

Radiomics for Prediction of Radiation-induced Lung Injury After Robotic Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy of Lung Cancer: Results From Two Independent Institutions

Khaled Bousabarah

Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät: Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät

Oliver Blanck

University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein - Campus Kiel: Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein

Susanne Temming

Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät: Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät

Maria-Lisa Wilhelm

Rostock University Medical Center: Universitätsmedizin Rostock

Mauritius Hoevels

Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät: Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät

Wolfgang W. Baus

Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät: Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät

Daniel Ruess

Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät: Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät

Veerle Visser-Vandewalle

Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät: Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät

Maximilian I. Ruge

Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät: Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät

Harald Treuer

Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät: Universität zu Köln Medizinische Fakultät

Martin Kocher (✉ martin.kocher@uk-koeln.de)

Department of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, University Hospital of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5674-9227>

Research

Keywords: non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), radiomics model, predictive clinical and dosimetric parameters

Posted Date: September 23rd, 2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-76707/v1>

License:   This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. [Read Full License](#)

Version of Record: A version of this preprint was published at Radiation Oncology on April 16th, 2021. See the published version at <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13014-021-01805-6>.

Abstract

Objectives: To generate and validate a state-of-the-art radiomics model for prediction of radiation-induced lung injury and oncologic outcome in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients treated with robotic stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT).

Methods: A radiomics model was generated from the planning CT images of 110 patients with primary, inoperable stage I/IIa NSCLC who were treated with robotic SBRT using a risk-adapted fractionation scheme at the University Hospital Cologne (training cohort). In total, 851 radiomic features fulfilling the standards of the Image Biomarker Standardization Initiative (IBSI) were extracted from the outlined gross tumor volume (GTV) and used to build a model for prediction of local control (LC), disease-free survival (DFS), overall survival (OS) and development of local lung fibrosis (LF) by means of a gradient-boosted ensemble of regression trees. In addition, predictive clinical and dosimetric parameters were identified from a standard univariate Cox regression analysis. The radiomics model was validated in a comparable cohort of 71 patients treated by robotic SBRT at the Radiosurgery Center in Northern Germany (test cohort).

Results: Oncologic outcome did not differ between the two cohorts (OS at 36 months 56% vs. 43%, $p=0.065$; median DFS 25 months vs. 23 months, $p=0.43$; LC at 36 months 90% vs. 93%, $p=0.197$). Local lung fibrosis developed in 33% vs. 35% of the patients ($p=0.75$), all events were observed within 36 months. In the training cohort, the radiomics model was able to distinguish low-risk from high risk patients for OS, DFS, LC and LF with a high accuracy ($p < 0.001$). In the test cohort, the model for development of lung fibrosis retained its predictive power and could differentiate patients with a high risk for developing LF from those with a low risk ($p=0.016$). In contrast, the radiomics model failed to predict OS, DFS and LC in the test cohort. Also, none of the clinical and dosimetric parameters predictive for development of LF in the training cohort (GTV- D_{mean} , GTV- D_{max} , PTV- $D_{95\%}$, Lung- $D_{1\text{ml}}$, age) had a significant impact on the occurrence of LF in the test cohort.

Conclusion: Despite the obvious difficulties in generalizing predictive models for oncologic outcome and toxicity, this analysis shows that a carefully designed radiomics model for prediction of local lung fibrosis after SBRT of early stage lung cancer performs well across different institutions.

Introduction

Stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) is an effective therapy for early-stage, node-negative, medically inoperable non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Dose-fractionation schemes usually depend on tumor size and location and have been largely standardized by current guidelines [1-4]. However, after irradiation, about 10-15% of the tumors will recur locally and up to 50% of the patients will experience systemic disease progression despite PET-based staging before SBRT [5]. Also, 25-30% of the patients will develop radiation-induced lung injury (RILI) on follow-up chest imaging, but apart from an established dose-response relationship for local control [6], dosimetric and clinical factors have only shown limited capability in predicting these events [7-14].

Radiomics aims at extraction of biomarkers from high-dimensional analysis of digital images and has been extensively studied in lung cancer by using computed tomography (CT) or Fluor-Deoxyglucose Positron Emission Tomography (FDG-PET) of the chest [15-20]. Several studies have applied radiomic analysis in SBRT of NSCLC [21-34], but so far, the clinical impact of the developed algorithms has been low due to low reproducibility of the results [35], lack of standardization of the extracted radiomic features and lack of external validation on data from other institutions.

The availability of open-source software solutions allows the extraction of standardized radiomic features and generation of complex, non-linear models which are able to account for complex interactions between features and have the potential to achieve high performance. In the present study, we applied state-of-the-art feature extraction and machine-learning algorithms in order to determine the extra value of imaging tumor biomarkers when used in addition to dosimetric and clinical factors for prediction of radiation-induced lung injury, local control, disease free survival and overall survival in a cohort of patients with NSCLC treated by robotic SBRT. The model was trained on data from one institution and tested on a cohort from a separate institution that treated patients based on similar inclusion criteria and fractionation schemes. This work extends an earlier single institution report [36].

Patients And Methods

Patients, Treatment and Follow-Up

Two cohorts of patients with stage I/IIa NSCLC (according to staging classification of the Union for International Cancer Control [UICC], 8th edition) who underwent definitive robotic SBRT were retrospectively analyzed. The first cohort comprised 110 patients treated at the University Hospital of Cologne, Germany and was used for identification of clinical, dosimetric and image-derived parameters to predict local control (LC), overall survival (OS), disease free survival (DFS) and occurrence of local lung fibrosis (LF) as a manifestation of radiation-induced lung injury after SBRT. This cohort had already been analyzed in a previous study using a different radiomics approach [36] and served as the training data set. A second cohort of 71 patients was treated at the Radiosurgery Center Northern Germany, Guestrow, and was used as test set (in machine learning terminology) for the predictive power of the identified parameters in the training set.

In both cohorts, patients suffering from a peripheral T1/2 (UICC 8) NSCLC without lymph node metastases who were either medically inoperable or refused resection were treated solely by means of the Cyberknife^R system (Accuray, Sunnyvale, USA) without concomitant therapy using a risk-adapted fractionation scheme (peripheral T1 tumors 3x13-18Gy, T1 tumors with broad contact to the chest wall and T2 tumors 5x10-11Gy, near-central or true central tumors 8x6-7.5Gy). The dose was calculated using the MonteCarlo dose calculation algorithm and prescription and reporting was done according to international recommendations [13; 37-40]. The cohorts also contained 12(8) patients with local stage T1/2 tumors who had been successfully treated for oligo-metastatic disease, and who were free from tumor activity besides the primary tumor. Patient characteristics and treatment parameters are shown in Tab.1. All patients had a planning CT which was used for both treatment planning and radiomics image analysis (Tab. 2).

Clinical and radiological follow-up including chest CT scans was scheduled at 3 and 6 months after radiotherapy and every 6 months thereafter. A local recurrence was assumed if the irradiated lesion showed a solid core that increased by at least 25% compared to the last follow-up and exhibited further growth. Every occurrence of diffuse or patchy consolidation, diffuse or patchy ground glass opacity or modified or mass like consolidation in the lung tissue adjacent to the tumor was regarded as radiation induced lung injury and termed local fibrosis [41; 42]. Lung tissue changes smaller than the original tumor, scar-like patterns distant to the tumor and lung toxicities without clear spatial or temporal relation to radiotherapy (early acute pneumonia, late acute pneumonia, pneumonitis spatially not correlated to the PTV) were not considered. Representative chest CT images are shown in Fig. 4. In cases where a growing lesion could not be differentiated from local fibrosis, a FDG-PET-CT scan or a biopsy was performed in order to confirm or reject the diagnosis of a local recurrence.

Image processing and feature extraction

Image processing was performed using Python 3.6.7 (Python Software Foundation, Beaverton, Oregon, USA). The original DICOM data containing manual delineations of the gross tumor volume (GTV) and anatomical image data were restored from the Cyberknife^R archive and subsequently used to extract the target volumes for radiomic analysis. For all further image processing, the software package pyradiomics 2.0.1 [43] was used that allows the extraction of standardized features which were defined by the IBSI (Image Biomarker Standardization Initiative) [44]. Preprocessing included resampling to isotropic voxel of 1 mm³ and removal of all pixels with Hounsfield units (HU) below (-400) HU and above 1000 HU from the volume which were assumed to represent normal lung and bony tissue unintentionally included in the GTV. Radiomic features were calculated based on the original image and after wavelet filtering, yielding eight additional image types based on the application of wavelet-based high-pass or low-pass filters to each of the three dimensions. In addition to 14 features descriptive of the target's shape, 93 features were calculated for each of the nine image types, resulting in a total of 851 radiomic features.

Model development and statistical analysis

All model development was performed on the training cohort and the model parameters were optimized using cross-validation schemes. First, the primary set of radiomics features was reduced by identifying and removing linearly correlated features with a Pearson correlation coefficient > 0.95. Out of the 851 extracted features, 564 were found to be highly linearly correlated and removed from the analysis. The remaining 287 features were then used to develop predictive models for each of the four endpoints: LC, OS, DFS and occurrence of local lung fibrosis (LF) after SBRT. In order to maximize generalizability and allow for complex non-linear relationships between feature values and treatment outcome, a gradient-boosted ensemble of regression trees was chosen as model. The algorithm is implemented in scikit-survival package for Python [45] and learns to predict the individual (log) hazard ratios from a combination of the radiomics features similar to a linear predictor of a Cox proportional hazards model [46]. Within the training set, the parameters of the model were subjected to a grid search with 5-fold cross-validation that regularized the depth of the regression trees (7), the learning rate (0.01) and the subset of features used for the next iteration (12 out of 287). The final radiomics model was then evaluated by means of the concordance index and by using the log hazard ratios as predictive factors in the training and test sets.

In addition to the radiomics features, the following continuous clinical and dosimetric variables were analyzed in univariate Cox regression models with respect to their potential impact on any of the endpoints: GTV (gross tumor volume), PTV (planning target volume), GTV-D_{max} (maximal dose in GTV), GTV-D_{mean} (mean dose in GTV), GTV-D_{95%} (dose achieved in 95% of the GTV), PTV-D_{95%} (dose achieved in 95% of the PTV), Lung-D_{1ml}, Lung-D_{10ml}, Lung-D_{50ml}, Lung-D_{100ml}, tumor diameter, age and Charlson Comorbidity Score. Categorical clinical and treatment related factors were investigated using the Kaplan-Meier method and survival estimates were compared using two-sided log rank tests. These included: gender, T-Stage (T1 vs. T2), histology (squamous cell/ adeno /other/ unknown) and fiducial tracking (no/ yes). Finally, all radiomics, clinical and dosimetric factors with significant impact in univariate analysis were evaluated in a multivariate Cox regression model. All statistical analyses were performed with the software R (version 3.4.4; R Development Core Team) or SPSS (vs. 24, Armonk, NY, USA). A p-value of <0.05 was considered significant. The complete workflow is depicted in Figure 1.

Results

Clinical outcome

The outcome in terms of the analyzed clinical endpoints did not differ significantly between the two cohorts (Fig. 2). Overall survival at 36 months amounted to 56% vs. 43%, $p=0.065$), median DFS was 25 months vs. 23 months, $p=0.43$ and local control rates at 36 months were 90% vs. 93%, $p=0.197$). In the training set, none of the clinical and dosimetric factors had a significant influence on the endpoints. Local lung fibrosis developed in 33% vs. 35% of the patients ($p=0.75$), all events were observed within 36 months after irradiation. As shown in Tab. 3, three dosimetric factors (GTV_{mean} , $PTV-D_{95\%}$, $Lung-D_{1ml}$) and the patient's age had a significant impact on the development of local lung fibrosis with an increase in hazard of approximately 6% per Gy and per year of age. The direction and approximate size of these effects were also found in the test set but failed to reach statistical significance.

Radiomics model

In the training set, the algorithm was able to fit highly predictive models for all endpoints using the remaining 287 radiomic features, resulting in concordance indices of 0.997, 0.996, 0.996, 0.998 for OS, LC, development of lung fibrosis and DFS, respectively. Consequently, the radiomics predictor was able to distinguish low-risk from high risk patients (\log hazard ratio ≤ 0 vs. > 0) for all of the endpoints OS, DFS, LC and LF with a high accuracy ($p < 0.001$, Fig. 3). The radiomics predictor for LF retained its predictive value when analyzed together with GTV_{mean} , $PTV-D_{95\%}$, $Lung-D_{1ml}$ and age in a multivariate Cox Regression model ($p < 0.001$, Tab. 3).

In the test cohort, the radiomics predictor was also able to differentiate patients with a high risk for developing LF from those with a low risk ($p=0.016$, concordance index of 0.635, Fig. 3). It also kept a significant influence in a multivariate Cox regression model with the above mentioned dosimetric factors and age included ($p < 0.028$). In contrast, the radiomics model failed to predict any of OS, DFS and LC in the test cohort (Tab. 3).

Discussion

Summary of findings

In the present analysis, two cohorts of early-stage lung cancer patients treated with robotic stereotactic body radiotherapy at two different institutions were investigated. Although slightly different fractionation schedules were applied, oncologic outcome in terms of local tumor control, disease-free survival and overall survival were well comparable. Importantly, the frequency and time course of development of radiation-induced local lung injury was also similar in the two cohorts. Radiomics analysis based on a set of standardized features and state-of-the-art modelling in the training cohort resulted in a model for prediction of radiation-induced local lung injury that performed well also in the test cohort and kept its predictive value when analyzed in conjunction with dosimetric parameters. However, the predictive models for the endpoints of oncologic outcome (OS, DFS, local control) failed to generalize to the test cohort.

Prediction of local radiation-induced lung injury

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report that generated a predictive, general model for the development of local lung injury from the GTV after lung SBRT [36]. Radiation-induced local lung injury that finally develops into local lung fibrosis is a typical event after lung SBRT, although it remains asymptomatic in most cases. It is probably triggered by the release of inflammatory cytokines such as TGF- β from the tumor which subsequently initiate an immunological response [47; 48]. At first sight, it seems far from obvious how a texture pattern detectable by radiomics could predict for this event. However, an association between a pre-therapeutic radiomics feature (LoG standard deviation) with the TGF- β signaling pathway has recently been observed, and in the same report, a radiomics score was correlated with the amount of tumor infiltration by T-lymphocytes [49]. The view that image features

correlate with the presence of immune-competent cells in lung tumor tissue is also supported by the observation that lung tumors characterized by low CT intensity and high CT heterogeneity exhibited a high CD3 (T-lymphocyte) infiltration, suggestive of an activated immune state [50].

In the present report, the radiomics model kept its predictive value for the development of lung fibrosis in both cohorts even when analyzed in a comprehensive model including dosimetric factors of the target volumes and adjacent lung (GTV- D_{mean} , GTV- D_{max} , PTV- $D_{95\%}$, Lung- $D_{1\text{ml}}$) although the predictive ability of the dosimetric factors could not be reproduced in the test cohort. In a comparable approach that has been applied for prediction of radiation pneumonitis from features of the total lung tissue in lung cancer patients treated with intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT), the radiomics features only slightly improved the predictive value of the model when added to clinical and dosimetric factors [47]. Interestingly, the inhomogeneous dose distribution usually generated by robotic radiosurgery and volumetric arc therapy has itself been analyzed with respect to dose distribution patterns ("dosimomics") which in turn have been found to predict the incidence of radiation pneumonitis [51]. Thus, a more comprehensive model of radiation-induced lung injury could probably be built from incorporating texture analysis of the tumor, a shell [52; 53] comprising the adjacent lung tissue and the dose distribution.

Prediction of local control, disease-free survival and overall survival

Although the two cohorts resembled each other in terms of oncologic outcome, the radiomics model did not generalize from the training to the test cohort with respect to these endpoints. A compilation of recent studies on the impact of radiomics features on oncologic outcome for lung cancer patients after SBRT is presented in Tab. 4. Most of the studies applied single institution cross-validation or validation by test sets from the same institution and were able to predict local tumor recurrence, regional/nodal recurrence, distant failures and overall survival with a moderate accuracy. Of note, one report failed to observe features predictive of local recurrence [24]. Only in a minority of series were the results validated in test sets from independent institutions. In a large study from the Cleveland Clinic (Ohio, USA), a convolutional neural network (CNN) was trained to predict local recurrence in a group of > 900 lung cancer patients treated by SBRT. The stratification resulted in two groups with highly significant different risk for recurrence in both the training and test set [54]. Also in another study where a CNN was applied to both CT and PET images, a highly accurate classification of survival probability was achieved in an independent data set [21].

Limitations Of The Present Study

The present study, although based on the results of two independent cohorts, probably still lacks a sufficient number of patients needed for an informative analysis of the interaction between dosimetric parameters and radiologic tissue characteristics for prediction of local events (recurrence, local lung fibrosis) after SBRT of NSCLC. Also, the classification of local lung injury and tumor control is purely image-based and remains somewhat ambiguous, as tissue specimens are rarely available following SBRT. Differences in therapeutic strategies for detecting and treating metastases may have prevented the creation of a general radiomics-based model for prediction of DFS and OS.

Conclusions

The present analysis provides evidence that radiomics analysis can, in principle, be used for prediction of local lung injury after SBRT of NSCLC in independent data sets and as such complements existing results on the successful prediction of other oncologic endpoints in this setting.

Abbreviations

NSCLC: Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

SBRT: Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy

RILI: Radiation-Induced Lung Injury

UICC: Union for International Cancer Control

LC: Local Control

DFS: Disease-Free Survival

OS: Overall survival

LF: Lung Fibrosis

GTV: Gross Tumor Volume

PTV: Planning Target Volume

GTV- D_{mean} : Mean Dose in GTV

GTV- D_{max} : Maximal Dose in GTV

PTV- $D_{95\%}$: Dose covering 95% of the PTV

GTV- $D_{95\%}$: Dose covering 95% of the GTV

Lung- $D_{1\text{ml}}$: Dose achieved in 1ml of the lung volume

Lung- $D_{10\text{ml}}$: Dose achieved in 10ml of the lung volume

CT: Computed Tomography

PET: Positron Emission Tomography

FDG-PET: Fluor-Deoxyglucose-Positron Emission Tomography

DICOM: Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine

HU: Hounsfield Unit

IBSI: Image Biomarker Standardization Initiative

CNN: Convolutional Neural Network

LoG: Laplacian-of Gaussian

TGF- β : Transforming Growth Factor beta

CD3: Cluster of Differentiation (protein) 3

Declarations

Ethical Approval and Consent to participate

This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Medical Faculty, University of Cologne, protocol number 17-009 and by the Ethics Committee of the Medical Faculty, University of Kiel, protocol number D421/18. All data were processed in anonymized form. Individual informed consent was waived as this was a retrospective study.

Consent for publication

Not applicable

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests

Availability of supporting data

The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request

Funding

The present work received no funding

Authors' contributions

KB: design, data acquisition, data analysis, data interpretation, manuscript draft

OB: conception, design, data acquisition, data analysis, data interpretation,
manuscript draft

ST: data acquisition, data interpretation, manuscript draft

MLW: data acquisition, data interpretation, manuscript draft

MH: data analysis, data interpretation, manuscript draft

WWB: data acquisition, data interpretation, manuscript draft

DR: data interpretation, manuscript draft

VVV: data interpretation, manuscript draft

MIR: data interpretation, manuscript draft

HT: conception, design, data interpretation, manuscript draft

MK: conception, design, data acquisition, data analysis, data interpretation,
manuscript draft

all: approved the submitted version

all: agreed both to be personally accountable for the author's own contributions

and to ensure that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of

the work, even ones in which the author was not personally involved, are

appropriately investigated, resolved, and the resolution documented in the

literature

Acknowledgements

None

Authors' information (Optional)

None

References

1 NCCN (2019) National Comprehensive Cancer Network: Non Small-Cell Lung Cancer. NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines):Version 7.2019

2 Guckenberger M, Aerts JG, Van Schil P, Weder W (2019) The American Society of Clinical Oncology-endorsed American Society for Radiation Oncology Evidence-Based Guideline of stereotactic body radiotherapy for early-stage non-small cell lung cancer: An expert opinion. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 157:358-361

3 Guckenberger M, Andratschke N, Alheit H et al (2014) Definition of stereotactic body radiotherapy: principles and practice for the treatment of stage I non-small cell lung cancer. *Strahlenther Onkol* 190:26-33

4 Guckenberger M, Andratschke N, Dieckmann K et al (2017) ESTRO ACROP consensus guideline on implementation and practice of stereotactic body radiotherapy for peripherally located early stage non-small cell lung cancer. *Radiother Oncol* 124:11-17

5 Febbo JA, Gaddikeri RS, Shah PN (2018) Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy for Early-Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Primer for Radiologists. *Radiographics* 38:1312-1336

6 Guckenberger M, Klement RJ, Allgauer M et al (2016) Local tumor control probability modeling of primary and secondary lung tumors in stereotactic body radiotherapy. *Radiother Oncol* 118:485-491

7 Guckenberger M, Klement RJ, Kestin LL et al (2013) Lack of a dose-effect relationship for pulmonary function changes after stereotactic body radiation therapy for early-stage non-small cell lung cancer. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 85:1074-1081

8 Okubo M, Itonaga T, Saito T et al (2017) Predicting risk factors for radiation pneumonitis after stereotactic body radiation therapy for primary or metastatic lung tumours. *Br J Radiol* 90:20160508

9 Zhao J, Yorke ED, Li L et al (2016) Simple Factors Associated With Radiation-Induced Lung Toxicity After Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy of the Thorax: A Pooled Analysis of 88 Studies. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*

- 10 Knoll MA, Salvatore M, Sheu RD et al (2016) The use of isodose levels to interpret radiation induced lung injury: a quantitative analysis of computed tomography changes. *Quant Imaging Med Surg* 6:35-41
- 11 Inoue T, Shiomi H, Oh RJ (2015) Stereotactic body radiotherapy for Stage I lung cancer with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: special reference to survival and radiation-induced pneumonitis. *J Radiat Res* 56:727-734
- 12 Ricardi U, Filippi AR, Guarneri A et al (2009) Dosimetric predictors of radiation-induced lung injury in stereotactic body radiation therapy. *Acta Oncol* 48:571-577
- 13 Baumann R, Chan MKH, Pyschny F et al (2018) Clinical Results of Mean GTV Dose Optimized Robotic-Guided Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy for Lung Tumors. *Front Oncol* 8:171
- 14 Nakamura M, Nishikawa R, Mayahara H et al (2019) Pattern of recurrence after CyberKnife stereotactic body radiotherapy for peripheral early non-small cell lung cancer. *J Thorac Dis* 11:214-221
- 15 Aerts HJ, Velazquez ER, Leijenaar RT et al (2014) Decoding tumour phenotype by noninvasive imaging using a quantitative radiomics approach. *Nat Commun* 5:4006
- 16 Coroller TP, Agrawal V, Huynh E et al (2017) Radiomic-Based Pathological Response Prediction from Primary Tumors and Lymph Nodes in NSCLC. *J Thorac Oncol* 12:467-476
- 17 Coroller TP, Agrawal V, Narayan V et al (2016) Radiomic phenotype features predict pathological response in non-small cell lung cancer. *Radiother Oncol* 119:480-486
- 18 Coroller TP, Grossmann P, Hou Y et al (2015) CT-based radiomic signature predicts distant metastasis in lung adenocarcinoma. *Radiother Oncol* 114:345-350
- 19 Grove O, Berglund AE, Schabath MB et al (2015) Quantitative computed tomographic descriptors associate tumor shape complexity and intratumor heterogeneity with prognosis in lung adenocarcinoma. *PLoS One* 10:e0118261
- 20 Lee G, Lee HY, Park H et al (2017) Radiomics and its emerging role in lung cancer research, imaging biomarkers and clinical management: State of the art. *Eur J Radiol* 86:297-307
- 21 Baek S, He Y, Allen BG et al (2019) Deep segmentation networks predict survival of non-small cell lung cancer. *Sci Rep* 9:17286
- 22 Dissaux G, Visvikis D, Do-Ano R et al (2019) Pre-treatment (18)F-FDG PET/CT Radiomics predict local recurrence in patients treated with stereotactic radiotherapy for early-stage non-small cell lung cancer: a multicentric study. *J Nucl Med*. 10.2967/jnumed.119.228106
- 23 Franceschini D, Cozzi L, De Rose F et al (2019) A radiomic approach to predicting nodal relapse and disease-specific survival in patients treated with stereotactic body radiation therapy for early-stage non-small cell lung cancer. *Strahlenther Onkol*. 10.1007/s00066-019-01542-6
- 24 Huynh E, Coroller TP, Narayan V et al (2016) CT-based radiomic analysis of stereotactic body radiation therapy patients with lung cancer. *Radiother Oncol* 120:258-266

- 25 Huynh E, Coroller TP, Narayan V et al (2017) Associations of Radiomic Data Extracted from Static and Respiratory-Gated CT Scans with Disease Recurrence in Lung Cancer Patients Treated with SBRT. *PLoS One* 12:e0169172
- 26 Lafata KJ, Hong JC, Geng R et al (2019) Association of pre-treatment radiomic features with lung cancer recurrence following stereotactic body radiation therapy. *Phys Med Biol* 64:025007
- 27 Li H, Galperin-Aizenberg M, Pryma D, Simone CB, 2nd, Fan Y (2018) Unsupervised machine learning of radiomic features for predicting treatment response and overall survival of early stage non-small cell lung cancer patients treated with stereotactic body radiation therapy. *Radiother Oncol* 129:218-226
- 28 Li Q, Kim J, Balagurunathan Y et al (2017) Imaging features from pretreatment CT scans are associated with clinical outcomes in nonsmall-cell lung cancer patients treated with stereotactic body radiotherapy. *Med Phys* 44:4341-4349
- 29 Li Q, Kim J, Balagurunathan Y et al (2017) CT imaging features associated with recurrence in non-small cell lung cancer patients after stereotactic body radiotherapy. *Radiat Oncol* 12:158
- 30 Li S, Yang N, Li B et al (2018) A pilot study using kernelled support tensor machine for distant failure prediction in lung SBRT. *Med Image Anal* 50:106-116
- 31 Oikonomou A, Khalvati F, Tyrrell PN et al (2018) Radiomics analysis at PET/CT contributes to prognosis of recurrence and survival in lung cancer treated with stereotactic body radiotherapy. *Sci Rep* 8:4003
- 32 Starkov P, Aguilera TA, Golden DI et al (2019) The use of texture-based radiomics CT analysis to predict outcomes in early-stage non-small cell lung cancer treated with stereotactic ablative radiotherapy. *Br J Radiol* 92:20180228
- 33 Takeda K, Takanami K, Shirata Y et al (2017) Clinical utility of texture analysis of 18F-FDG PET/CT in patients with Stage I lung cancer treated with stereotactic body radiotherapy. *J Radiat Res.* 10.1093/jrr/rrx050:1-8
- 34 Yu W, Tang C, Hobbs BP et al (2017) Development and Validation of a Predictive Radiomics Model for Clinical Outcomes in Stage I Non-small Cell Lung Cancer. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2017.10.046
- 35 van Timmeren JE, Carvalho S, Leijenaar RTH et al (2019) Challenges and caveats of a multi-center retrospective radiomics study: an example of early treatment response assessment for NSCLC patients using FDG-PET/CT radiomics. *PLoS One* 14:e0217536
- 36 Bousabarah K, Temming S, Hoevels M et al (2019) Radiomic analysis of planning computed tomograms for predicting radiation-induced lung injury and outcome in lung cancer patients treated with robotic stereotactic body radiation therapy. *Strahlenther Onkol* 195:830-842
- 37 Schmitt D, Blanck O, Gauer T et al (2020) Technological quality requirements for stereotactic radiotherapy : Expert review group consensus from the DGMP Working Group for Physics and Technology in Stereotactic Radiotherapy. *Strahlenther Onkol* 196:421-443
- 38 Stera S, Balermipas P, Chan MKH et al (2018) Breathing-motion-compensated robotic guided stereotactic body radiation therapy : Patterns of failure analysis. *Strahlenther Onkol* 194:143-155
- 39 Temming S, Kocher M, Stoelben E et al (2018) Risk-adapted robotic stereotactic body radiation therapy for inoperable early-stage non-small-cell lung cancer. *Strahlenther Onkol* 194:91-97

- 40 Wilke L, Andratschke N, Blanck O et al (2019) ICRU report 91 on prescribing, recording, and reporting of stereotactic treatments with small photon beams : Statement from the DEGRO/DGMP working group stereotactic radiotherapy and radiosurgery. *Strahlenther Onkol* 195:193-198
- 41 Dahele M, Palma D, Lagerwaard F, Slotman B, Senan S (2011) Radiological changes after stereotactic radiotherapy for stage I lung cancer. *J Thorac Oncol* 6:1221-1228
- 42 Trovo M, Linda A, El Naqa I, Javidan-Nejad C, Bradley J (2010) Early and late lung radiographic injury following stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT). *Lung Cancer* 69:77-85
- 43 Van Griethuysen JJ, Fedorov A, Parmar C et al (2017) Computational radiomics system to decode the radiographic phenotype. *Cancer research* 77:e104-e107
- 44 Zwanenburg A, Leger S, Löck S (2016) Image biomarker standardisation initiative. <http://arxiv.org/abs/161207003>:Accessed January 2, 2020
- 45 Pölsterl S, Gupta P, Wang L, Conjeti S, Katouzian A, Navab N (2016) Heterogeneous ensembles for predicting survival of metastatic, castrate-resistant prostate cancer patients. *F1000Research* 5
- 46 Cox DR (1972) Regression models and life-tables. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B (Methodological)* 34:187-202
- 47 Tsoutsou PG, Koukourakis MI (2006) Radiation pneumonitis and fibrosis: mechanisms underlying its pathogenesis and implications for future research. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 66:1281-1293
- 48 Wang S, Campbell J, Stenmark MH et al (2017) Plasma Levels of IL-8 and TGF-beta1 Predict Radiation-Induced Lung Toxicity in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Validation Study. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 98:615-621
- 49 Grossmann P, Stringfield O, El-Hachem N et al (2017) Defining the biological basis of radiomic phenotypes in lung cancer. *Elife* 6:e23421
- 50 Tang C, Hobbs B, Amer A et al (2018) Development of an Immune-Pathology Informed Radiomics Model for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. *Sci Rep* 8:1922
- 51 Liang B, Yan H, Tian Y et al (2019) Dosiomics: Extracting 3D Spatial Features From Dose Distribution to Predict Incidence of Radiation Pneumonitis. *Front Oncol* 9:269
- 52 Diamant A, Chatterjee A, Faria S et al (2018) Can dose outside the PTV influence the risk of distant metastases in stage I lung cancer patients treated with stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT)? *Radiother Oncol*. 10.1016/j.radonc.2018.05.012
- 53 Hao H, Zhou Z, Li S et al (2018) Shell feature: a new radiomics descriptor for predicting distant failure after radiotherapy in non-small cell lung cancer and cervix cancer. *Phys Med Biol* 63:095007
- 54 Lou B, Doken S, Zhuang T et al (2019) An image-based deep learning framework for individualizing radiotherapy dose. *Lancet Digit Health* 1:e136-e147
- 55 Zhang Y, Oikonomou A, Wong A, Haider MA, Khalvati F (2017) Radiomics-based Prognosis Analysis for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. *Sci Rep* 7:46349

56 Luo Y, McShan DL, Matuszak MM et al (2018) A multiobjective Bayesian networks approach for joint prediction of tumor local control and radiation pneumonitis in nonsmall-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) for response-adapted radiotherapy. Med Phys. 10.1002/mp.13029

Tables

Tab. 1 Patient and treatment characteristics

	Training Set (n = 110)	Test Set (n = 71)
Age	73y (50-94y)	75y (48-88y)
Gender (male/female)	58/52 (53%/47%)	47/24 (66%/34%)
Tumor diameter (median/range)	2.2cm (0.8 – 6.6cm)*	2.6cm (1.1– 6.0cm)#
Tumor Stage (UICC8), T1/T2	89/21 (81%/19%)	45/26 (63%/37%)
Pathological confirmation yes / no	91/19 (83%/17%)	55/16 (77%/23%)
Mediastinal Staging:		
CT only	18 (16%)	5 (7%)
CT + PET	52 (47%)	33 (47%)
CT + EBUS	18 (16%)	16 (23%)
CT + EBUS + PET	18 (16%)	17 (24%)
CT + Mediastinoscopy	3 (3%)	-
CT + PET + Mediastinoscopy	1 (1%)	-
Histology:		
Adenocarcinoma	37 (34%)	23 (32%)
Squamous Cell	42 (38%)	28 (39%)
other	12 (11%)	4 (6%)
unknown	19 (17%)	16 (23%)
Fractionation scheme:		
<i>Number of fractions</i>	<i>dose</i> <i>n</i>	<i>dose</i> <i>n</i>
1	25Gy 5 (5%)	26-27Gy 2 (3%)
3	17Gy 45 (41%)	13-18Gy 65 (90%)§
5	11Gy 43 (39%)	10-11Gy 3 (6%)
8	7.5Gy 17 (16%)	6Gy 1 (1%)
GTV-PTV margin	3-4 mm	3-5mm
Tracking mode:		
Fiducials/ XSightLung	15/95 (14%/86%)	6/65 (9%/91%)

* 1 pt. > 5cm

3 pts. > 5cm

§ 1 pt. 4x10Gy

Tab. 2 Imaging parameters

	Training Set	Test Set
CT scanner	Aquilion LB-CT, Toshiba	Brilliance 16, Philips
Slice thickness	1.0 mm	1.5 mm
Transversal resolution	0.93 – 1.37 mm	0.93 – 0.97 mm
Voltage	120KV	120KV
Current-time product	400mAs	400-450mAs
Image matrix	512x512	512x512
Reconstruction kernel	FC17	B
Contrast agent	none (84%), Accupaque ^R 300 (16%)*	none (100%)

* no significant impact on GTV radiodensity

Tab. 3 Factors for developing local lung fibrosis

Factor	Training Set Mean	Training Set Hazard Ratio	Test Set Mean	Test Set Hazard Ratio
GTV D _{mean}	69.5 Gy	1.058*	61.6 Gy	1.064
PTV D ₉₅	52.8 Gy	1.063*	45.4 Gy	1.075
D _{1ml} Lung	64.1 Gy	1.056*	55.9 Gy	1.060
Age	71.9 y	1.062*	74.6 y	1.044
Radiomics- Predictor (low/high) <i>univariate</i>	0.0	31.65***	0.5	3.32*
Radiomics- Predictor (low/high) <i>multivariate</i>	0.0	41.95***	0.7	2.05*

* p < 0.05, *** p < 0.001 in univariate/multivariate Cox Regression analysis

Tab. 4 Reports on outcome prediction of SBRT in lung cancer from analysis of radiomic features

Author	N	Modality/ Features (Software applied)	# features selected	Model Type	Outcome Measures	Validation	Result/ Comment
Huynh [24] (2016)	113	CT:1605 (in-house software)	12 + clinical	Survival Analysis, cc-index	Recurrence, Distant mets., OS	Single institution cross validation	Risk for recurrence: no significant features Risk for dist. metastases: 1 sign. feature OS: 4 significant features, cc = 0.67
Li [28; 29] (2017)	92	CT: 219 (Definiens Developer)	8 - 68 + clinical + semantic	ROC- Analysis	Recurrence, RFS, OS	Single institution cross- validation	Risk stratification: AUC = 0.69 - 0.75
Zhang [55] (2017)	112	CT: 30 (ProCanVAS)	dependent on model	8 models: Random forest GLM, SVM etc.	Recurrence, Distal failure, OS	Single institution cross validation	Risk stratification: AUC = 0.60 - 0.77
Yu [34] (2017)	442	CT: 12 (IBEX)	2	Random Survival Forests	Regional recurrence, OS	Single institution test set: 67%	OS risk stratification: p = 0.017 Recurrence risk stratification: p < 0.05 2 sign. features: kurtosis, homogeneity
Li [30] (2018)	110	CT+ FDG- PET (learned by model)	from model	Kernelled support tensor machine	Distant failure	Single institution test set: 30%	Risk stratification: AUC = 0.80
Oikonomou (2018) [31]	150	CT + FDG- PET 2x 21 (ProCanVAS)	6 – 8, 4 from PCA	PCA, Logistic Regression	Local control, Distant control, DSS, OS	Single institution cross validation	Risk stratification: p = 0.004 – 0.02 features: heterogeneity and morphology
Starkov [32] (2019)	116	CT: 2D- textures from solid core and GGO	2-30	Cox Regression Lasso	PFS, Distant failure	Single institution cross validation	Risk stratification: p = 0.03 dependent on wavelet filtering

Lafata [26] (2019)	70	CT: 43	2	Logistic Regression Regularized	Local recurrence	none	Risk stratification: p = 0.048 features: density
Franceschini (2019) [23]	102	CT: 41 (LifeX)	4-6	Cox Regression Elastic Net, Back selection	Nodal relapse, PFS, DSS	Single institution Test set: 32%	Nodal Relapse: Accuracy = 85% PFS: 53 vs.45 months features: heterogeneity
Lou [56] (2019)	944*	CT	learned by model	CNN, Multivariate competing risk	Local recurrence	Multi institution Test set: 10%	Risk stratification: p < 0.002
Baek [21] (2019)	122	CT + FDG-PET 2x 55296	Features from k-medoids pool	CNN (U-Net) Logistic regression	OS	Independent institution Test set: 21%	Risk stratification: AUC = 0.87

* includes recurrent lung cancers and pulmonary metastases; # features from PET and CT; ProCanVAS: Prostate Cancer Visualization and Analysis System; PCA: Principal Component Analysis; cc-index: concordance index; RFS: Recurrence-free survival; ROC: Receiver-Operator-Characteristics

Figures

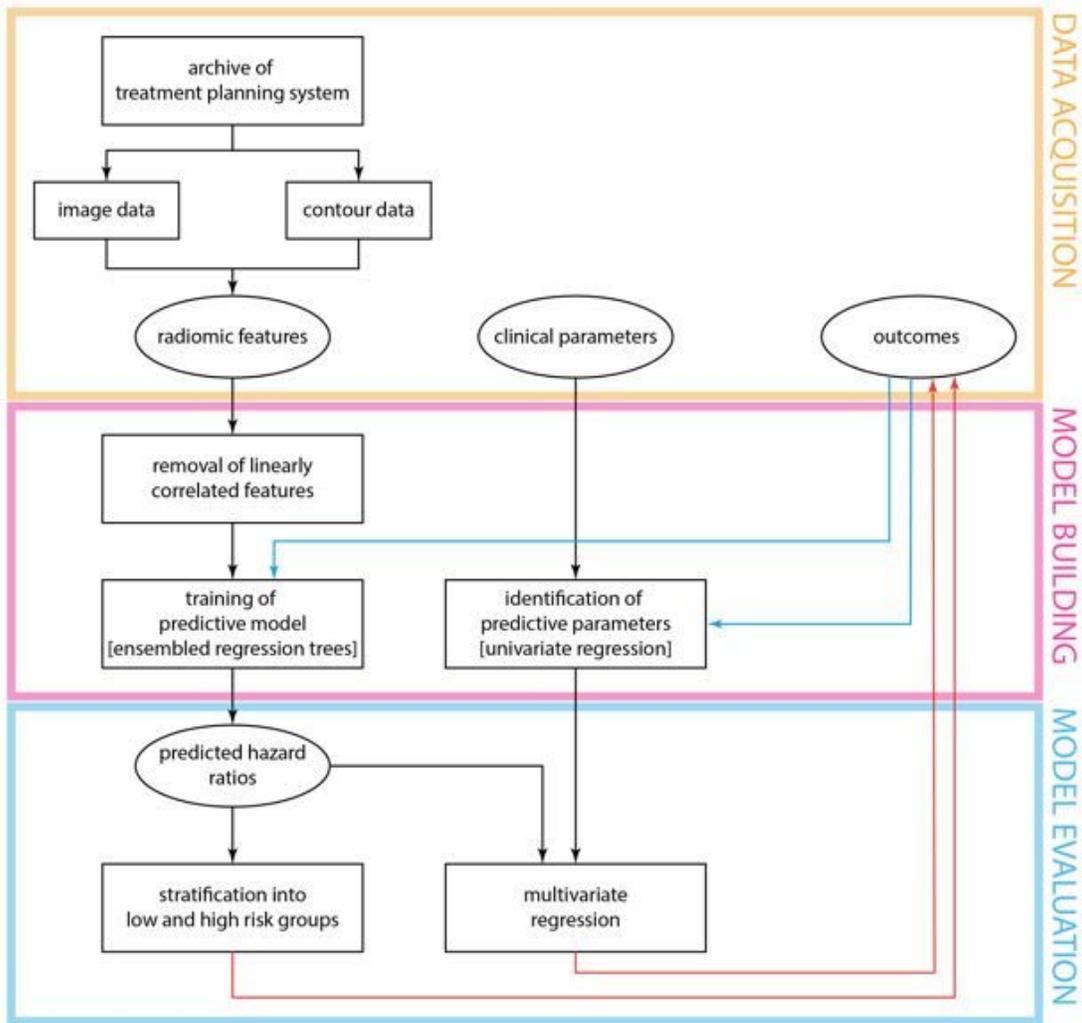


Figure 1

Workflow for generating and validating the developed models.

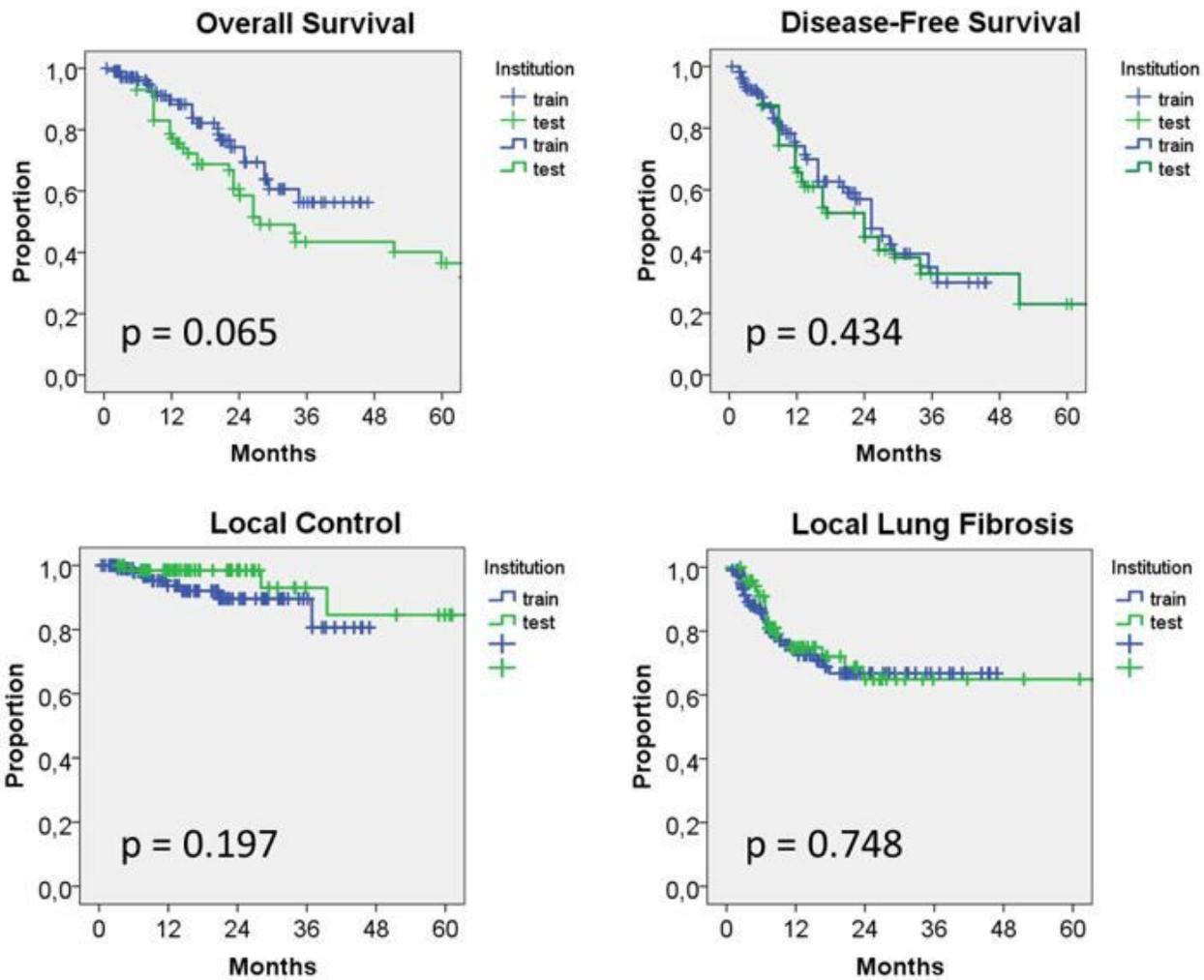


Figure 2

Survival curves for overall survival (OS), local control (LC), disease free survival (DFS) and occurrence of local lung fibrosis after SBRT for the training and testing cohort. No significant difference between the cohorts was measured for any endpoint.

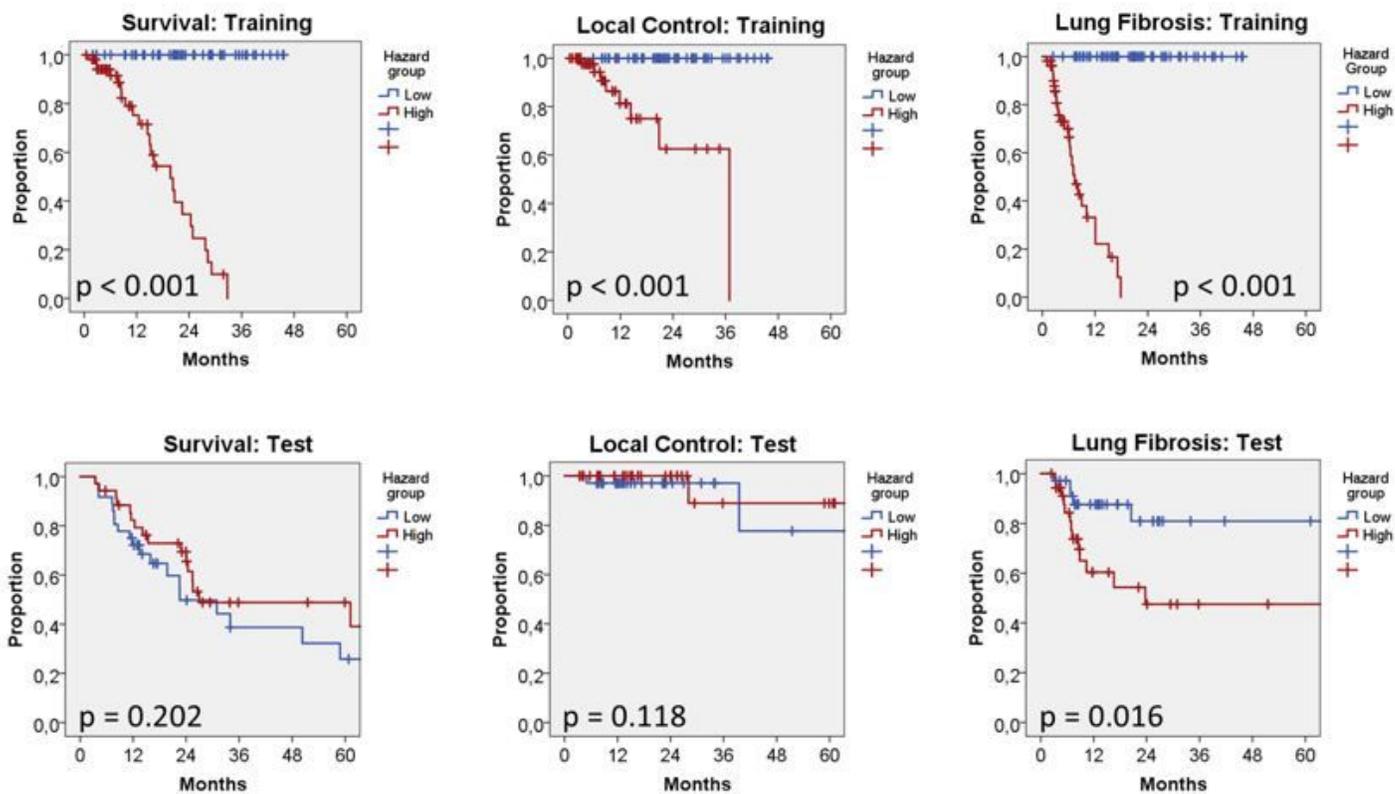
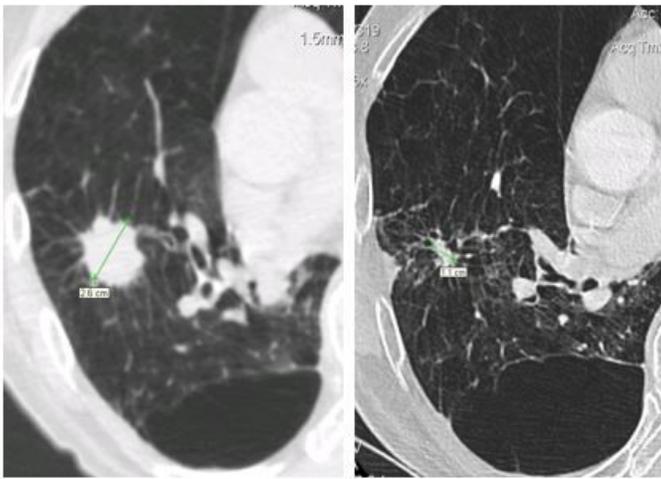
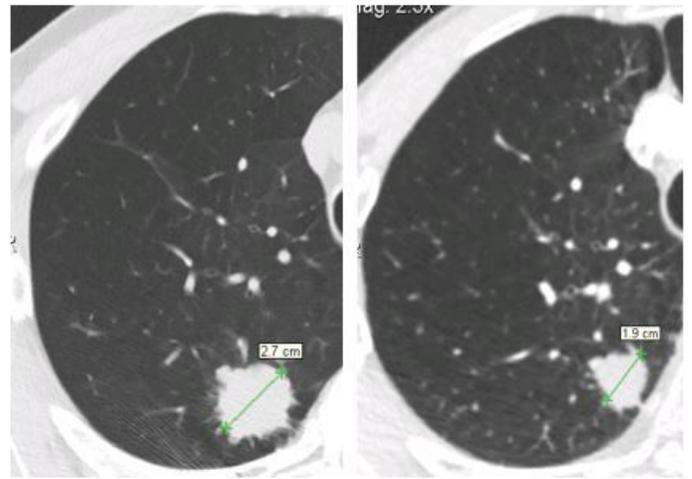


Figure 3

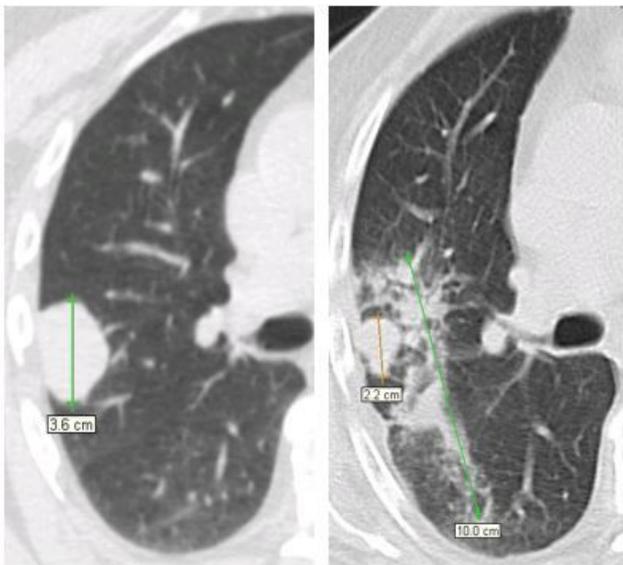
Kaplan-Meier curves displaying performance of the radiomics model in the training and test cohorts when stratifying patients into low and high risk groups



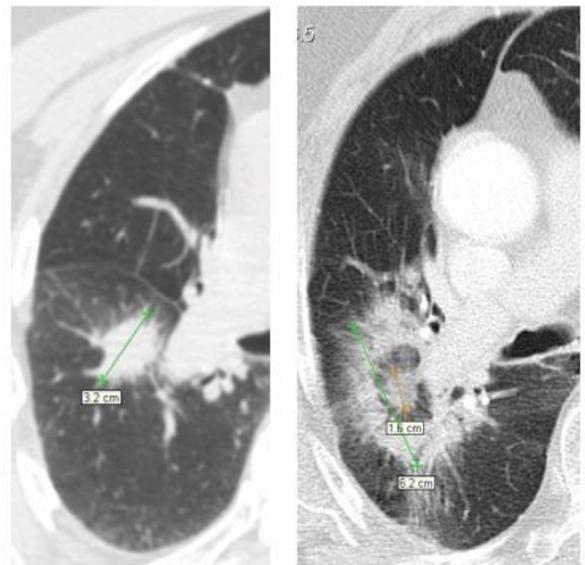
3x15Gy, F-up 9months



3x17Gy, F-up 12months



5x10Gy, F-up 7months



3x16Gy, F-up 3months

Figure 4

Representative chest CT images of patients who did not (upper row) or did (lower row) develop local lung injury induced by robotic stereotactic body radiation therapy of early-stage non-small cell lung cancer