



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

This Accepted Author Manuscript (AAM) is copyrighted and published by Elsevier. It is posted here by agreement between Elsevier and the University of Turin. Changes resulting from the publishing process - such as editing, corrections, structural formatting, and other quality control mechanisms - may not be reflected in this version of the text. The definitive version of the text was subsequently published in *Journal of Biomedical Informatics*, Volume 48, April 2014, [10.1016/j.jbi.2013.12.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbi.2013.12.008)

You may download, copy and otherwise use the AAM for non-commercial purposes provided that your license is limited by the following restrictions:

- (1) You may use this AAM for non-commercial purposes only under the terms of the CC-BY-NC-ND license.
- (2) The integrity of the work and identification of the author, copyright owner, and publisher must be preserved in any copy.
- (3) You must attribute this AAM in the following format: Creative Commons BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/deed.en>), [[10.1016/j.jbi.2013.12.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbi.2013.12.008)]

**Dynamic Bayesian Networks to predict sequences of organ failures in patients admitted to
ICU**

Micol Sandri¹, Paola Berchialla², Ileana Baldi³, Dario Gregori³, Roberto De Blasi⁴

¹ Anesthesiology, Intensive Care and Pain Therapy Centre, University of Verona, Dept. of Surgical Science

² Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences, University of Torino

³Unit of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Public Health, Dept. Cardiac, Thoracic and Vascular Sciences, University of Padova

⁴Department of Medical Surgical Sciences, University of Rome “Sapienza”

Corresponding author:

Prof. Dario Gregori

Department of Cardiac, Thoracic and Vascular Sciences, University of Padova

Via Loredan, 18

35131 Padova, Italy

Email: dario.gregori@unipd.it

Phone: +39 049 8275384

Fax: +39 02 700445089

Abstract

Multi Organ Dysfunction Syndrome (MODS) represents a continuum of physiologic derangements and is the major cause of death in the intensive care unit (ICU). Scoring systems for organ failure have become an integral part of critical care practice and play an important role in ICU-based research by tracking disease progression and facilitating patient stratification based on evaluation of illness severity during ICU stay.

In this study a Dynamic Bayesian Network (DBN) was applied to model SOFA severity score changes in 79 adult critically ill patients consecutively admitted to the general ICU of the Sant' Andrea University hospital (Rome, Italy) from September 2010 to March 2011, with the aim to identify the most probable sequences of organs failures in the first week after the ICU admission. Approximately 56% of patients were admitted into the ICU with lung failure and about 27% of patients with heart failure. Results suggest that, given the first organ failure at the ICU admission, a sequence of organ failures can be predicted with a certain degree of probability. Sequences involving heart, lung, hematologic system and liver turned out to be the more likely to occur, with slightly different probabilities depending on the day of the week they occur.

DBNs could be successfully applied for modeling temporal systems in critical care domain. Capability to predict sequences of likely organ failures makes DBNs a promising prognostic tool, intended to help physicians in undertaking therapeutic decisions in a patient-tailored approach.

Keywords: Dynamic Bayesian Network, Intensive Care, SOFA score

1. Introduction

The Multi Organ Dysfunction Syndrome (MODS) has a reported incidence in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) patients of approximately 20% [1] and it is the main cause of morbidity and mortality among the admittance diagnoses [2-6]. The mortality rate ranges from 30% to 100% [7] depending on the number of organs involved and the degree or the duration of their dysfunction [5, 8].

Notwithstanding the use of newer and more effective drugs and advanced technologies supporting the organ function, the incidence of MODS has increased in the last decade [9] extending patients' length of ICU stay, raising the use of invasive equipment and the need for qualified nursing and medical assistance, with a huge impact on the healthcare costs [10, 11].

Since MODS implies a systemic inflammatory reaction leading to diffuse microcirculatory dysfunction, it can be seen as a dynamic process in which at least two organs are consecutively or simultaneously involved [12].

Organ dysfunction can be assessed by a few severity scores: the Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) [13], the Logistic Organ Dysfunction Score (LODS)[14] and the Multiple Organ Failure Score (MOFS) [15]. All of them consider the degree of dysfunction of six organ systems: lung, heart, liver, kidney, central nervous system and hematologic system.

Using organ severity scores facilitates physicians in sharing a common language, elaborating and comparing statistical surveys and providing quality control in health care. Despite these scores are appropriate in describing the characteristics of patients admitted to an ICU and their expected outcome, they are not meant to support the decision-making process during the daily management in the ICU.

Whereas LODS predicts mortality on the basis of many parameters recorded within the first 24 hours after admission, SOFA and MOFS are computed on admission and every 24 hours until patient death or discharge from the ICU fulfilling the need of evaluating changes in patient status over time. Besides the feasibility of repetitive measurements with low margin of error [7] and a good outcome prediction [16], the SOFA score, unlike the MOFS, takes into account the vasoactive drugs for cardiovascular system evaluation [17]. It was designed to be simple enough for regular use and, despite some lack of accuracy in recording it in clinical practice, it enables the recognition of organ failure and detection of change [18]. In fact, the SOFA score is based on a variety of easily measurable clinical parameters and provides a graded score from 0 to 4 for each of the following organ systems: cardiovascular, respiratory, central nervous, renal, hematologic and hepatic [13].

SOFA-based models at admission seem to be competitive in predicting mortality with severity of illness models limited to the first 24 hours from admission. Furthermore models based on sequential SOFA scores have shown comparable performance with other individual organ failure scores [19]. For these reasons, this study was focused on SOFA score.

Results from many clinical studies showed SOFA score changes over time are associated with ICU mortality [7, 17, 20]. Thus, a temporal modeling approach of SOFA scores could allow for an investigation on the evolution of organ failures in critically ill patients [21].

While most of the research on MODS focuses on the relation between organ failures and ICU or hospital mortality [20, 22-25], some attempts in describing the dynamics of organ failure over time have already been made [26, 27]. In [28] hierarchical dynamic Bayesian networks (DBNs) have been used to model day-to-day changes in organ failure in ICU patients.

During the last decade, Bayesian Networks (BNs) have raised much interest in medicine [29] for their capability to model complex systems in which relationships between the many variables involved are not completely known and to provide a causal interpretation instead of merely capture association. For these reasons they have become popular as prognostic models. DBNs add to BNs the benefits of temporal modeling [30], allowing, for example, to model the temporal order and duration of the symptoms, which are often closely related to the prognosis as well as treatment selection.

In this study a DBN was applied to model SOFA score changes in adult critically ill patients consecutively admitted to a general ICU, with the aim to identify the most probable sequences of organs failures in the first week after the ICU admission. This was be done by identifying a set of clinical patient states, i.e. a set of possible organ failures, and modeling probabilities that states are followed by other states or persist over time.

As a generalization of the model implemented by [28], in which the complexity of the model was restricted by allowing only relations among organ failures at different time points, conditional probabilistic dependencies among multiple organ failures which can occur within the same day, were also modeled.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Data collection

The study was conducted at the Sant'Andrea University hospital in Rome using the ICU clinical database (Margherita Core Data Set 4.2 and Dasila). Data were retrospectively collected from patients who were consecutively admitted to the general ICU of the Sant'Andrea University hospital from September 2010 to March 2011. Patients were included if they had at least two organ

systems with a SOFA score ≥ 2 . Patients younger than 18 years or with hospital stay shorter than 48 hours were excluded. Only the first admission was considered for patients who had multiple ICU admissions. After application of inclusion and exclusion criteria, 73 patients were eligible for the analysis. During the ICU stay, patients were treated according to the revised international guidelines and the organ function was mechanically replaced when needed (i.e. mechanical ventilation, hemodialysis etc.). The final data set included demographic data, type of ICU admission according to the Simplified Acute Physiology Score II (SAPS II) [31], Major Diagnostic Category (MDC) based on the mapping defined by the National Health System's Diagnostic Related Group, ICU mortality rate and final hospital outcome.

Data were collected from clinical reports, laboratory tests, cardiovascular monitoring and vasoactive drugs dosage for the daily SOFA score compilation [13]. For patients who were sedated during the period of data collection we considered the Glasgow Coma Score [32] assessed before sedation [33]. Missing values were replaced by the mean computed on the values recorded the previous and the following day.

For each patient included in the study, the SOFA score was computed daily for 7 consecutive days. For each day we considered a 24 hour period starting from 12.00 a.m. except for the first day (the day of entry into the ICU), for which: (i) when inclusion criteria appeared before 12:00 p.m. we considered the 24 hour period starting from the previous 12:00 a.m.; (ii) when inclusion criteria appeared after 12:00 p.m. we pooled the fraction of the day until the subsequent 12:00 a.m. and the following 24 hours. The observational period was shorter than 7 days for patients who died or were discharged from the ICU. The online calculator of the French Society of Anesthesia and Intensive Care (Société Française d'Anesthésie et de Réanimation) was used [13]. Finally for each organ system, the SOFA score was categorized into a binary variable: "non-failure" (SOFA score ≤ 2) and "failure" (SOFA score > 2) [7].

The institutional review board approved the study protocol.

2.2 Bayesian Networks

BNs belong to the family of probabilistic graphical models [34]. They consist in a set of nodes and a set of arcs that form a directed acyclic graph (DAG); each node represents a domain variable whereas arcs represent conditional probabilistic relationships among variables [35].

The relationships in the graph are usually described as it is done in human genealogies. A variable, which is dependent on other variables, is often referred to as a child node, so for example parent-child relationship between X_1 and X_2 nodes is present when there is an arrow from X_1 to X_2 .

Likewise, directly preceding variables are called parents.

Beside the graphical structure, a fully specified BN requires the construction of conditional probability tables for each node. For nodes with no arcs entering them (no parent nodes), only single prior distribution needs to be specified. For nodes with a single parent, a conditional probability distribution has to be specified for each possible state of the parent variable. Finally, for nodes with more than one parent, a conditional probability distribution is required for every possible combination of parent states.

2.3 *Dynamic Bayesian Networks*

While a BN is a static model, representing the joint probability distribution at a fixed point, a DBN can represent the evolution of a system over time. In particular, DBNs allow for representing variables at multiple time points within the same network structure.

One of the most popular methods to model time within BNs is due to [36]. In their approach, time is modeled as in discrete Markov Chain model and each variable of the domain has a time index to indicate which time slice it belongs to. Beside the static (within slice) conditional probabilistic dependencies, DBNs contain additional temporal dependencies, which are represented by arcs between the time slices.

3. Calculation

3.1 *Dynamic Bayesian Network formulation*

The DBN is shown in figure 1. The arcs identify direct probabilistic dependencies between the variables. The static structure of the BN is given by the arrows without number, i.e. when there is no number on an arc the relationship is within the same time slice.

Since the analysis of six potential organ failures has a poor clinical utility and reduces the statistical significance of the results, only a maximum of three organ failures at a fixed time t was modeled. The node variables "I organ failure", "II organ failure" and "III organ failure" take as value the organ that has failed. Furthermore they have an additional state "no organ failure" that a patient enters if his/her SOFA score is ≤ 2 . Since more than one organ failure can occur and the order of the failures was not known, it was suggested by physicians to consider the following priority order for assigning each failure to the relevant node variable: heart, lung, central nervous system, kidney, hematological system and liver. For example, if on the same day heart, kidney and lung organ failures are observed, the node variables I, II and III organ failure take value "heart", "lung" and "kidney", respectively. However, when an organ failure at time t persists at time $t+1$, this will be the first organ failure at $t+1$, regardless of the priority order. For example, if a kidney failure (as I organ

failure) persists from time t to time $t+1$, it will be recorded as I organ failure at time $t+1$ even if a heart failure occurs at time $t+1$.

The static structure of the BN was built so that within the same time slice (same day) the second organ to fail depends on the first organ which has failed in the same day, and the potential third failure is conditioned to the second organ that has failed and indirectly to the first one.

Instead, the number appearing on arrows indicates dependence across time slices and the number itself denotes the order of the dependence. So for example in figure 1, the first organ failure at time slices (day) t and $t+1$ are probabilistically dependent.

In addition a node for patient discharge was also considered. Discharge variable takes only two states: still in the ICU vs. discharged from the ICU. At a fixed time t patient discharge is directly conditioned by the third organ failure and thus indirectly by the first and the second ones. Over time, beside a first order dependence, (i) a second order dependence was imposed in order to take into account the fact that no patient discharges were recorded on the second day, according to the inclusion criteria; and (ii) a seventh order dependence was imposed to take into account that after a week all patients were discharged or deceased.

The Expectation Maximization (EM) algorithm was run for learning conditional probabilities. The EM algorithm starts with some initial parameter vector, which specifies a current estimate of the transition between states probability matrix and the conditional probability of hidden states given observations (a DBN can be viewed as BNs with identical repetition over time where each network contains a number of random variables representing observations and hidden states of the process). In our case, since no hidden states were modeled and no missing values were present, the EM algorithm computes the expected sufficient statistics (ESS) of the observed data using the matrices of the process to calculate the Expectation. A new parameter vector can then be computed from the ESS by a simple maximum likelihood step. These two steps are iterated until an appropriate stopping condition is met [37]. The learning of the conditional probability tables was performed on the entire dataset. Then a 10-fold cross-validation [38] was run in order to assess the accuracy of the model on the nodes: I, II and III organ failure.

The DBN was implemented using GeNIe [39].

4. Results

The 73 consecutive patients included in the study had a prevalence of males, medical ICU admission and respiratory diseases. The mean age was 65.96 ± 14.25 . The ICU mortality rate was 42.5% (Table 1). Overall, 41 out of 73 patients (56%) were evaluated for less than 8 days.

In Figure 1, the DBN is depicted. The network was constructed in order to model a maximum of three organ failures. The numbered arrows represent the time dependence (the order is given by the number, e.g. 1 indicates a dependency between the day t and the day $t-1$), while the not numbered arrows indicate the probabilistic relationships between nodes (I organ failure; II organ failure; III organ failure and Discharge) on the same day. The node labeled Discharge was introduced for taking into account the discharge/mortality of patients admitted at the ICU. In figure 2, the DBN unrolled (limited to times from 0 to 2) is shown.

Table 2 shows the transition probabilities between the first organ failure at time $t-1$ and time t , i.e. probability of observing a first organ failure at time t conditioned to the first organ failures observed at time $t-1$. For example if at time $t-1$ a heart failure is observed, there is about 82% of probability that the heart failure persists at time t and 8% of probability that heart recovers whereas lung fails at time t . Presence of zeros is mainly due to the imposed ordering of organ failures occurrence in the same day. As an example a first hematologic system failure at time $t-1$ can either persist at time t or recover. Other first organ failure probabilities at time t conditional to hematologic system failure at time $t-1$ are equal to zero since the hematologic system is ranked low in the organ priority ordering.

Approximately 56% of patients were admitted into the ICU with lung failure and about 27% of patients with heart failure. During the subsequent 7 days there was a steady decrease in the probability of observing again lung and heart failures.

Overall, 85% of patients who are admitted into the ICU with heart failure have also lung failure at the entry. Figure 3 shows the probability of a third organ failure given lung and heart organ failure at the entry into the ICU (day 0). Approximately, 35% of patients have the probability to experience a failure at the hematological system at day 0. This probability decreases to 20% at day 1.

Given no III organ failure at day 0, there is also 12% of probability to have a liver failure at day 2. Given heart failure at day 0, 10% of patients have also kidney failure as II organ failure and 11.7% as III organ failure among those 85% who experienced a lung failure as II organ failure.

Furthermore, among those who had heart and kidney failure at day 0, there is 50% of probability of observing as III organ failure a hematological system failure at day 0 and 27% and 29% of probability of nervous system failure at day 1 and day 2, respectively (figure 4).

Among patients with lung failure only (without heart failure) at day 0, about 17% have also nervous system and about 19% have hematological system failures on the same day (see supplemental

tables). Among those with hematological system failure (figure 4), there is 33%, 23% and 17% of probability to have liver failure at day 0, day 1 and day 2, respectively. Among those with nervous system failure, there is 25% of probability of kidney or hematologic failure at day 0 (figure 4). Among patients with kidney failure as I organ failure, probability to develop another organ failure is very low, whereas the probability of a persistent kidney failure ranges from 76% to 58% from day 1 to day 4 (see supplemental material).

Cross-validation results were reported in table 3. Accuracy for predicting specific organ failure or no failure for the three variables I, II and III organ failure was reported at the different time points. Multiclass AUC [40] and Brier score were also reported. Overall, I organ failure node achieved over time an accuracy of 71.62%, II organ failure node of 75.54% and III organ failure node 74.95%.

5. Discussion

While the use of new and more effective drugs and sophisticated technology supporting the organ function reduced the mortality of patients by avoiding a rapid fatal outcome, it also extended the ICU recovery time due to an increased risk of onset and persistence of systemic inflammation and MODS, which alters the functional relationship among organs.

It has often been pointed out that usual therapies are initiated too late, when MODS is already present. Since the performance of each organ affects the behaviour of the whole body, it is important to set up prognostic tools for studying the organs' temporal patterns, which allow physicians to anticipate MODS's development or limit the extent of organ dysfunction when the syndrome arises [10, 14, 41].

BNs have been amply utilized in biomedical field as prognostic tools. Much of their appeal can be attributed to the flexibility the modeling framework provides. For example the same BN can predict the probability of a clinical adverse outcome as well as diagnose its causes. However, the MODS dynamics is an unfolding of events over time, which makes new evidence available in time-points. While BNs and more traditional prognostic models hardly account for the temporal pattern of ongoing processes, the benefit of temporal modeling of clinical problems has become clear in practice. In a few cases, DBNs have been successfully applied for modeling temporal systems in medical domain [42-44].

Recently, DBNs have been used to describe changes in organ failure in ICU patients. In [45], DBNs were implemented to predict mortality outcome in ICUs and showed the cardiovascular and renal system SOFA scores were among the most dominant predictors of survival. Data were used to

learn both the structure and the probability tables of stationary and non-stationary DBNs. Another application of DBNs, which made use of SOFA score, was given by [28] who implemented three different models: a first to describe the relationship between the amount of organ failures, expressed as the number of organ failures (0, 1,2,3, >3), and the probability of a prolonged ICU stay and death; a second to investigate the relationship between a specific organ failure at time t and the potential organ failure on day $t+1$ and the final outcome. Finally, a third model was implemented to relax assumptions made in the second model that organ failure persistence and organ failure development follow the same clinical process. In the second and the third model, a hierarchical Bayesian network structure was developed along with multinomial logistic regression models for estimating the transition probabilities.

One important difference between these studies and ours is that we focused on predicting sequences of organ failures rather than clinical exit (ICU death or ICU discharge). For this purpose, we introduced the node Discharge in the model to control for the fixed observation time frame (7 days). With this regard, the limited observational period of 7 consecutive days, after which patients were either discharged or deceased, resulted in a DBN that was not Markovian since it required the definition of a conditional probabilistic dependency between the observation at the seventh day and the observation at day one.

As opposed to [45], we did not use the data to learn the structure of the DBN. Indeed, as pointed out by [28], the choice of working with a fixed model structure is common in medical statistics since the procedure of variable selection, which is usually based on significance testing, is considered arbitrary depending on the level of significance and the size of the data.

Following [28], we have used a fixed model structure. However we choose to use a learning algorithm strategy to estimate the conditional probability tables. This allowed us to overcome the drawback of a linear relationship assumption between the predictor variables and the state the patient enters at time $t+1$ as in Peelen et al. [28] who used additive logistic regression equations. Moreover, in our study the DBN was developed by modeling both the probability of organ failure at time $t+1$ given organ failures at time t and the probability of observing multiple organ failures at the same time point t , i.e. over the same day. In fact, to reduce the complexity of the model, in [28] only relations between variables from different time points were allowed, whereas relations between variables within the same time slice were absent.

Over the time frame of 7 days, the accuracy achieved by the DBN over I, II and III organ failure node is quite good, ranging from about 71.62% to 74.95%. More likely, the lack of performance in detecting some specific organ failures is affected by the limited sample size and consequently by having some specific states represented by very few data instances. It is also worth to be noted that

the accuracy is discrete/good for time $t=1$ and $t=2$ when specific organ failures are sufficiently large and worsen at later times. Calibration (Brier score) is good enough for I and II organ failure. Since in [28] the accuracy of the models is assessed on ICU mortality, only for comparison purposes, a 10-fold cross-validation was carried out on the Discharge node. Over the time frame of 7 days, the DBN achieved an accuracy of 76.54%, which is comparable with the accuracy of model II (82%, 95%CI:73%-90%) and model III 82%(95%CI:74%-90%) in [28] for death within a week. Our results showed the existence of organ failure sequences that are more likely to occur and suggest that, given the first organ failure at the ICU admission, a sequence of organ failures can be predicted. Using our limited set of data, given the first organ failure, sequences of organ failures more likely to occur turned out to be: (i) Heart \rightarrow Lung \rightarrow Nervous system or Hematologic system; (ii) Lung \rightarrow Nervous system \rightarrow Kidney or Hematologic system; (iii) Lung \rightarrow Hematologic system \rightarrow Liver; (iv) Heart \rightarrow Kidney \rightarrow Hematologic system or Nervous system. Finally, according to what reported in [28], once renal failure occurs, probability of developing a subsequent heart failure is nearly around zero, showing (i) no association between renal failure and development of cardiovascular failure, whereas probability of persistence in renal failure remains high.

6. Conclusions

The DBN showed the existence of sequences of organ failures more likely to occur than others. Further analysis is demanded in order to assess the severity of the organ dysfunction as function of the SOFA score on a larger sample, distinguishing between organ failure and organ insufficiency, and to validate results in different populations of patients to determine whether adaptation of the model is necessary to make it suitable for applications in all clinical settings. The use of other severity scores, such as SAPSII, could be considered to refine the model further.

The fact that the order in which organ failures occurred was not known and a fictitious ordering was imposed must be acknowledged as a limitation of the current model. In this context, more than one organ failure should be interpreted as multiple organ failures which occur in association rather than in a causation relationship. Indeed, apart from the order in which failures appear, their combination is also important [46]. A solution to this issue would be collecting the time of each organ failure. A prompt and well-timed treatment besides bearing on mortality and morbidity related to MODS would be the best way to limit the inflammatory response [3] and improve the availability of critical care, mostly by achieving a shorter length of stay. Capability to predict sequences of likely organ failures makes DBNs a promising prognostic tool for physicians, who can thus treat patients timely in order to avoid further organ dysfunctions. A tool for predicting organs that are likely to fail in an

individual patient might help in undertaking a therapeutic strategy tailored to that patient, modifying his/her prognosis or testing a treatment efficacy.

References

- [1] Cabre L, Mancebo J, Solsona JF, Saura P, Gich I, Blanch L, et al. Multicenter study of the multiple organ dysfunction syndrome in intensive care units: the usefulness of Sequential Organ Failure Assessment scores in decision making. *Intensive care medicine*. 2005;31:927-33.
- [2] Baue AE. Multiple organ failure, multiple organ dysfunction syndrome, and systemic inflammatory response syndrome. Why no magic bullets? *Arch Surg*. 1997;132:703-7.
- [3] Deitch EA. Multiple organ failure. Pathophysiology and potential future therapy. *Annals of surgery*. 1992;216:117-34.
- [4] Tran DD, Cuesta MA, van Leeuwen PA, Nauta JJ, Wesdorp RI. Risk factors for multiple organ system failure and death in critically injured patients. *Surgery*. 1993;114:21-30.
- [5] Zimmerman JE, Knaus WA, Wagner DP, Sun X, Hakim RB, Nystrom PO. A comparison of risks and outcomes for patients with organ system failure: 1982-1990. *Critical care medicine*. 1996;24:1633-41.
- [6] Lopez SA, Diaz JS, Lopez EB, Olivares PG, Garcia JG, Munoz IR. Analysis of morbimortality in patients with multiorgan dysfunction. *Critical Care*. 2008;12:P498.
- [7] Vincent JL, de Mendonca A, Cantraine F, Moreno R, Takala J, Suter PM, et al. Use of the SOFA score to assess the incidence of organ dysfunction/failure in intensive care units: results of a multicenter, prospective study. Working group on "sepsis-related problems" of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine. *Critical care medicine*. 1998;26:1793-800.
- [8] Knaus WA, Draper EA, Wagner DP, Zimmerman JE. Prognosis in acute organ-system failure. *Annals of surgery*. 1985;202:685-93.
- [9] Cuenca Solanas M. [Multiple organ dysfunction syndrome]. *Enfermeria intensiva / Sociedad Espanola de Enfermeria Intensiva y Unidades Coronarias*. 1999;10:71-80.
- [10] Rogers J, Fuller HD. Use of daily Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE) II scores to predict individual patient survival rate. *Critical care medicine*. 1994;22:1402-5.
- [11] Vincent JL, Sakr Y, Sprung CL, Ranieri VM, Reinhart K, Gerlach H, et al. Sepsis in European intensive care units: results of the SOAP study. *Critical care medicine*. 2006;34:344-53.
- [12] Levy MM, Fink MP, Marshall JC, Abraham E, Angus D, Cook D, et al. 2001 SCCM/ESICM/ACCP/ATS/SIS International Sepsis Definitions Conference. *Intensive care medicine*. 2003;29:530-8.
- [13] Vincent JL, Moreno R, Takala J, Willatts S, De Mendonca A, Bruining H, et al. The SOFA (Sepsis-related Organ Failure Assessment) score to describe organ dysfunction/failure. On behalf of the Working Group on Sepsis-Related Problems of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine. *Intensive care medicine*. 1996;22:707-10.
- [14] Le Gall JR, Klar J, Lemeshow S, Saulnier F, Alberti C, Artigas A, et al. The Logistic Organ Dysfunction system. A new way to assess organ dysfunction in the intensive care unit. ICU Scoring Group. *JAMA : the journal of the American Medical Association*. 1996;276:802-10.
- [15] Marshall JC, Cook DJ, Christou NV, Bernard GR, Sprung CL, Sibbald WJ. Multiple organ dysfunction score: a reliable descriptor of a complex clinical outcome. *Critical care medicine*. 1995;23:1638-52.
- [16] Khwannimit B. A comparison of three organ dysfunction scores: MODS, SOFA and LOD for predicting ICU mortality in critically ill patients. *Journal of the Medical Association of Thailand = Chotmaihet thangphaet*. 2007;90:1074-81.

- [17] Peres Bota D, Melot C, Lopes Ferreira F, Nguyen Ba V, Vincent JL. The Multiple Organ Dysfunction Score (MODS) versus the Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score in outcome prediction. *Intensive care medicine*. 2002;28:1619-24.
- [18] Tallgren M, Backlund M, Hynninen M. Accuracy of Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) scoring in clinical practice. *Acta anaesthesiologica Scandinavica*. 2009;53:39-45.
- [19] Minne L, Abu-Hanna A, de Jonge E. Evaluation of SOFA-based models for predicting mortality in the ICU: A systematic review. *Crit Care*. 2008;12:R161.
- [20] Moreno R, Vincent JL, Matos R, Mendonca A, Cantraine F, Thijs L, et al. The use of maximum SOFA score to quantify organ dysfunction/failure in intensive care. Results of a prospective, multicentre study. Working Group on Sepsis related Problems of the ESICM. *Intensive care medicine*. 1999;25:686-96.
- [21] Kilic YA, Yorganci K, Sayek I. Visualizing multiple organ failure: a method for analyzing temporal and dynamic relations between failing systems and interventions. *Crit Care*. 2007;11:417.
- [22] Toma T, Abu-Hanna A, Bosman RJ. Discovery and inclusion of SOFA score episodes in mortality prediction. *J Biomed Inform*. 2007;40:649-60.
- [23] Levy MM, Macias WL, Vincent JL, Russell JA, Silva E, Trzaskoma B, et al. Early changes in organ function predict eventual survival in severe sepsis. *Critical care medicine*. 2005;33:2194-201.
- [24] Ferreira FL, Bota DP, Bross A, Melot C, Vincent JL. Serial evaluation of the SOFA score to predict outcome in critically ill patients. *JAMA : the journal of the American Medical Association*. 2001;286:1754-8.
- [25] Russell JA, Singer J, Bernard GR, Wheeler A, Fulkerson W, Hudson L, et al. Changing pattern of organ dysfunction in early human sepsis is related to mortality. *Critical care medicine*. 2000;28:3405-11.
- [26] Visscher S, Lucas P, Ildik, Flesch, Schurink K. Using Temporal Context-Specific Independence Information in the Exploratory Analysis of Disease Processes. *Proceedings of the 11th conference on Artificial Intelligence in Medicine*. Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Springer-Verlag; 2007. p. 87-96.
- [27] Charitos T, Gaag LCvd, Visscher S, Schurink KAM, Lucas PJF. A dynamic Bayesian network for diagnosing ventilator-associated pneumonia in ICU patients. *Expert Syst Appl*. 2009;36:1249-58.
- [28] Peelen L, de Keizer NF, Jonge E, Bosman RJ, Abu-Hanna A, Peek N. Using hierarchical dynamic Bayesian networks to investigate dynamics of organ failure in patients in the Intensive Care Unit. *J Biomed Inform*. 2010;43:273-86.
- [29] Lucas PJ, van der Gaag LC, Abu-Hanna A. Bayesian networks in biomedicine and health-care. *Artificial intelligence in medicine*. 2004;30:201-14.
- [30] Ghahramani Z. Learning Dynamic Bayesian Networks. *Adaptive Processing of Sequences and Data Structures, International Summer School on Neural Networks, "ER Caianiello"-Tutorial Lectures*: Springer-Verlag; 1998. p. 168-97.
- [31] Le Gall JR, Lemeshow S, Saulnier F. A new Simplified Acute Physiology Score (SAPS II) based on a European/North American multicenter study. *JAMA : the journal of the American Medical Association*. 1993;270:2957-63.
- [32] Teasdale G, Jennett B. ASSESSMENT OF COMA AND IMPAIRED CONSCIOUSNESS. *The Lancet*. 1974;304:81-4.
- [33] Livingston BM, Mackenzie SJ, MacKirdy FN, Howie JC. Should the pre-sedation Glasgow Coma Scale value be used when calculating Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation scores for sedated patients? Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group. *Critical care medicine*. 2000;28:389-94.
- [34] Lauritzen SL. Graphical models. Repr. with corrections. ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2004.
- [35] Jensen FV. Bayesian Networks and Decision Graphs: Springer; 2001.

- [36] Dean T, Kanazawa K. A model for reasoning about persistence and causation. *Computational Intelligence*. 1989;5:142-150.
- [37] Murphy KP. *Dynamic Bayesian Networks: Representation, Inference and Learning*: UC Berkeley; 2002.
- [38] Frank E, Harrell J. *Regression Modeling Strategies*: Springer-Verlag New York, Inc.; 2006.
- [39] Decision Systems Laboratory - University of Pittsburgh. GeNIe 2.0, <http://www.sis.pitt.edu/~genie/>. 2006.
- [40] Hand DJ, Till RJ. A Simple Generalisation of the Area Under the ROC Curve for Multiple Class Classification Problems. *Mach Learn*. 2001;45:171-86.
- [41] Murray MJ, Coursin DB. Multiple organ dysfunction syndrome. *The Yale journal of biology and medicine*. 1993;66:501-10.
- [42] Andreassen S, Benn JJ, Hovorka R, Olesen KG, Carson ER. A probabilistic approach to glucose prediction and insulin dose adjustment: description of metabolic model and pilot evaluation study. *Computer methods and programs in biomedicine*. 1994;41:153-65.
- [43] Hernando ME, Gomez EJ, Corcoy R, del Pozo F. Evaluation of DIABNET, a decision support system for therapy planning in gestational diabetes. *Computer methods and programs in biomedicine*. 2000;62:235-48.
- [44] van Gerven MA, Taal BG, Lucas PJ. Dynamic Bayesian networks as prognostic models for clinical patient management. *J Biomed Inform*. 2008;41:515-29.
- [45] Kayaalp M, Cooper GF, Clermont G. Predicting ICU mortality: a comparison of stationary and nonstationary temporal models. *Proceedings / AMIA Annual Symposium AMIA Symposium*. 2000:418-22.
- [46] Lausevic Z, Lausevic M, Trbojevic-Stankovic J, Krstic S, Stojimirovic B. Predicting multiple organ failure in patients with severe trauma. *Canadian journal of surgery Journal canadien de chirurgie*. 2008;51:97-102.

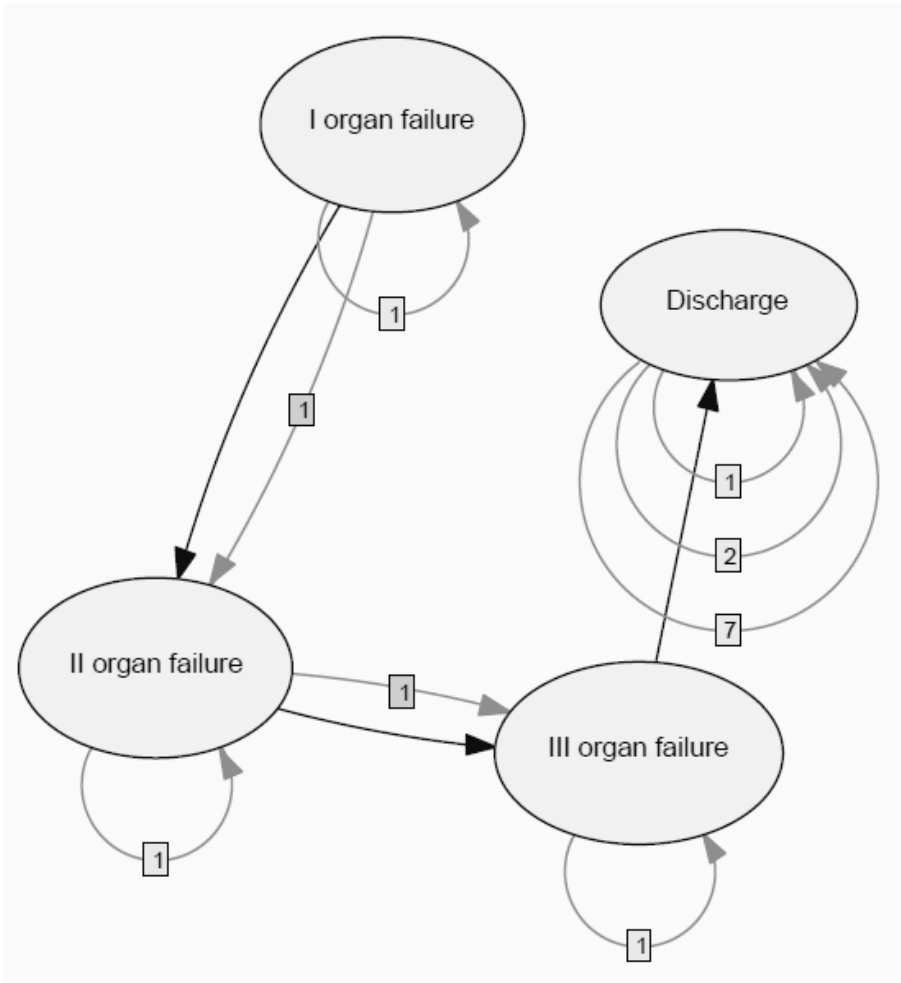


Figure 1. Dynamic Bayesian Network for organ system failure.

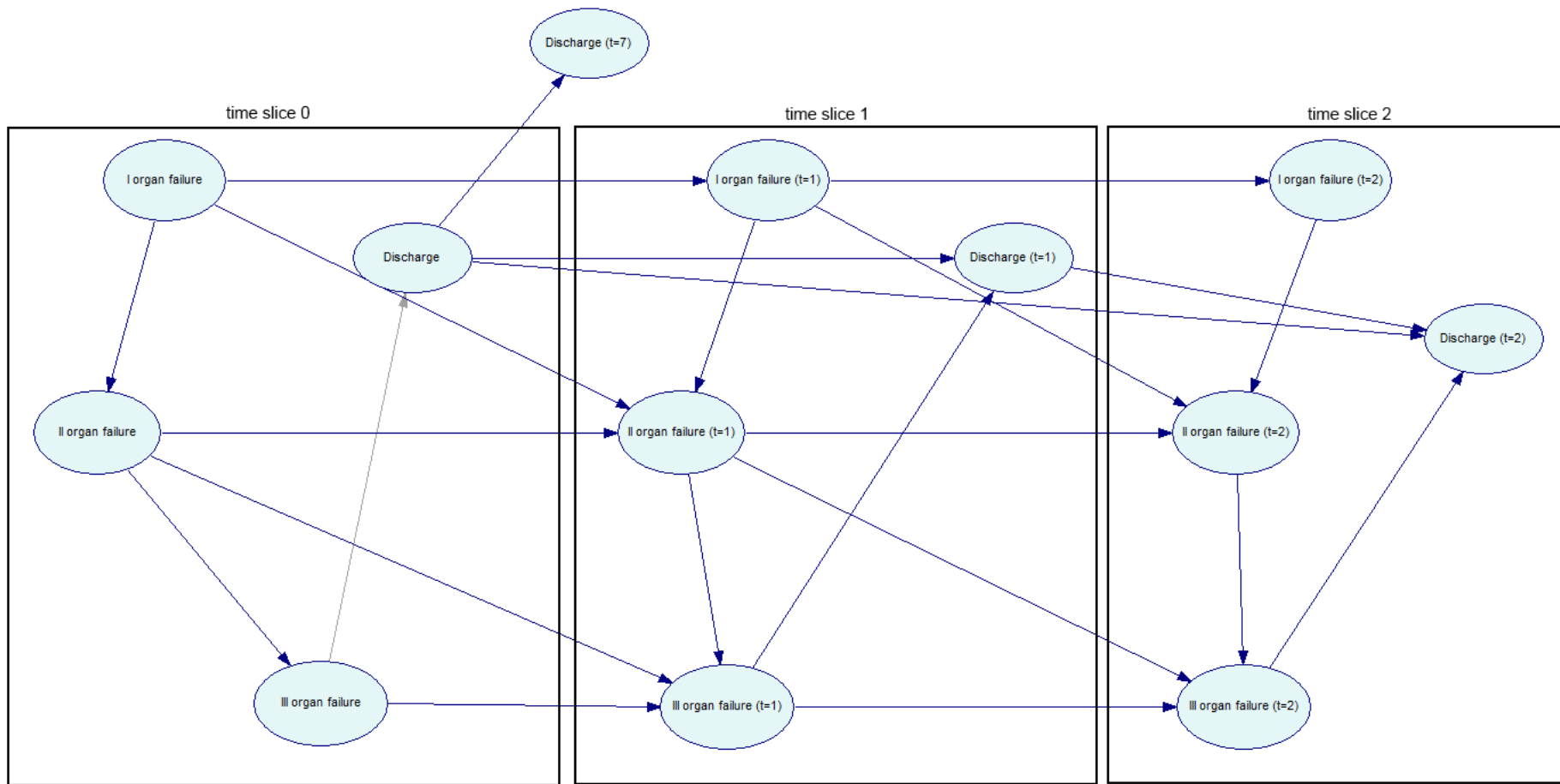


Figure 2. DBN unrolled from time $t=0$ (slice 0) to time $t=2$ (slice 2). Inter-slice dependencies do not change over time. A further dependency was drawn between the node Discharge at $t=0$ and $t=7$, due to the limited observation time frame, restricted to 7 days after which all patients were either discharged or dead.

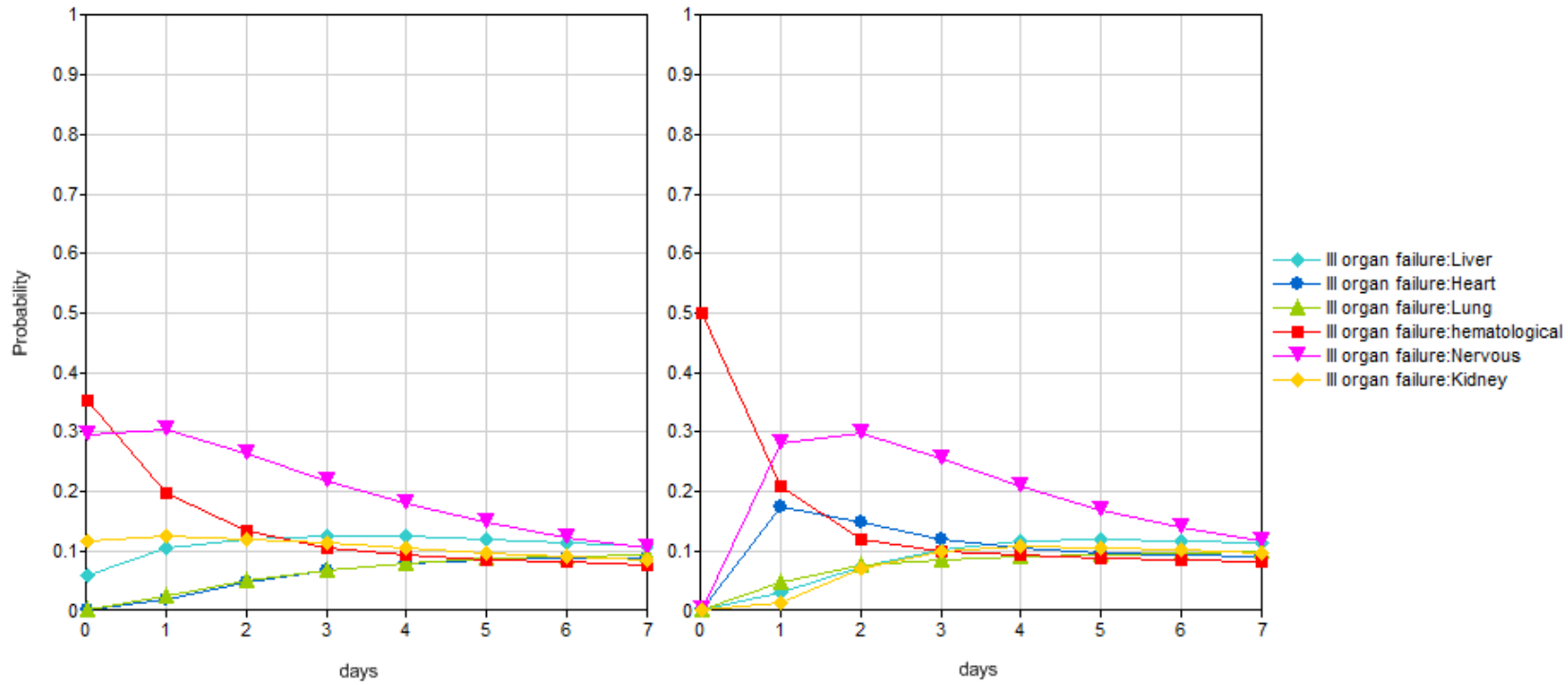


Figure 3. Sequence probability of a III organ failure given lung and heart failure at the entry into the ICU (left); sequence probability of a III organ failure given heart and kidney failure at the entry into the ICU (right).

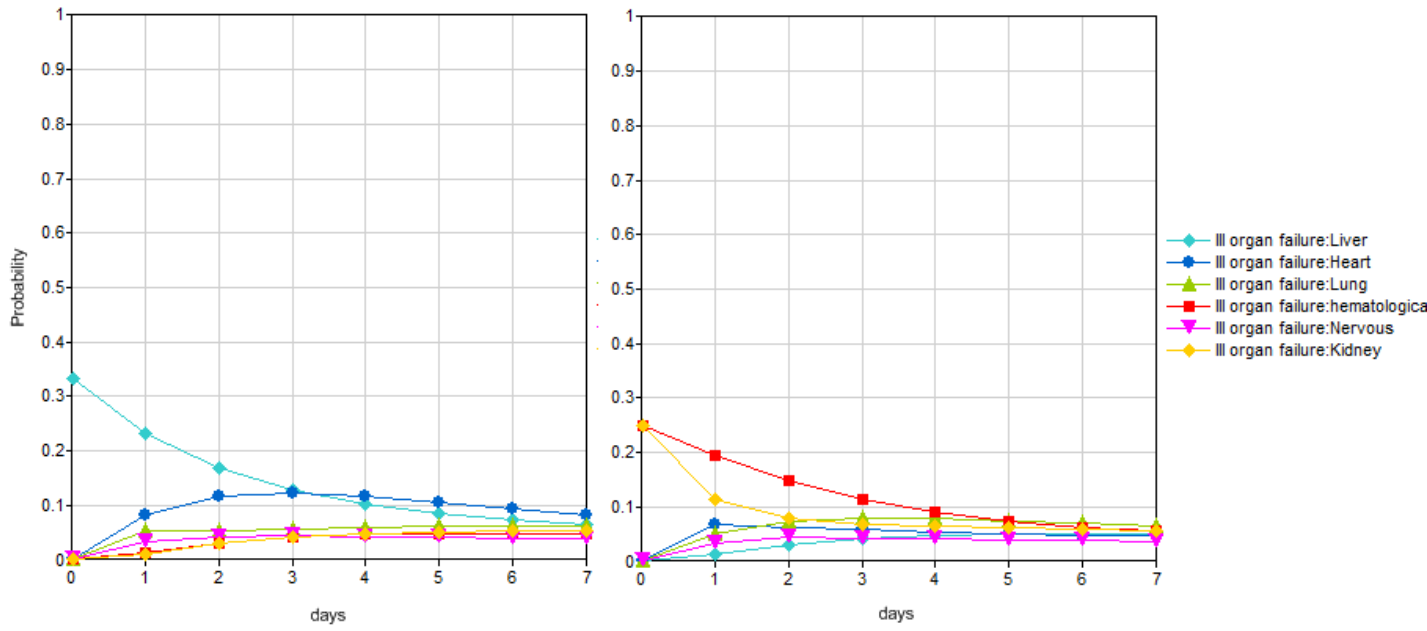


Figure 4. Sequence probability of a III organ failure given lung and hematologic system failure at the entry into the ICU (left); sequence probability of a III organ failure given lung and nervous system failure at the entry into the ICU (right).

Table 1. Demographic data, type of ICU admission, Major Diagnostic Categories and ICU and Hospital Outcomes of the 73 patients considered for the analysis

Characteristics	
Age, years, mean \pm SD	65.95 \pm 14.25
Gender, male, n (%)	49 (67.1)
Type of ICU admission, n (%)	
Medical	48 (65.8)
Elective Surgery	12 (16.4)
Emergency Surgery	13 (17.8)
Major Diagnostic Categories, n (%)	
Respiratory diseases	28 (38.3)
Gastrointestinal diseases	11 (15.1)
Nervous system diseases	10 (13.7)
Liver and pancreatic diseases	7 (9.6)
Cardiovascular diseases	6 (8.2)
Systemic infectious diseases	6 (8.2)
Myeloproliferative disorders and poorly differentiated tumors	3 (4.1)
Hematologic, immunological and hemopoietic organ diseases	1 (1.4)
Endocrine, metabolic and nutritional diseases	1 (1.4)
Outcomes	
ICU stay, days, median, (IQR)	7 (3-106)
Hospital length of stay, days, median (IQR)	19 (3-116)
ICU deaths, n (%)	31 (42.5)
Hospital deaths, n (%)	30 (41.1)

Table 2. Probability of I organ failure at time t given organ failure at time $t-1$

Time t	Time $t-1$						
	Liver	Lung	Heart	Hematologic system	Nervous system	Kidney	None
Liver	0.692	0.014	0	0	0	0.026	0
Lung	0.231	0.780	0.088	0	0	0	0.038
Heart	0	0.014	0.824	0	0	0	0.005
Hematologic system	0	0.007	0	0.733	0.040	0	0.011
Nervous system	0	0.014	0.011	0	0.840	0	0
Kidney	0	0.007	0.033	0	0.040	0.872	0.005
None	0.077	0.164	0.044	0.267	0.080	0.103	0.940

Table 3. Accuracy of DNB for predicting specific organ failure or no failure for variables I organ failure, II organ failure and III organ failure at different time points. Results are reported as %(nr of predicted failures/nr of actual failures)

	Accuracy							Multiclass AUC	Brier score
	Liver	Lung	Heart	Hematologic system	Nervous system	Kidney	No Organ Failure		
<i>I organ failure</i> (Node accuracy: 71.62%)									
t=1	100(2/2)	86.67(26/30)	83.33(15/18)	0(0/2)	80(4/5)	50(2/4)	91.67(11/12)	0.73	0.19
t=2	0(0/2)	81.48(22/27)	78.57(11/14)	0(0/3)	50(2/4)	33.33(2/6)	88.24(15/17)	0.77	0.2
t=3	0(0/1)	47.62(10/21)	66.67(8/12)	0(0/4)	0(0/2)	16.67(1/6)	92.59(25/27)	0.77	0.18
t=4	0(0/1)	50(9/18)	70(7/10)	0(0/2)	0(0/3)	14.29(1/7)	100(32/32)	0.77	0.19
t=5	0(0/1)	57.14(8/14)	77.78(7/9)	0(0/2)	0(0/4)	14.29(1/7)	100(36/36)	0.77	0.21
t=6	0(0/3)	66.67(8/12)	87.5(7/8)	0(0/1)	0(0/3)	0(0/6)	97.5(39/40)	0.79	0.19
t=7	0(0/2)	70(7/10)	85.71(6/7)	0(0/1)	0(0/3)	0(0/4)	95.65(44/46)	0.75	0.22
<i>II organ failure</i> (Node accuracy: 75.54%)									
t=1	0(0/2)	94.12(16/17)	-	22.22(2/9)	0(0/3)	0(0/7)	94.29(33/35)	0.76	0.19
t=2	0(0/2)	85.71(12/14)	0(0/1)	22.22(2/9)	0(0/4)	0(0/3)	100(40/40)	0.82	0.23
t=3	0(0/1)	81.82(9/11)	0(0/2)	42.86(3/7)	20(1/5)	0(0/3)	100(44/44)	0.69	0.24
t=4	100(1/1)	80(8/10)	0(0/5)	50(3/6)	50(2/4)	0(0/2)	100(45/45)	0.68	0.26
t=5	0(0/3)	54.55(6/11)	0(0/3)	42.86(3/7)	0(0/3)	0(0/3)	90.7(39/43)	0.62	0.22
t=6	0(0/2)	55.56(5/9)	0(0/1)	42.86(3/7)	0(0/3)	0(0/3)	89.58(43/48)	0.71	0.2
t=7	0(0/1)	33.33(2/6)	0(0/2)	20(1/5)	0(0/3)	0(0/4)	96.15(50/52)	0.69	0.21
<i>III organ failure</i> (Node accuracy: 74.95%)									
t=1	0(0/4)	50(2/4)	-	40(2/5)	100(6/6)	66.67(2/3)	92.16(47/51)		
t=2	0(0/1)	40(2/5)	0(0/1)	0(0/3)	71.43(5/7)	50(2/4)	82.69(43/52)	0.60	0.27
t=3	0(0/3)	0(0/4)	-	-	20(1/5)	80(4/5)	87.5(49/56)	0.62	0.26
t=4	0(0/2)	0(0/1)	0(0/1)	0(0/1)	20(1/5)	40(2/5)	87.93(51/58)	0.71	0.29
t=5	0(0/3)	0(0/1)	0(0/2)	0(0/2)	0(0/2)	0(0/4)	93.22(55/59)	0.58	0.27
t=6	0(0/3)	0(0/3)	0(0/2)	0(0/1)	0(0/2)	0(0/1)	88.52(54/61)	0.62	0.28
t=7	0(0/2)	0(0/4)	0(0/4)	0(0/3)	0(0/2)	-	94.83(55/58)	0.64	0.29