

Additional file 8  
 File format: DOC  
 Title: Selection bias assessment  
 Description:

Selection bias assessment in the training set

Characteristics	Included n=142 n (%)	Excluded n=67 n (%)	Selection bias P-value (two-sided)
Age			0.6987*
≤ 55 yrs	143 (51.3)	22 (32.8)	
> 55 yrs	136 (48.8)	45 (67.2)	
Missing	0	0	
Median	64 yrs (SD 12.6)	63.7 yrs (SD 13.7)	
Min. - Max.	31 - 89 yrs	34 - 95 yrs	
Tumor diameter			0.3909*
≤ 2 cm	126 (94.0)	60 (93.8)	
> 2 cm	8 (6.0)	4 (6.3)	
Missing	8	3	
Median	1.2 cm (SD 0.50)	1.23 cm (SD 0.47)	
Min. - Max.	0.3 - 2.9 cm	0.3 - 2.6 cm	
Tumor grade			0.0247**
Grade 1	74 (53.2)	43 (68.3)	
Grade 2	61 (43.9)	16 (25.4)	
Grade 3	4 (2.9)	4 (6.4)	
Missing	3	4	

\*Wilcoxon rank sum test; \*\*Fisher's exact test

No significant differences were found between the included and excluded subjects with respect to age or tumor size. However, tumor grade tended to be higher among the included subjects than the excluded subjects.

Selection bias assessment in the validation set

Characteristics	Included n=279 n (%)	Excluded n=118 n (%)	Selection bias P-value (two-sided)
Age			0.4679*
≤ 55 yrs	143 (51.3)	22 (32.8)	
> 55 yrs	136 (48.8)	45 (67.2)	
Missing	0	0	
Median	55 yrs (SD 11.7)	58 yrs (SD 12.1)	
Min. - Max.	29 - 87 yrs	27 - 86 yrs	
Tumor diameter			0.0235*
≤ 2 cm	168 (60.2)	82 (69.5)	
> 2 cm	111 (39.8)	36 (30.5)	
Median	2 cm (SD 0.85)	2 cm (SD 0.87)	
Min. - Max.	0.0 <sup>#</sup> - 3.0 cm	0.0 <sup>#</sup> - 3.0 cm	
Tumor grade			0.179**
Grade 1	60 (21.5)	28 (28.9)	
Grade 2	166 (59.5)	57 (58.8)	
Grade 3	53 (19.0)	12 (12.4)	
Missing	0	21	

\*Wilcoxon rank sum test; \*\*Fisher's exact test; <sup>#</sup> tumors were impalpable

No significant differences between included and excluded patients were found with respect to age or tumor grade. We found a somewhat larger proportion of patients with tumor size greater than 2 cm among the included patients than among the excluded patients.