Statistics 641, Spring 2018 Homework #3 Solutions

1. Suppose that we have 20 patients, 10 per treatment group, and we observe the following survival times:

where the '+' indicates a censored observation.

(a) Below is the output from the Kaplan-Meier estimate of overall survival, ignoring treatment group. "By hand," find the values that are missing and indicated by dashes (e.g., "——"). Note that you can use survfit to check your final answers.

> summary(survfit(Surv(time,status)~1, data=data1, conf.type="log-log"))

. .

time	n.risk	n.event	survival	std.err	lower	95% CI	upper	95% CI
9	19	1	0.947	0.0512		0.6812		0.992
12	17	1	0.892	0.0724		0.6315		0.972
13	16	1	0.836	0.0867		0.5727		0.944
14	15	2	0.724	0.1050		0.4591		0.875
16		_						
23		_						
24	6	1	0.488	0.1367		0.2136		0.716

From survfit:

time n.risk n.event survival std.err lower 95% CI upper 95% CI

14 15 2 0.724 0.1050 0.4591 0.875 16 13 1 0.669 0.1108 0.4059 0.836 23 8 1 0.585 0.1245 0.3113 0.782 6 1 24 0.488 0.1367 0.2136 0.716

. . .

The number at risk at time 16 is 13, and there is one failure at time 16. Therefore survival at time 16 is

$$0.724 \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{13}\right) = .669$$

and $\widehat{\Lambda}(16) = -\log(0.669) = 0.40197$. From the table above, the variance of $\widehat{S}(14)$ is $0.1050^2 = 0.011025$, and therefore the variance of $\widehat{\Lambda}(14)$ is $0.011025/.724^2 = 0.021033$. Therefore

$$\operatorname{Var}\left[\widehat{\Lambda}(16)\right] = 0.021033 + \frac{1}{13 \times 12} = 0.027443$$

and the standard error of $\widehat{S}(16)$ is $.669 \times \sqrt{0.027443} = 0.1108$. The confidence intervals are calculated on the $\log \Lambda(t)$ scale ('conf.type="log-log"'), so applying the deltamethod,

$$\operatorname{Var}\left[\log \Lambda(16)\right] = \frac{0.027443}{0.40197^2} = 0.1698$$

and a 95% CI is $\log 0.40197 \pm 1.96 \times \sqrt{.1698} = (-1.719, -0.1037)$. Transforming back to the S(t) scale, we get $\exp(-\exp(-0.1037)) = 0.4059$ and $\exp(-\exp(-1.1719)) = 0.8359$. Similarly, survival at time 23 is

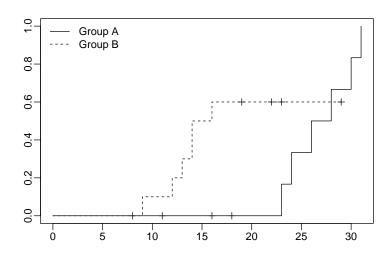
$$0.669 \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{8}\right) = .585,$$

and $\widehat{\Lambda}(23) = -\log(0.585) = 0.53614$.

$$\operatorname{Var}\left[\widehat{\Lambda}(23)\right] = 0.027443 + \frac{1}{8 \times 7} = 0.04530$$

and the standard error of $\widehat{S}(23)$ is $.585 \times \sqrt{0.04530} = 0.1245102$. The CI for $\log \Lambda(23)$ is $\log 0.53614 \pm 1.96 \times \sqrt{0.04530}/0.53614 = (-1.4014, 0.1547)$ and the CI for $\widehat{S}(23)$ is (0.3113, 0.782).

- (b) Plot cumulative mortality by treatment.
 - > plot(survfit(Surv(t,d)~1, data=D), fun="event")
 - # I don't like boxes around legends, so set bty="n"
 - > legend("topleft", bty="n", lty=1:2, c("Group A", "Group B"))



(c) Below is table used for computing the (unweighted) log-rank and Gehan-Wilcoxon (GW) tests for equality of survival between treatments. Find the values that are missing and indicated by a dash (—). Calculate the log-rank and Gehan-Wilcoxon chi-square statistics. Note that you can use survdiff to check your final answers.

	t_{j}	d_{j1}	n_{j1}	d_{j2}	n_{j2}	$n_{j1} + n_{j2}$	$E[d_{j1}]$	$Var(d_{j1})$
	9	0	9	1	10	19	0.474	0.2493
	12	0	8	1	9	17	0.471	0.2491
	13	0	8	1	8	16	0.500	0.2500
	14	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
	16	0	8	1	5	13	0.615	0.2367
	23	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
	24	1	5	0	1	6	0.833	0.1389
	26	1	4	0	1	5	0.800	0.1600
	28	1	3	0	1	4	0.750	0.1875
	30	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
	31	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
\log -rank \sum		_					_	_
$\mathrm{GW}\sum$		_					_	_

First get some summary counts via survfit:

> summary(survfit(Surv(t,d)~z, data=data1),
+ time=sort(unique(data1\$t[data1\$d==1])))

+ time=sort(unique(data1\$t[data1\$d==1])))								
	z=A							
n.risk	${\tt n.event}$	${\tt survival}$	${\tt std.err}$	lower	95% CI	upper 95% CI		
8	0	1.000	0.000		1.0000	1.000		
8	0	1.000	0.000		1.0000	1.000		
8	0	1.000	0.000		1.0000	1.000		
6	1	0.833	0.152		0.5827	1.000		
5	1	0.667	0.192		0.3786	1.000		
2	1	0.167	0.152		0.0278	0.997		
1	1	0.000	NaN		NA	NA		
	z=B							
n.risk	${\tt n.event}$	${\tt survival}$	${\tt std.err}$	lower	95% CI	upper 95% CI		
7	2	0.5	0.1581		0.269	0.929		
5	1	0.4	0.1549		0.187	0.855		
2	0	0.4	0.1549		0.187	0.855		
1	0	0.4	0.1549		0.187	0.855		
1	0	0.4	0.1549		0.187	0.855		
	n.risk 8 8 8 6 5 2 1 n.risk 7 5 2	z=A n.risk n.event 8	z=A n.risk n.event survival 8	z=A n.risk n.event survival std.err 8	<pre>z=A n.risk n.event survival std.err lower 8</pre>	n.risk n.event survival std.err lower 95% CI 8		

The completed table is:

	t_{j}	d_{j1}	n_{j1}	d_{j2}	n_{j2}	$n_{j1} + n_{j2}$	$E[d_{j1}]$	$Var(d_{j1})$
	9	0	9	1	10	19	0.474	0.2493
	12	0	8	1	9	17	0.471	0.2491
	13	0	8	1	8	16	0.500	0.2500
	14	0	8	2	7	15	1.067	0.4622
	16	0	8	1	5	13	0.615	0.2367
	23	1	6	0	2	8	0.750	0.1875
	24	1	5	0	1	6	0.833	0.1389
	26	1	4	0	1	5	0.800	0.1600
	28	1	3	0	1	4	0.750	0.1875
	30	1	2	0	0	2	1	0
	31	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
log -rank \sum		6					8.26	2.1212
$GW \overline{\sum}$		26					70	394

For example, the $E[d_{j1}]$ column for time 14 is $2 \times 8/15 = 1.067$ and the $Var(d_{j1})$ column is $8 \times 7 \times 2 \times 13/15^2/14 = .4622$. The entries "log-rank Σ " row are the sums of the corresponding columns. The entries in the "GW Σ " row are the sums of the columns above multiplied either by the $n_{j1} + n_{j2}$ column (first two) or this column squared (last column). Note that for $E[d_{j1}]$ and $Var(d_{j1})$, $n_{j1} + n_{j2}$ appears in the denominators, so there is cancellation and the computation is actually slightly simpler.

We have for the unweighted log-rank:

$$\frac{(6-8.26)^2}{2.12} = 2.41$$

and for the Gehan-Wilcoxon-weighted log-rank:

$$\frac{(26-70)^2}{394} = 4.91$$

Check using survdiff:

> survdiff(Surv(t,d)~z, data=data1)

Call:

survdiff(formula = Surv(t, d) ~ z, data = data1)

N Observed Expected $(0-E)^2/E$ $(0-E)^2/V$ z=A 10 6 8.26 0.618 2.41 z=B 10 6 3.74 1.365 2.41 Chisq= 2.4 on 1 degrees of freedom, p= 0.121

This the same as the unweighted log-rank above. survdiff doesn't do the Gehan-Wilcoxon test, so we don't have any easy way to check this using R.

(d) Suppose that we terminate follow-up at time 20, so that all times beyond 20 are censored at time 20. Perform the log-rank test for the difference between groups censored at time 20. Does this provide insight into the difference between the two tests from part (c)?

First create new column in dataset (d20) that makes all the events beyond time 20 into non-events. In principle, the corresponding times should also be changed to 20, but after the time of the last event (now time 16), there is no contribution to the test, so the times don't matter. There are lots of ways to do this. Here's a simple one:

```
> data1$d20 <- data1$d*(data1$t<=20)
> survdiff(Surv(t,d20)~z, data=data1)
Call:
survdiff(formula = Surv(t, d20) ~ z, data = data1)

N Observed Expected (O-E)^2/E (O-E)^2/V
```

Chisq= 6.8 on 1 degrees of freedom, p= 0.00936

Equivalently, we could use just the first 5 rows of the table above. The total number of failures in column d_{j1} is zero, the sum of the expected values is 3.127, and the sum of the variances is 1.447. The test statistic is

$$\frac{(0-3.127)^2}{1.447} = 6.76$$

Note that for $t \le 20$, all the failures are in group B, whereas for t > 20 all the failures are in group A. Consequently, for the original log-rank test, cumulative sums of observed minus expected grow in absolute value (the sign depends on which cell we pick for the observed), until time 16, then begin to shrink starting at time 23 when the first failure occurs in group A. The unweighted log-rank statistic gives equal weight to all events so the early difference favoring group A is partially canceled by the later difference favoring group B. The Gehan-Wilcoxon weighted log-rank statistic gives more weight to the early differences relative to the later differences, so there is less cancellation, and the test statistic is larger. Censoring at time 20 effectively gives zero weight to the events favoring group B, and so there is no cancellation and the test statistic is larger yet.

The two unweighted log-rank tests, one over the whole follow-up interval, and one restricted to $t \leq 20$, have clear interpretations. On the other hand, while the GW-weighted test gives high weight to early events and low weight to later events, it does so in an ad-hoc manner that has no obvious interpretation.

2. The Beta-blocker Heart Attack Trial (BHAT) was a randomized trial conducted between 1978 and 1980 and assessed the effect of propranolol on mortality in subjects who had experienced at least one MI. Data from BHAT are available in dataset "bhat.csv".

The variables in the dataset are:

trt Treatment group (0=placebo/1=propranolol)

day Follow-up time in days

status censoring/failure indicator (1=dead, 0=censored)

Baseline (pre-treatment) variables:

age Age at baseline in years sex Sex (1=Male, 2=Female) weightkg Baseline Weight in kg

smoker Smoker

sbp Systolic Blood Pressure
dbp Diastolic Blood Pressure

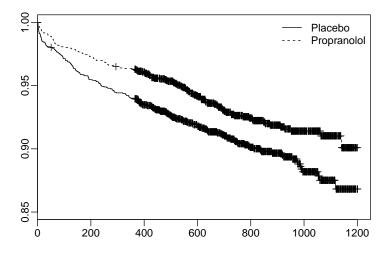
heartrate Heart Rate

milocati Location of prior MI
angina Suspected Angina Pectoris
chf Suspected Chronic Heart Failure

 H_0 is the null hypothesis that there is no difference in survival by treatment.

(a) Plot the Kaplan-Meier estimates of event-free survival by treatment group.

```
> plot(survfit(Surv(day,status)~trt, data=bhat), lty=1:2, ylim=c(.85,1))
> legend("topright", bty="n", lty=1:2, c("Placebo","Propranolol"))
```



(b) Compare treatment groups (unadjusted) using the log-rank test. Based on this test, find an estimate of the hazard ratio using the one-step estimator. Note that while survdiff doesn't print out the variance (Fisher information), it returns an object with components called obs, exp, and var (e.g., survdiff(...)\$var).

```
> survdiff(Surv(day, status)~trt, data=bhat)
Call:
survdiff(formula = Surv(day, status) ~ trt, data = bhat)
         N Observed Expected (O-E)^2/E (O-E)^2/V
trt=0 1921
                188
                          162
                                   4.25
                                              8.43
trt=1 1916
                138
                                              8.43
                          164
                                   4.18
Chisq= 8.4
            on 1 degrees of freedom, p= 0.00369
```

There is "statistically significant" decrease in mortality in the propranolol group.

Rather than saving the survdiff output, Here's trick that uses the function with to do the one-step estimator.

```
> with(survdiff(Surv(day,status)~trt, data=bhat), (obs-exp)[2]/var[1])
[1] -0.3216515 ##log HR
> exp(with(survdiff(Surv(day,status)~trt, data=bhat), (obs-exp)[2]/var[1]))
[1] 0.7249508 ## HR
```

The one-step estimator suggests a 28% reduction in hazard with propranolol relative to placebo.

(c) Estimate the hazard ratio for treatment and test H_0 using the Wald and likelihood ratio tests. Compare to the one-step estimator from part (b).

```
Fitting a Cox proportional hazards model,
> summary(coxph(Surv(day,status)~trt, data=bhat))
Call:
coxph(formula = Surv(day, status) ~ trt, data = bhat)
 n= 3837, number of events= 326
       coef exp(coef) se(coef)
                                    z Pr(>|z|)
trt -0.3241
               0.7232
                        0.1121 -2.891 0.00384 **
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
    exp(coef) exp(-coef) lower .95 upper .95
      0.7232
                   1.383
                            0.5806
trt
Likelihood ratio test= 8.46
                             on 1 df,
                                        p=0.003629
Wald test
                     = 8.36
                             on 1 df,
                                        p=0.003841
Score (logrank) test = 8.43
                             on 1 df,
                                        p=0.003689
```

The Wald statistic is Z = -2.891 (or the chi-square statistic is $8.36=Z^2$, with 1 DF), and the likelihood ratio statistic is 8.46 (chi-square with 1 DF). The score test is the log-rank which yields a statistic of 8.43, same as in part (b).

The point estimate of the HR is 0.7232, quite close to the one-step estimate in part (b). (As expected, the MLE is slightly further from 1 than the one-step estimate.)

(d) Estimate the hazard ratio for treatment adjusted for important baseline variables and test H_0 using the Wald and likelihood ratio tests. Compare to the result from (b). Is CHF a confounder for the effect of treatment on the outcome?

There are lots of ways of deciding which are "important" baseline variables, and I'll accept any reasonable set. Here's a model with all the baseline variables:

```
coef exp(coef) se(coef)
trt
                 -0.32409
                           milocatiAnterior
                 -0.29460
                           milocatiInferior
                 -0.55045
                           0.57669 0.18287 -3.01 0.00261
milocatinon-BHAT MI -0.24898
                           0.77959 0.23162 -1.07 0.28238
milocatinontransmrl -0.36988
                           0.69082 0.19063 -1.94 0.05234
                           1.63032 0.12054 4.05 5.0e-05
smokerYes
                  0.48878
                           anginaUnknown
                 -0.17891
anginaYes
                  0.36782
                           1.44458 0.11421 3.22 0.00128
                  0.00688
                           1.00690 0.00642 1.07 0.28404
sbp
age
                  0.05189
                           1.05326 0.00820 6.33 2.4e-10
                  0.00371
                           1.00372 0.00988 0.38 0.70708
dbp
                           1.35455 0.58381 0.52 0.60320
chfUnknown
                  0.30347
chfYes
                  0.81022
                           2.24839 0.14307 5.66 1.5e-08
sex
                 -0.13691
                           0.87205 0.16056 -0.85 0.39382
                           0.99565 0.00453 -0.96 0.33573
weightkg
                 -0.00436
heartrate
                  0.01986
                           1.02006 0.00555 3.57 0.00035
```

```
Likelihood ratio test=148 on 16 df, p=0
n= 3817, number of events= 325
(20 observations deleted due to missingness)
```

Note that 1) 20 observations have missing values, and 2) inspection of the data shows that these are all for the variable weightkg, and 3) weightkg has a large p-value, so we can consider it "unimportant" and remove it from the model. Fit model without weightkg, and use the anova function so assess the "importance" (sequentially) of both continuous and categorical variables:

```
> cox1 <- coxph(Surv(day,status)~trt + milocati + smoker + angina +
+ sbp + age + dbp + chf + sex + heartrate, data=bhat)
> anova(cox1)
Analysis of Deviance Table
Cox model: response is Surv(day, status)
Terms added sequentially (first to last)
```

```
loglik
                    Chisq Df Pr(>|Chi|)
NULL
          -2616.0
          -2611.8 8.4606 1 0.0036293 **
trt
milocati -2603.6 16.3153 4 0.0026240 **
          -2602.2 2.8517 1 0.0912793 .
smoker
          -2593.3 17.7469 2 0.0001401 ***
angina
          -2588.7 9.2602 1 0.0023418 **
sbp
          -2565.1 47.0624 1 6.876e-12 ***
age
          -2564.5 1.3098 1 0.2524374
dbp
          -2548.6 31.7618 2 1.268e-07 ***
chf
          -2548.6 0.0865 1 0.7686677
sex
heartrate -2542.2 12.7240
                          1 0.0003610 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
If we were being more systematic, we might want to consider each variable adjusted
for all the others, but for simplicity, I'll keep everything with p < 0.1 in this ANOVA.
Note also that from the previous model, angina and chf have an "unknown" category.
Since we're not really interested in the these variables as predictors, we can simply leave
"unknown" as a separate category.
> cox2 <- coxph(Surv(day,status)~trt + milocati + smoker + angina +</pre>
+ sbp + age +
              chf + heartrate, data=bhat)
> anova(cox2)
Analysis of Deviance Table
 Cox model: response is Surv(day, status)
Terms added sequentially (first to last)
           loglik
                    Chisq Df Pr(>|Chi|)
NULL
          -2616.0
trt
          -2611.8 8.4606 1 0.0036293 **
milocati -2603.6 16.3153 4 0.0026240 **
smoker
          -2602.2 2.8517 1 0.0912793 .
          -2593.3 17.7469 2 0.0001401 ***
angina
sbp
          -2588.7 9.2602 1 0.0023418 **
age
          -2565.1 47.0624
                           1 6.876e-12 ***
          -2549.4 31.5125 2 1.436e-07 ***
heartrate -2542.5 13.7509 1 0.0002087 ***
All variables reach at least p < 0.1.
> cox2
                        coef exp(coef) se(coef)
                    -0.31907
                               0.72682 0.11238 -2.84 0.00452
trt
milocatiAnterior
                    -0.28288
                               0.75361 0.17721 -1.60 0.11043
milocatiInferior
                    -0.53751
                               0.58420 0.18241 -2.95 0.00321
milocatinon-BHAT MI -0.24041
                               0.78630 0.23145 -1.04 0.29893
```

0.69830 0.18956 -1.89 0.05816

milocatinontransmrl -0.35911

```
smokerYes
                   0.50130
                            1.65086 0.11930 4.20 2.6e-05
anginaUnknown
                  -0.16242
                            anginaYes
                   0.36218
                            1.43645 0.11381 3.18 0.00146
sbp
                   0.00787
                            1.00790 0.00469 1.68 0.09308
                            1.05419 0.00783 6.74 1.6e-11
age
                   0.05277
chfUnknown
                   0.27542
                            1.31709 0.58415
                                             0.47 0.63729
chfYes
                   0.79701
                            2.21890 0.14273 5.58 2.4e-08
                            1.02074 0.00542 3.79 0.00015
heartrate
                   0.02053
Likelihood ratio test=147 on 13 df, p=0
n= 3837, number of events= 326
```

The MLE for the log-hazard ratio is -.31907, and HR = 0.7268, very similar to part (b). The Wald Z = -2.84, again very close the unadjusted test. To perform the likelihood ratio test, we need to compare the full model (cox2) to a model with the same set of baseline variables, but without treatment. We can do this directly, or we can fit a model in which trt is listed *last*, and use the anova function.

```
cox3 <- coxph(Surv(day,status)~milocati + smoker + angina + sbp + age +</pre>
+ chf + heartrate, data=bhat)
> cox3
Likelihood ratio test=139 on 12 df, p=0
> cox4 <- coxph(Surv(day,status)~milocati + smoker + angina + sbp + age +
+ chf + heartrate + trt, data=bhat)
> anova(cox4)
Analysis of Deviance Table
 Cox model: response is Surv(day, status)
Terms added sequentially (first to last)
                    Chisq Df Pr(>|Chi|)
           loglik
NULL
          -2616.0
milocati
         -2607.8 16.3696
                          4 0.0025613 **
          -2606.4 2.7117
smoker
                           1
                              0.0996120 .
angina
          -2597.5 17.8132 2 0.0001355 ***
sbp
          -2593.2 8.6912 1 0.0031974 **
          -2569.3 47.7479 1 4.847e-12 ***
age
          -2553.2 32.1512
                           2 1.043e-07 ***
heartrate -2546.6 13.3161
                              0.0002631 ***
                          1
trt
          -2542.5 8.1594 1 0.0042838 **
>
```

From anova(cox4) the likelihood ratio test statistic is 8.1594 with 1 df. Comparing cox3 to cox2, the difference in likelihood ratio statistics as given in the output above is 147 - 139 = 8, but this is rounded off to integers. We can extract the log-likelihood ratios from the fitted models. The first entry is the log-likelihood for the null model (no predictors), while the second entry is the log-likelihood for the fitted model.

```
> cox2$loglik
[1] -2615.986 -2542.506
> cox3$loglik
```

```
[1] -2615.986 -2546.586
> -2*(cox3$loglik[2] - cox2$loglik[2])
[1] 8.159439
```

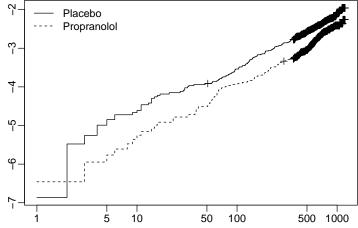
Matches the output from anova.

CHF can't be a confounder because the study is randomized.

(e) Assess whether the proportional hazards assumption for the model in part (d) is reasonable.

Graphically, we could look at unadjusted log-hazard versus log-time, for each treatment group, but this may not necessarily detect departures from proportionality in the *adjusted* model. One trick is to fit a model in which treatment is a stratification variable, so separate baseline hazards will be used for each group. The basehaz function extracts estimates of the baseline hazard for each treatment group.

```
> cox5 <- coxph(Surv(day,status)~strata(trt) + milocati + smoker + angina +
+ sbp + age + chf + heartrate, data=bhat)
> blhaz <- basehaz(cox5)
## plot hazards separately for each treatment: 'with' lets us easily extract one
## treatment group at a time.
> with(subset(blhaz,strata=="trt=0"), plot(time,hazard, type="s",log="xy",
+ xlim=c(1,1200), ylim=c(.0008,.12)))
> with(subset(blhaz,strata=="trt=1"), lines(time,hazard, lty=2, col=2, type="s"))
```



These curves remain roughly the same distance apart for the portion where they are most stable—there is no evidence from the plot that the PH assumption does not hold. We can also use cox.zph with the model cox2:

> cox.zph(cox2)

	rho	chisq	p
trt	0.06256	1.26897	0.25996
milocatiAnterior	0.05238	0.92149	0.33708
${\tt milocatiInferior}$	0.04403	0.63500	0.42553
milocatinon-BHAT MI	0.03456	0.39795	0.52815
milocatinontransmrl	0.14926	7.29057	0.00693

```
smokerYes
                    -0.06073 1.18884 0.27556
anginaUnknown
                     0.06532 1.42162 0.23314
anginaYes
                    -0.00557
                              0.01027 0.91930
sbp
                     0.02603
                             0.24343 0.62174
                    -0.00403
                              0.00585 0.93903
age
                              2.24240 0.13427
chfUnknown
                    -0.08259
chfYes
                    -0.03548 0.41386 0.52002
heartrate
                    -0.12531 5.18353 0.02280
GLOBAL
                          NA 21.82745 0.05809
```

Maybe there is non-proportionality for milocati, so stratify by this variable

```
> cox6 <- coxph(Surv(day,status)~trt + strata(milocati) + smoker +
+ angina + sbp + age + chf + heartrate, data=bhat)
> cox.zph(cox6)
```

```
rho
                           chisq
trt
               0.06612 1.417639 0.2338
smokerYes
              -0.05981
                       1.149683 0.2836
anginaUnknown 0.06737
                        1.512130 0.2188
anginaYes
             -0.00789
                        0.020484 0.8862
sbp
               0.02687
                        0.257855 0.6116
              -0.00109
                        0.000426 0.9835
age
             -0.08444
                        2.348590 0.1254
chfUnknown
chfYes
              -0.03538
                        0.408394 0.5228
heartrate
              -0.12801 5.377292 0.0204
GLOBAL
                    NA 11.649394 0.2338
```

The GLOBAL test suggests there is no remaining non-proportionality. Ignore p=0.02 for heartrate. Non-proportionality with respect to baseline variables doesn't really matter anyway,

```
> cox6
```

```
coef exp(coef) se(coef) z p
trt -0.31331 0.73102 0.11238 -2.79 0.00530
```

Coefficient for treatment is largely unaffected by baseline model.