

Supplementary Materials for “Personalized Schedules for Surveillance of Low Risk Prostate Cancer Patients”

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Web Appendix A Joint Model for Time to Event and Longitudinal Outcomes

We start with the definition of the joint modeling framework that will be used to fit a model to the available dataset, and then to plan biopsies for future patients. Let T_i^* denote the true Gleason reclassification (referred to as GR hereafter) time for the i -th patient enrolled in an AS program. Let S be the schedule of biopsies prescribed to this patient. The corresponding vector of time of biopsies is denoted by $T_i^S = \{T_{i0}^S, T_{i1}^S, \dots, T_{iN_i^S}^S; T_{ij}^S < T_{ik}^S, \forall j < k\}$, where N_i^S are the total number of biopsies conducted. Because of the periodical nature of biopsy schedules, T_i^* cannot be observed directly and it is only known to fall in an interval $l_i < T_i^* \leq r_i$, where $l_i = T_{iN_i^S-1}^S, r_i = T_{iN_i^S}^S$ if GR is observed, and $l_i = T_{iN_i^S}^S, r_i = \infty$ if GR is not observed yet. Further let \mathbf{y}_i denote the $n_i \times 1$ vector of PSA levels for the i -th patient. For a sample of n patients the observed data is denoted by $\mathcal{D}_n = \{l_i, r_i, \mathbf{y}_i; i = 1, \dots, n\}$.

The longitudinal outcome of interest, namely PSA level, is continuous in nature and thus to model it the joint model utilizes a linear mixed effects model (LMM) of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} y_i(t) &= m_i(t) + \varepsilon_i(t) \\ &= \mathbf{x}_i^T(t)\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{z}_i^T(t)\mathbf{b}_i + \varepsilon_i(t), \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbf{x}_i(t)$ denotes the row vector of the design matrix for fixed effects and $\mathbf{z}_i(t)$ denotes the same for random effects. Correspondingly, the fixed effects are denoted by $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ and random effects by \mathbf{b}_i . The random effects are assumed to be normally distributed with mean zero and $q \times q$ covariance matrix \mathbf{D} . The true and unobserved PSA level at time t is denoted by $m_i(t)$. Unlike $y_i(t)$, the former is not contaminated with the measurement error $\varepsilon_i(t)$. The error is assumed to be normally distributed with mean zero and variance σ^2 , and is independent of the random effects \mathbf{b}_i .

To model the effect of PSA on hazard of GR, joint models utilize a relative risk sub-model. The hazard of GR for patient i at any time point t , denoted by $h_i(t)$, depends on a function of subject specific linear predictor $m_i(t)$ and/or the random effects:

$$\begin{aligned} h_i(t \mid \mathcal{M}_i(t), \mathbf{w}_i) &= \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Pr\{t \leq T_i^* < t + \Delta t \mid T_i^* \geq t, \mathcal{M}_i(t), \mathbf{w}_i\}}{\Delta t} \\ &= h_0(t) \exp[\boldsymbol{\gamma}^T \mathbf{w}_i + f\{\mathcal{M}_i(t), \mathbf{b}_i, \boldsymbol{\alpha}\}], \quad t > 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{M}_i(t) = \{m_i(v), 0 \leq v \leq t\}$ denotes the history of the underlying PSA levels up to time t . The vector of baseline covariates is denoted by \mathbf{w}_i , and $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$ are the corresponding parameters. The function $f(\cdot)$ parametrized by vector $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ specifies the functional form of PSA levels (Brown, 2009; Rizopoulos, 2012; Rizopoulos et al., 2014; Taylor et al., 2013) that is used in the linear predictor of the relative risk model. Some functional forms relevant to the problem at hand are the following:

$$\begin{cases} f\{\mathcal{M}_i(t), \mathbf{b}_i, \boldsymbol{\alpha}\} = \alpha m_i(t), \\ f\{\mathcal{M}_i(t), \mathbf{b}_i, \boldsymbol{\alpha}\} = \alpha_1 m_i(t) + \alpha_2 m'_i(t), \quad \text{with } m'_i(t) = \frac{dm_i(t)}{dt}. \end{cases}$$

These formulations of $f(\cdot)$ postulate that the hazard of GR at time t may be associated with the underlying level $m_i(t)$ of the PSA at t , or with both the level and velocity $m'_i(t)$ of the PSA at t . Lastly, $h_0(t)$ is the baseline hazard at time t , and is modeled flexibly using P-splines. 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 γ_{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 γ_{h_0} are penalized using a differences penalty (Eilers and Marx, 1996).

Web Appendix A.1 Parameter Estimation

We estimate parameters of the joint model using Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods under the Bayesian framework. Let $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ denote the vector of the parameters of the joint model. The joint model postulates that given the random effects, time to GR and longitudinal responses 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 longitudinal outcome conditional on random effects is:

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{y}_i \mid \mathbf{b}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \frac{1}{(\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^2)^{n_i}} \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{X}_i \boldsymbol{\beta} - \mathbf{Z}_i \mathbf{b}_i\|^2}{\sigma^2}\right), \\ \mathbf{X}_i &= \{\mathbf{x}_i(t_{i1})^T, \dots, \mathbf{x}_i(t_{in_i})^T\}^T, \\ \mathbf{Z}_i &= \{\mathbf{z}_i(t_{i1})^T, \dots, \mathbf{z}_i(t_{in_i})^T\}^T. \end{aligned}$$

The likelihood contribution of the time to GR outcome is given by:

$$p(l_i, r_i \mid \mathbf{b}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \exp\left\{-\int_0^{l_i} h_i(s \mid \mathcal{M}_i(s), \mathbf{w}_i) ds\right\} - \exp\left\{-\int_0^{r_i} h_i(s \mid \mathcal{M}_i(s), \mathbf{w}_i) ds\right\}. \quad (1)$$

The integral in (1) does not have a closed-form solution, and therefore we use a 15-point Gauss-Kronrod quadrature rule to approximate it.

We use independent normal priors with zero mean and variance 100 for the fixed effects $\boldsymbol{\beta}$, and inverse Gamma prior with shape and rate both equal to 0.01 for the parameter σ^2 . For the variance-covariance matrix \mathbf{D} of the random effects we take inverse Wishart prior with an identity scale matrix and degrees of freedom equal to q (number of random effects). For the relative risk model's parameters $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$ and the association parameters $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$, we use independent normal priors with zero mean and variance 100.

Web Appendix B Derivations for Equation 3 and 4 of the Main Manuscript

In this section we present the derivations for Equation 3 and 4 of the main manuscript. To this end, we first expand the formula for dynamic survival probability presented in Section 3.2 of the main manuscript.

$$\begin{aligned}
\pi_j(u | t, s) &= \Pr\{T_j^* \geq u | T_j^* > t, \mathcal{Y}_j(s), D_n\} \\
&= \int \int \Pr(T_j^* \geq u | T_j^* > t, \mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta}) p\{\mathbf{b}_j | T_j^* > t, \mathcal{Y}_j(s), \boldsymbol{\theta}\} p(\boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathcal{D}_n) d\mathbf{b}_j d\boldsymbol{\theta} \\
&= \int \int \frac{\exp\{-H_j(u | \mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta})\}}{\exp\{-H_j(t | \mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta})\}} p\{\mathbf{b}_j | T_j^* > t, \mathcal{Y}_j(s), \boldsymbol{\theta}\} p(\boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathcal{D}_n) d\mathbf{b}_j d\boldsymbol{\theta}, \tag{2}
\end{aligned}$$

where $H_j(u | \mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int_0^u h_i(s | \mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta}) ds$ is the cumulative hazard up to time point u .

Web Appendix B.1 Derivation of Equation 3 of the Main Manuscript

$$E_g(T_j^*) = \int_t^\infty T_j^* g(T_j^*) dT_j^*.$$

Using integration by parts, wherein $d\{-\pi_j(T_j^* | t, s)\}/dT_j^* = g(T_j^*)$,

$$\begin{aligned}
E_g(T_j^*) &= \left[-T_j^* \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) \right]_t^\infty + \int_t^\infty \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) \frac{d(T_j^*)}{dT_j^*} dT_j^* \\
&= t \pi_j(t | t, s) - \lim_{T_j^* \rightarrow \infty} T_j^* \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) \\
&\quad + \int_t^\infty \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) dT_j^*,
\end{aligned}$$

where $\pi_j(t | t, s) = \Pr\{T_j^* \geq t | T_j^* > t, \mathcal{Y}_j(s), D_n\} = 1$. As for $\lim_{T_j^* \rightarrow \infty} T_j^* \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s)$, the limit can be interchanged with the integral in Equation 2, because as $T_j^* \rightarrow \infty$ the integrand in the equation converges uniformly on the domain of $(\mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta})$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{T_j^* \rightarrow \infty} T_j^* \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) &= \int \int \lim_{T_j^* \rightarrow \infty} \frac{T_j^*}{\exp\{H_j(T_j^* | \mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta})\}} \\
&\quad \times \frac{p\{\mathbf{b}_j | T_j^* > t, \mathcal{Y}_j(s), \boldsymbol{\theta}\} p(\boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathcal{D}_n)}{\exp\{-H_j(t | \mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta})\}} d\mathbf{b}_j d\boldsymbol{\theta}.
\end{aligned}$$

Using L'Hospital's rule,

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{T_j^* \rightarrow \infty} T_j^* \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) &= \int \int \frac{1}{\lim_{T_j^* \rightarrow \infty} \exp\{H_j(T_j^* | \mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta})\} H_j'(T_j^* | \mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta})} \\
&\quad \times \frac{p\{\mathbf{b}_j | T_j^* > t, \mathcal{Y}_j(s), \boldsymbol{\theta}\} p(\boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathcal{D}_n)}{\exp\{-H_j(t | \mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta})\}} d\mathbf{b}_j d\boldsymbol{\theta} \\
&= \int \int 0 \times \frac{p\{\mathbf{b}_j | T_j^* > t, \mathcal{Y}_j(s), \boldsymbol{\theta}\} p(\boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathcal{D}_n)}{\exp\{-H_j(t | \mathbf{b}_j, \boldsymbol{\theta})\}} d\mathbf{b}_j d\boldsymbol{\theta} \\
&= 0.
\end{aligned}$$

In light of these results, we obtain:

$$E_g(T_j^*) = t + \int_t^\infty \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) dT_j^*.$$

Web Appendix B.2 Derivation of Equation 4 of the Main Manuscript

Since $\text{var}_g(T_j^*) = E_g\{(T_j^*)^2\} - E_g(T_j^*)^2$, we first show the derivation for $E_g\{(T_j^*)^2\}$.

$$E_g\{(T_j^*)^2\} = \int_t^\infty (T_j^*)^2 g(T_j^*) dT_j^*.$$

Using integration by parts, wherein $d\{-\pi_j(T_j^* | t, s)\}/dT_j^* = g(T_j^*)$,

$$\begin{aligned} E_g\{(T_j^*)^2\} &= \left[-(T_j^*)^2 \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) \right]_t^\infty + \int_t^\infty \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) \frac{d(T_j^*)^2}{dT_j^*} dT_j^* \\ &= t^2 \pi_j(t | t, s) - \lim_{T_j^* \rightarrow \infty} (T_j^*)^2 \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) \\ &\quad + 2 \int_t^\infty T_j^* \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) dT_j^* \\ &= t^2 + 2 \int_t^\infty T_j^* \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) dT_j^*. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

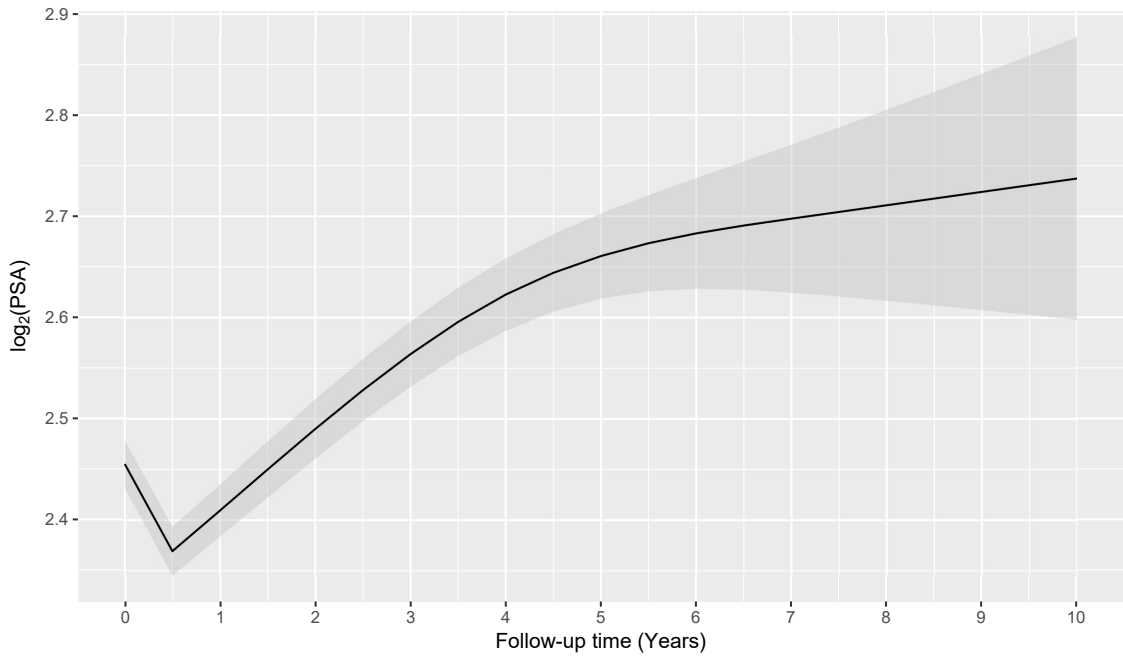
$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}_g(T_j^*) &= t^2 + 2 \int_t^\infty T_j^* \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) dT_j^* \\ &\quad - \left[t^2 + \left\{ \int_t^\infty \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) dT_j^* \right\}^2 + 2t \int_t^\infty \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) dT_j^* \right] \\ &= 2 \int_t^\infty (T_j^* - t) \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) dT_j^* - \left\{ \int_t^\infty \pi_j(T_j^* | t, s) dT_j^* \right\}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Web Appendix C Parameter Estimates for the PRIAS dataset

The posterior parameter estimates for the joint model we fitted to the PRIAS dataset are shown in [Web Table 1](#) (longitudinal sub-model) and [Web Table 2](#) (relative risk sub-model), and parameter estimates for the variance-covariance matrix from the longitudinal sub-model are the following:

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.409 & 0.105 & -0.140 \\ 0.105 & 1.725 & 0.431 \\ -0.140 & 0.431 & 1.326 \end{bmatrix}$$

The effect of age only affects the baseline \log_2 PSA score. However it is so small that it can be ignored for all practical purposes. Since the longitudinal evolution of \log_2 PSA is modeled with non-linear terms, the interpretation of the coefficients corresponding to time is not straightforward. In lieu of the interpretation, in [Web Figure 1](#) we present the fitted evolution of PSA over a period of 10 years for a hypothetical patient who was included in AS at the age of 70 years.



Web Figure 1: Fitted evolution of \log_2 PSA over a period of 10 years with 95% credible interval, for a hypothetical patient who was included in AS at the age of 70 years.

Table Web Table 1: Longitudinal sub-model estimates for mean and 95% credible interval, for the joint model fitted to the PRIAS dataset.

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev	2.5%	97.5%	P
Intercept	2.455	0.012	2.433	2.480	<0.000
(Age – 70)	0.003	0.001	4.9×10^{-4}	0.006	0.032
(Age – 70) ²	-0.001	1.4×10^{-4}	-0.001	-3.5×10^{-4}	<0.000
Spline: visit time [0.0, 0.1] years	-0.006	0.012	-0.031	0.017	0.674
Spline: visit time [0.1, 0.5] years	0.228	0.019	0.192	0.265	<0.000
Spline: visit time [0.5, 4.0] years	0.140	0.029	0.088	0.197	<0.000
Spline: visit time [4.0, 7.0] years	0.303	0.039	0.227	0.379	<0.000
σ	0.324	0.001	0.321	0.326	

For the relative risk sub-model, the parameter estimates in [Web Table 2](#) show that \log_2 PSA velocity and the age at the time of inclusion in AS are strongly associated with the hazard of GR. For any patient, an increase in \log_2 PSA velocity from -0.07 to 0.12 (first and third quartiles of the fitted velocities, respectively) corresponds to a 1.55 fold increase in the hazard of GR. A 10 year increase in the age at the time of inclusion in AS corresponds to a 1.44 fold increase in the hazard of GR.

Table Web Table 2: Relative risk sub-model estimates for mean and 95% credible interval, for the joint model fitted to the PRIAS dataset.

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev	2.5%	97.5%	P
(Age - 70)	0.037	0.006	0.025	0.0490	<0.000
(Age - 70) ²	-0.001	0.001	-0.003	1.8×10^{-4}	0.104
\log_2 PSA	-0.049	0.064	-0.172	0.078	0.414
Slope(\log_2 PSA)	2.407	0.319	1.791	3.069	<0.000

To compare the predictive performance of a model having association between hazard of GR and \log_2 PSA values, versus a model having the association with both \log_2 PSA value and velocity, we calculate the area under the receiver operating characteristic curves, also called AUC (Rizopoulos, Molenberghs, and Lesaffre, 2017) for these models. Since in a joint model time dependent AUC is more relevant, we calculate the AUC at year one, year two and year three of follow-up in AS. The time window for which the AUC is calculated is one year. The resulting estimates are presented in [Web Table 3](#).

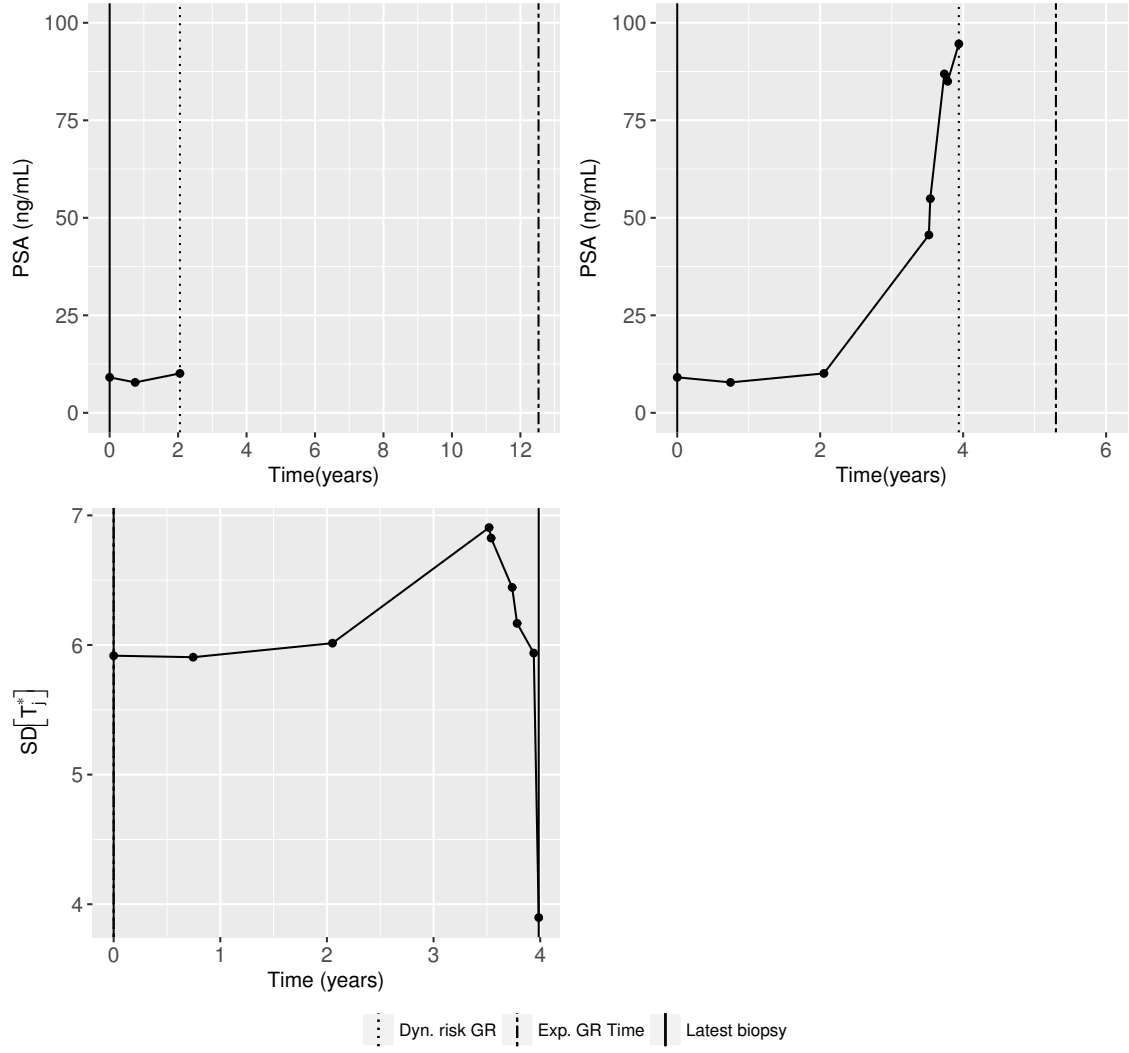
Table Web Table 3: Area under the receiver operating characteristic curves for joint models fitted to the PRIAS dataset.

Association of hazard of GR	Year one	Year two	Year three
with both \log_2 PSA value and velocity	0.61	0.66	0.60
with only \log_2 PSA value	0.59	0.60	0.59

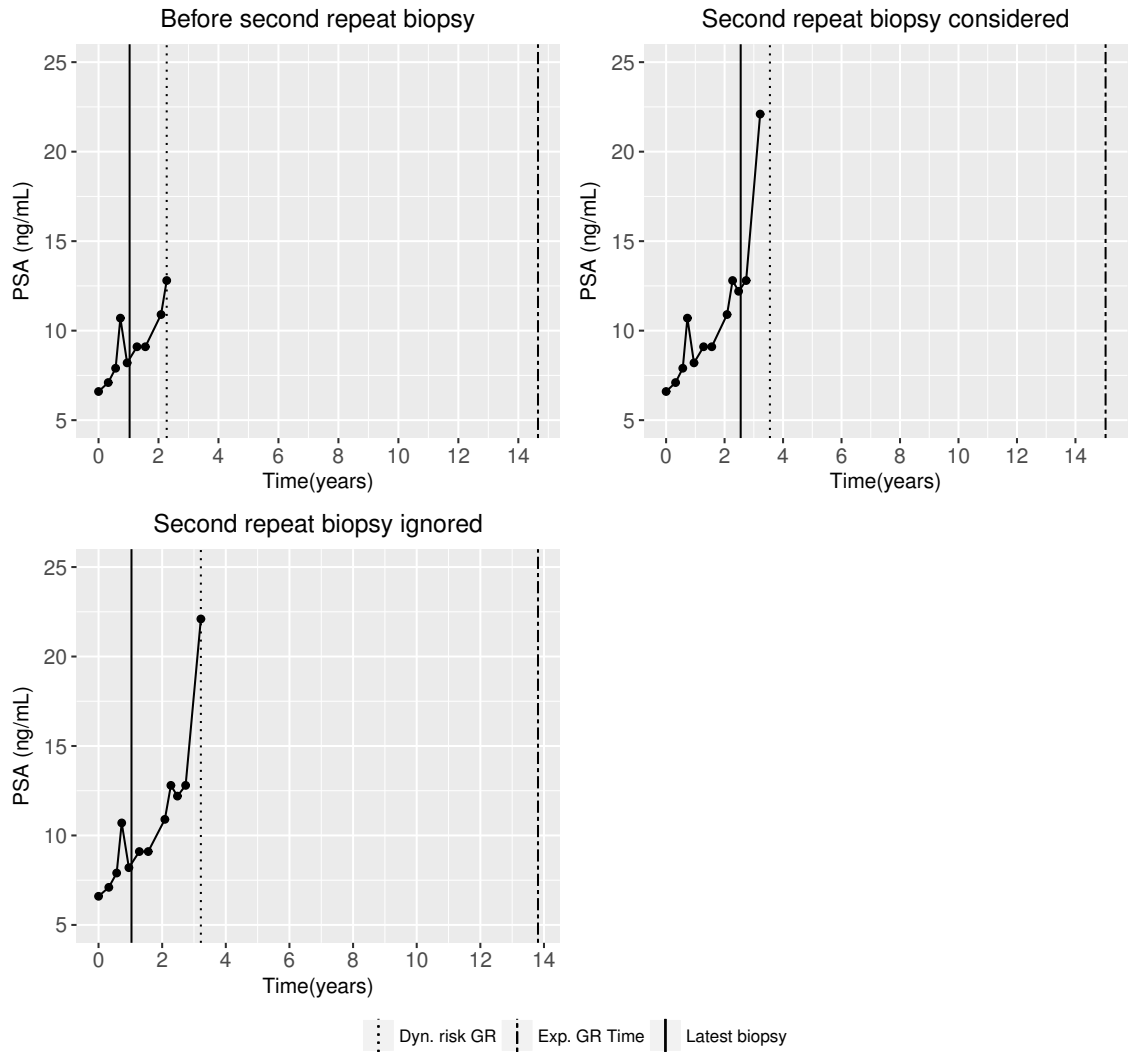
Web Appendix D Personalized Schedules for the Demonstration Patients from PRIAS.

In this section we demonstrate the application of personalized schedules on patients from PRIAS study. In Section 5.2 of the main manuscript we demonstrated personalized schedules for the first demonstration patient. Here we demonstrate them for the remaining two patients.

The evolution of PSA, repeat biopsy history and proposed times of biopsies for the second demonstration patient are shown in the top panel of Web Figure 2. It can be seen that the schedule of biopsy based on expected time of GR adjusts the times of biopsy according to the rise in hazard, which increases due to steep rise in \log_2 PSA velocity. More specifically, at year two the proposed biopsy time is 12.5 years whereas at year four it decreases to 5.3 years. On average, a biopsy scheduled using expected time of GR at year two should have a larger offset O_j^S compared to the same at year four. This is because the standard deviation of $g(T_j^*)$, given by $SD_g(T_j^*) = \sqrt{\text{var}_g(T_j^*)}$, is considerably lower at year four as shown in the bottom panel of Web Figure 2. In the figure it can be seen that the standard deviation decreases with sharp increase in PSA. As for the schedules based on dynamic risk of GR, the threshold κ was automatically chosen using F_1 score, and was estimated to be between 1 and 0.9 at all time points. This value of κ corresponds to a time very close to the time of latest biopsy ($t = 0$). Hence the biopsies are scheduled much earlier than those based on expected time of GR.



Web Figure 2: Top panel: Evolution of PSA, history of repeat biopsies and corresponding personalized schedules for the second demonstration patient. Bottom Panel: History of repeat biopsies and $SD_g(T_j^*) = \sqrt{\text{var}_g(T_j^*)}$ over time for the second demonstration patient.



Web Figure 3: Evolution of PSA, history of repeat biopsies and corresponding personalized schedules for the third demonstration patient.

The third demonstration patient presents a case where information from PSA levels and repeat biopsies is not in concordance with each other. In Web Figure 3 we can see that the PSA for this patient increased by 100% between year two and year 3.2. If only information from PSA is considered, then we can see that proposed time of biopsy based on expected time of GR is preponed from 14.6 to 13.0 years during this period. However, if we also take into account the negative result from the repeat biopsy at year 2.5, then the proposed time of biopsy is postponed from 14.6 years to 15 years. Thus more weight is given to a recent negative biopsy result than PSA, which is in accordance with the clinical practice. The proposed time of biopsy based on dynamic risk of GR is also postponed from 2.3 to 3.6 years in light of the negative biopsy result.

Web Appendix E Simulation Study

Web Appendix E.1 Simulation Results for Dynamic Risk of GR Based Approach With a Fixed $\kappa = 0.95$

In the main manuscript, for the personalized schedules based on dynamic risk of GR we chose κ on the basis of F_1 score. However while conducting the simulation study, we also tried a fixed κ of 0.95, which means that the next biopsy is scheduled at a time point where the dynamic risk of GR is 5%. The results for this approach are presented in [Web Table 4](#). In the table, the abbreviation Dyn. risk GR (F_1 score) corresponds to personalized schedules based on dynamic risk of GR based approach, with κ chosen on the basis of F_1 score. The abbreviation Hybrid (F_1 score) corresponds to the hybrid approach between median time of GR and dynamic risk of GR (κ chosen on the basis of F_1 score).

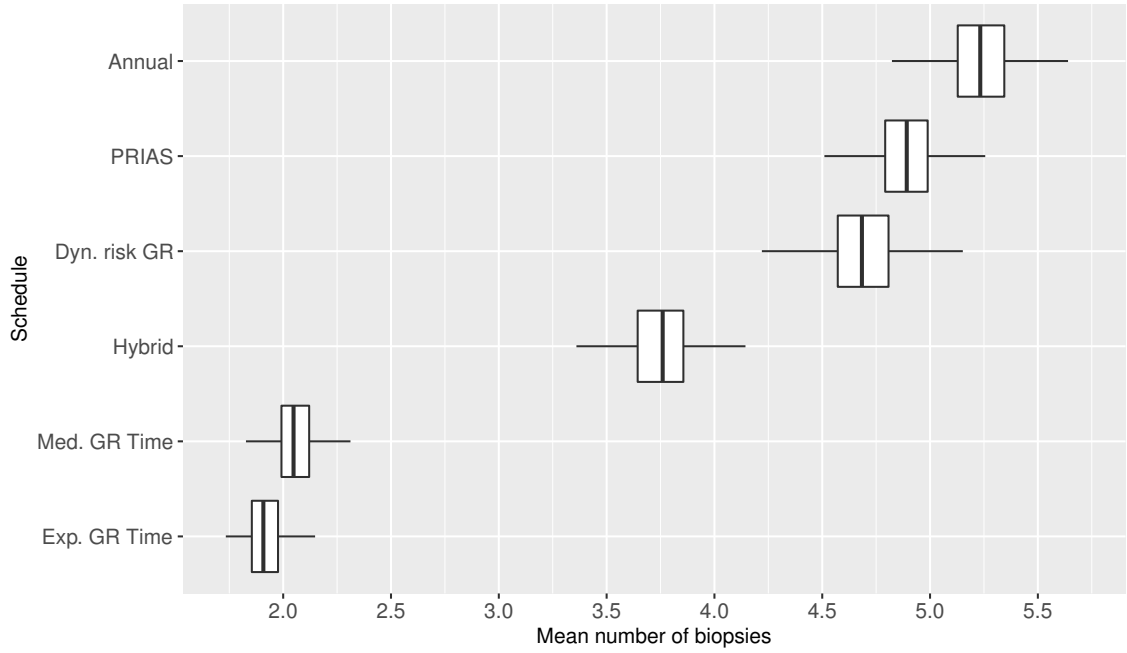
Table Web Table 4: Estimated mean and standard deviation of the number of biopsies and offset (months).

a) All hypothetical subgroups				
Schedule	$E(N_j^S)$	$E(O_j^S)$	$SD(N_j^S)$	$SD(O_j^S)$
Annual	5.24	6.01	2.53	3.46
PRIAS	4.90	7.71	2.36	6.31
Dyn. risk GR (F_1 score)	4.69	6.66	2.19	4.38
Hybrid (F_1 score)	3.75	9.70	1.71	7.25
Dyn. risk GR ($\kappa = 0.95$)	5.15	6.02	2.51	3.47
Med. GR time	2.06	13.88	1.41	11.80
Exp. GR time	1.92	15.08	1.19	12.11
b) Hypothetical subgroup G_1				
Schedule	$E(N_j^S)$	$E(O_j^S)$	$SD(N_j^S)$	$SD(O_j^S)$
Annual	4.32	6.02	3.13	3.44
PRIAS	4.07	7.44	2.88	6.11
Dyn. risk GR (F_1 score)	3.85	6.75	2.69	4.44
Hybrid (F_1 score)	3.25	10.25	2.16	8.07
Dyn. risk GR ($\kappa = 0.95$)	4.23	6.05	3.10	3.46
Med. GR time	1.84	20.66	1.76	14.62
Exp. GR time	1.72	21.65	1.47	14.75
c) Hypothetical subgroup G_2				
Schedule	$E(N_j^S)$	$E(O_j^S)$	$SD(N_j^S)$	$SD(O_j^S)$
Annual	5.18	5.98	2.13	3.47
PRIAS	4.85	7.70	2.00	6.29
Dyn. risk GR (F_1 score)	4.63	6.66	1.82	4.37
Hybrid (F_1 score)	3.68	10.32	1.37	7.45
Dyn. risk GR ($\kappa = 0.95$)	5.09	5.99	2.11	3.47
Med. GR time	1.89	12.33	1.16	9.44
Exp. GR time	1.77	13.54	0.98	9.83
d) Hypothetical subgroup G_3				
Schedule	$E(N_j^S)$	$E(O_j^S)$	$SD(N_j^S)$	$SD(O_j^S)$
Annual	6.20	6.02	1.76	3.46
PRIAS	5.76	7.98	1.71	6.51
Dyn. risk GR (F_1 score)	5.58	6.58	1.56	4.33
Hybrid (F_1 score)	4.32	8.55	1.26	5.91
Dyn. risk GR ($\kappa = 0.95$)	6.11	6.01	1.76	3.46
Med. GR time	2.45	8.70	1.15	6.32
Exp. GR time	2.27	10.09	0.99	7.47

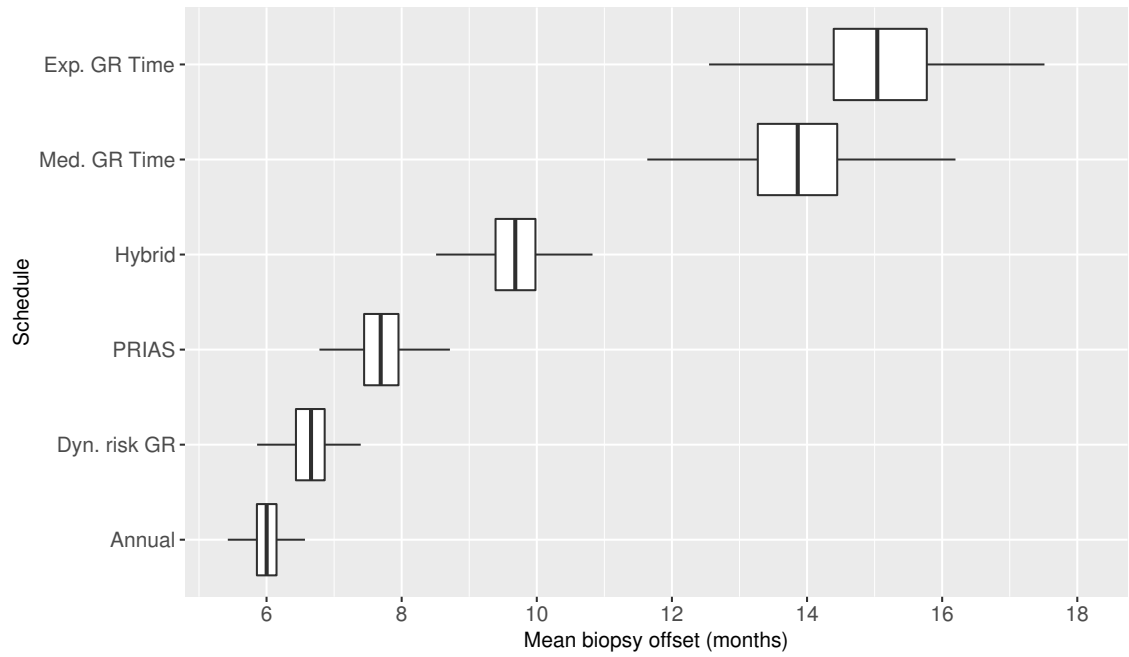
Web Appendix E.2 Variation in Estimated Mean and Standard Deviation, of Number of Biopsies and Offset Across the 500 Simulations

In this section we present figures related to the simulation study results discussed in Section 6 of main manuscript. The figures we present next are population specific, i.e. subgroup level differentiation is not done.

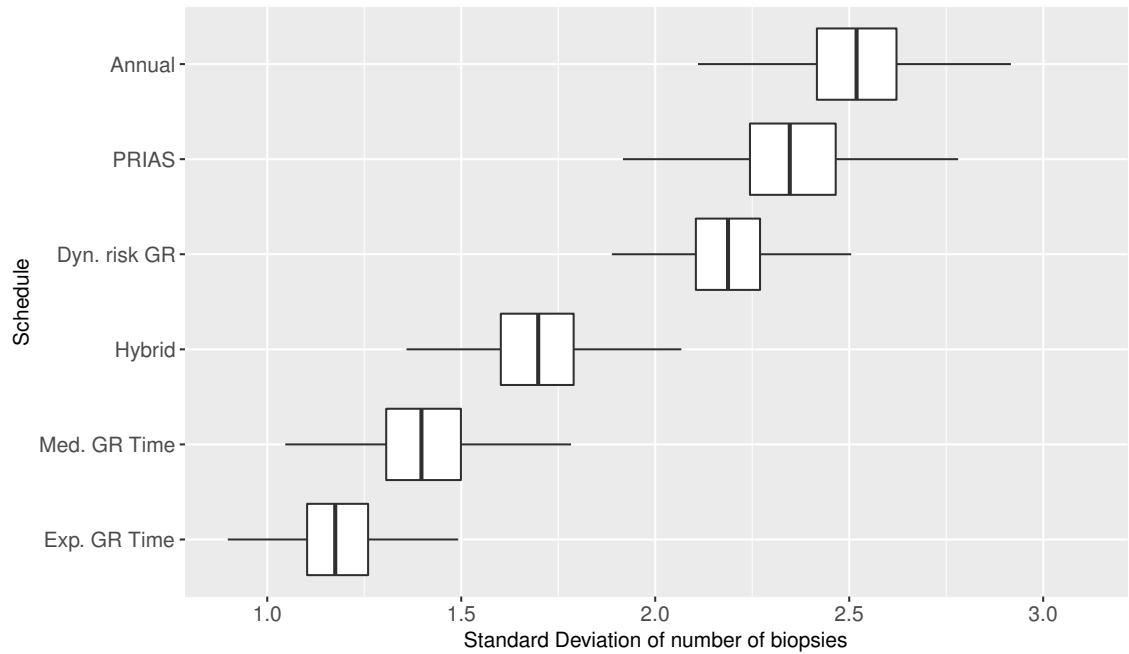
- Variation in estimated mean across the 500 simulations, for number of biopsies and offset (months) for different methods is shown in Web Figure 4 and Web Figure 5.
- Variation in estimated standard deviation across the 500 simulations, for number of biopsies and offset (months) for different methods is shown in Web Figure 6 and Web Figure 7.



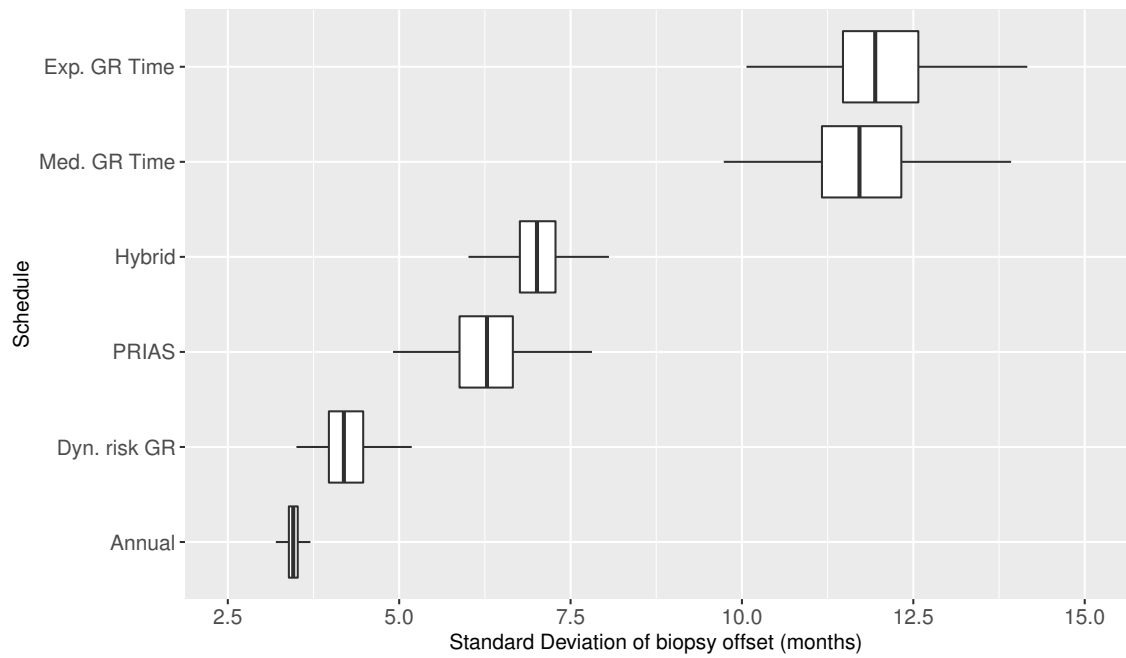
Web Figure 4: Boxplot showing variation in estimated mean number of biopsies across the 500 simulations, for different methods. Patients from all hypothetical subgroups are considered.



Web Figure 5: Boxplot showing variation in estimated mean of biopsy offset (months) across the 500 simulations, for different methods. Patients from all hypothetical subgroups are considered.



Web Figure 6: Boxplot showing variation in estimated standard deviation of number of biopsies across the 500 simulations, for different methods. Patients from all hypothetical subgroups are considered.



Web Figure 7: Boxplot showing variation in estimated standard deviation of biopsy offset (months) across the 500 simulations, for different methods. Patients from all hypothetical subgroups are considered.

Web Appendix F Source code

The source code for the joint model fitted to the PRIAS data set can be found at:

<https://goo.gl/phQkxG>

The source code for the simulation study can be found at:

<https://goo.gl/TpLTM8>

A README file explaining the usage of the code can be found at:

<https://goo.gl/h2pAep>.

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