


BMJ Open Risk prediction models for breast cancer: a systematic review

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ABSTRACT

Objectives To systematically review and critically appraise published studies of risk prediction models for breast cancer in the general population without breast cancer, and provide evidence for future research in the field.

Design Systematic review using the Prediction model study Risk Of Bias Assessment Tool (PROBAST) framework.

Data sources PubMed, the Cochrane Library and Embase were searched from inception to 16 December 2021.

Eligibility criteria We included studies reporting multivariable models to estimate the individualised risk of developing female breast cancer among different ethnic groups. Search was limited to English language only.

Data extraction and synthesis Two reviewers independently screened, reviewed, extracted and assessed studies with discrepancies resolved through discussion or a third reviewer. Risk of bias was assessed according to the PROBAST framework.

Results 63 894 studies were screened and 40 studies with 47 risk prediction models were included in the review. Most of the studies used logistic regression to develop breast cancer risk prediction models for Caucasian women by case-control data. The most widely used risk factor was reproductive factors and the highest area under the curve was 0.943 (95% CI 0.919 to 0.967). All the models included in the review had high risk of bias.

Conclusions No risk prediction models for breast cancer were recommended for different ethnic groups and models incorporating mammographic density or single-nucleotide polymorphisms among Asian women are few and poorly needed. High-quality breast cancer risk prediction models assessed by PROBAST should be developed and validated, especially among Asian women.

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INTRODUCTION

Breast cancer is a major public health problem, and one of the most severe burdensome cancer among women worldwide,¹ accounting for 11.7% of new cancer cases and 6.9% of cancer deaths in 2020. The prevalence of breast cancer is projected to increase over the coming years and is the most common cancer in women in 2020.² Breast cancer prevention is associated with a reduction in mortality,³ and more researches are needed to improve the methods of identifying women at elevated risk and preventing the disease. Numerous breast cancer risk

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY

- ⇒ Thoroughly conducted systematic review collecting data from major existing databases.
- ⇒ Critically appraised published studies of risk prediction models for breast cancer in the general population and provide evidence for future research in the field.
- ⇒ Prediction model study Risk Of Bias Assessment Tool (PROBAST) was used to assess the quality of prediction models, which was developed through a consensus process involving a group of methodological experts in the area of clinical prediction tools and quality assessment.
- ⇒ Studies only about the external validation of the present risk models were not included in the review.
- ⇒ Our study highlighted high-quality breast cancer risk prediction models assessed by PROBAST should be developed and validated among different ethnic groups, especially among Asian women.

prediction models have been developed to identify the combined effect of risk factors for breast cancer, guide routine screening and genetic testing, and reduce the burden of breast cancer. Risk-stratified screening can improve cost-effectiveness and maximise benefits and minimise harms like overdiagnosis.⁴ Individualised prediction model for breast cancer could be used in practice to assist decision making about mass screening or opportunistic screening and treatment strategy.

A recent breast cancer screening guideline⁵ suggests that breast cancer screening increase the early detection rate and reduce the incidence if the screening is applied in appropriate at-risk populations. However, major gaps exist in our knowledge to determine the risk of breast cancer accurately in order to apply these approaches to appropriate populations of women.

A lot of breast cancer risk prediction models have been developed over the past few decades. Many breast cancer risk models have undergone validation including discrimination and calibration in study populations other than those used in initial development, or have been further assessed in comparative

studies. Breast cancer-related predictors including hormonal factors, environmental factors, family histories, genetic factors and radiographic factors have been based on in these risk models, which would improve the generalisability. For example, the Gail model,⁶ one of the most famous models, has been widely used and validated worldwide since it was developed in 1989.^{7–12}

This study is a systematic review of breast cancer risk prediction models by using meta-analysis and the Prediction model study Risk Of Bias Assessment Tool (PROBAST).^{13 14} The aim of our study is to systematically review published studies of risk prediction models for breast cancer in the general population, find more methods of predicting female breast cancer risk among one or more ethnic groups, prepare for the development of risk prediction models, and provide evidence for future research in the field.

METHODS

The current review was designed according to the Checklist for critical Appraisal and data extraction for systematic Reviews of prediction Modelling Studies.¹⁵

Literature search and eligibility criteria

We systematically searched PubMed, the Cochrane Library and Embase from inception to 16 December 2021. The detailed search strategies were reported in online supplemental table 1. Articles identified from the search were loaded into EndNote V.X7 and duplicates were removed.

Inclusion criteria: (1) a model used data from cross-sectional studies, cohort studies, case-control studies and randomised controlled trials; (2) a model estimating the individualised risk of female breast cancer among one or more ethnic groups; (3) a model developed for the general population without breast cancer; (4) reported a multivariable (ie, at least two variables or predictors) model and (5) published in English.

Exclusion criteria: (1) external validation studies that only validated previous models in a different population without adding any additional information such as modifications on the risk factors and (2) models developed by machine learning.

Data extraction

Two reviewers screened the search results independently. Full-text reports were then assessed for eligibility with discrepancies resolved through discussion or a third reviewer.

We extracted information in two categories: (1) For all studies included in the review, we extracted the following information: author, publication year, study design, research method, targeted population, number of risk factors, risk factors, model performance and sample size of development. (2) For studies included validation part, we also extracted the following information: type of validation, study design, targeted population, model performance and sample size of validation. The information

was extracted by one reviewer and checked by a second reviewer.

Risk of bias assessment

We used PROBAST to assess the reported prediction models, which is a new tool designed by a group of experts all over the world to assess the risk of bias and applicability of diagnostic and prognostic prediction models. It can be used in critical appraisal of studies that develop, validate or update prediction models for individualised predictions.^{13 14} In brief, it contains 20 signalling questions in four domains: participants, predictors, outcome and statistical analysis. Signalling questions can be answered as yes, probably yes, no, probably no or no information. A domain where at least one signalling question is answered as no or probably no should be judged as high risk of bias. Only if all domains are judged as low risk of bias, the total bias is judged as low risk as well.

Before putting PROBAST into use, we formed a 10-people study group including prediction model researchers, statisticians, evidence-based medicine specialists, etc to learn and practise the appropriate use of this new tool systematically. Only after everyone understood all these 20 questions totally, we would move to the peer quality assessment part. Risk of bias of every prediction model was assessed by two reviewers independently with discrepancies resolved through discussion or a third reviewer.

If there were more than one models developed in one study, we only assessed the risk of bias once due to their similarity. We also assessed the risk of external validation of prediction model when it was conducted in the same article that included model development.

Data synthesis and analysis

We calculated and reported descriptive statistics to summarise the characteristics of the models. We calculated the most frequently used risk factors and classified all risk factors into eight categories: Age, reproductive factors, family history of cancer, hormone, gene-related factors, lifestyle, medical history and test, and basic information. Classification details can be seen in online supplemental table 2. Then we used network diagram to see the connections of categorised risk factors. We used forest plot to describe the model performance. The expected observed (E/O) ratio was not included in the forest plot because it was only reported in 7 out of 40 studies. All analyses were performed using Stata V.16.0 and NetDraw.

Patient and public involvement

There was no patient or public involvement in this study.

RESULTS

Study selection

A total of 92 519 indexed records (54 653 in PubMed, 30 374 in Cochrane Library and 7 492 in Embase), 28 625 were eliminated as duplicates found in all databases,

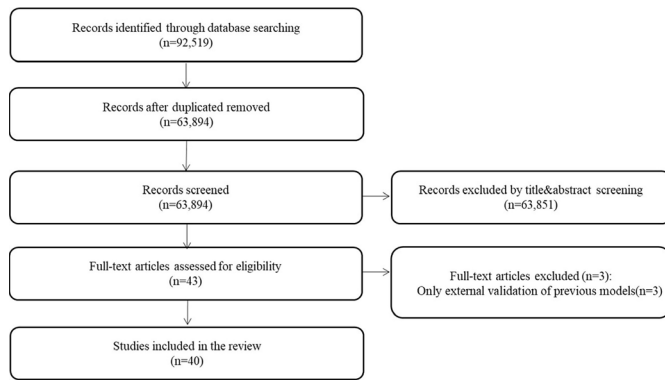


Figure 1 Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses flow chart.

leaving a total of 63894 publications. Forty-three articles were included primarily after screening by title and abstract. Three studies which were only about the external validation of previous models were excluded while full test screening, resulting in 40 studies with 47 models were included in the review eventually (figure 1).

Study characteristics

A brief summary of the 40^{6 16-54} included studies is presented in online supplemental table 3. The included studies were published from 1989 to 2021. twenty-five of the studies were conducted over the past 10 years with five studies published in 2017 especially. Seventeen out of the 40 studies used data from case-control studies to develop prediction models,^{6 17 19 23-26 29-31 39 41 43 46 49 51 54} 13 from

prospective cohorts,^{16 18 20-22 27 33-37 40 52} 8 from nested case-control studies^{28 38 42 44 47 48 50 53} and 2 from cross-sectional study.^{32 45} Thirty-one studies used logistic regression to fit prediction models,^{6 17-19 22-26 28-32 34 38-51 53 54} seven used cox proportional hazards regression,^{20 21 27 33 35 36 52} one used Poisson regression¹⁶ and one used competing risk regression.³⁷ Of all 47 models in 40 studies, 16 models were developed in Caucasian women,^{6 16 18 23 26 28 29 34 40 42 45 47 50 53} 13 in multiple ethnicities women,^{20-22 24 27 30 35-38 44 48} 12 in Asian women,^{17 19 31 32 39 43 49 51 52} 2 in African-American women,^{25 33} 2 in Hispanic women,⁴¹ 1 in Nigerian women⁴⁶ and 1 in Cypriot women.⁵⁴

The association between eight categories of risk factors was shown in figure 2. Reproductive factors had the biggest node size, which meant that this factor was most frequently connected with other factors among prediction models. The number between two factors meant the times these two factors were included in the same models, some of which were over 30. For instance, reproductive factors and family history of cancer were included in the same models for 40 times, and reproductive factors and age were included in the same models for 31 times.

Twenty-nine studies reported c-statistics,^{18-22 26-28 30-32 34-40 42 43 45-48 50-54} ranged from 0.59 (95% CI 0.57 to 0.61) to 0.943 (95% CI 0.919 to 0.967). Qiu *et al*⁵¹ had the highest c-statistics (0.943, 95% CI 0.919 to 0.967), and Lee *et al*¹⁹ and Salih *et al*⁴⁵ reported area under the curve (AUC) over 0.8, 0.867 and 0.864 (95% CI 0.81 to 0.92), respectively. E/O ratios can be obtained from eight studies.^{22 27 29 32 35 36 46 52} Figure 3 shows that

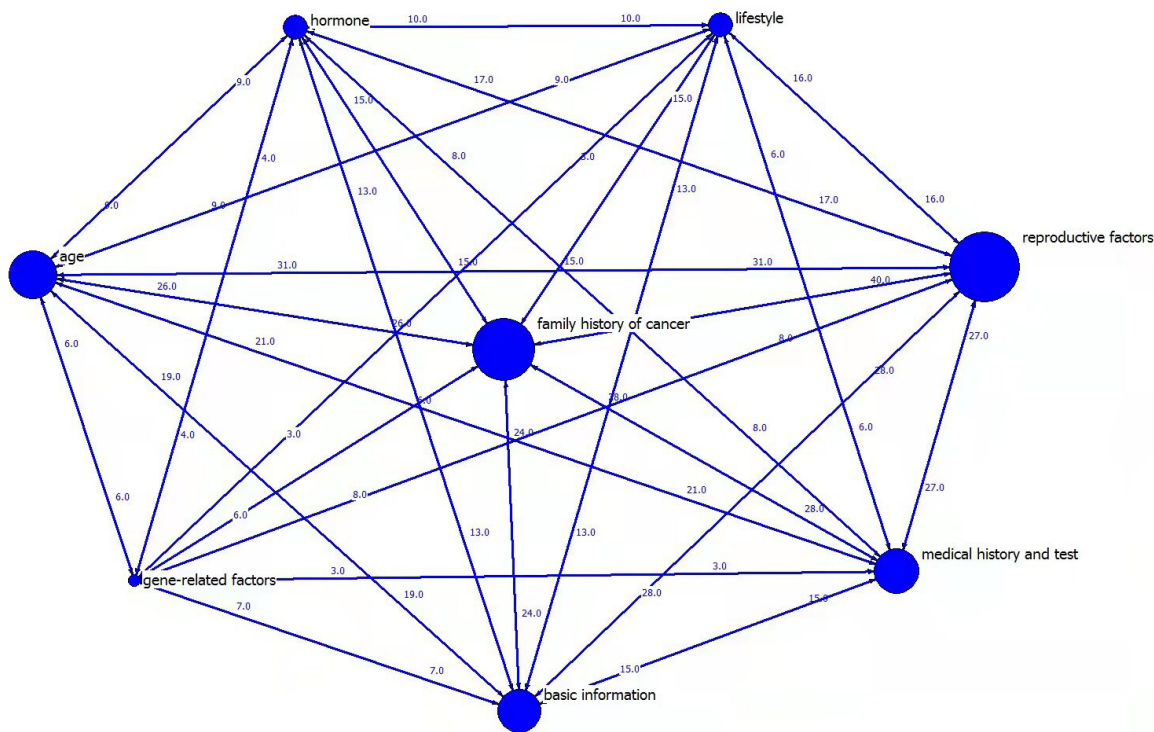


Figure 2 Network diagram of eight categorised risk factors (age, basic information, family history of cancer, gene-related factors, hormone, lifestyle, medical history and test, and reproductive factors).

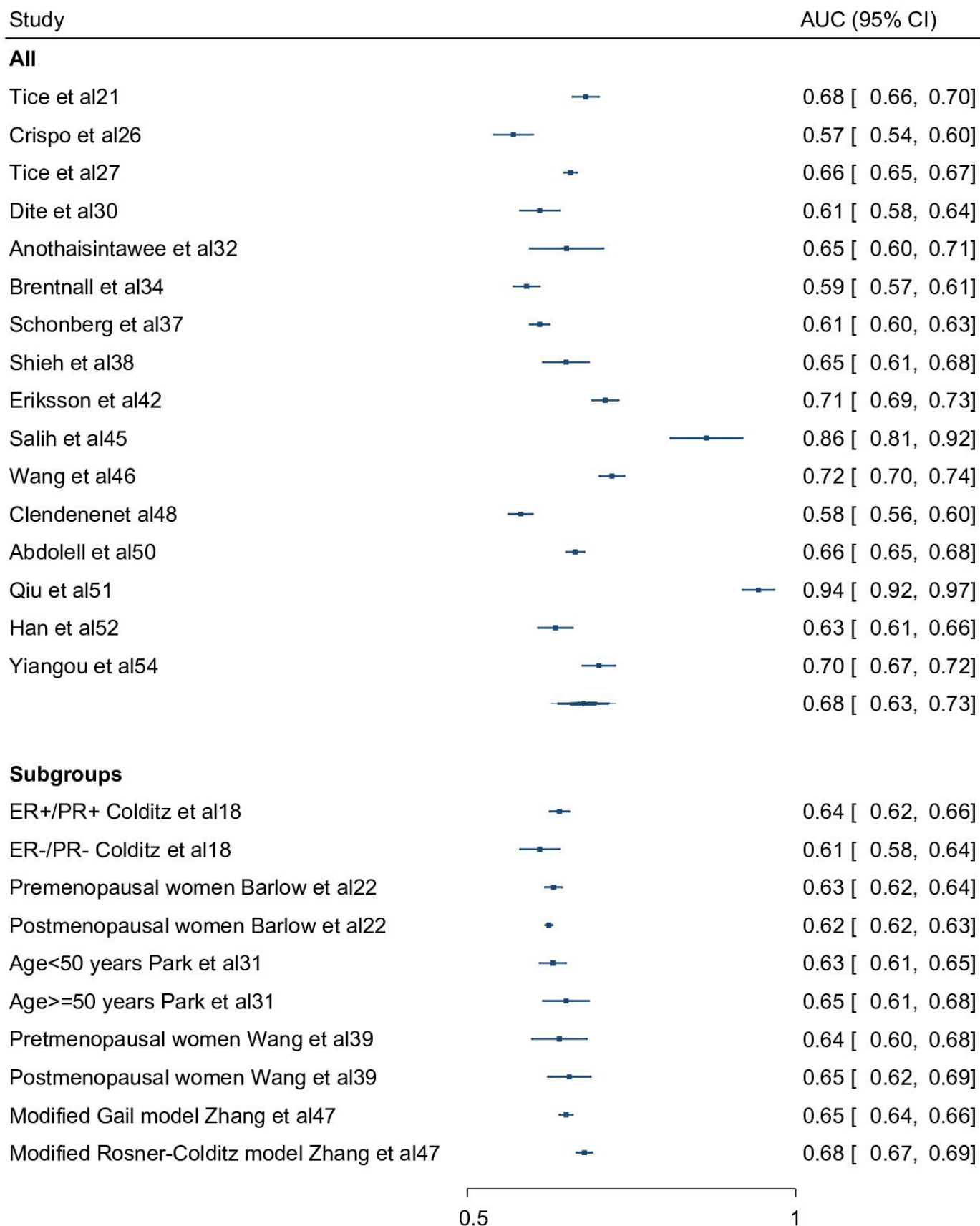


Figure 3 Area under the curve (AUC) and CIs reported by the included studies.

the overall AUC was 0.68 (95% CI 0.63 to 0.73) for 16 studies^{21 26 27 30 32 34 37 38 42 45 46 48 50–52 54} that reported the AUC and 95% CI. The AUCs of the subgroups in five studies^{18 22 31 39 47} were between 0.6 and 0.7.

In all these 40 studies, nine studies assessed prediction models with internal validation,^{22 26 27 33 39 44–47} 10 with external validation,^{23 25 29 31 37 41 49 51–53} and 1 with both.³² Fifteen studies reported the discriminatory accuracy as the AUC,^{23 25 27 29 31–33 37 39 41 46 49 51–53} and 11 studies used the expected/observed event ratio (or observed/expected event ratio) to measure the calibration accuracy of the model.^{23 25 27 29 31 33 37 41 45 49 52}

Quality assessment

A summary of the quality assessment is shown in [table 1](#). Overall, all models assessed by PROBAST in the review had high risk of bias. There was a low and high risk of bias in the outcome and analysis domains, respectively. Over 60% models had low risk in participants domain and about 70% models had low risk in predictors domain, 32 models and 36 models, respectively (as shown in [figure 4](#)).

The main reasons for the high risk in analysis domain were model performance measures evaluated inappropriately, categorisation of continuous predictors, no reporting of overfitting and optimism in model performance and missing data handled inappropriately (online supplemental table 4).

DISCUSSION

Summary of main results

This systematic review identified 40 studies with 47 risk prediction models developed and/or validated for breast cancer among different ethnic groups. Most of the studies used logistic regression to develop breast cancer risk prediction models for Caucasian women by case-control data. The most widely used risk factor was reproductive factors. Reproductive factors together with family history factor were used in most models. The highest AUC was 0.943 (95% CI 0.919 to 0.967) from Qiu *et al.*⁵¹ The overall AUC was 0.68 (95% CI 0.63 to 0.73) for 16 studies^{21 26 27 30 32 34 37 38 42 45 46 48 50–52 54} that reported the AUC and 95% CI. All the studies presented a high risk of bias due to the high risk in analysis domain, which were mainly because of model performance measures evaluated inappropriately, categorisation of continuous predictors, no reporting of overfitting and optimism in model performance and missing data handled inappropriately.

Agreements and disagreements with other reviews

As we can learn from the review, there were more and more risk prediction models of breast cancer over the past 30 years. Most of the models were developed in the Caucasian women, which agreed with the systematic review published by Louro *et al.*⁵⁵ Compared with this review, we identified more prediction models and used a newly published tool to assess the quality of included models.

Over the past 10 years, some new variables (such as oral contraceptives, diabetes and alcohol consumption) have been included in prediction models. Increased use of the inclusion of common genetic variation in the prediction models was in accord with Louro *et al.*⁵⁵ and Anothaisintawee *et al.*⁵⁶ However, neither of them included models developed with potential biomarkers like tumour-associated antigens. By contrast, we included one model developed by Qiu *et al.*⁵¹ included five tumour-associated antigens. The model performed well with a high AUC 0.943 (95% CI 0.919 to 0.967).

Strengths and limitations of the study

PROBAST was developed through a consensus process involving a group of methodological experts in the field of clinical prediction tools and quality assessment. We used it to assess the quality of prediction models, which has been used widely in many fields^{57–60} since it came out.

Despite the strength, there are four main limitations. First, we did not systematically search grey literature. Therefore, some models may not be identified. Second, quality assessment could be thought to be subjective, which is an inherent bias of systematic review. However, two independent reviewers extracted and assessed the risk prediction models using PROBAST whose authors have indicated essentially objective guidelines and explanations. Moreover, studies only about the external validation of the present risk models were not included in the review, but the original developments of these risk models were covered. For instance, the study describes the original developments of Gail model⁶ was included in our research, while the studies only about the external validation of Gail model^{61–64} were not included. What's more, papers about genetically oriented models like BOADICEA^{65 66} and BRACAPRO⁶⁷ were not included in our study because some rare truncating/pathogenic variants like BRCA1 and BRCA2 are needed to be tested, which might be too expensive to use for general population in the mass screening.⁵⁵

Implication to research and clinical practice

Eleven models^{19 30–32 37–39 43 45 50 54} selected predictors based on univariable analysis, causing a high risk in analysis domain, which should be avoided. Risk prediction models should include predictors those are well established and with clinical credibility regardless of any statistical significance.^{68 69} Because sometimes predictors only have important relationship with the outcome after adjustment for confounding covariates, and covariates hold no independent predictive power when other covariates are included.^{13 70}

Some models were high risk in analysis domain because of missing data handled inappropriately, which may lead to biased associations between risk factors and breast cancer as well as biased model performance because of the selectivity of participants.⁷¹ So imputation techniques are supposed to apply when data are missing.^{72 73}

**Table 1** Summary of risk of bias assessment

| Study | Participants | Predictors | Outcome | Analysis | Overall |
|---|--------------|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Gail <i>et al</i> ⁶ | H | L | L | H | H |
| Rosner <i>et al</i> ¹⁶ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Ueda <i>et al</i> ¹⁷ | H | L | L | H | H |
| Colditz <i>et al</i> ¹⁸ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Lee <i>et al</i> ¹⁹ | H | H | L | H | H |
| Tice <i>et al</i> ²⁰ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Tice <i>et al</i> ²¹ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Barlow <i>et al</i> ²² | L | L | L | H | H |
| Decarli <i>et al</i> ²³ | H | H | L | H | H |
| Decarli <i>et al</i> ^{23*} | L | L | L | H | H |
| Novotny <i>et al</i> ²⁴ | H | H | L | H | H |
| Gail <i>et al</i> ²⁵ | H | H | L | H | H |
| Gail <i>et al</i> ^{25*} | L | L | L | H | H |
| Crispo <i>et al</i> ²⁶ | H | H | L | H | H |
| Tice <i>et al</i> ²⁷ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Tamimi <i>et al</i> ²⁸ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Petracci <i>et al</i> ²⁹ | H | H | L | H | H |
| Petracci <i>et al</i> ^{29*} | L | L | L | H | H |
| Dite <i>et al</i> ³⁰ | H | H | L | H | H |
| Park <i>et al</i> ³¹ | H | H | L | H | H |
| Park <i>et al</i> ^{31*} | L | L | L | H | H |
| Anothaisintawee <i>et al</i> ³² | H | L | L | H | H |
| Anothaisintawee <i>et al</i> ^{32*} | L | L | L | H | H |
| Boggs <i>et al</i> ³³ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Brentnall <i>et al</i> ³⁴ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Kerlikowske <i>et al</i> ³⁵ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Tice <i>et al</i> ³⁶ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Schonberg <i>et al</i> ³⁷ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Schonberg <i>et al</i> ^{37*} | L | L | L | H | H |
| Shieh <i>et al</i> ³⁸ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Wang <i>et al</i> ³⁹ | H | H | L | H | H |
| Mass <i>et al</i> ⁴⁰ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Banegas <i>et al</i> ⁴¹ | H | L | L | H | H |
| Banegas <i>et al</i> ^{41*} | L | L | L | H | H |
| Eriksson <i>et al</i> ⁴² | L | L | L | H | H |
| Hsieh <i>et al</i> ⁴³ | H | H | L | H | H |
| Hüsing <i>et al</i> ⁴⁴ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Salih <i>et al</i> ⁴⁵ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Wang <i>et al</i> ⁴⁶ | H | H | L | H | H |
| Zhang <i>et al</i> ⁴⁷ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Clendenen <i>et al</i> ⁴⁸ | L | H | L | H | H |
| Wang <i>et al</i> ⁴⁹ | H | H | L | H | H |
| Wang <i>et al</i> ^{49*} | L | L | L | H | H |
| Abdolell <i>et al</i> ⁵⁰ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Qiu <i>et al</i> ⁵¹ | H | H | L | H | H |

Continued

Table 1 Continued

| Study | Participants | Predictors | Outcome | Analysis | Overall |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Qiu <i>et al</i> ^{51*} | H | H | L | H | H |
| Han <i>et al</i> ⁵² | L | L | L | H | H |
| Han <i>et al</i> ^{*52} | L | L | L | H | H |
| Rosner <i>et al</i> ⁵³ | L | L | L | H | H |
| Rosner <i>et al</i> ^{*53} | L | L | L | H | H |
| Yiangou <i>et al</i> ⁵⁴ | H | L | L | H | H |

L indicates low risk of bias; H indicates high risk of bias.
*The external validation was performed in the same study.

When developing the risk prediction models, there were only nine studies included internal validation,^{22 26 27 33 39 44–47} leaving most models without internal validation. Lack of performing internal validation may increase the risk of overfitting.⁷⁴ Thus, we suggest that internal validation should be performed before external validation.

PROBAST was created by many international experts, providing a series of guidelines about model development and validation, which can be easily applied and improve clinical practice of prediction models. So, the new and most recommended methodology should be used when a new model is developed or the existing models are updated.

In the light of the results of our review, it is still hard to recommend any of the models to be applied in the breast cancer screening due to the high risk of bias. Adding variables like mammographic density or single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) to risk-prediction models can improve the model performance and has been well validated in the general population of European-ancestry women.^{40 75–80} But the model incorporating breast density or SNPs among Asian women is few and poorly needed. Cost-effectiveness should be considered when a model is going to be applied in clinical practice. Because even though the model with some risk factors that cost more to get (eg, high risk gene) has better model performance, it is still hard to be applied in poor area.⁸¹ What's more,

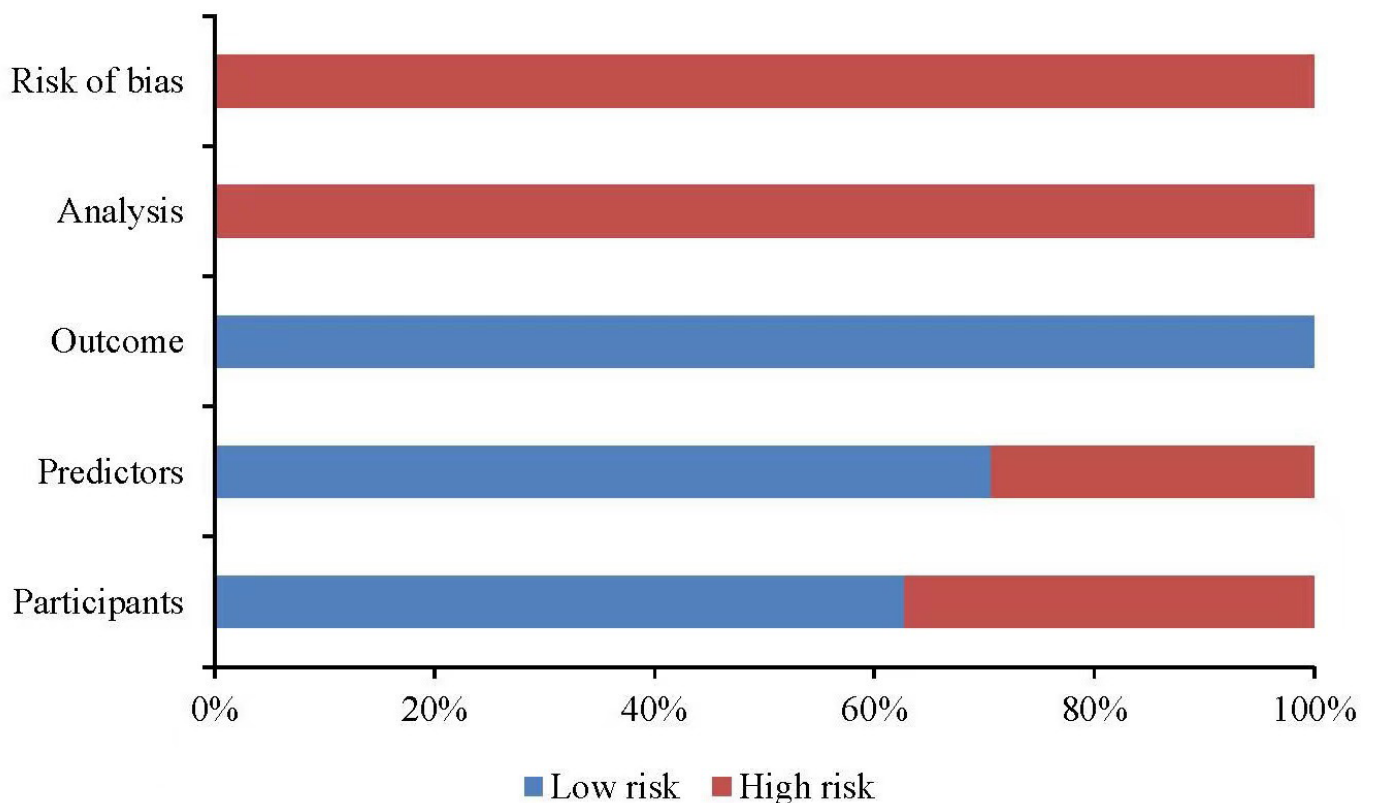


Figure 4 Risk of bias assessment (using PROBAST) of all assessed models based on four domains. PROBAST, Prediction model study Risk Of Bias Assessment Tool.



an existing model should be modified or updated before used in another group of people with different characteristics, which may improve the performance of prediction models.

Breast cancer incidence has risen to the first place by 2020 all over the world, which makes it more crucial to develop breast cancer prediction models for different ethnic groups. In China, we have launched many breast cancer screening programmes. For example, Rural Women 'two cancers' Check Project Management Solutions have covered 31 provinces and 1437 counties since 2009. Cancer Screening Programme in urban China conducted by the National Cancer Centre has covered 28 provinces and 67 cities with more than 4million people involved and 2million people screened by ultrasound and Mammography since 2012. The programme will provide large data for us to develop a high-quality breast cancer risk prediction model in Chinese and will have great significance for breast cancer prevention of Asian women.

CONCLUSIONS

All 47 models assessed in our review using PROBAST performed the high risk of bias, leaving no model is recommended in the routine screening programme. Some new variables, like oral contraceptives, diabetes and alcohol consumption, have been widely used in prediction models over the past ten years. Models incorporating mammographic density or SNPs among Asian women are few and poorly needed. It is necessary to develop and validate high-quality breast cancer risk prediction models among different ethnic groups, especially among Asian women.

Contributors YZ and JL conceptualised the study and created the first version of the review protocol. ZW, HL, MC, NL and JH critically reviewed the review protocol and approved it. YZ and HL screened eligible articles. YZ extracted the data, supported by ZW, MC. YZ drafted the first version of the manuscript, supported by JL, NL and JH. All authors contributed to data interpretation and critically assessed it. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript. NL was responsible for the overall content as the guarantor.

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Competing interests None declared.

Patient and public involvement Patients and/or the public were not involved in the design, or conduct, or reporting, or dissemination plans of this research.

Patient consent for publication Not applicable.

Ethics approval This study does not involve human participants.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

Data availability statement All data relevant to the study are included in the article or uploaded as online supplemental information. All data of the current study is present in the main manuscript, figures, tables and online supplemental material.

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Appendix

Appendix Table 1. Searching strategy.

| Searching strategy |
|---|
| Take PubMed for example: |
| #1 "Breast Neoplasms"[Mesh] OR "Breast Carcinoma In Situ"[Mesh] OR "Breast Neoplasms, Male"[Mesh] OR "Carcinoma, Ductal, Breast"[Mesh] OR "Carcinoma, Lobular"[Mesh] OR "Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Syndrome"[Mesh] OR "Inflammatory Breast Neoplasms"[Mesh] OR "Triple Negative Breast Neoplasms"[Mesh] OR "Unilateral Breast Neoplasms"[Mesh] OR phyllodes tumor[Title/Abstract] OR breast sarcoma[Title/Abstract] OR mamma cancer*[Title/Abstract] OR mammary cancer*[Title/Abstract] OR mammary gland cancer*[Title/Abstract] OR Mammary Ductal Carcinoma*[Title/Abstract] OR breast gland cancer*[Title/Abstract] OR breast gland neoplasm*[Title/Abstract] OR Breast Neoplasm*[Title/Abstract] OR Breast Tumor*[Title/Abstract] OR Breast Cancer*[Title/Abstract] OR Mammary Cancer*[Title/Abstract] OR Breast Malignant Neoplasm*[Title/Abstract] OR Breast Malignant Tumor*[Title/Abstract] OR Human Mammary Carcinoma*[Title/Abstract] OR Human Mammary Neoplasm*[Title/Abstract] OR Breast Carcinoma*[Title/Abstract] OR Lobular Carcinoma*[Title/Abstract] 418,670 |
| #2 ("Regression Analysis"[Mesh] OR "Multivariate Analysis"[Mesh] OR "Models, Biological"[Mesh] OR "Models, Statistical"[Mesh] OR "Algorithms"[Mesh]) AND "Risk Assessment" [Mesh] 52,269 |
| #3 predict*[Title/Abstract] AND (outcome*[Title/Abstract] OR index[Title/Abstract] OR rule*[Title/Abstract] OR decision*[Title/Abstract] OR scor*[Title/Abstract]) 624,639 |
| #4 risk*[Title/Abstract] AND (predict*[Title/Abstract] OR calculate*[Title/Abstract] OR assess*[Title/Abstract] OR scor*[Title/Abstract] OR algorithm[Title/Abstract]) 1,109,068 |
| #5 model*[Title/Abstract] AND (logistic[Title/Abstract] OR statistic*[Title/Abstract] OR risk*[Title/Abstract] OR predict*[Title/Abstract]) 1,1035,123 |
| #6 OR/2-5 2,195,108 |
| #7 #1 AND #6 54,653 |

Appendix Table 2. Classification of risk factors.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| age | / |
| reproductive factors | age at menarche, age at first birth, menopause, age at subsequent births, menstrual regularity, total menstrual duration, breastfeeding, breast density, parity, reproductive characteristics, microcalcifications and masses, abortions, breast volume |
| family history of cancer | family history of breast cancer, family history of any cancer |
| hormone | hormone therapy, oral contraceptives, estrogen plus progestin use, testosterone, estradiol, sex hormone binding globulin, Insulin-like growth factor-I, estrone sulphate, prolactin, anti-Müllerian hormone |
| gene-related factors | polygenic risk score, rs2981582 (FGFR2), rs3803662(TOX3), rs889312(MAP3K1), rs13387042(2q35), rs13281615(8q24), rs4415084 (FGF10), rs3817198 (LSP1), rs981782(HCN1), rs10822013(ZNF365), rs3784099(RAD51B) |
| lifestyle | alcohol consumption, smoking status, exercise, light at night, sleep quality, vegetables and fruits, cereals, life satisfaction score |
| medical history and test | previous biopsies, benign breast disease, nipple aspirate fluid cytology, prior breast procedure, prior false-positive mammogram, breast inflammatory, benign breast category, benign breast disease, atypical hyperplasia, mammogram in past 2 years, diabetes, myocardial infarction, stroke, emphysema, congestive heart failure, p53, CyclinB1, p16, p62,14-3-3ξ |
| basic information | body mass index, weight, education, ethnicity, occupational activity, height, residence area |

Appendix Table 3. Summary of the 40 included studies.

| Author | Year | develop | | | | | | | validate | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|---|---------------------------|
| | | Study design | Research method | Targeted population | No of risk factors | Risk factors | Model development (AUC (95%CI); E/O ratio (95%)) | Sample size of development | Type of validation | Study design | Targeted population | Model validation (AUC (95%CI); E/O ratio (95%)) | Sample size of validation |
| Gail et al ⁶ | 1989 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Caucasian; 20–79 years | 5 | Age, age at menarche, age at first birth, number of previous biopsies, number of first degree relatives with breast cancer | AUC: none; E/O ratio: none | 2,852 cases/ 3,146 controls | None | None | None | None | None |
| Rosner et al ¹⁶ | 1996 | Prospective cohort study | Poisson regression | Caucasian; 30–64 years | 5 | Age, age at menarche, age at first birth, menopause, age at subsequent births | AUC: none; E/O ratio: none | 2,249 cases/ 89,132 total | None | None | None | None | None |
| Ueda et al ¹⁷ | 2003 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Asian women; age was not specified. | 4 | Age at menarche, age at first birth, family history of breast cancer, body mass index | AUC: none; E/O ratio: none | 376 cases/ 430 controls | None | None | None | None | None |
| Colditz et al ¹⁸ | 2004 | Prospective cohort study | Logistic regression | Caucasian; 30–64 years | 11 | Age, age at menarche, age at first birth, menopause, age at subsequent births, benign breast disease, postmenopausal hormone use, family history of breast cancer in a first-degree relative, weight, body mass index, alcohol consumption | AUC: ER+/PR+: 0.64 (0.63, 0.66); ER-/PR-: 0.61 (0.58, 0.64); E/O ratio: none | 2,846 cases/ 66,145 total | None | None | None | None | None |
| Lee et al ¹⁹ | 2004 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Asian women; age was not specified. | 1) Hospitalized controls: 5 2) Nurse/teacher controls: 5 2) Nurse/teacher controls: 5 | 1) Hospitalized controls: family history, menstrual regularity, total menstrual duration, age at first full-term pregnancy, duration of breastfeeding 2) Nurse/teacher controls: age, education level, menstrual regularity, drinking status, smoking status | AUC: 1) Hospitalized controls: 0.714; 2) Nurse/teacher controls: 0.867; E/O ratio: none | 1) Hospitalized controls: 384 cases/ 166 controls; 2) Nurse/teacher controls: 384 cases/ | None | None | None | None | None |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| | | | | | se/teac her contro ls: 5 | | | 104 controls | | | | | |
| Tice et al ²⁰ | 2005 | Prospective cohort study | Cox proportional hazards regression | Multiple ethnicities; 18 years and older | 6 | Age, age at menarche, previous biopsy, age at first birth, first degree breast cancer, nipple aspirate fluid cytology | AUC: 0.64; E/O ratio: none | 400 cases/ 6,904 total | None | None | None | None | None |
| Tice et al ²¹ | 2005 | Prospective cohort study | Cox proportional hazards regression | Multiple ethnicities; 35 years and older | 6 | Age, age at menarche, previous biopsy, age at first birth, first degree breast cancer, breast density | AUC: 0.68 (0.66,0.70); E/O ratio: none | 955 cases/ 81,777 total | None | None | None | None | None |
| Barlow et al ²² | 2006 | Prospective cohort study | Logistic regression | Multiple ethnicities, 35-84 years | 1) Pre menopausal women: n: 4 2) Postmenopausal women: n: 10 | 1) Premenopausal women: age, breast density, family history of breast cancer, a prior breast procedure 2) Postmenopausal women: age, breast density, race, ethnicity, family history of breast cancer, a prior breast procedure, body mass index, natural menopause, hormone therapy, a prior false-positive mammogram | AUC: Premenopausal women: 0.631 (0.618, 0.644); postmenopausal women: 0.624 (0.619, 0.630) E/O ratio %: Premenopausal women: 1.000 postmenopausal women: 1.001 | 1) Premenopausal women: 1,726 cases/ 568,215 total; 2) postmenopausal women: 9,300 cases/ 1,642,824 total | Internal validation | None | None | None | None |
| Decarli et al ²³ | 2006 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Caucasian; 20-74 years | 5 | Age, age of menarche, number of breast biopsies, age at first live birth, first degree breast cancer | AUC: none; E/O ratio: none | 2569 cases/ 2588 controls | External validation | Prospective cohort study | Caucasian; 35-64 years | AUC: 0.59; E/O ratio: 0.96(0.84, 1.11) | 194 cases /10,031 total |

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|-----------------------------|------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|----|---|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Novotny et al ²⁴ | 2006 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Multiple ethnicities; 23-84 years | 8 | Age of menarche, number of biopsies, age at first childbirth, number of breast cancer cases in first-degree relatives, number of any cancer cases in first-degree relatives, breast inflammatory, body mass index, number of conceptions | AUC: none; E/O ratio: none | 2299 cases/ controls | None | None | None | None | None |
| Gail et al ²⁵ | 2007 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | African-American Women; 35-64 years | 5 | Age, age at menarche, number of affected mother or sisters, age at first live birth, number of previous benign biopsy examinations | AUC: none; E/O ratio: none | 1607 cases/ 1647 controls | External validation | Prospective cohort study | African American women; 50-79 years | AUC: 0.555 (0.535,0.575); E/O ratio: 0.93b | 350 cases /14,059 total |
| Crispo et al ²⁶ | 2008 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Caucasian; age was not specified | 5 | Age, age at menarche, number of biopsies, age at first live birth, family history | AUC: 0.57 (0.54, 0.60); E/O ratio: none | 558 cases/ 1207 controls | Internal validation | None | None | None | None |
| Tice et al ²⁷ | 2008 | Prospective cohort study | Cox proportional hazards regression | Multiple ethnicities; 35 years or older | 5 | Age, ethnicity, first degree breast cancer, previous biopsies, breast density | AUC: 0.657 (0.65,0.67); E/O ratio: 1.00 (0.98,1.03) | 14,766 cases/ 1095484 total | Internal validation | Prospective cohort study | Multiple ethnicities; 35 years or older | AUC: 0.660(0.65,0.66); E/O ratio: 1.03(0.99,1.06) | 3,465 cases/ 251,789 total |
| Tamimi et al ²⁸ | 2010 | Nested case-control study | Logistic regression | Caucasian; 40-79 years | 11 | The type of benign breast disease, age, age at menarche, age at first birth and at each subsequent birth, age at menopause and type of menopause, history of benign breast diseases, family history of breast cancer in mother or sister, height, weight at age 18 years, current use of postmenopausal hormones (including type and duration of use), alcohol intake | AUC: 0.635; E/O ratio: none | 240 cases/ 1036 controls | None | None | None | None | None |

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|-------------------------------------|------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Petracci et al ²⁹ | 2011 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Caucasian; 20-74 years | 8 | Reproductive characteristics, education, occupational activity, family history, biopsy history, alcohol consumption, leisure physical activity, body mass index. | AUC: none; E/O ratio: 1.10 (0.96,1.26) | 2569 cases/ 2588 controls | External validation | prospective cohort study | Caucasian; 35-64 years | AUC: Age<50: 0.62(0.555,0.689) ; age>=50: 0.57 (0.519,0.614); E/O ratio: 1.10(0.96,1.26) | 206 cases/ 8,426 total |
| Dite et al ³⁰ | 2013 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Multiple ethnicities; 35-59 years | 13 | Age, ethnicity, age at menarche, age at birth of first child, number of first-degree relatives with breast cancer, number of biopsies, presence of atypical hyperplasia, rs2981582(FGFR2), rs3803662(TOX3), rs889312(MAP3K1), rs13387042(2q35), rs13281615(8q24), rs4415084 (FGF10), rs3817198 (LSP1) | AUC: 0.61 (0.58,0.64); E/O ratio: none | 962 cases/ 463 controls | None | None | None | None | None |
| Park et al ³¹ | 2013 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Asian women; age was not specified. | 1) Age e<50 years: 7 2) Age e>=50 years: 7 | 1)Age<50 years: a family history of breast cancer in first-degree relatives, age at menarche, menopausal status, age at first full-term pregnancy, duration of breast feeding, oral contraceptive usage, exercise. 2)Age>=50 years: a family history of breast cancer in first degree relatives, age at menarche, age at menopause, experience of pregnancy, body mass index, oral contraceptive usage, exercise | AUC: Age<50 years: 0.63 (0.61-0.65); Age>=50 years: 0.65 (0.61- 0.68); E/O ratio: none | 3,789 cases/ 3,789 controls | External validation | Prospective cohort study | None | 1)Korean Multi-Center Cohort (KMCC): AUC: 0.61(0.49,0.72); E/O ratio: 0.97(0.67,1.40) 2)National Cancer Center (NCC) cohort: AUC: 0.89(0.85,0.93) E/O ratio: 0.96(0.70,1.37) | 1) KMCC: 29cases/ 6148 total; 2)NCC: 36 cases/ 7546 total |
| Anothaisintawee et al ³² | 2014 | Cross-sectional study | Logistic regression | Asian women; age was not specified | 4 | Age, menopausal status, body mass index, use of oral contraceptives | AUC: 0.651 (0.595, 0.707); O/E ratio: 1.00 (0.82, 1.21) ^b | 107cases/ 15,718total | Internal and external validation | Cross-sectional study | Asian women; 18 years or older | Internal validation: AUC: 0.646(0.642,0.650); E/O ratio: none; External validation: | 35 cases/ 4,978 total |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | AUC: 0.609(0.511,0.706); O/E ratio: 0.97 (0.68, 1.35) ⁹ | |
| Boggs et al ³³ | 2015 | Prospective cohort study | Cox proportional hazards regression | African-American Women; 30-69 years | 9 | Family history, previous biopsy, body mass index at age 18 years, age at menarche, age at first birth, oral contraceptive use, bilateral oophorectomy, estrogen plus progestin use, height | AUC: none; E/O ratio: none | 896 cases/ 55,093 total | Internal validation | Prospective cohort study | African American Women; 30-69 years | AUC: 0.59 (0.56, 0.61); E/O ratio: 0.96(0.88,1.05) | 506 cases/ 48,193 total |
| Brentnall et al ³⁴ | 2015 | Prospective cohort study | Logistic regression | Caucasian; 47-73 years | 1) Gail model+ Density residual: Age, Ethnicity, age at menarche, age at first birth, number of previous biopsies, benign disease, number of first degree relatives with breast cancer, density residual 2) Tyrer-Cuzick+ density residual: Age, gen phenotype, family history, age at menarche, age at first birth, menopause, atypical Hyperplasia, lobular carcinoma in situ, height, body mass index, density residual | (1) Primary (invasive+ DCIS): 1)Gail model+ Density residual: AUC: 0.59(0.57,0.61); E/O ratio: none; 2)Tyrer- Cuzick+ density residual: AUC: 0.61(0.59,0.63); E/O ratio: none; (2) Secondary(invasive): 1)Gail model+ Density residual: AUC: 0.59(0.57,0.61); E/O ratio: none; 2)Tyrer-Cuzick+ density residual: AUC: 0.61(0.58-0.63); E/O ratio: none | 697 cases/ 50,628 total | None | None | None | None | None | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|--|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Kerlikowske et al ³⁵ | 2015 | Prospective cohort study | Cox proportional hazards regression | Multiple ethnicities; 35-74 years | 5 | Age, ethnicity, first degree breast cancer, previous biopsies, changes in breast density | AUC: 5-year risk model: 0.640; 10-year risk model: 0.628; E/O ratio: 5-year risk model: 0.98(0.96,1.00); 10-year risk model: 0.95(0.94,0.96) | 13,715 cases/ 722,654 total | None | None | None | None | None |
| Tice et al ³⁶ | 2015 | Prospective cohort study | Cox proportional hazards regression | Multiple ethnicities; 35-74 years | 6 | Age, race/ethnicity, family history of breast cancer, history of breast biopsy, benign breast disease diagnoses, breast density | AUC: 0.665; E/O ratio: 5 Years: 1.04(1.02,1.06); 10 years: 1.05 (1.03,1.06) | 17908 cases/ 1,135,977 total | None | None | None | None | None |
| Schonberg et al ³⁷ | 2016 | Prospective cohort study | Competing risk regression | Multiple ethnicities; 57-85 years | 16 | Age at study entry, postmenopausal hormone use, number of first-degree relatives with history of breast cancer and age at diagnosis, history of breast biopsy, highest body mass index in past 10 years, age at menopause, age at first birth and parity, average alcohol use per day (highest average use in past 10 years), cigarette use, mammogram in past 2 years, limited in moderate daily activity, diabetes, myocardial infarction, stroke, emphysema, congestive heart failure | AUC: 0.61 (0.60,0.63); E/O ratio: none | 73,066 total | External validation | Prospective cohort study | Multiple ethnicities; 55-91 years | AUC: 0.57 (0.55,0.58); E/O ratio: 0.92(0.88,0.97) | 74,887 total |
| Shieh et al ³⁸ | 2016 | Nested case-control study | Logistic regression | Multiple ethnicities; 36-86 years | 7 | Age, ethnicity, first degree breast cancer, previous biopsies, breast density, polygenic risk score, body mass index | AUC:0.65(0.61,0.68); E/O ratio: none | 486 cases/ 495 controls | None | None | None | None | None |

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|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---|------|
| Wang et al ³⁹ | 2016 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Asian women; 20-84 years | 1)Pre menopausal: 5; 2)Post menopausal: 11 | 1) Premenopausal: age, number of parity, case number of breast cancer in first-degree relatives, light at night, sleep quality; 2) Postmenopausal: age, number of parity, case number of breast cancer in first-degree relatives, light at night, body mass index, age at menarche, age at first give birth, ever breast feeding, ever using of oral contraceptive, hormone replacement treatment, history of benign breast diseases. | 1) Pretmenopausal women: AUC: 0.640(0.598,0.681); E/O ratio: none; 2) Postmenopausal women: 0.655(0.621,0.686); E/O ratio: none | 923 cases / 918 controls | Internal validation | Case-control study | Asian women; 20-84 years | 1) Premenopausal: average AUC: 0.621; 3) Postmenopausal: Average AUC: 0.632 | None |
| Maas et al ⁴⁰ | 2016 | Prospective cohort study | Logistic regression | Caucasian | 11 | Age at menarche, menopause, age at first birth, parity, alcohol consumption, height, smoking status, BMI, family history, hormone therapy, PRS | AUC: 0.640; E/O ratio: none | 17,171 cases / 19,862 controls | None | None | None | None | None |

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|------------------------------|------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Banegas et al ⁴¹ | 2017 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Hispanic Women; 35-79 years | 1) The US-born risk model: age at first full-term pregnancy, biopsy for benign breast disease, family history of breast cancer; 2) The foreign-born risk model: age at first full-term pregnancy, biopsy for benign breast disease, family history of breast cancer, age at menarche | None | 1086 cases/ 411 controls | External validation | Prospective cohort study | Hispanic Women; 50-79 years | 1)US-born Hispanics: AUC: 0.564 (0.485, 0.644); O/E:1.07 (0.81 ,1.40) ^b ; 2)Foreign-born Hispanics: AUC: 0.625 (0.487 ,0.764); O/E: 0.66 (0.41,1.07) ^b 3) Hispanics of unknown nativity: AUC: 0.582(0.509,0.656); O/E: 0.89(0.69,1.14) ^b | 130 cases/ 6,220 total |
| Eriksson et al ⁴² | 2017 | Nested case-control study | Logistic regression | Caucasian; 40-74 years | 7 MD, computer-aided detection of microcalcifications and masses, use of hormone replacement therapy, family history of breast cancer, menopausal status, age, body mass index | AUC: 0.71(0.69,0.73); E/O ratio: none | 433cases / 1732 controls | None | None | None | None | None |
| Hsieh et al ⁴³ | 2017 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Asian women; 20-90 years | 11 FGFR2 (rs2981582), HCN1 (rs981782), MAP3K1 (rs889312), TOX3(rs3803662), ZNF365(rs10822013), RAD51B(rs3784099), age, body mass index, age at menarche, parity, menopausal status | AUC: 0.6652; E/O ratio: none | 446 cases/ 514 controls | None | None | None | None | None |

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|----------------------------|------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|----|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Husing et al ⁴⁴ | 2017 | Nested case-control study | Logistic regression | Multiple ethnicities; 26-77 years | 13 | Menopausal status, age at menarche, age at menopause, duration of postmenopausal hormones use, parity, number of children and age at first full term pregnancy, family history of breast cancer, alcohol consumption at recruitment, body mass index, measurements of testosterone, estradiol, sex hormone binding globulin, Insulin-like growth factor-I | AUC: none; E/O ratio: none | 1,217 cases/ 1,976 controls | Internal validation | None | None | None | None |
| Salih et al ⁴⁵ | 2017 | Cross-sectional study | Logistic regression | Caucasian; 32-74 years | 5 | Age, age at menarche, family history, vegetables and fruits weekly servings, type of cereals used | AUC: 0.864(0.81,0.92) | 63 cases/ 90 controls | Internal validation | None | None | O/E ratio: 0.78 ^b | None |
| Wang et al ⁴⁶ | 2018 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Nigerian women; age was not specified | 9 | Age, age at menarche, parity, duration of breastfeeding, family history of breast cancer, height, body mass index, benign breast diseases, alcohol consumption | AUC: 0.720(0.701,0.739); E/O ratio: 1.01 (0.93,1.09) | 1,208 cases/ 1,484 controls | Internal validation | None | Nigerian women; 20-79 years | AUC: 0.694 (0.666,0.721); E/O ratio: none | 603 cases/ 741 controls |

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|-------------------------------|------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| Zhang et al ⁴⁷ | 2018 | Nested case-control study | Logistic regression | Caucasian; 34-70 years | 1) Gail 1 model + PRS + MD + T + EIS +PRL: 10; 2) Ros- ner- Coldit z model + PRS + MD + T + EIS + PRL: 16 | 1) Gail model+ PRS + MD + T + EIS +PRL: Age, age at menarche, previous biopsies, age at first birth, first degree breast cancer, PRS, MD, EIS, T, PRL 2) Rosner-Colditz model+ PRS + MD + T + EIS + PRL: age, age at menarche, age at first birth, menopause, age at subsequent births, benign breast disease, hormone replacement therapy, first degree breast cancer, weight, body mass index, alcohol, PRS, MD, EIS, T, PRL | AUC: Gail model+ PRS + MD + T + EIS +PRL: 0.65(0.64,0.66); Rosner-Colditz model+ PRS + MD + T + EIS + PRL: 0.678 (0.666,0.690); E/O ratio: none | 4,006 cases / 7,874 controls | Internal validation | None | None | None | None |
| Clendenen et al ⁴⁸ | 2019 | Nested case-control study | Logistic regression | Multiple ethnicities; 35-50 years | 6 | Age at menarche, age at first live birth, number of benign breast biopsies, number of first-degree family members with breast cancer, AMH, tT | AUC: 0.581(0.562,0.599); E/O ratio: none | 1,762 cases/ 1,890 controls | None | None | None | None | None |
| Wang et al ⁴⁹ | 2019 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Asian women; 25-70 years | 6 | Number of abortions, age at first live birth, benign breast disease history, body mass index, | None | 328 cases / 656 controls | External validation | Prospective cohort study | Asian women | AUC: 0.64 (0.55,0.72); E/O ratio: 1.03 (0.74,1.49) | 34 cases/ 13,176 total |

| | | | | | | breast cancer family history, life satisfaction score | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----|--|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Abdolell et al ⁵⁰ | 2020 | Nested case-control study | Logistic regression | Caucasian; 40-75 years | 5 | Age at screen, percent mammographic density, breast volume, core biopsy history, family history | AUC: 0.664(0.650,0.678); E/O ratio: none | 1,882 cases/ 5,888 controls | None | None | None | None | None |
| Qiu et al ⁵¹ | 2020 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Asian women; 29-81 years | 5 | p53, CyclinB1, p16, p62,14-3-3ξ | AUC:0.943(0.919,0.967); E/O ratio: none | 184 cases/ 184 controls | External validation | Case-control study | Asian women; 24-78 years | AUC: 0.916(0.886,0.947); E/O ratio: none | 197 cases/ 109 controls |
| Han et al ⁵² | 2021 | Prospective cohort study | Cox regression | Asian women; 30-79 years | 8 | age, residence area, education, BMI, height, family history of cancer, parity, age at menarche | AUC: 0.634(0.608,0.661); E/O ratio: 1.01(0.94,1.09) | 2,287 cases/ 300,824 total | External validation | Prospective cohort study | Asian women; | AUC: 0.585(0.564,0.605) E/O ratio: 0.94(0.89,0.99) | 73,203 total |
| Rosner et al ⁵³ | 2021 | Nested case-control study | Logistic regression | Caucasian; 40-75 years | 4 | Age, breast density, questionnaire score, PRS | AUC: 0.658 E/O ratio: none | 2,799 cases/ 75,557 controls | External validation | Nested case-control study | Caucasian; 40-75 years | AUC: 0.687 | 438 cases/ 898 controls |
| Yiangou et al ⁵⁴ | 2021 | Case-control study | Logistic regression | Cypriot Women | 11 | menopause, age at menarche, parity, age at first birth, breastfeeding, height, BMI, hormone therapy, smoking status, family history, PRS | AUC: 0.70 (0.67,0.72) E/O ratio: none | 1,109 cases/ 1,177 controls | None | None | None | None | None |

^aE/O ratios were calculated based on the original information. ^bThe original publication reported the Observed/Expected ratio.

ER: estrogen receptor; PR: progesterone receptor; PRS: polygenic risk score; MD: mammographic density;

E1S: estrone sulphate; T: testosterone; PRL: prolactin; AMH: anti-Müllerian hormone; NI: no information.

Appendix Table 4. Risk of bias assessment of included models based on PROBAST.

| Study | Participants | | Predictors | | | Outcome | | | | | | Analysis | | | | | Overall | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----|------------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|
| | 1.1 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 | | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.9 | | | | |
| Gail et al ⁶ | N | Y | H | Y | PY | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | N | N | Y | PY | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Rosner et al ¹⁶ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | N | Y | NI | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Ueda et al ¹⁷ | N | NI | H | Y | PY | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | PY | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Colditz et al ¹⁸ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | PY | L | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y | H | H |
| Lee et al ¹⁹ | NY | Y | H | Y | PN | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | Y | N | PY | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Tice et al ²⁰ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | PY | Y | N | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Tice et al ²¹ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | PY | Y | N | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Barlow et al ²² | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | PY | NI | Y | N | N | Y | Y | H | H | |
| Decarli et al ²³ | NY | Y | H | Y | PN | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | N | N | Y | N | Y | N | Y | H | H | |
| Decarli et al ^{23*} | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | N | NI | - | NI | Y | - | - | H | H | |
| Novotny et al ²⁴ | N | PY | H | Y | PN | Y | H | PY | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | N | N | Y | PY | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Gail et al ²⁵ | NY | Y | H | Y | PN | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | N | Y | PY | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Gail et al ^{25*} | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | NI | - | Y | Y | - | - | H | H | |
| Crispo et al ²⁶ | NY | Y | H | Y | PN | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | NI | Y | PY | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Tice et al ²⁷ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | H | H | |
| Tamimi,et al ²⁸ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | NI | Y | NI | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Petracci et al ²⁹ | N | Y | H | Y | PN | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | PY | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Petracci et al ^{29*} | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | N | - | Y | PN | - | - | H | H | |
| Dite et al ³⁰ | N | Y | H | Y | PN | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | NI | N | PY | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Park et al ³¹ | N | Y | H | Y | PY | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | N | N | PY | N | N | Y | H | H | |
| Park et al ^{31*} | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | N | N | Y | NI | - | PY | Y | - | - | H | H | |
| Anothaisintawee et al ³² | Y | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | N | N | Y | Y | N | PY | PN | N | Y | H | H | |

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|--------------------------------------|---|----|---|----|----|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| Anothaisintawee et al ^{32*} | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | N | N | Y | Y | - | PY | PN | - | - | H | H |
| Boggs et al ³³ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | N | NI | Y | N | Y | Y | H | H |
| Brentnall et al ³⁴ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | NI | Y | N | N | N | Y | H | H |
| Kerlikowske et al ³⁵ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | PN | Y | Y | H | H |
| Tice et al ³⁶ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | NI | Y | Y | PN | Y | Y | H | H |
| Schonberg et al ³⁷ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | PY | N | Y | N | N | Y | H | H |
| Schonberg et al ^{37*} | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | N | - | Y | PN | - | - | H | H |
| Shieh et al ³⁸ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | N | Y | Y | H | H |
| Wang et al ³⁹ | N | Y | H | Y | PN | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | NI | N | PY | N | Y | Y | H | H |
| Maas et al ⁴⁰ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | PY | PN | PN | Y | H | H |
| Banegas, et al ⁴¹ | N | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | N | Y | PY | N | NI | Y | H | H |
| Banegas et al ^{41*} | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | N | - | PY | Y | - | - | H | H |
| Eriksson et al ⁴² | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | N | NI | PY | N | Y | Y | H | H |
| Hsieh, et al ⁴³ | N | NI | H | Y | PN | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | NI | N | PY | N | Y | Y | H | H |
| Husing et al ⁴⁴ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | N | Y | PY | N | Y | Y | H | H |
| Salih et al ⁴⁵ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | NI | N | PY | N | Y | Y | H | H |
| Wang et al ⁴⁶ | N | Y | H | Y | PN | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | PY | PN | Y | Y | H | H |
| Zhang et al ⁴⁷ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | PY | N | Y | Y | H | H |
| Clendenen et al ⁴⁸ | Y | Y | L | PN | Y | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | PY | N | N | Y | H | H |
| Wang et al ⁴⁹ | N | Y | H | Y | PN | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | N | Y | N | Y | Y | N | N | Y | H | H |
| Wang et al ^{49*} | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | N | N | Y | N | - | Y | PN | - | - | H | H |
| Abdoell et al ⁵⁰ | Y | PY | L | Y | Y | Y | L | PY | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | N | N | PY | N | N | Y | H | H |
| Qiu et al ⁵¹ | N | NI | H | Y | N | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | NI | Y | PY | N | N | Y | H | H |
| Qiu et al ^{51*} | N | NI | H | Y | N | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | NI | - | PY | N | - | - | H | H |
| Han et al ⁵² | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | PY | Y | Y | Y | H | H |
| Han et al ^{52*} | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | PY | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | N | - | NI | Y | - | - | H | H |

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|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| Rosner et al ⁵³ | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | PY | N | N | Y | H | H |
| Rosner et al ^{53*} | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | N | - | PY | N | - | - | H | H | |
| Yiangou et al ⁵⁴ | N | Y | H | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | L | Y | Y | Y | PN | N | PY | N | PN | Y | H | H | |

* The external validation was performed in the same study.

L: low risk of bias; H: high risk of bias; Y: yes; N: no; PY: probably yes; PN: probably no; NI: no information; -: not applicable.

1.1. Were appropriate data sources used, e.g., cohort, RCT, or nested case-control study data?

1.2. Were all inclusions and exclusions of participants appropriate?

2.1. Were predictors defined and assessed in a similar way for all participants?

2.2. Were predictor assessments made without knowledge of outcome data?

2.3. Are all predictors available at the time the model is intended to be used?

3.1. Was the outcome determined appropriately?

3.2. Was a prespecified or standard outcome definition used?

3.3. Were predictors excluded from the outcome definition?

3.4. Was the outcome defined and determined in a similar way for all participants?

3.5. Was the outcome determined without knowledge of predictor information?

3.6. Was the time interval between predictor assessment and outcome determination appropriate?

4.1. Were there a reasonable number of participants with the outcome?

4.2. Were continuous and categorical predictors handled appropriately?

4.3. Were all enrolled participants included in the analysis?

4.4. Were participants with missing data handled appropriately?

4.5. Was selection of predictors based on univariable analysis avoided? (Development studies only)

4.6. Were complexities in the data (e.g., censoring, competing risks, sampling of control participants) accounted for appropriately?

4.7. Were relevant model performance measures evaluated appropriately?

4.8. Were model overfitting, underfitting, and optimism in model performance accounted for? (Development studies only)

4.9. Do predictors and their assigned weights in the final model correspond to the results from the reported multivariable analysis? (Development studies only)