# **Supplementary Materials**

# **Improving Cardiovascular Risk Prediction through Machine Learning Modelling of Irregular Repeated Electronic Health Records**





### **Supplementary Figure S1 The inclusion and exclusion of eligible participants**



### **Supplementary Figure S2 Flowchart of the study population in training and validation sets**

# **Supplementary Table S1 The descriptions and sources of the predictors included in the study**





# **Supplementary Table S2 The definition of medication history**

Predictor	Unit	Normal ranges		
HDL-C	mmol/L	$(0,10]$ , 0 $\text{var}\leq10$		
LDL-C	mmol/L	(0,20]		
TC	mmol/L	(0,20]		
TG	mmol/L	(0,20]		
$HbA_{1c}$	$\frac{0}{0}$	[4, 15]		
Height	cm	[80,250]		
Weight	kg	[10, 300]		
BMI	kg/m2	[10, 80]		
Systolic pressure	mmHg	[70, 270]		
Dialystic pressure	mmHg	[30, 150]		
Waist circumference	cm	[50, 130]		

**Supplementary Table S3 Normal ranges of predictors**



## **Supplementary Table S4 Predictors inputted in the two machine learning models**



#### **Supplementary Table S5 The selection ranges of hyperparameters in the two machine learning models**

	Overall ( $N = 215,744$ )	Training ( $n = 180,000$ )	Validation ( $n = 35,744$ )	Statistic $(P)$
<b>Demographic attributes</b>				
Female	115,666 (53.61)	96,568 (53.65)	19,098 (53.43)	0.57(0.452)
Age, y	56.70 (9.59)	56.71 (9.60)	56.65 (9.55)	$-1.02(0.307)$
Rural	65,086 (30.34)	54,417 (30.41)	10,669(30.01)	2.16(0.141)
Current smokers	57,961 (26.87)	48,366 (26.87)	9,595 (26.84)	0.01(0.923)
Finished High school	108,120 (50.11)	90,207 (50.11)	17,913(50.11)	0.00(0.999)
Family history of ASCVD	1,318(0.61)	1,125(0.62)	193(0.54)	399.41 (0.065)
<b>Body measurements</b>				
Waist circumference, cm	81.76 (7.94)	81.77 (7.95)	81.69 (7.85)	$-1.59(0.111)$
BMI, $\text{kg/m}^2$	23.31 (2.87)	23.31 (2.88)	23.32 (2.85)	0.21(0.834)
<b>Blood pressure</b>				
SBP, mmHg	134.45 (16.64)	134.45 (16.64)	134.45 (16.62)	$-0.03(0.975)$
DBP, mmHg	82.63 (9.87)	82.62 (9.88)	82.65 (9.77)	0.43(0.670)
<b>Lipid profiles</b>				
Total cholesterol, mmol/L	4.90(0.98)	4.90(0.98)	4.91(0.99)	2.06(0.039)
HDL-C, mmol/L	1.30(0.34)	1.30(0.34)	1.30(0.34)	0.87(0.385)
TG, mmol/L	1.61(1.09)	1.61(1.09)	1.61(1.09)	$-0.01(0.994)$
LDL-C, mmol/L	2.84(0.82)	2.84(0.82)	2.84(0.83)	0.88(0.378)
Apo-A (mmol/L)	1.22(0.27)	1.22(0.27)	1.23(0.27)	1.09(0.274)
Apo-B (mmol/L)	0.95(0.25)	0.95(0.25)	0.95(0.25)	1.43(0.154)
$Lp-(a)$ (mg/dL)	174.17 (184.38)	173.85 (184.23)	175.76 (185.14)	1.07(0.283)
Glycemia				
FBG, mmol/L	5.67(1.57)	5.67(1.56)	5.68(1.64)	0.82(0.414)
HbA1c, %	6.86(1.90)	6.86(1.91)	6.85(1.89)	$-0.37(0.712)$
Diabetes mellitus	26,090 (12.09)	21,666 (12.04)	4,424 (12.38)	3.22(0.073)
<b>Renal function</b>				
$ACR$ , mg/g	15.90 (45.36)	15.79 (45.99)	16.42(42.07)	0.46(0.642)
eGFR, $mL/min/1.73m2$	98.92 (15.30)	98.94 (15.29)	98.86 (15.38)	$-0.69(0.488)$

**Supplementary Table S6 Characteristics of the training and validation setsa**



#### **Supplementary Table S6 Characteristics of the training and validation sets (continued)a**

a Categorical variables were presented by counts and percentages, using the Chi-square test to compare differences; Continuous variables were presented by means and standard deviations, using Student's t-test to compare the

difference. The difference in survival was given by the log-rank test.



# **Supplementary Table S7 The missing proportions of predictorsa**

### **Supplementary Table S8 The median time intervals between measurements of key predictors**



<sup>a</sup> The median of the number of each individual's measurement.

<sup>b</sup> Mean time intervals of each individual's measurements were calculated first and the medians of each individual's mean were given above.

c Mean time intervals of each individual's measurements were calculated first and the maximums of each individual's mean were given above.



## **Supplementary Table S9 Hyperparameters of XGBoost models and LASSO regression modela**

<sup>a</sup>The five models were generated according to the five imputation subsets for predictors in the China-PAR model and repeated measurements derived predictors without being imputed.



### **Supplementary Figure S3 The structures of the first tree in each XGBoost model**

## **Predictor β coefficients Odds ratio Model 1** Age 0.9861 2.681 Anti-hypertension treatment 0.1713 1.187 Female  $-0.0830$  0.920 Family history of ASCVD 0.0708 1.073 Baseline diabetes 0.0708 1.073 Fifth quintile of mean fasting blood glucose 0.0617 1.064 Aspirin treatment history 1.061 and the contract of the contra Missing of education records  $-0.0526$  0.949 Baseline systolic blood pressure 0.0457 1.047 Fifth quintile of the standard deviation of fasting blood glucose 0.0398 1.041 Baseline HDLC  $-0.0330$  0.968 Second quintile of baseline LDLC  $-0.0322$  0.968 Fifth quintile of mean triglycerides 0.0287 1.029 Fourth quintile of mean fasting blood glucose 0.0278 1.028 Third quintile of baseline eGFR  $-0.0276$  0.973 **Model 2** Age 2.679 Anti-hypertension treatment 0.1708 1.186 Female  $-0.0827$  0.921 Family history of ASCVD 0.0707 1.073 Baseline diabetes 0.0704 1.073 Fifth quintile of mean fasting blood glucose 0.0617 1.064 Aspirin treatment history 1.061 Missing of education records  $-0.0518$  0.950 Baseline systolic blood pressure 0.0454 1.046 Fifth quintile of the standard deviation of fasting blood glucose  $0.0401$  1.041 Baseline HDLC -0.0326 0.968 Second quintile of baseline LDLC  $-0.0322$  0.968 Fifth quintile of mean triglycerides 0.0286 1.029 Fourth quintile of mean fasting blood glucose 0.0275 1.028 Fifth quintile of mean ApoB 0.0274 1.028 **Model 3** Age 2.679 Anti-hypertension treatment 0.1708 1.186 Female  $-0.0827$  0.921 Family history of ASCVD 0.0707 1.073 Baseline diabetes 0.0704 1.073 Fifth quintile of mean fasting blood glucose 0.0617 1.064

Aspirin treatment history 0.0592 1.061 Missing of education records  $-0.0518$  0.950

#### **Supplementary Table** S**10 Fifteen β coefficients with largest absolute value in each LASSO regressions**

# **Supplementary Table S10 (Continued) β coefficients of the LASSO regression**





**Supplementary Figure S4 Decision curve analysis of the ML models**



## **Supplementary Table S11 Associations between predictors and ASCVDa**



### **Supplementary Table S11 Associations between predictors and ASCVD (continued)a**

<sup>a</sup> The association between predictors in the China-PAR model was multi-variable adjusted for each other. The other predictors were individually adjusted for predictors in the China-PAR model. All the associations were

estimated in the whole study population of 215,744.





 $(b)$ 

(a) The minimum rank of importance in each kind of measurement by models. (b) Top 10 irrelevant important predictors in the two ML models. Predictors with a correlation coefficient larger than 0.7 were not counted.



**Supplementary Table S12 The differences of C statistics between ML models and Cox model with all the baseline measurementsa**

<sup>a</sup>The results were given based on the validation set of 31,544.



**Supplementary Figure S6 Calibration plots of models in sensitivity analysisa**

<sup>a</sup>The results were given based on the validation set of 31,544.



### **Supplementary Table S13 The difference in C statistic between ML models and recalibrated China-PAR modela**

<sup>a</sup>The results were given based on the validation set of 31,544.



# **Supplementary Appendix The TRIPODS checklist for this studya**



## **Supplementary Appendix The TRIPODS checklist for this study (continued)a**

<sup>a</sup>Items relevant only to the development of a prediction model are denoted by D, items relating solely to a validation of a prediction model are denoted by V, and items relating to both are denoted D;V. We recommend using the TRIPOD Checklist in conjunction with the TRIPOD Explanation and Elaboration document.

#### **Supplementary Method S1 Detailed description of the CHERRY study**

The source data were from the CHinese Electronic health Records Research in Yinzhou (CHERRY) study, a longitudinal and population-based cohort study in China. The detailed study protocol and some findings on CVD have been previously published.<sup>1</sup> In short, the CHERRY study was established based on the integrated Health Information System in Yinzhou, a developed area in Eastern China. The system consists of various databases, e.g., Population Census and Registered Health Insurance Database, Health Check Database, Disease Management Database, Death and Disease Surveillance Database, and Electronic Medical Records (EMRs). Individual information about cardiovascular risk factors, clinical measurements, and outcomes from different databases were linked via a unique and encoded identifier.

#### *Data collection on the Longitudinal measurement of cardiovascular risk factors*

Regarding the traditional CVD risk factors, local GPs in Yinzhou have built up an impressive scheme on frequent health checks among adults and regular epidemiological surveys as part of primary care routine services over the 10 years after China's healthcare reform was initially launched. CHERRY then includes longitudinal measurements of risk factors related to CVD at the individual level, e.g., smoking status, alcohol use, body mass index (BMI) and other obesity risk factors, and daily physical activity. Detailed description of longitudinal measurements was published in the original study protocol. We provided the information regarding the CVD risk prediction in this study as follows:





#### *Quality control*

The major quality control procedures were listed as follows:

(1) The validity and reliability of the data were first checked by the Yinzhou District Centre for Disease Control and

Prevention. The integration of different data sources was conducted under uniformed processes following pre-

defined criteria. Especially, in the CHERRY Study, for fatal outcomes, attribution of death refers to the primary

cause provided by cause-specific mortality on death certificates in the health information system. Data undergo

annual quality assessments. The description of the death certificates has been reported previously.<sup>1</sup> For non-fatal outcomes, multiple sources exist in the system for the outcome definition, that is, disease management database (primary care), EMRs database (hospital care), health insurance database and disease surveillance database (disease registry). We define the disease surveillance database as the gold standard.

- (2) Standard data dictionary was pre-defined. Each variable was converted to the same unit and outliners were removed based on the **Supplementary Table S3**.
- (3) Conflicting data across different sources in EHR-based data exists in CHERRY. Multiple records with similar but slightly different times of diagnosis for one patient may be recorded from different sources owing to varying timing accuracy. Prioritisation of sources in terms of conflicting data will be set up. Disease surveillance was considered as the gold standard. Events for one patient within a certain time range will be considered a single event; the allowed time window is disease-specific.
- (4) Outpatient and inpatient EMRs, containing information of patients' healthcare services, laboratory tests and medications, were directly transferred to the integrated data platform.
- (5) Both individuals with and without health insurance can access the primary care and hospital services and therefore are all included in the system/study.
- (6) For patients receiving care outside Yinzhou (e.g., patients might go to famous hospitals in Shanghai for certain complex surgical procedures), major non-fatal events occurred (e.g., CVD and cancer) are tracked from both disease surveillance and chronic disease management systems.

#### *Potential biases of the data sources*

Different EHR sources can introduce various potential biases that need to be considered when conducting research. We listed the major potential biases of data sources in our study as follows:

- (1) Selection Bias: By requesting the valid lipid measurements, there were 215,744 Chinese participants in this analysis set from all 1.05 million adults in the original CHERRY study. This then didn't represent the entire population. However, this may reflect the clinical practice under a real-world scenario where nowadays lipid measurements were generally required even using the traditional guidelines recommended models.
- (2) Healthcare Utilization Bias: EMR data source is primarily collected from individuals seeking medical care, which can lead to biased representations of certain health conditions or risk factors that are more likely to be captured

in clinical settings. This may be the case especially for novel risk factors, e.g., Lp (a) or BNP. In fact, the availability of these novel risk factors wasindeed correlated with patients' health conditions and further associated with the outcome. By using machine learning algorithms to handle missingness in this situation, we are able to capture this information for CVD risk prediction.

- (3) Documentation Bias: Variability in data recording practices among healthcare providers can lead to inconsistencies and missing information, potentially skewing the dataset. In CHERRY, EMR information including all the laboratory test was directly copied to the integrated data platform. Repeated measurements also can help handle this problem.
- (4) Self-report bias: Similar to other epidemiological study, self-report bias may occur in the registration database and disease management database when individuals provide inaccurate information about themselves, especially for the lifestyle risk factors.

Finally, our study is based on regional data which cannot represent the Chinese population nationwide. However, as the aim of our study is to demonstrate the cardiovascular predictive value of repeated measurements when machine learning models were used, this may have limited influence in the conclusion of this research.

#### **Supplementary Method S2 Imputation strategies to handle missing values in this study**

Missing values of the predictors from the China-PAR model (including sex, age, smoking, settings, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, waist circumference, family history of ASCVD, and anti-hypertension medication) were imputed using multiple-imputation by chain equations (MICE) and five imputation sets were generated, which was a widely used approach in handling the missing values when analyzing the EHR data such as QResearch in the UK.<sup>2</sup> The continuous predictors were imputed using linear regression, which included all other predictors in the China-PAR model as predictors. The categorical predictors were imputed using logistic regression with the same predictors. The imputation was iterated five times, and no interaction terms were set in the imputation models. All the validations were performed in each imputation set, and the results were then pooled together based on Rubin's rules.<sup>3</sup> Under the consideration of informed presence, predictors other than those included in the China-PAR model were not imputed to leverage the potential information from the absence of the records. Missing values were kept unchanged in developing the XGBoost model because it could accommodate incomplete data by separating the missing values of a specific predictor into the left and right leaf nodes. However, to utilize the missing pattern of data in the construction of the LASSO regression model, continuous predictors with missing values were categorized based on the quintiles of their unique values, with missing values as a separate group. The strategies to handle missing values in different models were illustrated in the following figure.



The strategies to handle the missing values in different models. In the China-PAR model, all the variables were multiple-imputed based on chainequation. In the XGBoost model, variables from the China-PAR model were multiple-imputed using the same approach and other variables were kept the same with missing data since the XGBoost algorithm can accommodate missing values. In the Lasso regression, variables from the China-PAR model were handled with the same approach and other variables were categorized with a special dummy variable indicating missing of them.

#### **Supplementary Reference**

1. Lin H, Tang X, Shen P, et al. Using big data to improve cardiovascular care and outcomes in China: a protocol for the CHinese Electronic health Records Research in Yinzhou (CHERRY) Study. *BMJ open* 2018; **8**(2): e019698.

2. Hippisley-Cox J, Coupland C, Brindle P. Development and validation of QRISK3 risk prediction algorithms to estimate future risk of cardiovascular disease: prospective cohort study. *bmj* 2017; **357**.

3. Harel O, Mitchell EM, Perkins NJ, et al. Multiple imputation for incomplete data in epidemiologic studies. *American journal of epidemiology* 2018; **187**(3): 576-84.