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An Empirical Comparison of Methods to Meta-Analyze Individual Patient Data of Diagnostic Accuracy

Individual patiens data (IPD) meta-analysis has many benefits. In the context of diagnostic accuracy studies, pooled sensitivity and specificity are traditionally reported for a given threshold and meta-analyses are conducted via a bivariate approach. With IPD, it is possible to obtain pooled sensitivity and specificity for each possible threshold. One way to analyze these data is to apply the BREM model at every threshold. Another idea is to analyze results for all thresholds simultaneously, and thus accounting for the within-study correlation. Our aim is to compare two multivariate approaches to the BREM when IPD are available, empirically.