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# BMJ Open

## Validation of an automated delirium prediction model (DEMO Delirium Model): an observational study

Journal:	<i>BMJ Open</i>
Manuscript ID	bmjopen-2017-016654
Article Type:	Research
Date Submitted by the Author:	10-Mar-2017
Complete List of Authors:	Mestres Gonzalvo, Carlota; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology de Wit, Hugo; Zuyderland Medisch Centrum Heerlen, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology van Oijen, Brigit; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Debben, Debbie; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Hurkens, Kim; Zuyderland Medisch Centrum Heerlen, Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Mulder, Wubbo; Maastricht Universitair Medisch Centrum+, Internal Medicine Janknegt, Rob; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Schols, Jos; Maastricht University, Department of General Practice, School for Public Health and Primary Care (CAPHRI) Verhey, Frans; Maastricht University Faculty of Health Medicine and Life Sciences, Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Alzheimer Centrum Limburg / School for Mental Health and Neurosciences Winkens, Bjorn; Maastricht University, van der Kuy, Paul-Hugo; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology
<b>Primary Subject Heading</b>:	Geriatric medicine
Secondary Subject Heading:	Mental health
Keywords:	GERIATRIC MEDICINE, Delirium & cognitive disorders < PSYCHIATRY, PSYCHIATRY

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3 **Validation of an automated delirium prediction model (DEMO Delirium Model):**  
4 **an observational study**  
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7 C Mestres Gonzalvo (hospital pharmacist in training)<sup>1</sup>, HAJM de Wit (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, BPC van  
8 Oijen (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, D Deben (hospital pharmacist in training)<sup>1</sup>, KPGM Hurkens (internist  
9 geriatrician)<sup>2</sup>, WJ Mulder (internist geriatrician)<sup>3</sup>, R Janknegt (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, JMGA Schols  
10 (Professor of Old Age Medicine)<sup>4</sup>, FR Verhey (Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry)<sup>5</sup>, B Winkens  
11 (statistician)<sup>6</sup>, PHM van der Kuy (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>  
12  
13

14  
15 <sup>1</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Dr. H  
16 van der Hoffplein 1, 6162 BG, Sittard-Geleen and Henri Dunantstraat 5, 6419 PC Heerlen, The  
17 Netherlands.  
18

19 <sup>2</sup>Section of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Dr. H van  
20 der Hoffplein 1, 6162 BG, Sittard-Geleen and Henri Dunantstraat 5, 6419 PC Heerlen, The  
21 Netherlands.  
22

23 <sup>3</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Maastricht University Medical Centre, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX  
24 Maastricht, The Netherlands.  
25

26 <sup>4</sup>Department of Family Medicine and Department of Health Services Research, CAPHRI-School for  
27 Public Health and Primary Care, Maastricht University, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX, Maastricht, The  
28 Netherlands.  
29

30 <sup>5</sup>Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Alzheimer Centrum Limburg/School for Mental  
31 Health and Neurosciences, Maastricht University, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX, Maastricht, The  
32 Netherlands.  
33

34 <sup>6</sup>Department of Methodology and Statistics, CAPHRI-School for Public Health and Primary Care,  
35 Maastricht University, P. Debyelein 1, 6229 HA Maastricht, The Netherlands.  
36  
37  
38  
39

40 **Submitting and corresponding author:**

41 Carlota Mestres Gonzalvo  
42 Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology  
43 Zuyderland Medical Centre  
44 Dr H van der Hoffplein 1  
45 6162 BG Sittard-Geleen  
46 Phone: +31-88-4597708  
47 E-mail: [c.mestresgonzalvo@zuyderland.nl](mailto:c.mestresgonzalvo@zuyderland.nl)  
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**ABSTRACT**

**Objectives:** Delirium is an under-diagnosed, severe, and costly disorder. In 30-40% of the cases it can be prevented. A fully automated model to predict delirium (DEMO) in older people was retrospectively developed, but has not yet been validated; the objective of this study is to prospectively validate DEMO in the hospital setting.

**Setting:** Secondary care, one hospital with two locations

**Design:** Observational study

**Participants:** 383 randomly selected patients over 60 years admitted to Zuyderland were included. Patients who presented with a delirium on admission were excluded.

**Primary outcome measures:** sensitivity and specificity of DEMO

**Results:** A total of 383 patients was included in this study. The analysis was performed 1, 3 and 5 days after DEMO-score. Sensitivity was 87.9% (CI: 0.709 to 0.960), 90.9% (CI: 0.774 to 0.971), and 92.0% (0.799 to 0.974) for 1, 3, and 5 days after DEMO-score respectively. Specificity was 72.6% (0.675 to 0.771), 74.9% (0.699 to 0.794) and 76.3% (0.713 to 0.807) for 1, 3, and 5 days after DEMO-score respectively.

**Conclusion:** DEMO is a satisfactory prediction model. The next step is to apply the DEMO in clinical practice so that physicians are alerted when a patient is at increased risk of developing delirium and can implement prevention measures.

**Strengths and limitations of this study**

- A delirium can be electronically predicted using the DEMO (Delirium MOdel) with reasonably good sensitivity and specificity.
- DEMO can be applied into clinical practice facilitating earlier recognition and diagnosis of delirium.
- Important factors that could predict a delirium (previous delirium, cognitive impairment, severity of disease, visual impairment, etc.) are not included in this model because they were not electronically available.

## INTRODUCTION

A delirium or acute confusional state is a transient attention and cognition disorder that develops over a short period of time, occurring mainly in hospitalised patients and people aged 60 years and over. Delirium is an under-diagnosed, severe (increased mortality), costly and often preventable disorder [1-3]. Its severity and symptoms can range considerably but the main features are impaired cognitive and sensory functions, reduced consciousness and diminished attention; in addition it is often accompanied by problems in psychomotor activity, the circadian rhythm and emotions.

The prevalence and incidence of delirium in the general population vary widely depending on the setting. The overall prevalence in the community is estimated at 1-2%. In the hospital setting this increases to between 10-31% at hospital admission and 3-29% during hospitalisation. The incidence increases up to 87% when considering more specialised populations such as elderly, postoperative, intensive care and/or palliative care [4-11]. In 30-40% of cases delirium is preventable, which in combination with its associated high costs (ranging from US\$164 billion to US\$182 billion per year) makes it a perfect target for interventions by healthcare professionals [1, 4, 13-15]. As a result, a great number of screening tools have been developed and are widely used to detect early onset delirium which in turn can allow treatment measures to be introduced in a timelier manner [16-21]. These tools support health care professionals to establish and quantify symptoms associated with delirium [19-23]. Once the diagnosis has been established the underlying medical condition can be targeted and delirium managed appropriately.

Treatment measures for delirium include pharmacological and non-pharmacological symptom-targeted measures. Haloperidol or atypical anti-psychotics are the standard pharmacological treatment for delirium, while non-pharmacological measures comprise environmental interventions such as emphasising orientation, mobilisation, vision/hearing optimisation, and sleep enhancement [1, 4, 24-27]. There are several approaches to prevent a delirium. It is known that non-pharmacological measures are effective in preventing delirium. There are also indications that prophylactic haloperidol might be effective. However, study results regarding the value of haloperidol as an adjunct to non-pharmacological approaches are controversial [25-34]. Different models have been developed for the detection of delirium, both for intensive care patients and hospitalised older people. These models use different factors to calculate an individual's risk of developing delirium, such as predictive variables (infection, certain drugs) and predisposing factors (cognitive impairment, previous delirium or the reason for hospital admission). These models are often based on a manual calculation of the individual risk of delirium [35-38].

### Screening instrument

A fully automated model to predict delirium in older people (over 60 years) was developed in 2013 at Zuyderland Medical Centre. This DELirium MOdel (DEMO) uses only electronically available data to predict the occurrence of delirium. The used predictive variables were age, polypharmacy, use of anti-

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3 dementia drugs, antidepressants, anti-Parkinson's agents, anti-diabetic drugs, analgesia and / or  
4 sleeping tablets. This model can be applied hospital wide and has an "Area under Receiver Operating  
5 Characteristic" (AUROC: measure for model prediction quality) of 0.770 (95% CI 0.736-0.804) with a  
6 sensitivity of 78.2% and a specificity of 63.7%, if 14.1% is used as a cut-off value for the predicted  
7 probability of developing delirium. The DEMO was retrospectively developed, but has not yet been  
8 validated [4].  
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12 Therefore, the objective of this study is to validate DEMO in the hospital setting. In order to do so the  
13 accuracy (main study parameter) of DEMO, i.e. sensitivity (proportion of delirium patients who test  
14 positive) and specificity (proportion of non-delirium patients who test negative) will be calculated. In  
15 addition to these parameters, the positive and negative likelihood ratios with their 95% CI will be  
16 computed.  
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## 21 22 **METHODS**

23 This is an observational study into the ability of DEMO to predict a delirium in an elderly hospital  
24 population. It was conducted in Zuyderland Medical Center (locations Sittard and Heerlen) in the  
25 period January 2016 to October 2016. The medical ethics committee approved this study.  
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29 Patients over 60 years admitted to Zuyderland were selected for enrollment. Patients who presented  
30 with a delirium on admission were excluded.  
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33 In our study wherein the DEMO was developed, an incidence rate of 17.4% was used [4]. Assuming  
34 the same sensitivity of 0.75 (75%), we calculated that 33 delirium patients were needed in order to  
35 ensure that the width of the corresponding 95% confidence interval is not greater than 0.30. Regarding  
36 the specificity, the number of non-delirium patients will be much larger, and hence the width of the  
37 95% confidence interval (CI) for specificity will be much smaller than 0.30.  
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41 It was calculated that at least 332 patients were needed to identify 33 delirium patients. To be sure,  
42 taking into account exclusion criteria or a smaller percentage of patients who developed delirium,  
43 enough patients were screened to achieve the 33 delirium patients (i.e. 383 patients).  
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47 The DEMO analyses daily all hospitalised patients  $\geq 60$  years old in the different wards and predicts  
48 whether a patient is at risk of developing a delirium in the 24hours post analysis. The EPR (Electronic  
49 Patient Record) was accessed at a later date to confirm if the patient had developed delirium.  
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53 To validate the DEMO patients were randomly selected (using <https://www.randomlists.com/team-generator>). An extraction from the EPR of these patients was made between 31-12-2015 and 31-10-  
54 2016.  
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3 A search in the EPR was performed per patient and date using the following search terms: "delirium",  
4 "delirious". Afterwards this search was compared with the risk score from the DEMO to evaluate  
5 whether the prediction was good (risk  $\geq$  14.1%), which means that the diagnosis (search terms) was  
6 used as a reference to test the DEMO's screening characteristics. In this way, they were classified as  
7 True Positive (TP), True Negative (TN), False Positive (FP), False Negative (FN).  
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10 This evaluation was performed on different SETS in order to evaluate the predictive value of the  
11 DEMO as it was developed (delirium within 24 hours), and to investigate whether other SETS would  
12 give better results:  
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15 SET 1: "delirium" or "delirious" as diagnosis within 1 day after the DEMO analysis.

16 SET 2: "delirium" or "delirious" as diagnosis within 3 days after the DEMO analysis.

17 SET 3: "delirium" or "delirious" as diagnosis within 5 days after the DEMO analysis.  
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21 If the results of the diagnostic test (TP / TN / FP / FN) could not be established for a patient as a result  
22 of unclear data, this patient was excluded from the analysis (e.g. DD delirium, delirium? Patient seems  
23 confused, etc.). During the study physicians were blinded to DEMO scores to avoid bias. The  
24 sensitivity, specificity and likelihood ratios with corresponding 95% confidence intervals were  
25 calculated using an online calculator (<http://vassarstats.net/clin1.html> ).  
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29 The differences in age and gender between delirium and non-delirium groups were tested using the  
30 independent samples t-test and chi-square test, respectively. IBM SPSS statistics for Windows  
31 (version 23.0) was used to perform these tests. A two-sided p-value smaller than or equal to 0.05 was  
32 considered statistically significant.  
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## 35 36 37 **RESULTS**

38 The study lasted eight months. A total of 383 patients were included in this study.

39 Each set was independently analyzed. The results of the diagnostic test (TP/FP/FN/TN) for SETS 1-3  
40 are shown in Table 1. The analysis for all 3 sets including prevalence estimates, sensitivity, specificity,  
41 and likelihood ratios are presented in Table 2.  
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44 SET 1, SET 2 and SET 3 showed an increasing sensitivity and specificity  
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48 Taking into account what we considered as clinically relevant, SET 3 was the most advantageous as  
49 the number of FN remained relatively small and the number of FP decreased in comparison to SET 1  
50 and SET 2. In other words, we choose a higher sensitivity over a higher specificity given the  
51 consequences of missing a potential delirium compared to the consequences of falsely predicting a  
52 delirium. In the case of falsely predicting a delirium, non-pharmacological measures would be applied,  
53 meaning unnecessary attention is given to these patients.  
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The baseline characteristics for SET 3 (age and gender) are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3. Baseline characteristics SET 3**

	Delirium (n = 50)	Non-delirium (n = 333)	Total (n = 383)
Mean age (SD)	84.7 (8.1) *	74.1 (9.1) *	75.5 (9.6)
Man	26 (52.0%)	168 (50.5%)	194 (50.7%)
Woman	24 (48.0%)	165 (49.5%)	189 (49.3%)

\* Statistically significant

A statistically significant difference was found in mean age between delirium and non-delirium patients (equal variances assumed,  $p < 0.001$ , mean difference = 10.6, 95%CI 7.9 to 13.3). There was no significant difference in percentage of delirium between men and women ( $p = 0.176$ ).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In the current study a previously developed model for predicting delirium has been prospectively validated. Based on the current data and the high sensitivity and specificity it can be concluded that the DEMO is clinically applicable.

We found sensitivity and specificity rates that were higher than reported in the study of de Wit et al., which may be due to the fact that that study had only checked the patients' medical history for delirium but not the entire EPR. Moreover, de Wit et al. had performed the search only on the word "delirium" and in the current study "delirium" and "delirious" were used. Furthermore, in the current study, in such circumstances that a delirium is unclear these patients were excluded, whereas such patients were included in the development of the delirium model [4].

The present study has some limitations. First of all, the validation of the DELirium MOdel depends on how and when a physician reports that a patient has developed a delirium. Furthermore, the number of delirium patients may still be rather low; although for SETS 2-3 is higher than originally planned.

The DEMO used exclusively electronically available data. Important factors that could predict a delirium (previous delirium, cognitive impairment, severity of disease, visual impairment, etc.) are not included in this model because they were not electronically available. By making this data electronically available, the prediction quality of DEMO could be improved [22, 23, 25, 34]. Taking into account that the registration of such factors is becoming increasingly important and mandatory, it is only a matter of time until such important factors can be used in the DEMO [2,3].

DELirium MOdel is a fully automated satisfactory prediction model. The next step is to apply the DEMO in clinical practice so that physicians are alerted when a patient is at increased risk of developing delirium and can implement prevention measures, non-pharmacological and/or pharmacological. This will facilitate earlier recognition and diagnosis.



**COMPETING INTERESTS**

All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form at [www.icmje.org/coi\\_disclosure.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf) and declare: all authors had financial support from ABC Company for the submitted work; no financial relationships with any organisations that might have an interest in the submitted work in the previous three years; no other relationships or activities that could appear to have influenced the submitted work

**FUNDING**

This work was supported by ZonMw (the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development) grant number [113101001]

**AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

All authors have made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data; They all have been involved in drafting the manuscript and revising it critically for important intellectual content; They all have given final approval of the version to be published; and they all agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

**Conception or design of the work**

C Mestres Gonzalvo  
HAJM de Wit  
BPC van Oijen  
DS Deben  
KPGM Hurkens  
WJ Mulder  
R Janknegt  
JMGA Schols  
FR Verhey  
B Winkens  
PHM van der Kuy

**Data collection**

C Mestres Gonzalvo  
DS Deben

**Data analysis and interpretation**

C Mestres Gonzalvo  
FR Verhey  
B Winkens  
PHM van der Kuy

**Drafting the article**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

**Critical revision of the article**

HAJM de Wit

BPC van Oijen

JMGA Schols

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

**Final approval of the version to be published**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

HAJM de Wit

BPC van Oijen

DS Deben

KPGM Hurkens

WJ Mulder

R Janknegt

JMGA Schols

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

**TRANSPARENCY DECLARATION**

C. Mestres Gonzalvo affirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study being reported; no important aspects of the study have been omitted; and any discrepancies from the study as planned (and, if relevant, registered) have been explained.

**DATA SHARING**

All data is anonymized and will be confidentially handled. Only the investigators have access to the data.

All patient data will be kept for as long as the project is being conducted.

**EXCLUSIVE LICENCE**

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**Table 1. Cross-table of the predicted test result of the prediction model (DEMO positive or negative) and diagnosis (delirium positive or negative) for SET 1, SET 2, and SET 3.**

	SET 1		SET 2		SET 3	
	Delirium positive	Delirium negative	Delirium positive	Delirium negative	Delirium positive	Delirium negative
DEMO Positive	29	96	40	85	46	79
DEMO Negative	4	254	4	254	4	254

**Table 2. Estimates of the prevalence, sensitivity, specificity, and likelihood ratios with corresponding 95% confidence intervals for SET 1, SET 2, and SET 3.**

	SET 1			SET 2			SET 3		
	Estimated value	95% confidence interval		Estimated value	95% confidence interval		Estimated value	95% confidence interval	
		Lower limit	Upper limit		Lower limit	Upper limit		Lower limit	Upper limit
Prevalence	0.086 (8.6%)	0.061	0.120	0.115 (11.5%)	0.086	0.152	0.131 (13.1%)	0.099	0.169
Sensitivity	0.879 (87.9%)	0.709	0.960	0.909 (90.9%)	0.774	0.971	0.920 (92.0%)	0.799	0.974
Specificity	0.726 (72.6%)	0.675	0.771	0.749 (74.9%)	0.699	0.794	0.763 (76.3%)	0.713	0.807
Positive likelihood ratio	3.204	2.59	3.962	3.626	2.950	4.457	3.878	3.146	4.780
Negative likelihood ratio	0.167	0.067	0.419	0.121	0.048	0.310	0.105	0.041	0.269

STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

	Item No.	Recommendation	Page No.	Relevant text from manuscript
<b>Title and abstract</b>	1	(a) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1	
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	2	
<b>Introduction</b>				
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	3	
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	4	
<b>Methods</b>				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	4	
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	4	
Participants	6	(a) <i>Cohort study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up <i>Case-control study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	4	
		(b) <i>Cohort study</i> —For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed <i>Case-control study</i> —For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case	-	
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	4-5	
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	4-5	
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	-	
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	4	

Continued on next page

Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	4-5
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	4-5
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	5
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	-
		(d) <i>Cohort study</i> —If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	-
		<i>Case-control study</i> —If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	-
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Table 2
<b>Results</b>			
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	5-6
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	-
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	-
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Table 3
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	-
		(c) <i>Cohort study</i> —Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	-
Outcome data	15*	<i>Cohort study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Table 1
		<i>Case-control study</i> —Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	
		<i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	Table 2
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	-
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	-

Continued on next page



Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	6
<b>Discussion</b>			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	6
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	6
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	6-7
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	6
<b>Other information</b>			
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	7

\*Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

**Note:** An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at <http://www.plosmedicine.org/>, Annals of Internal Medicine at <http://www.annals.org/>, and Epidemiology at <http://www.epidem.com/>). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at [www.strobe-statement.org](http://www.strobe-statement.org).

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# BMJ Open

## Validation of an automated delirium prediction model (DEMO Delirium Model): an observational study

Journal:	<i>BMJ Open</i>
Manuscript ID	bmjopen-2017-016654.R1
Article Type:	Research
Date Submitted by the Author:	15-May-2017
Complete List of Authors:	Mestres Gonzalvo, Carlota; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology de Wit, Hugo; Zuyderland Medisch Centrum Heerlen, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology van Oijen, Brigit; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Debben, Debbie; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Hurkens, Kim; Zuyderland Medisch Centrum Heerlen, Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Mulder, Wubbo; Maastricht Universitair Medisch Centrum+, Internal Medicine Janknegt, Rob; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Schols, Jos; Maastricht University, Department of General Practice, School for Public Health and Primary Care (CAPHRI) Verhey, Frans; Maastricht University Faculty of Health Medicine and Life Sciences, Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Alzheimer Centrum Limburg / School for Mental Health and Neurosciences Winkens, Bjorn; Maastricht University, van der Kuy, Hugo; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology
<b>Primary Subject Heading</b>:	Geriatric medicine
Secondary Subject Heading:	Mental health
Keywords:	GERIATRIC MEDICINE, Delirium & cognitive disorders < PSYCHIATRY, PSYCHIATRY

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3 **Validation of an automated delirium prediction model (DEMO Delirium Model):**  
4 **an observational study**  
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7 C Mestres Gonzalvo (hospital pharmacist in training)<sup>1</sup>, HAJM de Wit (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, BPC van  
8 Oijen (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, D Deben (hospital pharmacist in training)<sup>1</sup>, KPGM Hurkens (internist  
9 geriatrician)<sup>2</sup>, WJ Mulder (internist geriatrician)<sup>3</sup>, R Janknegt (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, JMGA Schols  
10 (Professor of Old Age Medicine)<sup>4</sup>, FR Verhey (Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry)<sup>5</sup>, B Winkens  
11 (statistician)<sup>6</sup>, PHM van der Kuy (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>  
12  
13

14  
15 <sup>1</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Dr. H  
16 van der Hoffplein 1, 6162 BG, Sittard-Geleen and Henri Dunantstraat 5, 6419 PC Heerlen, The  
17 Netherlands.  
18

19 <sup>2</sup>Section of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Dr. H van  
20 der Hoffplein 1, 6162 BG, Sittard-Geleen and Henri Dunantstraat 5, 6419 PC Heerlen, The  
21 Netherlands.  
22

23 <sup>3</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Maastricht University Medical Centre, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX  
24 Maastricht, The Netherlands.  
25

26 <sup>4</sup>Department of Family Medicine and Department of Health Services Research, CAPHRI-School for  
27 Public Health and Primary Care, Maastricht University, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX, Maastricht, The  
28 Netherlands.  
29

30 <sup>5</sup>Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Alzheimer Centrum Limburg/School for Mental  
31 Health and Neurosciences, Maastricht University, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX, Maastricht, The  
32 Netherlands.  
33

34 <sup>6</sup>Department of Methodology and Statistics, CAPHRI-School for Public Health and Primary Care,  
35 Maastricht University, P. Debyelein 1, 6229 HA Maastricht, The Netherlands.  
36  
37  
38  
39

40 **Submitting and corresponding author:**

41 Carlota Mestres Gonzalvo  
42 Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology  
43 Zuyderland Medical Centre  
44 Dr H van der Hoffplein 1  
45 6162 BG Sittard-Geleen  
46 Phone: +31-88-4597708  
47 E-mail: [c.mestresgonzalvo@zuyderland.nl](mailto:c.mestresgonzalvo@zuyderland.nl)  
48  
49  
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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** Delirium is an under-diagnosed, severe, and costly disorder which in 30-40% of the cases can be prevented. A fully automated model to predict delirium (DEMO) in older people has been developed and the objective of this study is to validate the model in a hospital setting.

**Setting:** Secondary care, one hospital with two locations

**Design:** Observational study

**Participants:** The study included 450 randomly selected patients over 60 years of age admitted to Zuyderland Medical Centre. Patients who presented with a delirium upon admission were excluded.

**Primary outcome measures:** Development of delirium by chart review.

**Results:** A total of 383 patients were included in this study. The analysis was performed 1, 3 and 5 days after DEMO-score. Sensitivity was 87.9% (CI: 0.709 to 0.960), 90.9% (CI: 0.774 to 0.971), and 92.0% (0.799 to 0.974) for 1, 3, and 5 days after DEMO-score, respectively. Specificity was 72.6% (0.675 to 0.771), 74.9% (0.699 to 0.794) and 76.3% (0.713 to 0.807) for 1, 3, and 5 days after DEMO-score, respectively.

**Conclusion:** DEMO is a satisfactory prediction model. The next step will be to validate the DEMO in a cohort where the outcome of delirium is assessed prospectively in person by the physician, and the DEMO model is used for retrospective measurements. In the future DEMO will be applied in clinical practice so that physicians will be alerted when a patient is at an increased risk of developing delirium, which will facilitate earlier recognition and diagnosis, and thus will allow the implementation of prevention measures, both non-pharmacological and/or pharmacological.

### Strengths and limitations of this study

- A delirium can be predicted electronically by using DEMO (Delirium MOdel) with reasonably good sensitivity and specificity.
- DEMO can be applied into clinical practice to facilitate earlier recognition and diagnosis of delirium.
- Important factors that could predict a delirium (previous delirium, cognitive impairment, severity of disease, visual impairment, etc.) are not included in this model because this data is not yet electronically available.

## INTRODUCTION

A delirium or acute confusional state is a transient attention and cognition disorder that develops over a short period of time and occurs mainly in hospitalised patients and people aged 60 years and over. Delirium is an under-diagnosed, severe (increased mortality), costly and often preventable disorder [1-3]. Its severity and symptoms can range considerably but the main features are impaired cognitive and sensory functions, reduced consciousness, and diminished attention; in addition, it is often accompanied by problems in psychomotor activity, the circadian rhythm, and emotions.

The prevalence and incidence of delirium in the general population differ widely depending on the setting. The overall prevalence in the community is estimated at 1-2%. In a hospital setting, this increases to between 10-31% at the time of hospital admission and 3-29% during hospitalisation. The incidence increases up to 87% when more specialised populations such as the elderly and people in postoperative, intensive care and/or palliative care are considered [4-11]. In 30-40% of the cases, delirium is preventable, which in combination with its associated high costs (ranging from US\$164 billion to US\$182 billion per year) makes it a perfect target for interventions by healthcare professionals [1, 4, 12-15]. As a result, a great number of screening tools have been developed and are widely used to detect early onset of delirium which in turn can allow treatment measures to be introduced in a timely manner [16-21]. These tools help health care professionals to establish and quantify symptoms associated with delirium [19-23]. Once the diagnosis has been established, the underlying medical condition can be targeted and delirium managed appropriately.

Treatment measures for delirium include both pharmacological and non-pharmacological symptom-targeted measures. There is no universally accepted treatment for delirium after it has developed [24]. Though commonly used, there is little evidence that supports the use of antipsychotics in the treatment of delirium [25, 26].

The need for DEMO becomes more compelling in the absence of an effective delirium treatment: preventing delirium is more effective than treating delirium after it has occurred. There are several approaches to prevent a delirium. It is known that non-pharmacological measures are effective in preventing delirium. Such measures comprise environmental interventions such as emphasising orientation, mobilisation, vision/hearing optimisation, and sleep enhancement [1, 4, 27-30]. There are also indications that prophylactic haloperidol might be effective. However, study results regarding the value of haloperidol as an adjunct to non-pharmacological approaches are controversial [28-37] and a recent meta-analysis by Neufeld et al. concludes that there is no evidence to support pharmacologic treatment for prevention of delirium [35]. Different models have been developed for the detection of delirium, both for intensive care patients and hospitalised older people. These models use different factors to calculate an individual's risk of developing delirium, such as predictive variables (infection, certain drugs) and predisposing factors (cognitive impairment, previous delirium or the reason for hospital admission). These models are often based on a manual evaluation of the individual risk of delirium [38-42].

### Screening instrument

A fully automated model to predict delirium in older people (over 60 years) was developed in 2013 at Zuyderland Medical Centre. This DELirium MOdel (DEMO) uses only electronically available data to predict the occurrence of delirium. The used predictive variables were: age, polypharmacy, use of anti-dementia drugs, antidepressants, anti-Parkinson's agents, anti-diabetic drugs, analgesia and/or sleeping tablets. This model can be applied hospital-wide and has an "Area under Receiver Operating Characteristic" (AUROC: measure for model prediction quality) of 0.770 (95% CI 0.736-0.804) with a sensitivity of 78.2% and a specificity of 63.7%, when 14.1% is used as a cut-off value for the predicted probability of developing delirium. The DEMO model was developed retrospectively but has not yet been validated [4]. Table 2 (supplementary tables).

Therefore, the objective of this study is to validate DEMO in the hospital setting. In order to do so the system's accuracy (main study parameter), i.e. sensitivity (proportion of delirium patients who test positive) and specificity (proportion of non-delirium patients who test negative), will be calculated. In addition to these parameters, the positive and negative likelihood ratios with their 95% CI will be computed.

### METHOD

This is an observational study into the ability of DEMO to predict a delirium in an elderly hospital population. It was conducted in Zuyderland Medical Center (locations Sittard and Heerlen) in the period January 2016 to October 2016. The medical ethics committee METC Z (Medisch Ethische Toetsings Commissie van Zuyderland en Zuyd Hogeschool, Zuyderland Medical Center, Heerlen) approved this study.

Patients over 60 years admitted to Zuyderland were eligible for enrollment. Patients who presented with a delirium upon admission were excluded.

In the study wherein the DEMO was developed, an incidence rate of 17.4% was used [4]. On the assumption of the same sensitivity of 0.75 (75%), we calculated that 33 delirium patients were needed based upon the requirement that the lower limit of 95% CI would be 60%. With regard to the specificity, the number of non-delirium patients would be much larger than the number of delirium patients, and hence the width of the 95% confidence interval (CI) for specificity would be smaller than 0.30.

It was calculated that at least 332 patients would be needed to be able to identify 33 delirium patients. Taking into account the exclusion criteria and the possibility of a smaller percentage of patients who would develop a delirium, enough patients were screened to achieve the number of 33 delirium patients (i.e. 450 patients).

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3 The DEMO carries out a daily analysis of all hospitalised patients  $\geq 60$  years of age in the different  
4 wards and predicts whether a patient is at risk of developing a delirium in the 24hours post analysis.  
5 The EPR (Electronic Patient Record) was accessed at a later date to confirm the delirium diagnosis by  
6 a physician. In this study, DEMO was calculated prospectively, but the outcome was ascertained by  
7 chart review retrospectively.  
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11 For validation purposes, the 450 DEMO patients were randomly selected (using  
12 <https://www.randomlists.com/team-generator>). An extraction from the EPR of these patients was made  
13 between 31-12-2015 and 31-10-2016.  
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17 A search in the EPR was performed per patient and date by using the following search terms:  
18 "delirium", "delirious", "agitation", "agitated", "confused", "confusion", "restlessness", "disturbed",  
19 "disorientation", "disoriented", "apathy", "hallucination", "mistrust", "haloperidol", , and "delirium  
20 prevention measures". These search terms had been discussed with an internist geriatrician, a  
21 professor of old age medicine and a professor of geriatric psychiatry. Afterwards, this search was  
22 compared with the risk score from DEMO to evaluate whether the prediction was good (risk  $\geq 14.1\%$   
23 [4]), which means that the diagnosis (search terms) was used as a reference to test DEMO's  
24 screening characteristics. In this way, they were classified as True Positive (TP), True Negative (TN),  
25 False Positive (FP), False Negative (FN).  
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29 This evaluation was performed on different sets in order to evaluate the predictive value of the DEMO  
30 model as it had been developed (delirium within 24 hours), and to investigate whether other sets  
31 would give better results:  
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35 SET 1: "delirium" or "delirious" as diagnosis within 1 day after the DEMO analysis.

36 SET 2: "delirium" or "delirious" as diagnosis within 3 days after the DEMO analysis.

37 SET 3: "delirium" or "delirious" as diagnosis within 5 days after the DEMO analysis.

38 SET 4: "delirium", "delirious", "agitation", "agitated", "confused", "confusion", "restlessness",  
39 "disturbed", "disorientation", "disoriented", "apathy", "hallucination", "mistrust" or "haloperidol" as  
40 diagnosis within 5 days after the DEMO analysis.  
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46 The search was performed by first identifying where the different words appeared in the EPR and then  
47 the whole text was read and interpreted by two authors to ensure that it was truly a delirium diagnosis.  
48 If the results of the diagnostic test (TP / TN / FP / FN) could not be established for a patient as a result  
49 of unclear data, this patient was excluded from the analysis (e.g. differential diagnosis delirium,  
50 delirium? Patient seems confused, etc.). During the study, physicians were blinded to DEMO scores in  
51 order to avoid bias. The sensitivity, specificity and likelihood ratios with corresponding 95% confidence  
52 intervals were calculated with the use of an online calculator (<http://vassarstats.net/clin1.html> ).  
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The differences in age and gender between delirium and non-delirium groups were tested by using the independent samples t-test and chi-square test, respectively. IBM SPSS statistics for Windows (version 23.0) was used to perform these tests. A two-sided p-value smaller than or equal to 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

## RESULTS

The study lasted eight months and a total of 383 patients were included (figure 1 - supplementary figure). Each set was independently analysed. The results of the diagnostic test (TP/FP/FN/TN) for sets 1-4 are shown in Table 3 (supplementary tables). The analysis for all 4 sets, including prevalence estimates, sensitivity, specificity, and likelihood ratios, is presented in Table 4 (supplementary tables).

Set 1, set 2 and set 3 showed an increasing sensitivity and specificity, while set 4 showed a higher specificity and lower sensitivity.

Taking into account what we considered to be clinically relevant, set 3 was the most advantageous as the number of FN remained relatively small and the number of FP decreased in comparison to set 1 and set 2; in addition, the amount of FN is higher on set 4. In other words, we choose a higher sensitivity over a higher specificity given the consequences of missing a potential delirium compared to the consequences of falsely predicting a delirium. In the case of falsely predicting a delirium, non-pharmacological measures would be applied, which means that “unnecessary” attention is given to these patients.

The baseline characteristics for set 3 (age and gender) are shown in Table 1 (supplementary tables).

**Table 1. Baseline characteristics SET 3**

	Delirium (n = 50)	Non-delirium (n = 333)	Total (n = 383)
Mean age (SD)	84.7 (8.1) *	74.1 (9.1) *	75.5 (9.6)
Man	26 (52.0%)	168 (50.5%)	194 (50.7%)

\* Statistically significant

A statistically significant difference between delirium and non-delirium patients was found in mean age (equal variances assumed,  $p < 0.001$ , mean difference = 10.6, 95%CI 7.9 to 13.3). There was no significant difference in percentage of delirium between men and women ( $p = 0.176$ ).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In the current study, a previously developed model for predicting delirium has been validated; DEMO was calculated prospectively, and the outcome was ascertained by chart review retrospectively. Based on the current data and the high sensitivity and specificity, it can be concluded that the DEMO is a satisfactory prediction model.



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4 Another strength of the DEMO model is that it predicts delirium on a daily basis. This is a novel  
5 concept as most delirium prediction rules work at admission but not daily. Even though it is not clear  
6 whether there is a definite advantage to predicting delirium on a daily basis, as this could lead to  
7 information overload, it could eventually be something that is tracked along with the vital signs and  
8 intake/output.  
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12 We found sensitivity and specificity rates that were higher than reported in the study of de Wit et al.,  
13 which may be due to the fact that that study had only checked the patients' medical history for delirium  
14 and not the entire EPR. Moreover, de Wit et al. had performed the search merely on the word  
15 "delirium" and in the current study a wider set of search terms was used. Furthermore, in the current  
16 study, in those cases where a delirium was not clear, these patients were excluded, whereas such  
17 patients had been included in the development of the delirium model [4].  
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22 The present study does present some limitations. First of all, the validation of the DELirium MOdel  
23 depends on how and when a physician reports that a patient has developed a delirium. It is well  
24 known that documentation of delirium is poor since the majority of delirium remains unrecognised by  
25 the clinical teams [43]. We therefore performed a wider search using other words that might suggest  
26 delirium; however, this method resulted in more FN. Nevertheless, the DEMO is a merely an aid to  
27 detect delirium, not a diagnostic tool in itself. Furthermore, the number of delirium patients may still be  
28 rather low; although for sets 2-3 it is higher than originally planned.  
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31 Another limitation of the present study is that this is a single centre study located in the Netherlands  
32 and may not be generalizable in other settings.  
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37 The DEMO only uses electronically available data. Other important factors that could predict a delirium  
38 (previous delirium, cognitive impairment, severity of disease, visual impairment, etc.) are not included  
39 in this model because they were not electronically available. If this data would also be made  
40 electronically available, the predictive quality of DEMO could be improved [22, 23, 28, 38]. Taking into  
41 account that the registration of such factors is becoming increasingly important and mandatory, it is  
42 only a matter of time until these important factors can be used in the DEMO [2,3]. In addition, DEMO  
43 already uses a clever way of identifying cognitive impairment by including medications used for  
44 dementia.  
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49 DELirum MOdel is a fully automated satisfactory prediction model. The next step is to validate the  
50 DEMO in a cohort where the outcome of delirium would be prospectively assessed in person, and the  
51 DEMO model used for retrospective measurements. In the future DEMO will be applied in clinical  
52 practice so that physicians are alerted when a patient is at increased risk of developing delirium. This  
53 will facilitate earlier recognition and diagnosis and thus prevention measures can be implemented.  
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## COMPETING INTERESTS

All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form at [www.icmje.org/coi\\_disclosure.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf) and declare: all authors had financial support from ABC Company for the submitted work; no financial relationships with any organisations that might have an interest in the submitted work in the previous three years; no other relationships or activities that could appear to have influenced the submitted work

## FUNDING

This work was supported by ZonMw (the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development) grant number [113101001]

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors have made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data; They all have been involved in drafting the manuscript and revising it critically for important intellectual content; They all have given final approval of the version to be published; and they all agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

### Conception or design of the work

C Mestres Gonzalvo

HAJM de Wit

BPC van Oijen

DS Deben

KPGM Hurkens

WJ Mulder

R Janknegt

JMGA Schols

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

### Data collection

C Mestres Gonzalvo

DS Deben

### Data analysis and interpretation

C Mestres Gonzalvo

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

**Drafting the article**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

**Critical revision of the article**

HAJM de Wit

BPC van Oijen

JMGA Schols

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

**Final approval of the version to be published**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

HAJM de Wit

BPC van Oijen

DS Deben

KPGM Hurkens

WJ Mulder

R Janknegt

JMGA Schols

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

**TRANSPARENCY DECLARATION**

C. Mestres Gonzalvo affirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study being reported; no important aspects of the study have been omitted; and any discrepancies from the study as planned (and, if relevant, registered) have been explained.

**DATA SHARING**

All data is anonymized and will be confidentially handled. Only the investigators have access to the data.

All patient data will be kept for as long as the project is being conducted.

**EXCLUSIVE LICENCE**

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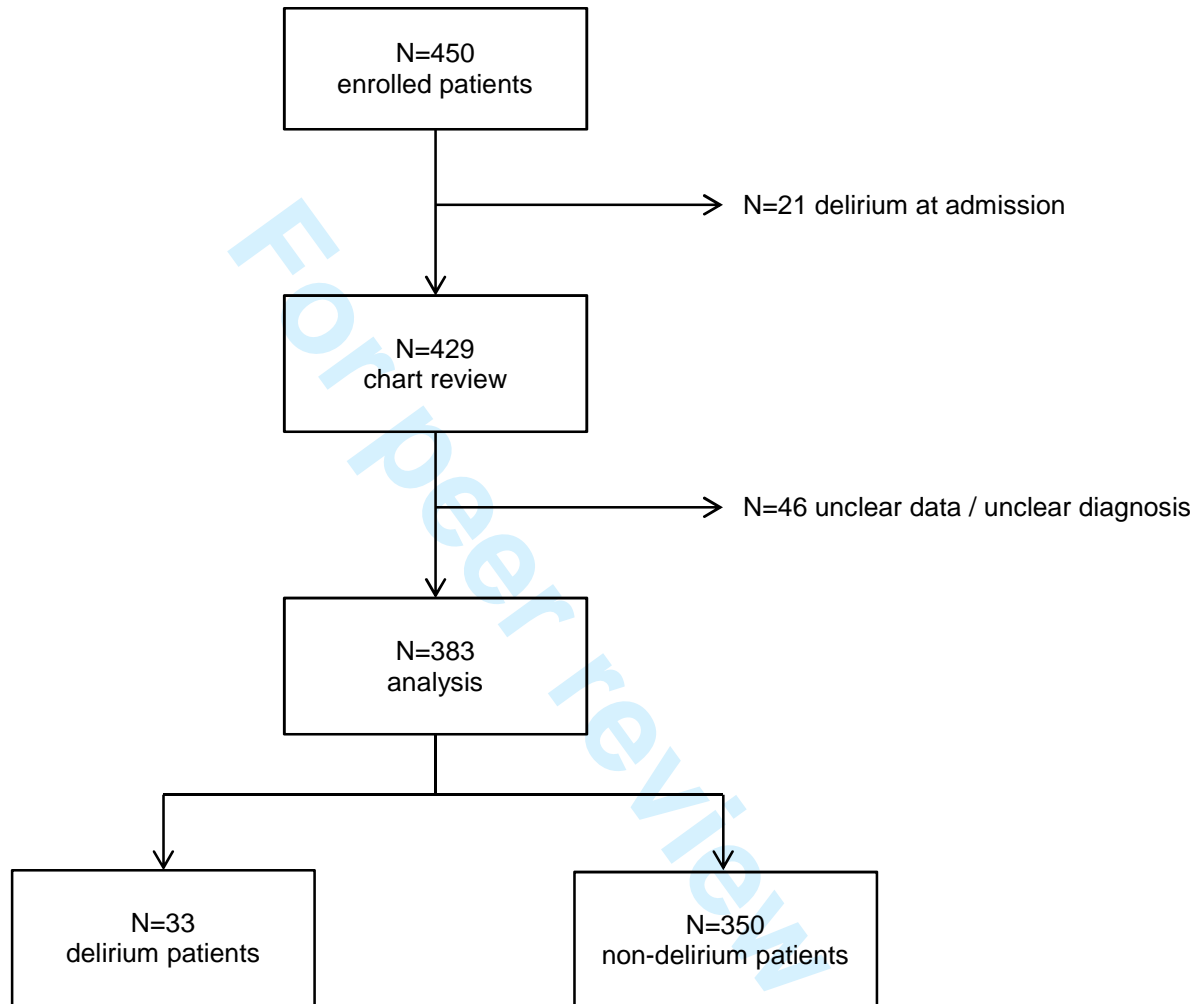
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Figure 1. Flow diagram inclusion



**Table 2. DELirium MOdel and cut-off point**

**DEMO-score =  $1/(1+e^{-(\text{Linear predictor})})$**

DEMO score > 14,1% → Risk at delirium

DEMO score ≤ 14,1% → No risk at delirium

Linear predictor =  $-8,823 + (0,081 \cdot V1) + (0,031 \cdot V2) + (0,248 \cdot V3) + (1,123 \cdot V4) + (0,286 \cdot V5) + (1,963 \cdot V6) + (0,359 \cdot V7) + (1,199 \cdot V8) + (0,413 \cdot V9) + (0,103 \cdot V10)$

V1 = Age (years)

V2 = Polypharmacy ATC-5th

V3 = Anxiolytics (N05B)

V4 = Anti-dementia (N06D)

V5 = Antidepressives (N06A)

V6 = Antiparkinson's (N04)

V7 = Antidiabetic's (A10)

V8 = Psychopharmaca (N05A)

V9 = Analgetics (N02A)

V10 = Sleepmedication (N05C)

**Table 3. Cross-table of the predicted test result of the prediction model (DEMO positive or negative) and diagnosis (delirium positive or negative) per set.**

	SET 1		SET 2		SET 3		SET 4	
	Delirium positive	Delirium negative	Delirium positive	Delirium negative	Delirium positive	Delirium negative	Delirium positive	Delirium negative
DEMO Positive	29	96	40	85	46	79	82	45
DEMO Negative	4	254	4	254	4	254	16	240



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Table 4. Estimates of the prevalence, sensitivity, specificity, and likelihood ratios with corresponding 95% confidence intervals per set.

	SET 1			SET 2			SET 3			SET 4		
	Estimated value	95% confidence interval Lower limit Upper limit		Estimated value	95% confidence interval Lower limit Upper limit		Estimated value	95% confidence interval Lower limit Upper limit		Estimated value	95% confidence interval Lower limit Upper limit	
Prevalence	0.086 (8.6%)	0.061	0.120	0.115 (11.5%)	0.086	0.152	0.131 (13.1%)	0.099	0.169	0.256 (25.6%)	0.213	0.303
ensitivity	0.879 (87.9%)	0.709	0.960	0.909 (90.9%)	0.774	0.971	0.920 (92.0%)	0.799	0.974	0.837 (83.7%)	0.745	0.901
pecificity	0.726 (72.6%)	0.675	0.771	0.749 (74.9%)	0.699	0.794	0.763 (76.3%)	0.713	0.807	0.842 (84.2%)	0.793	0.881
+LR	3.204	2.59	3.962	3.626	2.950	4.457	3.878	3.146	4.780	1.822	1.394	2.382
-LR	0.167	0.067	0.419	0.121	0.048	0.310	0.105	0.041	0.269	0.067	0.041	0.107

review only

## STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

	Item No.	Recommendation	Page No.	Relevant text from manuscript
<b>Title and abstract</b>	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1	
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	2	
<b>Introduction</b>				
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	3	
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	4	
<b>Methods</b>				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	4	
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	4	
Participants	6	(a) <i>Cohort study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up <i>Case-control study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	4	
		(b) <i>Cohort study</i> —For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed <i>Case-control study</i> —For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case	-	
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	4-5	
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	4-5	
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	-	
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	4	

Continued on next page

Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	4-5
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	4-5
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	5
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	-
		(d) <i>Cohort study</i> —If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	-
		<i>Case-control study</i> —If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	-
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Table 2
<b>Results</b>			
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	5-6
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	-
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	-
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Table 3
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	-
		(c) <i>Cohort study</i> —Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	-
Outcome data	15*	<i>Cohort study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Table 1
		<i>Case-control study</i> —Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	
		<i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	Table 2
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	-
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	-

Continued on next page

Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	6
<b>Discussion</b>			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	6
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	6
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	6-7
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	6
<b>Other information</b>			
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	7

\*Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

**Note:** An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at <http://www.plosmedicine.org/>, Annals of Internal Medicine at <http://www.annals.org/>, and Epidemiology at <http://www.epidem.com/>). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at [www.strobe-statement.org](http://www.strobe-statement.org).

# BMJ Open

## Validation of an automated delirium prediction model (DEMO Delirium Model): an observational study

Journal:	<i>BMJ Open</i>
Manuscript ID	bmjopen-2017-016654.R2
Article Type:	Research
Date Submitted by the Author:	05-Jul-2017
Complete List of Authors:	Mestres Gonzalvo, Carlota; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology de Wit, Hugo; Zuyderland Medisch Centrum Heerlen, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology van Oijen, Brigit; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Debben, Debbie; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Hurkens, Kim; Zuyderland Medisch Centrum Heerlen, Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Mulder, Wubbo; Maastricht Universitair Medisch Centrum+, Internal Medicine Janknegt, Rob; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Schols, Jos; Maastricht University, Department of General Practice, School for Public Health and Primary Care (CAPHRI) Verhey, Frans; Maastricht University Faculty of Health Medicine and Life Sciences, Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Alzheimer Centrum Limburg / School for Mental Health and Neurosciences Winkens, Bjorn; Maastricht University, van der Kuy, Hugo; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology
<b>Primary Subject Heading</b>:	Geriatric medicine
Secondary Subject Heading:	Mental health
Keywords:	GERIATRIC MEDICINE, Delirium & cognitive disorders < PSYCHIATRY, PSYCHIATRY

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Manuscripts

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3 **Validation of an automated delirium prediction model (DEMO Delirium Model):**  
4 **an observational study**  
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7 C Mestres Gonzalvo (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1,2</sup>, HAJM de Wit (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, BPC van Oijen  
8 (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, D Deben (hospital pharmacist in training)<sup>1</sup>, KPGM Hurkens (internist  
9 geriatrician)<sup>3</sup>, WJ Mulder (internist geriatrician)<sup>4</sup>, R Janknegt (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, JMGA Schols  
10 (Professor of Old Age Medicine)<sup>5</sup>, FR Verhey (Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry)<sup>6</sup>, B Winkens  
11 (statistician)<sup>7</sup>, PHM van der Kuy (clinical pharmacologist)<sup>1</sup>  
12  
13

14  
15 <sup>1</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Dr. H  
16 van der Hoffplein 1, 6162 BG, Sittard-Geleen, The Netherlands.

17 <sup>2</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Elkerliek Hospital, Wesselmanlaan 25, 5707 HA Helmond, The  
18 Netherlands.  
19

20 <sup>3</sup>Section of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Dr. H  
21 van der Hoffplein 1, 6162 BG, Sittard-Geleen The Netherlands.  
22

23 <sup>4</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Maastricht University Medical Centre, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX  
24 Maastricht, The Netherlands.  
25

26 <sup>5</sup>Department of Family Medicine and Department of Health Services Research, CAPHRI-School for  
27 Public Health and Primary Care, Maastricht University, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX, Maastricht, The  
28 Netherlands.  
29

30 <sup>6</sup>Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Alzheimer Centrum Limburg/School for Mental  
31 Health and Neurosciences, Maastricht University, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX, Maastricht, The  
32 Netherlands.  
33

34 <sup>6</sup>Department of Methodology and Statistics, CAPHRI-School for Public Health and Primary Care,  
35 Maastricht University, P. Debyeplein 1, 6229 HA Maastricht, The Netherlands.  
36  
37  
38  
39

40 **Submitting and corresponding author:**

41 Carlota Mestres Gonzalvo

42 Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology

43 Zuyderland Medical Centre

44 Dr H van der Hoffplein 1

45 6162 BG Sittard-Geleen

46 Phone: +31-88-4597708

47 E-mail: [c.mestresgonzalvo@zuyderland.nl](mailto:c.mestresgonzalvo@zuyderland.nl)  
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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** Delirium is an under-diagnosed, severe, and costly disorder, and 30-40% of cases can be prevented. A fully automated model to predict delirium (DEMO) in older people has been developed, and the objective of this study is to validate the model in a hospital setting.

**Setting:** Secondary care, one hospital with two locations

**Design:** Observational study

**Participants:** The study included 450 randomly selected patients over 60 years of age admitted to Zuyderland Medical Centre. Patients who presented with delirium upon admission were excluded.

**Primary outcome measures:** Development of delirium through chart review.

**Results:** A total of 383 patients were included in this study. The analysis was performed 1, 3 and 5 days after a DEMO score was obtained. Sensitivity was 87.1% (CI: 0.756 to 0.939), 86.3% (CI: 0.763 to 0.926), and 83.7% (0.7945 to 0.901) for 1, 3, and 5 days, respectively, after obtaining the DEMO score. Specificity was 77.9% (0.729 to 0.882), 81.5% (0.766 to 0.856) and 84.2% (0.793 to 0.881) for 1, 3, and 5 days, respectively, after obtaining the DEMO score.

**Conclusion:** DEMO is a satisfactory prediction model but needs further prospective validation with in-person delirium confirmation. In the future, DEMO will be applied in clinical practice so that physicians will be aware of when a patient is at an increased risk of developing delirium, which will facilitate earlier recognition and diagnosis, and thus will allow the implementation of prevention measures.

### Strengths and limitations of this study

- A high risk of delirium can be predicted electronically by using DEMO (DElirium MOdel) with reasonably good sensitivity and specificity.
- DEMO can be applied in clinical practice to facilitate earlier recognition and diagnosis of delirium.
- Important factors that could predict delirium (previous delirium, cognitive impairment, severity of disease, visual impairment, etc.) are not included in this model because these data are not yet electronically available.

## INTRODUCTION

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3 A delirium or acute confused state is a transient attention and cognition disorder that develops over a  
4 short period of time and occurs mainly in hospitalised patients and people aged 60 years and over.  
5 Delirium is an under-diagnosed, severe (increased mortality), costly and often preventable disorder  
6 [1-3]. Its severity and symptoms can vary considerably, but the main features are impaired cognitive  
7 and sensory functions, reduced consciousness, and diminished attention. In addition, it is often  
8 accompanied by problems with psychomotor activity, the circadian rhythm, and emotions.  
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12 The prevalence and incidence of delirium in the general population differ widely depending on the  
13 setting. The overall prevalence in the community is estimated to be 1-2%. In a hospital setting, this  
14 prevalence increases to 10-31% at the time of hospital admission and 3-29% during hospitalisation.  
15 The incidence increases up to 87% when more specialised populations, such as the elderly and  
16 people in postoperative, intensive care and/or palliative care, are considered [4-11]. In 30-40% of  
17 cases, delirium is preventable, which, along with its associated high costs (ranging from US\$164  
18 billion to US\$182 billion per year), makes it a perfect target for interventions by healthcare  
19 professionals [1, 4, 12-15]. As a result, a great number of screening tools have been developed and  
20 are widely used to detect the early onset of delirium, which can in turn allow treatment measures to be  
21 introduced in a timely manner [16-21]. These tools help healthcare professionals to establish and  
22 quantify symptoms associated with delirium [19-23]. Once the diagnosis has been established, the  
23 underlying medical condition can be targeted, and delirium can be managed appropriately.  
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31 There is no effective treatment for delirium [24, 25]. Preventing delirium is by far a more effective  
32 strategy to improve patient outcomes [1, 4, 26-29]. Risk models have been used to identify patients at  
33 higher risk for delirium development because these patients would most likely benefit from delirium  
34 prevention. These models are based on manual evaluation of individual risk factors and may be  
35 difficult to implement, so automated models are preferable and more feasible [30-34].  
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#### 40 **Screening instrument**

41 A fully automated model to predict delirium in older people (over 60 years) was developed at  
42 Zuyderland Medical Centre. This DElirium MOdel (DEMO) uses only electronically available data to  
43 predict the occurrence of delirium. The predictive variables include age; polypharmacy; and the use of  
44 anti-dementia drugs, antidepressants, anti-Parkinson's agents, anti-diabetic drugs, analgesia and/or  
45 sleeping tablets (see Table 1 (supplementary tables)). This model can be applied hospital-wide and  
46 has an area under receiver operating characteristic (AUROC: measure for model prediction quality)  
47 value of 0.770 (95% CI 0.736-0.804) with a sensitivity of 78.2% and a specificity of 63.7%, when 14.1%  
48 is used as a cut-off value for the predicted probability of developing delirium. DEMO was developed  
49 retrospectively but has not yet been validated [4].  
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55 Therefore, the objective of this study is to validate DEMO in a hospital setting. To do so, the system's  
56 accuracy (main study parameter), i.e., sensitivity (proportion of delirium patients who test positive)  
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3 and specificity (proportion of non-delirium patients who test negative), will be calculated. In addition to  
4 these parameters, the positive and negative likelihood ratios with their 95% CI will be computed.  
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## 8 9 **METHOD**

10 This is an observational study of the ability of DEMO to predict delirium in an elderly hospital  
11 population. It was conducted in Zuyderland Medical Centre (locations Sittard and Heerlen) in the  
12 period from January 2016 to October 2016. The medical ethics committee METC Z (Medisch Ethische  
13 Toetsings Commissie van Zuyderland en Zuyd Hogeschool, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Heerlen)  
14 approved this study.  
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18 Patients over 60 years who were admitted to Zuyderland were eligible for enrolment. Patients who,  
19 based on chart review, presented with delirium upon admission were excluded.  
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22 At admission, patients are routinely screened for delirium, both in the emergency department and in  
23 the ward. The first screening is performed by a validated checklist (IGZ Inspectie voor de  
24 Gezondheidszorg = Dutch Healthcare Inspectorate, and VMS Veiligheidsmanagementsysteem =  
25 Safety Management System) [35]. The results from this checklist give an indication for the risk of  
26 developing delirium. When the risk is high, the DOSS method [20] is used to evaluate whether a  
27 patient has delirium.  
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32 In the study wherein the DEMO was developed, an incidence rate of 17.4% was used [4]. Given the  
33 assumption of the same sensitivity of 0.75 (75%), we calculated that 33 delirium patients were needed  
34 based upon the requirement that the lower limit of 95% CI would be 60%. With regard to the  
35 specificity, the number of non-delirium patients would be much larger than the number of delirium  
36 patients, and hence, the width of the 95% confidence interval (CI) for specificity would be smaller than  
37 0.30.  
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40 It was calculated that at least 332 patients would be needed to identify 33 delirium patients. Taking  
41 into account the exclusion criteria and the possibility of a smaller percentage of patients who would  
42 develop delirium, a sufficient number of patients were screened to obtain 33 delirium patients (i.e.,  
43 450 patients).  
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47 DEMO involves a daily analysis of all hospitalised patients  $\geq 60$  years of age at the different wards  
48 and predicts whether a patient is at risk of developing delirium in a 24-hour post-analysis period. The  
49 EPR (Electronic Patient Record) was accessed at a later date to check for delirium diagnosis. In this  
50 study, DEMO was calculated prospectively, but the outcome was ascertained by chart review  
51 retrospectively.  
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3 For validation purposes, the 450 DEMO patients were randomly selected (using  
4 <https://www.randomlists.com/team-generator>). An extraction from the EPR of these patients was  
5 made between 31-12-2015 and 31-10-2016.  
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9 A search in the EPR was performed according to patient and date by using the following search  
10 terms: "delirium", "delirious", "agitation", "agitated", "confused", "confusion", "restlessness",  
11 "disturbed", "disorientation", "disoriented", "apathy", "hallucination", "mistrust", "haloperidol", and  
12 "delirium prevention measures". These search terms were discussed with an internist geriatrician, a  
13 professor of geriatric medicine and a professor of geriatric psychiatry.  
14

15 The search was performed by first identifying where the different words appeared in the EPR, and  
16 then, the whole EPR during the admission period was read and interpreted by two authors (KH  
17 (internist geriatrician) and CMG (hospital pharmacist)) to ensure that it was truly a delirium diagnosis.  
18 If the results of the diagnostic test (TP / TN / FP / FN) could not be established for a patient as a result  
19 of unclear data, this patient was excluded from the analysis (e.g., differential diagnosis delirium,  
20 potential delirium, patient seems confused). The date of delirium onset was determined by chart  
21 review.  
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26 Afterwards, this search was compared with the risk score from DEMO to evaluate whether the  
27 prediction was good (risk  $\geq 14.1\%$  [4]), which means that the diagnosis (search terms) was used as a  
28 reference to test DEMO's screening characteristics. In this way, the predictions were classified as  
29 True Positive (TP), True Negative (TN), False Positive (FP), and False Negative (FN).  
30

31 The search was performed in the patients' charts in which different healthcare professionals such as  
32 physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, and speech therapists note their findings about a patient.  
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36 This evaluation was performed 1, 3 and 5 days after the DEMO analysis to evaluate the predictive  
37 value of DEMO as it had been developed (delirium within 24 hours) and to investigate whether its  
38 predictive value could be extended.  
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43 During the study, physicians were blinded to DEMO scores in order to avoid bias. The sensitivity,  
44 specificity and likelihood ratios with corresponding 95% confidence intervals were calculated with the  
45 use of an online calculator (<http://vassarstats.net/clin1.html>).  
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49 The differences in age and gender between delirium and non-delirium groups were tested by using  
50 the independent-samples t-test and chi-square test, respectively. IBM SPSS statistics for Windows  
51 (version 23.0) was used to perform these tests. A two-sided p-value smaller than or equal to 0.05 was  
52 considered statistically significant.  
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## RESULTS

The study lasted eight months, and a total of 383 patients were included (Figure 1 - supplementary figure). The results of the diagnostic test (TP/FP/FN/TN) for 1, 3 and 5 days after DEMO analysis are shown in Table 2 (supplementary tables). The analysis, including prevalence estimates, sensitivity, specificity, and likelihood ratios, is presented in Table 3 (supplementary tables).

Sensitivity decreases over time and is the lowest (83.7%) on day 5 after DEMO analyses, and specificity increases over time and is the highest (84.2%) on day 5 after DEMO analysis.

The baseline characteristics (age and gender) are shown in Table 4 (supplementary tables).

**Table 4. Baseline characteristics**

	Delirium during admission			No-delirium during admission			Total N=383
	Day 1 N=62	Day 3 N=80	Day 5 N=98	Day 1 N=321	Day 3 N=303	Day 5 N=385	
Mean age (SD)	83.9 (7.8)*	83.7 (7.9)*	83.0 (8.5)*	73.9 (9.1)*	73.3 (8.8)*	72.9 (8.5)*	75.5 (9.6)*
Man	31 (50,0%)	38 (47,5%)	48 (49.0%)	163 (50.1%)	162 (53.5%)	165 (57.9%)	194 (50.7%)

\* Statistically significant

A statistically significant difference in mean age was found between delirium and non-delirium patients for day 1, day 3 and day 5 after DEMO analysis (Day 1: equal variances assumed,  $p < 0.001$ , mean difference=10.0, 95%CI 7.6 to 12.5, Day 3: equal variances assumed,  $p < 0.001$ , mean difference=10.4, 95%CI 8.3 to 12.6, Day 5: equal variances assumed,  $p < 0.001$ , mean difference=10.1, 95%CI 12.1 to 8.2). There was no significant difference in the percentage of delirium between men and women for day 1, day 3 nor day 5 after DEMO analysis ( $p = 0.911$ ,  $p = 0.597$ ,  $p = 0.701$  resp.).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In the current study, a previously developed model for predicting delirium has been validated. DEMO was calculated prospectively, and the outcome was ascertained by chart review retrospectively. Based on the current data and the high sensitivity and specificity, it can be concluded that DEMO is a satisfactory prediction model.

Another strength of DEMO is that it predicts delirium on a daily basis. This is a novel concept, as most delirium prediction rules apply at admission but not daily. Even though it is not clear whether there is a definite advantage to predicting delirium on a daily basis, as this could lead to information overload, it could eventually be something that is tracked along with vital signs and intake/output.

We found sensitivity and specificity rates that were higher than reported in the study of de Wit et al., which may be because his study only checked the patients' medical history for delirium and not the

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3 entire EPR. Moreover, de Wit et al. had performed the search merely on the diagnosis of delirium. In  
4 the current study, the full EPR during the admission period was taken into account, and a wider set of  
5 terms was considered for delirium diagnosis. Furthermore, in the current study, in those cases in  
6 which delirium was not clear, these patients were excluded, whereas such patients had been included  
7 in the development of the delirium model [4].  
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10  
11 The present study does present some limitations. First, the validation of the DELirium MOdel depends  
12 on how and when a healthcare professional reports that a patient has developed delirium. It is well  
13 known that documentation of delirium is poor since the majority of delirium remains unrecognised by  
14 clinical teams [36]. We therefore performed a wider search considering other words that might  
15 suggest delirium as delirium diagnosis and read through the whole EPR during the admission period.  
16 The number of delirium patients is noticeably higher than originally found, which can be explained by  
17 the search we performed. The DEMO is merely an aid to detect delirium, not a diagnostic tool by  
18 itself.  
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21 In addition, as mentioned in the study by Inouye et al. [37], using a chart review method has some  
22 limitations. As mentioned in their study, the fact that validated checklists are used to screen for  
23 delirium and that the chart is a complete document in which different healthcare professionals note  
24 their findings makes the outcome more reliable and strengthens the validity of the present study.  
25 Nevertheless, it is possible that patients with delirium at admission may have been included in the  
26 non-delirious cohort due to poor documentation in the chart.  
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29 Another limitation of the present study is that this is a single-centre study (two hospital locations)  
30 located in the Netherlands and may not be generalisable in other settings.  
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34 The DEMO uses only electronically available data. Other important factors that could predict a  
35 delirium (previous delirium, cognitive impairment, severity of disease, visual impairment, etc.) are not  
36 included in this model because they were not electronically available. If these data were also made  
37 electronically available, the predictive quality of DEMO could be improved [22, 23, 27, 30]. Taking into  
38 account that the registration of such factors is becoming increasingly important and mandatory, it is  
39 only a matter of time until these important factors can be used in the DEMO [2, 3]. In addition, DEMO  
40 already uses an alternative way of identifying cognitive impairment by including medications used for  
41 dementia.  
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45 The DELirium MOdel is a fully automated satisfactory prediction model that predicts delirium up to 5  
46 days after analysis. The next step is to validate the DEMO in a cohort in which the outcome of  
47 delirium would be prospectively assessed in person and to use DEMO for retrospective  
48 measurements. In the future, DEMO will be applied to clinical practice so that physicians are alerted  
49 when a patient is at increased risk of developing delirium. This will facilitate earlier recognition and  
50 diagnosis and, thus, the implementation of prevention measures.  
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## COMPETING INTERESTS

All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form at [www.icmje.org/coi\\_disclosure.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf) and declare: all authors had financial support from ABC Company for the submitted work; no financial relationships with any organisations that might have an interest in the submitted work in the previous three years; no other relationships or activities that could appear to have influenced the submitted work

## FUNDING

This work was supported by ZonMw (the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development) grant number [113101001]

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors have made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data; They all have been involved in drafting the manuscript and revising it critically for important intellectual content; They all have given final approval of the version to be published; and they all agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

### Conception or design of the work

C Mestres Gonzalvo  
HAJM de Wit  
BPC van Oijen  
DS Deben  
KPGM Hurkens  
WJ Mulder  
R Janknegt  
JMGA Schols  
FR Verhey  
B Winkens  
PHM van der Kuy

### Data collection

C Mestres Gonzalvo  
DS Deben  
KPGM Hurkens

**Data analysis and interpretation**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

KPGM Hurkens

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

**Drafting the article**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

**Critical revision of the article**

HAJM de Wit

BPC van Oijen

JMGA Schols

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

**Final approval of the version to be published**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

HAJM de Wit

BPC van Oijen

DS Deben

KPGM Hurkens

WJ Mulder

R Janknegt

JMGA Schols

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

**TRANSPARENCY DECLARATION**

C. Mestres Gonzalvo affirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study being reported; no important aspects of the study have been omitted; and any discrepancies from the study as planned (and, if relevant, registered) have been explained.

**DATA SHARING**

All data is anonymized and will be confidentially handled. Only the investigators have access to the data.

All patient data will be kept for as long as the project is being conducted.

## EXCLUSIVE LICENCE

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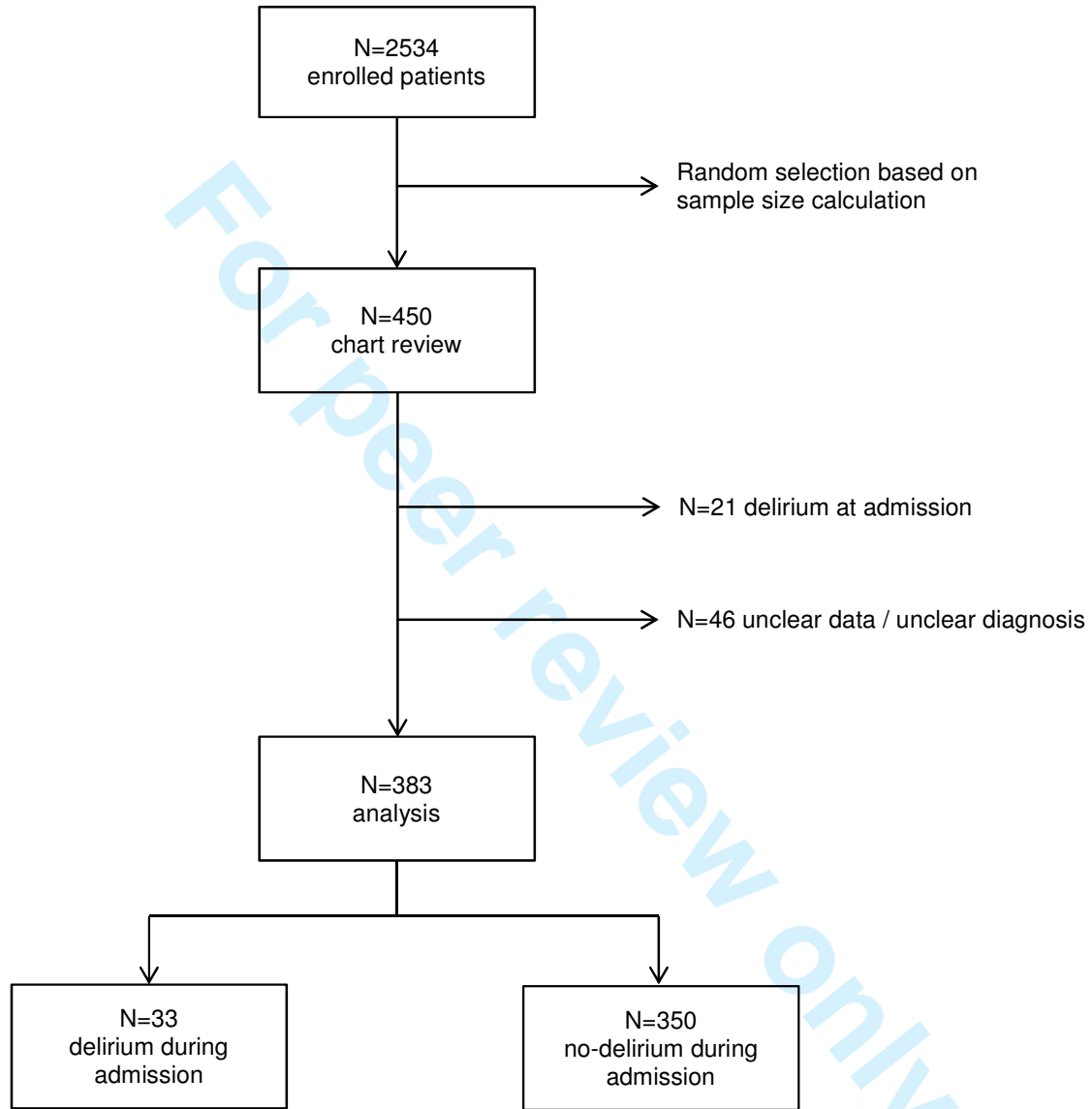
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Figure 1. Flow diagram inclusion



**Table 1. DELirium MOdel and cut-off point**

**DEMO-score =  $1/(1+e^{-(\text{Linear predictor})})$**

DEMO score > 14,1% → Risk at delirium

DEMO score ≤ 14,1% → No risk at delirium

Linear predictor =  $-8,823 + (0,081 \cdot V1) + (0,031 \cdot V2) + (0,248 \cdot V3) + (1,123 \cdot V4) + (0,286 \cdot V5) + (1,963 \cdot V6) + (0,359 \cdot V7) + (1,199 \cdot V8) + (0,413 \cdot V9) + (0,103 \cdot V10)$

V1 = Age (years)

V2 = Polypharmacy (number of drugs)

V3 = Anxiolytics (ATC N05B)

V4 = Anti-dementia (ATC N06D)

V5 = Antidepressives (ATC N06A)

V6 = Antiparkinson's ATC (N04)

V7 = Antidiabetic's (ATC A10)

V8 = Psychopharmaca (ATC N05A)

V9 = Analgetics (ATC N02A)

V10 = Sleepmedication (ATC N05C)

\* (ATC) Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical classification system ([https://www.whocc.no/atc\\_ddd\\_index/](https://www.whocc.no/atc_ddd_index/))

**Table 2. Cross-table of the predicted test result of the prediction model (DEMO positive or negative) and diagnosis (delirium during admission or no-delirium during admission) 1, 3 and 5 days after DEMO analysis.**

	Day 1		Day 3		Day 5	
	Delirium during admission	No-delirium during admission	Delirium during admission	No-delirium during admission	Delirium during admission	No-delirium during admission
DEMO Positive	54	71	69	56	82	45
DEMO Negative	8	250	11	247	16	240

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**Table 3. Estimates of the prevalence, sensitivity, specificity, and likelihood ratios with corresponding 95% confidence intervals 1, 3 and 5 days after DEMO analysis.**

	Day 1			Day 3			Day 5		
	Estimated value	95% confidence interval Lower limit    Upper limit		Estimated value	95% confidence interval Lower limit    Upper limit		Estimated value	95% confidence interval Lower limit    Upper limit	
Prevalence	0.162 (16.2%)	0.127	0.204	0.209 (20.9%)	0.170	0.254	0.256 (25.6%)	0.213	0.303
Sensitivity	0.871 (87.1%)	0.756	0.939	0.863 (86.3%)	0.763	0.926	0.837 (83.7%)	0.745	0.901
Specificity	0.779 (77.9%)	0.729	0.822	0.815 (81.5%)	0.766	0.856	0.842 (84.2%)	0.793	0.881
+LR	3.934	3.140	4.939	4.667	3.627	6.005	5.299	3.997	7.026
-LR	0.166	0.087	0.317	0.169	0.097	0.292	0.194	0.124	0.304

## STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

	Item No.	Recommendation	Page No.	Relevant text from manuscript
<b>Title and abstract</b>	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1	
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	2	
<b>Introduction</b>				
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	3	
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	4	
<b>Methods</b>				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	4	
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	4	
Participants	6	(a) <i>Cohort study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up <i>Case-control study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	4	
		(b) <i>Cohort study</i> —For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed <i>Case-control study</i> —For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case	-	
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	4-5	
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	4-5	
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	-	
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	4	

Continued on next page

Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	4-5
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	4-5
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	5
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	-
		(d) <i>Cohort study</i> —If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	-
		<i>Case-control study</i> —If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	-
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Table 2
<b>Results</b>			
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	5-6
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	-
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	-
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Table 3
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	-
		(c) <i>Cohort study</i> —Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	-
Outcome data	15*	<i>Cohort study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Table 1
		<i>Case-control study</i> —Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	
		<i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	Table 2
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	-
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	-

Continued on next page

Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	6
<b>Discussion</b>			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	6
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	6
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	6-7
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	6
<b>Other information</b>			
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	7

\*Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

**Note:** An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at <http://www.plosmedicine.org/>, Annals of Internal Medicine at <http://www.annals.org/>, and Epidemiology at <http://www.epidem.com/>). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at [www.strobe-statement.org](http://www.strobe-statement.org).

# BMJ Open

## Validation of an automated delirium prediction model (DEMO Delirium Model): an observational study

Journal:	<i>BMJ Open</i>
Manuscript ID	bmjopen-2017-016654.R3
Article Type:	Research
Date Submitted by the Author:	25-Aug-2017
Complete List of Authors:	Mestres Gonzalvo, Carlota; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology; Elkerliek Ziekenhuis, Clinical Pharmacy de Wit, Hugo; Zuyderland Medisch Centrum Heerlen, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology; Canisius Wilhelmina Ziekenhuis, Clinical Pharmacy van Oijen, Brigit; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Debben, Debbie; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Hurkens, Kim; Zuyderland Medisch Centrum Heerlen, Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Mulder, Wubbo; Maastricht Universitair Medisch Centrum+, Internal Medicine Janknegt, Rob; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Schols, Jos; Maastricht University, Department of General Practice, School for Public Health and Primary Care (CAPHRI) Verhey, Frans; Maastricht University Faculty of Health Medicine and Life Sciences, Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Alzheimer Centrum Limburg / School for Mental Health and Neurosciences Winkens, Bjorn; Maastricht University, van der Kuy, Hugo; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology; Erasmus MC, Hospital Pharmacy
<b>Primary Subject Heading</b>:	Geriatric medicine
Secondary Subject Heading:	Mental health
Keywords:	GERIATRIC MEDICINE, Delirium & cognitive disorders < PSYCHIATRY, PSYCHIATRY

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3 **Validation of an automated delirium prediction model (DEMO Delirium Model):**  
4 **an observational study**  
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7 C Mestres Gonzalvo (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1,2</sup>, HAJM de Wit (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, BPC van Oijen  
8 (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, D Deben (hospital pharmacist in training)<sup>1</sup>, KPGM Hurkens (internist  
9 geriatrician)<sup>3</sup>, WJ Mulder (internist geriatrician)<sup>4</sup>, R Janknegt (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, JMGA Schols  
10 (Professor of Old Age Medicine)<sup>5</sup>, FR Verhey (Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry)<sup>6</sup>, B Winkens  
11 (statistician)<sup>7</sup>, PHM van der Kuy (clinical pharmacologist)<sup>1,8</sup>  
12  
13

14  
15 <sup>1</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Dr. H  
16 van der Hoffplein 1, 6162 BG, Sittard-Geleen, The Netherlands.

17  
18 <sup>2</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Elkerliek Hospital, Wesselmanlaan 25, 5707 HA Helmond, The  
19 Netherlands.

20  
21 <sup>3</sup>Section of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Dr. H  
22 van der Hoffplein 1, 6162 BG, Sittard-Geleen The Netherlands.

23  
24 <sup>4</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Maastricht University Medical Centre, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX  
25 Maastricht, The Netherlands.

26  
27 <sup>5</sup>Department of Family Medicine and Department of Health Services Research, CAPHRI-School for  
28 Public Health and Primary Care, Maastricht University, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX, Maastricht, The  
29 Netherlands.

30  
31 <sup>6</sup>Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Alzheimer Centrum Limburg/School for Mental  
32 Health and Neurosciences, Maastricht University, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX, Maastricht, The  
33 Netherlands.

34  
35 <sup>7</sup>Department of Methodology and Statistics, CAPHRI-School for Public Health and Primary Care,  
36 Maastricht University, P. Debyelein 1, 6229 HA Maastricht, The Netherlands.

37  
38 <sup>8</sup>Department of Hospital Pharmacy, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
39  
40  
41

42 **Submitting and corresponding author:**

43 Carlota Mestres Gonzalvo

44 Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology

45 Zuyderland Medical Centre

46 Dr H van der Hoffplein 1

47 6162 BG Sittard-Geleen

48 Phone: +31-88-4597708

49 E-mail: [c.mestresgonzalvo@zuyderland.nl](mailto:c.mestresgonzalvo@zuyderland.nl)  
50  
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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** Delirium is an under-diagnosed, severe, and costly disorder, and 30-40% of cases can be prevented. A fully automated model to predict delirium (DEMO) in older people has been developed, and the objective of this study is to validate the model in a hospital setting.

**Setting:** Secondary care, one hospital with two locations

**Design:** Observational study

**Participants:** The study included 450 randomly selected patients over 60 years of age admitted to Zuyderland Medical Centre. Patients who presented with delirium upon admission were excluded.

**Primary outcome measures:** Development of delirium through chart review.

**Results:** A total of 383 patients were included in this study. The analysis was performed for delirium within 1, 3 and 5 days after a DEMO score was obtained. Sensitivity was 87.1% (CI: 0.756 to 0.939), 84.2% (CI: 0.732 to 0.915), and 82.7% (0.734 to 0.893) for 1, 3, and 5 days, respectively, after obtaining the DEMO score. Specificity was 77.9% (0.729 to 0.882), 81.5% (0.766 to 0.856) and 84.5% (0.797 to 0.884) for 1, 3, and 5 days, respectively, after obtaining the DEMO score.

**Conclusion:** DEMO is a satisfactory prediction model but needs further prospective validation with in-person delirium confirmation. In the future, DEMO will be applied in clinical practice so that physicians will be aware of when a patient is at an increased risk of developing delirium, which will facilitate earlier recognition and diagnosis, and thus will allow the implementation of prevention measures.

## Strengths and limitations of this study

- A high risk of delirium can be predicted electronically by using DEMO (DElirium MOdel) with reasonably good sensitivity and specificity.
- DEMO can be applied in clinical practice to facilitate earlier recognition and diagnosis of delirium.
- Important factors that could predict delirium (previous delirium, cognitive impairment, severity of disease, visual impairment, etc.) are not included in this model because these data are not yet electronically available.

## INTRODUCTION

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3 A delirium or acute confused state is a transient attention and cognition disorder that develops over a  
4 short period of time and occurs mainly in hospitalised patients and people aged 60 years and over.  
5 Delirium is an under-diagnosed, severe (increased mortality), costly and often preventable disorder  
6 [1-3]. Its severity and symptoms can vary considerably, but the main features are impaired cognitive  
7 and sensory functions, reduced consciousness, and diminished attention. In addition, it is often  
8 accompanied by problems with psychomotor activity, the circadian rhythm, and emotions.  
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12 The prevalence and incidence of delirium in the general population differ widely depending on the  
13 setting. The overall prevalence in the community is estimated to be 1-2%. In a hospital setting, this  
14 prevalence increases to 10-31% at the time of hospital admission and 3-29% during hospitalisation.  
15 The incidence increases up to 87% when more specialised populations, such as the elderly and  
16 people in postoperative, intensive care and/or palliative care, are considered [4-11]. In 30-40% of  
17 cases, delirium is preventable, which, along with its associated high costs (ranging from US\$164  
18 billion to US\$182 billion per year), makes it a perfect target for interventions by healthcare  
19 professionals [1, 4, 12-15]. As a result, a great number of screening tools have been developed and  
20 are widely used to detect the early onset of delirium, which can in turn allow treatment measures to be  
21 introduced in a timely manner [16-21]. These tools help healthcare professionals to establish and  
22 quantify symptoms associated with delirium [19-23]. Once the diagnosis has been established, the  
23 underlying medical condition can be targeted, and delirium can be managed appropriately.  
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31 There is no effective treatment for delirium [24, 25]. Preventing delirium is by far a more effective  
32 strategy to improve patient outcomes [1, 4, 26-29]. Risk models have been used to identify patients at  
33 higher risk for delirium development because these patients would most likely benefit from delirium  
34 prevention. These models are based on manual evaluation of individual risk factors and may be  
35 difficult to implement, so automated models are preferable and more feasible [30-34].  
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### 39 **Screening instrument**

40 A fully automated model to predict delirium in older people (over 60 years) was developed at  
41 Zuyderland Medical Centre. This DELirium MOdel (DEMO) uses only electronically available data to  
42 predict the occurrence of delirium. The predictive variables include age; polypharmacy; and the use of  
43 anti-dementia drugs, antidepressants, anti-Parkinson's agents, anti-diabetic drugs, analgesia and/or  
44 sleeping tablets (see Table 1). This model can be applied hospital-wide and has an area under  
45 receiver operating characteristic (AUROC: measure for model prediction quality) value of 0.770 (95%  
46 CI 0.736-0.804) with a sensitivity of 78.2% and a specificity of 63.7%, when 14.1% is used as a cut-off  
47 value for the predicted probability of developing delirium. DEMO was developed retrospectively but  
48 has not yet been validated [4].  
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54 Therefore, the objective of this study is to validate DEMO in a hospital setting. To do so, the system's  
55 accuracy (main study parameter), i.e., sensitivity (proportion of delirium patients who test positive)  
56 and specificity (proportion of non-delirium patients who test negative), will be calculated. In addition to  
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3 these parameters, the positive predictive value (PPV), negative predictive value (NPV), positive and  
4 negative likelihood ratios (LR+, LR-) with their 95% CI will be computed.  
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## 7 8 **METHODS**

9 This is an observational study of the ability of DEMO to predict delirium in an elderly hospital  
10 population. It was conducted in Zuyderland Medical Centre (locations Sittard and Heerlen) in the  
11 period from January 2016 to October 2016. The medical ethics committee METC Z (Medisch Ethische  
12 Toetsings Commissie van Zuyderland en Zuyd Hogeschool, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Heerlen)  
13 approved this study.  
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17 DEMO involves a daily analysis of all hospitalised patients  $\geq 60$  years of age at the different wards  
18 and predicts whether a patient is at risk of developing delirium in a 24-hour post-analysis period. The  
19 EPR (Electronic Patient Record) was accessed at a later date to check for delirium diagnosis. In this  
20 study, DEMO was calculated prospectively, but the outcome was ascertained by chart review  
21 retrospectively.  
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25 Although delirium diagnosis was determined by chart review, delirium documentation in our hospital is  
26 robust. At admission, patients are routinely screened for delirium, both in the emergency department  
27 and in the ward. The first screening is performed by a checklist (IGZ Inspectie voor de  
28 Gezondheidszorg = Dutch Healthcare Inspectorate, VMS Veiligheidsmanagementsysteem = Safety  
29 Management System, and Dutch guideline for delirium) [35, 36]. This checklist consists of 3  
30 questions: does the patient need help with self-care?, has the patients previously suffered a delirium?,  
31 does the patients suffer from memory disorders? When one of the questions is positively answered,  
32 the patient is at risk of developing delirium; in this case the DOSS (Delirium Observation Screening  
33 Scale) method [20] is used to evaluate whether a patient has delirium. The DOSS method is a  
34 validated method used by nurses to screen for delirium. Its sensitivity ranges from 89-100% and its  
35 specificity ranges from 88 to 96.6% [20, 37, 38]  
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38 Patients over 60 years who were admitted to Zuyderland were eligible for enrolment. From all patients  
39 admitted between 31-12-2015 and 31-10-2016, 450 patients were randomly selected (using  
40 <https://www.randomlists.com/team-generator>) and their charts extracted for review. Patients who,  
41 based on chart review, presented with delirium upon admission were then excluded (Figure 1).  
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48 A search in the EPR was performed according to patient and date by using the following search  
49 terms: "delirium", "delirious", "agitation", "agitated", "confused", "confusion", "restlessness",  
50 "disturbed", "disorientation", "disoriented", "apathy", "hallucination", "mistrust", "haloperidol", and  
51 "delirium prevention measures". These search terms were discussed with an internist geriatrician, a  
52 professor of geriatric medicine and a professor of geriatric psychiatry.  
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55 The search was performed by first identifying where the different words appeared in the EPR, and  
56 then, if any of these words appeared, the whole EPR during the admission period was read and  
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3 interpreted by two authors (KH (internist geriatrician) and CMG (hospital pharmacist)) to determine  
4 whether it was truly a delirium diagnosis. All notes were reviewed, including notes by  
5 physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, and speech therapists. During the study, treating healthcare  
6 professionals (physicians, nurses etc.) were blinded to DEMO scores in order to avoid bias. If a  
7 diagnosis of delirium could not be established for a patient as a result of insufficient information in the  
8 chart, this patient was excluded from the analysis. The date of delirium onset was determined by chart  
9 review.  
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14 Delirium diagnosis based on chart review was then compared with the risk score from DEMO. The  
15 DEMO was dichotomized into two groups: high risk  $\geq 14.1\%$  [4], and low risk  $<14.1\%$  for this analysis.  
16 A two-by-two table was then constructed to calculate True Positive (TP), True Negative (TN), False  
17 Positive (FP), and False Negative (FN) rates.  
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21 The predictive value of DEMO was determined for delirium developing within 1, 3, and 5 days after  
22 the DEMO score was  
23 calculated. It had been developed to predict delirium within the next 24 hours, but here we wished to  
24 also investigate whether its predictive value could be extended to three or five days.  
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28 In the study wherein the DEMO was developed, an incidence rate of 17.4% was used [4]. Given the  
29 assumption of the same sensitivity of 0.75 (75%), we calculated that 33 delirium patients were needed  
30 based upon the requirement that the lower limit of 95% CI would be at least 60% (width of 95%CI  $\leq$   
31 0.30 (30%)). With regard to the specificity, the number of non-delirium patients would be much larger  
32 than the number of delirium patients, and hence, the width of the 95% confidence interval (CI) for  
33 specificity would be smaller than 0.30.  
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38 It was assumed that at least 332 patients would be needed to identify 33 delirium patients. Taking  
39 into account the exclusion criteria and the possibility of a smaller percentage of patients who would  
40 develop delirium, a sufficient number of patients were screened to obtain 33 delirium patients (i.e.,  
41 450 patients).  
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44 The sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV, LR+, LR- with corresponding 95% confidence intervals were  
45 calculated with the use of an online calculator (<http://vassarstats.net/clin1.html>).  
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49 The differences in PPV and NPV over time were tested using McNemar's test. The differences in age  
50 and gender between delirium and non-delirium groups were tested by using the independent-samples  
51 t-test and chi-square test, respectively. IBM SPSS statistics for Windows (version 23.0) was used to  
52 perform these tests. A two-sided p-value smaller than or equal to 0.05 was considered statistically  
53 significant.  
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## RESULTS

The study lasted eight months, and a total of 383 patients were included (Figure 1 - supplementary figure). The results of the diagnostic test (TP/FP/FN/TN) for 1, 3 and 5 days after DEMO analysis are shown in Table 2. The analysis, including prevalence estimates, sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV, and likelihood ratios, is presented in Table 3. Although sensitivity decreased and specificity increased if the period increased from 1 day to 3 or 5 days after DEMO score was obtained, all values were rather high (sensitivity  $\geq 0.827$ , specificity  $\geq 0.779$ ). PPV was statistically different  $p < 0.001$  for all three comparisons (1 vs 3 days, 1 vs 5 days, 3 vs 5 days), NPV was not statistically different  $p = 0.25$ ,  $0.004$ ,  $0.031$  for 1 vs 3 days, 1 vs 5 days and 3 vs 5 days, respectively.

Patients who developed delirium within 5 days were significantly older (mean age 83.9 (sd 7.8)) compared to those who did not develop a delirium within 5 days (mean age 73.9 (sd 9.1);  $p < 0.001$ ). There was no significant difference in the percentage of males within the delirium and non-delirium groups (50.0% versus 50.1%,  $p=0.911$ ).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In the current study, a previously developed model for predicting delirium has been validated. DEMO was calculated prospectively, and the outcome was ascertained by chart review retrospectively. Based on the current data and the high sensitivity and specificity, it can be concluded that DEMO is a satisfactory prediction model.

Another strength of DEMO is that it predicts delirium on a daily basis. This is a novel concept, as most delirium prediction rules apply at admission but not daily. Even though it is not clear whether there is a definite advantage to predicting delirium on a daily basis, as this could lead to information overload, it could eventually be something that is tracked along with vital signs and intake/output.

We found sensitivity and specificity rates that were higher than reported in the study of de Wit et al., which may be because his study only checked the patients' medical history for delirium and not the entire EPR. Moreover, de Wit et al. had performed the search merely on the diagnosis of delirium. In the current study, the full EPR during the admission period was taken into account, and a wider set of terms was considered for delirium diagnosis. Furthermore, in the current study, in those cases in which delirium was not clear, these patients were excluded, whereas such patients had been included in the development of the delirium model [4].

The present study does present some limitations. First, the validation of the DELirium MOdel depends on how and when a healthcare professional reports that a patient has developed delirium. It is well known that documentation of delirium is poor since the majority of delirium remains unrecognised by clinical teams [39]. We therefore performed a wider search considering other words that might suggest delirium as delirium diagnosis and read through the whole EPR during the admission period. The number of delirium patients is noticeably higher than originally found, which can be explained by

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3 the search we performed. The DEMO is merely an aid to detect delirium, not a diagnostic tool by  
4 itself.  
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7 In addition, as mentioned in the study by Inouye et al. [40], using a chart review method has some  
8 limitations as it has a 30% false positive rate and thus it is possible that patients with delirium at  
9 admission may have been included in the non-delirious cohort due to poor documentation in the chart.

10 Nevertheless, the fact that validated checklists are used to screen for delirium and that the chart is a  
11 complete document in which different healthcare professionals note their findings makes the outcome  
12 more reliable and strengthens the validity of the present study.  
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14 Another limitation of the present study is that this is a single-centre study (two hospital locations)  
15 located in the Netherlands and may not be generalisable in other settings.  
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19 The DEMO uses only electronically available data. Other important factors that could predict a  
20 delirium (previous delirium, cognitive impairment, severity of disease, visual impairment, etc.) are not  
21 included in this model because they were not electronically available. If these data were also made  
22 electronically available, the predictive quality of DEMO could be improved [22, 23, 27, 30]. Taking into  
23 account that the registration of such factors is becoming increasingly important and mandatory, it is  
24 only a matter of time until these important factors can be used in the DEMO [2, 3]. In addition, DEMO  
25 already uses an alternative way of identifying cognitive impairment by including medications used for  
26 dementia.  
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32 The DELirium MOdel is a fully automated satisfactory prediction model that predicts delirium up to 5  
33 days after analysis. The next step is to validate the DEMO in a cohort in which the outcome of  
34 delirium would be prospectively assessed in person and to use DEMO for retrospective  
35 measurements. In the future, DEMO will be applied to clinical practice so that physicians are alerted  
36 when a patient is at increased risk of developing delirium. This will facilitate earlier recognition and  
37 diagnosis and, thus, the implementation of prevention measures.  
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### 43 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

44  
45 All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form at [www.icmje.org/coi\\_disclosure.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf)  
46 and declare: all authors had financial support from ABC Company for the submitted work; no financial  
47 relationships with any organisations that might have an interest in the submitted work in the previous  
48 three years; no other relationships or activities that could appear to have influenced the submitted  
49 work  
50  
51  
52

### 53 **FUNDING**

54  
55 This work was supported by ZonMw (the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and  
56 Development) grant number [113101001]  
57  
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60

**AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

All authors have made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data; They all have been involved in drafting the manuscript and revising it critically for important intellectual content; They all have given final approval of the version to be published; and they all agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

**Conception or design of the work**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

HAJM de Wit

BPC van Oijen

DS Deben

KPGM Hurkens

WJ Mulder

R Janknegt

JMGA Schols

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

**Data collection**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

DS Deben

KPGM Hurkens

**Data analysis and interpretation**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

KPGM Hurkens

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

**Drafting the article**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

**Critical revision of the article**

HAJM de Wit

BPC van Oijen

JMGA Schols



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3 FR Verhey  
4 B Winkens  
5 PHM van der Kuy  
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8 **Final approval of the version to be published**

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10 C Mestres Gonzalvo  
11 HAJM de Wit  
12 BPC van Oijen  
13 DS Deben  
14 KPGM Hurkens  
15 WJ Mulder  
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20 PHM van der Kuy  
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27 **TRANSPARENCY DECLARATION**

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29 C. Mestres Gonzalvo affirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of  
30 the study being reported; no important aspects of the study have been omitted; and any discrepancies  
31 from the study as planned (and, if relevant, registered) have been explained.  
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34 **DATA SHARING**

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36 All data is anonymized and will be confidentially handled. Only the investigators have access to the  
37 data.  
38 All patient data will be kept for as long as the project is being conducted.  
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43 **EXCLUSIVE LICENCE**

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**Table 1. DElirium MOdel and cut-off point**

<p><b>DEMO-score = <math>1/(1+e-(\text{Linear predictor}))</math></b></p> <p>DEMO score &gt; 14.1% → Increased risk at delirium</p> <p>DEMO score ≤ 14.1% → No increased risk at delirium</p> <hr/> <p>Linear predictor = <math>-8.823 + (0.081 \cdot V1) + (0.031 \cdot V2) + (0.248 \cdot V3) + (1.123 \cdot V4) + (0.286 \cdot V5) + (1.963 \cdot V6) + (0.359 \cdot V7) + (1.199 \cdot V8) + (0.413 \cdot V9) + (0.103 \cdot V10)</math></p> <p>V1 = Age (years)</p> <p>V2 = Polypharmacy (number of drugs)</p> <p>V3 = Anxiolytics (ATC N05B)</p> <p>V4 = Anti-dementia (ATC N06D)</p> <p>V5 = Antidepressives (ATC N06A)</p> <p>V6 = Antiparkinson's ATC (N04)</p> <p>V7 = Antidiabetic's (ATC A10)</p> <p>V8 = Psychopharmaca (ATC N05A)</p> <p>V9 = Analgetics (ATC N02A)</p> <p>V10 = Sleepmedication (ATC N05C)</p>
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\* (ATC) Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical classification system ([https://www.whocc.no/atc\\_ddd\\_index/](https://www.whocc.no/atc_ddd_index/) )

**Table 2. Test results of the prediction model (DEMO positive or negative) and diagnosis (delirium during admission or no-delirium during admission) within 1, 3 and 5 days after DEMO analysis.**

	Delirium within 1 day after DEMO	No-delirium within 1 day after DEMO	Delirium within 3 days after DEMO	No-delirium within 3 days after DEMO	Delirium within 5 days after DEMO	No-delirium within 5 days after DEMO
DEMO Positive	54	71	69	56	81	44
DEMO Negative	8	250	11	247	17	241

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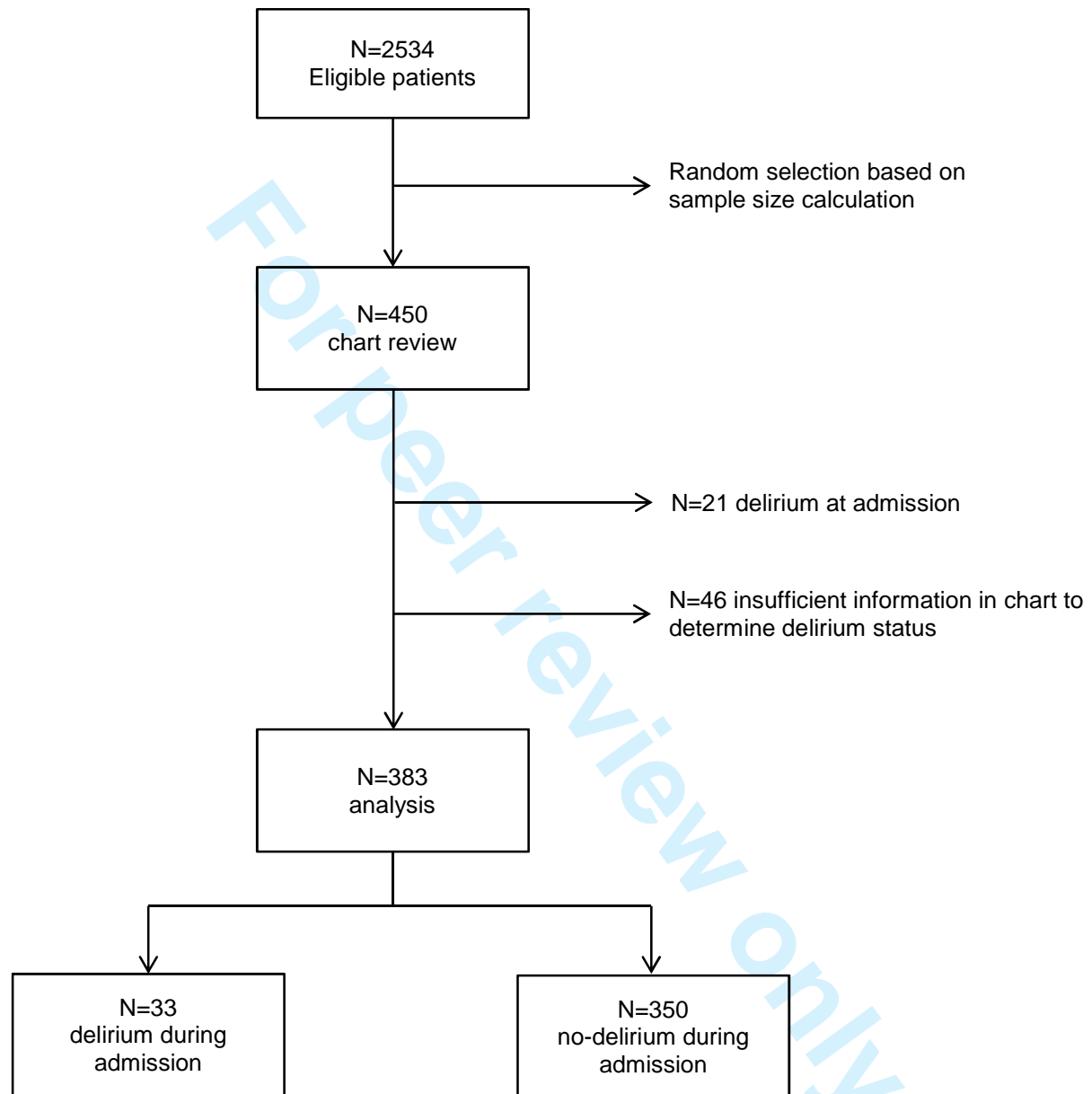
**Table 3. Estimates of the prevalence, sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV, and likelihood ratios with corresponding 95% confidence intervals 1, 3 and 5 days after DEMO analysis.**

	Day 1 after DEMO analysis			Day 3 after DEMO analysis			Day 5 after DEMO analysis		
	Estimated value	95% confidence interval		Estimated value	95% confidence interval		Estimated value	95% confidence interval	
		Lower limit	Upper limit		Lower limit	Upper limit		Lower limit	Upper limit
Prevalence	0.162 (16.2%)	0.127	0.204	0.188 (18.8%)	0.150	0.221	0.256 (25.6%)	0.213	0.303
Sensitivity	0.871 (87.1%)	0.756	0.939	0.842 (84.2%)	0.732	0.915	0.827 (82.7%)	0.734	0.893
	0.779 (77.9%)	0.729	0.822	0.815 (81.5%)	0.766	0.856	0.845 (84.5%)	0.797	0.884
PPV	0.432 (43.20%)*	0.345	0.524	0.513 (51.3%)*	0.419	0.607	0.648 (64.8%)*	0.557	0.730
NPV	0.969 (96.90%)	0.938	0.986	0.957 (95.7%)	0.922	0.977	0.934 (93.4%)	0.895	0.960
LR +	3.938	3.140	4.939	4.560	3.526	5.898	5.354	4.020	7.129
LR -	0.166	0.087	0.317	0.193	0.112	0.332	0.205	0.133	0.316

\*PPV: Statistically different p < 0.001 for all three comparisons (1 vs 3 days, 1 vs 5 days, 3 vs 5 days)

Peer Review Only

Figure 1. Flow diagram inclusion





## STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

	Item No.	Recommendation	Page No.	Relevant text from manuscript
<b>Title and abstract</b>	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1	
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	2	
<b>Introduction</b>				
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	3	
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	4	
<b>Methods</b>				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	4	
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	4	
Participants	6	(a) <i>Cohort study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up <i>Case-control study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	4	
		(b) <i>Cohort study</i> —For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed <i>Case-control study</i> —For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case	-	
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	4-5	
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	4-5	
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	-	
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	4	

Continued on next page

Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	4-5
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	4-5
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	5
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	-
		(d) <i>Cohort study</i> —If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	-
		<i>Case-control study</i> —If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	-
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Table 2
<b>Results</b>			
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	5-6
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	-
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	-
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Table 3
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	-
		(c) <i>Cohort study</i> —Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	-
Outcome data	15*	<i>Cohort study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Table 1
		<i>Case-control study</i> —Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	
		<i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	Table 2
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	-
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	-

Continued on next page

Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	6
<b>Discussion</b>			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	6
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	6
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	6-7
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	6
<b>Other information</b>			
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	7

\*Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

**Note:** An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at <http://www.plosmedicine.org/>, Annals of Internal Medicine at <http://www.annals.org/>, and Epidemiology at <http://www.epidem.com/>). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at [www.strobe-statement.org](http://www.strobe-statement.org).

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# BMJ Open

## Validation of an automated delirium prediction model (DEMO Delirium Model): an observational study

Journal:	<i>BMJ Open</i>
Manuscript ID	bmjopen-2017-016654.R4
Article Type:	Research
Date Submitted by the Author:	06-Oct-2017
Complete List of Authors:	Mestres Gonzalvo, Carlota; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology; Elkerliek Ziekenhuis, Clinical Pharmacy de Wit, Hugo; Zuyderland Medisch Centrum Heerlen, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology; Canisius Wilhelmina Ziekenhuis, Clinical Pharmacy van Oijen, Brigit; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Debben, Debbie; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Hurkens, Kim; Zuyderland Medisch Centrum Heerlen, Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Mulder, Wubbo; Maastricht Universitair Medisch Centrum+, Internal Medicine Janknegt, Rob; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology Schols, Jos; Maastricht University, Department of General Practice, School for Public Health and Primary Care (CAPHRI) Verhey, Frans; Maastricht University Faculty of Health Medicine and Life Sciences, Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Alzheimer Centrum Limburg / School for Mental Health and Neurosciences Winkens, Bjorn; Maastricht University, van der Kuy, Hugo; Zuyderland, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology; Erasmus MC, Hospital Pharmacy
<b>Primary Subject Heading</b>:	Geriatric medicine
Secondary Subject Heading:	Mental health
Keywords:	GERIATRIC MEDICINE, Delirium & cognitive disorders < PSYCHIATRY, PSYCHIATRY

SCHOLARONE™  
Manuscripts

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3 **Validation of an automated delirium prediction model (DEMO Delirium Model):**  
4 **an observational study**  
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6  
7 C Mestres Gonzalvo (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1,2</sup>, HAJM de Wit (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, BPC van Oijen  
8 (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, D Deben (hospital pharmacist in training)<sup>1</sup>, KPGM Hurkens (internist  
9 geriatrician)<sup>3</sup>, WJ Mulder (internist geriatrician)<sup>4</sup>, R Janknegt (hospital pharmacist)<sup>1</sup>, JMGA Schols  
10 (Professor of Old Age Medicine)<sup>5</sup>, FR Verhey (Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry)<sup>6</sup>, B Winkens  
11 (statistician)<sup>7</sup>, PHM van der Kuy (clinical pharmacologist)<sup>1,8</sup>  
12  
13

14  
15 <sup>1</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Dr. H  
16 van der Hoffplein 1, 6162 BG, Sittard-Geleen, The Netherlands.

17  
18 <sup>2</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Elkerliek Hospital, Wesselmanlaan 25, 5707 HA Helmond, The  
19 Netherlands.  
20

21  
22 <sup>3</sup>Section of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Dr. H  
23 van der Hoffplein 1, 6162 BG, Sittard-Geleen The Netherlands.

24  
25 <sup>4</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Maastricht University Medical Centre, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX  
26 Maastricht, The Netherlands.

27  
28 <sup>5</sup>Department of Family Medicine and Department of Health Services Research, CAPHRI-School for  
29 Public Health and Primary Care, Maastricht University, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX, Maastricht, The  
30 Netherlands.

31  
32 <sup>6</sup>Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Alzheimer Centrum Limburg/School for Mental  
33 Health and Neurosciences, Maastricht University, P. Debyelaan 25, 6229 HX, Maastricht, The  
34 Netherlands.

35  
36 <sup>7</sup>Department of Methodology and Statistics, CAPHRI-School for Public Health and Primary Care,  
37 Maastricht University, P. Debyelein 1, 6229 HA Maastricht, The Netherlands.

38  
39 <sup>8</sup>Department of Hospital Pharmacy, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
40  
41

42 **Submitting and corresponding author:**

43 Carlota Mestres Gonzalvo

44 Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Toxicology

45 Zuyderland Medical Centre

46 Dr H van der Hoffplein 1

47 6162 BG Sittard-Geleen

48 Phone: +31-88-4597708

49 E-mail: [c.mestresgonzalvo@zuyderland.nl](mailto:c.mestresgonzalvo@zuyderland.nl)  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** Delirium is an under-diagnosed, severe, and costly disorder, and 30-40% of cases can be prevented. A fully automated model to predict delirium (DEMO) in older people has been developed, and the objective of this study is to validate the model in a hospital setting.

**Setting:** Secondary care, one hospital with two locations

**Design:** Observational study

**Participants:** The study included 450 randomly selected patients over 60 years of age admitted to Zuyderland Medical Centre. Patients who presented with delirium upon admission were excluded.

**Primary outcome measures:** Development of delirium through chart review.

**Results:** A total of 383 patients were included in this study. The analysis was performed for delirium within 1, 3 and 5 days after a DEMO score was obtained. Sensitivity was 87.1% (CI: 0.756 to 0.939), 84.2% (CI: 0.732 to 0.915), and 82.7% (0.734 to 0.893) for 1, 3, and 5 days, respectively, after obtaining the DEMO score. Specificity was 77.9% (0.729 to 0.882), 81.5% (0.766 to 0.856) and 84.5% (0.797 to 0.884) for 1, 3, and 5 days, respectively, after obtaining the DEMO score.

**Conclusion:** DEMO is a satisfactory prediction model but needs further prospective validation with in-person delirium confirmation. In the future, DEMO will be applied in clinical practice so that physicians will be aware of when a patient is at an increased risk of developing delirium, which will facilitate earlier recognition and diagnosis, and thus will allow the implementation of prevention measures.

### Strengths and limitations of this study

- A high risk of delirium can be predicted electronically by using DEMO (DElirium MOdel) with reasonably good sensitivity and specificity.
- DEMO can be applied in clinical practice to facilitate earlier recognition and diagnosis of delirium.
- Important factors that could predict delirium (previous delirium, cognitive impairment, severity of disease, visual impairment, etc.) are not included in this model because these data are not yet electronically available.

## INTRODUCTION

A delirium or acute confused state is a transient attention and cognition disorder that develops over a short period of time and occurs mainly in hospitalised patients and people aged 60 years and over. Delirium is an under-diagnosed, severe (increased mortality), costly and often preventable disorder [1-3]. Its severity and symptoms can vary considerably, but the main features are impaired cognitive and sensory functions, reduced consciousness, and diminished attention. In addition, it is often accompanied by problems with psychomotor activity, the circadian rhythm, and emotions.

The prevalence and incidence of delirium in the general population differ widely depending on the setting. The overall prevalence in the community is estimated to be 1-2%. In a hospital setting, this prevalence increases to 10-31% at the time of hospital admission and 3-29% during hospitalisation. The incidence increases up to 87% when more specialised populations, such as the elderly and people in postoperative, intensive care and/or palliative care, are considered [4-11]. In 30-40% of cases, delirium is preventable, which, along with its associated high costs (ranging from US\$164 billion to US\$182 billion per year), makes it a perfect target for interventions by healthcare professionals [1, 4, 12-15]. As a result, a great number of screening tools have been developed and are widely used to detect the early onset of delirium, which can in turn allow treatment measures to be introduced in a timely manner [16-21]. These tools help healthcare professionals to establish and quantify symptoms associated with delirium [19-23]. Once the diagnosis has been established, the underlying medical condition can be targeted, and delirium can be managed appropriately.

There is no effective treatment for delirium [24, 25]. Preventing delirium is by far a more effective strategy to improve patient outcomes [1, 4, 26-29]. Risk models have been used to identify patients at higher risk for delirium development because these patients would most likely benefit from delirium prevention. These models are based on manual evaluation of individual risk factors and may be difficult to implement, so automated models are preferable and more feasible [30-34].

### Screening instrument

A fully automated model to predict delirium in older people (over 60 years) was developed at Zuyderland Medical Centre. This DELirium MOdel (DEMO) uses only electronically available data to predict the occurrence of delirium. The predictive variables include age; polypharmacy; and the use of anti-dementia drugs, antidepressants, anti-Parkinson's agents, anti-diabetic drugs, analgesia and/or sleeping tablets (see Table 1). This model can be applied hospital-wide and has an area under receiver operating characteristic (AUROC: measure for model prediction quality) value of 0.770 (95% CI 0.736-0.804) with a sensitivity of 78.2% and a specificity of 63.7%, when 14.1% is used as a cut-off value for the predicted probability of developing delirium. DEMO was developed retrospectively but has not yet been validated [4].

Therefore, the objective of this study is to validate DEMO in a hospital setting. To do so, the system's accuracy (main study parameter), i.e., sensitivity (proportion of delirium patients who test positive)

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3 and specificity (proportion of non-delirium patients who test negative), will be calculated. In addition to  
4 these parameters, the positive predictive value (PPV), negative predictive value (NPV), positive and  
5 negative likelihood ratios (LR+, LR-) with their 95% CI will be computed.  
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## 8 9 **METHODS**

10 This is an observational study of the ability of DEMO to predict delirium in an elderly hospital  
11 population. It was conducted in Zuyderland Medical Centre (locations Sittard and Heerlen) in the  
12 period from January 2016 to October 2016. The medical ethics committee METC Z (Medisch Ethische  
13 Toetsings Commissie van Zuyderland en Zuyd Hogeschool, Zuyderland Medical Centre, Heerlen)  
14 approved this study.  
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18 DEMO involves a daily analysis of all hospitalised patients  $\geq 60$  years of age at the different wards  
19 and predicts whether a patient is at risk of developing delirium in a 24-hour post-analysis period. The  
20 EPR (Electronic Patient Record) was accessed at a later date to check for delirium diagnosis. In this  
21 study, DEMO was calculated prospectively, but the outcome was ascertained by chart review  
22 retrospectively.  
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27 Although delirium diagnosis was determined by chart review, delirium documentation in our hospital is  
28 robust. At admission, patients are routinely screened for delirium, both in the emergency department  
29 and in the ward. The first screening is performed by a checklist (IGZ Inspectie voor de  
30 Gezondheidszorg = Dutch Healthcare Inspectorate, VMS Veiligheidsmanagementsysteem = Safety  
31 Management System, and Dutch guideline for delirium) [35, 36]. This checklist consists of 3  
32 questions: does the patient need help with self-care?, has the patients previously suffered a delirium?,  
33 does the patients suffer from memory disorders? When one of the questions is positively answered,  
34 the patient is at risk of developing delirium; in this case the DOSS (Delirium Observation Screening  
35 Scale) method [20] is used to evaluate whether a patient has delirium and it is subsequently noted in  
36 the chart.  
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42 Patients over 60 years who were admitted to Zuyderland were eligible for enrolment. From all patients  
43 admitted between 31-12-2015 and 31-10-2016, 450 patients were randomly selected (using  
44 <https://www.randomlists.com/team-generator>) and their charts extracted for review. Patients who,  
45 based on chart review, presented with delirium upon admission were then excluded (Figure 1).  
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49 A search in the EPR was performed according to patient and date by using the following search  
50 terms: "delirium", "delirious", "agitation", "agitated", "confused", "confusion", "restlessness",  
51 "disturbed", "disorientation", "disoriented", "apathy", "hallucination", "mistrust", "haloperidol", and  
52 "delirium prevention measures". These search terms were discussed with an internist geriatrician, a  
53 professor of geriatric medicine and a professor of geriatric psychiatry.  
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56 The search was performed by first identifying where the different words appeared in the EPR, and  
57 then, if any of these words appeared, the whole EPR during the admission period was read and  
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3 interpreted by two authors (KH (internist geriatrician) and CMG (hospital pharmacist)) to determine  
4 whether it was truly a delirium diagnosis. All notes were reviewed, including notes by  
5 physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, and speech therapists. During the study, treating healthcare  
6 professionals (physicians, nurses etc.) were blinded to DEMO scores in order to avoid bias. If a  
7 diagnosis of delirium could not be established for a patient as a result of insufficient information in the  
8 chart, this patient was excluded from the analysis. The date of delirium onset was determined by chart  
9 review.  
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14 Delirium diagnosis based on chart review was then compared with the risk score from DEMO. The  
15 DEMO was dichotomized into two groups: high risk  $\geq 14.1\%$  [4], and low risk  $<14.1\%$  for this analysis.  
16 A two-by-two table was then constructed to calculate True Positive (TP), True Negative (TN), False  
17 Positive (FP), and False Negative (FN) rates.  
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21 The predictive value of DEMO was determined for delirium developing within 1, 3, and 5 days after  
22 the DEMO score was  
23 calculated. It had been developed to predict delirium within the next 24 hours, but here we wished to  
24 also investigate whether its predictive value could be extended to three or five days.  
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28 In the study wherein the DEMO was developed, an incidence rate of 17.4% was used [4]. Given the  
29 assumption of the same sensitivity of 0.75 (75%), we calculated that 33 delirium patients were needed  
30 based upon the requirement that the lower limit of 95% CI would be at least 60% (width of 95%CI  $\leq$   
31 0.30 (30%)). With regard to the specificity, the number of non-delirium patients would be much larger  
32 than the number of delirium patients, and hence, the width of the 95% confidence interval (CI) for  
33 specificity would be smaller than 0.30.  
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37 It was assumed that at least 332 patients would be needed to identify 33 delirium patients. Taking  
38 into account the exclusion criteria and the possibility of a smaller percentage of patients who would  
39 develop delirium, a sufficient number of patients were screened to obtain 33 delirium patients (i.e.,  
40 450 patients).  
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44 The sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV, LR+, LR- with corresponding 95% confidence intervals were  
45 calculated with the use of an online calculator (<http://vassarstats.net/clin1.html>).  
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49 The differences in PPV and NPV over time were tested using McNemar's test. The differences in age  
50 and gender between delirium and non-delirium groups were tested by using the independent-samples  
51 t-test and chi-square test, respectively. IBM SPSS statistics for Windows (version 23.0) was used to  
52 perform these tests. A two-sided p-value smaller than or equal to 0.05 was considered statistically  
53 significant.  
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## RESULTS

The study lasted eight months, for 450 patients chart review was undergone. Finally a total of 383 patients were included, as 21 patients presented with delirium at admission, and for 46 patients there was insufficient information to determine delirium status (Figure 1 - supplementary figure). The results of the diagnostic test (TP/FP/FN/TN) for 1, 3 and 5 days after DEMO analysis are shown in Table 2. The analysis, including prevalence estimates, sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV, and likelihood ratios, is presented in Table 3. Although sensitivity decreased and specificity increased if the period increased from 1 day to 3 or 5 days after DEMO score was obtained, all values were rather high (sensitivity  $\geq 0.827$ , specificity  $\geq 0.779$ ). PPV was statistically different  $p < 0.001$  for all three comparisons (1 vs 3 days, 1 vs 5 days, 3 vs 5 days), NPV was not statistically different  $p = 0.25$ , 0.004, 0.031 for 1 vs 3 days, 1 vs 5 days and 3 vs 5 days, respectively.

Patients who developed delirium within 5 days were significantly older (mean age 83.9 (sd 7.8)) compared to those who did not develop a delirium within 5 days (mean age 73.9 (sd 9.1);  $p < 0.001$ ). There was no significant difference in the percentage of males within the delirium and non-delirium groups (50.0% versus 50.1%,  $p=0.911$ ).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In the current study, a previously developed model for predicting delirium has been validated. DEMO was calculated prospectively, and the outcome was ascertained by chart review retrospectively. Based on the current data and the high sensitivity and specificity, it can be concluded that DEMO is a satisfactory prediction model.

Another strength of DEMO is that it predicts delirium within 5 days post-analysis on a daily basis.. This is a novel concept, as most delirium prediction rules apply at admission but not daily. Even though it is not clear whether there is a definite advantage to predicting delirium on a daily basis, as this could lead to information overload, it could eventually be something that is tracked along with vital signs and intake/output.

We found sensitivity and specificity rates that were higher than reported in the study of de Wit et al., which may be because his study only checked the patients' medical history for delirium and not the entire EPR. Moreover, de Wit et al. had performed the search merely on the diagnosis of delirium. In the current study, the full EPR during the admission period was taken into account, and a wider set of terms was considered for delirium diagnosis. Furthermore, in the current study, in those cases in which delirium was not clear, these patients were excluded, whereas such patients had been included in the development of the delirium model [4].

The present study does present some limitations. First, the validation of the DELirium MOdel depends on how and when a healthcare professional reports that a patient has developed delirium. It is well known that documentation of delirium is poor since the majority of delirium remains unrecognised by

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3 clinical teams [37]. We therefore performed a wider search considering other words that might  
4 suggest delirium as delirium diagnosis and read through the whole EPR during the admission period.  
5 The number of delirium patients is noticeably higher than originally found, which can be explained by  
6 the search we performed. The DEMO is merely an aid to detect delirium, not a diagnostic tool by  
7 itself. Furthermore, for 46 patients there was insufficient information in the chart to determine delirium  
8 status, which could influence the generalisability of the present study.  
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12 In addition, as mentioned in the study by Inouye et al. [38], using a chart review method has some  
13 limitations as it has a 30% false positive rate and thus it is possible that patients with delirium at  
14 admission may have been included in the non-delirious cohort due to poor documentation in the chart.  
15 Furthermore, the checklist used to screen the patients is a non-validated tool. Nevertheless, after that  
16 first check, the DOSS is used. The DOSS method is a validated method used by nurses to screen for  
17 delirium. Its sensitivity ranges from 89-100% and its specificity ranges from 88 to 96.6% [20, 39, 40].  
18 The DOSS scores and its conclusion (delirium/non-delirium) are recorded in the chart. In that way,  
19 and taking into account that the chart is a complete document in which different healthcare  
20 professionals note their findings, makes the outcome more reliable and strengthens the validity of the  
21 present study.  
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24 Another limitation of the present study is that this is a single-centre study (two hospital locations)  
25 located in the Netherlands and may not be generalisable in other settings.  
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31 The DEMO uses only electronically available data. Other important factors that could predict a  
32 delirium (previous delirium, cognitive impairment, severity of disease, visual impairment, etc.) are not  
33 included in this model because they were not electronically available. If these data were also made  
34 electronically available, the predictive quality of DEMO could be improved [22, 23, 27, 30]. Taking into  
35 account that the registration of such factors is becoming increasingly important and mandatory, it is  
36 only a matter of time until these important factors can be used in the DEMO [2, 3]. In addition, DEMO  
37 already uses an alternative way of identifying cognitive impairment by including medications used for  
38 dementia.  
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44 The DELirium MOdel is a fully automated satisfactory prediction model that predicts delirium up to 5  
45 days after analysis. The next step is to validate the DEMO in a cohort in which the outcome of  
46 delirium would be prospectively assessed in person and to use DEMO for retrospective  
47 measurements. In the future, DEMO will be applied to clinical practice so that physicians are alerted  
48 when a patient is at increased risk of developing delirium. This will facilitate earlier recognition and  
49 diagnosis and, thus, the implementation of prevention measures.  
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## 53 54 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

55  
56 All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form at [www.icmje.org/coi\\_disclosure.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf)  
57 and declare: all authors had financial support from ABC Company for the submitted work; no financial  
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3 relationships with any organisations that might have an interest in the submitted work in the previous  
4 three years; no other relationships or activities that could appear to have influenced the submitted  
5 work  
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### 9 **FUNDING**

10 This work was supported by ZonMw (the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and  
11 Development) grant number [113101001]  
12  
13

### 14 **AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

15 All authors have made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data,  
16 analysis and interpretation of data; They all have been involved in drafting the manuscript and  
17 revising it critically for important intellectual content; They all have given final approval of the version  
18 to be published; and they all agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that  
19 questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated  
20 and resolved.  
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23  
24  
25

#### 26 **Conception or design of the work**

27 C Mestres Gonzalvo  
28 HAJM de Wit  
29 BPC van Oijen  
30 DS Deben  
31 KPGM Hurkens  
32 WJ Mulder  
33 R Janknegt  
34 JMGA Schols  
35 FR Verhey  
36 B Winkens  
37 PHM van der Kuy  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43

#### 44 **Data collection**

45 C Mestres Gonzalvo  
46 DS Deben  
47 KPGM Hurkens  
48  
49  
50

#### 51 **Data analysis and interpretation**

52 C Mestres Gonzalvo  
53 KPGM Hurkens  
54 FR Verhey  
55 B Winkens  
56 PHM van der Kuy  
57  
58  
59  
60

**Drafting the article**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

**Critical revision of the article**

HAJM de Wit

BPC van Oijen

JMGA Schols

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

**Final approval of the version to be published**

C Mestres Gonzalvo

HAJM de Wit

BPC van Oijen

DS Deben

KPGM Hurkens

WJ Mulder

R Janknegt

JMGA Schols

FR Verhey

B Winkens

PHM van der Kuy

**TRANSPARENCY DECLARATION**

C. Mestres Gonzalvo affirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study being reported; no important aspects of the study have been omitted; and any discrepancies from the study as planned (and, if relevant, registered) have been explained.

**DATA SHARING**

All data is anonymized and will be confidentially handled. Only the investigators have access to the data.

All patient data will be kept for as long as the project is being conducted.

**EXCLUSIVE LICENCE**

The Corresponding Author has the right to grant on behalf of all authors and does grant on behalf of all authors, a worldwide license to the publishers.

(<http://www.bmj.com/sites/default/files/BMJ%20Author%20Licence%20March%202013.doc>)

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**Table 1. DElirium MOdel and cut-off point**

**DEMO-score =  $1/(1+e-(\text{Linear predictor}))$**

DEMO score > 14.1% → Increased risk at delirium

DEMO score ≤ 14.1% → No increased risk at delirium

Linear predictor =  $-8.823 + (0.081 \cdot V1) + (0.031 \cdot V2) + (0.248 \cdot V3) + (1.123 \cdot V4) + (0.286 \cdot V5) + (1.963 \cdot V6) + (0.359 \cdot V7) + (1.199 \cdot V8) + (0.413 \cdot V9) + (0.103 \cdot V10)$

- V1 = Age (years)
- V2 = Polypharmacy (number of drugs)
- V3 = Anxiolytics (ATC N05B)
- V4 = Anti-dementia (ATC N06D)
- V5 = Antidepressives (ATC N06A)
- V6 = Antiparkinson's ATC (N04)
- V7 = Antidiabetic's (ATC A10)
- V8 = Psychopharmaca (ATC N05A)
- V9 = Analgetics (ATC N02A)
- V10 = Sleepmedication (ATC N05C)

\* (ATC) Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical classification system ([https://www.whocc.no/atc\\_ddd\\_index/](https://www.whocc.no/atc_ddd_index/) )

**Table 2. Test results of the prediction model (DEMO positive or negative) and diagnosis (delirium during admission or no-delirium during admission) within 1, 3 and 5 days after DEMO analysis.**

	Delirium within 1 day after DEMO	No-delirium within 1 day after DEMO	Delirium within 3 days after DEMO	No-delirium within 3 days after DEMO	Delirium within 5 days after DEMO	No-delirium within 5 days after DEMO
DEMO Positive	54	71	69	56	81	44
DEMO Negative	8	250	11	247	17	241

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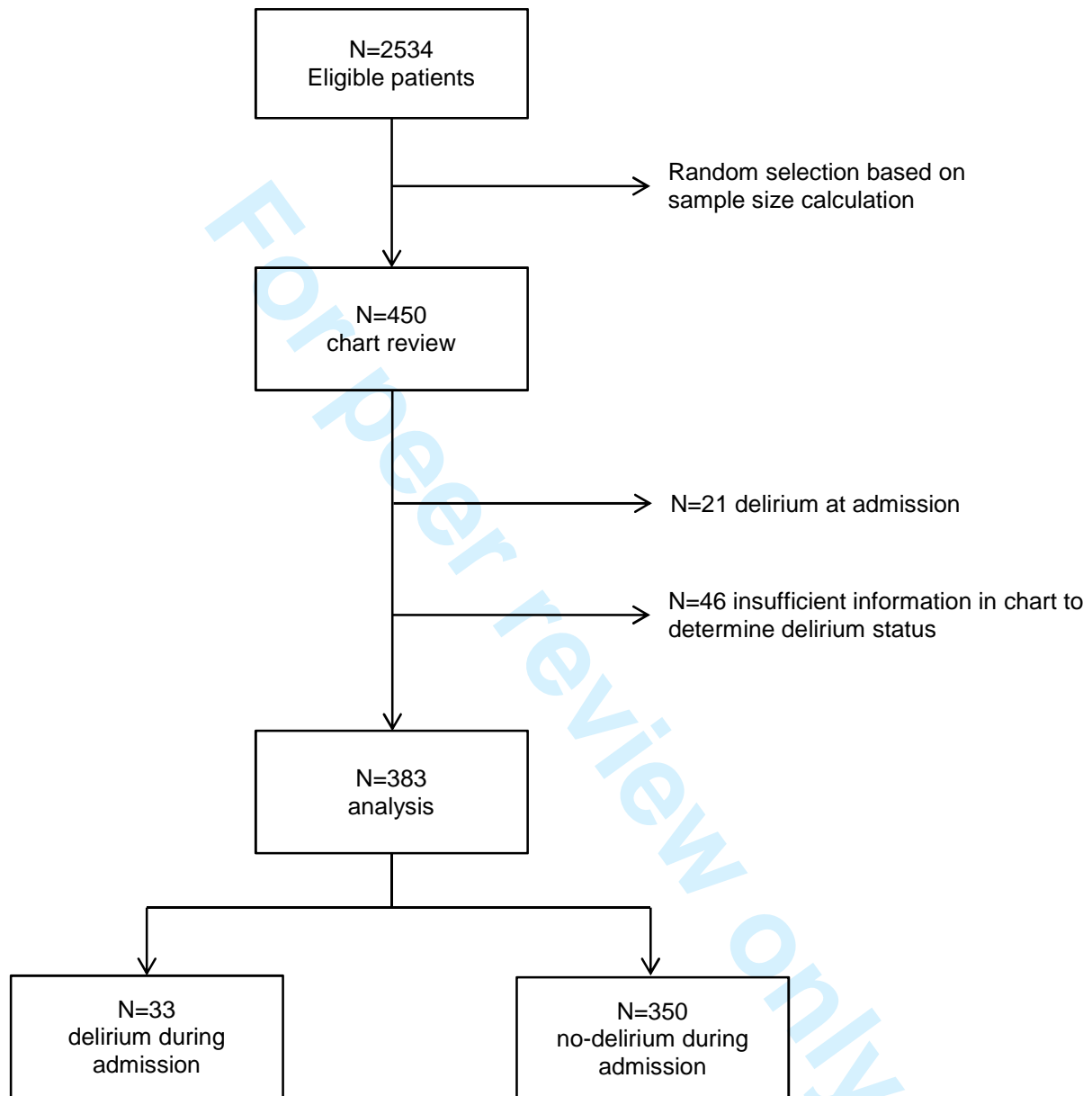
**Table 3. Estimates of the prevalence, sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV, and likelihood ratios with corresponding 95% confidence intervals 1, 3 and 5 days after DEMO analysis.**

	Day 1 after DEMO analysis			Day 3 after DEMO analysis			Day 5 after DEMO analysis		
	Estimated value	95% confidence interval		Estimated value	95% confidence interval		Estimated value	95% confidence interval	
		Lower limit	Upper limit		Lower limit	Upper limit		Lower limit	Upper limit
Prevalence	16.2%	0.127	0.204	18.8%	0.150	0.221	25.6%	0.213	0.303
Sensitivity	87.1%	0.756	0.939	84.2%	0.732	0.915	82.7%	0.734	0.893
Specificity	77.9%	0.729	0.822	81.5%	0.766	0.856	84.5%	0.797	0.884
PPV	43.20%*	0.345	0.524	51.3%*	0.419	0.607	64.8%*	0.557	0.730
NPV	96.90%	0.938	0.986	95.7%	0.922	0.977	93.4%	0.895	0.960
LR +	3.938	3.140	4.939	4.560	3.526	5.898	5.354	4.020	7.129
LR -	0.166	0.087	0.317	0.193	0.112	0.332	0.205	0.133	0.316

\*PPV: Statistically different p < 0.001 for all three comparisons (1 vs 3 days, 1 vs 5 days, 3 vs 5 days)

Peer Review Only

Figure 1. Flow diagram inclusion



## STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

	Item No.	Recommendation	Page No.	Relevant text from manuscript
<b>Title and abstract</b>	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1	
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	2	
<b>Introduction</b>				
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	3	
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	4	
<b>Methods</b>				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	4	
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	4	
Participants	6	(a) <i>Cohort study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up <i>Case-control study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	4	
		(b) <i>Cohort study</i> —For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed <i>Case-control study</i> —For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case	-	
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	4-5	
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	4-5	
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	-	
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	4	

Continued on next page

Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	4-5
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	4-5
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	5
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	-
		(d) <i>Cohort study</i> —If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	-
		<i>Case-control study</i> —If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	-
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Table 2
<b>Results</b>			
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	5-6
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	-
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	-
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Table 3
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	-
		(c) <i>Cohort study</i> —Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	-
Outcome data	15*	<i>Cohort study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Table 1
		<i>Case-control study</i> —Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	
		<i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	Table 2
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	-
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	-

Continued on next page

Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	6
<b>Discussion</b>			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	6
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	6
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	6-7
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	6
<b>Other information</b>			
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	7

\*Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

**Note:** An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at <http://www.plosmedicine.org/>, Annals of Internal Medicine at <http://www.annals.org/>, and Epidemiology at <http://www.epidem.com/>). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at [www.strobe-statement.org](http://www.strobe-statement.org).

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