

This is a repository copy of Machine learning cardiac-MRI features predict mortality in newly diagnosed pulmonary arterial hypertension.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper: https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/186801/

Version: Accepted Version

Article:

Alabed, S. orcid.org/0000-0002-9960-7587, Uthoff, J., Zhou, S. et al. (15 more authors) (2022) Machine learning cardiac-MRI features predict mortality in newly diagnosed pulmonary arterial hypertension. European Heart Journal - Digital Health. ztac022. ISSN 2634-3916

https://doi.org/10.1093/ehjdh/ztac022

Reuse

This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence. This licence allows you to distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon the work, even commercially, as long as you credit the authors for the original work. More information and the full terms of the licence here: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/

Takedown

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing eprints@whiterose.ac.uk including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.



1 Machine Learning cardiac-MRI features predict mortality in newly diagnosed

2 pulmonary arterial hypertension

- 3 Samer Alabed MD^{a,b,c}, Johanna Uthoff PhD^d, Shuo Zhou^d, Pankaj Garg PhD^a, Krit Dwivedi MD^{a,b},
- 4 Faisal Alandejani MD^a, Rebecca Gosling PhD^a, Lawrence Schobs^d, Martin Brook^a, Dave Capener^a,
- 5 Chris Johns PhD^{a,b}, Jim M Wild PhD^{a,c}, Alexander MK Rothman PhD^a, Rob J. van der Geest PhD^e,
- 6 Robin Condliffe MD^{a,f}, David G Kiely MD^{a,c,f}, Haiping Lu PhD^{c,d*}, Andrew J Swift PhD^{a,b,c}*
- 7 * contributed equally to the manuscript
- ^a Department of Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease, University of Sheffield, Sheffield,
 UK
- ^b Department of Clinical Radiology, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, Sheffield, UK.
- ^c INSIGNEO, Institute for in silico medicine, University of Sheffield, UK.
- 12 ^d Department of Computer Science, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK
- 13 ^e Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands
- 14 ^f Sheffield Pulmonary Vascular Disease Unit, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, UK

15 Funding Support and Author Disclosures

- 16 The study was supported by the Wellcome Trust grants 215799/Z/19/Z and 205188/Z/16/Z.
- 17 For the purpose of Open Access, the author has applied a CC BY public copyright licence to
- 18 any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission. The funders did not
- 19 have any role in the design and conduct of the study; in the collection, analysis, and
- 20 interpretation of the data; or in the preparation, review, and approval of the paper.
- 21 The authors have no relationships relevant to the contents of this paper to disclose.

22 Data Availability

- The data underlying this article will be shared on reasonable request to the corresponding author.
- 24 author 25

26 Address for correspondence

- 27 Dr Samer Alabed
- 28 Cardiac MRI Research Fellow
- 29 Department of Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease,
- 30 University of Sheffield, Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2JF, United Kingdom
- 31 Tel: 0114 243 4343
- 32 Email: <u>s.alabed@nhs.net</u>
- 33 Twitter: smrabd

© The Author(s) 2022. Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of European Society of Cardiology. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted reuse, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

1 Abstract

2 Background

3 Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is a rare but serious disease associated with high mortality if left

- 4 untreated. This study aims to assess the prognostic cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) features in PAH
- 5 using machine learning.
- 6 Methods
- 7 723 consecutive treatment-naive PAH patients were identified from the ASPIRE registry; 516 were
- 8 included in the training and 207 in the validation cohort. A multilinear principal component analysis
- 9 (MPCA) based machine learning approach was used to extract mortality and survival features throughout
- 10 the cardiac cycle. The features were overlaid on the original imaging using thresholding and clustering of
- 11 high- and low-risk of mortality prediction values.
- 12 Results
- 13 The one-year mortality rate in the validation cohort was 10%. Univariable Cox regression analysis of the
- 14 combined short-axis and 4-chamber MPCA-based predictions was statistically significant (Hazard Ratios
- 15 2.1, 95% CI 1.3, 3.4, c-index = 0.70, p = .002). The MPCA features improved the one-year mortality
- 16 prediction of REVEAL from c-index = 0.71 to 0.76 (p = <.001). Abnormalities in the end-systolic
- 17 interventricular septum and end-diastolic left ventricle indicated the highest risk of mortality.
- 18

19 Conclusion

- 20 The MPCA-based machine learning is an explainable time-resolved approach that allows visualisation of
- 21 prognostic cardiac features throughout the cardiac cycle at population level, making this approach
- 22 transparent and clinically interpretable. In addition, the added prognostic value over the REVEAL risk
- 23 score and CMR volumetric measurements allows for a more accurate prediction of one-year mortality risk
- in PAH.
- 25 Keywords: Machine learning, Artificial Intelligence, Cardiac MRI, prognosis, mortality, Pulmonary
- 26 hypertension

27 Abbreviations and Acronyms

4Ch	four-chamber
CMR	cardiac magnetic resonance
MPCA	multilinear principal component analysis
mPAP	mean pulmonary artery pressure
РАН	pulmonary arterial hypertension
PVR	pulmonary vascular resistance
RHC	right heart catheter
RV	right ventricular
SA	short axis
SVM	support vector machines

28



1 Introduction

2 Cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) is a powerful prognostic tool owing to its ability to assess cardio-3 physiological parameters such as the volume and function of the cardiac chambers, tissue characterisation 4 and anatomical structure. Machine learning methods harnessing CMR's prognostic abilities remain rare and mainly focus on segmenting cardiac chambers to automate CMR measurements¹. The process of 5 automating CMR measurements has matured over recent years, proving to be accurate and comparable to 6 results obtained from manual segmentation $^{2-4}$. However, there is a wealth of data available in CMR 7 studies other than those based on volumetric measurements. A recent machine learning model based on the 8 9 motion of segmented right ventricle predicted mortality in a mixed cohort of pulmonary hypertension patients ⁵. This study linked impaired basal longitudinal shortening and transverse contraction at the 10 interventricular septum and free wall with an increased risk of mortality⁵. Another recent machine learning 11 model based on CMR disease features extracted by multilinear principal component analysis (MPCA) has 12 been used to predict the presence or absence of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH)⁶ without the need 13 14 for segmentation.

The MPCA-based model is interpretable because MPCA is a linear and transparent feature extraction 15 method, thus a particularly promising machine learning approach for CMR imaging. Each CMR image 16 sequence is a three-dimensional array (e.g. 512x512pixels x6mm slice thickness x20images throughout the 17 cardiac cycle), with each element being a voxel capturing different tissue characteristics, anatomical 18 location and temporal variation in the cardiac cycle. Such a multidimensional array can be naturally 19 20 represented as a mathematical object called a tensor. MPCA extracts features directly from such multi-21 dimensional tensor representation which preserves the multidimensional structure of the original CMR data more accurately than reshaping it into one dimensional, vector representation⁷. The extracted MPCA 22 23 features can then be weighted in classification or regression models to optimise the prediction of the 24 desired outcome.

PAH is a rare but serious disease that is associated with high mortality if left untreated ⁸. This study aims 25 to assess the prognostic accuracy of the above MPCA-based model to predict one-year mortality in PAH. 26 Therefore, evaluating prognosis is key to identifying high-risk patients and optimising their management 27 strategies as recommended by the European Society of Cardiology guidelines ^{9,10}. Multiple clinical 28 29 parameters are routinely obtained to evaluate PAH disease progression, including pulmonary 30 haemodynamics from right heart catheterization (RHC), functional data from exercise tolerance and pulmonary function tests, biochemistry including N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) 31 and imaging including echocardiogram and CMR. The REVEAL score is a composite clinical risk score 32 for mortality that combines these clinical parameters to predict one-year mortality ¹¹. In addition, CMR 33 34 measurements such as right ventricular volumes and function have been shown to predict mortality in PAH ¹². Thus, the availability of detailed patient phenotyping and prediction scores allows setting a clinical 35 36 benchmark for the performance of machine learning prognostic models in PAH. This study assesses the 37 additive value of the MPCA-based model to predict mortality compared to established prognostic parameters such as the REVEAL risk score and CMR measurements. 38

1 Methods

2 The TRIPOD checklist for reporting prediction model development and validation was followed ¹³ and is

3 available in the supplemental material.

4 Study Population

5 All consecutive treatment-naïve patients with PAH referred for a baseline CMR between 2008 and 2019

were identified from the ASPIRE registry ¹⁴. Eligibility criteria included; i) a baseline CMR study
 performed within 14 days of a PAH diagnosis, confirmed by right heart catheterisation (RHC), and before

8 the commencement of PAH treatment. ii) minimum 12 months follow-up or death within 12 months post

9 CMR study. The study population was divided into two cohorts; i) a training cohort whose CMR images

10 were used to develop and optimise the prognostic algorithm and ii) a validation cohort that was left out of

training and used to validate the performance of the prognostic model. The cohort was split 70:30 into the

12 model development and model validation cohort.

13 Ethical approval was obtained from the local ethics committee and written consent was waived for this

14 retrospective study (ref c06/Q2308/8).

15 MR Imaging Protocol

16 CMR was performed with a 1.5 Tesla GE HDx (GE Healthcare, Milwaukee, USA) system using an eight-17 channel cardiac coil. Four-chamber (4Ch) and short-axis (SA) cine images were acquired using a cardiac gated multislice balanced steady-state free precession sequence (20 frames per cardiac cycle, slice 18 thickness 10mm, 0mm inter-slice gap, field of view 480mm, acquisition matrix 256x200, flip angle 60°, 19 20 BW 125 KHz/pixel, TR/TE 3.7/1.6ms). A stack of images in the short-axis plane were acquired fully 21 covering both ventricles from base to apex. End-systole was considered to be the smallest cavity area. Enddiastole was defined as the first cine phase of the R-wave triggered acquisition or largest volume. Patients 22 23 were in the supine position with a surface coil and with retrospective ECG gating.

Volumetric and ventricular function analysis was performed by contouring the ventricular endocardial

borders at end-diastole and end-systole on the SA images using MASS software (MASS, 2020; Leiden

26 University Medical Center, Leiden, the Netherlands). Papillary muscles and trabecula were included in the

27 blood volume.

28 Image Preprocessing

Mid-chamber SA and 4Ch cine images were used in this study. Images were processed following methods
 in a previous study ¹⁵. In brief, images were preprocessed by standardising CMR voxel units between
 subjects, registering to each other using three anatomical landmarks, masking surrounding tissues, and
 downscaling image size (Figure 1).

CMR voxel units were standardised between subjects by z-scores. Rigid image registration was used based on three predefined fixed anatomic landmarks. The landmarks were manually placed on SA (superior insertion point; right ventricular free wall inflexion; mid-left ventricular lateral wall) and 4Ch (left ventricle apex; lateral mitral annulus; lateral tricuspid annulus). CMR images were landmarked by a single reader (SA) with independent visual quality assurance checks (SA; JU). In order to focus on spatially relevant features, an ellipsoidal mask was fitted around the heart. Downsampling was performed to four

39 image sizes (32x32, 64x64, 128x128, 256x256).

1 MPCA Pipeline

- The prognostic prediction was achieved by training support vector machines (SVMs) on MPCA features
 extracted from CMR studies ^{6,7}. The methodology followed the MPCA-based pipeline in previous studies
- 4 ^{6,15}. This pipeline was trained through 10 rounds of 10-fold cross-validation on the development cohort
- 5 (n=516). For each fold during training, MPCA features were extracted and ranked for prognostic capability
- 6 using Fisher's Discriminant Analysis in the following way. Extracted features were ranked and selected
- 7 using a step-wise feature inclusion method. This was performed using a random tuning-set (n = 50) of
- 8 cases. The feature set with the highest tuning-set performance was used to train an SVM and tested on the
- 9 left-out fold. The feature set with the highest fold-performance was used to train the final development
- 10 SVM. This MPCA-based machine learning model was then applied to the completely left out validation
- 11 cohort (n=207). On a standard computer, the time it takes to process each image and perform inference is
- 12 much less than 0.1 second. A Jupyter notebook tutorial of the open-source pipeline code is available at:
- 13 https://colab.research.google.com/github/pykale/pykale/blob/main/examples/cmri_mpca/tutorial.ipynb

14 Visualisation of Tensor Features

Trained features were visualised by utilising MPCA reconstruction to obtain spatially relevant feature maps. To visually inspect the impact of specific regions on high- and low-risk of mortality prediction, a two-step procedure of thresholding and clustering was implemented. Voxels containing high absolute values (high positive = high-risk, high negative = low-risk) of MPCA features were thresholded. Morphological dilation-erosion using a spherical structural element (r=2) was performed and clusters of visually significant size were overlaid on individual patients' original CMR scans.

21 Clinical and Mortality Data

Clinical data including intermittent shuttle walking test (ISWT), pulmonary function test, and serum level of NT-proBNP were collected before treatment was commenced. Demographic data, WHO functional status, PAH subgroup diagnosis, and outcome were collected from the electronic medical system. Mortality data were collected from the electronic records of the National Health Service (NHS) Personal Demographics Service. The NHS automatically updates the mortality records once a death is registered in the United Kingdom. All patients were followed up as part of the national service specification for patients with pulmonary hypertension for a minimum of 12 months. No patients were lost to follow-up.

29 Statistical Analysis

30 Continuous variables are presented as proportions, means ± standard deviations, or median and 31 interquartile range for data not following a normal distribution. The sample size for developing the prediction model was calculated using a one-year mortality prevalence of 10% and 7 predictor parameters 32 and required 420 patients to develop the mortality prediction model¹⁶. The REVEAL score was calculated 33 from composite clinical parameters ¹¹ and modified to include the incremental shuttle walk test instead of 34 the 6-minute walking test ^{17,18}. The CMR volumetric measurements were indexed for body surface area 35 36 and corrected for age and sex by calculating the percentage predicted values as per published reference data ^{19,20}. The outcome of the MPCA-based pipeline was calculated as the SA and 4Ch probabilities based 37 38 on the SVM prediction. A combined probability was calculated by further training a dual-scan SVM from 39 the selected features of both individual models - SA and 4Ch. All variables were standardised by

subtracting the mean for each variable and dividing it by its standard deviation (SD) to allow for more
 meaningful comparisons.

- 3 A univariable Cox proportional hazards regression was performed to estimate the one-year mortality
- 4 prediction of the REVEAL score, CMR measurements and the MPCA probabilities. For the multivariable
- analysis, we planned to include the CMR measurements that were identified in previous prognostic studies,
 namely right ventricular ejection fraction (RVEF), right ventricular end-systolic volume index (RVESVi),
- right ventricular end-diastolic volume index (RVEDVi), left ventricular end-diastolic volume index
- 8 (LVEDVi), left ventricular stroke volume index (LVSVi) and pulmonary artery relative area change (PA
- 9 RAC)^{12,21}. Due to the high correlation between RVESVi and RVEDVi (r=0.89) we only included RVESVi
- 10 as the stronger predictor in the multivariable analysis. The proportional hazards assumption was confirmed
- using scaled Schoenfeld residuals. The c-index was used to measure the relative goodness of fit between
- 12 the different regression models. The c-index indicates the rate of correct predictions of survival the model
- 13 makes. We also computed the Akaike information criterion (AIC) for each model. The AIC estimates the 14 rate of incorrect prediction and compares the quality of different models relative to each other while
- 15 penalising the models with more variables. While a higher c-index indicates a better model fit, a lower AIC
- 16 value indicates fewer prediction errors 22 .
- In addition, the likelihood ratio test was performed to assess if there is a statistically significant difference 17 18 between the different models and to determine the additive predictive value of the MPCA probabilities. 19 The models compared were the univariable REVEAL score, the REVEAL score combined with prognostic CMR measurements and finally a multiple variable model including the REVEAL score, CMR 20 measurement and the MPCA probabilities. Kaplan-Meier curves were analysed to demonstrate the 21 22 prognostic value of MPCA predictions dividing patients based on the median MPCA value as the 23 threshold. The high and low mortality risk groups were compared using the log-rank (Mantel-Cox) test. 24 The receiver-operating characteristic curve (ROC) and the area under the curve (AUC) were used to 25 estimate the prognostic accuracy of the different MPCA features.

26 Results

27 Study Population Characteristics

A total of 737 consecutive incident patients with PAH were identified. Incomplete scans because of claustrophobia or patient intolerance were excluded, leaving 723 scans for the analysis. The training cohort

30 included 516 and the validation cohort 207 subjects (Figure 2).

The baseline characteristics of both cohorts are presented in Table 1. In summary, the study population
were 74% females aged 59 ± 16 years and included PAH secondary to connective tissue disease CTD
(46%), idiopathic PAH (IPAH) (27%), congenital heart disease (CHD) (16%), secondary to portal

34 hypertension (7%) and other PAH subtypes (4%).

35 Mortality Prediction

- 36 Survival analysis
- 37 The one-year mortality rate in the validation cohort was 10% with an overall mortality rate over the total
- 38 follow-up period of 29%. Kaplan-Meier survival analysis demonstrated a significant difference in survival
- in patients with high and low mortality risk in the validation cohort (Log-rank test <0.001) (Figure 3). The

- ROC curve for each model is shown in Figure 4. The AUC was 0.73 for the SA model, 0.64 for 4Ch and
 0.70 for the combined MPCA-based features to predict one-year mortality in the validation cohort.
- 3 Univariable Cox regression analysis confirmed a strong prognostic utility of the SA and combined SA and
- 4 4Ch MPCA-based predictions (Table 2). However, the 4Ch features alone were not significant predictors
- 5 of mortality. The univariable Cox regression hazard ratios for the demographics, RHC and CMR
- 6 measurements, functional tests and clinical parameters are shown in Table 2. The REVEAL score and, PA
- Inclusion inclusion in the state of the stat
- 7 RAC and age and sex-adjusted RVESVi were significant predictors of one-year mortality.
- 8 Additive prognostic value
- 9 Several multivariable prognostic models were compared in Table 3 to compare the predictive value of the
- 10 REVEAL score alone, REVEAL score combined with CMR measurements or MPCA features and finally
- 11 REVEAL score combined with CMR measurements and MPCA features. The prognostic models were
- 12 compared using the c-index and AIC test for goodness of fit and the log-rank test to assess the statistical
- 13 significance of the difference between the models. The univariable REVEAL model allows the assessment
- 14 of the one-year risk of mortality based on available composite clinical data alone. Adding the MPCA-based
- 15 predictions allows evaluating the added incremental value in predicting death compared to REVEAL and
- 16 segmentation based CMR parameters.
- 17 The REVEAL score alone had a c-index of 0.71 and AIC of 203. Adding CMR measurements improved
- 18 the model statistically significantly, to 0.78 and AIC of 205 (log-rank test p = 0.003). The model including
- 19 MPCA prediction, REVEAL score and CMR measurements, showed the strongest prognostic utility (c-
- index 0.83 and AIC 193, log-rank test $p = \langle 0.001 \rangle$. The MPCA model alone had similar accuracy to the
- 21 REVEAL score with a c-index of 0.71 and AIC of 204.

22 Temporal prognostic dynamics

The MPCA-based features were assessed throughout the cardiac cycle and grouped according to the 23 24 anatomical region into the right ventricle (RV), left ventricle (LV) and septum. For visualisation purposes, 25 we manually segmented the averaged SA and 4Ch slice to group the MPCA features into anatomical 26 regions. The features were divided into low and high-risk features based on the median MPCA feature 27 values used in the Kaplan-Meier analysis (Figure 4). On the SA views, abnormal interventricular septum 28 during systole and particularly at end-systole and the LV chamber during diastole and particularly at end-29 diastole indicated a higher risk of mortality. On 4Ch views, the features with the highest impact on 30 predicting mortality were at the RV at early systole. A normal LV and interventricular septum in diastole 31 on SA and 4Ch imaging were the strongest predictors of survival, whereas the RV was a poor indicator of 32 survival (Figure 5).

33 Discussion

34 This study assessed the prognostic utility of an MPCA-based machine learning model in CMR in patients

- 35 with treatment naïve pulmonary arterial hypertension. This is the first study to localise prognostic PAH
- 36 features with an explainable AI approach dynamically over the cardiac cycle. In addition, we have shown
- 37 the incremental prognostic value of the MPCA model compared to known prognostic markers such as the
- **38** REVEAL score and CMR volumetric measurements.

1 The advantage of using MPCA is its interpretability. The ability to directly relate prognostic features identified in the machine learning process helps understand and explain the machine learning model's 2 3 findings. Diagnostic and prognostic models based on deep learning methods have been criticised for creating a "black-box" situation where the predictions are often difficult to comprehend and retrace ²³. 4 5 Visualising the MPCA features throughout the cardiac cycle allowed discerning the most significant discriminatory predictors of death on CMR in PAH. The known prognostic features identified in 6 pulmonary hypertension of diastolic interventricular septal flattening ²⁴, reduced LV size and increased RV 7 size ²⁵ can all be visually assessed on SA images. The most significant features identified in non-survivors 8 9 on SA imaging were located at the septum at end-systole and LV at end-diastole. Changes in the 10 interventricular septum at end-systole are the result of RV pressure overload. The altered pressure gradient between the LV and RV results in flattening of the septum giving a characteristic D-shaped LV and 11 eventually results in impaired LV diastolic function and reduced LV filling ^{26,27}. Survivors showed the 12 13 opposite with features in the septum at end-diastole and LV at end-systole. We found fewer overall 14 features on SA images at the RV. However, on 4Ch imaging the most significant features were identified 15 in RV systole. Whereas the septal and LV features were less important on 4Ch imaging. The 4Ch view 16 allows assessing the longitudinal RV contractility which for example can be inferred on echocardiogram by assessing the tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion (TAPSE). RV longitudinal contraction is known 17 to be the larger component of RV contraction and a key prognostic indicator ^{28–30} which explains its 18 19 prognostic importance in PAH.

The MPCA-based model was developed and validated on CMR imaging performed at diagnosis and in 20 treatment-naive PAH patients. Disease severity assessed at baseline assessment is important for planning 21 an optimal treatment strategy. Almost all published prognostic CMR studies in PAH are based on disease 22 prevalent PAH patients in later stages of the disease process ¹². A meta-analysis of 22 studies and almost 23 24 2000 patients with PAH showed that RVEF, RVESVi, RVEDVi, LVEDVi and LVSVi were significant predictors of mortality ¹². RVEF, RVEDVi, LVEDVi and LVSVi did not predict mortality in our baseline 25 PAH cohort. The MPCA pipeline can therefore elicit cardiac changes before they affect RV function and 26 27 size and adds prognostic value at baseline evaluation. In addition, comparing the MPCA to the REVEAL 28 score allowed us to evaluate the incremental value benchmarked against a clinically validated baseline 29 prognostic tool. The MPCA-based predictions significantly improved the one-year mortality prediction of 30 the REVEAL score. The prognostic model accuracy (c-index) using REVEAL improved from 71% to 83% (log-rank test p < 0.001) when it was combined with CMR data including MPCA predictions and CMR 31 32 measurements. However, even without REVEAL data, mortality can still be accurately predicted based on 33 MPCA features alone with an accuracy (c-index) of 70%.

The application of stepwise cardiac features extraction using CMR has further potential that can be evaluated in future developments. Comparing prognostic features at follow-up with baseline features might provide a better understanding of disease progression on CMR and might offer a standardised disease monitoring tool. In addition, technical improvements would allow to fully automate the prognostic model, which currently requires manual image registration. Deep learning automated landmarking for image registration would reduce the manual processing of CMR images and reduce the time and cost associated with it ^{31,32}.

1 Limitations

- 2 This was an exploratory retrospective single centre study on patients with PAH. Findings will need to be
- 3 confirmed in a prospective trial with an external validation cohort. In addition, applying the model to other
- 4 diseases and MRI systems would further validate its generalisability.
- 5 The MPCA method was applied on cine images of the mid-chamber slice throughout the cardiac cycle.
- 6 Stack imaging of the whole heart can currently not be included in the MPCA model training. However,
- 7 because of the strong prognostic signal from the SA and 4Ch cine images we envisage that future
- 8 developments including 3D data of the heart will further improve prognosis prediction.

9 Conclusion

- 10 Patient outcome prediction in pulmonary arterial hypertension can be enhanced by adding MPCA-based
- 11 machine learning to CMR volumetric data and clinical risk scores. The MPCA analysis gives a population
- 12 insight into the prognostic cardiac features in pulmonary arterial hypertension in an explainable and
- 13 visualisable approach.







1

2 Figure 3: Kaplan-Meier curve.

3 The Kaplan-Meier curve shows the survival of high and low risk patients based on the combined short-axis

4 and 4-chamber model predictions. The risk threshold was determined based on the median value of the

5 MPCA predictions. The Kaplan Meier analysis shows a significant difference in survival between the high

6 and low risk of mortality patient groups (log-rank p <0.001).



Figure 4: Receiver operating characteristic curves for one-year mortality prediction.
The prognostic accuracy of the different machine learning models were compared (A: combined model, B:
short-axis model and C: 4-chamber model). The highest area under the curve was achieved with the shortaxis model (AUC = 0.73).

1

Features of Mortality



39 Figure 5: Time-resolved prognostic cardiac features.

Features of poor prognosis and also protective features were examined throughout the cardiac cycle on the
short-axis and 4-chamber views. The most significant cardiac features were the end-systolic and early
diastolic septum on both the short-axis and 4-chamber views. The RV during systole and LV during

- diastole also were predictive of one-year mortality. In contrast, the most important features of survival
- 44 were the end-diastolic septum on short-axis and 4-chamber views and the LV at systole.

1

15



- 1
- 2 Figure 6: Visualisation of prognostic mortality and survival features learnt from the training data.
- 3 The features were overlaid on three example short-axis / 4-chamber images from three different patients
- 4 with PAH to interpret the corresponding anatomical regions. Left: Septum and LV features of high risk of
- 5 mortality at end-systole. Middle image: Features of survival visualised at the septum at end-diastole. Right:
- 6 4-chamber view showing high-risk features in the septum and LV in diastole.
- 7

2 Table 1: Baseline characteristics

		Training N = 516	<i>Validation</i> <i>N</i> = 207	p
Age (years)		62 (22)	62 (24)	.667
Sex (female)		376 (72%)	166 (80%)	.040
BSA (m ²)		1.82 ± 0.2	1.83 ± 0.2	.933
Diagnosis				
	CHD	71 (13%)	34 (16%)	
	CTD	242 (46%)	96 (46%)	
	IPAH	137 (26%)	55 (26%)	
	Portal hypertension	35 (6%)	17 (8%)	
	other PAH	31 (6%)	5 (2%)	
HO functional			. (.331
Class		2 (0%)	0 (0%)	$\mathbf{\mathcal{T}}$
	11	37 (7%)	11 (5%)	
		409 (79%)	170 (82%)	/
	IV	58 (11%)	26 (12%)	
RHC				
parameters	mPAP (mmHg)	46 (22)	48 (18)	.164
	PVR (dyns.s.cm ⁻⁵)	608 (556)	822 (791)	<.001
	PAWP (mmHg)	.11 (5)	10 (4)	<.001
	RA mean (mmHg)	9 (8)	9 (8)	.548
	CO (L/min)	5 (2)	4 (2)	<.001
	SvO ₂ (%)	66 (13)	66 (14)	0.632
CMR				
parameters	RVEF (%)	37 ± 13	36 ± 11	.539
	RVESVi (ml/m²)	74 ± 35	76 ± 31	.122
	RVEDVi (ml/m²)	113 ± 41	115 ± 39	.163
	RVEDMi (g/m²)	27 ± 8	28 ± 8	.016
	LVEF (%)	53 ± 10	53 ± 9	.966
$\left(\right)$	LVESVi (ml/m²)	31 ± 11	31 ± 16	.212
	LVEDVi (ml/m ²)	67 ± 19	64 ± 21	.079
	LVSVi (ml/m²)	36 ± 12	34 ± 9	.130
	VMI (ratio)	0.58 ± 0.2	0.62 ± 0.2	.010

3 Data presented standard deviation median as mean ± or (range). 4 BSA, body surface area; CHD, congenital heart disease; CO, cardiac output; CTD, connective tissue 5 disease; CTEPH, chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension; EDVi, end-diastolic volume index; ESVi, end-systolic volume index; IPAH, idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension; LV, left ventricle; 6 7 mPAP, mean pulmonary artery pressure; PAH, pulmonary arterial hypertension; PAWP, pulmonary 8 arterial wedge pressure; PH, pulmonary hypertension; PVR, pulmonary vascular resistance; RA, right 9 atrium; RHC, right heart catheterization; RV, right ventricle; RVEF, right ventricle ejection fraction; 10 RVEDMi, right ventricular end-diastolic mass index; SV, stroke volume; SvO2 = mixed venous oxygen saturation; VMI, ventricular mass index; WHO, World Health Organisation 11

1 Table 2: Univariable Cox proportional hazard regression ratios for one-year mortality.

		HR	95% CI	р
Age (years)		1.039	1.005, 1.075	.026
Sex		1.036	0.346, 3.098	.950
WHO class		2.033	0.781, 5.292	.146
REVEAL		1.339	1.109, 1.618	.002
RHC				
parameters	mPAP (mmHg)	0.982	0.947, 1.017	.311
	PVR (dyns.s.cm⁻⁵)	1.000	0.999, 1.001	.616
	PAWP (mmHg)	1.012	0.866, 1.183	.879
	RA mean (mmHg)	1.081	1.020, 1.146	.008
	CO (L/min)	0.842	0.599, 1.185	.324
	SvO ₂ (%)	0.969	0.929, 1.009	.127
CMR				$\overline{}$
parameters	RVEF (% pred)	0.762	0.445, 1.306	.324
	RVESVi (% pred)	1.699	1.099, 2.628	.017
	RVEDVi (% pred)	1.443	0.972, 2.141	.069
	RVEDMi (% pred)	1.113	0.781, 1.587	.554
	LVEF (% pred)	1.275	0.790, 2.060	.320
	LVESVi (% pred)	1.036	0.652, 1.646	.881
	LVEDVi (% pred)	0.918	0.559, 1.509	.736
	LVSVi (% pred)	0.933	0.592, 1.471	.767
	VMI (ratio)	0.962	0.530, 1.748	.899
	PA RAC (%)	0.911	0.838, 0.991	.031
	Septal angle systole	0.999	0.972, 1.027	.941
	Septal angle diastole	0.987	0.935, 1.042	.636
MPCA-based				
10410100	SA features	2.401	1.459, 3.951	.001
	4-chamber features	1.472	0.978, 2.216	.064
	Combined features	1.97	1.282, 3.028	.002

2 CMR parameters are corrected for age and sex (%pred). For abbreviations see Table 1.

	C index	95% CI	AIC	p Log-rank test
CMR measurements*	0.70	0.60-0.80	211	
MPCA**	0.70	0.59-0.81	204	
REVEAL score	0.71	0.61-0.81	203	
REVEAL + MPCA	0.76	0.67-0.85	197	.003
REVEAL+ CMR measurements	0.78	0.70-0.86	205	.003
REVEAL + CMR measurements + MPCA	0.83	0.76-0.90	193	<.001

Table 3: C-index and Akaike information criterion (AIC) for the univariable and multiple variable Cox regression analysis for the REVEAL score, CMR measurements and the MPCA machine learning model. A higher c-index indicates a better model fit and a lower AIC indicates a relative lower prediction error. The log-rank test indicates that the combination of MPCA, CMR measurements and REVEAL is statistically significantly more predictive than REVEAL score alone (c-index 0.83 vs 0.72, p<0.001).</p>

* CMR measurements included age and sex corrected right ventricular ejection fraction, right
 ventricular end-systolic volume index, left ventricular end-diastolic volume index, left ventricular
 stroke volume index and pulmonary artery relative area change.
 ** MPCA combined short-axis and four-chamber features

1 References

Mannil M, Eberhard M, Spiczak J von, Heindel W, Alkadhi H, Baessler B. Artificial
 Intelligence and Texture Analysis in Cardiac Imaging. *Curr Cardiol Rep* 2020;**22**:131.

Tao Q, Yan W, Wang Y, Paiman EHM, Shamonin DP, Garg P, Plein S, Huang L, Xia L,
 Sramko M, Tintera J, Roos A de, Lamb HJ, Geest RJ van der. Deep Learning-based Method for Fully
 Automatic Quantification of Left Ventricle Function from Cine MR Images: A Multivendor,
 Multicenter Study. *Radiology* Radiological Society of North America; 2019;290:81–88.

Dawes TJW, Marvao A de, Shi W, Fletcher T, Watson GMJ, Wharton J, Rhodes CJ, Howard
 LSGE, Gibbs JSR, Rueckert D, Cook SA, Wilkins MR, O'Regan DP. Machine Learning of Three dimensional Right Ventricular Motion Enables Outcome Prediction in Pulmonary Hypertension: A
 Cardiac MR Imaging Study. *Radiology* 2017;**283**:381–390.

16 6. Swift AJ, Lu H, Uthoff J, Garg P, Cogliano M, Taylor J, Metherall P, Zhou S, Johns CS,

17 Alabed S, Condliffe RA, Lawrie A, Wild JM, Kiely DG. A machine learning cardiac magnetic

18 resonance approach to extract disease features and automate pulmonary arterial hypertension

19 diagnosis. Eur Heart J Cardiovasc Imaging 2021;22:236–245.

Song X, Meng L, Shi Q, Lu H. Learning Tensor-Based Features for Whole-Brain fMRI
 Classification. Lecture Notes in Computer Science. 2015. p. 613–620.

8. Kiely DG, Elliot CA, Sabroe I, Condliffe R. Pulmonary hypertension: diagnosis and
management. *BMJ* 2013;346:f2028.

Kiely DG, Levin D, Hassoun P, Ivy DD, Jone P-N, Bwika J, Kawut SM, Lordan J, Lungu A,
 Mazurek J, Moledina S, Olschewski H, Peacock A, Puri GD, Rahaghi F, Schafer M, Schiebler M,
 Screaton N, Tawhai M, Van Beek E Jr, Vonk-Noordegraaf A, Vanderpool RR, Wort J, Zhao L, Wild
 J, Vogel-Claussen J, Swift AJ. EXPRESS: Statement on imaging and pulmonary hypertension from
 the Pulmonary Vascular Research Institute (PVRI). *Pulm Circ* 2019;2045894019841990.

29 10. Galiè N, Humbert M, Vachiery J-L, Gibbs S, Lang I, Torbicki A, Simonneau G, Peacock A, 30 Vonk Noordegraaf A, Beghetti M, Ghofrani A, Gomez Sanchez MA, Hansmann G, Klepetko W, Lancellotti P, Matucci M, McDonagh T, Pierard LA, Trindade PT, Zompatori M, Hoeper M. 2015 31 32 ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension: The Joint Task 33 Force for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Pulmonary Hypertension of the European Society of 34 Cardiology (ESC) and the European Respiratory Society (ERS): Endorsed by: Association for 35 European Paediatric and Congenital Cardiology (AEPC), International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT). Eur Respir J 2015;46:903–975. 36

Benza RL, Gomberg-Maitland M, Miller DP, Frost A, Frantz RP, Foreman AJ, Badesch DB,
McGoon MD. The REVEAL Registry risk score calculator in patients newly diagnosed with
pulmonary arterial hypertension. *Chest* 2012;141:354–362.

Alabed S, Shahin Y, Garg P, Alandejani F, Johns CS, Lewis RA, Condliffe R, Wild JM,
Kiely DG, Swift AJ. Cardiac-MRI Predicts Clinical Worsening and Mortality in Pulmonary Arterial
Hypertension: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *JACC Cardiovasc Imaging* 2020;

43 13. Collins GS, Reitsma JB, Altman DG, Moons KGM. Transparent reporting of a multivariable

^{8 3.} Luo C, Shi C, Li X, Gao D. Cardiac MR segmentation based on sequence propagation by
9 deep learning. *PLoS One* 2020;15:e0230415.

Chen, Chen C, Qin C, Qiu H, Tarroni G, Duan J, Bai W, Rueckert D. Deep Learning for
 Cardiac Image Segmentation: A Review. Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine. 2020.

prediction model for individual prognosis or diagnosis (TRIPOD): the TRIPOD statement. *BMJ* 2015;350:g7594.

Hurdman J, Condliffe R, Elliot CA, Davies C, Hill C, Wild JM, Capener D, Sephton P,
Hamilton N, Armstrong IJ, Billings C, Lawrie A, Sabroe I, Akil M, O'Toole L, Kiely DG. ASPIRE
registry: assessing the Spectrum of Pulmonary hypertension Identified at a REferral centre. *Eur Respir J* 2012;**39**:945–955.

15. Uthoff J, Alabed S, Swift AJ, Lu H. Geodesically smoothed tensor features for pulmonary
hypertension prognosis using the heart and surrounding tissues. *Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention – MICCAI 2020* Springer; 2020. p. vol 12262.

Smeden M van, Moons KG, Groot JA de, Collins GS, Altman DG, Eijkemans MJ, Reitsma
 JB. Sample size for binary logistic prediction models: Beyond events per variable criteria. *Stat*

12 *Methods Med Res* 2019;**28**:2455–2474.

13 17. Lewis RA, Billings CG, Hurdman JA, Smith IA, Austin M, Armstrong IJ, Middleton J,

14 Rothman AMK, Harrington J, Hamilton N, Hameed AG, Thompson AAR, Charalampopoulos A,

15 Elliot CA, Lawrie A, Sabroe I, Wild JM, Swift AJ, Condliffe R, Kiely DG. Maximal Exercise Testing

16 Using the Incremental Shuttle Walking Test Can Be Used to Risk-Stratify Patients with Pulmonary

17 Arterial Hypertension. *Ann Am Thorac Soc* 2021;**18**:34–43.

18 18. Lewis RA, Johns CS, Cogliano M, Capener D, Tubman E, Elliot CA, Charalampopoulos A,

19 Sabroe I, Thompson AAR, Billings CG, Hamilton N, Baster K, Laud PJ, Hickey PM, Middleton J,

20 Armstrong IJ, Hurdman JA, Lawrie A, Rothman AMK, Wild JM, Condliffe R, Swift AJ, Kiely DG.

21 Identification of Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging Thresholds for Risk Stratification in Delaware Activity Human tanging A = L B is C = M + 2020, 201, 459, 469

22 Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2020;**201**:458–468.

19. Maceira AM, Prasad SK, Khan M, Pennell DJ. Normalized left ventricular systolic and
 diastolic function by steady state free precession cardiovascular magnetic resonance. *J Cardiovasc Magn Reson* 2006;8:417–426.

26 20. Maceira AM, Prasad SK, Khan M, Pennell DJ. Reference right ventricular systolic and
27 diastolic function normalized to age, gender and body surface area from steady-state free precession
28 cardiovascular magnetic resonance. *Eur Heart J* academic.oup.com; 2006;27:2879–2888.

29 21. Swift AJ, Capener D, Johns C, Hamilton N, Rothman A, Elliot C, Condliffe R,

Charalampopoulos A, Rajaram S, Lawrie A, Campbell MJ, Wild JM, Kiely DG. Magnetic Resonance
 Imaging in the Prognostic Evaluation of Patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2017;196:228–239.

- 22. Dayton CM, Mitchell Dayton C. Model Comparisons Using Information Measures. Journal of
 Modern Applied Statistical Methods. 2003. p. 281–292.
- Rudin C. Stop explaining black box machine learning models for high stakes decisions and
 use interpretable models instead. Nature Machine Intelligence. 2019. p. 206–215.
- Raymond RJ, Hinderliter AL, Willis PW, Ral, Caldwell EJ, Williams W, Ettinger NA, Hill
 NS, Summer WR, Boisblanc B de, Schwartz T, Koch G, Clayton LM, Jöbsis MM, Crow JW, Long
 W. Echocardiographic predictors of adverse outcomes in primary pulmonary hypertension. *J Am Coll Cardiol* J Am Coll Cardiol; 2002;**39**.
- 41 25. Alabed S, Garg P, Johns CS, Alandejani F, Shahin Y, Dwivedi K, Zafar H, Wild JM, Kiely

DG, Swift AJ. Cardiac Magnetic Resonance in Pulmonary Hypertension-an Update. *Curr Cardiovasc Imaging Rep* 2020;13:30.

- Kim BS, Heo R, Shin J, Lim Y-H, Park J-K. E/E' and D-shaped Left Ventricle Severity in
 Patients with Increased Pulmonary Artery Pressure. Journal of Cardiovascular Imaging. 2018. p. 85.
- 3 27. Vonk Noordegraaf A, Westerhof BE, Westerhof N. The Relationship Between the Right
 4 Ventricle and its Load in Pulmonary Hypertension. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2017;69:236–243.
- 5 28. Leng S, Dong Y, Wu Y, Zhao X, Ruan W, Zhang G, Allen JC, Koh AS, Tan R-S, Yip JW, Le
- 6 Tan J, Chen Y, Zhong L. Impaired Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance–Derived Rapid
- 7 Semiautomated Right Atrial Longitudinal Strain Is Associated With Decompensated Hemodynamics
- 8 in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension. Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging. 2019.
- 9 29. Tello K, Dalmer A, Vanderpool R, Ghofrani HA, Naeije R, Roller F, Seeger W, Wilhelm J,
- Gall H, Richter MJ. Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging-Based Right Ventricular Strain Analysis
 for Assessment of Coupling and Diastolic Function in Pulmonary Hypertension. JACC Cardiovasc
- for Assessment of Coupling and Diastolic Fu *Imaging* 2019;12:2155–2164.
- 13 30. Siqueira MEM de, Pozo E, Fernandes VR, Sengupta PP, Modesto K, Gupta SS, Barbeito-
- 14 Caamaño C, Narula J, Fuster V, Caixeta A, Sanz J. Characterization and clinical significance of right
- 15 ventricular mechanics in pulmonary hypertension evaluated with cardiovascular magnetic resonance
- 16 feature tracking. *J Cardiovasc Magn Reson* 2016;**18**:39.
- 17 31. Schobs L, Zhou S, Cogliano M, Swift AJ, Lu H. Confidence-Quantifying Landmark
- Localisation For Cardiac MRI. 2021 IEEE 18th International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging(ISBI). 2021.
- 20 32. Bello GA, Dawes TJW, Duan J, Biffi C, Marvao A de, Howard LSG, Gibbs JSR, Wilkins
- 21 MR, Cook SA, Rueckert D, O'Regan DP. Deep-learning cardiac motion analysis for human survival
- 22 prediction. Nature Machine Intelligence. 2019. p. 95–104.
- 23