

Chancen und Fallstricke der Real-World Datenanalyse

Janne Vehreschild



Agenda

1. Why is everyone talking about real-world data these days?
2. What are structural differences between real-world data and data from prospective trials?
3. What are the chances in using real-world data for my research?
4. Which limitations and biases are connected to real-world data, and how should I encounter them in my analyses?

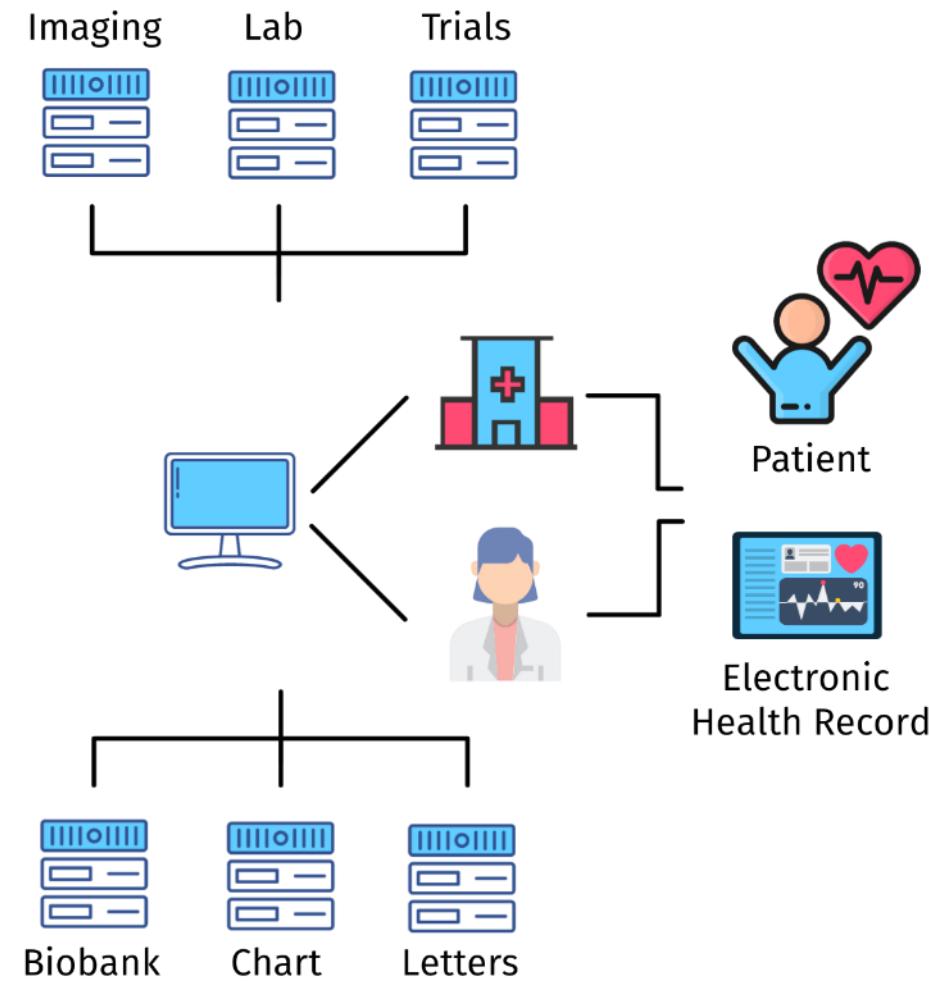
1. Why Real-World Data?



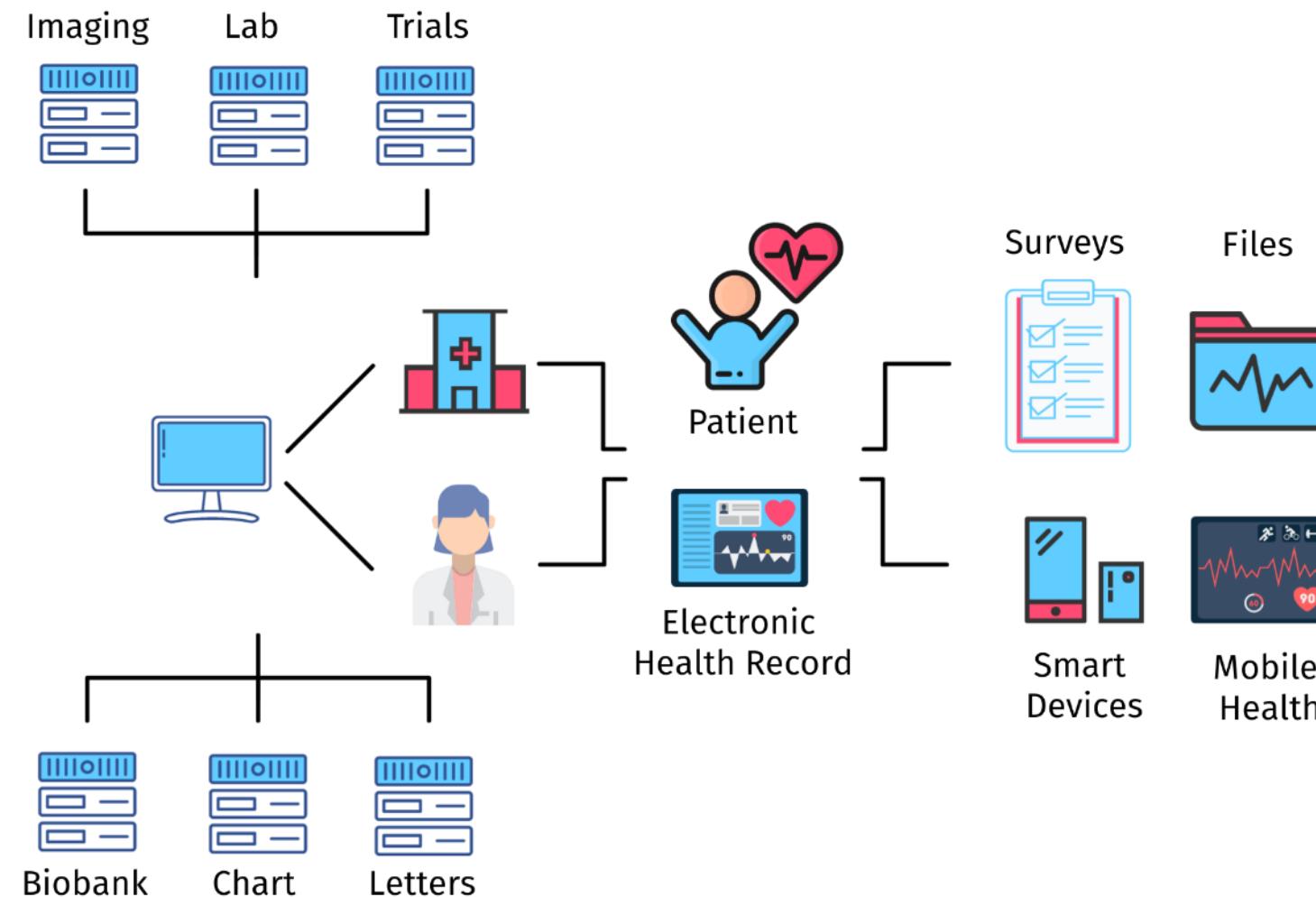
1. Why Real-World Data?



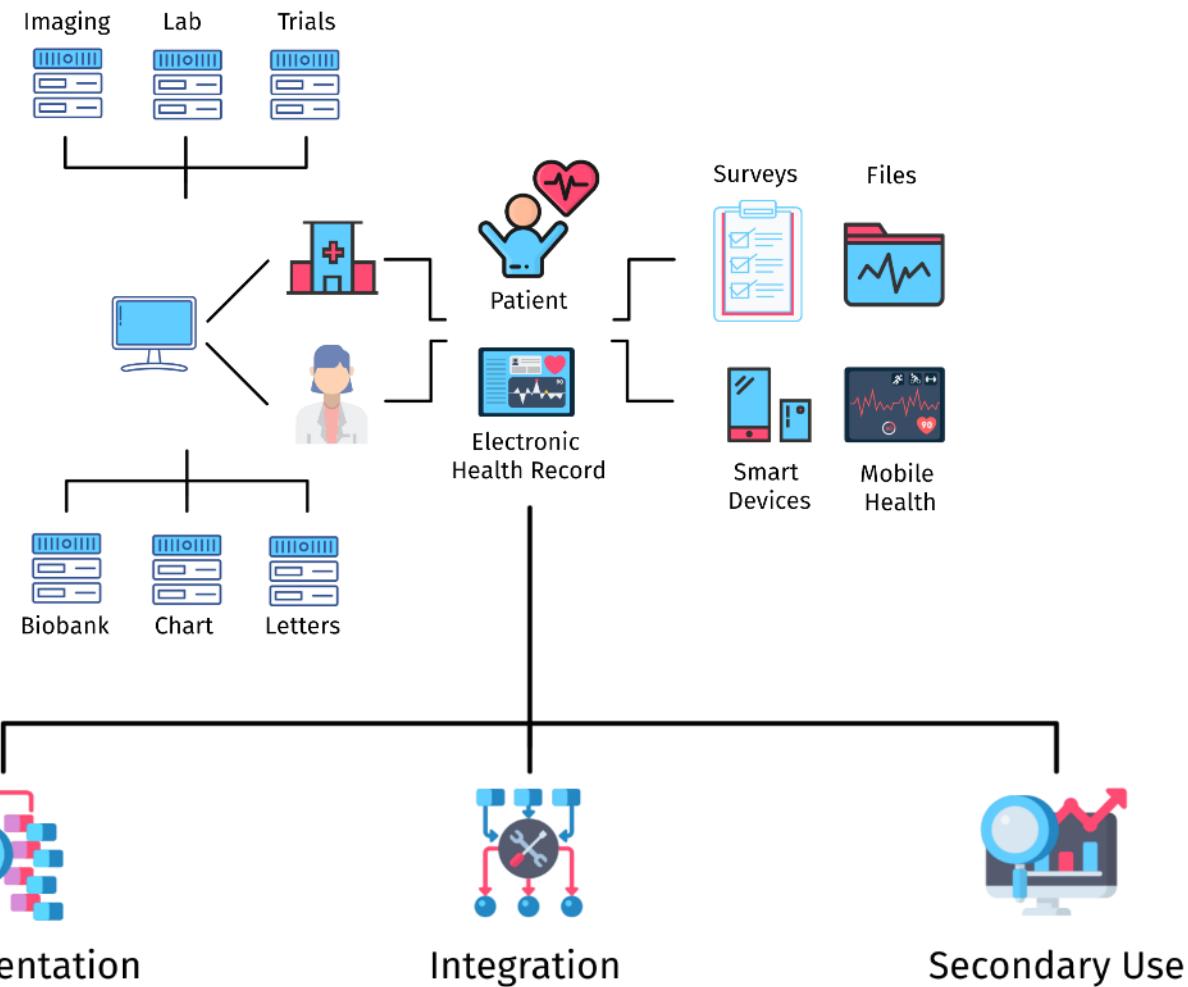
1. Why Real-World Data?



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1. Why Real-World Data?



2. Structural differences of data sources



Angelika

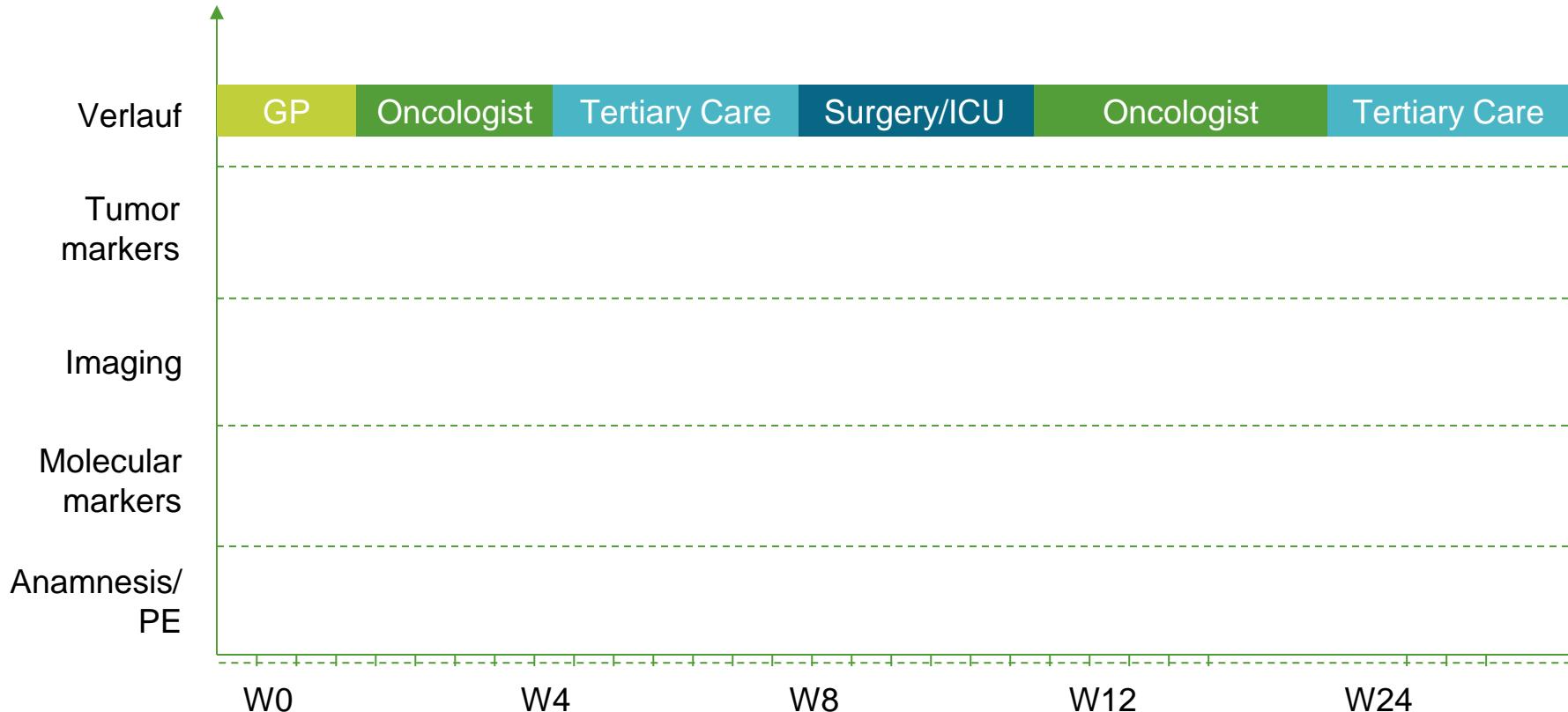
- 61 year old female
- No major comorbidities
- New diagnosis of right-sided colon cancer
- TNM: T3 N2 M0 (Stage III)
- Adjuvant therapy after successful resection
- **Study treatment:** FOLFOX followed by Pembrolizumab



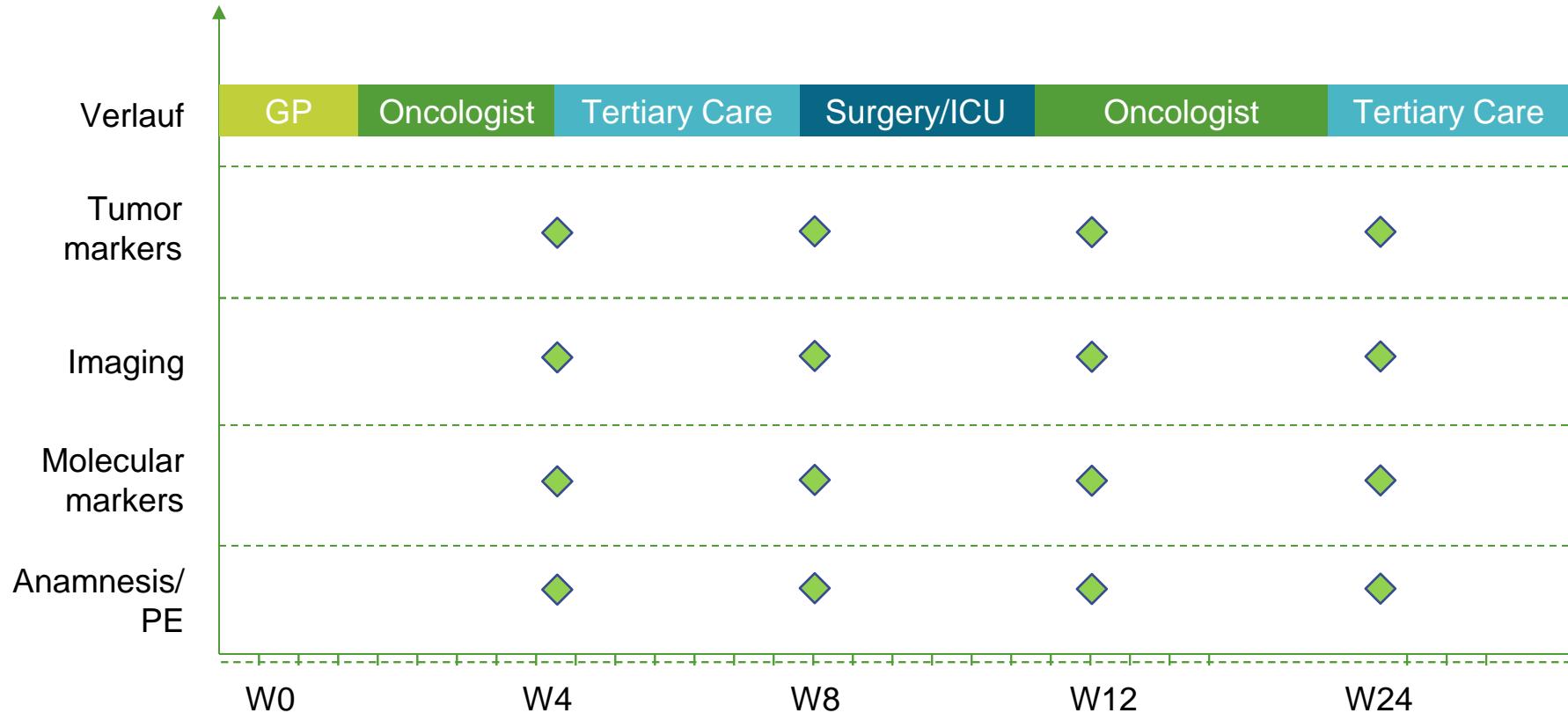
Horst

- 63 year old male
- No major comorbidities
- New diagnosis of right-sided colon cancer
- TNM: T3 N2 M0 (Stage III)
- Adjuvant therapy after successful resection
- **Standard treatment:** FOLFOX

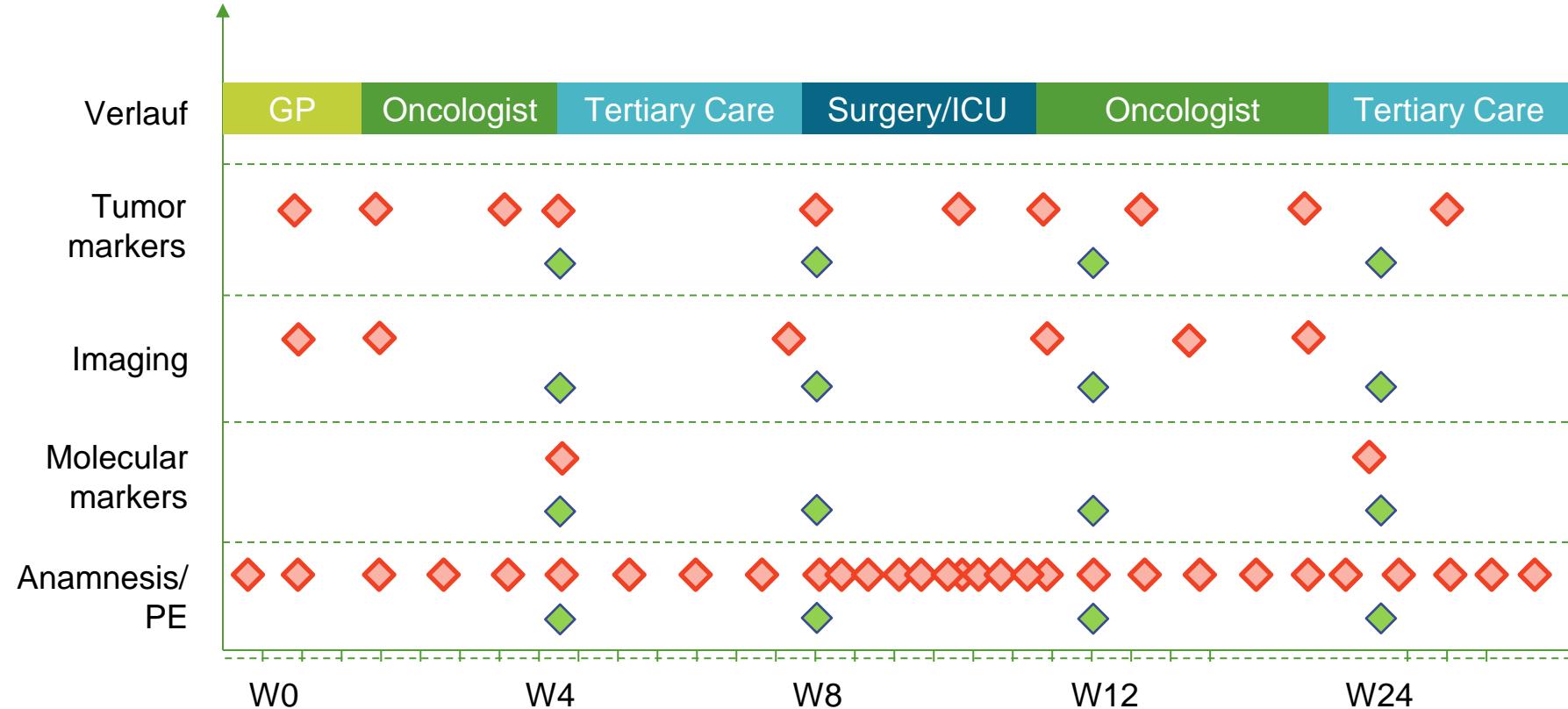
2. Structural differences of data sources



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2. Structural differences of data sources



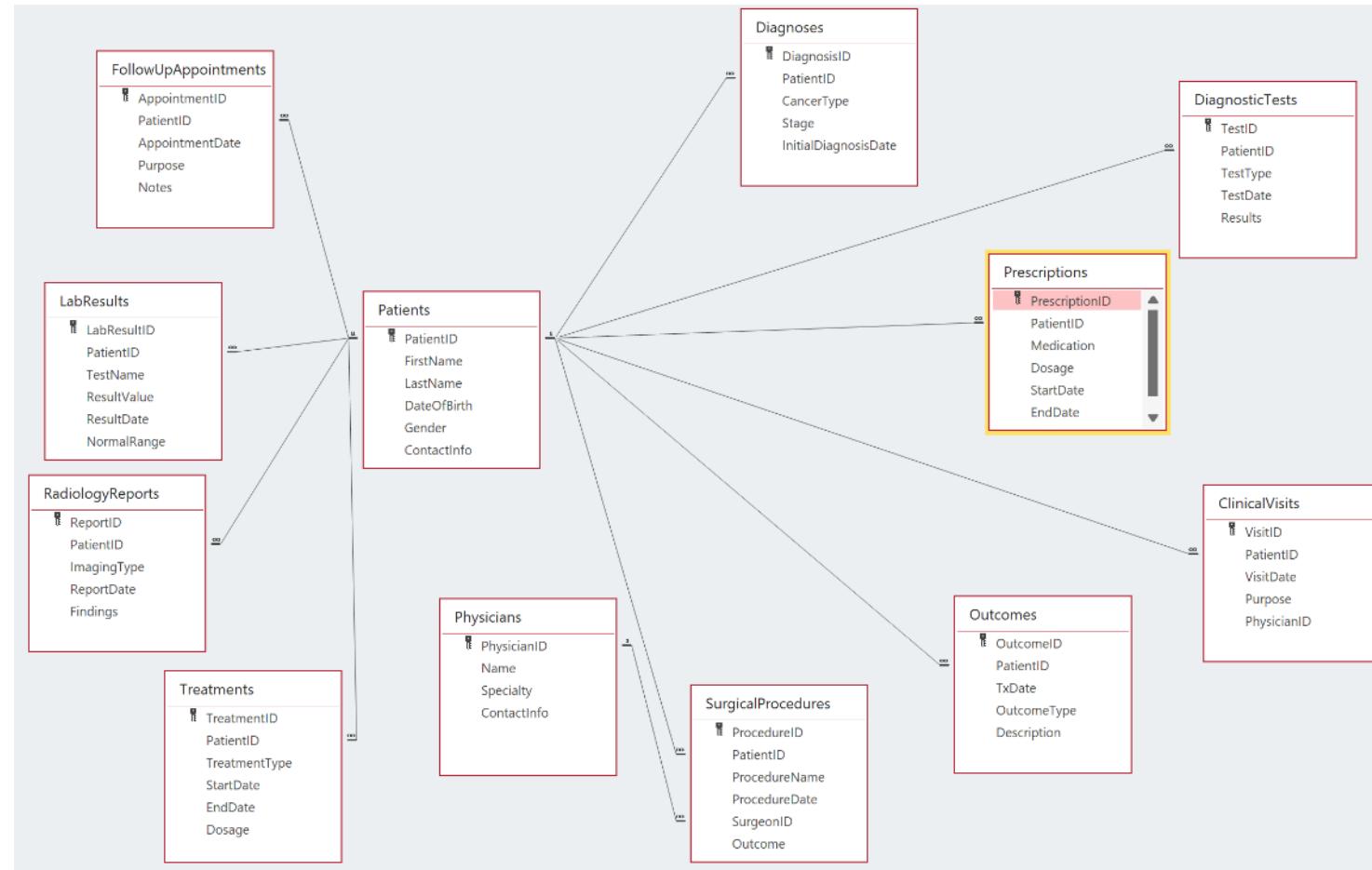
2. Structural differences of data sources



Patient ID	Treatment Group	Gender	Molecular Marker	Visit	Radiological Staging	Tumor Markers (CEA)	LDH (U/L)	Physical Exam Result	Adverse Event
PAT-001	Group A - Standard Therapy	Male	BRAF Mutant	Baseline	N0		40	147 Abnormal	Mild
PAT-001	Group A - Standard Therapy	Male	BRAF Mutant	Visit 1	T3		40	217 Normal	Mild
PAT-001	Group A - Standard Therapy	Male	BRAF Mutant	Visit 2	T3		10	167 Abnormal	Moderate
PAT-001	Group A - Standard Therapy	Male	BRAF Mutant	Visit 3	N0		5	203 Normal	Mild
PAT-001	Group A - Standard Therapy	Male	BRAF Mutant	Visit 4	M1		5	109 Abnormal	Mild
PAT-002	Group A - Standard Therapy	Female	BRAF Mutant	Baseline	M0		40	121 Abnormal	Severe
PAT-002	Group A - Standard Therapy	Female	BRAF Mutant	Visit 1	T1		40	136 Normal	Moderate
PAT-002	Group A - Standard Therapy	Female	BRAF Mutant	Visit 2	M1		40	187 Normal	Moderate
PAT-002	Group A - Standard Therapy	Female	BRAF Mutant	Visit 3	N2		40	170 Normal	Moderate
PAT-002	Group A - Standard Therapy	Female	BRAF Mutant	Visit 4	T1		40	188 Normal	None
PAT-003	Group A - Standard Therapy	Male	BRAF Mutant	Baseline	M1		30	240 Normal	Mild
PAT-003	Group A - Standard Therapy	Male	BRAF Mutant	Visit 1	N2		40	158 Abnormal	Mild
PAT-003	Group A - Standard Therapy	Male	BRAF Mutant	Visit 2	N0		10	139 Abnormal	Mild
PAT-003	Group A - Standard Therapy	Male	BRAF Mutant	Visit 3	T4		30	187 Normal	Moderate
PAT-003	Group A - Standard Therapy	Male	BRAF Mutant	Visit 4	N1		40	188 Abnormal	None
PAT-004	Group B - Experimental Therapy	Male	KRAS Mutant	Baseline	T3		20	181 Abnormal	None
PAT-004	Group B - Experimental Therapy	Male	KRAS Mutant	Visit 1	T2		20	125 Abnormal	Mild
PAT-004	Group B - Experimental Therapy	Male	KRAS Mutant	Visit 2	N0		10	177 Normal	None
PAT-004	Group B - Experimental Therapy	Male	KRAS Mutant	Visit 3	N1		5	172 Abnormal	None
PAT-004	Group B - Experimental Therapy	Male	KRAS Mutant	Visit 4	M1		30	109 Abnormal	Mild
PAT-005	Group A - Standard Therapy	Male	KRAS Wild-Type	Baseline	T1		20	248 Normal	Severe

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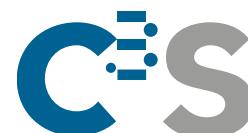
2. Structural differences of data sources



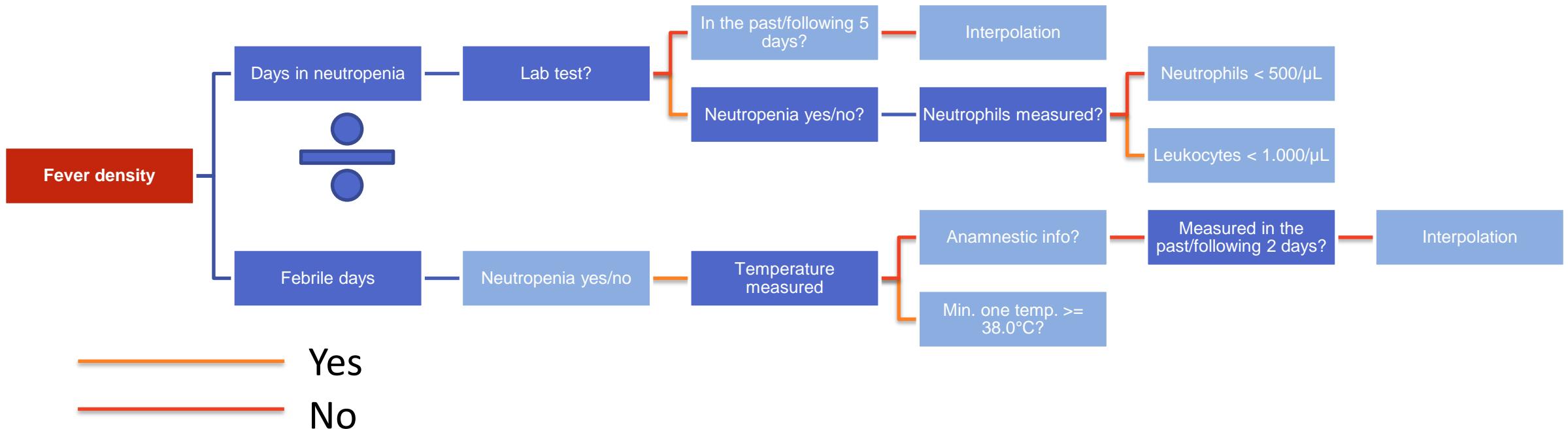
3. Chances of Real-World Data

- Access all existing clinical knowledge and experience (hypothetically)
- Do so at minimum expense of time and resources (hypothetically)
- Use statistical power to:
 - Reveal hard to detect associations between clinical courses / decisions and outcome
 - Define more accurate disease phenotypes to instruct Omics-based research
 - Predict outcome and individualize strategies

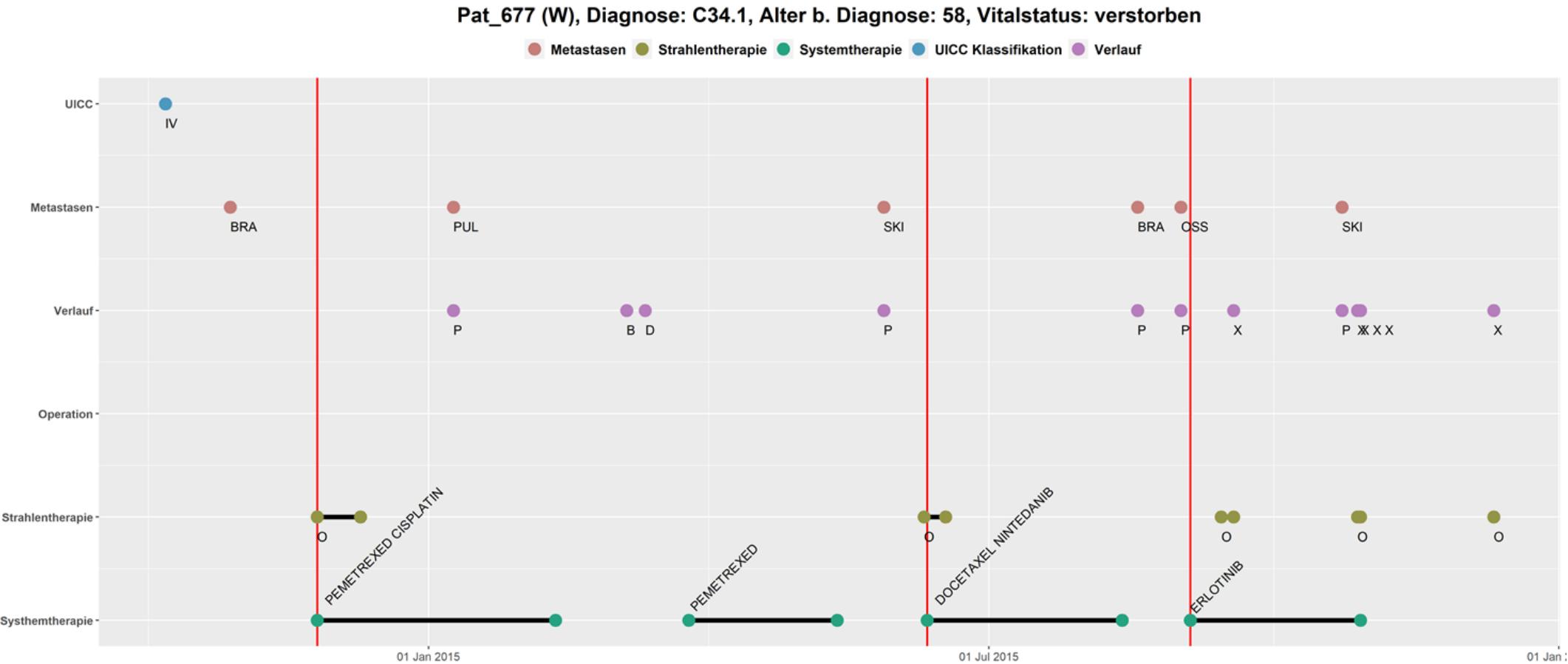
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Complex disease phenotypes

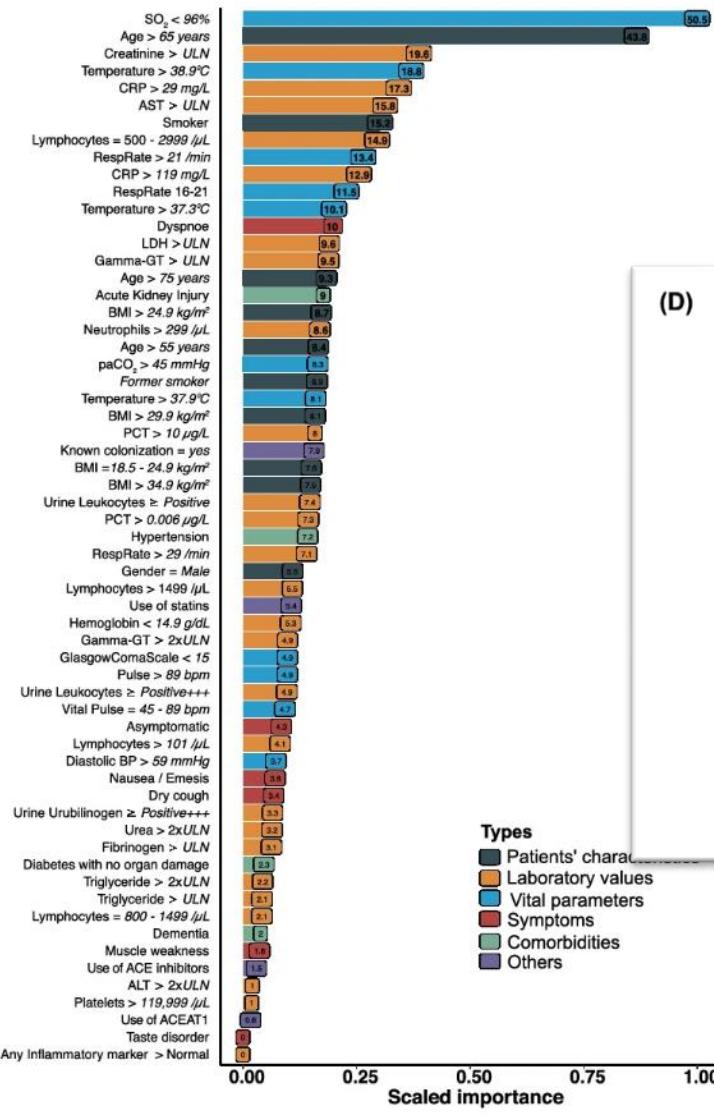


Augment data

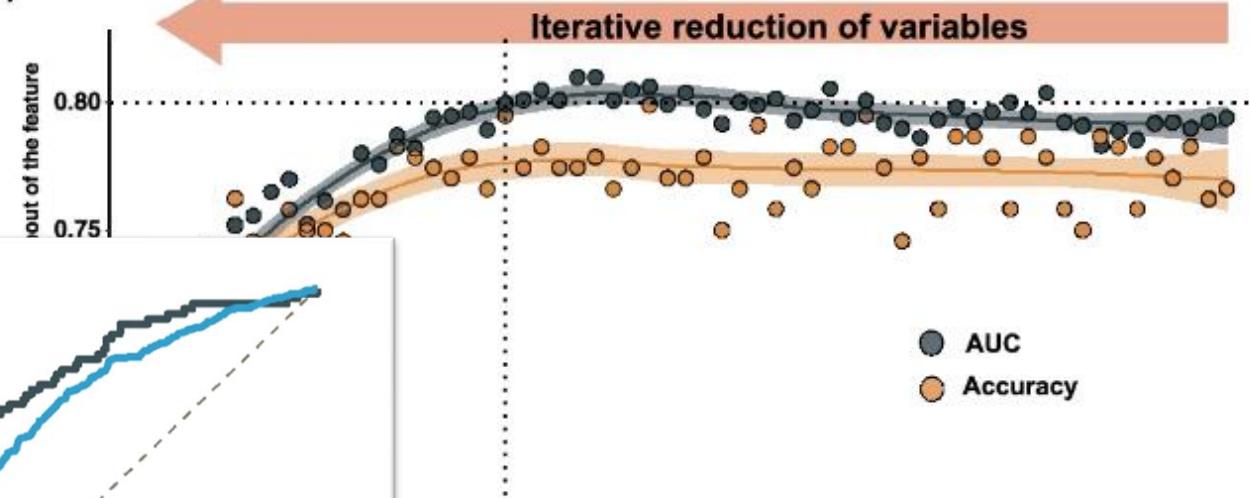


Hypothesis-free Machine Learning

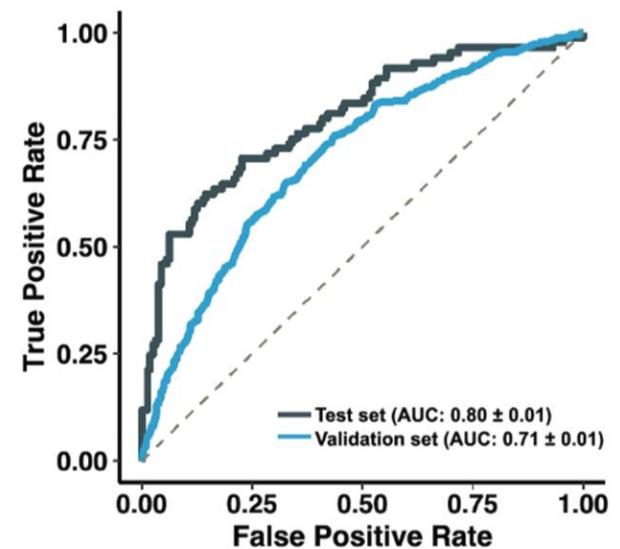
(B)



(C)



(D)



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4. Limitations and Biases: Data quality

Diagnosen		Detailansicht	<input type="checkbox"/> Schnellsuche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kodip	<input type="checkbox"/> Strukturierte Erfassung	<input type="checkbox"/> Falldiagnosen	Au	Fe	Be	Op	Asco
Code	S	Bezeichnung									
A43.0		K Pulmonale Nokardiose						H			
J17.0*		Pneumonie (durch) (bei) Nokardiose							N		
B99		Sonstige und nicht näher bezeichnete Infektionskrankheiten					H				
D46.9		Myelodysplastisches Syndrom, nicht näher bezeichnet						N			
D63.0*		Anämie bei Neubildungen							N		
D69.58		Sonstige sekundäre Thrombozytopenien, nicht als transfusionsrefraktär bezeichnet							N		
D70.6		Sonstige Neutropenie							N		
J15.9		K Bakterielle Pneumonie							N		
B96.8!		Sonstige näher bezeichnete Bakterien als Ursache von Krankheiten, die in anderen Kapiteln klassifiziert sind							N		
K80.00		Gallenblasenstein mit akuter Cholezystitis: Ohne Angabe einer Gallenwegsobstruktion							N		
Z94.81		Zustand nach hämatopoetischer Stammzelltransplantation mit gegenwärtiger Immunsuppression							N		

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Diagnosen			Detailansicht	Schnellsuche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kodip	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strukturierte Erfassung	<input type="checkbox"/> Falldiagnosen
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B99		Sonstige und nicht näher bezeichnete Infektionskrankheiten					
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D70.6		Sonstige Neutropenie					
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K80.00		Gallenblasenstein mit akuter Cholezystitis: Ohne Angabe einer Gallenwegsobstruktion					
Z94.81		Zustand nach hämatopoetischer Stammzelltransplantation mit gegenwärtiger Immunsuppression					

HCT-CI vor TX: 0

aGVHD:

keine

Komplikationen:

1. Pilzneumonie (klinische Diagnose), ausgeprägte Halluzinationen unter VFend,
2. histologisch gesichertes Basalzellkarzinom re Oberschenkel

Transfusionsregel:

- Erythrozyten- und Thrombozytenkonzentrate sind mit 30 Gy zu bestimmen und CMV-frei zu transfundieren!
- EK's: 0 Rh+
- TK's: AB>B>A>0 Rh+
- FFP's: AB Rh+

Chimärismus-Verlauf (Agendix):

- Tag +14: 96%, 5 von 5 Empfängersignale
- Tag +30: 80%, 5 von 5 Empfängersignale

MRD-Marker zur Verlaufskontrolle: TET 2 (Labor: MLL München)

MRD Verlauf:

TET2 nachweisbar, U2AF1 nachweisbar (20.12.2018) ED
TET2 nicht nachweisbar, U2AF1 nachweisbar (05.03.2018) nach Ind I
TET2 nicht nachweisbar, U2AF1 nachweisbar (26.04.2018) nach allo Tx

Leistenhernie rechts

- aktuell (8/2018) unter intensiver immunsuppressiver Therapie zunächst keine chirurgische Intervention

Port-Implantation am 28.08.2018

Splenomegalie

Cholezystolithiasis

Hämorrhoiden bis IV^o sowie Analprolaps

- 2-fache Gummibandligatur bei schmerzhaften Hämorrhoiden 2. Grades am 08.08.2018
- keine erneute endoskopische Interventionsmöglichkeit am 23.08.2018 bei Hämorrhoiden IV sowie Analprolaps
- aktuell (8/2018) unter intensiver immunsuppressiver Therapie zunächst keine chirurgische Intervention

chronische Niereninsuffizienz, a.e. med.-toxischer Genese

- Cystatin C-Clearance von 50ml/min (Befund vom 27.12.2018)
HLA-A*24:02, *26:01; HLA-B*07:02, *38:01; HLA-C07*02:*, *12:03; HLA-DRB1*13:01, *16:01; HLA-DQB1*05:02, *06:03

HLA-Retypisierung Spender (DE DKM 2963744):

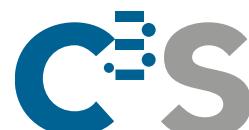
HLA-A*24:02, *26:01; HLA-B*07:02, *38:01; HLA-C07*02:*, *12:03; HLA-DRB1*13:01, *16:01; HLA-DQB1*05:02, *06:03

HLA-Antikörper (Luminex): nicht erforderlich

Remissionsstatus vor TX (KMP vom 03.03.2018): Histopathologie: Eine reifungsgestörte Hämatopoiese mit Stromaödem, entzündlicher Markraumreaktion und Persistenz einer CD34- positiven Progenitorzellpopulation von knapp über 5% der kernhaltigen Zellen neben einer initialen Vermehrung retikulärer Knochenmarkfasern (fokal MF-1).

MRD: MLL-München: keine Nachweis TET2, U2AF1 persistierend nachweisbar

HCT-CI vor TX: 0



UNIVERSITÄTS
KLINIKUM FRANKFURT
GOETHE-UNIVERSITÄT



Deutsches Zentrum
für Infektionsforschung

DKFZ

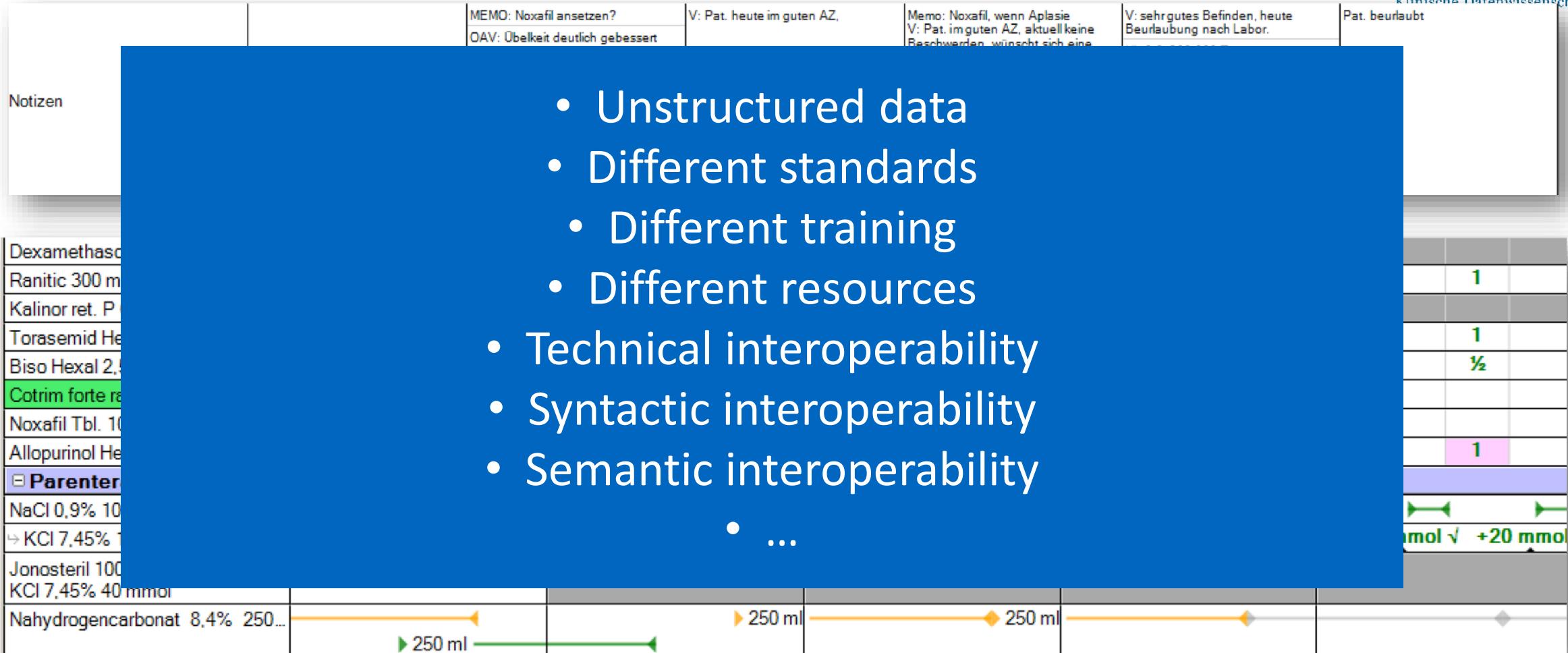


DKFZ

und Forschung

4. Limitations and Biases: Data quality

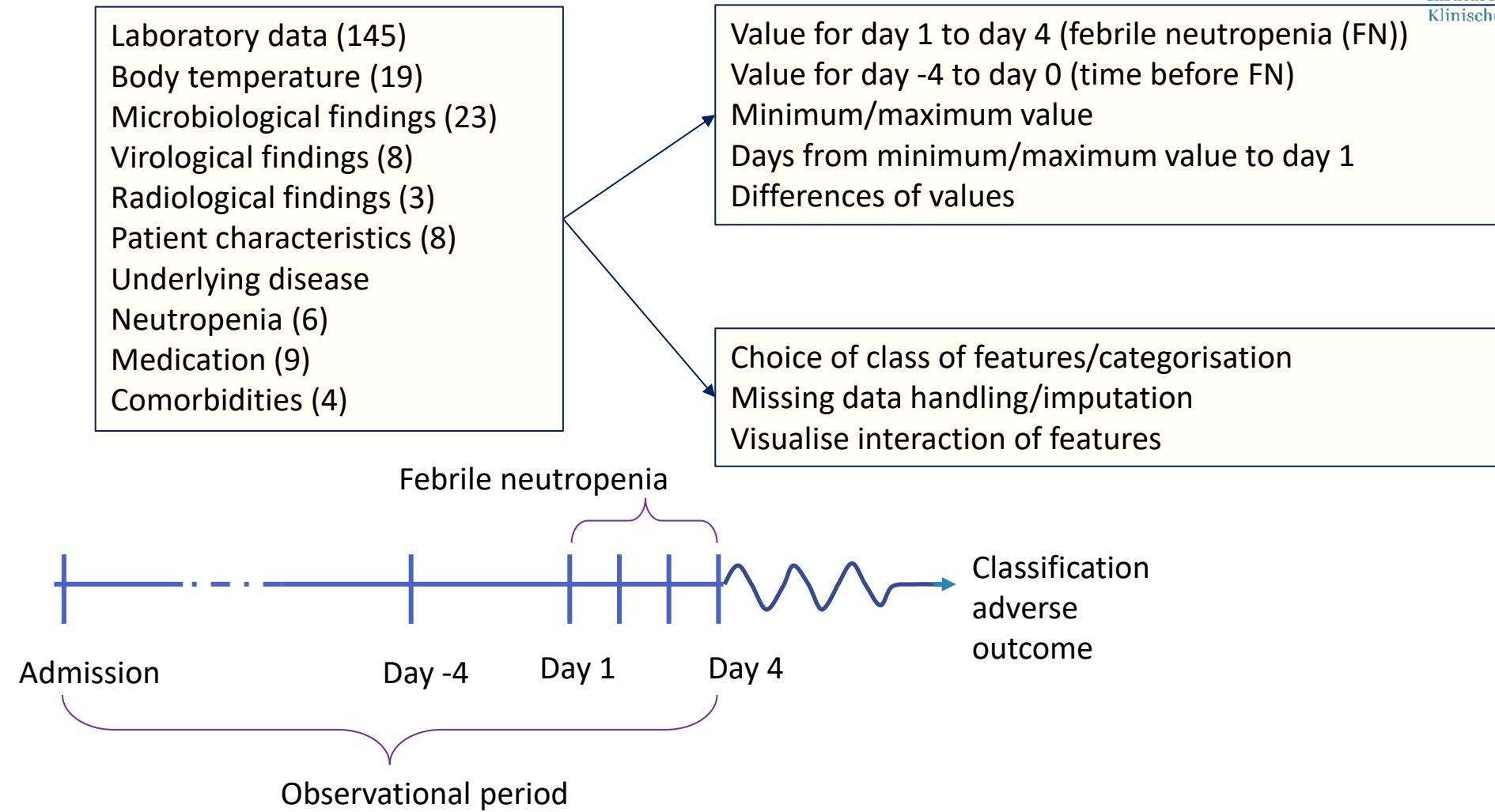
- Unstructured data
- Different standards
 - Different training
 - Different resources
- Technical interoperability
- Syntactic interoperability
- Semantic interoperability
- ...



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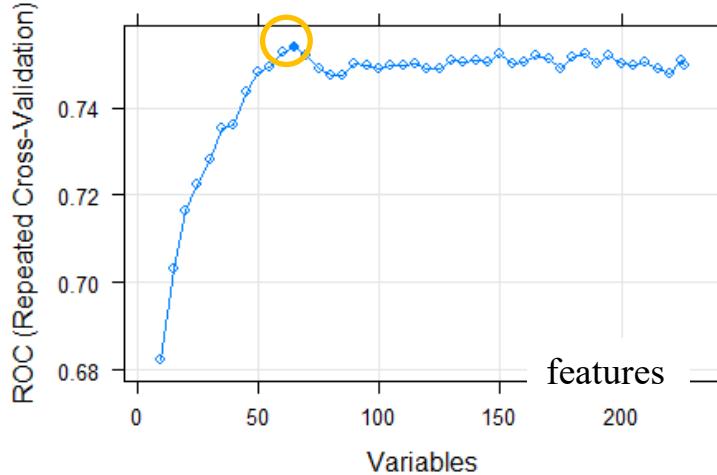


Example: Machine Learning in Neutropenic Fever

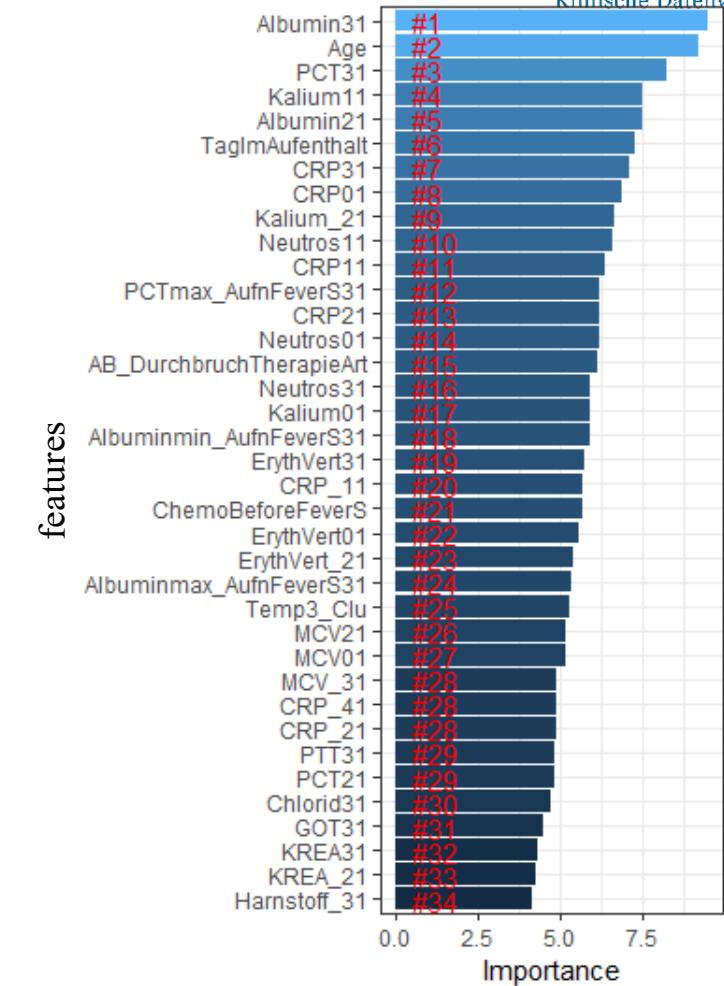


Example: Machine Learning in Neutropenic Fever

- 65 selected features



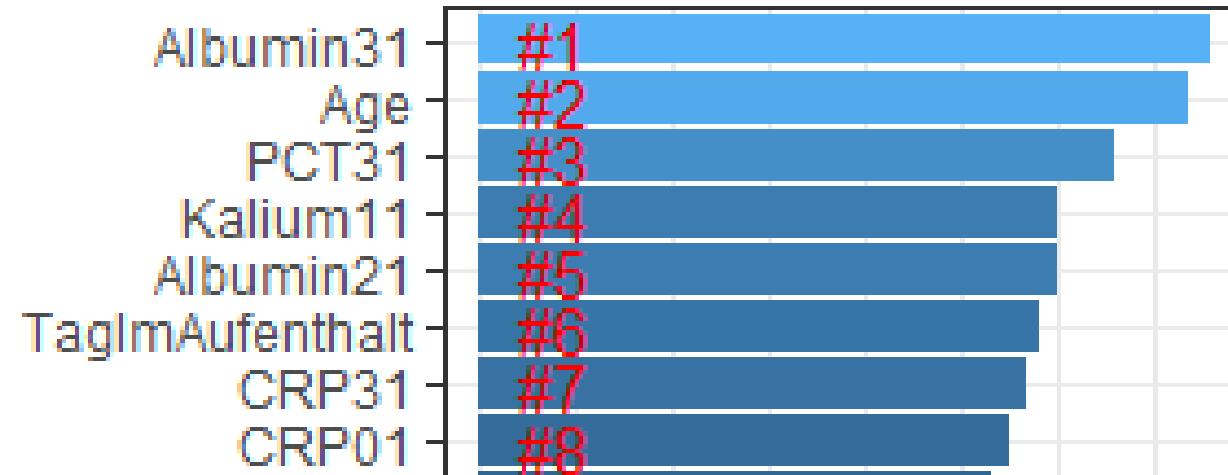
actual		predictions	
		YES	NO
YES		8	1
NO		14	101



- Internal validation AUC = 0.75
- Out-of-sample validation AUC = 0.68

Example: Machine Learning in Neutropenic Fever

- 65 selected features

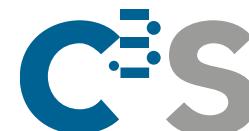


- Internal validation AUC = 0.75
- Out-of-sample validation AUC = 0.68

Possible Meanings of Missingness

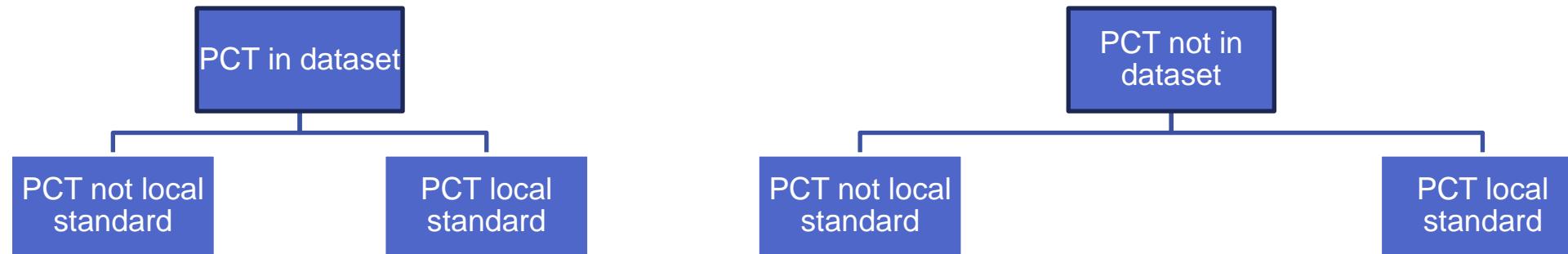
- Performed in another center / department / location / data system
- Data loss
- Unstructured / cryptic documentation
- Hand-written note
- Lack of interface / data transfer process
- Intentionally not done (not needed, too expensive / lack of reimbursement or result obvious)
- Unintentionally not done (forgotten, sample lost, unable to perform procedure)
- Done, but intentionally not documented (forensic issues)
- Done, but unintentionally not documented (failed to record / transcribe)

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Examples for Possible Interpretations of Missingness

- A patient with community-acquired pneumonia presents himself in the emergency department
- The inflammatory parameter „Procalcitonin“ offers good risk classification, but is expensive



Missingness (and presence) of Data in Real-World Setting

Missing completely at random (MCAR)

Missing at random (MAR)

Not missing at random (NMAR)

„Data is missing for no obvious reason“

- Does not introduce bias
- Mass MCAR missingness may cause loss of power
- Mass MCAR may cause underestimation of effect sizes

Faulty data
interface at one
of multiple study
sites

Random
documentation
mistakes

Random treatment
mistakes
(missing prescription,
diagnostic test)

„Missingness is related to a variable outside the primary observation“

- May cause biased overall results
- Relationship between variables intact

Smaller hospitals
less likely to
order expensive
tests/drugs

Concurring
study leads to
documentation
focus on distinct
population

Less
comprehensive
documentation in
elderly / terminally
ill patients

„Missingness is related to the primary observation“

- Causes biased overall results
- Causes biased relationship between variables

Files getting lost
in ICU, surgery
specific
departments

Undocumented
clinical

Documentation
avoiding
thicker files

!! Limited possibility of imputation !!

triggering test /
treatment

Handling Missingness

- **„Complete record analyses“** = Drop everything with one missing variable
 - May cause bias in NMAR scenarios
 - Greatest loss of power
- **Create dummy variable / feature for missingness**
 - Causes co-linearity between dummy variable/feature and value
 - Great loss of power in MCAR scenarios
 - Good solution for sensitivity analyses
- **Impute missing values**
 - By definition limited to MAR and MCAR scenarios
 - May increase pre-existing bias in the dataset

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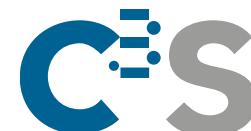
Means of imputation

Age	Treatment	Stage	Response	TTP (days)	Survival (days)
	Group				
56	A	IIIb	PD	117	180
62	B	IV	SD	100	210
47	A	IV	PR	150	320
65	B	IIIb	CR	180	400
59	A	IV	PD	117	150
53	B	IIIb	PR	200	365
61	A	IV	SD	90	200
58	B	IV	PD	80	160
49	A	IIIb	PR	120	300
67	B	IV	CR	250	500

- Mean Value

Pseudo-exactness, artificially narrow CIs, biased histogramm, loss of effect size, masqued interactions, unrealistic values...

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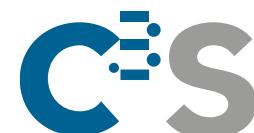
Means of imputation

Age	Treatment	Stage	Response	TTP (days)	Survival (days)
	Group				
56	A	IIIb	PD	110	180
62	B	IV	SD	100	210
47	A	IV	PR	150	320
65	B	IIIb	CR	180	400
59	A	IV	PD	110	150
53	B	IIIb	PR	200	365
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- Mean Value
- Class/group based mean

Pseudo-exactness, artificially narrow CIs, biased histogramm , unrealistic values ...

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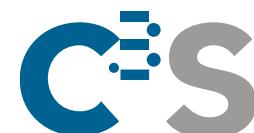
Means of imputation

Age	Treatment	Stage	Response	TTP (days)	Survival (days)
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56	A	IIIb	PD	83	180
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47	A	IV	PR	150	320
65	B	IIIb	CR	180	400
59	A	IV	PD	54	150
53	B	IIIb	PR	200	365
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67	B	IV	CR	250	500

- Mean Value
- Class/group based mean
- Model-based

Pseudo-exactness, artificially narrow CIs

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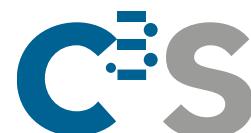
Means of imputation

Age	Treatment	Stage	Response	TTP (days)	Survival (days)
	Group				
56	A	IIIb	PD		180
56	A	IIIb	PD	56	180
56	A	IIIb	PD	67	180
56	A	IIIb	PD	78	180
56	A	IIIb	PD	93	180
56	A	IIIb	PD	45	180
56	A	IIIb	PD	67	180
56	A	IIIb	PD	110	180
56	A	IIIb	PD	78	180
56	A	IIIb	PD	64	180
56	A	IIIb	PD	98	180
56	A	IIIb	PD	78	180

- Mean Value
- Class/group based mean
- Model-based
- Multiple imputations +/- chained equations

High workload, possible bias by regression models, maintains bias in MNAR scenarios

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Causal Machine Learning?

nature medicine

Perspective

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-024-02902-1>

Causal machine learning for predicting treatment outcomes

Received: 3 January 2024

Accepted: 4 March 2024

Stefan Feuerriegel  , Dennis Frauen^{1,2}, Valentyn Melnychuk^{1,2},
Jonas Schweisthal  , Konstantin Hess  , Alicia Curth³, Stefan Bauer  ,
Niki Kilbertus  , Isaac S. Kohane⁶ & Mihaela van der Schaar^{7,8}

Working with Real-World Data

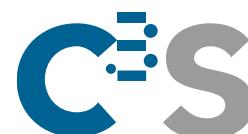
Consult a clinician

Understand your data and where it comes from

Prepare and compare your data

Perform EXTENSIVE sensitivity analyses

For prediction, only use features with high availability,
normalize timelines



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Take Home Message

- We are about(ish) to enter a new age of clinical data availability
- Real-world data = abundant & powerful
- Real-word data also = laborious & difficult to process
- Risk of false conclusions (prediction models!)
- Chance of new discoveries (phenotypes! precision medicine!)

