

# Supplementary Materials for “Personalized Biopsies in Prostate Cancer Active Surveillance”

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## 1 Appendix A. A Joint Model for the Longitudinal PSA, and Time 2 to Gleason Reclassification

3 Let  $T_i^*$  denote the true time of reclassification (increase in biopsy Gleason  
4 grade from 1 to 2 or higher) for the  $i$ -th patient included in PRIAS. Since  
5 biopsies are conducted periodically,  $T_i^*$  is observed with interval censoring  
6  $l_i < T_i^* \leq r_i$ . When reclassification is observed for the patient at his latest  
7 biopsy time  $r_i$ , then  $l_i$  denotes the time of the second latest biopsy. Oth-  
8 erwise,  $l_i$  denotes the time of the latest biopsy and  $r_i = \infty$ . Let  $\mathbf{y}_i$  denote

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his observed PSA longitudinal measurements. The observed data of all  $n$  patients is denoted by  $\mathcal{D}_n = \{l_i, r_i, \mathbf{y}_i; i = 1, \dots, n\}$ .

In our joint model, the patient-specific PSA measurements over time are modeled using a linear mixed effects sub-model. It is given by (see Panel A, Figure 1):

$$\begin{aligned} \log_2 \{y_i(t) + 1\} &= m_i(t) + \varepsilon_i(t), \\ m_i(t) &= \beta_0 + b_{0i} + \sum_{k=1}^4 (\beta_k + b_{ki}) B_k\left(\frac{t-2}{2}, \frac{\mathcal{K}-2}{2}\right) + \beta_5 \text{age}_i, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where,  $m_i(t)$  denotes the measurement error free value of  $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$  transformed [2, 3] measurements at time  $t$ . We model it non-linearly over time using B-splines [4]. To this end, our B-spline basis function  $B_k\{(t-2)/2, (\mathcal{K}-2)/2\}$  has 3 internal knots at  $\mathcal{K} = \{0.5, 1.3, 3\}$  years, which are the three quartiles of the observed follow-up times. The boundary knots of the spline are at 0 and 6.3 years (95-th percentile of the observed follow-up times). We mean centered (mean 2 years) and standardized (standard deviation 2 years) the follow-up time  $t$  and the knots of the B-spline  $\mathcal{K}$  during parameter estimation for better convergence. The fixed effect parameters are denoted by  $\{\beta_0, \dots, \beta_5\}$ , and  $\{b_{0i}, \dots, b_{4i}\}$  are the patient specific random effects. The random effects follow a multivariate normal distribution with mean zero and variance-covariance matrix  $\mathbf{D}$ . The error  $\varepsilon_i(t)$  is assumed to be t-distributed with three degrees of freedom (see Appendix B.1) and scale  $\sigma$ , and is independent of the random effects.

To model the impact of PSA measurements on the risk of reclassification, our joint model uses a relative risk sub-model. More specifically, the hazard of reclassification denoted as  $h_i(t)$ , and the cumulative risk of reclassification denoted as  $R_i(t)$ , at a time  $t$  are (see Panel C, Figure 1):

$$\begin{aligned} h_i(t) &= h_0(t) \exp\left(\gamma \text{age}_i + \alpha_1 m_i(t) + \alpha_2 \frac{\partial m_i(t)}{\partial t}\right), \\ R_i(t) &= \exp\left\{-\int_0^t h_i(s) ds\right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where,  $\gamma$  is the parameter for the effect of age. The impact of PSA on the hazard of reclassification is modeled in two ways, namely the impact of the error free underlying PSA value  $m_i(t)$  (see Panel A, Figure 1), and the impact of the underlying PSA velocity  $\partial m_i(t)/\partial t$  (see Panel B, Figure 1).

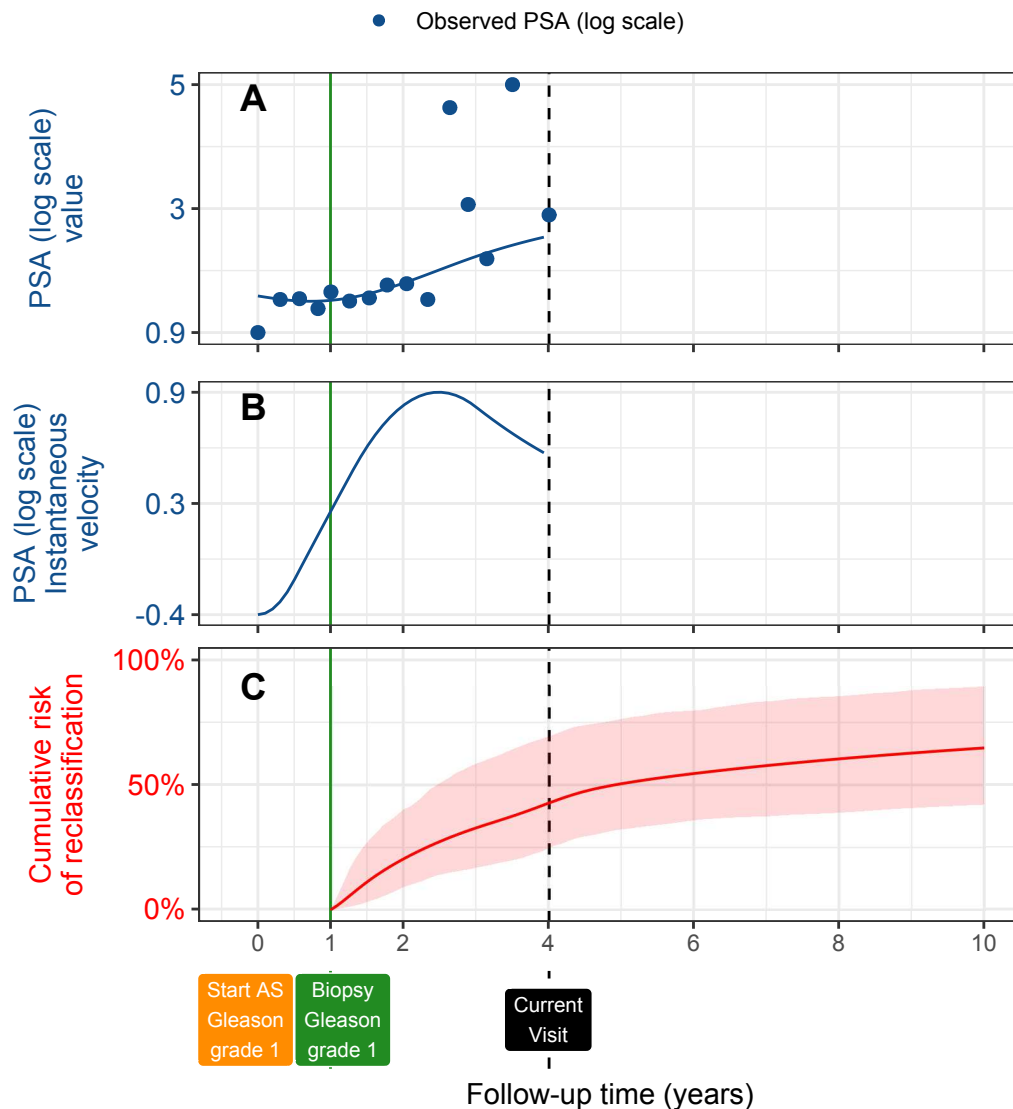


Figure 1: **Illustration of the joint model on a real PRIAS dataset patient.** **Panel A:** Observed (blue dots) and fitted PSA (solid blue line) measurements, log-transformed. **Panel B:** Estimated instantaneous velocity of PSA (log-transformed). **Panel C:** Predicted cumulative-risk of reclassification (95% credible interval shaded). Reclassification is defined as increase in Gleason grade [1] from grade 1 to 2 or higher. This risk of reclassification is available starting from the time of the latest negative biopsy (vertical green line at year 1 of follow-up). Joint model estimated it by combining the fitted PSA value and velocity (both on log scale of PSA) and time of latest negative biopsy. Black dashed line at year 4 denotes time of current visit.

The corresponding parameters are  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$ , respectively. Lastly,  $h_0(t)$  is the baseline hazard at time  $t$ , and is modeled flexibly using P-splines [5]. More specifically:

$$\log h_0(t) = \gamma_{h_0,0} + \sum_{q=1}^Q \gamma_{h_0,q} B_q(t, \mathbf{v}),$$

where  $B_q(t, \mathbf{v})$  denotes the  $q$ -th basis function of a B-spline with knots  $\mathbf{v} = v_1, \dots, v_Q$  and vector of spline coefficients  $\gamma_{h_0}$ . To avoid choosing the number and position of knots in the spline, a relatively high number of knots (e.g., 15 to 20) are chosen and the corresponding B-spline regression coefficients  $\gamma_{h_0}$  are penalized using a differences penalty [5].

We estimate the parameters of the joint model using Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods under the Bayesian framework. Let  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  denote the vector of all of the parameters of the joint model. The joint model postulates that given the random effects, the time of reclassification, and the PSA measurements taken over time are all mutually independent. Under this assumption the posterior distribution of the parameters is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} p(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{b} \mid \mathcal{D}_n) &\propto \prod_{i=1}^n p(l_i, r_i, \mathbf{y}_i \mid \mathbf{b}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\mathbf{b}_i \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &\propto \prod_{i=1}^n p(l_i, r_i \mid \mathbf{b}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\mathbf{y}_i \mid \mathbf{b}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\mathbf{b}_i \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\boldsymbol{\theta}), \\ p(\mathbf{b}_i \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^q \det(\mathbf{D})}} \exp(\mathbf{b}_i^T \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{b}_i), \end{aligned}$$

where, the likelihood contribution of the PSA outcome, conditional on the random effects is:

$$p(\mathbf{y}_i \mid \mathbf{b}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{(\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^2)^{n_i}} \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{m}_i\|^2}{\sigma^2}\right),$$

The likelihood contribution of the time of reclassification outcome is given by:

$$p(l_i, r_i \mid \mathbf{b}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \exp\left\{-\int_0^{l_i} h_i(s) ds\right\} - \exp\left\{-\int_0^{r_i} h_i(s) ds\right\}. \quad (3)$$

30 The integral in (3) does not have a closed-form solution, and therefore we  
 31 use a 15-point Gauss-Kronrod quadrature rule to approximate it.

32 We use independent normal priors with zero mean and variance 100 for  
 33 the fixed effects  $\{\beta_0, \dots, \beta_5\}$ , and inverse Gamma prior with shape and rate  
 34 both equal to 0.01 for the parameter  $\sigma^2$ . For the variance-covariance matrix  
 35  $\mathbf{D}$  of the random effects we take inverse Wishart prior with an identity scale  
 36 matrix and degrees of freedom equal to 5 (number of random effects). For  
 37 the relative risk model's parameter  $\gamma$  and the association parameters  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$ ,  
 38 we use independent normal priors with zero mean and variance 100.

#### 39 *Appendix A.1. Assumption of t-distributed (df=3) Error Terms*

40 With regards to the choice of the distribution for the error term  $\varepsilon$  for  
 41 the PSA measurements (see Equation 1), we attempted fitting multiple joint  
 42 models differing in error distribution, namely t-distribution with three, and  
 43 four degrees of freedom, and a normal distribution for the error term. How-  
 44 ever, the model assumption for the error term were best met by the model  
 45 with t-distribution having three degrees of freedom. The quantile-quantile  
 46 plot of subject-specific residuals for the corresponding model in Panel A of  
 47 Figure 2, shows that the assumption of t-distributed (df=3) errors is reason-  
 48 ably met by the fitted model.

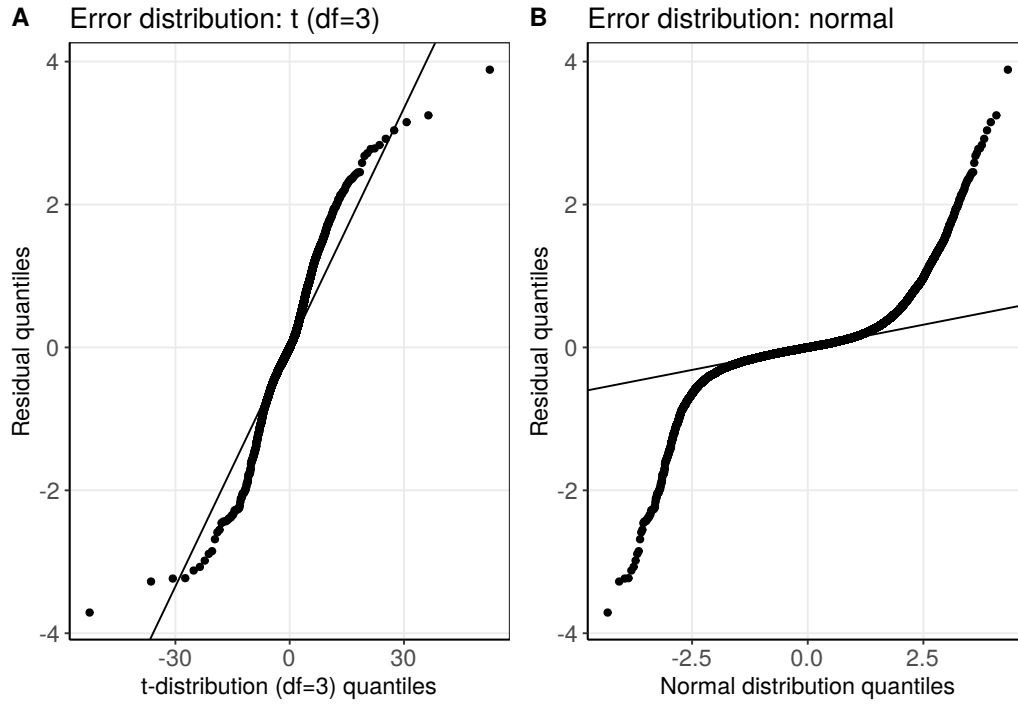


Figure 2: Quantile-quantile plot of subject-specific residuals from the joint models fitted to the PRIAS dataset. **Panel A:** model assuming a t-distribution ( $df=3$ ) for the error term  $\varepsilon$  (see Equation 1). **Panel B:** model assuming a normal distribution for the error term  $\varepsilon$ .

Table 1: Estimated variance-covariance matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  of the random effects  $\mathbf{b} = (b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4)$  from the joint model fitted to the PRIAS dataset. The variances of the random effects are highlighted along the diagonal of the variance-covariance matrix.

Random Effects	$b_0$	$b_1$	$b_2$	$b_3$	$b_4$
$b_0$	<b>0.229</b>	0.030	0.023	0.073	0.007
$b_1$	0.030	<b>0.149</b>	0.098	0.171	0.085
$b_2$	0.023	0.098	<b>0.276</b>	0.335	0.236
$b_3$	0.073	0.171	0.335	<b>0.560</b>	0.359
$b_4$	0.007	0.085	0.236	0.359	<b>0.351</b>

Table 2: Estimated mean and 95% credible interval for the parameters of the longitudinal sub-model (see Equation 1) for the PSA outcome.

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev	2.5%	97.5%	P
Intercept	2.129	0.060	2.009	2.244	<0.001
Age	0.008	0.001	0.007	0.010	<0.001
Spline: [0.0, 0.5] years	0.063	0.007	0.051	0.075	<0.001
Spline: [0.5, 1.3] years	0.196	0.010	0.177	0.217	<0.001
Spline: [1.3, 3.0] years	0.244	0.014	0.217	0.272	<0.001
Spline: [3.0, 6.3] years	0.382	0.014	0.356	0.410	<0.001
$\sigma$	0.139	0.001	0.138	0.140	

## 49 Appendix A.2. Results

50 The joint model was fitted using the R package **JMbayes** [8]. This pack-  
 51 age utilizes the Bayesian methodology to estimate model parameters. The  
 52 corresponding posterior parameter estimates are shown in Table 2 (longitu-  
 53 dinal sub-model for PSA outcome) and Table 3 (relative risk sub-model).  
 54 The parameter estimates for the variance-covariance matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  from the lon-  
 55 gitudinal sub-model for PSA are shown in the following Table 1:

56 For the PSA mixed effects sub-model parameter estimates (see Equa-  
 57 tion 1), in Table 2 we can see that the age of the patient trivially affects  
 58 the baseline  $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$  measurement. Since the longitudinal evolution of  
 59  $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$  measurements is modeled with non-linear terms, the interpre-  
 60 tation of the coefficients corresponding to time is not straightforward. In lieu  
 61 of the interpretation, in Figure 4 we present plots of observed versus fitted  
 62 PSA profiles for nine randomly selected patients.

63 For the relative risk sub-model (see Equation 2), the parameter estimates  
 64 in Table 3 show that  $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$  velocity and age of the patient were  
 65 significantly associated with the hazard of reclassification.

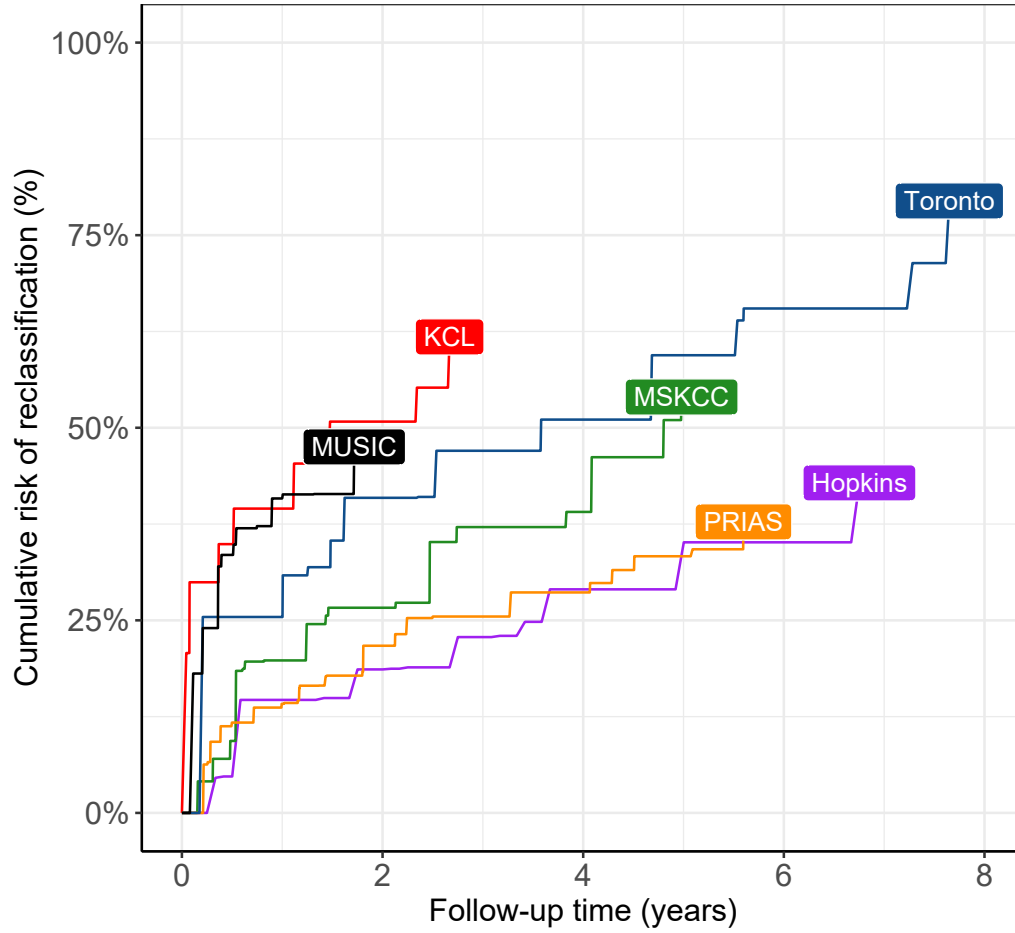


Figure 3: **Nonparametric estimate [6] of cumulative risk of reclassification** in the world's largest AS cohort PRIAS, and largest five AS cohorts from the GAP3 database [7]. Abbreviations are *Hopkins*: Johns Hopkins Active Surveillance, *PRIAS*: Prostate Cancer International Active Surveillance, *Toronto*: University of Toronto Active Surveillance, *MSKCC*: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Active Surveillance, *KCL*: King's College London Active Surveillance, *MUSIC*: Michigan Urological Surgery Improvement Collaborative AS.



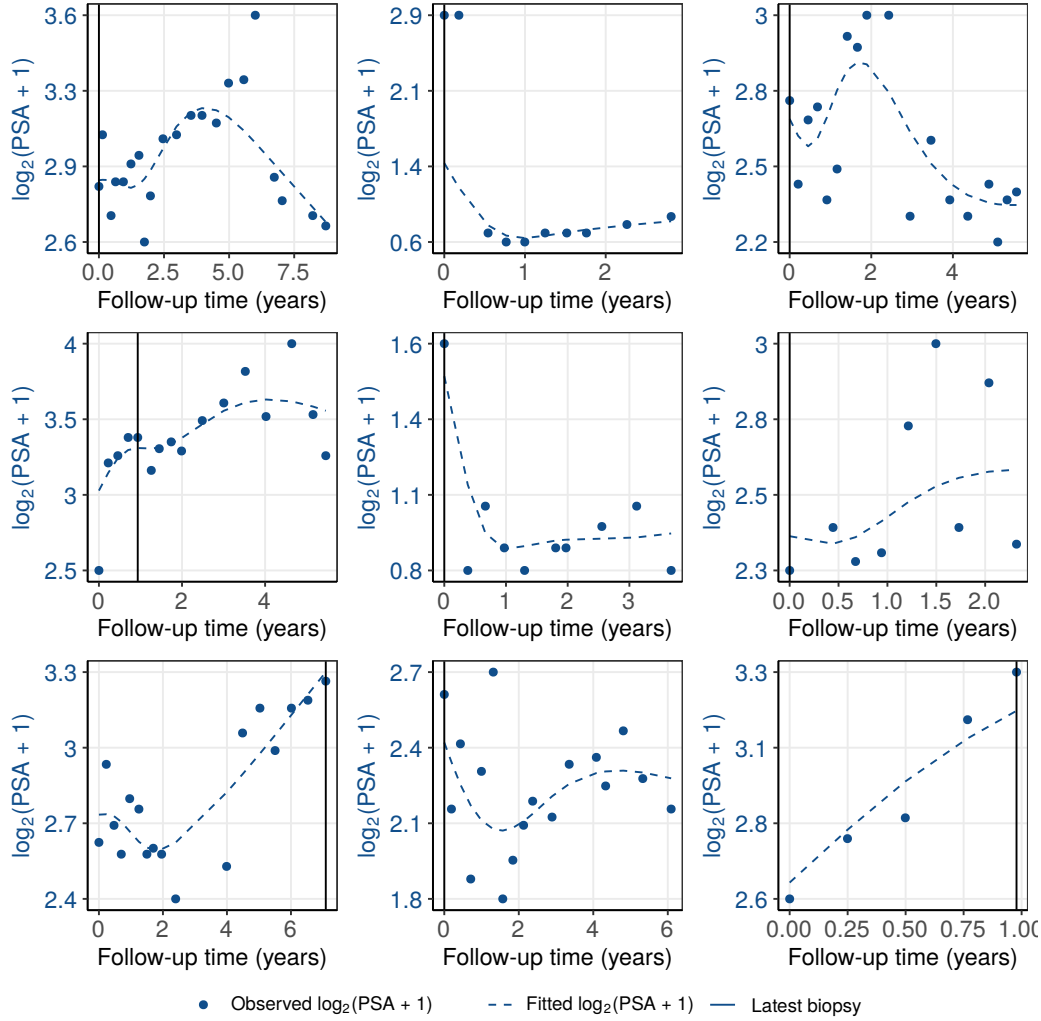


Figure 4: Fitted versus observed  $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$  profiles for nine randomly selected PRIAS patients. The fitted profiles utilize information from the observed PSA measurements, and time of the latest biopsy.

Table 3: Estimated mean and 95% credible interval for the parameters of the relative risk sub-model (see Equation 2) of the joint model fitted to the PRIAS dataset.

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev	2.5%	97.5%	P
Age	0.037	0.006	0.025	0.049	<0.001
Fitted $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$ value	-0.012	0.076	-0.164	0.135	0.856
Fitted $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$ velocity	2.266	0.299	1.613	2.767	<0.001

Table 4: Hazard (of reclassification) ratio and 95% credible interval (CI), for an increase in the variables of relative risk sub-model, from their 25-th percentile ( $P_{25}$ ) to their 75-th percentile ( $P_{75}$ ). Except for age, quartiles for all other variables are based on their fitted values obtained from the joint model fitted to the PRIAS dataset.

Variable	$P_{25}$	$P_{75}$	Hazard ratio [95% CI]
Age	61	71	1.455 [1.285, 1.631]
Fitted $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$ value	2.360	3.078	0.991 [0.889, 1.102]
Fitted $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$ velocity	-0.085	0.308	2.433 [1.883, 2.962]

66 It is important to note that since age, and  $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$  value and ve-  
 67 locity are all measured on different scales, a comparison between the corre-  
 68 sponding parameter estimates is not easy. To this end, in Table 4, we present  
 69 the hazard ratio of reclassification, for an increase in the aforementioned vari-  
 70 ables from their 25-th to the 75-th percentile. For example, an increase in  
 71 fitted  $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$  velocity from -0.085 to 0.308 (fitted 25-th and 75-th  
 72 percentiles) corresponds to a hazard ratio of 2.433. The interpretation for  
 73 the rest is similar.

## 74 Appendix B. Risk Predictions for Reclassification

Let us assume a new patient  $j$ , for whom we need to estimate the risk of reclassification. Let his current follow-up visit time be  $s$ , latest time of biopsy be  $t$ , observed vector PSA measurements be  $\mathcal{Y}_j(s)$ . The combined information from the observed data about the time of reclassification, is given by the following posterior predictive distribution  $g(T_j^*)$  of his time  $T_j^*$  of reclassification:

$$\begin{aligned} g(T_j^*) &= p\{T_j^* \mid T_j^* > t, \mathcal{Y}_j(s), \mathcal{D}_n\} \\ &= \int \int p(T_j^* \mid T_j^* > t, \mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &\quad \times p\{\mathbf{b}_j \mid T_j^* > t, \mathcal{Y}_j(s), \boldsymbol{\theta}\} p(\boldsymbol{\theta} \mid \mathcal{D}_n) d\mathbf{b}_j d\boldsymbol{\theta}. \end{aligned}$$

75 The distribution  $g(T_j^*)$  depends not only depends on the observed data of the  
 76 patient  $T_j^* > t, \mathcal{Y}_j(s)$ , but also depends on the information from the PRIAS  
 77 dataset  $\mathcal{D}_n$ . To this the the posterior distribution of random effects  $\mathbf{b}_j$  and  
 78 posterior distribution of the vector of all parameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  are utilized, respec-  
 79 tively. The distribution  $g(T_j^*)$  can be estimated as detailed in Rizopoulos  
 80 et al. [9]. Since, majority of the prostate cancer patients may not obtain  
 81 reclassification in the current follow-up period of PRIAS (thirteen years),  
 82  $g(T_j^*)$  can only be estimated for time points falling within the thirteen year  
 83 follow-up.

The cumulative risk of reclassification can be derived from  $g(T_j^*)$  as given in [9]. It is given by:

$$R_j(u \mid t, s) = \Pr\{T_j^* > u \mid T_j^* > t, \mathcal{Y}_j(s), \mathcal{D}_n\}, \quad u \geq t. \quad (4)$$

84 The personalized risk profile of the patient (see Panel C, Figure 5) updates  
 85 as more data is gathered over follow-up visits.

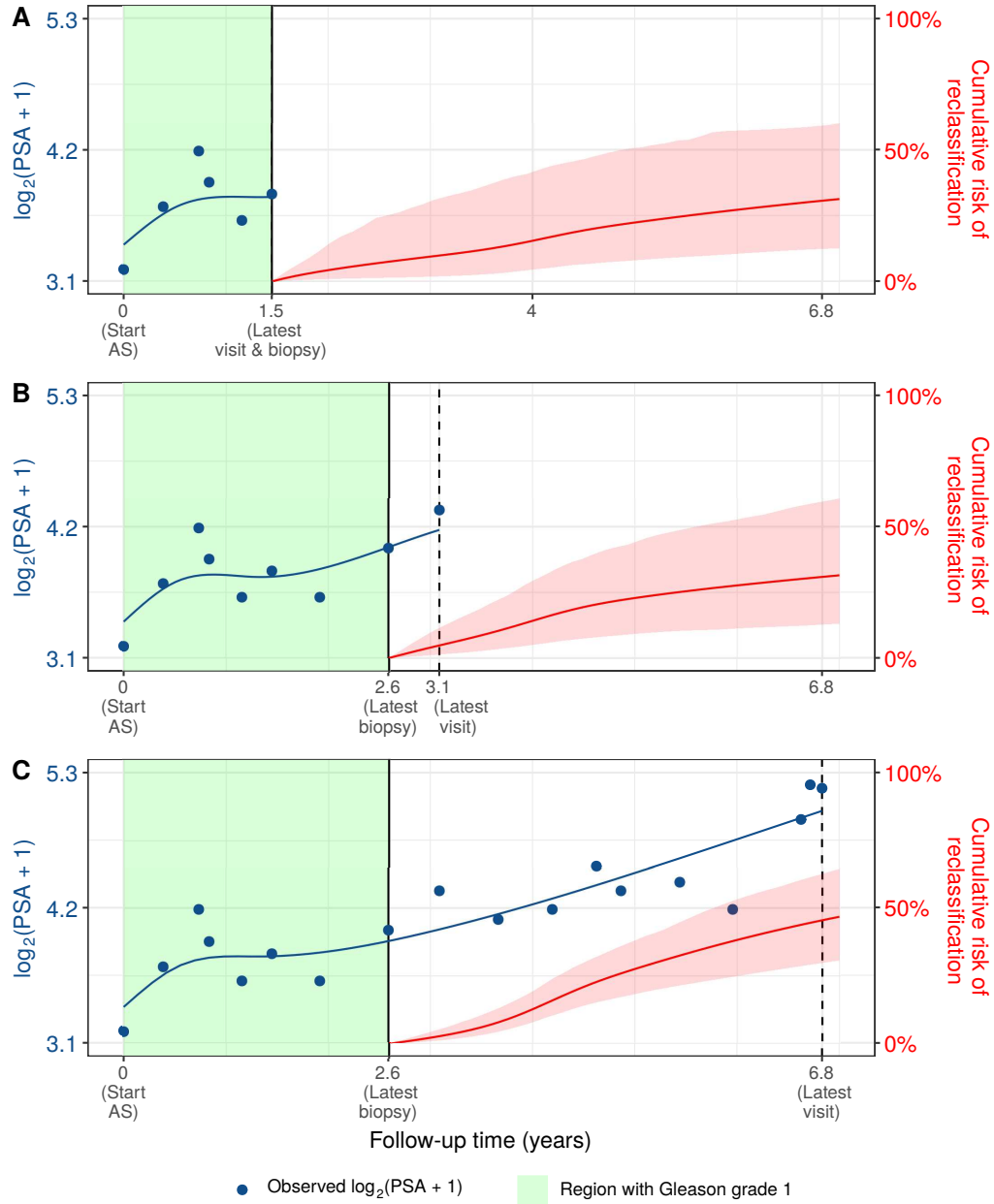


Figure 5: **Cumulative risk of (reclassification) changing dynamically over follow-up** as more patient data is gathered. The three **Panels A,B and C:** are ordered by the time of the latest visit (dashed vertical black line) of a new patient. At each of the latest follow-up visits, we combine the accumulated PSA measurements (shown in blue), and latest time of negative biopsy (solid vertical black line) to obtain the updated cumulative risk profile (shown in red) of the patient.

### 86 *Appendix B.1. Validation of Risk Predictions*

87 We wanted to check the usefulness of our model for not only the PRIAS  
 88 patients but also for patients from other cohorts. To this end, we validated  
 89 our model in PRIAS dataset (internal validation) and in largest five co-  
 90 horts from the GAP3 database [7]. These are the University of Toronto AS  
 91 (Toronto), Johns Hopkins AS (Hopkins), Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer  
 92 Center AS (MSKCC), King’s College London AS (KCL), and Michigan Uro-  
 93 logical Surgery Improvement Collaborative AS (MUSIC).

**Calibration-in-the-large** We first assessed calibration-in-the-large [10]  
 of our model in the aforementioned cohorts. To this end, we used our model  
 to predict the cumulative risk of reclassification for each patient given their  
 PSA measurements and biopsy results. We then averaged the resulting pro-  
 files of cumulative risk of reclassification. Subsequently we compared the  
 averaged cumulative-risk profile with a non-parametric estimate [6] of the  
 cumulative risk of reclassification in each of the cohorts. The results are  
 shown in Panel A of Figure 6. We can see that our model’s calibration is fine  
 only in PRIAS and Hopkins cohorts. To improve our model’s calibration in  
 KCL, MUSIC, Toronto, and MSKCC cohorts, we recalibrated the baseline  
 hazard of the PRIAS model individually for each of these cohorts. More  
 specifically, given the cohort data  $\mathcal{D}_n^c$  of the  $c$ -th cohort, the recalibrated  
 parameters  $\gamma_{h0}^c$  (Section Appendix A) of the log baseline hazard are given  
 by:

$$p(\gamma_{h0}^c \mid \mathcal{D}_n^c, \mathbf{b}^c, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \propto \prod_{i=1}^{n^c} p(l_i^c, r_i^c \mid \mathbf{b}_i^c, \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\gamma_{h0}^c) \quad (5)$$

94 where  $n^c$  are the number of patients in the  $c$ -th cohort,  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  are the parameters  
 95 of the joint model fitted to the PRIAS dataset,  $l_i^c, r_i^c$  are the interval in which  
 96 reclassification is observed ( $r_i^c = \infty$  for right censored patients) for the  $i$ -th  
 97 patient of the  $c$ -th cohort. The symbol  $\mathbf{b}_i^c$  denotes his patient-specific ran-  
 98 dom effects (Section Appendix A). The random effects are estimated from  
 99 the original joint model fitted to the PRIAS dataset. We re-evaluated the  
 100 calibration-in-the-large of our model after the recalibration of the baseline  
 101 hazard. The improved calibration-in-the-large is shown in Panel B of Fig-  
 102 ure 6.

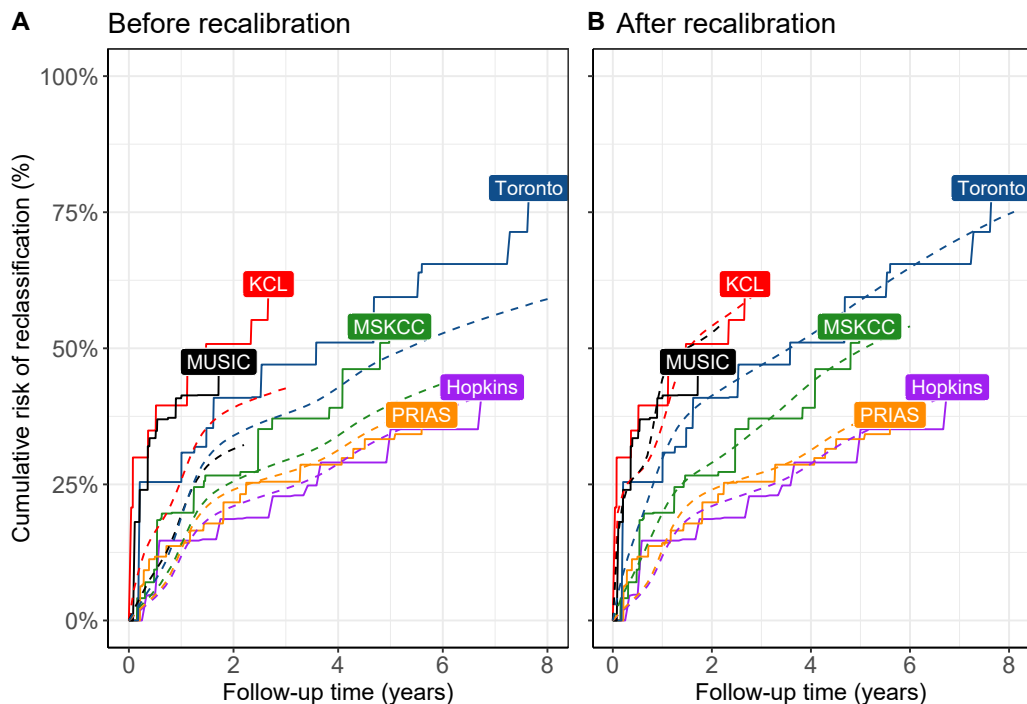


Figure 6: **Calibration-in-the-large of our model:** In **Panel A** we can see that our model is not well calibrated for use in KCL, MUSIC, Toronto and MSKCC. In **Panel B** we can see that calibration of model predictions improved in KCL, MUSIC, Toronto and MSKCC cohorts. Recalibration was not conducted for Hopkins cohort. Full names of Cohorts are *PRIAS*: Prostate Cancer International Active Surveillance, *Toronto*: University of Toronto Active Surveillance, *Hopkins*: Johns Hopkins Active Surveillance, *MSKCC*: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Active Surveillance, *KCL*: King's College London Active Surveillance, *MUSIC*: Michigan Urological Surgery Improvement Collaborative Active Surveillance.

103 **Recalibrated PRIAS Model Versus Individual Joint Models**  
 104 **For Each Cohort** We wanted to check if our recalibrated PRIAS model  
 105 performed as well fitting an entirely new joint model to the external co-  
 106 horts. To this end, we predicted cumulative-risk of reclassification for each  
 107 patient from each patient using two different models, namely the recalibrated  
 108 PRIAS model for that cohort, and a new joint model fitted to that cohort.  
 109 The difference in predicted cumulative-risk of reclassification from these co-  
 110 horts (Figure 7) is quite small. The only exception is the MUSIC cohort  
 111 in which individual risk predictions obtained from the recalibrated PRIAS  
 112 model may differ from predictions from a newly fitted joint model, by more  
 113 than 10% in at least half of the patients.

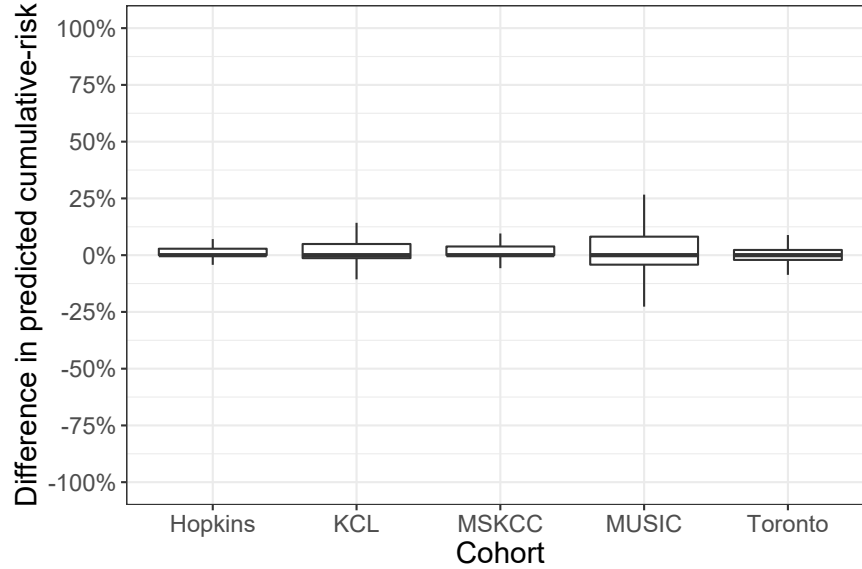


Figure 7: **Comparison of predictions from recalibrated PRIAS model with individual joint models fitted to external cohorts:** On Y-axis we show the difference between predicted cumulative-risk of reclassification for individual patients using two models, namely the recalibrated PRIAS model for each cohort, and individual joint models fitted to each cohort. The maximum differences in each direction can be 100% or -100%. The figure shows that in all cohorts except the MUSIC cohort, the recalibrated PRIAS model predicts as good as a newly fitted joint model to each of the cohorts. Full names of Cohorts are *PRIAS*: Prostate Cancer International Active Surveillance, *Toronto*: University of Toronto Active Surveillance, *Hopkins*: Johns Hopkins Active Surveillance, *MSKCC*: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Active Surveillance, *KCL*: King's College London Active Surveillance, *MUSIC*: Michigan Urological Surgery Improvement Collaborative Active Surveillance.

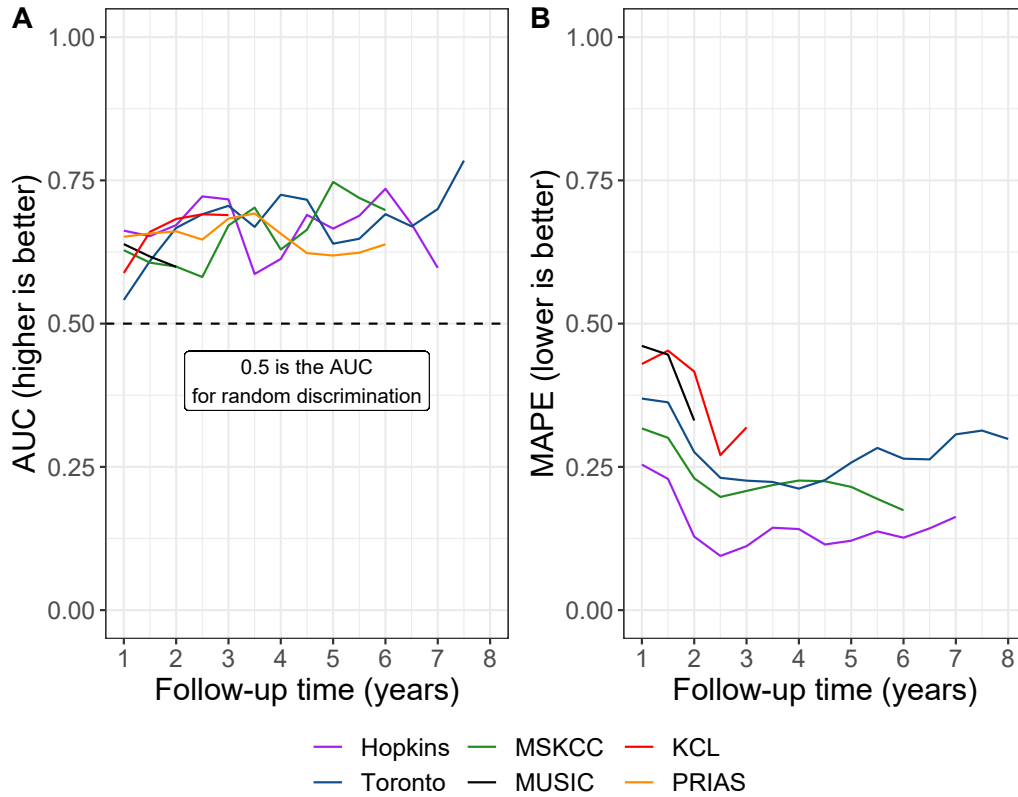
114 ***Validation of Dynamic Cumulative-Risk Predictions*** As shown  
 115 in Figure 5 the cumulative-risk predictions from the joint model are dynamic  
 116 in nature. That is, they update as more data becomes available over time.  
 117 Consequently, the discrimination and calibration of the joint model also de-  
 118 pends on the available data. We assessed these two measures dynamically  
 119 in the PRIAS cohort (interval validation) and in the largest five external co-  
 120 horts that are part of the GAP3 database. For discrimination we utilized the  
 121 time-varying area under the receiver operating characteristic curve or time-  
 122 varying AUC [9]. For time-varying calibration we assessed the mean absolute  
 123 prediction error or MAPE [9]. The AUC indicates how well the model dis-  
 124 criminate between patients who experience reclassification and those do not.  
 125 The MAPE indicates how well the model predicts reclassification. Both AUC  
 126 and MAPE are restricted to  $[0, 1]$ . However, it is preferred that  $\text{AUC} > 0.5$   
 127 because an  $\text{AUC} \leq 0.5$  indicates that the model performs worse than random  
 128 discrimination. Ideally MAPE should be 0.

129 We calculate AUC and MAPE in a time-dependent manner. More specif-  
 130 ically, given the time of latest biopsy  $t$ , and history of PSA measurements up  
 131 to time  $s$ , we calculate AUC and MAPE for a medically relevant time frame  
 132  $(t, s]$ , within which the occurrence of reclassification is of interest. In the case  
 133 of prostate cancer, at any point in time  $s$  it is of interest to identify patients  
 134 who may have experienced reclassification in the last one year  $(s - 1, s]$ . That  
 135 is we set  $t = s - 1$ . We then calculate AUC and MAPE at a gap of every  
 136 six months (follow-up schedule of PRIAS). That is,  $s \in \{1, 1.5, \dots\}$  years. To  
 137 obtain reliable estimates of AUC and MAPE, in each cohort we restrict  $s$   
 138 to a maximum time point  $s_{\max}$ , such that there are at least 10 patients  
 139 who experience reclassification after  $s_{\max}$ . This maximum time point  $s_{\max}$   
 140 differs between cohorts. The resulting estimates of AUC are summarized in  
 141 Figure 8, and in Table 5 to Table 10. Results are based on the recalibrated  
 142 PRIAS model for Toronto, MSKCC, MUSIC, and KCL cohorts, whereas origi-  
 143 nal joint model fitted to the PRIAS dataset is used for Hopkins and PRIAS  
 144 cohorts.

145 The results show that AUC remains more or less constant in all cohorts  
 146 as more data becomes available for patients. The AUC obtains a moderate  
 147 value, roughly between 0.5 and 0.7 for all cohorts. On the other hand, MAPE  
 148 reduces by a big margin after year two of follow-up. This could be because  
 149 of two reasons. Firstly, MAPE at year 1 is based only on four PSA measure-  
 150 ments gathered in first year of follow-up, whereas after year two number of  
 151 PSA measurements increase. Secondly, patients in year one consist of two



sub-populations, namely patients with a correct Gleason grade 1 at the time of inclusion in AS, and patients who probably had Gleason grade 2 at inclusion but were misclassified by the urologist as Gleason grade 1 patients. To remedy this problem, a biopsy for all patients at year one is commonly recommended in all AS programs [11].



**Figure 8: Validation of Dynamic Cumulative-Risk Predictions.** In **Panel A** we can see that the time dependent area under the receiver operating characteristic curve or AUC (measure of discrimination) is above 0.5 in PRIAS (internal validation), and in Toronto, JHAS, MSKCC, KCL, and MUSIC AS cohorts (external validation). In **Panel B** we can see that the time dependent root mean squared prediction error or MAPE (measure of calibration) is similar for PRIAS, and JHAS and Toronto cohorts. The bootstrapped 95% confidence interval for these estimates are presented in Table 5 to Table 9. Full names of Cohorts are *PRIAS*: Prostate Cancer International Active Surveillance, *Toronto*: University of Toronto Active Surveillance, *JHAS*: Johns Hopkins Active Surveillance, *MSKCC*: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Active Surveillance, *KCL*: King's College London Active Surveillance, *MUSIC*: Michigan Urological Surgery Improvement Collaborative Active Surveillance.

Table 5: **Internal validation of predictions of reclassification in PRIAS cohort.** The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve or AUC (measure of discrimination) and mean absolute prediction error or MAPE (measure of calibration) are calculated over the follow-up period at a gap of 6 months. In addition bootstrapped 95% confidence intervals (CI) are also presented.

Follow-up period (years)	AUC (95% CI)	MAPE (95%CI)
0.0 to 1.0	0.652 [0.611, 0.690]	0.227 [0.223, 0.236]
0.5 to 1.5	0.657 [0.641, 0.673]	0.376 [0.371, 0.382]
1.0 to 2.0	0.661 [0.647, 0.678]	0.371 [0.364, 0.379]
1.5 to 2.5	0.647 [0.596, 0.688]	0.253 [0.245, 0.263]
2.0 to 3.0	0.683 [0.642, 0.723]	0.252 [0.241, 0.262]
2.5 to 3.5	0.692 [0.632, 0.748]	0.238 [0.224, 0.251]
3.0 to 4.0	0.657 [0.603, 0.709]	0.273 [0.263, 0.285]
3.5 to 4.5	0.623 [0.582, 0.660]	0.338 [0.326, 0.349]
4.0 to 5.0	0.619 [0.582, 0.654]	0.338 [0.325, 0.350]
4.5 to 5.5	0.624 [0.537, 0.711]	0.397 [0.355, 0.425]
5.0 to 6.0	0.639 [0.582, 0.696]	0.397 [0.355, 0.425]

Table 6: **External validation of predictions of reclassification in University of Toronto Active Surveillance cohort.** The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve or AUC (measure of discrimination) and mean absolute prediction error or MAPE (measure of calibration) are calculated over the follow-up period at a gap of 6 months. In addition bootstrapped 95% confidence intervals (CI) are also presented.

Follow-up period (years)	AUC (95% CI)	MAPE (95%CI)
0.0 to 1.0	0.541 [0.470, 0.621]	0.369 [0.352, 0.381]
0.5 to 1.5	0.609 [0.547, 0.661]	0.363 [0.348, 0.376]
1.0 to 2.0	0.667 [0.634, 0.712]	0.276 [0.259, 0.296]
1.5 to 2.5	0.691 [0.651, 0.730]	0.231 [0.205, 0.254]
2.0 to 3.0	0.706 [0.637, 0.762]	0.226 [0.196, 0.260]
2.5 to 3.5	0.669 [0.586, 0.741]	0.224 [0.195, 0.258]
3.0 to 4.0	0.725 [0.649, 0.806]	0.212 [0.184, 0.238]
3.5 to 4.5	0.716 [0.642, 0.793]	0.227 [0.206, 0.258]
4.0 to 5.0	0.640 [0.579, 0.717]	0.257 [0.222, 0.312]
4.5 to 5.5	0.648 [0.579, 0.740]	0.283 [0.247, 0.326]
5.0 to 6.0	0.691 [0.608, 0.793]	0.264 [0.232, 0.302]
5.5 to 6.5	0.670 [0.543, 0.776]	0.263 [0.227, 0.307]
6.0 to 7.0	0.700 [0.544, 0.851]	0.307 [0.258, 0.363]
6.5 to 7.5	0.785 [0.640, 0.866]	0.313 [0.272, 0.360]
7.0 to 8.0	0.688 [0.532, 0.786]	0.299 [0.249, 0.361]

Table 7: **External validation of predictions of reclassification in Johns Hopkins Active Surveillance cohort.** The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve or AUC (measure of discrimination) and mean absolute prediction error or MAPE (measure of calibration) are calculated over the follow-up period at a gap of 6 months. In addition bootstrapped 95% confidence intervals (CI) are also presented.

Follow-up period (years)	AUC (95% CI)	MAPE (95%CI)
0.0 to 1.0	0.662 [0.586, 0.715]	0.254 [0.245, 0.265]
0.5 to 1.5	0.653 [0.603, 0.707]	0.229 [0.219, 0.240]
1.0 to 2.0	0.672 [0.604, 0.744]	0.128 [0.115, 0.141]
1.5 to 2.5	0.722 [0.652, 0.792]	0.095 [0.081, 0.111]
2.0 to 3.0	0.717 [0.638, 0.777]	0.112 [0.100, 0.123]
2.5 to 3.5	0.587 [0.493, 0.704]	0.144 [0.129, 0.154]
3.0 to 4.0	0.613 [0.486, 0.742]	0.141 [0.126, 0.156]
3.5 to 4.5	0.690 [0.594, 0.783]	0.115 [0.100, 0.133]
4.0 to 5.0	0.666 [0.572, 0.754]	0.121 [0.104, 0.147]
4.5 to 5.5	0.688 [0.519, 0.779]	0.137 [0.119, 0.161]
5.0 to 6.0	0.735 [0.676, 0.820]	0.126 [0.102, 0.152]
5.5 to 6.5	0.674 [0.581, 0.765]	0.143 [0.121, 0.172]
6.0 to 7.0	0.597 [0.472, 0.712]	0.163 [0.126, 0.195]

Table 8: **External validation of predictions of reclassification in Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Active Surveillance cohort.** The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve or AUC (measure of discrimination) and mean absolute prediction error or MAPE (measure of calibration) are calculated over the follow-up period at a gap of 6 months. In addition bootstrapped 95% confidence intervals (CI) are also presented.

Follow-up period (years)	AUC (95% CI)	MAPE (95%CI)
0.0 to 1.0	0.628 [0.577, 0.688]	0.317 [0.316, 0.318]
0.5 to 1.5	0.606 [0.532, 0.657]	0.301 [0.290, 0.311]
1.0 to 2.0	0.599 [0.518, 0.671]	0.230 [0.207, 0.256]
1.5 to 2.5	0.581 [0.504, 0.663]	0.198 [0.168, 0.235]
2.0 to 3.0	0.671 [0.599, 0.741]	0.208 [0.182, 0.232]
2.5 to 3.5	0.703 [0.610, 0.777]	0.218 [0.197, 0.246]
3.0 to 4.0	0.629 [0.499, 0.706]	0.226 [0.194, 0.259]
3.5 to 4.5	0.664 [0.589, 0.756]	0.225 [0.199, 0.262]
4.0 to 5.0	0.747 [0.642, 0.841]	0.215 [0.188, 0.247]
4.5 to 5.5	0.719 [0.597, 0.852]	0.194 [0.165, 0.232]
5.0 to 6.0	0.698 [0.565, 0.792]	0.174 [0.136, 0.227]

Table 9: **External validation of predictions of reclassification in King's College London Active Surveillance cohort.** The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve or AUC (measure of discrimination) and mean absolute prediction error or MAPE (measure of calibration) are calculated over the follow-up period at a gap of 6 months. In addition bootstrapped 95% confidence intervals (CI) are also presented.

Follow-up period (years)	AUC (95% CI)	MAPE (95%CI)
0.0 to 1.0	0.589 [0.514, 0.653]	0.430 [0.407, 0.450]
0.5 to 1.5	0.660 [0.550, 0.742]	0.453 [0.431, 0.474]
1.0 to 2.0	0.683 [0.604, 0.753]	0.416 [0.396, 0.445]
1.5 to 2.5	0.691 [0.621, 0.766]	0.271 [0.246, 0.297]
2.0 to 3.0	0.689 [0.616, 0.785]	0.319 [0.282, 0.344]

Table 10: **External validation of predictions of reclassification in Michigan Urological Surgery Improvement Collaborative Active Surveillance cohort.** The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve or AUC (measure of discrimination) and mean absolute prediction error or MAPE (measure of calibration) are calculated over the follow-up period at a gap of 6 months. In addition bootstrapped 95% confidence intervals (CI) are also presented.

Follow-up period (years)	AUC (95% CI)	MAPE (95%CI)
0.0 to 1.0	0.639 [0.607, 0.672]	0.461 [0.450, 0.469]
0.5 to 1.5	0.617 [0.588, 0.652]	0.446 [0.441, 0.453]
1.0 to 2.0	0.599 [0.553, 0.632]	0.331 [0.317, 0.348]

## 157 Appendix C. Personalized Biopsies Based on Risk of GS7

158 Consider some real patients from the PRIAS database shown in Figure 9  
 159 to Figure 12. We intend to develop personalized schedule of biopsies for  
 160 these patients. Using the joint model fitted to the PRIAS dataset, we first  
 161 obtain their cumulative risk of GS7 over the entire follow-up period (see  
 162 Equation 4). This cumulative risk accounts for their entire history of PSA  
 163 as well as the time of their latest negative biopsy. For a new patient  $j$  we  
 164 suggest a personalized risk based biopsy at time  $s$  if their cumulative risk of  
 165 GS7 denoted by  $R_j(s | t, s)$  at  $s$ , given the time of their latest negative biopsy  
 166  $t$ , is above a certain threshold (e.g., 10% risk). Suppose that in this way a  
 167 decision of biopsy is taken at time  $s$ . Since patients may be removed from  
 168 AS upon detection of GS7, schedule of future biopsies is made by assuming  
 169 that GS7 is not detected at time  $s$ . Thus, for a decision of biopsy at the next  
 170 visit time  $s + 1$ , the cumulative risk of GS7 denoted by  $R_j(s + 1 | s, s)$  that  
 171 the time of latest negative biopsy is  $s$ . Similarly, if  $R_j(s + 1 | s, s) < 10\%$ ,  
 172 then we decide for a biopsy at a subsequent time  $s + 2$  using the threshold  
 173  $R_j(s + 2 | s, s)$ . On the other hand if  $R_j(s + 1 | s, s) \geq 10\%$  then then we  
 174 decide for a biopsy at time  $s + 2$  using the threshold  $R_j(s + 2 | s + 1, s)$ .  
 175 While scheduling these biopsies we always maintain a minimum gap of one  
 176 year. Personalized schedules can also be made with any other risk threshold  
 177 such as 5% or 15%.

To assist patients in making an informed choice for a schedule, be it personalized or fixed, we provide them patient-specific consequences of following each schedule. To this end, we first calculate the probability of occurrence of GS7 between successive biopsies of each schedule. Using these probabilities we then obtain the expected delay in detection of GS7 for following that schedule. Thus, patients have a method to compare across various schedules in terms of the personalized burden (time and total biopsies), and personalized benefit (less delay in detection of GS7 is beneficial). Suppose once again that for patient  $j$ , the time of latest negative biopsy is  $t$ , and current visit time is  $s > t$ . Then equation for the expected delay  $D_j(\mathcal{S} | t, s)$  in detection of GS7 using schedule of biopsies  $\mathcal{S} = \{t_1, \dots, t_h\}$ , where  $t_1 \geq s$ , and  $t_h$  is

the horizon time up to which we want to schedule biopsies, is given by:

$$D_j(\mathcal{S} \mid t, s) = \sum_{v=1}^{h-1} \left\{ R_j(t_{v+1} \mid t, s) - R_j(t_v \mid t, s) \right\} \times \left\{ t_{v+1} - t_v - \int_{t_v}^{t_{v+1}} \frac{R_j(t_{v+1} \mid t, s) - R_j(u \mid t, s)}{R_j(t_{v+1} \mid t, s) - R_j(t_v \mid t, s)} du \right\} \quad (6)$$

178 The personalized and fixed schedules, and their consequences for a few real  
 179 patients from the PRIAS dataset are shown in Figure 9 to Figure 12. We  
 180 maintained a minimum gap of one year between biopsies as advised by the  
 181 PRIAS protocol. In addition, we scheduled biopsies only for the first ten years  
 182 follow-up because of limited follow-up data period of PRIAS. A compulsory  
 183 biopsy was done at year ten of follow-up in all schedules for meaningful  
 184 comparison of their expected delays in detection of GS7.

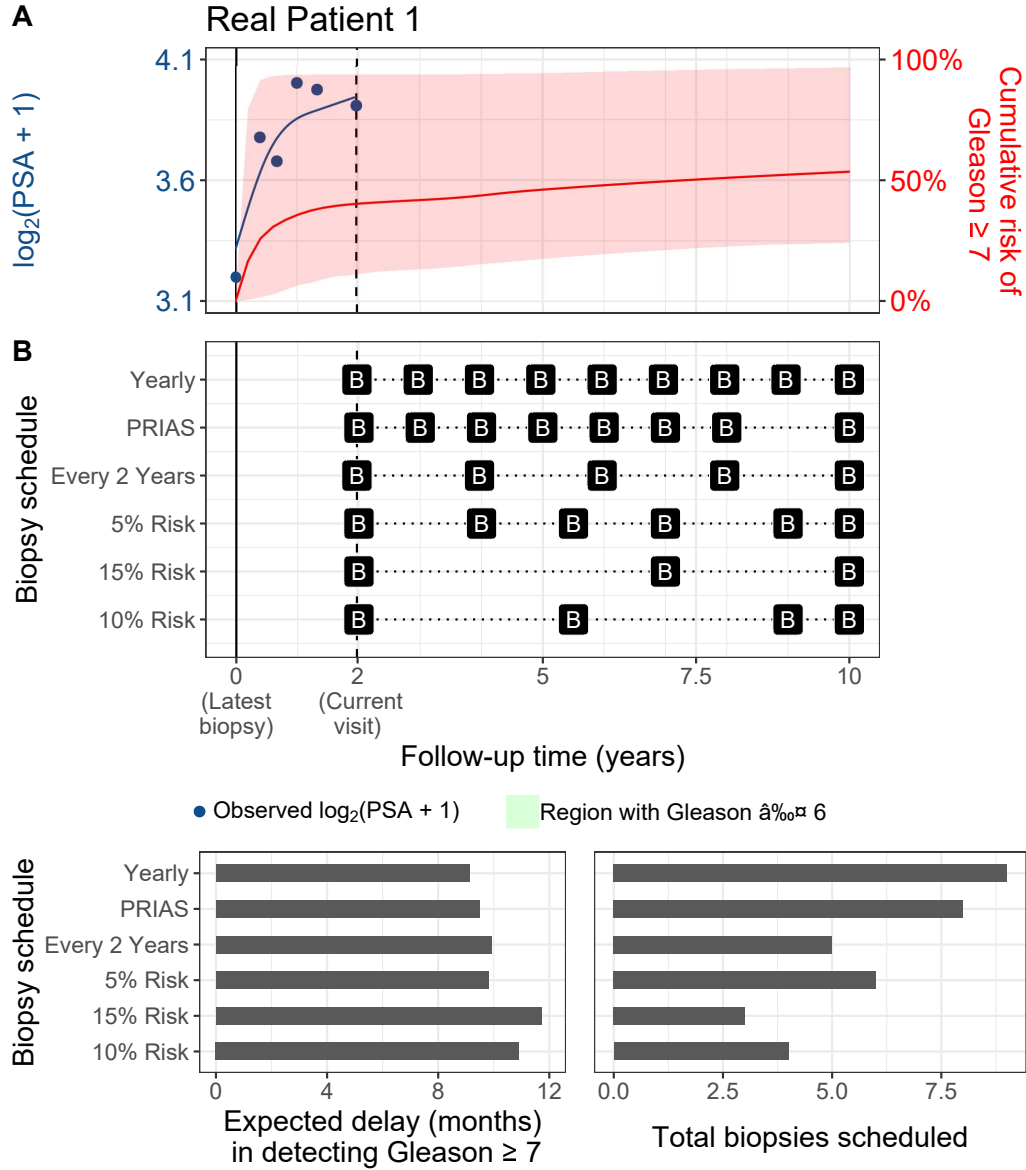


Figure 9: **Personalized and fixed schedules of biopsies for patient 1.** **Panel A:** shows the observed and fitted  $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$  measurements (Equation 1), and the dynamic cumulative risk of Gleason  $\geq 7$  (see Appendix B) over follow-up period. **Panel B** shows the personalized and fixed schedules of biopsies with a 'B' indicating times of biopsies. In the bottom two panels, the various schedules are compared in terms of the number of biopsies they schedule, and the expected delay in detection of Gleason  $\geq 7$  if they are followed.



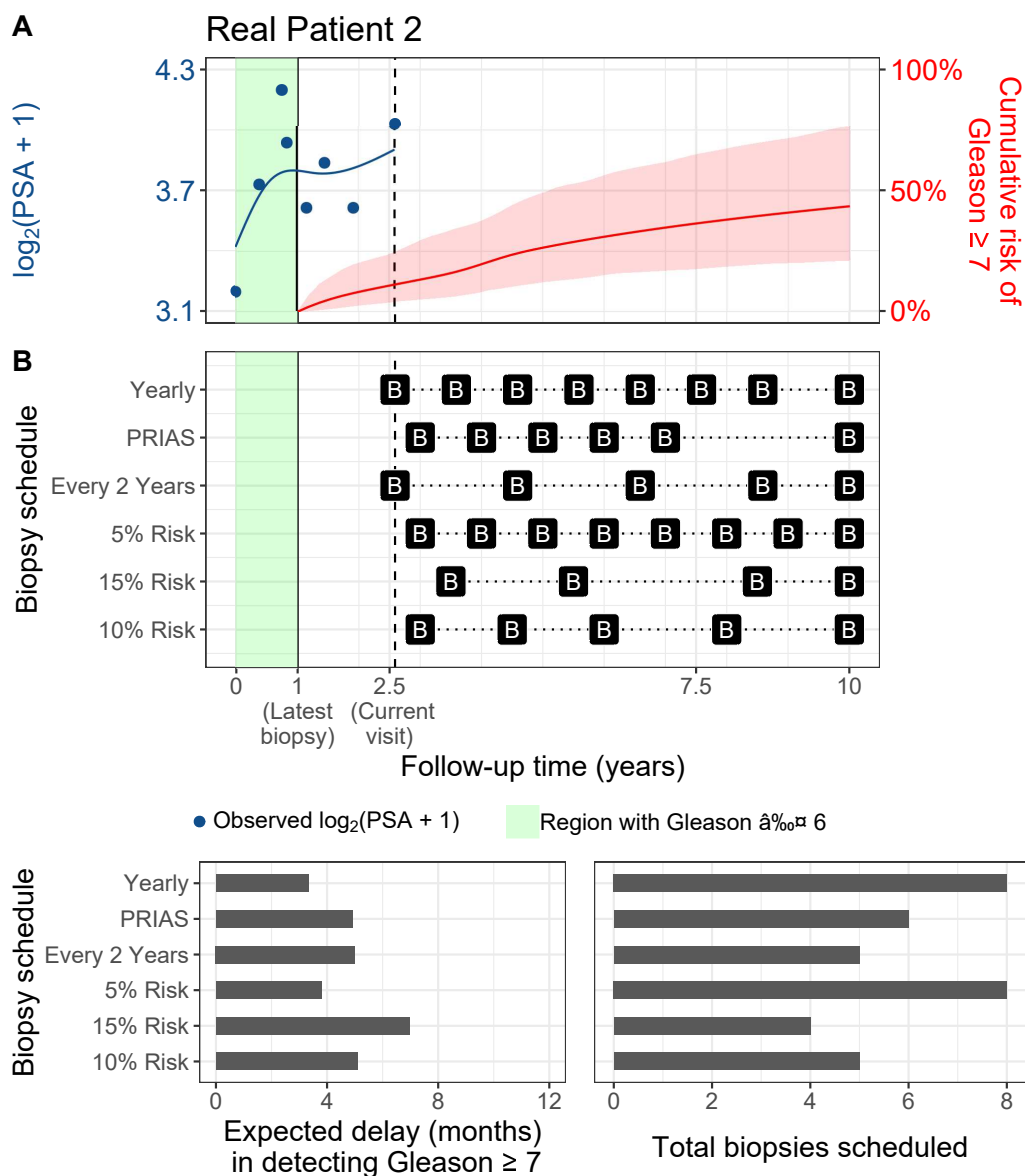


Figure 10: **Personalized and fixed schedules of biopsies for patient 2.** **Panel A:** shows the observed and fitted  $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$  measurements (Equation 1), and the dynamic cumulative risk of Gleason  $\geq 7$  (see Appendix B) over follow-up period. **Panel B** shows the personalized and fixed schedules of biopsies with a 'B' indicating times of biopsies. In the bottom two panels, the various schedules are compared in terms of the number of biopsies they schedule, and the expected delay in detection of Gleason  $\geq 7$  if they are followed.

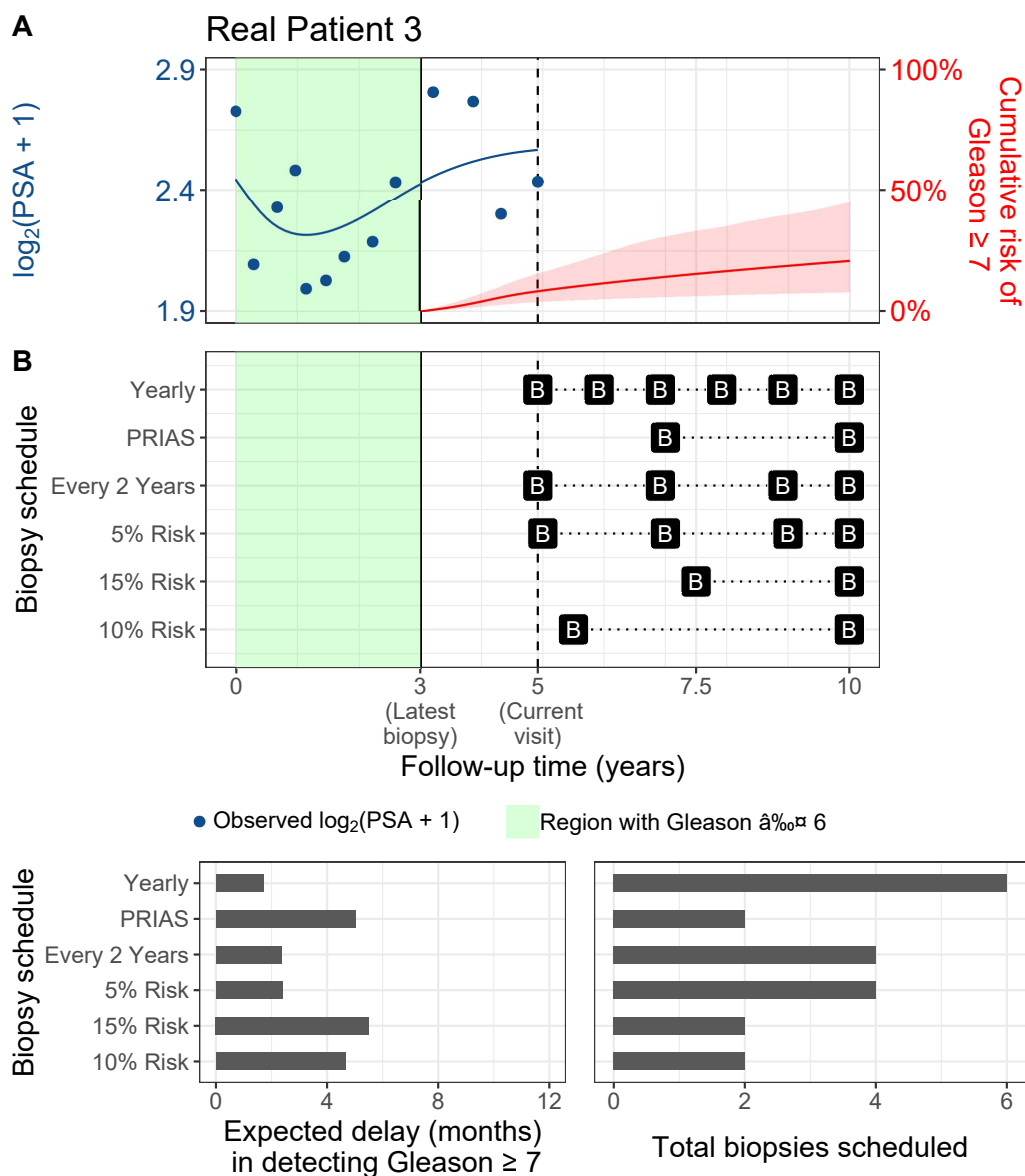


Figure 11: **Personalized and fixed schedules of biopsies for patient 3.** **Panel A:** shows the observed and fitted  $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$  measurements (Equation 1), and the dynamic cumulative risk of Gleason  $\geq 7$  (see Appendix B) over follow-up period. **Panel B** shows the personalized and fixed schedules of biopsies with a 'B' indicating times of biopsies. In the bottom two panels, the various schedules are compared in terms of the number of biopsies they schedule, and the expected delay in detection of Gleason  $\geq 7$  if they are followed.

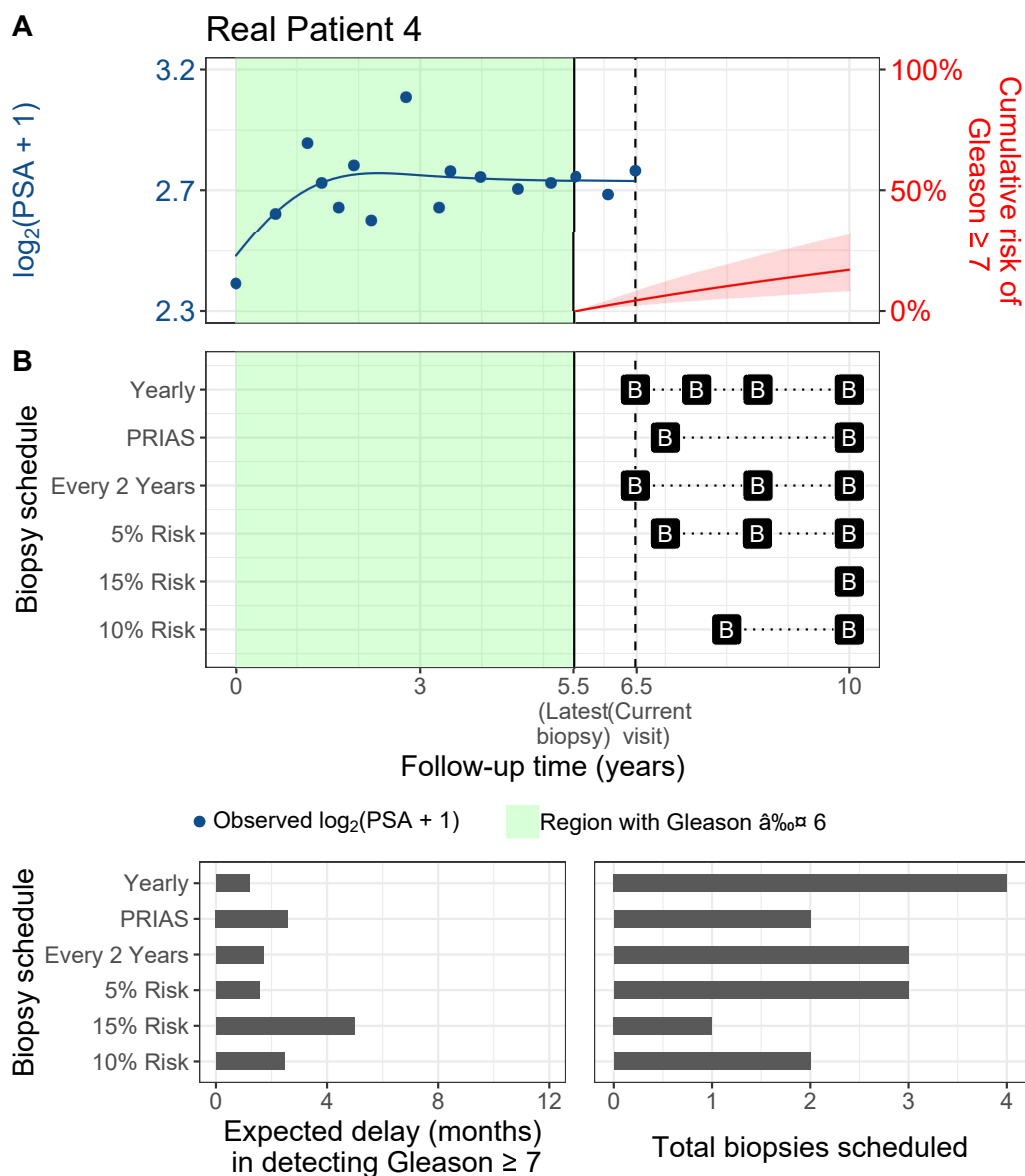


Figure 12: **Personalized and fixed schedules of biopsies for patient 4.** **Panel A:** shows the observed and fitted  $\log_2(\text{PSA} + 1)$  measurements (Equation 1), and the dynamic cumulative risk of Gleason  $\geq 7$  (see Appendix B) over follow-up period. **Panel B** shows the personalized and fixed schedules of biopsies with a 'B' indicating times of biopsies. In the bottom two panels, the various schedules are compared in terms of the number of biopsies they schedule, and the expected delay in detection of Gleason  $\geq 7$  if they are followed.

## Appendix D. Web Application for Practical Use of Personalized Schedule of Biopsies

We implemented our methodology in a web-application to assist patients and doctors in better decision making. It works on desktop as well as mobile devices. It is hosted at [https://emcbiostatistics.shinyapps.io/prias\\_biopsy\\_recommender/](https://emcbiostatistics.shinyapps.io/prias_biopsy_recommender/).

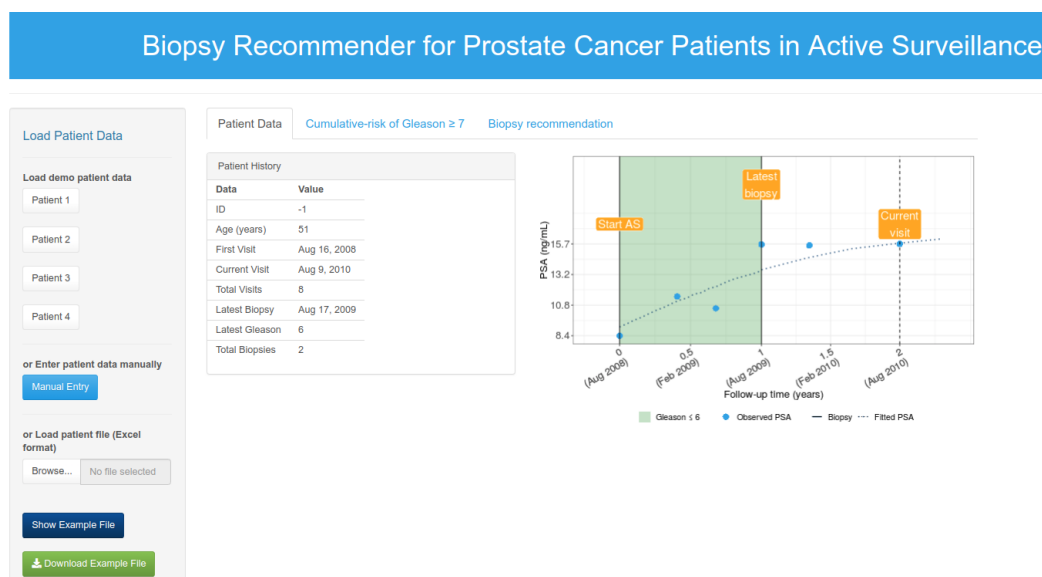


Figure 13: Landing page of the web-application. Panel on the left allows users to load patient data and panel on the right provides information. Patient data can be entered manually, or via Excel files. In addition, demo patient data is already uploaded to assist users in understanding the web-application.

**Patient Data Manual Entry Form**

Enter patient age (years)

60

Enter date of low-grade prostate cancer diagnosis

31-12-2018

Enter time (years) of previous biopsies with Gleason  $\leq 6$ . Count years since diagnosis, and separate them by comma.

0, 1, 2.5

Enter time (years) of all follow-up visits on which PSA was measured. Count years since diagnosis, and separate them by comma.

0, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5

Enter PSA values (ng/mL). Separate them by comma.

5.7, 3.2, 12, 8.5, 15, 21.7, 25, 20.3

Cancel OK

Figure 14: Patient data can be entered manually.

**Example Excel Format**

All column names are case sensitive

Missing values should be left blank.

P_ID	age	start_date	year_visit	psa	gleason_sum
10	62.30	2016-02-21	0.00	5.70	6.00
10	62.30	2016-02-21	0.50	NA	NA
10	62.30	2016-02-21	1.00	12.00	6.00
10	62.30	2016-02-21	1.50	8.50	NA
10	62.30	2016-02-21	2.00	15.00	NA
10	62.30	2016-02-21	2.50	NA	6.00
10	62.30	2016-02-21	3.00	25.00	NA
10	62.30	2016-02-21	3.50	20.30	NA

**Description**

**P\_ID** is the ID of the patient and should be a number. Missing values are not allowed.

**age** is the age (years) of the patient when patient started AS. Missing values are not allowed.

**start\_date** is the date on which patient started AS in yyyy-mm-dd format. Missing values are not allowed.

**year\_visit** is the follow-up time (years) since patient started AS, on which either PSA was measured or a biopsy was conducted. Missing values are not allowed.

**psa** is the PSA (ng/mL) at the follow-up time. Missing values should be left blank.

**gleason\_sum** is the Gleason sum (maximum 10) at the follow-up time. Missing values should be left blank.

Download Example File

Figure 15: Patient data can be uploaded via Excel sheets. Example Excel sheet format is provided within the web-application. In addition, users can download an Excel template to fill patient data.

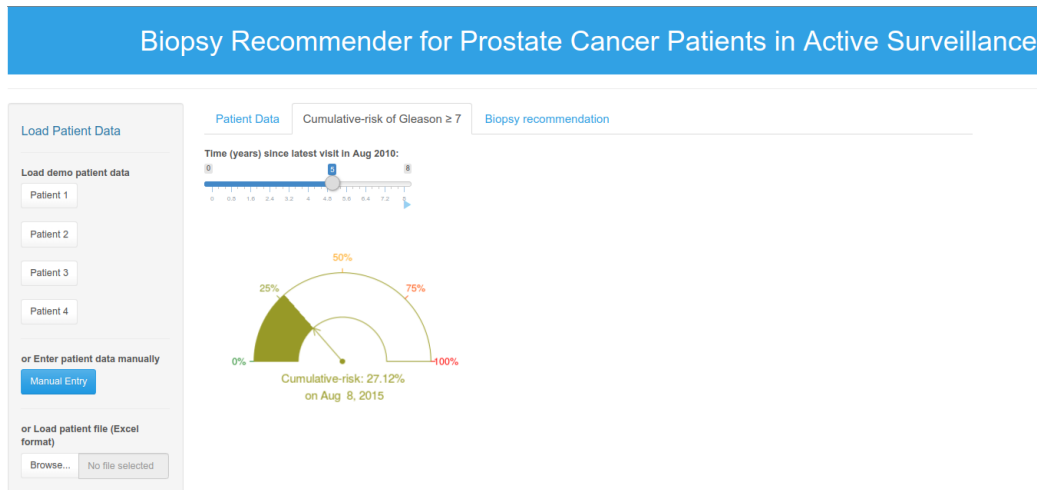


Figure 16: Second tab panel provides patient's personalized cumulative-risk of Gleason  $\geq 7$  since his latest biopsy.

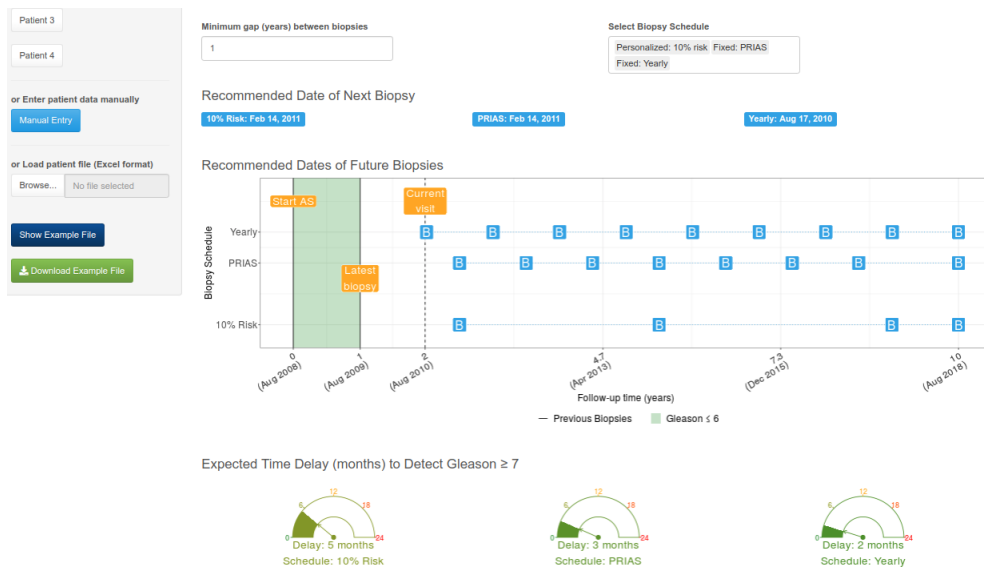


Figure 17: Third tab panel provides personalized and fixed biopsy schedule options as well as the expected time delay in detection of Gleason  $\geq 7$  for each of the schedules.

## 191 Appendix E. Source Code

192 The R code for fitting the joint model to the PRIAS dataset, is at [https://github.com/anirudhtomer/prias/tree/master/src/clinical\\_gap3](https://github.com/anirudhtomer/prias/tree/master/src/clinical_gap3). We  
 193 refer to this location as ‘R\_HOME’ in the rest of this document.  
 194

### 195 *Appendix E.1. Fitting the Joint Model to the PRIAS dataset*

196 **Accessing the dataset:** The PRIAS dataset is not openly accessible.  
 197 However, access to the database can be requested via the contact links at  
 198 [www.prias-project.org](http://www.prias-project.org).  
 199

200 **Formatting the dataset:** This dataset however is in the so-called wide  
 201 format and also requires removal of incorrect entries. This can be done via  
 202 the R script `R_HOME/dataset_cleaning.R`. This will lead to two R objects,  
 203 namely ‘`prias_final.id`’ and ‘`prias_long_final`’. The ‘`prias_final.id`’ object con-  
 204 tains information about time of reclassification for PRIAS patients. The  
 205 ‘`prias_long_final`’ object contains longitudinal PSA measurements, the time  
 206 of biopsies and results of biopsies.  
 207

208 **Fitting the joint model:** We use a joint model for time to event and  
 209 longitudinal data to model the evolution of PSA measurements over time,  
 210 and to simultaneously model their association with the risk of reclassification.  
 211 The R package we use for this purpose is called **JMbayes** ([https://cran.r-](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/JMbayes/JMbayes.pdf)  
 212 [project.org/web/packages/JMbayes/JMbayes.pdf](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/JMbayes/JMbayes.pdf)). The API we use, how-  
 213 ever, are currently not hosted on CRAN, and can be found here: [https:](https://github.com/anirudhtomer/JMbayes)  
 214 [//github.com/anirudhtomer/JMbayes](https://github.com/anirudhtomer/JMbayes). The joint model can be fitted via  
 215 the script `R_HOME/analysis.R`. It takes roughly 6 hours to run on an Intel  
 216 core-i5 machine with 4 cores, and 8GB of RAM.

217 The graphs presented in the main manuscript, and the supplementary  
 218 material can be generated by the scripts in `R_HOME/plots/`.

### 219 *Appendix E.2. Validation of Predictions of Reclassification*

220 Validations can be done using the scripts `R_HOME/validation/auc_brier/`  
 221 `auc_calculator.R`, and `R_HOME/validation/auc_brier/gof_calculator.`  
 222 `R`. For external validation access to GAP3 database is required.

223 *Appendix E.3. Creating Personalized Schedules of Biopsies*

224     Once a joint model is fitted to the PRIAS dataset, personalized schedules  
225 of biopsies based on risk of reclassification for new patients can be devel-  
226 oped using the script `R_HOME/scheduleCreator.R`. This script also provides  
227 fixed biopsy schedules for the patients. In addition with each schedule, the  
228 expected delay in detection of reclassification is also provided.

229 *Appendix E.4. Source Code for Web Application*

230     Source for the shiny web application which provides biopsy schedules for  
231 patients can be found at `R_HOME/shinyapp`



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