

Is Extraprostatic Extension of Cancer Predictable? A Review of Predictive Tools and an External Validation Based on a Large and a Single Center Cohort of Prostate Cancer Patients



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Our aim was to review and externally validate all the available predictive tools (PTs) predicting extraprostatic extension (EPE) using the area under the curve, calibration plots, and scaled Brier score.

A literature search was performed showing 19 models predicting EPE. External validation was carried out on 6360 prostate cancer patients submitted to RP. Most of the PTs showed poor discrimination and unsatisfactory calibration.

The majority of the available PTs are not reliable for the prediction of EPE in populations other than the development one; thus, they may not be completely appropriate for patients' counselling or for surgical strategy preplanning. *UROLOGY* 129: 8–20, 2019. © 2019 Elsevier Inc.

Prostate cancer (CaP) represents a major health concern of male sex. International guidelines recommend radical prostatectomy (RP) for localized CaP patients <65 years old with life expectancy >10 years.^{1,2} Erectile dysfunction is a potential drawback of RP, that has to deal with a trade-off between oncological safety and functional outcomes.³ In 1983, Walsh introduced the nerve-sparing RP (NSRP) to improve the postoperative erectile function.⁴ The American Urological Association (AUA) and the European Association of Urology

guidelines emphasize the value of NSRP for localized CaP patients seeking postoperative potency.^{1,2}

The NSRP may lead to increase incidence of positive surgical margin and subsequent biochemical recurrence.^{5,6} Thus, prediction of extraprostatic extension (EPE) of CaP is the cornerstone to determine patients' eligibility for NSRP.⁷ Approximately, EPE at final pathology is found in 20% of men with clinically localized CaP.⁸ The presurgical planning has been increasingly performed using predictive tools (PTs) based on common clinical-pathologic features^{4,7,9-27} and the European Association of Urology guidelines recommend referral to externally validated PTs to select patients for NSRP.² Moreover, some of those models have user-friendly web access, and patients can easily consult them. However, there is an ominous gap between their potential and actual predictive performance in clinical practice,²⁸ because of its probable optimistic performance during development and the lack of high quality external validation (EV) studies.²⁹

The aim of our study is to provide an accurate EV of the available PTs of EPE on a large cohort of patients.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE: *Despite the use of predictive models is widespread and recommended by most of the international guidelines, surgeons have to be aware about their moderate to poor predictive performance for a pT3a disease and the consequent risk of applying those decision-making tools in a population other than the development one.*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: *Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript.*

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Submitted: January 23, 2019, accepted (with revisions): March 21, 2019

“extracapsular extension,” “ECE,” “extra-capsular extension,” “extraprostatic extension,” “extra-prostatic extension,” “pathological stage,” “capsular perforation,” “organ confined,” “nomograms,” “validation,” “predictive tools,” “prediction,” and “predicting.” Three of our authors (A.E., A.E., and S.P.) were responsible for the search and the article selection process, and any discrepancies were resolved. Our inclusion criteria were: (1) original articles published in English, (2) integration of multiple variables to build a PT, (3) same definitions of EPE, (4) using reproducible statistical tests without any missing data required for calculating model prediction, and (5) using variables available in our dataset.

Reporting

The EV was performed according to the TRIPOD statement.³⁰

Patient Population

Data of 6360 patients who underwent robotic-assisted prostatectomy between 2008 and 2016 at the Global Robotics Institute of Celebration (Orlando, FL) were used as the validation dataset.

Surgical Technique

All the procedures were performed by a single surgeon (V.P.) using the Da Vinci Surgical System, as previously described.³¹

Preoperative Clinical Variables Analyzed

Preoperative clinical variables included patient’s age, body mass index, total prostate-specific antigen (PSA) level, PSA density, prostate volume, and clinical stage (American Joint Committee on Cancer TNM staging 1992/2002).³² Moreover, a side-specific clinical-T-stage was determined analyzing 11,794 prostatic lobes (6360 patients). For example, when a patient is assigned to cT2a, the abnormally palpable lobe was considered to be stage T2a while the normal lobe was assigned to stage T1c. On the other hand, a patient with abnormally palpable tumor on both sides was considered to have cT2c in each lobe.^{15,18}

Pathologic Analysis of Prostate Biopsy Cores

Biopsy variables considered for each lobe were total number of cores, Gleason score, and the number of positive cores. Moreover, the percentage of positive cores and maximum percentage of cancer were considered.

Pathologic Analysis of Prostate Specimen

Pathologic analysis of specimens was described before³³ and includes:

- 1) The pathologic T-stage (American Joint Committee on Cancer TNM Staging, 1992/2002).³²
- 2) Histologic pattern and Gleason score.³⁴
- 3) Positive surgical margin: the presence of carcinoma on the prostatic-inked surface.
- 4) According to the definitions found in the literature, 2 distinct definitions were considered for EPE (Supplementary Fig. 1 illustrates the difference):
 - pT3a: the presence of tumor beyond the confines of the prostate *without* invasion of the seminal vesicles.
 - Whole EPE (wEPE): the presence of tumor beyond the confines of the prostate *regardless* the status of seminal vesicles.
- 5) Seminal vesicle invasion (SVI)

Statistical Analysis

Receiver operating characteristics (ROC) curves were calculated to assess the ability of the prediction models to discriminate between patients with or without EPE. The area under the ROC curve (AUC) with 95% confidence interval (CI) was estimated. AUC ranges between 0.5 and 1; a value of 0.5 indicates no discrimination, $0.5 < \text{AUC} < 0.7$ poor discrimination, $0.7 \leq \text{AUC} < 0.8$ acceptable discrimination, $0.8 \leq \text{AUC} < 0.9$ excellent discrimination, $0.9 \leq \text{AUC} < 1$ outstanding discrimination, and 1 indicates perfect discrimination.³⁵

Calibration of the model was investigated to show the relationship between model-predicted and observed rates of EPE. Agreement between predicted and actual probabilities was assessed graphically by plotting LOESS-smoothed calibration curve together with the 45° line of perfect calibration. Deviations from the ideal line were characterized estimating intercept and slope of the line approximating the calibration curve.³⁶ Furthermore, the estimated calibration index was calculated to compare the calibration of the different PTs with 0 representing perfect calibration.³⁷

The Brier score is the average squared difference between the actual outcomes y and the predicted probabilities p : $\text{Brier} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - p_i)^2$. It is a measure of overall performance because it can be decomposed into 2 components: the first related to calibration and the second related to discrimination. For convenience, the scaled Brier score (SBS) $\text{Brier}_{scaled} = 1 - \frac{\text{Brier}}{\text{Brier}_{max}}$ was reported in the study, where $\text{Brier}_{max} = \bar{p} \cdot (1 - \bar{p})$ and $\bar{p} = \text{ave}(p)$ indicating the average probability of the outcome. When the SBS is negative or close to 0, the overall predictive ability of the model is worse than or similar to a noninformative model; when SBS is 1 the model returns a perfect prediction.³⁶

As regards the calculation of predictions, when coefficients of logistic regression were available, predicted probabilities were calculated using the formula associated to this model. However, when only a nomogram was given, the image was digitized, the coefficients of the linear functions were estimated, the single scores were added up, the logit function was applied and finally the predicted probabilities were calculated.

For each PT, a comparison between the distribution of patients’ characteristics in development and EV datasets (Supplementary Table 2) was performed using 2-sample test of proportions Pearson’s chi-squared test (categorical variables) and 2-sample t test (numerical variables). The comparability of EV and development populations was also assessed using the standardized difference³⁸ which is defined for dichotomous variables as

$$d = \frac{(p_D - p_{EV})}{\sqrt{(p_D(1-p_D) + p_{EV}(1-p_{EV}))/2}},$$

where p_{ED} and p_D denote the prevalence in EV and development populations, respectively; for continuous variables d is defined as

$$d = \frac{(\bar{x}_D - \bar{x}_{EV})}{\sqrt{(s_D^2 + s_{EV}^2)/2}},$$

where \bar{x}_{EV} , s_{EV}^2 , \bar{x}_D , s_D^2 denote the mean and standard deviation in EV and development populations, respectively. For categorical variables with $k > 2$ categories, the maximum of the k standardized differences was reported. Values of in the range $-0.1 \leq d \leq 0.1$ can be considered a sign of good balance between variable distributions in the 2 populations.³⁸

Table 1. Summary of the characteristics of the included predictive tools with the results of the external validation (AUC and Scaled Brier Score)

Reference	No. of Pts	Series Characteristics	Statistical Model and Covariates	No. of Pts/ Lobes Used for EV	AUC Reported by Authors	EPE		pT3a		C/Y
						Externally Validated AUC	Scaled Brier Score	Externally Validated AUC	Scaled Brier Score	
pT3a										
Partin tables 1993 Partin AW, et al ⁹ J Urol. 1993; 150: 110-114	703	Country: USA; Outcome: pT3a (29%) cT (%): T1a (4), T1b (10), T2a (46), T2b (26), T2c (9), T3a (5) Biopsy GS (%): 2-4 (9), 5 (24), 6 (43), 7 (19), 8-10 (5). Serum PSA (%): 0-4.0 (40), 4.0-10 (35), 10-20 (17), 20-30 (4), 30-40 (2), 40-50 (1), greater than 50 (1).	Overall LR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS	1195 pts	NA	0.716 (0.684-0.746)	0.044	0.629 (0.591-0.665)	-0.316	51.56
Bostwick DG, et al ¹⁰ J Urol. 1996; 155: 1361-1367	314	Country: USA; Outcome: pT3a (33%) Age (mean, y): 64.9 PSA (median, ng/mL): 9.0 cT (%): T1c (12.4), T2a/b (32.2), T2c (55.4) Biopsy GS (%): 3-4 (13.4), 5-6 (43.9), 7 (31.5), 8-10 (11.1) Pct of cancer in biopsy specimen (%): ≤10 (36.6), 20-40 (35.7), 50-60 (16.2), ≥70 (11.5)	Overall LR - PSA - Pct. of cancer on biopsy	6354 pts	0.770	0.752 (0.736-0.768)	0.120	0.666 (0.682-0.719)	-0.088	7.77
Partin tables 1997 Partin AW, et al ¹¹ JAMA 1997; 277: 1445-1451	4133	Country: USA; Outcome: pT3a (40%) PSA (%): 0-4.0 (22.8), 4.1-10 (48.5), 10.1-20.0 (20.7), 20.1-30 (4.7), 30.1-40 (1.7), 40.1-50 (0.8), >50 (0.8) cT (%): T1a (1.8), T1b (3.6), T1c (32.9), T2a (28.7), T2b (20.6), T2c (9.6), T3a (2.8) Biopsy GS (%): 2-4 (5.4), 5 (16.6), 6 (50.7), 7 (21.9), 8-10 (5.4)	Overall MLLR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS	5716 pts	0.818	0.703 (0.686-0.720)	-0.036	0.675 (0.655-0.695)	-0.197	102.43
Egawa S, et al ¹² Urology 1998; 52: 433-440	96	Country: Japan; Outcome: pT3a (46%) Age (mean, y): 63.9 PSA (mean, ng/mL): 15.2 cT (%): T1c (36.5), T2a (10.4), T2b (27.1), T2c (10.4), T3 (15.6) Biopsy GS (%): 2-4 (15.6), 5-6 (26.0), 7 (27.1), 8-10 (31.2) No. of cores with cancer: 1 (26.0), 2 (15.6), 3 (27.1), >3 (31.2) Max cancer length (mm): ≤3 (30.2), 3.1-10 (37.5), >10 (32.3)	Overall LR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS - No. of cores with cancer - Max cancer length	4596 pts	3-variable model 0.802 4-variable model 0.856	3-variable model 0.725 (0.707-0.743) 4-variable model 0.733 (0.715-0.752)	4-variable model 0.093	3-variable model 0.671 (0.650-0.692) 4-variable model 0.693 (0.671-0.714)	4-variable model 0.042	2.95

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Table 1. Continued

Reference	No. of Pts	Series Characteristics	Statistical Model and Covariates	No. of Pts/Lobes Used for EV	AUC Reported by Authors	EPE		pT3a		C/Y
						Externally Validated AUC	Scaled Brier Score	Externally Validated AUC	Scaled Brier Score	
Egawa S, et al ¹³ Jpn J Clin Oncol. 2001; 31:74-81	178	Country: Japan; Outcome: pT3a (42%) Age (median, y): 65 PSA (%): ≤ 4.0 (14), 4.1-10 (49.4), 10.1-20 (20.2), ≥ 20.1 (16.3) cT (%): T1c (51.7), T2a (12.3), T2b (19.7), T2c (7.3), T3a (1.7), T3b (1.7), T3c (5.6) Biopsy core number (%): > 6 (3.4), 6 (54.5), >6-12 (42.1) Biopsy GS (%): 2-4 (11.8), 5 (13.5), 6 (18.5), 7 (34.8), 8-10 (21.3)	Overall LR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS	5726 pts	NA	0.734 (0.716-0.751)	0.113	0.684 (0.664-0.704)	-0.034	2.47
Partin tables 2001 Partin AW, et al ¹⁴ Urology 2001; 58: 843-848	5,079	Country: USA; Outcome: pT3a (30%) Age (mean, y): 57.9 Race (%): White (90), African-American (6), Other (4) PSA (%): 0-2.5 (7), 2.6-4.0 (10), 4.1-6.0 (27), 6.1-10 (35), >10 (21) cT (%): T1c (63), T2a (32), T2b (11), T2c (3) Biopsy GS (%): 2-4 (0.6), 4-6 (79.0), 3 + 4 (13.0), 4 + 3 (4.4), 8-10 (3.0)	Overall MLLR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS	5689 pts	NA	0.746 (0.729-0.762)	0.077	0.697 (0.678-0.716)	-0.083	70.29
Song C, et al ¹⁶ J Korean Med Sci. 2005; 20: 262-266	317	Country: Korea; Outcome: pT3a (20%) Age (mean, y): 64.3 PSA (%): 0-4 (5.4), 4.1-10 (39.4), 10.1-20 (32.2), >20 (23). cT (%): T1a, b (5.4), T1c (35.6), T2a (44.5), T2b (13.2), T3 (1.3). GS (%): 2-4 (7.9), 5-6 (31.9), 7 (30.9), 8-10 (29.3).	Overall MLLR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS	5573 pts	0.626	0.605 (0.576-0.632)	0.006	0.596 (0.575-0.618)	-0.021	1.54
Partin tables 2007 Makarov DV, et al ¹⁹ Urology 2007; 69:1095-1101	5730	Country: USA; Outcome: pT3a (22%) Age (mean, y): 57.4 Race (%): White (88.8), African-American (6.5), Other (4.7) PSA (%): 0-2.5 (7.9), 2.6-4.0 (16.5), 4.1-6.0 (34.8), 6.1-8 (19.1), 8.1-10.0 (10.1), >10 (11.6) cT (%): T1c (77.1), T2a (17.4), T2b (4.9), T2c (0.6) Biopsy GS (%): 5-6 (64.5), 3 + 4 (22.7), 4 + 3 (7.4), 8-10 (5.4)	Overall LR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS	5675 pts	0.696	0.743 (0.726-0.759)	0.108	0.700 (0.681-0.719)	0.022	45.27

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Table 1. Continued

Reference	No. of Pts	Series Characteristics	Statistical Model and Covariates	No. of Pts/Lobes Used for EV	AUC Reported by Authors	EPE		pT3a		C/Y
						Externally Validated AUC	Scaled Brier Score	Externally Validated AUC	Scaled Brier Score	
Naito S, et al ²⁰ J Urol. 2008; 180: 904-909	1188	Country: Japan; Outcome: pT3a (26%) Age (median, y): 66 PSA (%): 2.5 or less (2), 2.6-4 (5), 4.1-6 (24), 6.1-10 (32), 10.1 or greater (37) cT (%): T1c (70), T2a (17), T2b (7), T2c (6) Biopsy GS (%): 6 or less (33), 7 (3 + 4) (29), 7 (4 + 3) (19), 8 or greater (18)	Overall MLR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS	5861 pts	NA	0.674 (0.651-0.696)	0.002	0.655 (0.636-0.673)	0.029	6.4
Partin tables 2010 Huang Y, et al ²¹ BJU Int. 2010; 107: 1562-1569	5730	Country: USA; Outcome: pT3a (22%) Age (mean, y): 57.4 Race (%): White (88.8), African-American (6.5), Other (4.7) PSA (%): 0-2.5 (7.9), 2.6-4.0 (16.5), 4.1-6.0 (34.8), 6.1-8 (19.1), 8.1-10.0 (10.1), >10 (11.6) cT (%): T1c (77.1), T2a (17.4), T2b (4.9), T2c (0.6) Biopsy GS (%): 5-6 (64.5), 3 + 4 (22.7), 4 + 3 (7.4), 8-10 (5.4)	Overall MLR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS	5675 pts	0.673	0.732 (0.716-0.748)	0.092	0.695 (0.677-0.713)	-0.005	4
Fanning DM, et al ²³ Ir J Med Sci. 2010; 179:187-195	Group A: 169 Group B: 253	Country: Ireland; Outcome: pT3a (Group A 27%, Group B 21%) Age (mean, y): 61.0 PSA (mean, ng/mL): 8.0 cT (%): T1c (70), T2 (30) Biopsy GS (%), group A and B): 5-6 (66.9; 65.2), 3 + 4 (20.1; 20.5), 4 + 3 (8.9; 9.1), 8-10 (4.1; 5.2)	Overall LR Group A Model - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS Group B Model - PSA - Biopsy GS	5861 pts	Group A Model 0.42 (0.34-0.50) Group B Model 0.42 (0.35-0.50)	Group A Model 0.618 (0.594-0.642) Group B Model 0.585 (0.560-0.609)	Group A Model -0.213 Group B Model -0.106	Group A Model 0.617 (0.597-0.636) Group B Model 0.609 (0.589-0.628)	Group A Model -0.031 Group B Model 0.003	0.25
Jeong CW, et al ²⁴ Int J Urol. 2012; 19: 846-852	2000	Country: Korea; Outcome: pT3a (35%) Age (mean, y): 65.3 PSA (%): ≤4 (10.5), 4.1-10.0 (52.2), >10 (37.3) cT (%): T1c (59.7), T2a (34.6), T2b/c (4.5), T3a (1.3) Biopsy GS (%): ≤6 (26.6), 3 + 4 (41.1), 4 + 3 (18.9), 8-10 (13.6)	Overall LR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS - Pct. pos. cores	5706 pts	0.804	0.766 (0.750-0.782)	0.092	0.715 (0.696-0.733)	-0.174	3.17

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Table 1. Continued

Reference	No. of Pts	Series Characteristics	Statistical Model and Covariates	No. of Pts/ Lobes Used for EV	AUC Reported by Authors	EPE		pT3a		C/Y
						Externally Validated AUC	Scaled Brier Score	Externally Validated AUC	Scaled Brier Score	
<i>Partin tables 2013</i> Eifler JB, et al ²⁵ BJU Int. 2013; 111:22-29	5,629	Country: USA; Outcome: pT3a (23%) Age (median, y): 59 Race (%): White (81.3), African-American (11.8), Other (6.8) PSA (%): 0-2.5 (9.2), 2.6-4.0 (20.6), 4.1-6.0 (40.3), 6.1-10 (21.7), >10 (8.3) cT (%): T1c (77.8), T2a (15.9), T2b (5.5), T2c (0.8) Biopsy GS (%): 6 (62.9), 3 + 4 (22.5), 4 + 3 (8.8), 8 (3.9), 9-10 (2.0)	Overall MLR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS	5689 pts	0.702	0.747 (0.730-0.762)	0.109	0.703 (0.685-0.721)	0.018	44.6
<i>Partin tables 2017</i> Tosoian JJ, et al ²⁶ BJU Int. 2017; 119: 676-683	4,459	Country: USA; Outcome: pT3a (20%) Age (median, y): 60 Race (%): White (79), African American (13), Hispanic (2), Asian (1), Others (5) PSA (%): 0-2.5 (17), 2.6-4.0 (15), 4.1-6.0 (36), 6.1-10.0 (23), more than 10 (9) cT (%): T1c (79), T2a (15), T2b (5), T2c (1) Biopsy GS (%): ≤6 (47), 3 + 4 (30), 4 + 3 (13), 8 (6), 9-10 (4).	Overall MLR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS	6295 pts	EPE vs OC 0.724 Focal EPE vs OC 0.673 Nonfocal EPE vs OC 0.771	0.754 (0.737-0.770)	0.124	0.671 (0.687-0.724)	0.061	9
<i>EPE</i> Ohori M, et al ¹⁵ J Urol. 2004; 171: 1844-1849	Pts: 763 Lobes: 1526	Country: USA; Outcome: EPE (30%) Age (median, y): 61.0 PSA (median, ng/mL): 6.7 cT (%): T1c (50.5), T2a (22.9), T2b (16.8), T2c (7.6), T3a (2.2) Biopsy GS (%): <5 (2.1), 5 (10.2), 6 (54.5), 3 + 4 (19.7), 4 + 3 (7.6), >7 (5.9)	Side specific LR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS - Pct. pos. cores - Pct of cancer in cores	11,794 lobes	0.806 (0.774-0.837)	0.801 (0.788-0.814)	0.142	0.645 (0.632-0.658)	-0.055	18.36

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Table 1. Continued

Reference	No. of Pts	Series Characteristics	Statistical Model and Covariates	No. of Pts/ Lobes Used for EV	AUC Reported by Authors	EPE		pT3a		C/Y
						Externally Validated AUC	Scaled Brier Score	Externally Validated AUC	Scaled Brier Score	
Tsuzuki T, et al ¹⁷ J Urol. 2005; 173: 450-453	Pts: 2660 Lobes: 3006	Country: USA; Outcome: EPE (31%) Age (mean, y, OC vs EPEb vs EPEe): 57.4, 58.6, 58.0 PSA (mean, ng/mL, OC vs EPEb vs EPEe): 6.0, 8.4, 8.5 DRE (%; OC vs EPEb vs EPEe): 22.6, 49.5, 31.3 Biopsy GS (%; OC vs EPEb vs EPEe): <7 (77.4; 32.7; 41.8), 3 + 4 (17.2; 40.2; 37.3), 4 + 3 (3.6; 15.5; 13.1), >7 (1.7; 11.6; 7.9) Pct. of biopsy core with tumor (mean, OC vs EPEb vs EPEe): 25.3, 41.1, 32.5 Pct. of side specific cores with tumor (mean): 40.2, 58.0, 44.2	Side specific LR - PSA - Biopsy GS - DRE - Average Pct of biopsy core with tumor - Pct of cores with tumor	11,794 lobes	0.78	0.787 (0.769-0.804)	NA	0.622 (0.607-0.637)	NA	5.54
Steuber T, et al ¹⁸ J Urol. 2006; 175: 939-944	Pts: 1118 Lobes: 2236	Country: Germany; Outcome: EPE (27%) PSA (median, ng/mL): 6.6 cT (%): T1c (82.1), T2a (10.1), T2b (4.9), T2c (2.4), T3 (0.5) Biopsy GS (%): 0 (39.0), 4-5 (1.9), 6 (42.2), 3 + 4 (11.7), 4 + 3 (3.9), 8-9 (1.3) Pct. positive cores/lobe (median, %): 33.3 Pct. of cancer/lobe (median, %): 3.5	Side specific LR <i>Base model</i> PSA; cT; biopsy GS <i>Full model</i> PSA; cT; biopsy GS; Pct. pos. cores; pct cancer in pos. cores	8137 lobes	<i>Base model</i> 0.831 <i>Full model</i> 0.840	<i>Base model</i> 0.735 (0.721-0.750) <i>Full model</i> 0.778 (0.764-0.792)	<i>Base model</i> -0.173 <i>Full Model</i> -0.046	<i>Base model</i> 0.661 (0.646-0.676) <i>Full model</i> 0.675 (0.660-0.690)	<i>Base model</i> -0.170 <i>Full Model</i> -0.114	12.34

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Table 1. Continued

Reference	No. of Pts	Series Characteristics	Statistical Model and Covariates	No. of Pts/ Lobes Used for EV	AUC Reported by Authors	EPE		pT3a		C/Y
						Externally Validated AUC	Scaled Brier Score	Externally Validated AUC	Scaled Brier Score	
Chung JS, et al ⁴ J Korean Med Sci. 2010; 25: 1443-1448	1031	Country: Korea; Outcome: EPE (30%) Age (mean, y): 65.8 (EPE), 64.2 (No EPE) PSA (mean, ng/mL): 17.1 (EPE), 9.3 (No EPE) Prostate volume (mean, mL): 34.7 (EPE), 37.5 (No EPE) Biopsy GS (%): <7 (16.3 EPE, 83.7 No EPE), 7 (35.7 EPE, 64.3 No EPE), >7 (64.0 EPE, 36.0 No EPE) No. of positive cores (mean): 4.5 (EPE), 2.6 (no EPE) Positive core ratio (mean): 0.49 (EPE), 0.28 (No EPE) Max pct. of tumor in any core (mean): 61.2 (EPE), 31.8 (No EPE)	Overall LR - Age - PSA - Biopsy GS - Pos. core ratio - Max pct. of cancer - PSA density	5712 pts	0.777 (0.762-0.803)	0.772 (0.762-0.795)	0.204	0.722 (0.709-0.746)	0.004	1.5
Satake N, et al ²² Int J Urol. 2010; 17: 267-272	Pts: 354 Lobes: 708	Country: Japan; Outcome: EPE (40%) Age (median, y): 68 PSA (median, ng/mL): 7.4 cT (%): T1c (71.8), T2a (15.3), T2b (9.0), T2c (3.1) T3a (0.8) Biopsy GS (%): <6 (3.7), 6 (28.2), 3 + 4 (20.6), 4 + 3 (23.2), 8-10 (24.3) Pct of positive cores/lobe (%): 0 (34.6), 1-34 (34.2), 34.1-67 (16.0), 67.1-100 (15.3) Max pct of cancer/lobe (%): 0 (34.6), 1-34 (40.0), 34.1-67 (14.4), 67.1-100 (11.0)	Side specific LR - PSA - cT - Biopsy GS - Max pct of cancer	11,814 lobes	0.797	0.783 (0.768-0.796)	0.100	0.613 (0.600-0.627)	-0.040	2.63

CART, Classification And Regression Tree; cT, clinical stage; C/Y, citations per year; EPE, extraprostatic extension; EPEb, extraprostatic extension in NVB; EPEe, extraprostatic extension elsewhere (no EPE in NVB); EV external validation; GS, Gleason score; LR, logistic regression; max, maximum; MLR, multinomial logistic regression; MLLR, multinomial log-linear regression; NA, not available; NVB, neurovascular bundle; OC, organ confined; pct, percent; pos., positive; PSAD, PSA density; PSM, positive surgical margin; pts, patients.

Regarding missing values, no imputation method was used and a complete-case analysis was performed. All analyses were performed using R software (version 3.4.3; R Development Core Team, Vienna, Austria).

RESULTS

Search Results

The search identified 748 manuscripts. The selection process consisted of 2 phases: (1) initial screening phase by the title and abstract to exclude irrelevant articles and this resulted in the exclusion of 674 articles and (2) full text review phase for the remaining manuscripts (74 articles) with exclusion based on appropriate reasons that resulted in the exclusion of 55 more manuscripts. Overall, our search identified 19 manuscripts describing different EPE PTs, accounting for a total of 44,901 patients. [Supplementary Figure 2](#) shows a detailed analysis of the search process with reasons for exclusion.

Review Results

Most of the PTs had been developed in USA^{9,11,14,15,17,19,21,25,26} and some of them were updates of previous versions.^{9,11,14,19,21,25,26} The characteristics of all the PTs whether predicting pT3a or wEPE are reported in [Table 1](#).

The sample size of the included studies ranged from 96¹² to 5730.^{19,21} In terms of pathologic staging, organ confined disease ranged from 54%¹² to 80%.^{16,26} Several predictive variables were used but only PSA level and Gleason score were considered by all the authors. [Supplementary Table 1](#) shows all the covariates used and the number of studies integrating them.

Despite the importance of side-specific detection of EPE, only 4 nomograms reported it.^{15,17,18,22} Logistic regression was the most common statistical method used for the development of those PTs (84%).^{4,9,10,12,13,15,17-26}

In 15/19 studies (79%), the internal AUC was reported by the authors ranging from 0.420²³ to 0.856¹² and from 0.777⁴ to 0.840¹⁸ in the PTs developed to predict pT3a and wEPE, respectively.

External Validation

The characteristics of patients in the validation cohort are summarized in [Table 2](#). The analysis of the prostatectomy specimen revealed that 1365 (21.5%) and 1803 (28.4%) patients had pT3a and wEPE, respectively. The inclusion and exclusion criteria of each PT were respected and the total number of patients used for EV for each of them is reported in [Table 1](#). The degree of balance for each covariate in the validation and derivation cohorts is summarized in [Supplementary Table 2](#).

As far as discrimination, when considering the event which any singular model had been developed for, the AUC at EV ranged from 0.610 to 0.801. The nomogram developed by Ohori et al¹⁵ showed the highest AUC similar to the one reported by authors (0.801 vs 0.806, respectively). Moreover, Tsuzuki¹⁷ (AUC 0.787), Satake²² (AUC 0.783), Chung⁴ (AUC 0.772), and Jeong²⁴ (AUC 0.715) were among the top 5 models as regards the discrimination of the event they intended to predict, even though they are in the "acceptable predictive performance."³⁵

We then tested each nomogram independently from what it was originally developed for, to predict both wEPE and pT3a status. Interestingly, all the PTs showed a better discrimination for wEPE rather than for pT3a status. [Figure 1](#) summarizes the

Table 2. Summary of the external validation patients' characteristics

Number of patients	6360
Age in years (median-IQR)	62.0 (56.0-67.0)
BMI in kg/m ² (median-IQR)	27.8 (25.4-30.5)
Race	
Caucasian	5717 (89.9%)
Black	489 (7.7%)
Other	154 (2.4%)
PSA total in ng/mL (median-IQR)	
<10	5601 (88.1%)
10-20	625 (9.8%)
>20	128 (2%)
PSA density in ng/mL/cc (median-IQR)	
0.10 (0.07-0.15)	
Prostate volume in cc (median-IQR)	
15.0 (5.0-20.0)	
Clinical stage (digital rectal examination), n (%)	
T1	4949 (77.9%)
T2a	969 (15.3%)
T2b	249 (3.9%)
T2c	134 (2.1%)
T3-T4	52 (0.8%)
D'Amico classification	
Low risk	2,737 (43%)
Intermediate risk	2,684 (42.2%)
High risk	939 (14.8%)
Biopsy Gleason sum, n (%)	
5 or less	6 (0.1%)
6	3022 (47.6%)
7	2588 (40.7%)
8	485 (7.6%)
9-10	253 (4%)
Biopsy cores, n (%)	
6	701 (11%)
7-11	369 (5.8%)
12	4812 (75.7%)
13-17	283 (4.4%)
>17	195 (3.1%)
Pathologic stage, n (%)	
pT2a	560 (8.8%)
pT2b	32 (0.5%)
pT2c	3965 (62.3%)
pT3a	1365 (21.5%)
pT3b	438 (6.9%)
Positive surgical margins (%)	917 (14.4%)

discriminative performance of all the models when predicting wEPE and pT3a.

As regards the calibration, [Supplementary Figures 3-23](#) show the curves for all the PTs except for Tsuzuki et al¹⁷ because it lacks some essential data for the calculation of predicted probabilities. Most of the PTs showed poor calibration with tendency towards overestimation. Regarding the estimated calibration index, Tosoian²⁶ (0.148), Naito²⁰ (0.184), Chung⁴ (0.294), Egawa¹² (0.314), and Ohori¹⁵ (0.405) showed the best calibration considering the event they were developed to predict.

As far as the SBS is concerned, Chung et al⁴ showed the best performance (SBS = 0.204). Furthermore, Ohori¹⁵ (SBS = 0.142), and Satake²² (SBS = 0.100), are among the top performing PTs.

The popularity of the PTs was assessed based on its number of citation in Google Scholar per year (total number of citation/number of years) in order to give a more realistic information about their popularity ([Table 1](#)). The most cited PTs are Partin 1997,¹¹ Partin 1993,⁹ and Partin 2001.¹⁴ The popularity of those PTs seems not to relate to their predictive performance on an external cohort.

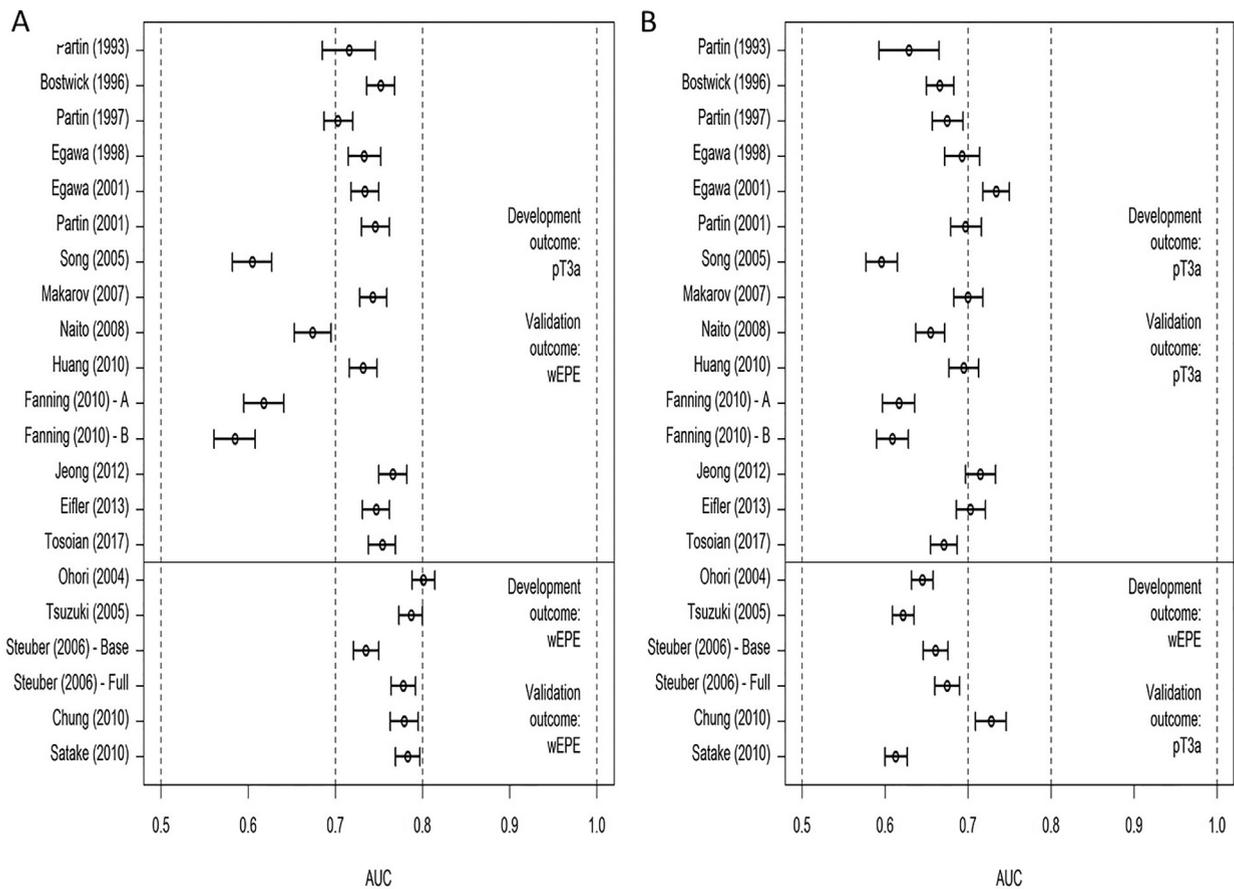


Figure 1. (A) Summary of AUC for all the PTs when predicting whole EPE. (B) Summary of AUC for all the PTs when predicting pT3a.

DISCUSSION

EPE prediction is crucial for surgical planning as the localization and quantification of a possible EPE could allow tailoring the surgical approach on cancer's characteristics. Although, multiparametric Magnetic Resonance Imaging (mpMRI) has gained great acceptance as a useful diagnostic and staging tool for CaP,²⁷ its sensitivity in predicting EPE appears to be low (0.57).³⁹ Furthermore, the incremental value of adding mpMRI parameters to the currently available PTs is debatable.^{40,41} On the other hand, the standardized use of intraoperative frozen section has been proposed for NSRP; however, its role is still debatable and has not gained widespread popularity in the clinical practice yet. Furthermore, visual and tactile assessment during surgery is only partially reliable and not reproducible.^{17,42,43}

After Partin's innovative idea to create a statistical tool to predict pathologic stage,⁹ several authors developed other PTs^{4,7,9-26}; however, the majority lacks of appropriate EV.

Independent EV studies are uncommon, with only a 16% probability for a PT to be externally validated by different authors within 5 years of development.²⁹ Most of the published EV studies are based on small sample sizes and therefore not reliable; actually, an EV

should include a minimum of 100 events and 100 nonevents.²⁸

It is noteworthy that EPE is not only prone to diagnostic pitfalls and interobserver variability, but it is also characterized by heterogeneous definitions, often elusive and equivocal. In this study, we included 14 papers considering EPE as pure pT3a disease^{9-14,16,19-21,23-26} whereas the remaining ones looked for the global presence of disease out of the prostate regardless SVI (wEPE).^{4,15,17,18,22}

In this setting, a large cohort was used to perform the EV of all the available PTs of EPE published since 1993 considering both definitions, and all of them have been externally validated for the prediction of both events (pT3a and wEPE).

As far as methodology is concerned, AUC is commonly used due to its user-friendly output.³⁵ Considering the EV, Ohori's¹⁵ PT was the only model with a discriminative performance exceeding 0.8 (AUC 0.801). This supports the results of Clement⁴⁴ who compared the performance of Ohori's¹⁵ and Steuber's¹⁸ PTs reporting an AUC of 0.80 and 0.78, respectively. Seven models reached an "acceptable" AUC,^{4,10,17-19,22,24-26} whereas the discrimination of the remaining 11 models was "poor."

The analysis also showed that the Partin Tables are the most popular PTs with the highest number of citations

(327.15 citation/year for all the versions of Partin Tables).^{4,10,17-19,22,24-26} Particularly, Partin tables 1997¹¹ is the most cited PT and the most commonly externally validated, with 102.43 citations/year.⁴⁵⁻⁵⁰

The different versions of Partin Tables^{9,11,14,19,21,25,26} showed worse discriminative performance in our EV than in the original derivation cohorts. Despite the highest popularity and the good internal AUC (0.818), the discriminative ability of Partin Table 1997 in the current EV was poor (AUC 0.675).

These findings are consistent with the ones from previous EV studies, which showed that Partin Tables' performances seem to worsen when applied to different populations. The transportability of such models to other geographic areas (Sweden, UK, France, Italy, and Austria) showed poor performance.⁴⁵⁻⁴⁸ On the contrary, some authors showed acceptable discriminative performance in German and North American patients.^{49,50}

Despite the clinical importance of the PTs calibration,⁵¹ our study showed poor calibration with tendency towards overestimation of the EPE risk in most of the predictive models, consistent with other EV studies.^{46,48} In this setting, recalibration can be considered for poorly calibrated PTs (regardless their predictive performance) before their introduction into the clinical practice.⁵¹

As far as the overall performance is concerned, all the PTs exhibited moderate performance on SBS, with Chung⁴ providing the best predictive performance (SBS = 0.204) for the event it was developed to predict (wEPE).

These differences of the PTs performances between the development and the validation studies may be explained by the temporal, geographic and domain differences, which in turn may affect the measurement of variables and outcomes, the case-mix (like age and tumor characteristics) and the sample size.²⁸

Interestingly, when considering the different definitions of EPE, all the models had a worse discrimination capability for the prediction of pure pT3a status rather than for the prediction of the wEPE, including those developed to predict the pure pT3a status specifically. There is no clear explanation of this, however, it can be speculated that the wEPE status is easier to predict because includes also patients with SVI, and therefore with a probably higher burden of concomitant EPE, that it is usually easier to be detected.⁷

Interestingly, only 4 models provide a side-specific risk of EPE, to aid surgical decision toward a unilateral vs bilateral NSRP.^{15,17,18,22} It is noteworthy to mention that, beyond the prediction of the presence or of the laterality of EPE, none of the PTs estimates the amount of disease out of the prostatic capsule nor provide a decision rule to grade the preservation of neurovascular bundle. More recently the PRECE tool⁷ was specifically developed to this purpose, providing a decision rule to grade the dissection. However, it has not been validated in this study since it had been developed using the present cohort. The PRECE tool⁷ has not been externally validated yet to our knowledge.

Finally, the primary goal of the current study was to provide a broader image about the currently available PTs and their performance using a single and large cohort of CaP patients, which, might help to identify the limitations and challenges encountered in developing new PTs in the contemporary era. This EV study showed that the discriminative performance for most of the included PTs ranged from poor to acceptable discrimination with poor calibration suggesting that new clinical, pathologic, and radiological predictors might be integrated in the development of new PTs to improve their performance. In these settings, mpMRI could have the potentials in improving the performance of PTs.^{41,52} Furthermore, some authors suggested that ⁶⁸gallium-prostate-specific membrane antigen-positron emission tomography/computed tomography or MRI, has a good potential for preoperative prediction of EPE,^{53,54} thus may be identification of ⁶⁸gallium-prostate-specific membrane antigen-positron emission tomography/computed tomography variables may improve the predictive performance of PTs. Moreover, Dean et al,⁵⁵ demonstrated that the quantification of Gleason pattern 4 (total length of Gleason pattern 4 across all cores) is an independent predictor of pathologic adverse events after RP, suggesting that its addition to PTs may improve its predictive performance.

Strength:

- The simultaneous EV of all the PTs of EPE published in the last 25 years.
- Evaluating the models' performance using both discrimination, calibration and SBS.
- Large and heterogeneous cohort of patients as validation dataset.

Limitations:

- Our CaP cases are representative of patients mostly coming from the USA; however, it remains uncertain if they are representative for patients from different populations.
- Absence of central review of the biopsy specimen and central PSA measurement, since the cohort comes from a large referral center.
- The use of a single center cohort of patients may limit the generalizability of our results; however, it should be remarked that as a large referral center patients come from different parts of the world.

CONCLUSION

To the authors' knowledge, this is the largest cohort of patients used to externally validate the available PTs of EPE developed since 1993. However, the included PTs may have shown acceptable results based on the variables used and the time when they were developed, the current EV study raises several concerns about the limitations of almost all the existing PTs of EPE in the contemporary

settings. In the era of precise and personalized medicine, surgeons have to consider these limitations when using these PTs to plan a NSRP and to identify more reliable covariates, to improve the predictive performance of newly developed PTs; the inclusion of mpMRI variables could be a future perspective to face the concern of EPE prediction and surgical management.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found in the online version at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.urology.2019.03.019>.

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