

Stan for Pharmacometrics day

Hierarchical Nonlinear Joint Modelling in Oncology - a simulation study

Maxime Beaulieu

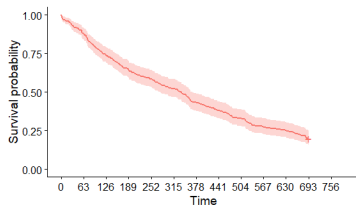
Supervisors: Jérémie Guedj (INSERM, UMR 1137 - IAME)
Marion Kerioui (INSERM, UMR 1137 - IAME)

8th June 2023



Treatment response assessment in oncology

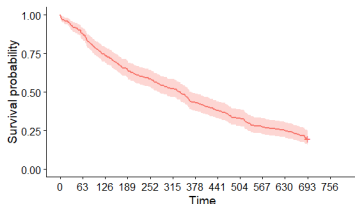
Primary endpoint: Survival



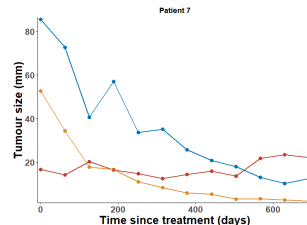
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Treatment response assessment in oncology

Primary endpoint: Survival



Secondary endpoint: Tumour size evolution

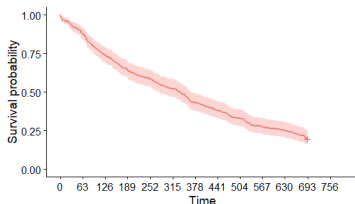


- Modelling survival and tumour size **together** allows:
 - ▶ To identify the patients most at risk
 - ▶ To refine the assessment of treatment efficacy

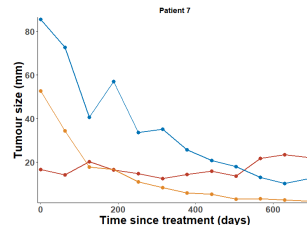
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Treatment response assessment in oncology

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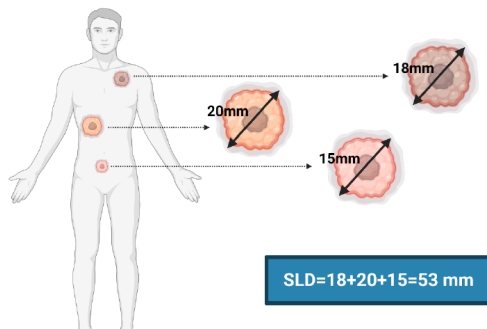
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- Modelling survival and tumour size **together** allows:
 - ▶ To identify the patients most at risk
 - ▶ To refine the assessment of treatment efficacy
- **Joint models** are needed to avoid bias in the estimation:
 - ▶ Of the parameters of the longitudinal sub-model¹
 - ▶ Of the association parameter¹

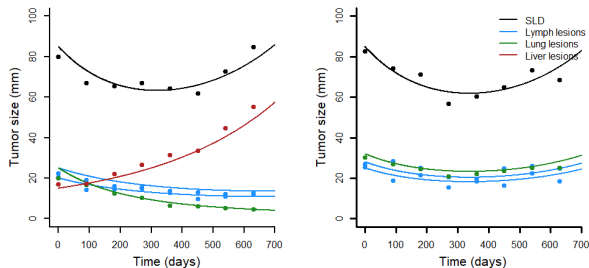
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Monitoring the Sum of the Longest Diameters (SLD)



- Selection of target lesions
- Representative of the patient's health status
- Monitoring the dynamics of the sum of the size of these lesions

The limits of SLD

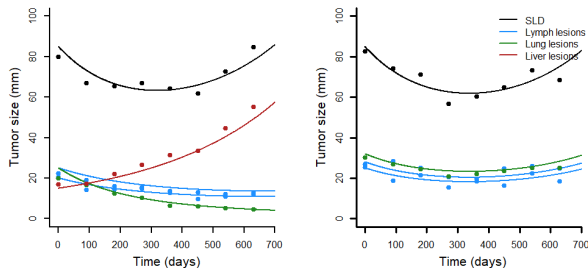


- Aggregates information
- Hides inter-lesion variability
- In immunotherapy, the risk of dissociated response is increased²
- Tumour kinetics and response to treatment could be location-specific³

²Vaflard et al, *Drugs in R&D* (2021)

³Kerioui et al, *European Society for Medical Oncology* (2022)

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⇒ These reasons motivated Dr Kerioui to work on the joint modelling of survival and individual lesions during her thesis.

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Multilevel joint modelling in metastatic bladder cancer

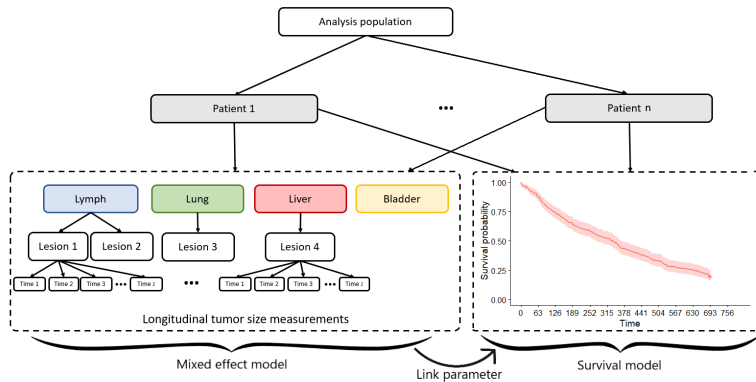
- Based on data from a phase III clinical trial: IMvigor211⁴
- Patients with metastatic bladder cancer
- Treatment with immunotherapy (atezolizumab)

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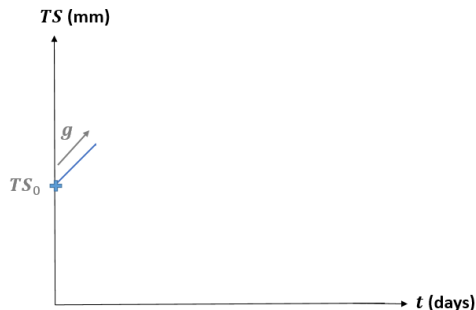
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Mechanistic model of tumour dynamics

Structural model of tumour size⁶:

$$TS(t, \psi) = \begin{cases} TS_0 \times e^{g \times t} & t < t_x \end{cases}$$

with t_x the treatment initiation time



- TS_0 : Tumour size at inclusion
- g : Natural growth of the lesion

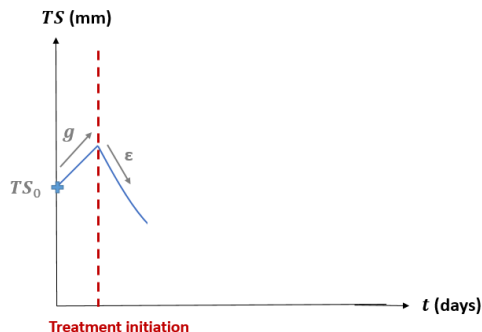
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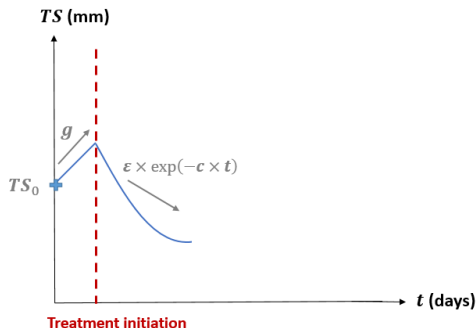
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- c : Resistance appearance

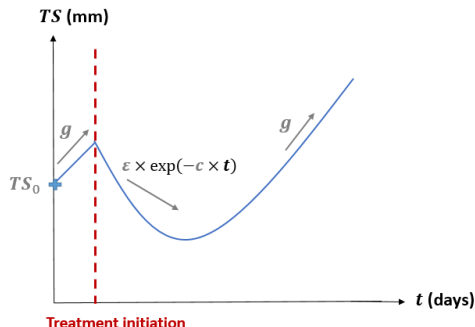
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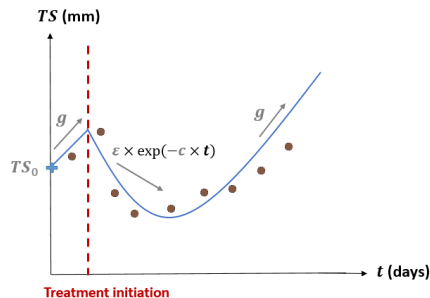
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Multilevel nonlinear joint model

Longitudinal submodel: Nonlinear mixed effect model to describe measures of **tumour size** of individual lesions

$$y_{i,j,k,l} = TS(t_{i,j,k,l}, \psi_{i,j,k}) + (\sigma_j \times TS(t_{i,j,k,l}, \psi_{i,j,k})) e_{i,j,k,l}$$



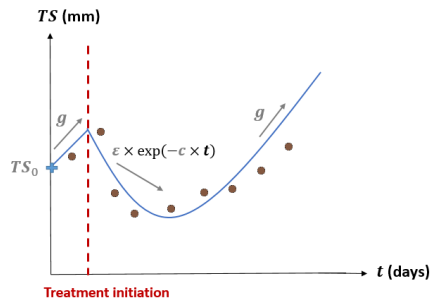
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$$\text{with } \log(\psi_{i,j,k}) = \log(\mu) + \xi_j + \eta_i + \rho_{i,j,k}$$

- μ : fixed effect
- ξ_j : fixed effect of location
- η_i : patient-specific random effect $\sim \mathcal{N}(0, \omega_1^2)$
- $\rho_{i,j,k}$: lesion-specific random effect $\sim \mathcal{N}(0, \omega_2^2)$



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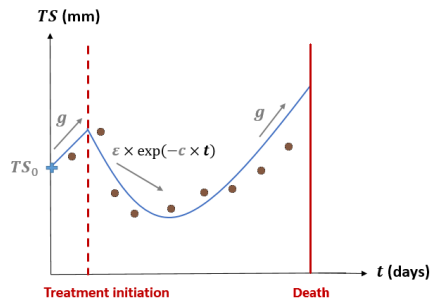
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Survival submodel: Individual hazard function

$$h_i(t \mid \theta, \psi_i) = h_0(t) \exp\left(\sum_{j=1}^4 \sum_{k=1}^{K_{i,j}} \beta_j \times TS(t, \psi_{i,j,k})\right)$$

with $h_0(t)$ a Weibull baseline hazard function



Bayesian inference framework

- Use of the HMC NUTS algorithm⁷ implemented on the Stan software⁸
- Algorithm adapted to hierarchical models⁹
- Use of **informative priors** for population parameters μ
- The other parameters admit **weak or non-informative priors**
- From previous works³
- Posterior distribution:

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\rho} | \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{T}, \boldsymbol{\delta}) \propto \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{j=1}^4 \prod_{k=1}^{K_{i,j}} \prod_{l=1}^{L_{i,j,k}} p^L(y_{i,j,k,l} | \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\psi}_{i,j,k}) p^S(T_i, \delta_i | \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\psi}_i) p(\boldsymbol{\rho}_{i,j,k} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\boldsymbol{\eta}_i | \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

⁷Hoffman et Gelman, *Journal of Machine Learning Research* (2014)

⁸Carpenter et al, *Journal of Statistical Software* (2017)

⁹Betancourt et Girolami, *arXiv* (2013)

³Keroui et al, *European Society for Medical Oncology* (2022)

Objectives

Simulation study

To study the estimation properties of the model depending on the amount of information available and the level of heterogeneity in the data

²Vaflard et al, *Drugs in R&D* (2021)

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Application to a real-life data set²

Less informative and more heterogeneous study population compared to IMvigor211

²Vaflard et al, *Drugs in R&D* (2021)

Simulation scenarios

- Inspired from the IMvigor211 data⁵:
 - ▶ 50 simulated data sets
 - ▶ Target lesions in 4 locations: lymph nodes, lungs, liver, bladder
 - ▶ Study duration of 700 days, one tumour size measurement every 9 weeks

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	Number of patients	Number of target lesions per patient	Inter-patient variability ω_1^2	Inter-lesion variability ω_2^2
Scenario n°1 (reference)	300	1 to 5		>
Scenario n°2	↘ 150	1 to 5		>
Scenario n°3	↘ 150	↗ 1 to 10		>
Scenario n°4	↘ 150	1 to 5		<

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Evaluation

- Chains convergence: $R\text{-hat}^{10}$
 - ▶ Ratio of intra-chain to inter-chain variance
 - ▶ Must be less than 1.2 for each parameter

¹⁰Gelman et al, *Bayesian Data Analysis* (1995)

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Evaluation

- **Chains convergence:** $R\text{-}\hat{hat}^{10}$
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- **Estimation error:** (*Relative Estimates Error*, REE in %)

$$REE(\hat{\theta}^k) = \frac{\hat{\theta}^k - \theta^*}{\theta^*} \times 100$$

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$$REE(\hat{\theta}^k) = \frac{\hat{\theta}^k - \theta^*}{\theta^*} \times 100$$

- **Estimation accuracy:** (*Coverage rate*¹¹, CR)

$$CR_{(1-\alpha)}(\theta) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbb{1}_{\{\theta^* \in \hat{CI}_{(1-\alpha)}^k\}}$$

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- **Goodness of fit:** (Individual fit plots)

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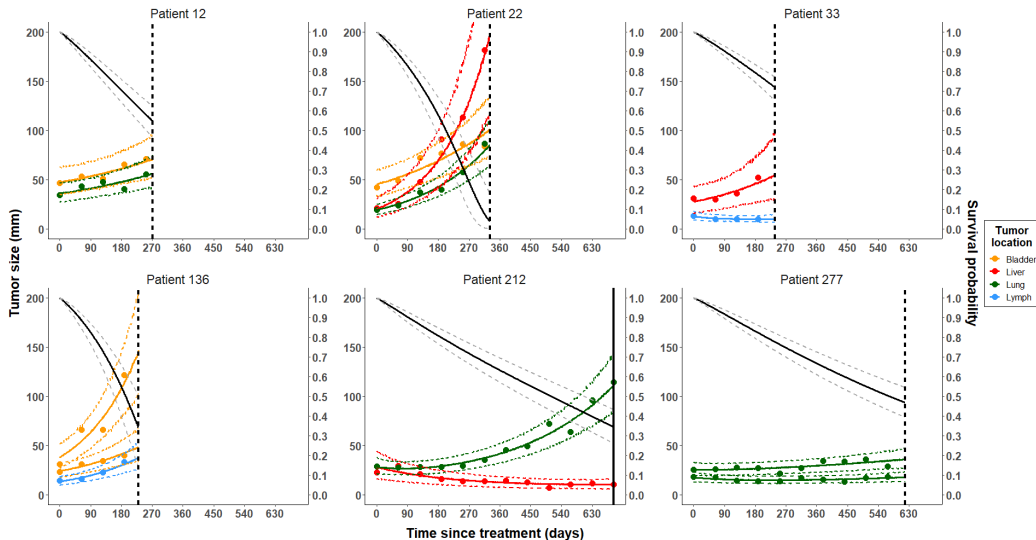
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Convergence

	Scenario	n°1	n°2	n°3	n°4
1 st run (500 iterations)	Number of data sets (%)	50 (100)	50 (100)	50 (100)	50 (100)
	Average computation time per data set (h)	29	13	15	14
	Number of data sets converging (%)	43 (86)	36 (72)	39 (78)	25 (50)
Follow-up run (1000 iterations + another seed)	Number of data sets	7	14	11	25
	Average computation time per data set (h)	58	24	30	29
	Number of data sets converging	5	8	6	10
	Final number of data set evaluated (%)	48 (96)	44 (88)	45 (90)	35 (70)

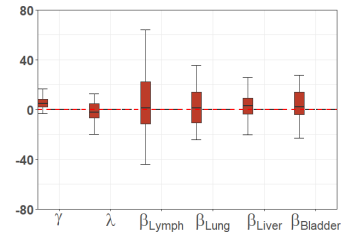
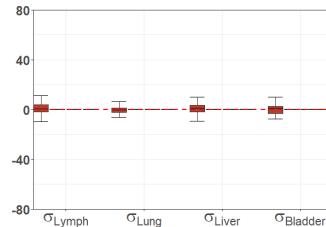
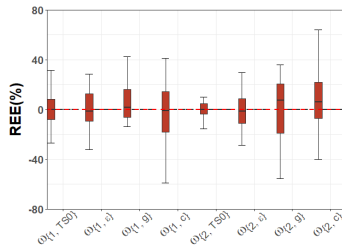
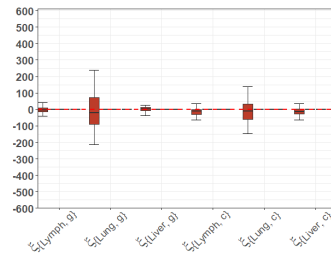
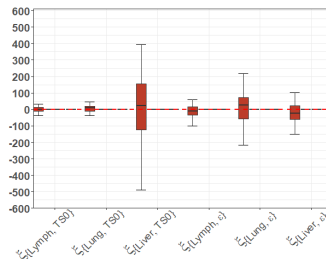
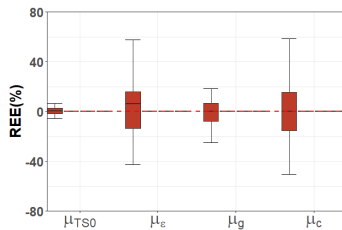
Individual fits

From a dataset of scenario n°1



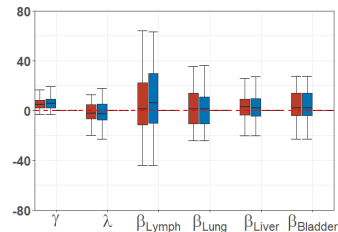
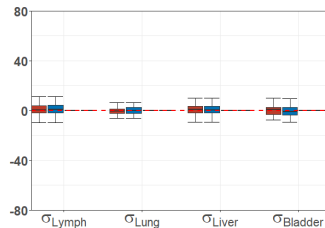
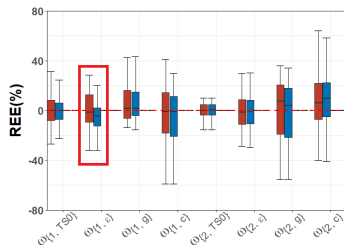
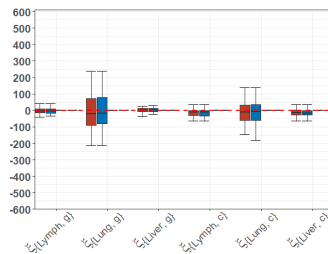
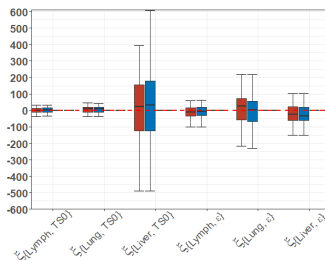
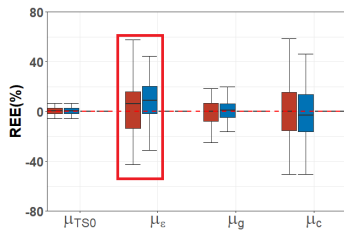
Analysis of the relative estimates error

Boxplot of the *REEs* of each data set



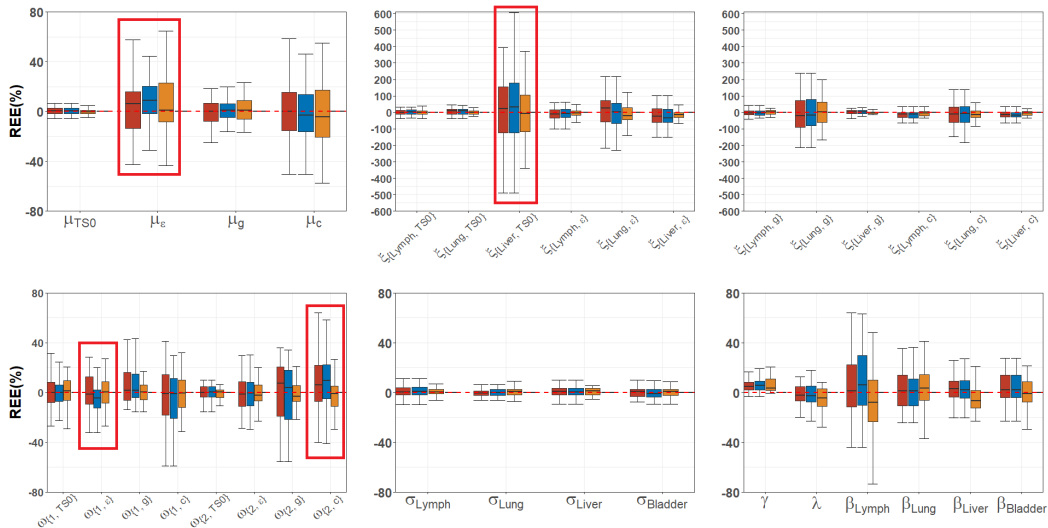
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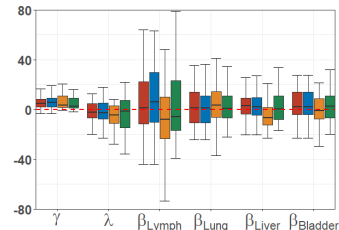
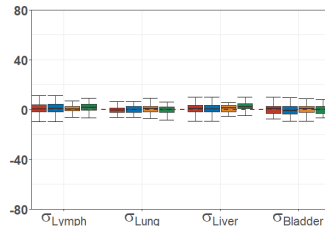
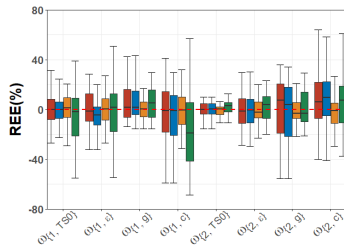
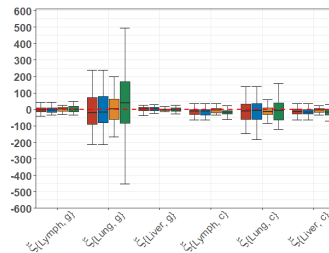
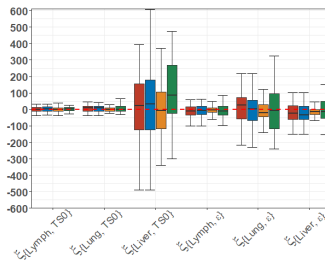
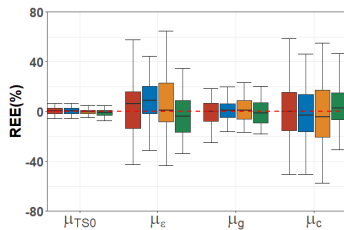
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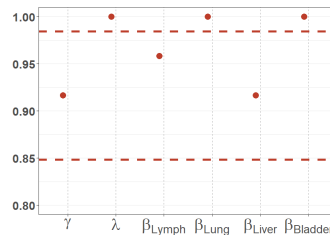
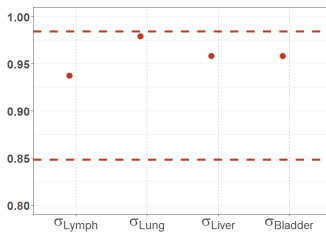
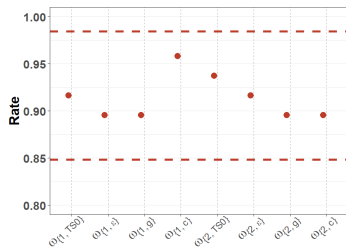
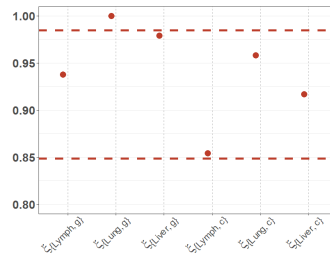
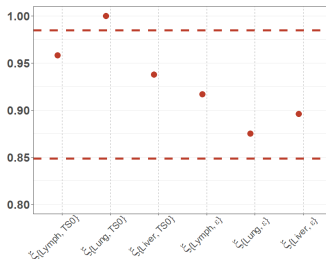
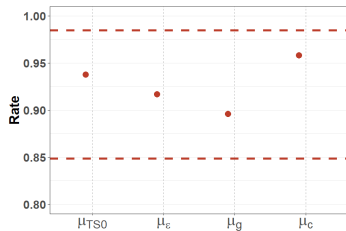


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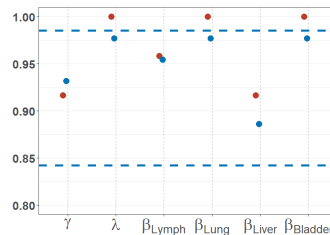
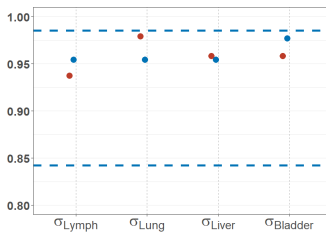
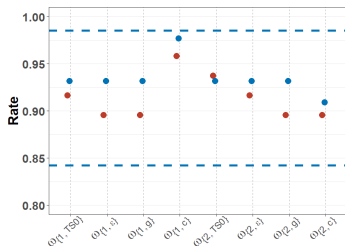
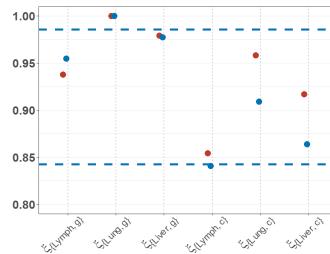
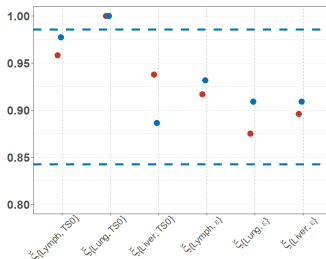
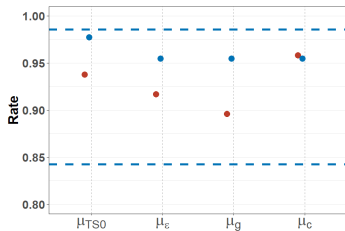
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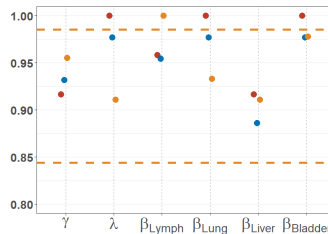
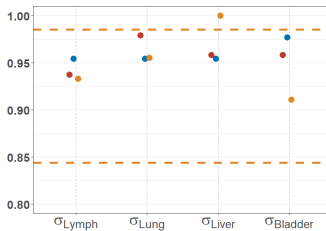
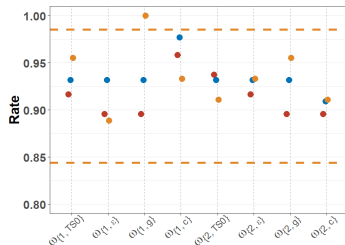
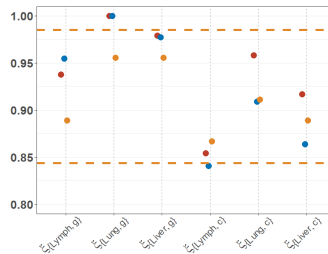
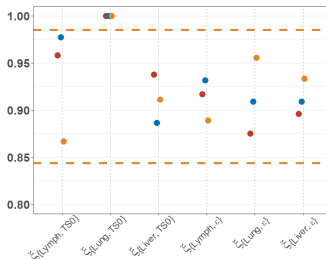
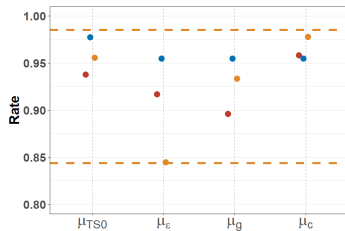
Coverage rate of parameters



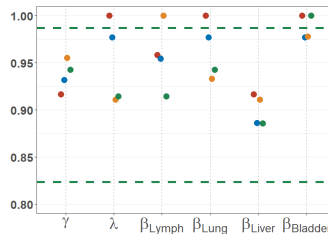
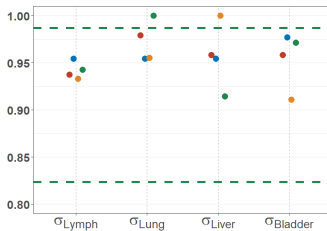
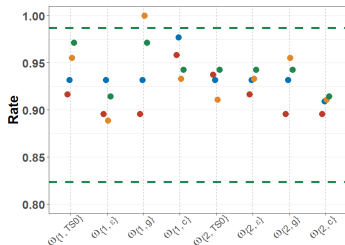
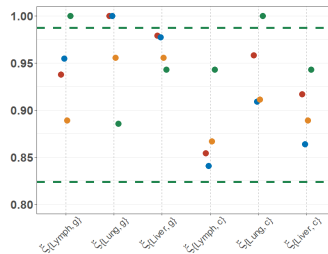
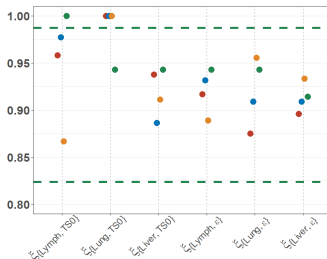
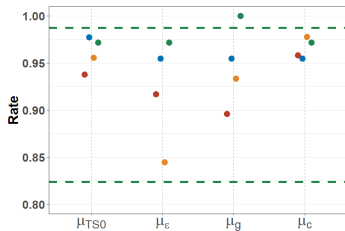
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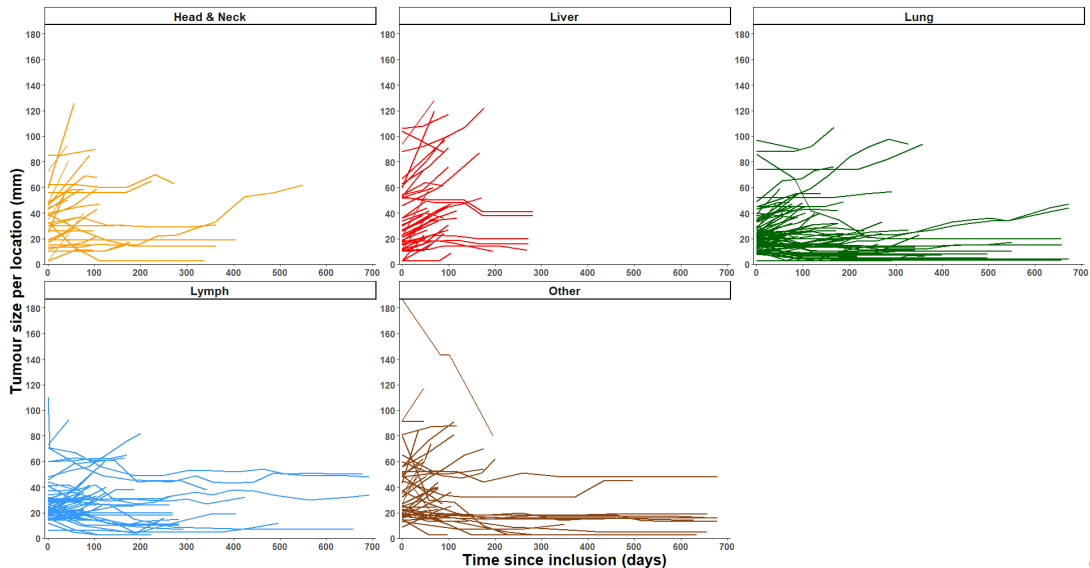
A real-life data set from the Institut Curie²

Baseline characteristics	
Number of patients	100
Female sex	41
Age at inclusion (min-max)	59 (21-90)
Data description	
Death	54
Number of target lesions	272
Number of measurements	1200
Number of measurements per patient median (min-max)	3 (2-16)
Number of target lesion patient	
2	43
3	43
4	13
5	1
Organ-specific data	
Locations of target lesions (%)	
Lungs	95 (35)
Lymph nodes	59 (22)
Liver	43 (16)
Head & Neck	31 (11)
Other	44 (16)
Number of measurements of target lesion per location (%)	
Lungs	464 (39)
Lymph nodes	269 (22)
Liver	131 (11)
Head & Neck	118 (10)
Other	218 (18)
Proportion of death in patients with at least one target lesion in	
Lungs	45
Lymph nodes	65
Liver	64
Head & Neck	60
Other	43

- Principal Investigator: C. Le Tourneau
- Retrospective cohort
- Highly heterogeneous population:
 - ▶ $\neq$ cancers
 - ▶ $\neq$ stages of the disease
 - ▶ 18 histological subtypes of tumour
 - ▶ $\neq$ immunotherapy treatments
- 5 target lesion locations
- Survival median after 14 months of study

²Vaflard et al, *Drugs in R&D* (2021)

Tumour dynamics of the patients in the cohort



Statistical inference

- Hierarchical nonlinear joint model with 5 tumour locations
- Same priors as the simulation study
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- All parameters have an *R-hat* less than 1.04
- Computation time of 18 hours

Parameters estimation

- Estimation of **location fixed effects**

	Head & Neck	Liver	Lymph nodes	Lungs	Other
$TS_0(mm)$	32.6 [25.3;41.6]	28.3 [22.6;34.7]	24.6 [20.9;29.0]	21.2 [18.6;24.2]	32.5 [27.6;38.0]
$\epsilon \text{ (day}^{-1}\text{)}$	0.0006 [0.0002;0.0016]	0.0006 [0.0001;0.0016]	0.0023 [0.0007;0.0045]	0.0013 [0.0004;0.0024]	0.0014 [0.0005;0.0029]
$g \text{ (day}^{-1}\text{)}$	0.0025 [0.0013;0.0042]	0.0027 [0.0014;0.0044]	0.0026 [0.0016;0.0038]	0.0019 [0.0012;0.0027]	0.0020 [0.0011;0.0031]
$c \text{ (day}^{-1}\text{)}$	0.0058 [0.0005;0.0241]	0.0039 [0.0003;0.0162]	0.0040 [0.0015;0.0090]	0.0077 [0.0031;0.0149]	0.0030 [0.0013;0.0056]

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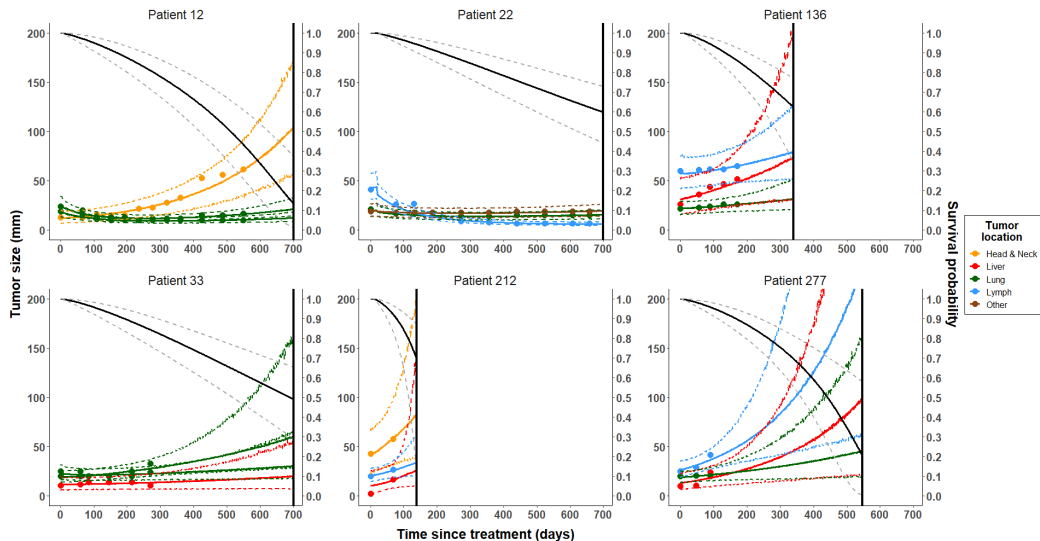
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- Head and neck lesions are strongly associated with the instantaneous risk of death

	Head & Neck	Liver	Lymph nodes	Lungs	Other
$\beta \text{ (mm}^{-1}\text{)}$	0.0248 [0.0152;0.0346]	0.0093 [0.0041;0.0143]	0.0061 [0.0001;0.0137]	0.0050 [0.0005;0.0105]	0.0017 [0.0003;0.0038]
Increased instantaneous risk of death following a 10 mm increase in tumour size (%)	28.3 [16.4;41.4]	9.8 [4.2;15.4]	6.4 [-0.1;14.7]	5.2 [-0.5;11.1]	1.7 [0.3;3.9]

Individual fits



Discussion

Conclusions

- Good estimation properties and robustness of the model in:
 - ▶ A small sample size
 - ▶ Heterogeneous population

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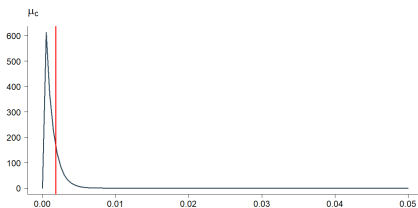
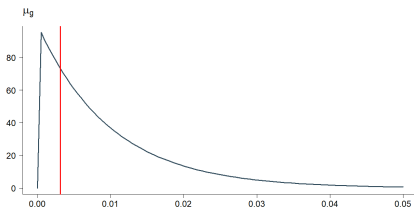
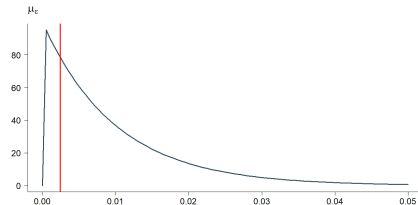
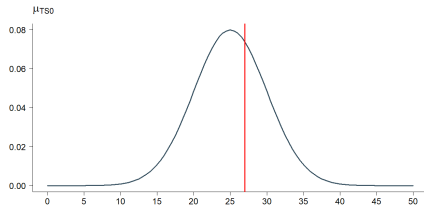
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Perspectives

- Application of the model to:
 - ▶ Improving patient follow-up
 - ▶ Assisting in the development of therapeutic treatments

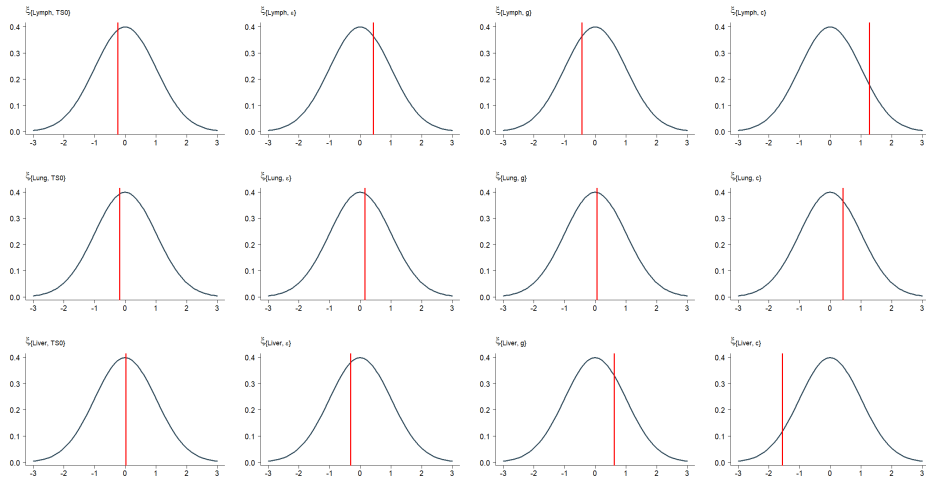
Priors for μ



- $\mu_{TS0} \sim \mathcal{N}(25, 5)$
- $\mu_g \sim \Gamma(1, 100)$

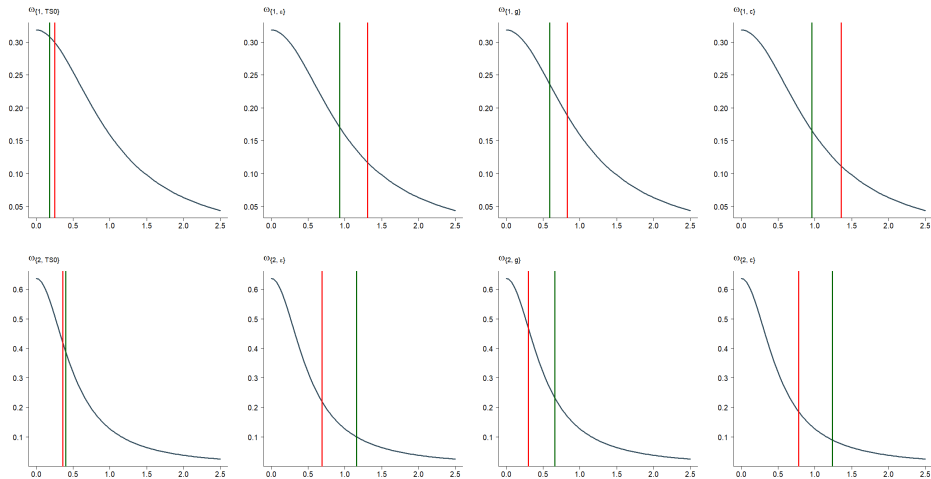
- $\mu_{\epsilon} \sim \Gamma(1, 100)$
- $\mu_c \sim \Gamma(1, 1000)$

Priors for ξ



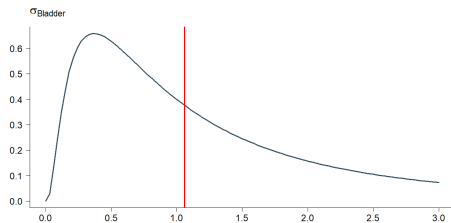
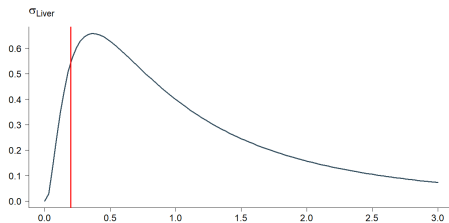
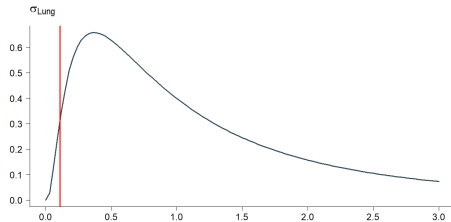
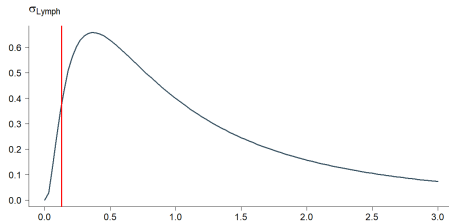
• $\xi_j \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

Priors for ω



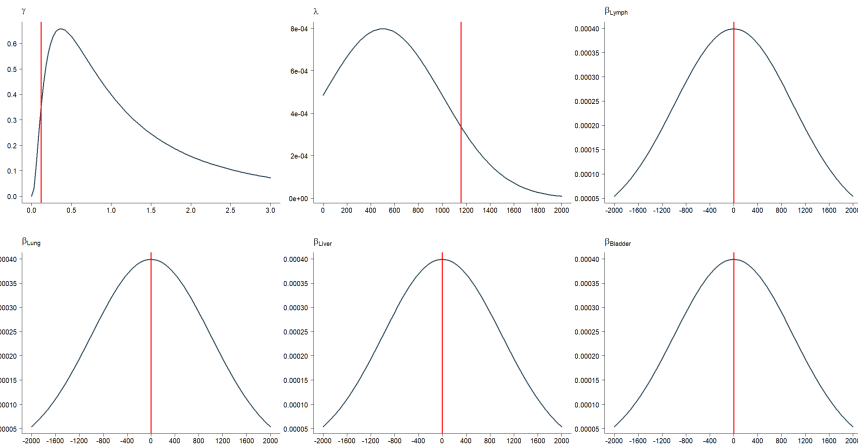
- $\omega_1 \sim \text{Cauchy}(0, 1)^+$ et $\omega_2 \sim \text{Cauchy}(0, 1)^+$

Priors for σ



• $\sigma_j \sim LN(0, 1)$

Priors for the parameters of the survival sub-model



- $\gamma \sim LN(0, 1)$
- $\lambda \sim \mathcal{N}(500, 500)^+$

- $\beta_j \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1000)$

