Age, prostate volume, prostate-specific antigen and prostate-specific antigen density as predictor factors in results of transrectal ultrasonography-guided prostate biopsy [version 1; peer review: 1 approved with reservations]

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Abstract

**Background:** To identify the predictor factors, such as prostate-specific antigen (PSA), age, prostate volume (PV), and PSA density (PSAD) as indications to perform transrectal ultrasonography (TRUS)-guided prostate biopsy in reducing unnecessary biopsies and improving detection rate.

**Methods:** A total of 1232 samples were obtained from the medical records of patients who underwent prostate biopsy from January 2008 to December 2013 in Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital Jakarta. Pre-biopsy data including age, PSA, prostate volume, and PSAD were obtained. The Mann-Whitney U-test and unpaired t-test were conducted on the quantitative variables; a chi-square test was used for qualitative variables. This study also conducted receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis to determine the cut-off point and the optimum specificity and sensitivity for each variable.

**Results:** Among 1232 patients, 33.5% had a positive biopsy result. The median age and PSA (68 years and 57.45 ng/ml) in the positive biopsy group was higher than in the negative group (65 years and 11.69 ng/ml), p <0.001. PSAD in patients with PSA 4-10 ng/ml, 10-20 ng/ml, and 20 ng/ml (0.20, 0.35, 2.05) in positive group was higher than negative group (0.14, 0.24, 0.53), p <0.001. Those with a positive biopsy result had a lower median PV (42 ml (range, 13.8-208)) compared to those with negative biopsies (55.4 ml) (p <0.001). In ROC curve, PSAD had the highest sensitivity and specificity (81.4% and 82.0%) with a cut-off point of 0.43 ng/ml/ml (p <0.001).

**Conclusion:** The incidence of PCa increased with higher PSA level, older age and lower PV. Utilization of PSAD 0.17 ng/ml/ml as a cut-off point in patients with PSA level between 4-10 ng/ml is recommended to improve PCa detection in Indonesian men.

**Keywords**

Age, prostate volume, prostate specific antigen, PSA density, prostate biopsy, TRUS
Introduction
Prostate cancer (PCa) is an important health issue worldwide because of its increasing incidence; it was reported that there are 1.1 million PCa patients worldwide in 2012. The incidence of PCa among Indonesian men was estimated to be 14.8 per 100,000 population and the mortality rate was reported as high as 9.8 per 100,000 population in 2012.

Transrectal ultrasonography (TRUS) guided biopsy plays an important role for PCa detection and has become a standard diagnostic method for PCa detection. It is recommended for men with elevated prostate specific antigen (PSA) levels or abnormal digital rectal examination (DRE). In Indonesia, 66.5% of PCa was diagnosed with TRUS-guided biopsy during 1994–2005 and 66.7% of them were found in advanced stage during this period. An appropriate and early detection are needed to detect PCa in its early stages for better treatment results, survival rates, and quality of life.

The detection rate of prostate biopsy in several Asian countries varied between 14.6% and 26.5% in patients with PSA levels ranging from 2–20 ng/ml. This widely used procedure for PCa remains controversial as it may lead to over-diagnosis (23%–42%) and over-treatment. Both are related to unnecessary risk of urinary, sexual, and bowel dysfunction, which can affect patients’ quality of life. Although TRUS-guided prostate biopsy is a safe procedure, there are still complications causing significant morbidity. The most common complications are mild hematuria (62%), rectal bleeding (2%), urinary tract infections (1.7%–11.3%), acute urinary retention (0.3%–2.6%), hematospermia (45.3%–50.4%), vasovagal response (2.8%), and hospitalization due to infection (1%–4.1%). Systematic screening for prostate cancer by determining other factors besides PSA may assist prevention of this circumstance.

The aim of this study was to identify the predictor factors such as PSA, age, prostate volume (PV), and PSA density (PSAD) as indications to perform TRUS guided prostate biopsy. Those variables are thought to be important predictors to reduce unnecessary biopsies and improve detection rate.

Methods
Data source
This retrospective study was approved by FKUI Research Ethical Committee before data collection began. We collected data pre-biopsy data, including age, PSA, prostate volume, and PSAD. These data were obtained from the medical records of patients that underwent prostate biopsy from January 2008 to December 2013 in Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital, Jakarta, Indonesia. The inclusion criteria were patients with LUTS, PSA level >4 ng/ml, abnormal DRE, IPSS score >7, and age >45 years old, while the exclusion criteria were patients who underwent transperineal prostate biopsy or had been biopsied previously. The indications for prostate biopsy in our hospital were PSA level >4 ng/ml or abnormal DRE. All patients underwent 6–12-core biopsy using an 18-gauge needle with a spring-loaded biopsy gun (Bard Magnum). PV was calculated by measuring height (H), width (W), and length (L) of the prostate on TRUS and the formula would be: \( V = 0.52 \times H \times W \times L \).

Collected data were further analyzed. Although this study was conducted in a single institution, we believe it is representative of Indonesian men because the samples are recruited from several provinces in Indonesia, since Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital is a national referral hospital in Indonesia.

Statistical analysis
The study analysis was performed with SPSS version 20.0. We calculated the statistical analysis using Mann-Whitney test and unpaired t-test for the quantitative variables (age, PV, PSA, and PSAD). In addition, Chi-square was used for statistical significance for qualitative variables. \( P <0.05 \) was considered as a significant result. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis was also conducted to determine the cut-off point and the optimum specificity and sensitivity for each variable.

Results
Baseline characteristics
A total of 1232 patients who underwent prostate biopsy were retrospectively analyzed. Among those patients, 413 patients had positive biopsy results (diagnosed with PCa) and 819 patients had negative biopsy result (diagnosed with benign prostate hyperplasia (BPH) or prostatitis). The characteristics of patients in this study can be viewed in Table 1.

Comparison between biopsy groups
Compared to the negative biopsy group, the positive biopsy group had lower median PV, while serum PSA level and age in positive biopsy group was higher than negative biopsy group (Table 1). The mean PSAD in positive biopsy result group was higher than negative biopsy results, except PSAD in patients with PSA <4 ng/ml (Table 1).

Bivariate analysis using the Mann-Whitney U-test showed that age (\( p <0.001 \)), PSA (\( p <0.001 \)), PV (\( p <0.001 \)), and PSAD in patients with PSA 4–10 ng/ml (\( p <0.001 \)), 10–20 ng/ml (\( p <0.001 \)), and >20 ng/ml (\( p <0.001 \)) group had statistical significance differences. However, PSAD in patients with PSA <4 ng/ml (\( p=0.368 \)) showed no statistically significant difference using unpaired t-test.

According to the age groups, we classified them into three groups based on previous study. As shown in Table 2, those aged >70 years (43.4%) had the highest detection rate. In addition, the positive biopsy rate in patients with PSA >20 ng/ml was 57.2%. Prostate volume <60 ml had higher detection rate (41.8%) compared to PV >60 ml which only has 18.2% (Table 2).

ROC analysis
The ROC curve demonstrated that PSAD was the best predictor factor among those variables (age, PSA, and PV) in TRUS-guided prostate biopsy (Figure 1 and Table 3). The area under the curve (AUC) for PSAD (84.5%) and PSA (78.7%), while the AUC for PV and age were 62.4% and 61.2%, respectively. PSAD and PSA were thus considered better predictors for
Table 1. Patient characteristics and biopsy results. Negative biopsy results were diagnosed as benign prostate hyperplasia and/or prostatitis while positive biopsy results were diagnosed as prostate adenocarcinoma.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Positive biopsy result</th>
<th>Negative biopsy result</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total patients, n (%)</td>
<td>1232</td>
<td>413 (33.5)</td>
<td>819 (66.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (in years)</td>
<td>1232</td>
<td>68 (35-89)*</td>
<td>65 (40-83)*</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSA (ng/ml)</td>
<td>1232</td>
<td>57.45 (0.8-7740)*</td>
<td>11.69 (0.82-126.08)*</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PV (ml)</td>
<td>1232</td>
<td>42 (13.8-208)*</td>
<td>55.4 (13.38-186)*</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAD of PSA &lt; 4 ng/ml (ng/ml/ml)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0.06±0.05*</td>
<td>0.07±0.03*</td>
<td>0.368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAD of PSA 4–10 ng/ml (ng/ml/ml)</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>0.20 (0.08-0.64)*</td>
<td>0.14 (0.04-0.39)*</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAD of PSA 10–20 ng/ml (ng/ml/ml)</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>0.35 (0.09-1.22)*</td>
<td>0.24 (0.09-0.72)*</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAD of PSA &gt; 20 ng/ml (ng/ml/ml)</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>2.05 (0.22-188.78)*</td>
<td>0.53 (0.13-4.61)*</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PSA, prostate-specific antigen; PV, prostate volume; PSAD, PSA density. *Values presented are median (range); †values presented are mean ± standard deviation.

Table 2. Bivariate analysis of factors associated with prostate cancer. Negative biopsy results were diagnosed as benign prostate hyperplasia and/or prostatitis while positive biopsy results were diagnosed as prostate adenocarcinoma.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Positive biopsy result, n (%)</th>
<th>Negative biopsy result, n (%)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age groups (years)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>178 (76.7)</td>
<td>54 (23.3%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60–70</td>
<td>430 (68.6)</td>
<td>197 (31.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;70</td>
<td>211 (56.6)</td>
<td>162 (43.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostate volume (ml)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>465 (58.2%)</td>
<td>334 (41.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥60</td>
<td>354 (81.8%)</td>
<td>79 (18.2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSA groups (ng/ml)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;4</td>
<td>15 (62.5%)</td>
<td>9 (37.5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–10</td>
<td>319 (86.9%)</td>
<td>48 (13.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–20</td>
<td>270 (79.6%)</td>
<td>69 (20.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;20</td>
<td>215 (42.8%)</td>
<td>287 (57.2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PSA, prostate-specific antigen.

identifying PCa than PV and age. This study also conducted ROC curve analysis for PSAD in stratified PSA level (Table 3).

The optimal cut-off point of PSAD in the PSA group of 4–10 ng/ml was 0.17 ng/ml and its sensitivity and specificity were 75% and 66.5%, respectively. The cut-off point of PSA level was 32.5 ng/ml, giving a sensitivity and specificity for PSA of 62.0% and 87.1%, respectively. Prostate volume and age had lower optimum sensitivity and specificity compared to PSAD and PSA. (Table 3) This study divided PSAD variables into four groups based on PSA level (Table 3).

Discussion
Rashid et al. stated that TRUS-guided biopsy is recommended as the procedure of choice for early detection of PCa. Even though the elevation of PSA and the presence of an abnormal DRE are associated with PCa, those kind of examinations are not appropriate as a standard predictor.

In our study, 33.5% of the 1,232 patients examined had prostate cancer based on the biopsy result of histopathology examination. The overall detection rate (33.5%) of PCa in this study was much lower than in Pakistan (50.3%) Na et al.
and Presti et al. also showed differences compared to earlier Chinese and American studies; they reported that the detection rates were 47% and 42%, respectively.\textsuperscript{11,12}

The same results in positive biopsy rate are also found in other studies (Table 4). In Pakistan, Rashid et al. showed that 48.8% of patients performing TRUS guided biopsy were detected as PCa. In India, Prakash et al. found that 35.2% of PCa were diagnosed from prostate biopsy.\textsuperscript{13} Tang et al. in China revealed that 36.4% of patients were positive for PCa after performing prostate biopsy, but this study only investigated PSA levels ranging from 10–50 ng/ml.\textsuperscript{14} Study from Germany had a lower detection rate.

![Figure 1. Receiver operating characteristic curve for (A) prostate-specific antigen (PSA), PSA density (PSAD), and age, and (B) prostate volume.](image)

**Table 3. Sensitivity, specificity, and cut-off point of each variable.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>AUC</th>
<th>Cut-off point</th>
<th>Sensitivity (%)</th>
<th>Specificity (%)</th>
<th>P value</th>
<th>95% CI (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSA</td>
<td>0.787</td>
<td>32.5 ng/ml</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>75.7–81.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PV</td>
<td>0.674</td>
<td>52.3 ml</td>
<td>55.2</td>
<td>75.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>64.3–70.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAD</td>
<td>0.845</td>
<td>0.43 ng/ml/ml</td>
<td>81.4</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>82.0–87.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.607</td>
<td>63.5 years</td>
<td>73.1</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>57.4–64.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAD of PSA group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAD\textsuperscript{a} of PSA &lt;4 ng/ml</td>
<td>0.311</td>
<td>0.07 ng/ml/ml</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>67.0</td>
<td>0.128</td>
<td>5.0–57.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAD\textsuperscript{b} of PSA 4-10 ng/ml</td>
<td>0.737</td>
<td>0.17 ng/ml/ml</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>66.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>65.8–81.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAD\textsuperscript{c} of PSA 10-20 ng/ml</td>
<td>0.741</td>
<td>0.33 ng/ml/ml</td>
<td>62.3</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>67.2–81.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAD\textsuperscript{d} of PSA &gt;20 ng/ml</td>
<td>0.881</td>
<td>1.00 ng/ml/ml</td>
<td>81.9</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>85.2–91.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSA age specific</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSA of age &lt;60 years old</td>
<td>0.753</td>
<td>45.50 ng/ml</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>66.8–83.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSA of age 60–70 years old</td>
<td>0.768</td>
<td>32.63 ng/ml</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>74.5–83.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSA of age &gt;70 years old</td>
<td>0.802</td>
<td>43.50 ng/ml</td>
<td>64.6</td>
<td>86.3</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>76.6–83.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AUC, area under the curve; PSA, prostate-specific antigen; PV, prostate volume; PSAD, PSA density.
than current study, at only 23.5%. The low detection rate in this study could be caused by inadequate sampling. In larger prostate volumes, the possibility of error sampling is higher than in smaller prostate volume. Hence, the number of cores should be adjusted based on the prostate volume.

In this study, the median age of PCa patients is 68 years old (range from 35–89 years) and those who were >70 years had the highest positive biopsy rate. This result is supported by other studies in Indonesia and Pakistan. Umbas et al. revealed that patients with PCa in Indonesia were predominantly those >70 years during 1995–2004. In addition, Ariani et al. also reported that the overall age of the PCa patients in their study was 67.12 years. The previous two studies mentioned that the rate in Indonesia was not significantly different compared to studies conducted in Nepal Senegal, Pakistan and Taiwan (63.6, 65.5, 65.7, and 67.7 years, respectively). However, other studies from China (Na et al. and Wu et al.) showed a slightly higher overall age compared to the current study, with mean ages of 71.24 and 73.4 years, respectively. In addition, the mean age of a group in Korea was found to be lower (63.8 years old) than that in the current study, but its result cannot be compared because the study use tPSA level less than 10 ng/ml.

Age is one of many risk factors affecting PCa because the incidence of the disease increases along with aging. Prostate cancer is mostly (in about 75% of cases) diagnosed after 65 years of age. There only 2% of all PCa cases were diagnosed in males <50 years.

The highest positive biopsy rate in PSA group within this study belongs to patients with PSA values >20 ng/ml. This result suggests that severe elevation of PSA will increase the probability of PCa. Prakash et al. and Rashid et al. showed that 73.8–74.6% of patients with PSA >20 ng/ml that underwent TRUS-guided biopsy were diagnosed with PCa. Another study by Barakazi et al. revealed a similar result to the current study. This study shows that patients with PSA level 4–10 ng/ml and 10–20 ng/ml had lower detection rate compared to those with PSA level below 4 ng/ml. Prakash et al. also generated similar results to those of our study, showing that PCa in patients with PSA level <4 ng/ml was could be detected more easily compared to patients with PSA levels of 4–10 ng/ml and 10–20 ng/ml, with the addition of DRE examination. These results suggested that DRE may still have an important role in assisting or predicting PCa in suspicious patients. Previous studies conducted in Taiwan and The Netherlands also revealed that DRE is an independent predictor of PCa.

In this study, the lowest detection rate of PCa is in those with a PSA level of 4–10 ng/ml. Therefore, PSA alone is not an effective screening method to diagnose PCa. PSA level alone could cause the high rate of false positive or negative biopsy rate in patients that underwent TRUS-guided prostate biopsy. PSA is a protein produced by the prostatic epithelium. It is organ-specific, but not cancer-specific. PSA can be manipulated by other disorders of the prostate, such as prostatitis, urinary retention, and BPH. Research into a large population regarding PSA screening in ERSPC revealed that PSA screening was able to reduce a number of 20% mortality in patients with PCa. Another study reported that PSA had no benefit in reducing mortality in PCa. PSA alone is not optimal to determine the risk of PCa. Other factors such as DRE, TRUS to assess PV, and PSAD must be considered when performing prostate biopsy.

The role of PV as a predictor factor is still being debated. In this study, the mean PV in patients with PCa is much lower than in those with negative biopsy results. A previous study in Indonesia conducted by Ariani et al. produced the same result as our study. The study revealed that the incidence of PCa increased with decreasing PV. Wu et al. reported that lower PV was able to indicate a higher risk of PCa detection. Tang et al. reported that decreasing PV was associated with higher risk of PCa in patient undergoing TRUS biopsy. The high rate of negative biopsies resulting due to larger PV might be due to more sampling errors in TRUS biopsy. Therefore, assessing more cores from larger prostates could increase detection rate and reduce bias. Pientak et al. revealed that patients with larger PV (50 ml) who had prior negative biopsy require multiple biopsies to increase the chance of gaining a positive biopsy.

This study revealed that PSAD had the best predictor in detecting PCa. A study from China showed a similar ROC cut-off

Table 4. Comparison detection rate of positive prostate biopsy in other countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total patient</th>
<th>PSA level</th>
<th>Number of cores</th>
<th>Detection rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rashid R. et al. (2013)</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>All PSA level</td>
<td>8 cores</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kash P. et al. (2014)</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>All PSA level</td>
<td>8 cores</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na R. et al. (2012)</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>1650</td>
<td>All PSA level</td>
<td>≥10 cores</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presti JC. et al. (2000)</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>All PSA level</td>
<td>6–10 cores</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prakash VS. et al. (2013)</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>All PSA level</td>
<td>10–16 cores</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luboldt HJ. et al. (2001)</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1115</td>
<td>All PSA level</td>
<td>&lt;6 and ≥6 cores</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This study</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>1232</td>
<td>All PSA level</td>
<td>6–12 cores</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PSA, prostate-specific antigen.
point (0.2 ng/ml/ml) and AUC (0.664) in intermediate PSA level (4–10 ng/ml) to this study. The previous study in Indonesia also reported that the optimum cut-off point was 0.19 in patients with an intermediate PSA level. The cut-off point of PSAD is similar in our study and is higher compared to the reference values of Western countries (0.15 ng/ml/ml) for prostate biopsy. This examination could be used to reduce unnecessary biopsy because the specificity of PSAD was much higher than specificity of PSA level 4 ng/ml (as indicated for prostate biopsy) in this study.

The limitation of our study is that the TRUS-guided biopsy is of limited value. It can only show small number of malignancies. The use of contrast agent combined with TRUS-guided prostate biopsy can increase the accuracy of prostate cancer diagnosis. We also noticed that according to Prakash et al., the number of core biopsies have to be increased up to 16 cores in order to significantly increase the rate of prostate cancer detection.

Another limitation of this study is that it is a retrospective study conducted in a single institution. In this study, PSA level was not defined adequately, therefore the cut-off point and mean variables were difficult to obtain. Although this study is conducted in a single institution, it can represent the races from Indonesian men because the samples are recruited from several provinces in Indonesia.

Conclusion
In conclusion, the overall detection rate of PCa by biopsy in our study is 33.5%, much lower than other countries in Asia. The incidence of PCa increased with higher PSA level, older age and lower PV. Utilization of PSAD 0.17 ng/ml/ml as a cut-off point in patients with PSA level between 4–10 ng/ml is recommended to improve PCa detection in Indonesian men.

Data availability
Underlying data

Grant information
The author(s) declared that no grants were involved in supporting this work.

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Open Peer Review

Current Peer Review Status: ?

Version 1

Reviewer Report 04 July 2019

https://doi.org/10.5256/f1000research.20706.r50755

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Sebastiaan Remmers
Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Monique Roobol
Department of Urology, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

This paper evaluates predictors for a positive systematic biopsy. These predictors included PSA, age, prostate volume, and PSA density (PSAD). The authors concluded that PSAD was the best predictor for a positive biopsy based on ROC analysis.

The authors have done great work by including 1232 patients. The manuscript is nicely written.

There are some considerations before accepting this manuscript for indexing:

• Why are men with normal DRE not included? If you only include men with abnormal DRE you will make a high risk cohort and you will miss tumour located on the ventral side of the prostate.

• In the method section, the authors describe that inclusion criteria were age >45 years and PSA >4 ng/ml. However, in Table 1 the range for men with positive biopsy was 35-89 and for men with negative biopsy 40-83. In addition, the range of PSA is 0.8 – 7740 ng/ml. A more proper way of reporting is by providing the median and the interquartile range.

• Figure 1 is composed of a section A and B. However, I do not see the added value of separating prostate volume from the rest of the predictors.

• The methodology is not sufficient to conclude that PSAD is the best predictor. Multiple testing will lead to biased results. The best methodology is to make a logistic model in which age and PSAD are used as predictor. Since PSA and prostate volume are combined into PSAD, it is not recommended to use both PSAD, and PSA and prostate volume in one model. On the basis of this model, it is possible to calculate an AUC and to make an individual prediction for a men.

Before an accurate message can be given, it is first important to take the previous considerations into account. The results of an Indonesian cohort will be of interest for both researchers and urologists.

Is the work clearly and accurately presented and does it cite the current literature?
Yes

Is the study design appropriate and is the work technically sound?
No
Are sufficient details of methods and analysis provided to allow replication by others?  
Yes

If applicable, is the statistical analysis and its interpretation appropriate?  
No

Are all the source data underlying the results available to ensure full reproducibility?  
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the results?  
Partly

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

**Reviewer Expertise:** Prostate cancer research; statistical methodology

We confirm that we have read this submission and believe that we have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard, however we have significant reservations, as outlined above.

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