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# RADIOMICS AND DELTA-RADIOMICS SIGNATURES TO PREDICT RESPONSE AND SURVIVAL IN PATIENT WITH NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER TREATED WITH IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS

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**Background** Accurate and early selection of patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) who would benefit from immunotherapy is of the utmost clinical importance. The aim of our study was to determine the potential role of CT-based radiomics and delta-radiomics signatures in predicting treatment response and survival in patients with advanced NSCLC treated with programmed death-1 (PD-1) or programmed death ligand-1 (PD-L1) inhibitors. Moreover, we compared the results obtained with both signatures to early RECIST v1.1 assessment (first follow up visit).

**Methods** In this retrospective multi-centric study, we included 188 patients with NSCLC treated with PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors who underwent a pre-treatment and at least one follow-up CT scans. The training dataset was composed of 146 patients and the external validation dataset of 42 patients. All the lesions, both target and non-target, according to RECIST v1.1 criteria, were manually segmented by experienced reader. Radiomics analysis was performed on both single and multiple target lesions per patient. A delta-radiomics analysis was also conducted on a subset of 160 patients who underwent a follow-up CT after 2 to 4 treatment cycles. Radiomic features were selected by the Minimum Redundancy Maximum Relevance method. Linear and Random Forest (RF) models were tested to predict response at 6 months and overall survival (OS). Performances of the models were expressed in term of Area Under the Curve (AUC) and survival prediction with Cox concordance index.

**Results** The baseline CT radiomics signatures did not show any significant results for prediction of treatment response or survival. The RF delta-radiomics model showed the best performance for treatment response prediction with an AUC of 0.81 (95% CI: 0.66-0.95). The GLM delta-radiomics model was the most accurate at predicting survival with a concordance index of 0.68 (95% CI: 0.56-0.80) ( $p=0.02$ ). The comparison between the delta radiomics signatures and early RECIST v1.1 assessment showed a clear improvement in survival prediction with an AUC of 0.66 (95% CI: 0.54-0.78) for early RECIST against an AUC of 0.77 (95% CI: 0.61-0.93) and 0.81 (GLM and RF signatures respectively) for delta radiomics signature and a concordance index of 0.56 (95% CI: 0.47-0.65) on the validation dataset.

**Conclusions** Our delta radiomics models were able to early identify patients with advanced NSCLC who were more likely to benefit from immunotherapy.

**Ethics Approval** This study received approval from institutional review board of University Hospital of Liège, and the need for informed consent was waived based on its retrospective design.

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