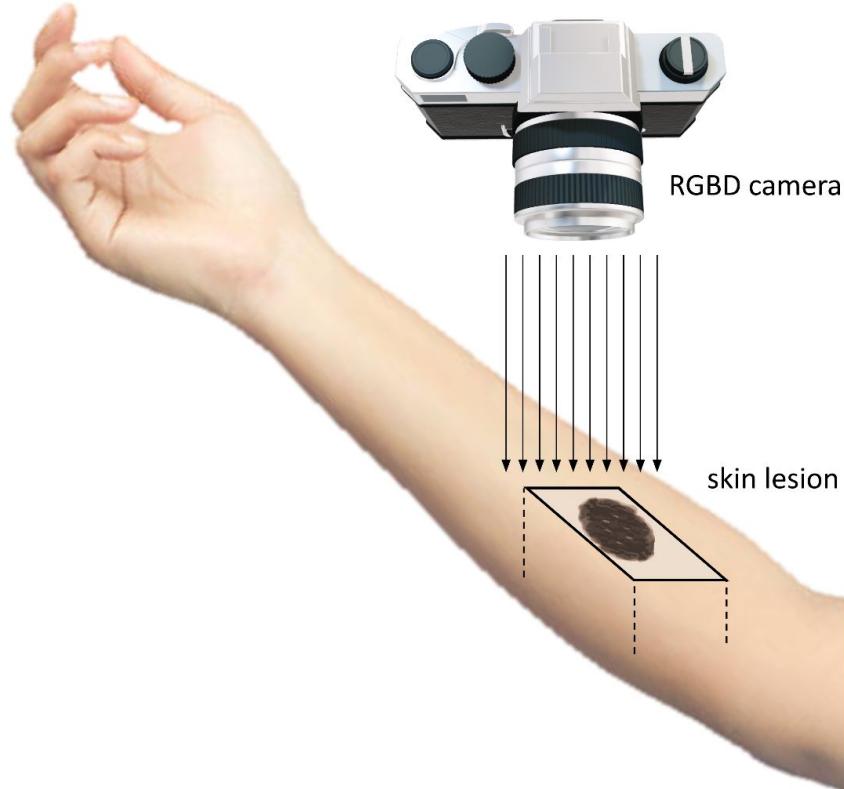
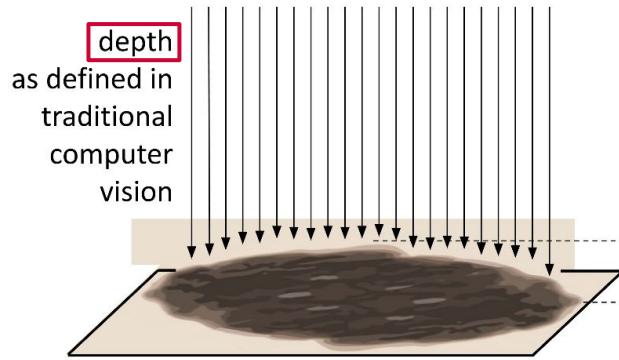
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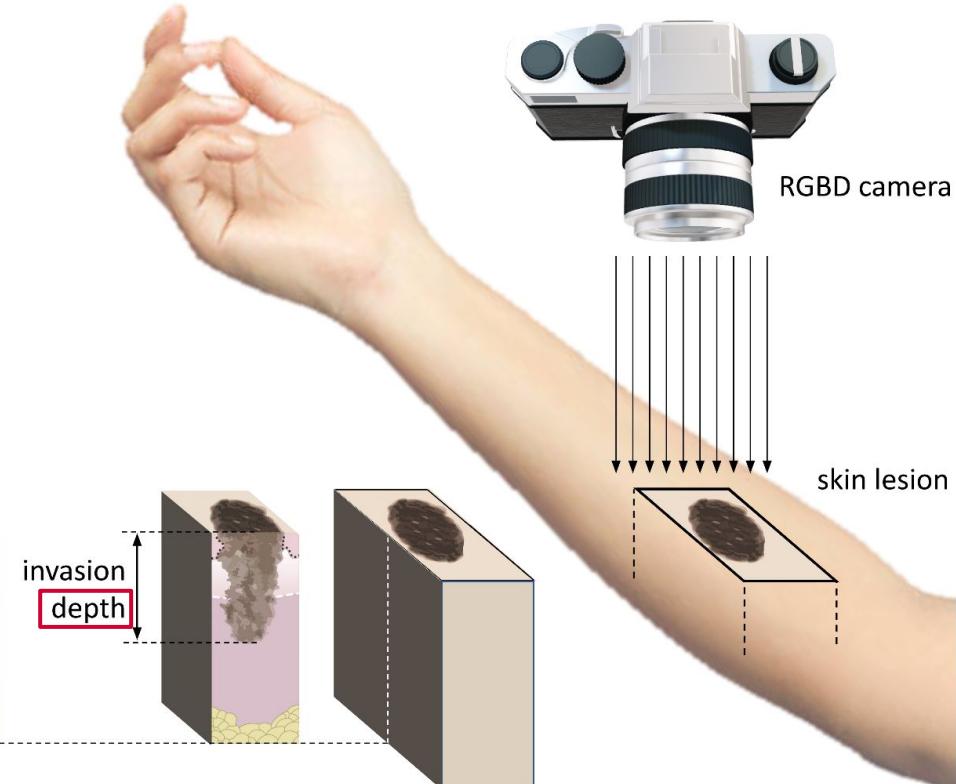
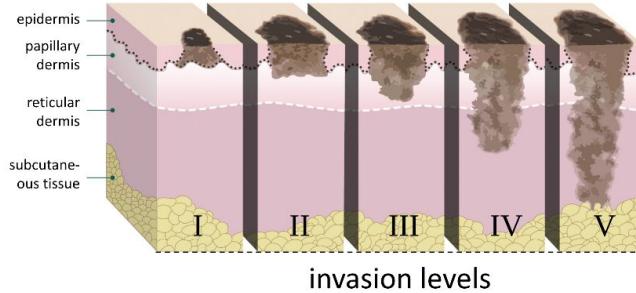
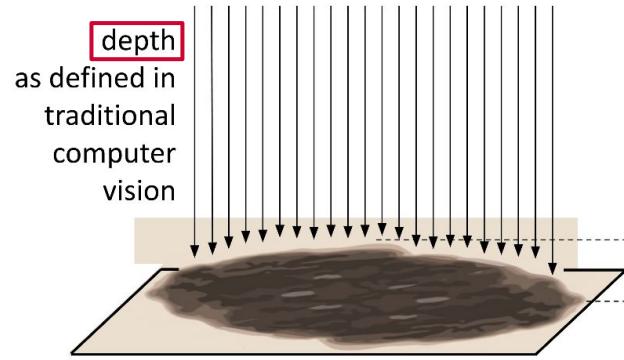
## What's missing?

- Learning-based methods to predict lesion elevation.
- Assessing if elevation alone can improve lesion diagnosis performance.

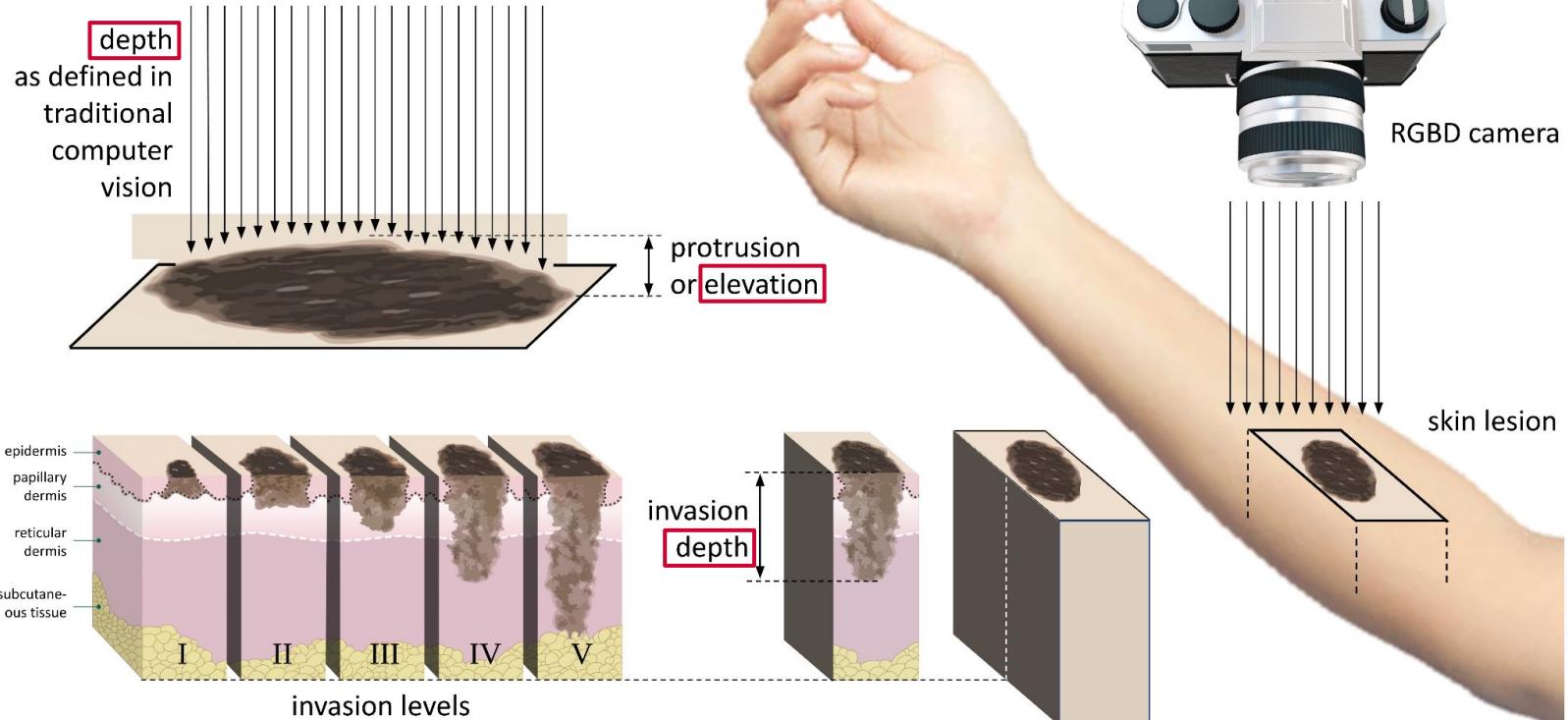
# Is elevation the same as depth?



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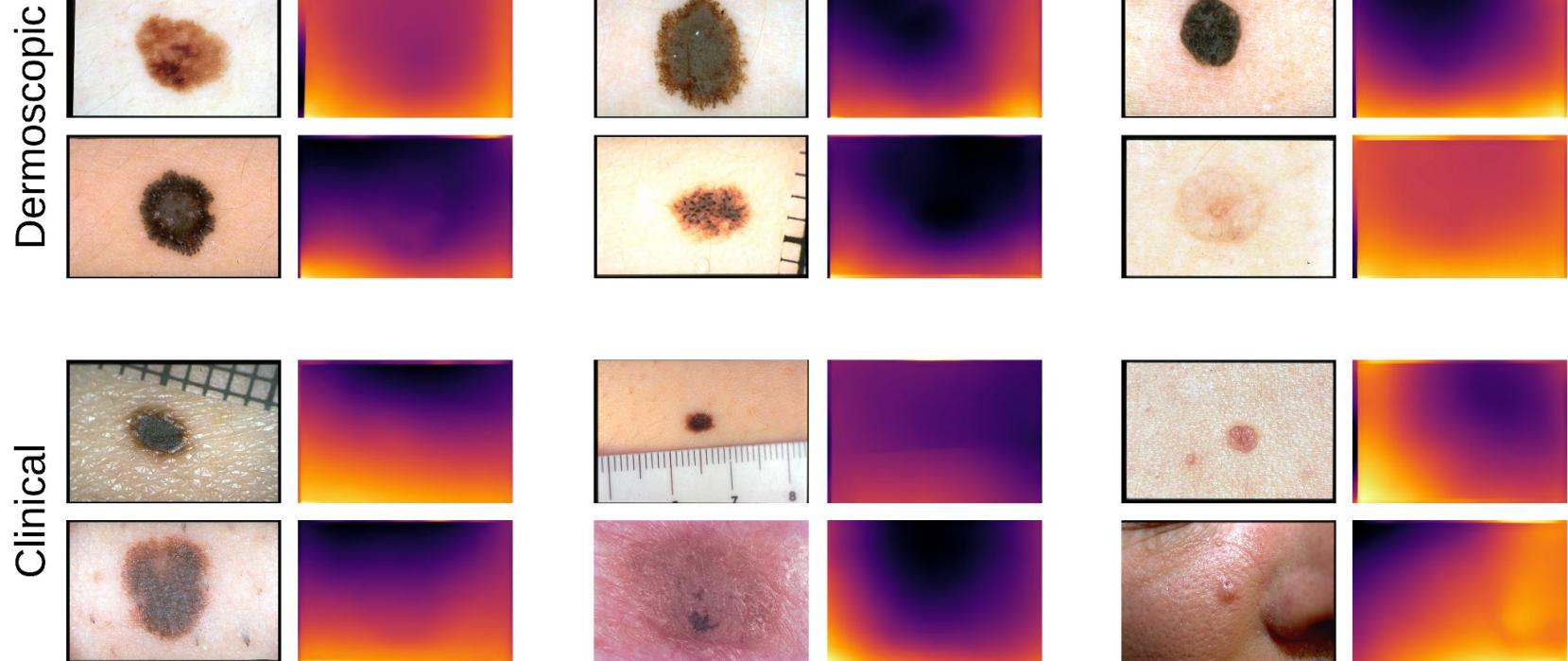
# This Work

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- Can we estimate lesion elevation from skin lesion images alone?
- Can ground truth lesion elevation alone, as a meta-data, improve diagnosis?
- Can we rely on estimated lesion elevation to improve diagnosis?

Can we use off-the-shelf depth prediction models trained on natural images?

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No, because:

- natural images scenes generally have a depth anisotropy.
- considerable difference in scale between natural images' depths (typically in meters) and skin lesions' elevations (typically in millimeters).

# Lesion Elevation Datasets

## PAD-UFES-20

- **Size:** 2,298 images.
- **1 modality:** Smartphone images.
- **2 elevation labels:** {"elevated", "not elevated"}.

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## derm7pt

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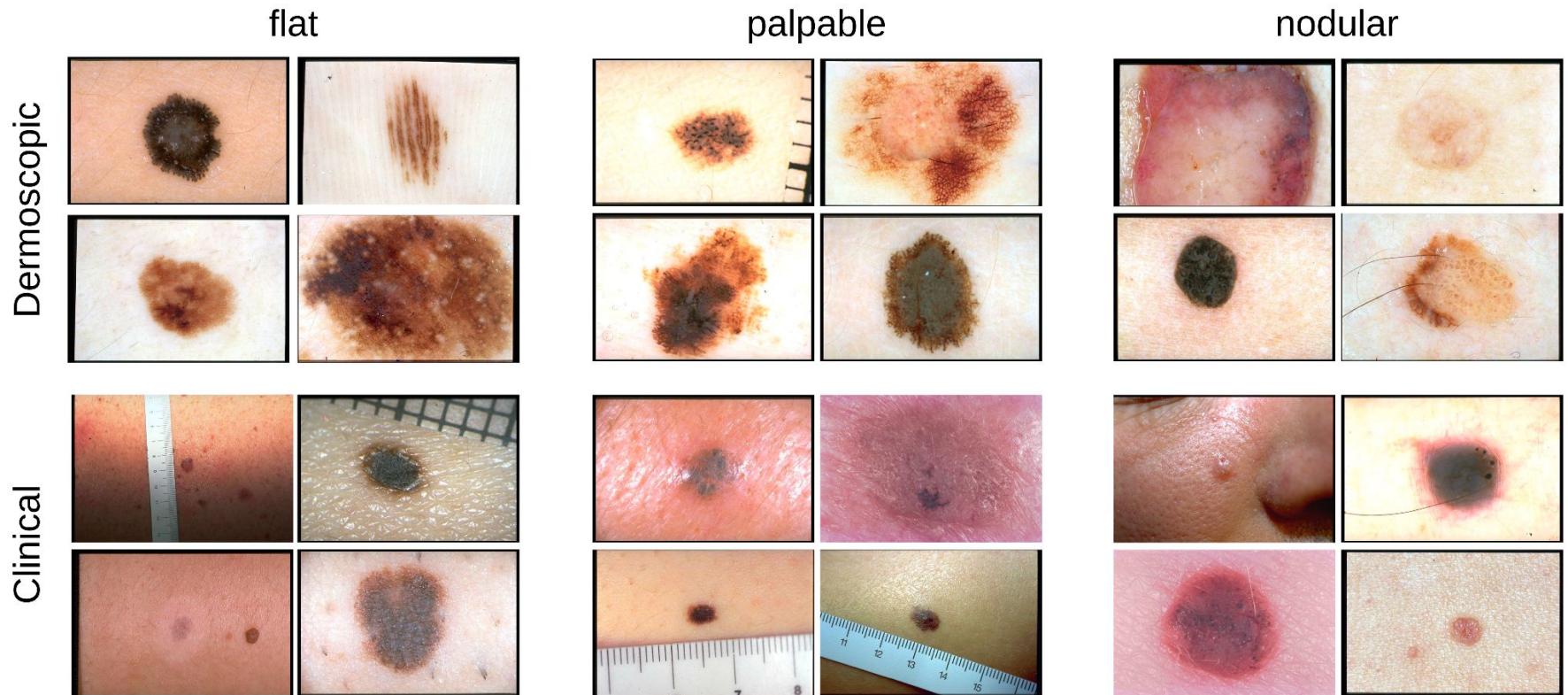
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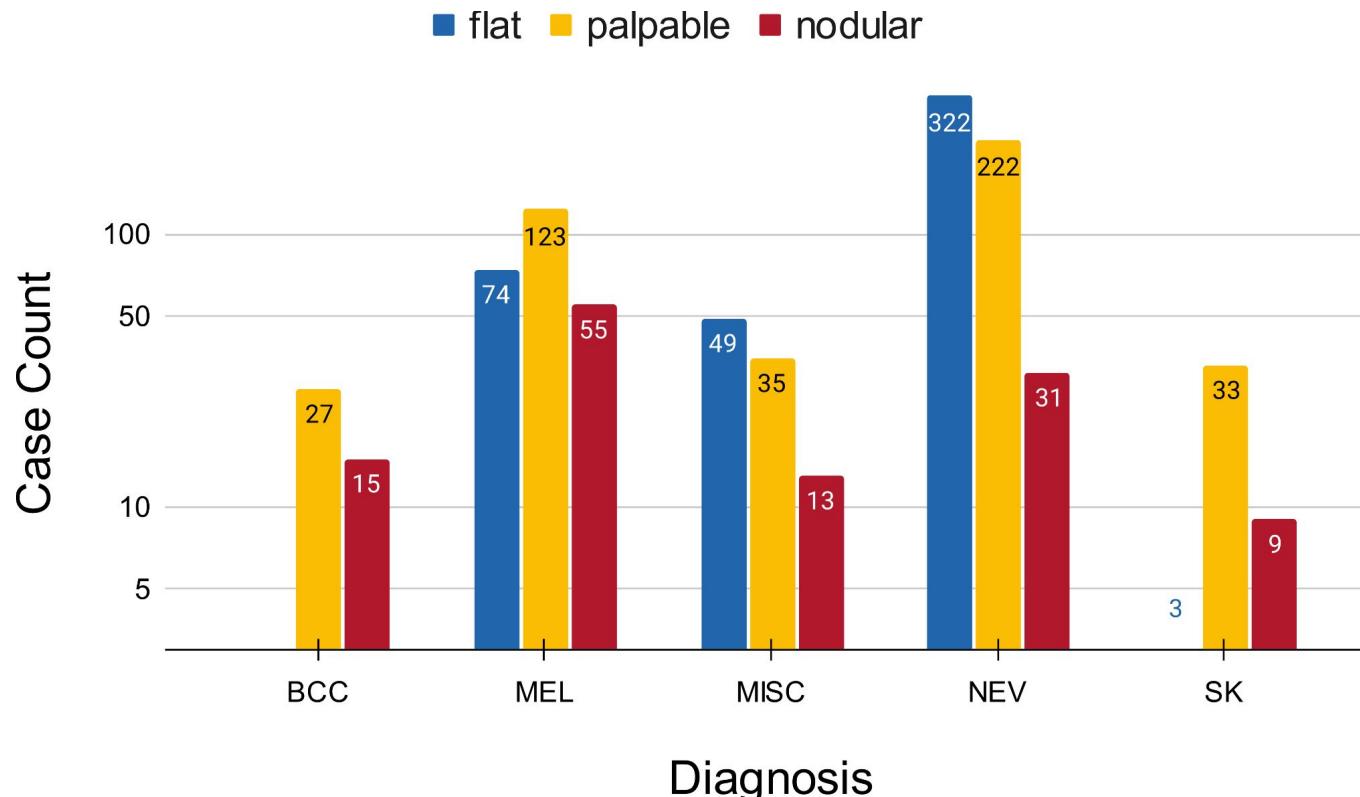
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# Elevation labels in derm7pt - Samples



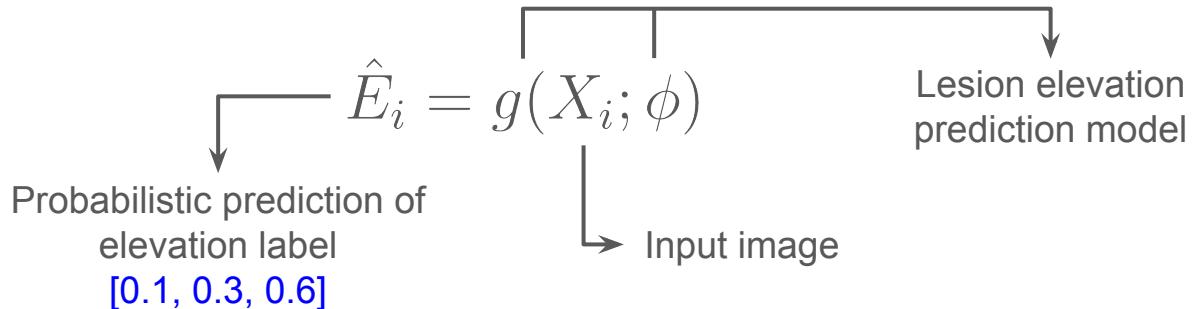
# Elevation labels in derm7pt - Diagnosis-wise distribution



Can we predict skin lesion elevation labels from images alone?

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- DenseNet-121
- VGG-16
- ResNet-18
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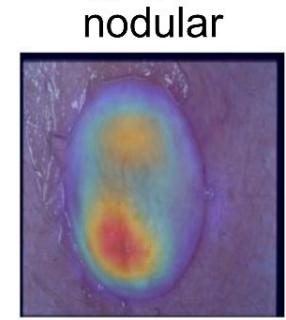
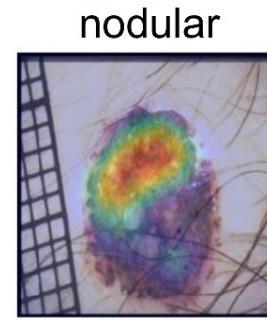
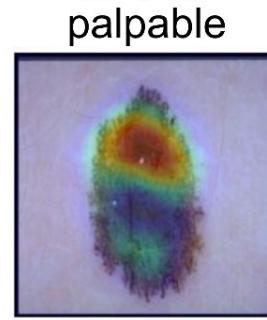
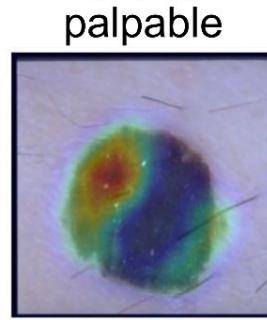
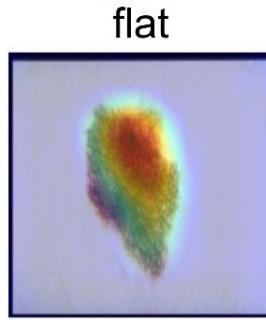
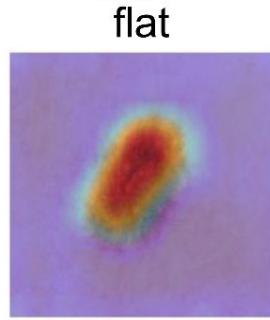
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- ResNet-50

<b>VGG-16</b>	<b>Accuracy</b>	<b>AUROC</b>
<b>Clinical Images</b>	0.8543	0.8220
<b>Dermoscopic Images</b>	0.8475	0.8152

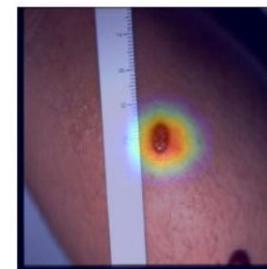
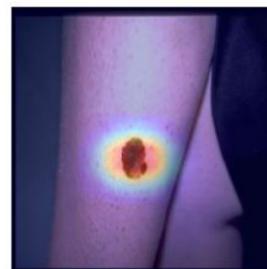
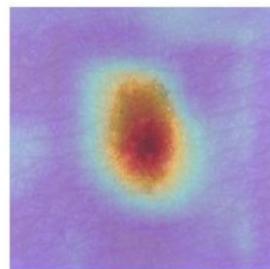
# Can we predict skin lesion elevation labels from images alone?

Activation maps (GradCAM) localize the lesion well, despite artifacts.

Dermoscopic



Clinical



# Do ground truth elevation labels help improve diagnosis?

$$\hat{Y}_i = f_{DE} (X_i \oplus E_i; \Theta_{DE})$$

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Diagnosis prediction model  
that leverages elevation

Predicted  
diagnosis

Ground truth  
elevation label  
[0., 0., 1.]

```
graph TD; Eq["\u0302Y_i = f_{DE} (X_i \u2297 E_i; \u0398_{DE})"] --> DPM["Diagnosis prediction model that leverages elevation"]; Eq --> PD["Predicted diagnosis"]; Eq --> GTEL["Ground truth elevation label [0., 0., 1.]"]
```

# Do ground truth elevation labels help improve diagnosis?

$$\hat{Y}_i = f_{DE} (X_i \oplus E_i; \Theta_{DE})$$

VGG-16	Clinical Images		Dermoscopic Images	
	Accuracy	AUROC	Accuracy	AUROC
<u>Without</u> ground truth elevation	0.8464	0.6331	0.9137	0.8431
<u>With</u> ground truth elevation	0.8569	0.6820	0.9216	0.8703

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VGG-16	Clinical Images		Dermoscopic Images	
	Accuracy	AUROC	Accuracy	AUROC
<u>Without</u> ground truth elevation	0.8464	0.6331	0.9137	0.8431
<u>With</u> ground truth elevation	0.8569	0.6820	0.9216	0.8703
Improvement 	1.05%	4.89%	0.79%	2.72%

# Can inferred elevation labels improve lesion diagnosis?

$$\hat{Y}_i = f_{D\hat{E}}(X_i \oplus \hat{E}_i; \Theta_{D\hat{E}})$$

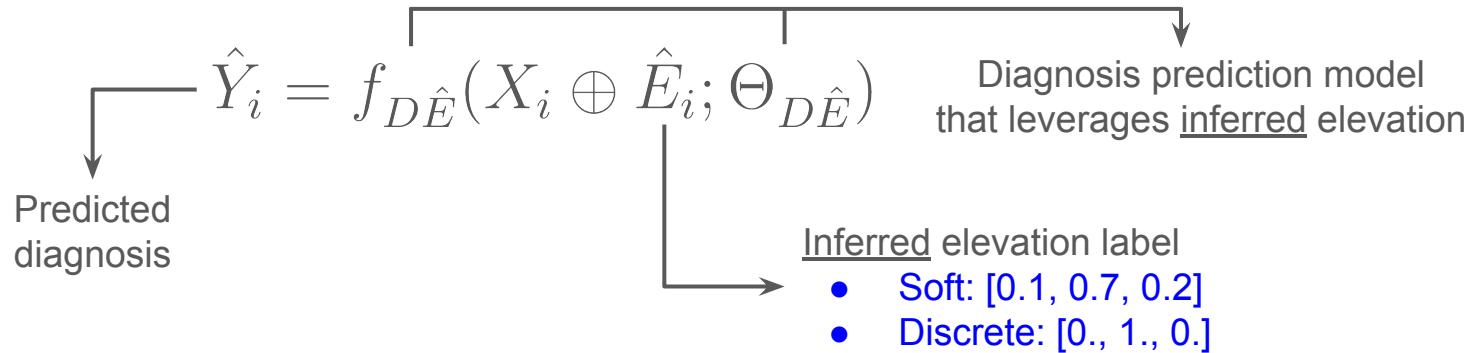
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↓  
Predicted  
diagnosis

↓  
Diagnosis prediction model  
that leverages inferred elevation

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## Clinical Image Datasets

- DermoFit

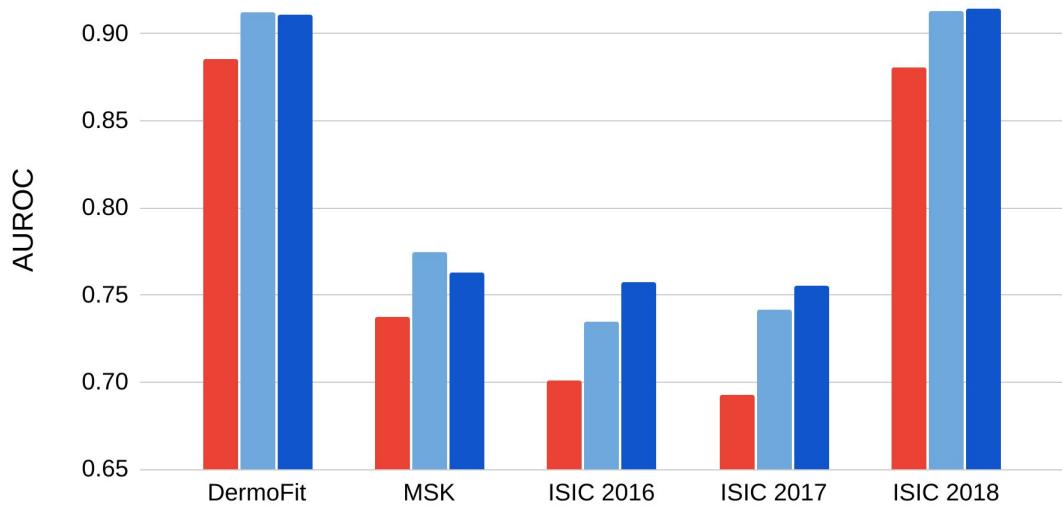
## Dermoscopic Image Datasets

- MSK
- ISIC 2016
- ISIC 2017
- ISIC 2018

# Can inferred elevation labels improve lesion diagnosis?

$$\hat{Y}_i = f_{D\hat{E}}(X_i \oplus \hat{E}_i; \Theta_{D\hat{E}})$$

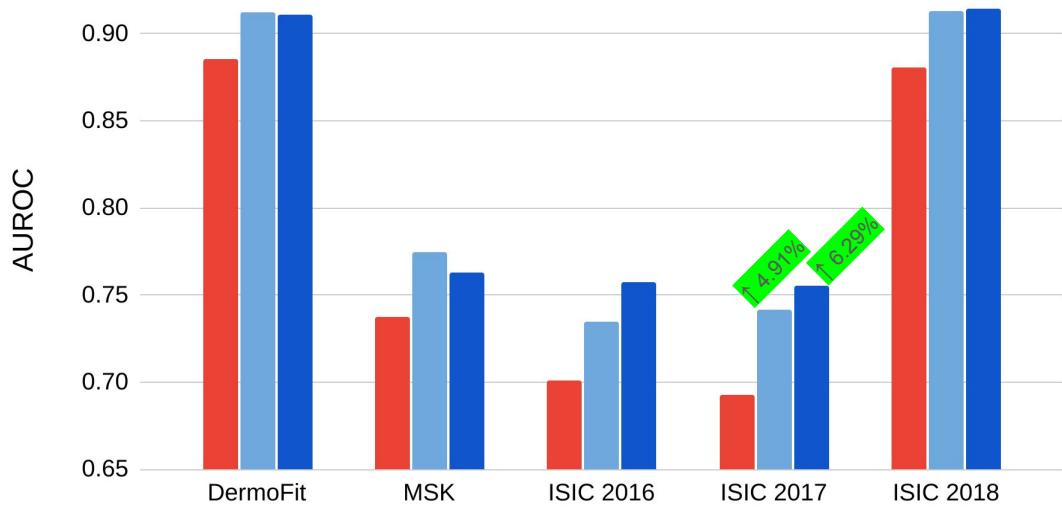
- No elevation ■ Inferred "soft" elevation ■ Inferred "discrete" elevation



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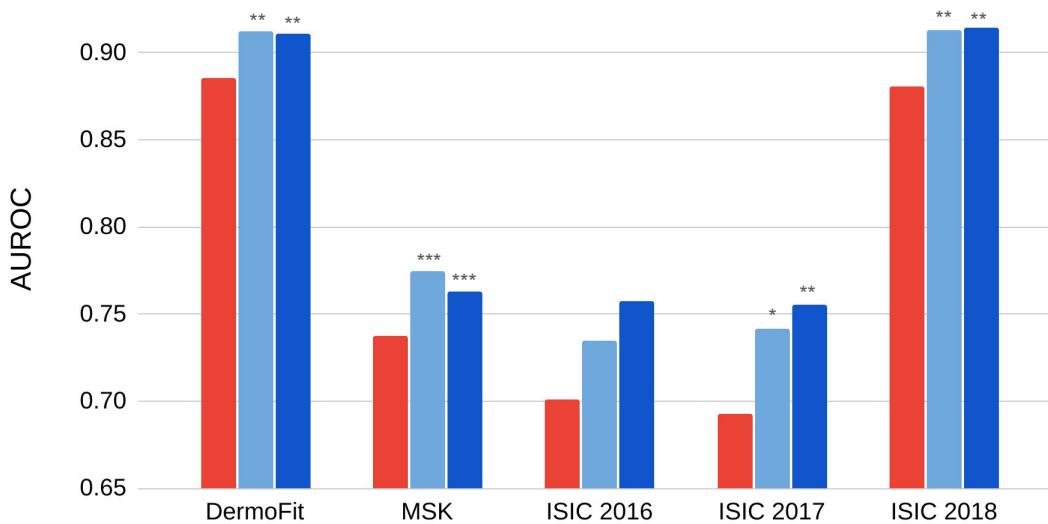
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## Statistical Significance Tests:

- McNemar's mid-p: AUROC improvements **stat. sig. ( $p < 0.05$ )** for all datasets except ISIC 2016.
- Cohen's  $d$ : “small” effect size for ISIC 2016, “**huge**” effect sizes for all other datasets.

# Conclusion

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It is **possible to predict** image-level **skin lesion elevation labels** directly from **2D RGB images** with sufficient accuracy.

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- ✓ Can we rely on estimated lesion elevation to improve diagnosis?

On datasets without ground truth elevation labels, **estimated elevation labels** may help **improve lesion diagnosis**.

# Conclusion

-  Can we estimate lesion elevation from skin lesion images alone?
-  Can ground truth lesion elevation alone, as a meta-data, improve diagnosis?
-  Can we rely on estimated lesion elevation to improve diagnosis?

The ability to predict and leverage elevation from 2D images may offer the potential to **improve teledermatology consultations** by offering previously unavailable clinical information.

## References

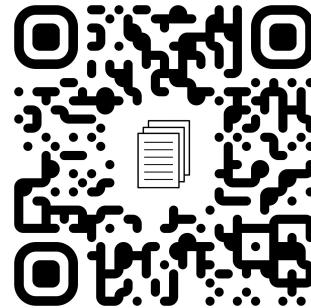
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# Thank you.

Questions?



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## Acknowledgements



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