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## Complications - Other

## Deep Learning Artificial Intelligence Model for Assessment of Hip Dislocation Risk Following Primary Total Hip Arthroplasty From Postoperative Radiographs



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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Dislocation is a common complication following total hip arthroplasty (THA), and accounts for a high percentage of subsequent revisions. The purpose of this study is to illustrate the potential of a convolutional neural network model to assess the risk of hip dislocation based on postoperative anteroposterior pelvis radiographs.

**Methods:** We retrospectively evaluated radiographs for a cohort of 13,970 primary THAs with 374 dislocations over 5 years of follow-up. Overall, 1490 radiographs from dislocated and 91,094 from non-dislocated THAs were included in the analysis. A convolutional neural network object detection model (YOLO-V3) was trained to crop the images by centering on the femoral head. A ResNet18 classifier was trained to predict subsequent hip dislocation from the cropped imaging. The ResNet18 classifier was initialized with ImageNet weights and trained using FastAI (V1.0) running on PyTorch. The training was run for 15 epochs using 10-fold cross validation, data oversampling, and augmentation.

**Results:** The hip dislocation classifier achieved the following mean performance (standard deviation): accuracy = 49.5 (4.1%), sensitivity = 89.0 (2.2%), specificity = 48.8 (4.2%), positive predictive value = 3.3 (0.3%), negative predictive value = 99.5 (0.1%), and area under the receiver operating characteristic curve = 76.7 (3.6%). Saliency maps demonstrated that the model placed the greatest emphasis on the femoral head and acetabular component.

**Conclusion:** Existing prediction methods fail to identify patients at high risk of dislocation following THA. Our radiographic classifier model has high sensitivity and negative predictive value, and can be combined with clinical risk factor information for rapid assessment of risk for dislocation following THA. The model further suggests radiographic locations which may be important in understanding the etiology of prosthesis dislocation. Importantly, our model is an illustration of the potential of automated imaging artificial intelligence models in orthopedics.

**Level of Evidence:** Level III.

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Dislocation is the most common early complication following primary total hip arthroplasty (THA) and is one of the main indications for revision surgery [1,2]. Based on a pooled analysis of 4,633,935 primary THAs, the incidence of dislocation is estimated at 2.10% over an average follow-up of 6 years [3]. Dislocation is accompanied by severe pain, loss of limb function, need for revision surgeries, and an increase in treatment costs of up to 300%, compared to an uncomplicated THA [4].

Identifying patients at risk of dislocation following primary THA is important for surgical planning, postoperative restrictions, and rehabilitation protocols which may reduce the risk of postoperative hip dislocation. Several risk factors are associated with increased risk of dislocation. At the patient level, age higher than 70 years, body mass index greater than 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, comorbidities like neuromuscular disorders or cognitive impairment, and previous surgeries including spinal fusion are associated with an elevated dislocation risk [3,5–7]. Among surgery-related factors, component malpositioning during surgery and a posterior surgical approach, especially without anatomical repair of the posterior capsule and the external rotators, increase the risk of dislocation. Several studies have suggested that the positioning of the acetabular component affects the dislocation risk. Dislocation is more common with smaller femoral head diameters, whereas implant features such as dual-mobility acetabular designs are associated with reduced risk of dislocation [8–11].

Plain radiographs are used to evaluate for post-operative complications such as malposition loosening and periprosthetic fracture [12,13]. Previous studies have used post-operative anteroposterior (AP) pelvis radiographs to measure femoral and acetabular offset and/or to measure inclination and anteversion angles to determine acetabular component position [14]. Others have investigated the dislocation risk based on measuring hip adduction and pelvic obliquity deformity on pre-operative pelvis radiographs [15].

Convolutional neural networks (CNNs) are the current state-of-the-art artificial intelligence (AI) techniques for fully automated medical image analysis [16]. These networks “learn” to predict outcomes or measures by looking for low-level image features such as edges and curves and then building up to more abstract concepts through a series of convolutional layers [17]. Although researchers can train CNNs on medical datasets from scratch, this approach is usually hindered by the limited number of available images. CNNs generally require large datasets to achieve high-level performance, but “transfer learning” can help to overcome this barrier [18]. In transfer learning, CNNs initially learn to identify predictive imaging features by being trained on a large dataset. Subsequently, they are further trained on a smaller dataset to learn to map the learned features predict transferred task.

Recent studies have used non-imaging AI models to predict dislocations following THA [19], whereas imaging AI models have been used to detect other THA complications [20]. To our knowledge, no study has yet reported the application of an imaging AI model to assess the risk of dislocations following THA. In this study, we introduce a CNN model to classify patients based on their risk for dislocation using postoperative AP pelvis radiographs. Although in practice, surgical decisions are not made by solely relying on imaging data, we design our study to illustrate the potential of imaging AI models to predict hip dislocation as a rare and multifactorial outcome.

## Materials and Methods

### Assembling the Imaging Dataset

Following Institutional Review Board approval, we retrospectively assembled a cohort of 13,970 primary THAs performed

between 2000 and 2017 at a single academic institution. Indications for THA were osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, or avascular necrosis. Over a mean 5.0 years of follow-up, 374 (2.7%) sustained a dislocation compared to 13,596 (97.3%) who did not dislocate during follow-up (hereafter called: normal). Females constituted 62.5% of the dislocation class and 51.0% of the normal class. This difference was statistically significant ( $P < .001$ ).

Figure 1 summarizes the methodology of the study. In total, 97,934 AP pelvis radiographs were retrieved for the study population, taken at least 1 day after the surgery date and at least 1 day before the possible dislocation date. An orthopedic surgeon reviewed the images to ensure that no dislocation had been present at the time of imaging. A total of 5350 images were excluded due to artifacts, poor visibility of implants or bones, or abnormal cropping. Overall, 1490 AP radiographs from the dislocation class and 91,094 from the normal class were included for our study. Table 1 compares descriptive variables between classes in our imaging dataset. Within this dataset, age, weight, and height of patients at the time of surgery were slightly different between classes, and the frequency of females in dislocation class was significantly higher than the normal class (as was in our study population).

### Prediction of and Cropping the Region of Interest

A CNN object detection model (YOLO-V3) was trained to crop the images by centering on the femoral head and help the dislocation AI model focus on the most relevant parts of the image. YOLO-V3 can be trained to detect bounding boxes of interest within images [21]. Before training YOLO-V3, we first zero-padded (added pixels with value of zero) all images to make them square-shaped and then resized them to 512 × 512 pixels. For annotation, we manually determined the bounding boxes on 10,000 AP pelvis radiographs from left and right-sided THAs. Annotations were done in a way that the medial border of the box was in line with body midline (through the pubic symphysis), the lateral border was tangent to the greater trochanter, the inferior border was tangent to the inferior pubic ramus, and the superior border was tangent to the superior part of the acetabular hardware (Fig. 2A). Training, validation, and test subsets included 8500, 1000, and 500 images, respectively. YOLO-V3 was then trained for 15 epochs, with a batch size of 4 and a learning rate of 0.0001 with pooling weights from a pre-trained model on the Microsoft Common Objects in Context dataset [22]. Training was done on an NVIDIA GeForce 1080Ti GPU with 11 Gigabytes of RAM using the ImageAI library (V1.0) running on Tensorflow. To apply YOLO-V3, the predicted bounding boxes for images were dilated by 10% on the superior, medial, and lateral sides before final cropping (if present in original radiograph) to ensure that a broader view of the pubic symphysis, acetabular component, and femur trochanters was included (Fig. 2B). The cropped images were again zero-padded to a square shape and resized to 224 × 224 pixels (Fig. 2C). Final images were also normalized with respect to their individual mean and standard deviation.

### Assessment of Hip Dislocation

#### Model, Initialization, and Training

We created a ResNet18 model with initial weights pooled from a model pre-trained on the ImageNet database. We trained the network's output layer for 15 epochs, with a batch size of 16, a learning rate of 0.0001, and using the Adam optimizer. All layers of the model were then fine-tuned for 5 more epochs using a learning rate slice adjusted based on the FastAI Learning Rate Finder tool. We used binary cross entropy as our loss function and weighted it 25 times more for the dislocation class than the normal class. During

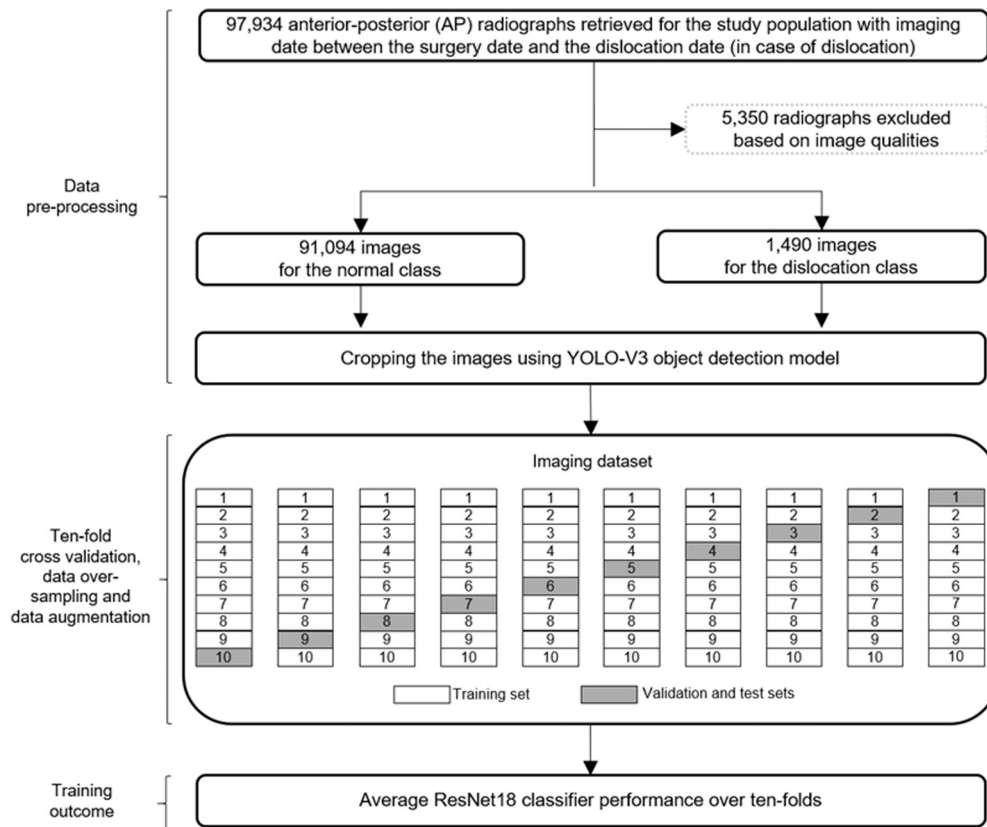


Fig. 1. Overview of the study.

training, the model with the highest area under the curve and sensitivity of at least 80% in detecting dislocation class on the validation data was saved as the final model. All above numeric choices (also called hyperparameters) were chosen based on best knowledge of deep learning literature and our experimental trainings. We trained our ResNet18 model on an NVIDIA Tesla V-100 GPU with 32 Gigabytes of RAM using FastAI (V1.0) running on PyTorch.

#### Ten-Fold Cross-Validation

Performance of the ResNet18 model was assessed using 10-fold cross-validation. Data were split between folds with stratified randomization based on the data classes. Within each fold, the training, validation, and testing subset split was 90%, 5%, and 5%, respectively. Every image was present in the training subset for 9 folds and belonged to either validation or test subsets for 1 fold.

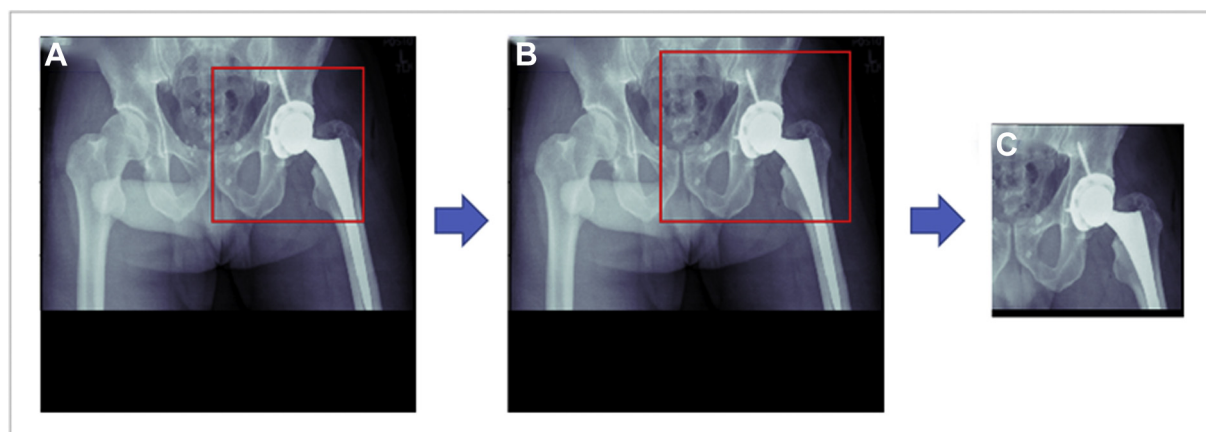
Images were split by Patient IDs, so that no images in different subsets belonged to the same patient. As the number of available images in our imaging dataset varied between patients, the number of unique images allocated to subsets was not the same among folds. An average fold included  $83,331 \pm 42$  images: dislocated = 1341 (1.6%) and normal = 81,989 (98.4%).

In addition, images from the dislocation class were over-sampled (copied) to match the number of the normal class in training and validation subsets of all folds. The average over-sampling factor was 61 and 75 times for the training and validation subsets, respectively. To make over-sampling more effective, copied images were also slightly changed (augmented) compared to the original images. Augmentation included one or more of horizontal flipping, rotation between  $\pm 10^\circ$ , and a maximum of 10% zooming for each image. The test subset in all folds remained imbalanced to represent the real-world data.

**Table 1**  
Distribution of Pelvis Images From Normal and Dislocation Classes.

Variable (Unit)	Normal Class	Dislocation Class	P-Value
Total hip arthroplasty surgeries, n (%) of total	10,713 (97.58)	266 (2.42)	—
Unique patients, n (%) of total	8822 (97.20)	254 (2.80)	—
Pelvis images, n (%) of total	91,094 (98.40)	1490 (1.60)	—
THA side (right/left ratio)	1.18	1.03	.31
Gender (male/female ratio)	0.96	0.45	<.001
Age at surgery (y), median $\pm$ IQR	68 (16)	66 (20)	.008
Weight (kg), median $\pm$ IQR	85 (28)	83 (24)	.002
Height (m), median $\pm$ IQR	1.69 (0.15)	1.66 (0.13)	.048
Follow-up duration (y), median $\pm$ IQR	5.01 (4.22)	4.94 (4.25)	.783
Time to dislocation (y), median $\pm$ IQR	—	2.62 (3.51)	—

The last column shows the *P*-value of independent *t*-test or Pearson chi-squared tests comparing the 2 classes. IQR, interquartile range; THA, total hip arthroplasty.



**Fig. 2.** Object detection YOLO-V3 model. (A) Zero padding, resizing to  $512 \times 512$  pixel size, and initial annotation. (B) Extension of detected area by 10% toward the superior, medial, and lateral sides. (C) Final cropping, zero padding, and resizing to  $224 \times 224$  pixel size.

Among the training and validation subsets, images from female patients were  $1.25 \pm 0.03$  and  $1.54 \pm 0.58$  times more frequent in the dislocation class than the normal class, respectively. To ensure that patient gender did not affect the reported statistics of the model, the random allocation of images to the test subset was stratified by gender so that the male/female ratio was the same for the normal and dislocation classes.

#### Outputs and Statistics

Sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value (PPV), and negative predictive value (NPV) of each fold's model were measured on the test subset for that fold. By doing so, we assumed happening of dislocation as our positive outcome. We also reported the mean and standard deviation (std) of the above statistics across all folds. A paired sample *t*-test was used to test if the results in that fold differed from the overall average result. The confusion matrix, training loss, validation loss, and receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves were plotted for all folds. For each fold, we also applied the model on 2 distinct test samples that included exclusively male or exclusively female patients. Both samples had a dislocation frequency of 2% and included no images from the training subset. This helped to compare our model's performance when applied to images from different genders.

We created saliency maps for one representative image from each fold's test subset to demonstrate that our model is making decisions based on meaningful features within the images, and its performance is therefore reliable.

Independent *t*-test and Pearson chi-squared tests were done using the SciPy statistical package (V1.4.1) in python (V3.6), and *P*-value  $< .05$  was considered as significant.

#### Results

The YOLO-V3 model achieved a mean average precision of 99.3% and 99.1% in detecting regions of interest for right and left pelvis, respectively. Overall, mean average precision for the model was 99.2%.

Table 2 summarizes the 10-fold performance of the model over the test subset. Due to class imbalance preserved in the test subset, 2% of images in the test subset were from the dislocation class, compared to 98% of images from the normal class. On average, the ResNet18 classifier achieved an accuracy of 49.5 (4.1%), sensitivity of 89.0 (2.2%), specificity of 48.8 (4.2%), PPV of 3.3 (0.3%), NPV of 99.5 (0.1 %), and area under the curve of 76.7 (3.6%) across all folds. Neither of the folds' results was different from the reported average ( $P > .6$ ). Figure 3A shows the 10-fold average ROC curve for the ResNet18 classifier applied over the test subset. Loss curves and the confusion matrix for one fold (fold 2) are plotted in Figure 3B and C. Supplementary Figures 1–3 include ROC curves, confusion matrices, and loss curves for all the folds.

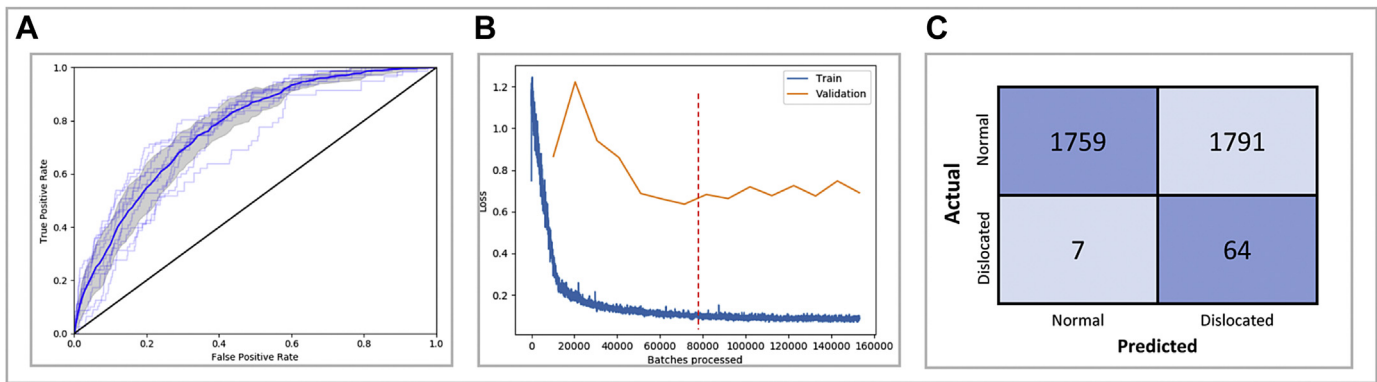
Table 3 compares the 10-fold average performance of the classifier model when applied on images from males and females separately. Although the model was more sensitive in predicting dislocation among females, it was more specific when applied to images from the male patients. The NPV of the model was not different between 2 groups.

Figure 4 shows saliency maps for representative instances of correct classifications from the normal and dislocation classes. Colored regions on the saliency maps denote the relative influence of individual pixels on the model's decisions, where the red pixels

**Table 2**  
Performance Measures of ResNet18 Classifier Applied Over 10-Fold Test Subsets.

Fold	Accuracy (%)	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	Positive Predictive Value (%)	Negative Predictive Value (%)	ROC Area Under the Curve (%)
1	45.65	87.50	44.91	2.74	99.51	72.30
2	50.35	90.14	49.55	3.45	99.60	79.10
3	49.50	87.18	48.74	3.29	99.48	74.50
4	46.68	93.15	45.75	3.32	99.70	81.70
5	46.18	91.03	45.28	3.22	99.61	79.90
6	52.61	86.11	51.94	3.46	99.47	77.70
7	54.98	88.00	54.32	3.71	99.56	78.50
8	50.48	91.55	49.66	3.51	99.66	77.90
9	56.97	85.92	56.39	3.79	99.50	77.00
10	42.09	89.66	41.17	2.86	99.52	68.10
Mean	49.55	89.02	48.77	3.34	99.56	76.67
Standard deviation	4.11	2.22	4.20	0.30	0.07	3.63

ROC, receiver operating characteristic.



**Fig. 3.** (A) ROC curve showing the average performance of ResNet18 classifier model applied over the validation subsets in all folds. (B) Training and validation loss curves for training the ResNet18 classifier model in fold 2. The red dashed line represents the point where the best model was saved during the training. (C) Confusion matrix showing the performance of ResNet18 classifier model applied over the test subset in fold 2. ROC, receiver operating characteristic.

highlight the most influential regions. Saliency maps provide evidence that the model placed considerable emphasis on the femoral head and acetabular component of implant, while the pelvic rami and the greater trochanter of the femur were also emphasized in some decisions.

## Discussion

Dislocation is a rare complication following THA, and is associated with pain and reduced function, subsequent revision surgeries, and substantial healthcare costs. In this study, we trained a CNN to classify THA patients based on their risk for dislocation from single postoperative AP pelvis radiographs (without considering other patient data). Although surgeons can rely on other imaging modalities (like computed tomography) to investigate the risk of dislocation, we solely included X-rays as they are the routine imaging modality in THA and thus are appropriate for screening purposes. Dislocation images constituted about 2% of total images in our dataset and we proportionally preserved this imbalance in our test subset. Although the average accuracy and specificity of our model is not high, it detected about 90% of patients who dislocated in the future based on a single postoperative radiograph. On the other hand, the chance of dislocation in patients who have been classified as “to-be-normal” by the model is approximately 0.5%, representing a 4-fold decrease from the baseline dislocation rate. We acknowledge that better predictive performance can be achieved by accounting for various dislocation-related clinical risk factors. Nevertheless, our imaging AI model and more sensitive future extensions can be incorporated with demographic, clinical, and surgical risk factors for rapid screening of patients at high risk for dislocation following THA. Considering the burden of follow-up visits and the reported drawbacks of hip precautions [23], patients

classified as “to-be-normal” by the model may be treated with fewer restrictions.

Our model was more sensitive in detecting dislocation in female patients, and it was more specific in male patients. Such difference can be explained by the characteristics of our study population. In our study population and the imaging dataset, the male/female ratio is significantly lower in the dislocation class than in the normal class. This might have helped the model to be more expert in detecting patterns of dislocation in female patients. Also, the model possibly relies on different imaging features to predict dislocation when applied on different genders. The gender-related differences in sensitivity and specificity of our model should be considered when applying the model in the real clinical setting. Nevertheless, the model has high NPV regardless of patient gender.

Saliency maps are tools that highlight the individual pixels' importance in the decision making of the model [24,25]. Although, deep learning techniques cannot currently clarify why CNN models make specific decisions, saliency maps can give us some clues to guess the reasoning behind models' decisions. Saliency maps generated for representative images illustrate that our model relied on several anatomical zones in predicting dislocations. The most consistent zone of interest on saliency maps was the area around the femoral head and the acetabular component. The model may be detecting imaging features associated with orientation of the acetabular component, and the size of the femoral head relative to that component. Both of these factors are known to influence the risk of dislocation [3,26]. The second intuitive zone was the greater trochanter and the area superior to it. The model is likely using this zone to learn intuitions about the femoral offset. The femoral offset can influence the tension on the abductor muscles and the propensity of the femur to impinge on the pelvis during extreme movements [14]. The last intuitive zone in saliency maps is the pelvic rami. The shape of the pelvic rami may indirectly imply the medialization of the acetabular component. Likewise, it may relate to the shape of the obturator foramen, which is dynamically influenced by the spinal flexibility. Change of spinal flexibility (eg, after spinal fusion) may increase the risk for dislocation following THA [27,28].

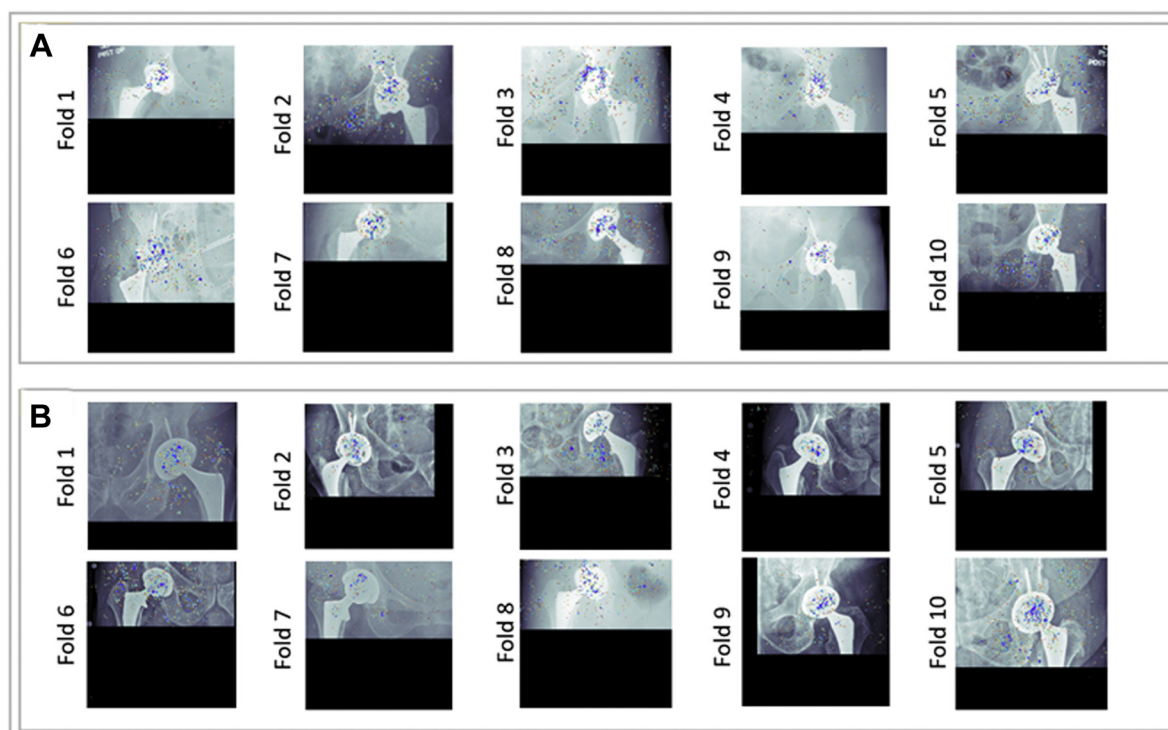
Our study had several challenges. First, the number of radiographs in the dislocation class was smaller than the normal class in our dataset (1490 images vs 91,094 images). As only <3% of THAs had sustained a dislocation in our study, we regarded our dataset as highly imbalanced. Class imbalance can have detrimental effects on CNN training as the model may learn to do the easy task, that is, to learn to classify all examples as the more frequent class and ignore the minority class [29]. Also, class imbalance makes our model more prone to overfitting. Overfitting implies a situation in the

**Table 3**  
Ten-Fold Mean (Standard Deviation) of the Prediction Model's Performance When Applied to Image Samples From Exclusively Male or Exclusively Female Total Hip Arthroplasty Patients.

Index	Male Patients	Female Patients	P-Value
Sensitivity	84.9 (7.0)	90.0 (3.9)	.044
Specificity	61.8 (5.2)	43.6 (5.6)	.001
Positive predictive value	4.30 (0.4)	2.95 (0.4)	.001
Negative predictive value	99.5 (0.2)	99.6 (0.2)	.346
Accuracy	62.3 (5.0)	44.8 (5.5)	.001

Samples had a dislocation frequency of 2% and included no images from the training subset.





**Fig. 4.** Saliency maps for the trained models in each of the 10-folds. (A) Example saliency maps for true predictions of the dislocation class. (B) Example saliency maps for true predictions of the normal class.

training when the model predictions fail to generalize to non-training data (Fig. 3B, Supplementary Fig. 3). To address class imbalance and overfitting in our training, we used various strategies including transfer learning from a model with fewer parameters (ResNet18, instead of the larger ResNet34, 50, or 101), 10-fold cross-validation, data over-sampling, and data augmentation. Also, we used a YOLO model to crop X-rays before feeding them to the final classifier model. If we had left X-rays uncropped, the dislocation AI model would have a more difficult task to find informative imaging features and could be hit more by overfitting. Second, the number of available images for different patients varied in our dataset. As we needed to separate our folds and datasets at the patient level, this limitation was a barrier to preserve an equal gender-ratio between subsets of different folds; otherwise, some folds would be significantly larger or smaller than others. This also prevented us from including other X-ray views in our study, as not all dislocated patients had available X-rays in all views. Third, we limited our dataset to patients with osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and avascular necrosis as the underlying indications for THA. Patients with fractures or tumors were excluded, as hardware used in those patients could significantly differ from other THAs. Finally, we only relied on single AP pelvis radiographs to assess the risk of dislocations. Using serial or/and non-AP radiographs, standardizing radiographs based on factors like weight-bearing, and feeding non-imaging clinical data to the model will likely improve the classification performance.

## Conclusion

Our study illustrates the potential of imaging AI models to investigate the risk of THA complications. We report an AI model that can do a meaningful classification of dislocations following THA based on single AP pelvis radiographs. It also introduces several zones of interest that may convey important etiological insights about

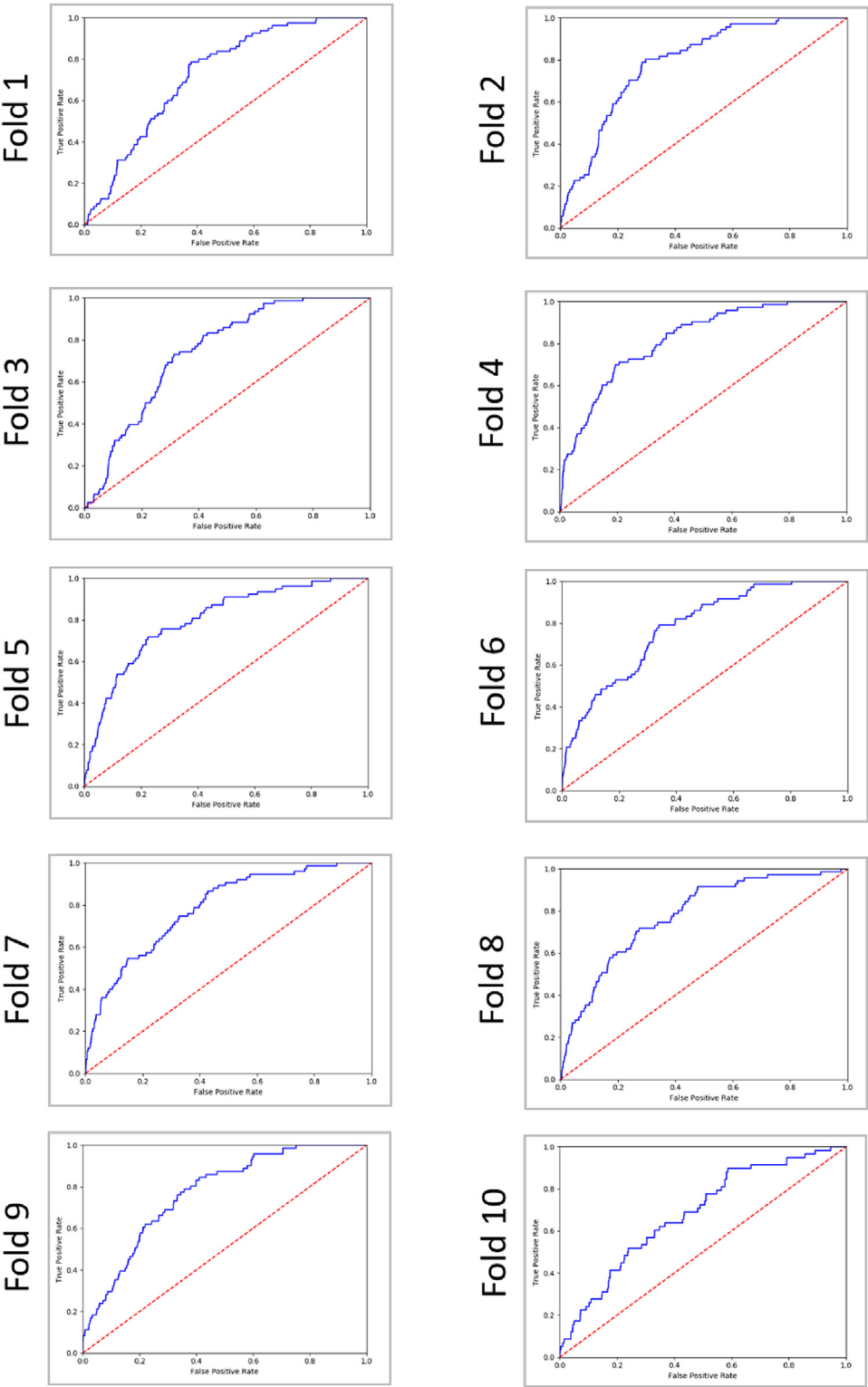
dislocation outcomes. We are currently exploring the inclusion of demographic data, non-imaging clinical data, and surgical data to further improve the classification performance of the model. Finally, we invite other orthopedic sites to share their datasets and collaborate to build pooled datasets of THA imaging studies. Notably, deep learning models need sufficiently large datasets and data sharing is the most practical—if not the only—way to improve performance when dealing with rare outcomes like hip dislocation.

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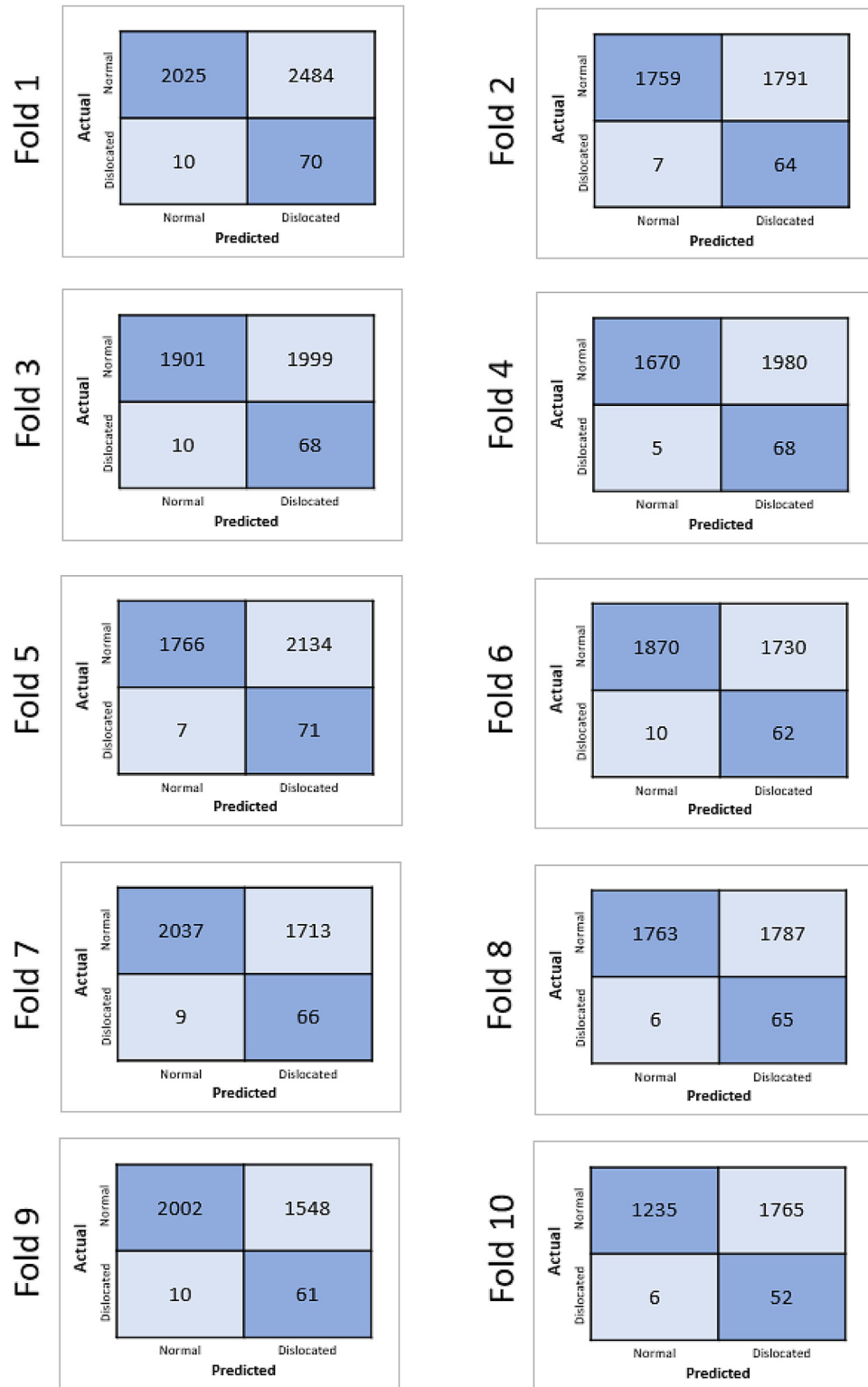
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Appendix

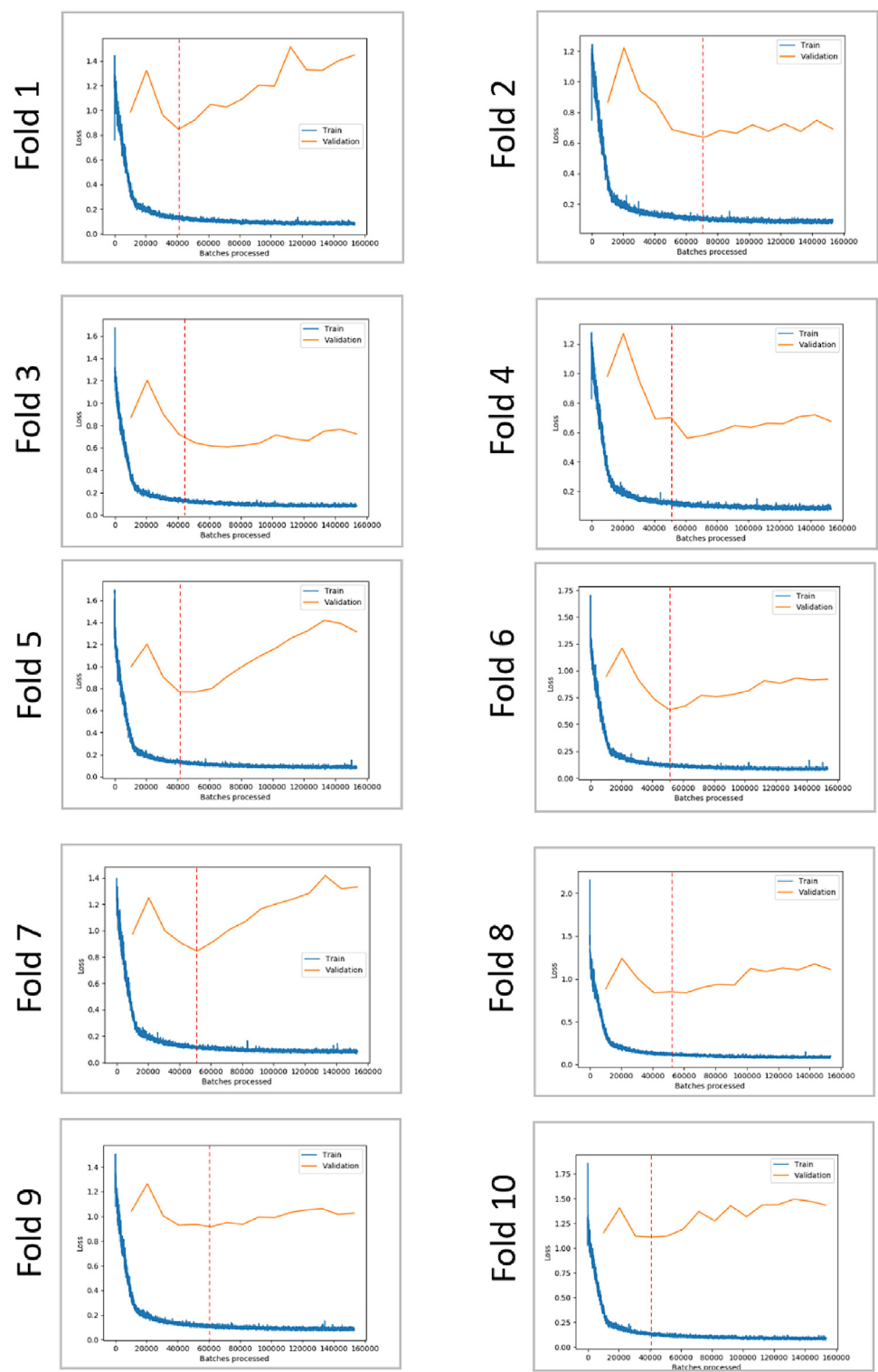


**Supplemental Fig. 1.** Receiver operating characteristic curves showing the performance of ResNet18 classifier model applied over the validation subsets in all folds.





**Supplemental Fig. 2.** Confusion matrices showing the performance of ResNet18 classifier model applied over the test subsets in all folds.



**Supplemental Fig. 3.** Training and loss curves for training the ResNet18 classifier model in all folds. The red dashed line implies the points where the best models were saved during the training. A lack of improvement in validation performance (beyond the red dashed line) indicates overfitting.