

PROTOCOL: External validation of existing dementia prediction models on observational health data

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03/03/2021

Version 2

**Version:** 2

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**Date:** 3 March 2021

**Acknowledgment:** The analysis is based in part on work from the Observational Health Sciences and Informatics (OHDSI) collaborative. OHDSI (<https://ohdsi.org/>) is a multi-stakeholder, interdisciplinary collaborative to create open-source solutions that bring out the value of observational health data through large-scale analytics.

**Disclosures:** JMR is an employee of Janssen Research and Development.

**Funding statement:** This project has received funding from the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking (JU) under grant agreement No 806968. The JU receives support from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and EFPIA.

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# List of abbreviations

ADRD Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias

CDM Common Data Model

CI Confidence Interval

CPM Clinical Prediction Model

CYCLOPS Cyclic coordinate descent for logistic, Poisson and survival analysis

LASSO Least absolute shrinkage and selection operator

MEHTA Mehta’s RxDx-Dementia Risk Index1

NORIS Nori’s dementia prediction model2

O Outcome cohort

OHDSI Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics

OMOP Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership

PLP Patient-level prediction R-package framework

SNOMED Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine

T Target cohort

WALTERS Walters’ Dementia Risk Score3

# Executive summary

This study will externally validate three existing dementia prediction models that are proposed in clinical prediction model literature. We will assess the models’ performance in real-world settings and discuss the quality of model reporting.

The three clinical prediction models (CPMs) that will be examined are Walters’ Dementia Risk Score3 (WALTERS), Mehta’s RxDx-Dementia Risk Index1 (MEHTA) and Nori’s ADRD dementia prediction model2 (NORI). WALTERS predicts 5-year risk of first recorded dementia diagnosis among patients aged 60–79 using a cox proportional hazard model. MEHTA predicts risk of incident dementia among patients diagnosed with type 2 diabetes mellitus and hypertension using a cox proportional hazard model. NORI predicts Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD) among patients aged 45 and older using a logistic regression model.

We will conduct the study using data from observational databases across the European Health Data & Evidence Network (EHDEN) and the Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (OHDSI) network and perform analyses using the OHDSI Patient Level Prediction (PLP) package framework.

# Amendments and updates

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Date** | **Author** | **Description** |
| 1 | 1 March 2021 | L.H. John | First draft |
| 2 | 3 March 2021 | L.H. John | Release version |

# Milestones

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Milestone** | **Planned / Estimated Date** |
| Start of analysis | 1 October 2020 |
| End of initial analysis | 31 March 2021 |
| End of final analysis |  |
| Submission of manuscript |  |

# Rational & background

Dementia is an umbrella term to describe various illnesses that affect cognition and may lead to mental degradation. Early diagnosis of individuals at high risk of dementia allows for improved care and risk factor-targeted intervention.4 Various prediction models for identifying individuals who are at high risk of dementia have been developed. For example, the cardiovascular Risk Factors, Aging and Dementia (CAIDE) risk score predicts late-life dementia risk based on midlife vascular risk factors.5

In recent years dementia prediction models have been increasingly developed on observational health data. Because this kind of data is routinely collected from administrative claims and electronic health records, it is considered to enhance model’s applicability at the healthcare system level as it reflects the data normally available to a clinician in practice.3

While observational health data generally does not include dedicated dementia tests, genetic or imaging data, and commonly used variables such as education, which have previously been shown to be predictive, various studies have shown good internal validation performance when developing models. Notable examples are Walters et al. who developed dementia prediction models using electronic health record data from the THIN database and Albrecht et al. who developed mid-life and late-life predictive models for earlier diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) using administrative claims data from the OptumLabs Data Warehouse.3,6 Also Nori et al. uses very large claims datasets to develop dementia prediction models.2

However, systematic reviews of Hou et al. and Goerdten et al. conclude that although many dementia risk prediction models have been developed, only a handful of them have been externally validated.7,8 External validation assesses a model’s reliability for clinical use in external data sources that have not been used for model development. Riley et al. concluded that most prediction model research focuses on model development rather than external validation leading to a plethora of proposed model with little evidence about which are reliable and under what circumstances.9 Whether a model can be externally validated also demonstrates whether it could be applied in clinical practice in the first place. Moreover, assessing a replicated model’s discrimination and calibration performance can help inform of its clinical usefulness.

In this study we aim to externally validate three clinical prediction models: (1) Walters’ Dementia Risk Score3 (WALTERS), (2) Mehta’s RxDx-Dementia Risk Index1 (MEHTA) and (3) Nori’s ADRD dementia prediction model2 (NORI). WALTERS predicts 5-year risk of first recorded dementia diagnosis among patients aged 60–79 using a cox proportional hazard model. MEHTA predicts risk of incident dementia among patients diagnosed with type 2 diabetes mellitus and hypertension using a cox proportional hazard model. NORI predicts Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD) among patients aged 45 and older using a logistic regression model.

We will also investigate how well these models are reported to allow replication and whether the chosen predictors are commonly found in observational health databases.

# Objectives

**Aim:** Externally validate existing prognostic models that predict late-life dementia in the general population using routinely collected health data from administrative claims and electronic health records.

**Approach:** Evaluate the performance of the Walters’ Dementia Risk Score3, Mehta’s RxDx-Dementia Risk Index1 and Nori’s ADRD dementia prediction model2 across a diverse range of observational data from administrative claims, electronic health records, and general practitioners. These evaluations will assess model discrimination (c-statistic or AUROC) and calibration (Harrell’s E) before and after simple (intercept and slope) recalibration. Moreover, we will discuss the quality of reporting in the research articles about the three models given the external validation results.

# Methods

## Model selection

Erasmus University Medical Center conducted a systematic review of scientific articles between 2009 and 2020 that propose clinical prediction models for dementia and its various subtypes.

Articles were included if they met the following criteria: (1) the sample was population-based; (2) the article provided a risk model to predict dementia in non-demented individuals, prospectively; (3) the article included measurements of discrimination (AUROC or c-statistic). A total of 500 articles were found, and 65 were selected based on our criteria. We learned that the most popular prediction algorithms are logistic regression and cox proportional hazard models, which made up 60% of the studies reviewed.

In addition, a list of required information was compiled that a scientific article needs to report in order to reliably replicate a model for external validation (Table below).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Required model information** | **Description** |
| Development database | The data source information gives insight into the origin of the data (administrative claims, general practitioner, hospital, etc.) as well as the source data model (ICD9, ICD10, Read, etc.). |
| Algorithm | The prediction algorithm used. We are limiting ourselves to the most popular linear algorithms: logistic regression and cox proportional hazard for a binary outcome |
| Coefficients | A numeric value associating the predictor to the outcome risk. |
| Predictor definitions | A description of the predictor or, better, a list of data source codes. |
| Predictor time window | The time window in which the predictor was assessed. |
| Baseline hazard/Intercept | The baseline hazard estimate in a cox proportional hazard model or the intercept term in a logistic regression model. Importantly, it is possible to assess a model’s discrimination performance (C-statistic/AUROC) without the baseline hazard/intercept. |
| Index date | The date at which a patient qualifies for the target cohort |
| Target population definition | A definition of the population for which predictions are made |
| Outcome definition | A definition of the outcome to be predicted. |
| Time-at-risk | A time window in which a model’s predictions are valid. |

Scientific articles that could provide a large number of items in this table (about 80%) were pre-selected. Final models were selected on the basis of their feasibility (projected presence of predictors and sufficiently large populations for target and outcome) of external validation in observational health databases mapped to the OMOP CDM.

## Study design

This study will follow a retrospective, observational, patient-level prediction design. We define 'retrospective' to mean the study will be conducted using data already collected prior to the start of the study. We define 'observational' to mean there is no intervention or treatment assignment imposed by the study. We define 'patient-level prediction' as a modelling process wherein an outcome is predicted within a time at risk relative to the target cohort start and/or end date. Prediction is performed using a set of covariates derived using data prior to the start of the target cohort.

Figure 1 illustrates the prediction problem we will address. Among a population at risk, we aim to predict which patients at a defined moment in time (t = 0) will experience some outcome during a time-at-risk. Prediction is done using only information about the patients in an observation window prior to that moment in time.

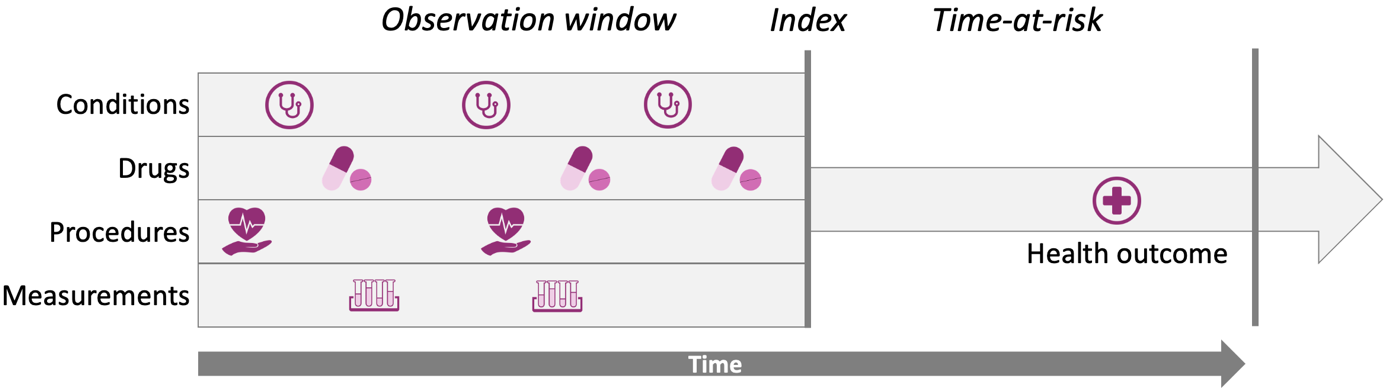


Figure 1. Patient-level prediction time windows and index date.

We follow the TRIPOD guidance for transparent reporting of the model results.10

## Data sources

The analyses will be performed across the EHDEN and OHDSI network in multiple observational databases. These databases have been converted to the OMOP Common Data Model (CDM), version 5.0 or higher. The complete specification for the OMOP CDM is available at <https://github.com/OHDSI/CommonDataModel>.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Data Source Name** | **Contributor** | **Description** |
| Optum De-Identified Clinformatics Data Mart Database (OptumInsight, Eden Prairie, MN) | Janssen | Adjudicated administrative health claims database for members with private health insurance, who are fully insured in commercial plans or in administrative services only (ASOs), Legacy Medicare Choice Lives (prior to January 2006), and Medicare Advantage (Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug coverage starting January 2006). |
| Optum De-identified Electronic Health Record Dataset | Janssen | A medical records database representing Humedica’s Electronic Health Record data. |
| IBM MarketScan® Medicare Supplemental Database (MDCR) | Janssen | Represents health services of retirees (aged 65 or older) in the United States with primary or Medicare supplemental coverage through privately insured fee-for-service, point-of-service, or capitated health plans. These data include adjudicated health insurance claims (e.g., inpatient, outpatient, and outpatient pharmacy). Additionally, it captures laboratory tests for a subset of the covered lives. |
| Iqvia Disease Analyzer (DA) Germany | Janssen | Data collected from physician practices and medical centres for all ages. Mostly primary care physician data, however, some data from specialty practices (where practices are electronically connected to each other) and some lab data is included. |
| Integrated Primary Care Information (IPCI) database | Erasmus MC | Dutch database containing the complete medical record of more than 3 million patients provided by more than 450 GPs geographically spread over the Netherlands. |
| Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) | Janssen | Governmental, not-for-profit research service, jointly funded by the NHS National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), a part of the Department of Health, United Kingdom (UK). CPRD consists of data collected from UK primary care for all ages. |
| Iqvia Medical Research Data UK (IMRD) | Iqvia | Real world data, incorporating data from THIN, a Cegedim Database, which contains longitudinal non-identified primary care electronic medical records (EMR) from more than 18 million patients in the UK. |

## Study populations

Populations are defined as computable target and outcome cohorts as previously described11,12.

### Target cohorts [T]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Target component** | **WALTERS** | **MEHTA** | **NORI** |
| Cohort name | Walters Target 0 Prior 0 Post | Mehta Target 0 Prior 0 Post [V2] | Nori Target 0 Prior 0 Post [v1] |
| Description | Patients with an outpatient visit occurrences, who are between 60 and 79 years old | Patients with a condition occurrence of T2DM, who are >= 60 years old | Patients with an outpatient visit occurrence, who are >= 45 years old |
| Inclusion criteria | * No prior dementia, memory loss, confusion, cognitive decline * No prior drug-induced (and alcoholinduced) dementia * No prior dementia in other conditions NOS * No HIV positive * No huntington’s * No lewy body disease * No parkinson’s * No pick’s * No cruetzfeldt-jacob disease | * Hypertension * No prior dementia | * No prior alzheimer’s disease * No prior alzheimer’s medication |

### Outcome cohorts [O]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome component** | **WALTERS** | **MEHTA** | **NORI** |
| Cohort name | Persons with dementia | Mehta Outcome | Nori Outcome |
| Description | Patients with a condition occurrence of dementia | Patiets with a condition occurrence of dementia; or a drug exposure of a dementia prescription medication | Patients with a condition occurrence of ADRD; or a drug exposure for ADRD; or a drug exposure of memantine with a condition ocurrence of ADRD; or an inpatient visist occurrence with a condition occurrence of ADRD |
| Inclusion criteria | - | - | - |

### Population settings

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Population settings** | **WALTERS** | **MEHTA** | **NORI** |
| binary | TRUE | TRUE | TRUE |
| includeAllOutcomes | TRUE | TRUE | TRUE |
| firstExposureOnly | FALSE | TRUE | FALSE |
| washoutPeriod | 365 | 365 | 1825 |
| removeSubjectsWithPriorOutcome | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| priorOutcomeLookback | 9999 | 9999 | 9999 |
| requireTimeAtRisk | TRUE | TRUE | TRUE |
| minTimeAtRisk | 365 | 365 | 1094 |
| riskWindowStart | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| startAnchor | ‘cohort start’ | ‘cohort start’ | ‘cohort start’ |
| endAnchor | ‘cohort start’ | ‘cohort start’ | ‘cohort start’ |
| riskWindowEnd | 1825 | 1825 | 1095 |
| verbosity | ‘INFO’ | ‘INFO’ | ‘INFO’ |

### Covariate populations

Custom covariates that do not use the standard covariate settings of the FeatureExtraction R-package are defined as executable ATLAS cohorts. A complete list of these custom covariates can be found in 7.4.5 under cohort type “Covariate”.

### Executable cohort definitions

Cohorts are defined in ATLAS. These include definitions of the target cohort, outcome cohort as well as definitions of covariates. The following table is a complete list of ATLAS cohorts that this study utilizes.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cohort ID** | **Model** | **Cohort type** | **Cohort name** | **URL** |
| 1 | WALTERS | Target | Walters Target 0 Prior 0 Post |  |
| 2 | WALTERS | Outcome | Persons with dementia |  |
| 3 | WALTERS | Covariate | BMI |  |
| 4 | WALTERS | Covariate | BMI squared |  |
| 5 | WALTERS | Covariate | Smoking status never |  |
| 6 | WALTERS | Covariate | Smoking status past |  |
| 7 | WALTERS | Covariate | Smoking status current |  |
| 8 | WALTERS | Covariate | History of alcohol problems |  |
| 9 | WALTERS | Covariate | History of diabetes |  |
| 10 | WALTERS | Covariate | Depression |  |
| 11 | WALTERS | Covariate | Stroke |  |
| 12 | WALTERS | Covariate | Atrial fibrillation |  |
| 13 | WALTERS | Covariate | Current aspirin use |  |
| 14 | WALTERS | Covariate | Social deprivation |  |
| 15 | MEHTA | Target | Mehta Target 0 Prior 0 Post [V2] |  |
| 16 | MEHTA | Outcome | Mehta Outcome |  |
| 17 | MEHTA | Covariate | Myocardial infarction |  |
| 18 | MEHTA | Covariate | Congestive heart failure |  |
| 19 | MEHTA | Covariate | Coronary and peripheral vascular disease |  |
| 20 | MEHTA | Covariate | Cerebrovascular disease |  |
| 21 | MEHTA | Covariate | Chronic pulmonary disease |  |
| 22 | MEHTA | Covariate | Rheumatologic disease |  |
| 23 | MEHTA | Covariate | Peptic ulcer disease |  |
| 24 | MEHTA | Covariate | Renal disease and end stage renal disease |  |
| 25 | MEHTA | Covariate | Mild liver disease and moderate or severe liver disease |  |
| 26 | MEHTA | Covariate | Any malignancy |  |
| 27 | MEHTA | Covariate | Epilepsy |  |
| 28 | MEHTA | Covariate | Hyperlipidemia |  |
| 29 | MEHTA | Covariate | Parkinsons disease |  |
| 30 | MEHTA | Covariate | Cardiac disease ASCVD |  |
| 31 | MEHTA | Covariate | Glaucoma |  |
| 32 | MEHTA | Covariate | Transplantation |  |
| 33 | MEHTA | Covariate | Thyroid disorder |  |
| 34 | MEHTA | Covariate | Gout |  |
| 35 | MEHTA | Covariate | Crohns and ulcerative disease |  |
| 36 | MEHTA | Covariate | Pain and inflammation and pain |  |
| 37 | MEHTA | Covariate | Depression |  |
| 38 | MEHTA | Covariate | Psychotic illness |  |
| 39 | MEHTA | Covariate | Bipolar disorders |  |
| 40 | MEHTA | Covariate | Anxiety and tension |  |
| 41 | NORI | Target | Nori Target 0 Prior 0 Post [v1] |  |
| 42 | NORI | Outcome | Nori Outcome |  |
| 43 | NORI | Covariate | MEMORY LOSS |  |
| 44 | NORI | Covariate | PARALYSIS AGITANS |  |
| 45 | NORI | Covariate | MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT SO STATED |  |
| 46 | NORI | Covariate | BIPOLAR DISORDER UNSPECIFIED |  |
| 47 | NORI | Covariate | UNSPECIFIED PSYCHOSIS |  |
| 48 | NORI | Covariate | LOSS OF WEIGHT |  |
| 49 | NORI | Covariate | DEPRESSIVE DISORDER NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED |  |
| 50 | NORI | Covariate | ALTERED MENTAL STATUS |  |
| 51 | NORI | Covariate | PERSONAL HISTORY OF FALL |  |
| 52 | NORI | Covariate | OTHER CONVULSIONS |  |
| 53 | NORI | Covariate | UNSPECIFIED FALL |  |
| 54 | NORI | Covariate | OTHER CHRONIC PAIN |  |
| 55 | NORI | Covariate | ACUTE BUT ILLDEFINED CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE |  |
| 56 | NORI | Covariate | URGE INCONTINENCE |  |
| 57 | NORI | Covariate | OTHER ALTERATION OF CONSCIOUSNESS |  |
| 58 | NORI | Covariate | UNSPECIFIED CONSTIPATION |  |
| 59 | NORI | Covariate | UNSPECIFIED URINARY INCONTINENCE |  |
| 60 | NORI | Covariate | ENCOUNTER FOR LONGTERM CURRENT USE OF OTHER MEDICATIONS |  |
| 61 | NORI | Covariate | LACK OF COORDINATION |  |
| 62 | NORI | Covariate | OTHER MALAISE AND FATIGUE |  |
| 63 | NORI | Covariate | DIABETES MELLITUS |  |
| 64 | NORI | Covariate | ABNORMALITY OF GAIT |  |
| 65 | NORI | Covariate | DIZZINESS AND GIDDINESS |  |
| 66 | NORI | Covariate | UNSPECIFIED CEREBRAL ARTERY OCCLUSION WITH CEREBRAL INFARCTION |  |
| 67 | NORI | Covariate | DIABETES MELLITUS 2 |  |
| 68 | NORI | Covariate | EDEMA |  |
| 69 | NORI | Covariate | MUSCLE WEAKNESS GENERALIZED |  |
| 70 | NORI | Covariate | URINARY TRACT INFECTION SITE NOT SPECIFIED |  |
| 71 | NORI | Covariate | SCREENING MAMMOGRAPHY COMPUTERAIDED DETECTION |  |
| 72 | NORI | Covariate | COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY HEAD OR BRAIN |  |
| 73 | NORI | Covariate | RADIOLOGIC EXAMINATION CHEST SINGLE VIEW FRONTAL |  |
| 74 | NORI | Covariate | VENLAFAXINE HCL |  |
| 75 | NORI | Covariate | DULOXETINE HCL |  |
| 76 | NORI | Covariate | TOLTERODINE TARTRATE |  |
| 77 | NORI | Covariate | SERTRALINE HCL |  |
| 78 | NORI | Covariate | CITALOPRAM HYDROBROMIDE |  |
| 79 | NORI | Covariate | POTASSIUM CHLORIDE |  |
| 80 | NORI | Covariate | OXYBUTYNIN CHLORIDE |  |
| 81 | NORI | Covariate | HYDROCODONE BIT ACETAMINOPHEN |  |
| 82 | NORI | Covariate | PROPOXYPHENE ACETAMINOPHEN |  |
| 83 | NORI | Covariate | SULFAMETHOXAZOLE TRIMETHOPRIM |  |
| 84 | NORI | Covariate | METFORMIN HCL |  |
| 85 | NORI | Covariate | BLOOD SUGAR DIAGNOSTIC |  |
| 86 | NORI | Covariate | LISINOPRIL |  |
| 87 | NORI | Covariate | CEPHALEXIN MONOHYDRATE |  |
| 88 | NORI | Covariate | SIMVASTATIN |  |
| 89 | NORI | Covariate | CLOPIDOGREL BISULFATE |  |
| 90 | NORI | Covariate | TRAMADOL HCL |  |
| 91 | NORI | Covariate | GABAPENTIN |  |
| 92 | NORI | Covariate | FUROSEMIDE |  |

# Data analysis plan

## Algorithm settings

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Algorithm setting** | **WALTERS** | **MEHTA** | **NORI** |
| Prediction type | survival | survival | binary |
| Seed | NULL | NULL | NULL |
| Variance | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Mapping |  | (no baseline hazard provided) |  |

## Standard covariate settings

The following standard covariate settings were used for the three models. Note that a majority of covariates used in the three models are not standard covariates, but rather covariates defined through executable cohort definitions in ATLAS. These have already been listed in 7.4.5.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Standard covariates** | **WALTERS** | **MEHTA** | **NORI** |
| VisitCountMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ObservationShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| shortTermStartDays | -30 | -30 | -30 |
| MeasurementRangeGroupShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionOccurrenceLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugEraStartLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| VisitCountShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| Chads2Vasc | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionGroupEraStartLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionEraShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| Dcsi | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugGroupEraLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugGroupEraShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionEraStartLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| temporal | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DemographicsIndexMonth | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionOccurrencePrimaryInpatientLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionEraAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| addDescendantsToInclude | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionGroupEraStartMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ProcedureOccurrenceLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugExposureLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugEraStartShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctIngredientCountMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctMeasurementCountShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| MeasurementRangeGroupLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionGroupEraOverlapping | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| MeasurementRangeGroupMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugGroupEraStartMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| MeasurementAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| MeasurementMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| includedCovariateIds |  |  |  |
| ConditionOccurrenceAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctConditionCountLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| MeasurementValueLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugEraShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugGroupEraAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugEraOverlapping | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionOccurrencePrimaryInpatientAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionEraMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionEraOverlapping | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionEraStartShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ObservationAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| VisitConceptCountShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DemographicsEthnicity | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctIngredientCountLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionOccurrencePrimaryInpatientShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DemographicsAgeGroup | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctProcedureCountShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctObservationCountMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| includedCovariateConceptIds | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugGroupEraStartShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| addDescendantsToExclude | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugEraLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctConditionCountShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionGroupEraShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionEraStartMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| VisitCountLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DemographicsRace | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ProcedureOccurrenceAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctObservationCountLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ProcedureOccurrenceMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| CharlsonIndex | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DemographicsPriorObservationTime | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| MeasurementShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctProcedureCountMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionEraLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugGroupEraStartLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DemographicsGender | TRUE | TRUE | FALSE |
| DeviceExposureAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ObservationLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DemographicsIndexYearMonth | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionOccurrenceMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| longTermStartDays | -365 | -365 | -365 |
| DemographicsAge | TRUE | TRUE | FALSE |
| DrugGroupEraOverlapping | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctMeasurementCountLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| MeasurementRangeGroupAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctConditionCountMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugGroupEraMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ProcedureOccurrenceShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ObservationMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionGroupEraAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| Chads2 | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugExposureAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DeviceExposureLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DemographicsTimeInCohort | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctMeasurementCountMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| MeasurementValueShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DeviceExposureMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionGroupEraStartShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionOccurrencePrimaryInpatientMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| MeasurementLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DemographicsIndexYear | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| MeasurementValueMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugEraStartMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| MeasurementValueAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctObservationCountShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugEraMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| ConditionGroupEraLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugExposureShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctIngredientCountShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DeviceExposureShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| mediumTermStartDays | -180 | -180 | -180 |
| DemographicsPostObservationTime | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| VisitConceptCountLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| VisitConceptCountMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| excludedCovariateConceptIds |  |  |  |
| ConditionGroupEraMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugExposureMediumTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DistinctProcedureCountLongTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| DrugEraAnyTimePrior | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |
| endDays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ConditionOccurrenceShortTerm | FALSE | FALSE | FALSE |

## Model recalibration

The WALTERS and the MEHTA models will be recalibrated during analysis. Therefore, each study is effectively executed two times, once without recalibration and once with recalibration. All population and model settings remain constant.

## Model evaluation

Predictions will be made for individual patients meeting the inclusion criteria for the target populations for each CPM. For the WALTERS and NORI models, two sets of evaluation metrics will be ascertained: 1) for the original model; 2) for the model with a recalibrated intercept and slope.

### Discrimination

We will use the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUROC) to evaluate the discriminative performance of the logistic regression model and the concordance statistic (c-statistic) to evaluate the discrimination performance of the cox proportional hazard models.

Across study sites we will describe the distribution (i.e., median and inter-quartile range) of calculated AUROC/c-statistic for each model to evaluate the discriminative ability of the prediction model in an external database. The chosen recalibration techniques (slope and intercept) do not alter the discrimination of the original models.

### Calibration

Calibration-in-the-large, a measure of global fit, as well as calibration slope and Harrell’s E (EAVG) standardized to the outcome rate, will be assessed. EAVG computes the average absolute calibration error (difference between the observed outcome rate and the estimated probabilities, where the observed rate is estimated using a non-parametric locally weighted scatterplot smoothing). E90, representing the 90th percentile of the absolute calibration error, will also be calculated. For each model evaluation we will describe the distribution (i.e., median and inter-quartile range) of calibration measures across the study sites. A plot of the predicted risk against the observed risk is used to visualize the calibration. Lastly, we compute Harrell's EMAX index, which is the maximum absolute difference between a smooth calibration curve and the diagonal line of perfect calibration.

We will describe the impact of recalibration techniques (slope and intercept) on these calibration metrics.

## Analysis execution settings

For the WALTERS prediction model there is 1 target cohort evaluated for 1 outcome over 1 model over 1 covariate setting and over 1 population setting. Additionally, 12 custom covariates are created which are based on 12 executable cohort definitions. The WALTERS model is recalibrated, for which reason the analysis is executed twice, once without recalibration and once with recalibration.

For the MEHTA prediction model there is 1 target cohort evaluated for 1 outcome over 1 model over 1 covariate settings and over 1 population setting. Additionally, 24 custom covariates are created which are based on 24 executable cohort definitions.

For the NORI prediction model there is 1 target cohort evaluated for 1 outcome over 1 model over 1 covariate setting and over 1 population setting. Additionally, 50 custom covariates are created which are based on 50 executable cohort definitions. The Nori model is recalibrated for which reason the analysis is executed twice, once without recalibration and once with recalibration.

# Strengths and limitations

## Strengths

* Observational health data that are routinely collected from administrative claims, electronic health records, etc., is considered to enhance a model’s applicability at the healthcare system level as it reflects the data normally available to a clinician in practice.3 If dementia models transport well, they may be interesting candidates for future research into clinical usefulness.

## Limitations

* The external validation datasets may not have a sufficient number of (some of) the different outcomes to be used in the analysis.
* Although the OMOP CDM standardises the vocabularies of the datasets, the concept recording distributions are likely to differ between databases and it is unknown how much this will limit model transportability.

# Protection of human subjects

For this study, personal data which are collected in national/regional electronic health record databases from various countries, will be processed. Due to the sensitive nature of this personal medical data, it is important to be fully aware of ethical and regulatory aspects and to strive to take all reasonable measures to ensure compliance with ethical and regulatory issues on privacy.

In agreement with these regulations, rather than combining person level data and performing a central analysis, only local analyses will be run, which generate nonidentifiable aggregate summary results. All the databases used in this study have a well-developed mechanism to ensure that regulations dealing with ethical use of the data and adequate privacy control are adhered to. If required, the protocol has been reviewed by the Institutional Review Boards of the respective databases.

## Management and reporting of adverse events and adverse reactions

This study uses coded data that already exist in an electronic database. In this type of database, it is not possible to link (i.e., identify a potential causal association between) a particular product and medical event for any individual. Thus, the minimum criteria for reporting an adverse event (i.e., identifiable patient, identifiable reporter, a suspect product, and event) are not available and adverse events are not reportable as individual adverse events reports. The study results will be assessed for medically important results.

# Plans for Disseminating and Communicating Study Results

Dissemination activities to be undertaken will have mainly, although not exclusively, a scientific nature (articles, presentations at conferences, etc.). The study results will be posted on the OHDSI website and EHDEN website after completion of the study. One paper describing the study and its results will be written and submitted for publication to a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

# Study Repository

The latest executable files of this study can be found on the Medical Informatics, Erasmus MC, GitHub repository.

* Study files: <https://github.com/mi-erasmusmc/EmcDementiaModelValidation>

To execute the study, please follow the instructions in the readme.md file of above mentioned repository.

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