External Validation of Prediction Models for Bacteremia in an Acute Care Hospital: A Retrospective Cohort Study

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Background: For appropriate management of patients with bacteremia, early diagnosis is crucial. Although several prediction models for the diagnosis of bacteremia exist, comparison among these models has not been conducted. Therefore, we compared the diagnostic performance of those models in an acute care hospital setting in Japan.

Study Design: Retrospective cohort study

Setting & Participants: All consecutive patients who had undergone two sets of blood-cultures presenting to Shirakawa Kosei General hospital (Fukushima, Japan) between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2017.

Selection of published Models: We searched all published models for diagnosis of bacteremia between January 1, 1990 and June 1, 2017, using the PubMed database combining the term (predict OR predicting OR prediction) AND (bacteremia OR blood stream infection). Models eligible for inclusion were i) derivated using logistic models and ii) externally validated.

Statistical analysis: The performance of the prediction models was assessed by discrimination and calibration. Discrimination was evaluated using the Area Under the Curve (AUC). Calibration was assessed by the calibration plot.

Results: A total of 1280 patients were enrolled with 137 (10.7%) episodes of true bacteremia. We assessed the performance of five prediction models. The models by Shapiro and Takeshima demonstrated the highest AUC of 0.76 (95% CI 0.71-0.80) and 0.76 (0.71-0.80), respectively. Although both models showed relatively good agreement between observed and predicted probabilities, the model by Shapiro underestimated the probability especially among the high-risk population, whereas the model by Takeshima overestimated it.

Conclusion: Among the existing models, the models by Shapiro and Takeshima, demonstrated the highest performance with reasonable calibration. To avoid the misdiagnosis of bacteremia, a highly fatal condition, use of the model by Takeshima is recommended in clinical practice.