

AI-derived body composition parameters as prognostic factors in patients with HCC undergoing TACE in a multicenter study

Lukas Müller, Aline Mähringer-Kunz, Timo Alexander Auer, Uli Fehrenbach, Bernhard Gebauer, Johannes Haubold, Benedikt Michael Schaarschmidt, Moon-Sung Kim, René Hösch, Felix Nensa, Jens Kleesiek, Thierno D. Diallo, Michel Eisenblätter, Hanna Kuzior, Natascha Roehlen, Dominik Bettinger, Verena Steinle, Philipp Mayer, David Zopfs, Daniel Pinto Dos Santos, Roman Kloeckner

Table of contents

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Table S1..... | 2 |
| Table S2..... | 4 |
| Table S3..... | 6 |
| Table S4..... | 8 |
| Table S5..... | 10 |
| Table S6..... | 11 |
| Table S7..... | 12 |
| Table S8..... | 13 |
| Table S9..... | 14 |
| Table S10..... | 15 |
| Fig. S1..... | 18 |
| Fig. S2..... | 19 |

Table S1. Baseline characteristics stratified by sex

| Variable | Male (n = 622) | Female (n=132) | p value |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Age in years, median (IQR) | 67 (60–74) | 67 (61 – 74) | 0.682 |
| Etiology of liver cirrhosis, <i>n</i> (%) | | | <0.001 |
| Alcohol | 283 | 29 | |
| Viral | 171 | 48 | |
| Other | 97 | 44 | |
| Child-Pugh stage, <i>n</i> (%) | | | 0.812 |
| No cirrhosis | 70 | 11 | |
| A | 322 | 71 | |
| B | 229 | 50 | |
| BCLC stage, <i>n</i> (%) | | | 0.263 |
| 0 | 8 | 2 | |
| A | 177 | 42 | |
| B | 316 | 72 | |
| C | 121 | 16 | |
| Size of the largest lesion in mm, median (IQR) | 38 (26 – 62) | 39 (27 – 59) | 0.967 |
| Number of lesions, median (IQR) | 1 (1 – 4) | 2 (1 – 3) | 0.627 |
| Albumin level, g/L, median (IQR) | 35 (30 – 39) | 36 (30 – 39) | 0.634 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Bilirubin level, mg/dL, median (IQR) | 1.1 (0.7 – 1.8) | 1.3 (0.8 – 2.0) | 0.105 |
| Platelet count, per nL, median (IQR) | 126 (85 – 190) | 111 (77 – 180) | 0.177 |
| AST level, U/L, median (IQR) | 59.0 (42.0 – 90.0) | 68.5 (49.5 – 106.0) | 0.007 |
| ALT level, U/L, median (IQR) | 40.0 (27.0 – 62.0) | 41.0 (26.0 – 65.5) | 0.662 |
| INR, median (IQR) | 1.2 (1.1 – 1.3) | 1.2 (1.0 – 1.3) | 0.494 |
| AFP level, ng/mL, median (IQR) | 21.7 (5.7 – 277.5) | 44.0 (7.9 – 1015.0) | 0.017 |

Comparison using Fisher test or Chi² for categorical variables and Mann-Whitney for continuous variables. P-values in bold show significant values.

Table S2. Baseline characteristics stratified by BCLC stage

| Variable | BCLC stage | BCLC stage | BCLC stage | p value |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| | A (n=219) | B (n=388) | C (n=137) | |
| Age in years, median (IQR) | 65 (60 – 72) | 68 (61 – 74) | 66 (58 – 75) | 0.033 |
| Sex, <i>n</i> (%) | | | | 0.263 |
| Female | 42 (19.2) | 72 (18.6) | 16 (12.4) | |
| Male | 177 (80.8) | 316 (81.4) | 121 (87.6) | |
| Etiology of liver cirrhosis, <i>n</i> (%) | | | | 0.047 |
| Alcohol | 100 | 162 | 48 | |
| Viral | 73 | 101 | 41 | |
| Other | 29 | 77 | 31 | |
| Child-Pugh stage, <i>n</i> (%) | | | | <0.001 |
| No cirrhosis | 17 | 48 | 17 | |
| A | 133 | 195 | 59 | |
| B | 69 | 145 | 61 | |
| Size of the largest lesion in mm, median (IQR) | 29 (23 – 39) | 47 (33 – 65) | 56 (33 – 87) | <0.001 |
| Number of lesions, median (IQR) | 1 (1 – 2) | 3 (2 – 4) | 2 (1 – 3) | <0.001 |
| Albumin level, g/L, median (IQR) | 36 (31 – 40) | 35 (13 – 39) | 32 (27 – 37) | <0.001 |
| Bilirubin level, mg/dL, median (IQR) | 1.1 (0.7 – 1.8) | 1.2 (0.7 – 1.8) | 1.2 (0.7 – 2.1) | 0.812 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Platelet count, per nL, median (IQR) | 106 (77 – 165) | 120 (84 – 194) | 154 (105 – 234) | <0.001 |
| AST level, U/L, median (IQR) | 52.0 (38.0 – 70.0) | 63.0 (44.3 – 94.8) | 79.5 (51.3 – 114) | <0.001 |
| ALT level, U/L, median (IQR) | 38.0 (24.3 – 57.0) | 41.0 (28.0 – 63.0) | 41.0 (28.0 – 66.8) | 0.266 |
| INR, median (IQR) | 1.2 (1.1 – 1.3) | 1.1 (1.1 – 1.3) | 1.2 (1.1 – 1.3) | 0.242 |
| AFP level, ng/mL, median (IQR) | 10.4 (4.4 – 50.8) | 33.6 (6.4 – 349.7) | 148.0 (10.3 – 2639.7) | <0.001 |

Comparison using Fisher test or Chi² for categorical variables and Mann-Whitney for continuous variables. P-values in bold show significant values.

Table S3. BCA parameters stratified by sex

| Variable | Male (n = 622) | Female (n=132) | p value |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| SM, mL | 6160.1 (3468.6 – 7526.8) | 4826.9 (2746.5 – 5900.4) | <0.001 |
| TAT, mL | 10904.8 (7636.3 – 15337.7) | 9640.0 (6965.0 – 15277.8) | 0.231 |
| IMAT, mL | 922.3 (593.2 – 1493.5) | 890.2 (523.3 – 1397.0) | 0.284 |
| SAT, mL | 5495.2 (3573.3 – 8003.9) | 6300.8 (4315.5 – 9942.4) | 0.002 |
| VAT, mL | 4195.5 (2846.8 – 5878.4) | 2400.1 (1667.4 – 3701.4) | <0.001 |
| SM normalized* | 74.1 (62.7 – 85.7) | 59.6 (51.6 – 68.1) | <0.001 |
| TAT normalized* | 154.9 (112.3 – 197.3) | 145.8 (106.8 – 189.3) | 0.154 |
| IMAT normalized* | 12.8 (9.2 – 17.7) | 11.3 (8.4 – 15.8) | 0.121 |
| SAT normalized* | 74.2 (54.2 – 99.3) | 92.3 (63.5 – 120.9) | <0.001 |
| VAT normalized* | 59.0 (39.3 – 80.6) | 36.5 (23.4 – 50.7) | <0.001 |
| SM/Bone | 2.5 (2.2 – 2.8) | 2.4 (2.1 – 2.7) | 0.011 |
| TAT/Bone | 5.3 (3.8 – 6.9) | 6.0 (4.2 – 7.6) | 0.013 |
| IMAT/Bone | 0.4 (0.3 – 0.6) | 0.5 (0.4 – 0.6) | 0.068 |
| SAT/Bone | 2.6 (1.9 – 3.4) | 3.8 (2.5 – 5.0) | <0.001 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| VAT/Bone | 2.0 (1.3 – 2.8) | 1.4 (1.0 – 2.1) | <0.001 |
| Sarcopenia marker | 1.7 (1.5 – 2.0) | 1.6 (1.4 – 1.9) | 0.002 |

Comparison using Mann-Whitney test. P-values in bold show significant values.

Table S4. BCA parameters stratified by BCLC stages

| Variable | BCLC stage A | BCLC stage B | BCLC stage C | Overall p value |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| SM, mL | 6018.9 (3978.4 – 7595.7) | 5604.3 (3160.9 – 7359.5) | 5510.7 (3352.3 – 7241.2) | 0.139 |
| TAT, mL | 11089.6 (7768.3 – 15844.3) | 10986.1 (7618.2 – 15083.0) | 10179.6 (6885.5 – 15068.0) | 0.605 |
| IMAT, mL | 893.9 (620.5 – 1452.0) | 944.6 (579.5 – 1456.4) | 874.3 (557.6 – 1442.7) | 0.819 |
| SAT, mL | 5942.8 (3988.1 – 8425.3) | 5575.9 (3703.1 – 8265.3) | 4981.3 (3496.5 – 7407.2) | 0.219 |
| VAT, mL | 3685.0 (2409.7 – 5814.8) | 3972.2 (2652.1 – 5404.4) | 3913.6 (2444.6 – 5560.2) | 0.950 |
| SM normalized* | 74.1 (61.1 – 87.5) | 70.6 (59.0 – 82.5) | 69.9 (60.6 – 81.8) | 0.135 |
| TAT normalized* | 151.5 (106.7 – 204.3) | 155.3 (113.8 – 190.7) | 150.2 (114.4 – 190.0) | 0.894 |
| IMAT normalized* | 12.1 (8.7 – 16.8) | 13.0 (9.2 – 17.7) | 12.4 (9.1 – 16.8) | 0.710 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------|
| SAT normalized* | 76.7 (56.2 – 110.6) | 78.1 (55.9 – 103.0) | 72.7 (54.3 – 94.7) | 0.460 |
| VAT normalized* | 55.4 (33.2 – 74.3) | 54.1 (37.4 – 77.8) | 56.2 (37.2 – 76.8) | 0.722 |
| SM/Bone | 2.6 (2.2 – 2.9) | 2.5 (2.2 – 2.8) | 2.5 (2.2 – 2.8) | 0.196 |
| TAT/Bone | 5.3 (3.7 – 7.2) | 5.4 (4.0 – 7.1) | 5.3 (3.8 – 6.7) | 0.853 |
| IMAT/Bone | 0.43 (0.32 – 0.58) | 0.45 (0.34 – 0.62) | 0.45 (0.32 – 0.58) | 0.462 |
| SAT/Bone | 2.7 (1.9 – 3.9) | 2.7 (2.0 – 3.8) | 2.5 (2.0 – 3.5) | 0.568 |
| VAT/Bone | 1.8 (1.1 – 2.7) | 1.9 (1.3 – 2.7) | 2.0 (1.4 – 2.6) | 0.570 |
| Sarcopenia marker | 1.8 (1.5 – 2.1) | 1.7 (1.5 – 2.0) | 1.7 (1.4 – 2.0) | 0.187 |

All data are presented as median (IQR).

SM, skeletal muscle volume; TAT, total adipose tissue; IMAT, intermuscular adipose tissue; VAT, visceral adipose tissue; SAT, subcutaneous adipose tissue. *Volumes normalized to the slice number of the abdominal cavity. Kruskal-Wallis test for comparison. P-values in bold show significant values.

Table S5. Technical details of the performed TACE procedures

| Variable | All patients (n = 754) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Type of TACE, n (%) | |
| cTACE | 392 (52.0) |
| DEB-TACE | 348 (46.2) |
| DSM-TACE | 14 (1.8) |
| Level of selectivity, n (%) | |
| Selective | 167 (22.1) |
| Superselective | 587 (77.9) |
| Use of CBCT, n (%) | |
| Yes | 69 (9.2) |
| No | 685 (90.8) |
| Type of drug*, n | |
| Doxirubicin | 390 |
| Mitomycin | 315 |
| Epirubicin | 277 |
| Cisplatin | 8 |
| Irinotecan | 1 |

cTACE, conventional transarterial chemoembolization; DEB-TACE, drug-eluting beads transarterial chemoembolization; DSM-TACE, degradable starch microspheres transarterial chemoembolization; CBCT, cone-beam computed tomography. *More than one drug possible.

Table S6. Correlation SM with other significant factors in multivariate analysis

| Variables | Correlation coefficient | Interpretation correlation | p value |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Albumin | 0.168 | Weak | <0.001 |
| Bilirubin | -0.068 | Negligible | 0.062 |
| AST | -0.030 | Negligible | 0.436 |
| Max. lesion size | -0.075 | Negligible | 0.047 |

Interpretation: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000002864. Spearman correlation. P-values in bold show significant values.

Table S7. Univariate Cox regression analysis for additional clinical, laboratory and tumor burden-related variables apart from BCA parameters in all patients (continuous variables) ($n = 754$)

| Analysis | | Univariate | | |
|------------------|-------|------------|---------|------------------|
| Covariate | | HR | 95% CI | <i>p</i> value |
| Age | Cont. | 1.0 | 0.9–1.1 | 0.535 |
| AFP | Cont. | 1.1 | 1.0–1.1 | 0.009 |
| Albumin | Cont. | 0.6 | 0.5–0.7 | <0.001 |
| Bilirubin | Cont. | 1.3 | 1.2–1.3 | <0.001 |
| AST level | Cont. | 1.1 | 1.0–1.2 | <0.001 |
| ALT level | Cont. | 1.0 | 0.9–1.1 | 0.370 |
| INR level | Cont. | 2.2 | 1.6–3.1 | <0.001 |
| Platelet count | Cont. | 1.0 | 0.9–1.1 | 0.880 |
| Tumor number | Cont. | 1.2 | 1.1–1.3 | <0.001 |
| Max. lesion size | Cont. | 1.1 | 1.0–1.2 | <0.001 |

Cont., Continuous; AFP, alpha fetoprotein; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase. P-values in bold show significant values.

Table S8. Univariate and multivariate Cox regression analysis for all after normalizing BCA parameter to patient height in patients with available height values (continuous variables) ($n = 522$)

| Analysis | | Univariate | | | Multivariate | | |
|--------------------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------------|--------------|-----------|------------------|
| Covariate | | HR | 95% CI | <i>p</i> value | HR | 95% CI | <i>p</i> value |
| Age | Cont. | 1.0 | 0.9 – 1.1 | 0.485 | | | |
| AFP | Cont. | 1.1 | 1.0 – 1.2 | 0.023 | 1.0 | 1.0 – 1.1 | 0.432 |
| Albumin | Cont. | 0.6 | 0.6 – 0.7 | <0.001 | 0.7 | 0.6 – 0.8 | <0.001 |
| Bilirubin | Cont. | 1.3 | 1.1 – 1.4 | <0.001 | 1.1 | 1.0 – 1.2 | 0.009 |
| AST level | Cont. | 1.1 | 1.0 – 1.2 | 0.021 | 1.2 | 0.9 – 1.4 | 0.192 |
| ALT level | Cont. | 1.0 | 0.8 – 1.1 | 0.690 | | | |
| INR level | Cont. | 1.8 | 1.1 – 2.8 | 0.015 | 0.8 | 0.4 – 1.5 | 0.443 |
| Platelet count | Cont. | 1.0 | 0.9 – 1.1 | 0.630 | | | |
| Tumor number | Cont. | 1.2 | 1.1 – 1.3 | <0.001 | 1.1 | 1.0 – 1.3 | 0.033 |
| Max. lesion size | Cont. | 1.4 | 1.2 – 1.7 | <0.001 | 1.3 | 1.2 – 1.6 | <0.001 |
| SM/height ² | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.018 | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.047 |
| TAT/height ² | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.011 | 1.0 | 0.8 – 1.1 | 0.520 |
| IMAT/height ² | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.190 | | | |
| SAT/height ² | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.007 | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.187 |
| VAT/height ² | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.110 | | | |

Cont., Continuous; AFP, alpha fetoprotein; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; SM, skeletal muscle volume; TAT, total adipose tissue; IMAT, intermuscular adipose tissue; VAT, visceral adipose tissue; SAT, subcutaneous adipose tissue. *Volumes normalized to squared patient height. P-values in bold show significant values.

Table S9. Univariate Cox regression analysis for BCA parameters in all patients (continuous variables) stratified by sex

| Sex | | Male (n=622) | | | Female (n=132) | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Covariate | | HR | 95% CI | <i>p</i> value | HR | 95% CI | <i>p</i> value |
| SM normalized | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.004 | 0.8 | 0.6 – 1.0 | 0.032 |
| TAT normalized | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.027 | 0.9 | 0.7 – 1.1 | 0.213 |
| IMAT normalized | Cont. | 1.1 | 0.9 – 1.1 | 0.499 | 0.9 | 0.7 – 1.1 | 0.338 |
| SAT normalized | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.023 | 0.9 | 0.7 – 1.0 | 0.125 |
| VAT normalized | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.089 | 1.0 | 0.7 – 1.3 | 0.876 |
| SM/Bone | Cont. | 0.8 | 0.8 – 0.9 | <0.001 | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.042 |
| TAT/Bone | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.029 | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.175 |
| IMAT/Bone | Cont. | 1.0 | 0.9 – 1.1 | 0.449 | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.1 | 0.386 |
| SAT/Bone | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.022 | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.1 | 0.280 |
| VAT/Bone | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.104 | 1.0 | 0.8 – 1.4 | 0.784 |
| Sarcopenia marker | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.011 | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.124 |

SM, skeletal muscle volume; TAT, total adipose tissue; IMAT, intermuscular adipose tissue; VAT, visceral adipose tissue; SAT, subcutaneous adipose tissue. P-values in bold show significant values.

Table S10. Univariate Cox regression analysis for BCA parameters in all patients (continuous variables) stratified by BCLC stages (A, B, C)

| BCLC stage A (n=219) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| Covariate | | HR | 95% CI | p value |
| SM normalized | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.087 |
| TAT normalized | Cont. | 1.1 | 0.9 – 1.3 | 0.434 |
| IMAT normalized | Cont. | 1.1 | 1.0 – 1.3 | 0.155 |
| SAT normalized | Cont. | 1.0 | 0.9 – 1.2 | 0.652 |
| VAT normalized | Cont. | 1.1 | 0.9 – 1.2 | 0.465 |
| SM/Bone | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.1 | 0.043 |
| TAT/Bone | Cont. | 1.0 | 0.9 – 1.2 | 0.599 |
| IMAT/Bone | Cont. | 1.1 | 0.9 – 1.3 | 0.209 |
| SAT/Bone | Cont. | 1.1 | 0.9 – 1.2 | 0.782 |
| VAT/Bone | Cont. | 1.0 | 0.9 – 1.2 | 0.644 |
| Sarcopenia marker | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.7 – 1.0 | 0.041 |
| BCLC Stage B (n=388) | | | | |
| Covariate | | HR | 95% CI | p value |
| SM normalized | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.033 |
| TAT normalized | Cont. | 0.8 | 0.7 – 0.9 | 0.001 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| IMAT normalized | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.032 |
| SAT normalized | Cont. | 0.8 | 0.7 – 1.0 | 0.008 |
| VAT normalized | Cont. | 0.8 | 0.7 – 1.0 | 0.007 |
| SM/Bone | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.027 |
| TAT/Bone | Cont. | 0.8 | 0.7 – 1.0 | 0.005 |
| IMAT/Bone | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.032 |
| SAT/Bone | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.021 |
| VAT/Bone | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.0 | 0.015 |
| Sarcopenia marker | Cont. | 1.0 | 0.9 – 1.1 | 0.857 |
| BCLC Stage C (n=137) | | | | |
| Covariate | | HR | 95% CI | p value |
| SM normalized | Cont. | 0.8 | 0.7 – 1.0 | 0.041 |
| TAT normalized | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.7 – 1.1 | 0.155 |
| IMAT normalized | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.2 | 0.566 |
| SAT normalized | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.7 – 1.1 | 0.213 |
| VAT normalized | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.7 – 1.1 | 0.253 |
| SM/Bone | Cont. | 0.8 | 0.7 – 1.0 | 0.039 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-----|-----------|-------|
| TAT/Bone | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.7 – 1.1 | 0.168 |
| IMAT/Bone | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.7 – 1.2 | 0.540 |
| SAT/Bone | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.7 – 1.1 | 0.249 |
| VAT/Bone | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.8 – 1.1 | 0.285 |
| Sarcopenia marker | Cont. | 0.9 | 0.7 – 1.0 | 0.184 |

SM, skeletal muscle volume; TAT, total adipose tissue; IMAT, intermuscular adipose tissue; VAT, visceral adipose tissue; SAT, subcutaneous adipose tissue. P-values in bold show significant values.

Fig. S1. Relation between SM and OS with cubic regression spline (knots SM quantiles)

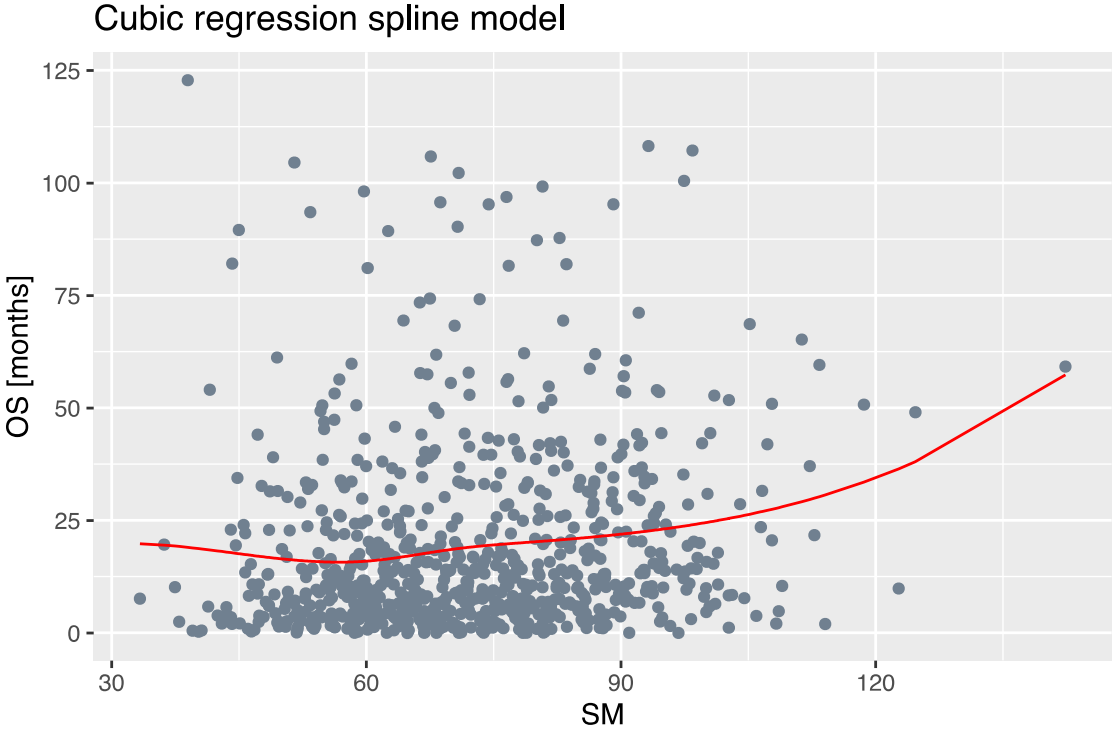


Fig. S2. Kaplan-Meier curves for the overall survival of all included patients, stratified according to previously published cut-off values for SM/Bone (Log-rank $p=0.014$) (A) and Sarcopenia Marker (Log-rank $p<0.001$) (B). SM, skeletal muscle volume.

