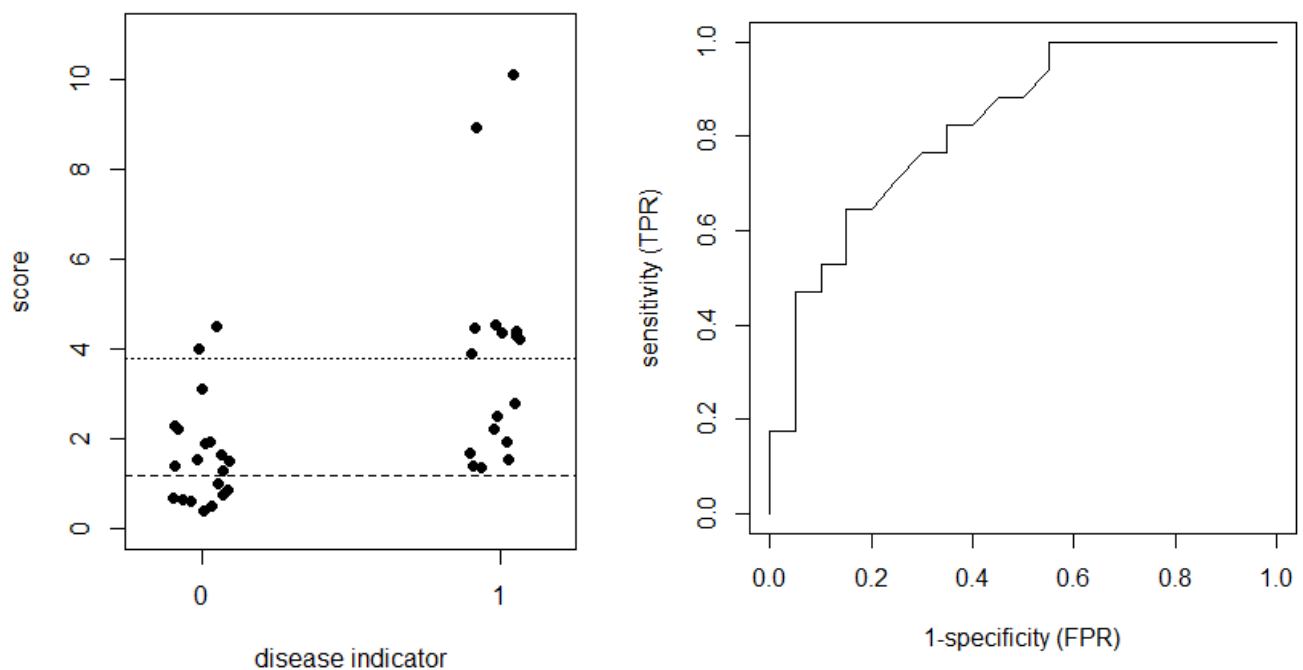


In-class exercise

1) Sensitivity, Specificity, ROC curve

A paper from D.G. Altman and JM Bland (BMJ 1994; 309:188) gives an introduction to diagnostic tests and receiver operation characteristic (ROC) plots. As an example they have used a test for graft reaction (german: Abstossungsreaktion) in case of bone marrow transplantation. The test relies on a score for the reaction of lymphocytes and is shown in the plot below for patients who showed no graft vs the marrow (left point column) and patients who showed developed an reaction vs the bone marrow (right point column).



We want to use the score as a diagnostic test for graft vs the host disease.

- Use the left plot to determine the sensitivity and specificity of the test when using
 - the indicated thresholds 1.2 as cut-off
 - the indicated thresholds 3.8 as cut-offto discriminate between a positive test result (patient will probably show a graft reaction) and a negative test result.
- Indicate the position of your calculated results in the ROC curve on the right side
- How would an ideal ROC curve look like?
- Which threshold would you use? Give reasons.