Predictive Performance of the Clinicopathologic Gene Expression Profile (CP-GEP) in Identifying Cutaneous Melanoma Patients for Whom Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy is Unnecessary: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

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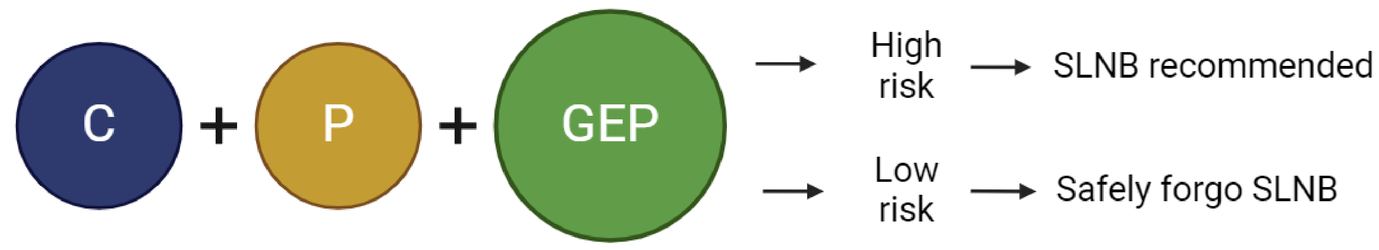
Background

- Sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) is an invasive procedure used for accurate staging and optimal management
- SLNB is recommended for melanomas with Breslow thickness > 1.0 mm and should be discussed for patients with thin melanomas
- Overall rate of positive SLNBs is relatively low, ranging from 15% to 20%
- CP-GEP model serves as a deselection tool by identifying patients that do not have nodal metastasis and can therefore forgo SLNB



Objectives

To summarise the findings of multiple external validation studies across various countries to **assess the overall predictive performance** of the CP-GEP model and **examine potential heterogeneity** between validation cohorts

Methods

- External validation studies assessing the CP-GEP model from 2020-2024
- True positive (TP), false positive (FP), true negative (TN), false negative (FN) values were extracted from each study to measure the predictive utility of the model (sensitivity, specificity, negative predictive value (NPV), positive predictive value (PPV) and SLNB reduction rate (RR)
- Pooled estimates were derived using a random-effects (RE) model
- Risk of bias: Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Accuracy Studies (QUADAS-2) tool
- SLNB reduction rate (RR) represents the proportion of patients that received a low-risk CP-GEP result and could therefore safely forgo SLNB

$$SLNB\ reduction\ rate\ = \frac{CP-GEP\ Low\ risk\ (TN+FN)}{All\ patients\ (TN+TP+FP+FN)}$$

Results

- The overall pooled sensitivity was 93% and NPV was 95% across all primary tumour classification groups
- Subgroup analysis (pT1 – pT4) revealed that the model performed best for pT2 melanomas
- Results for pT1 melanomas could not be reliably interpreted as substantial heterogeneity was observed
- pT3 and pT4 melanomas are unlikely to benefit from the model as they have high risk for nodal metastasis and would usually be recommended to undergo SLNB

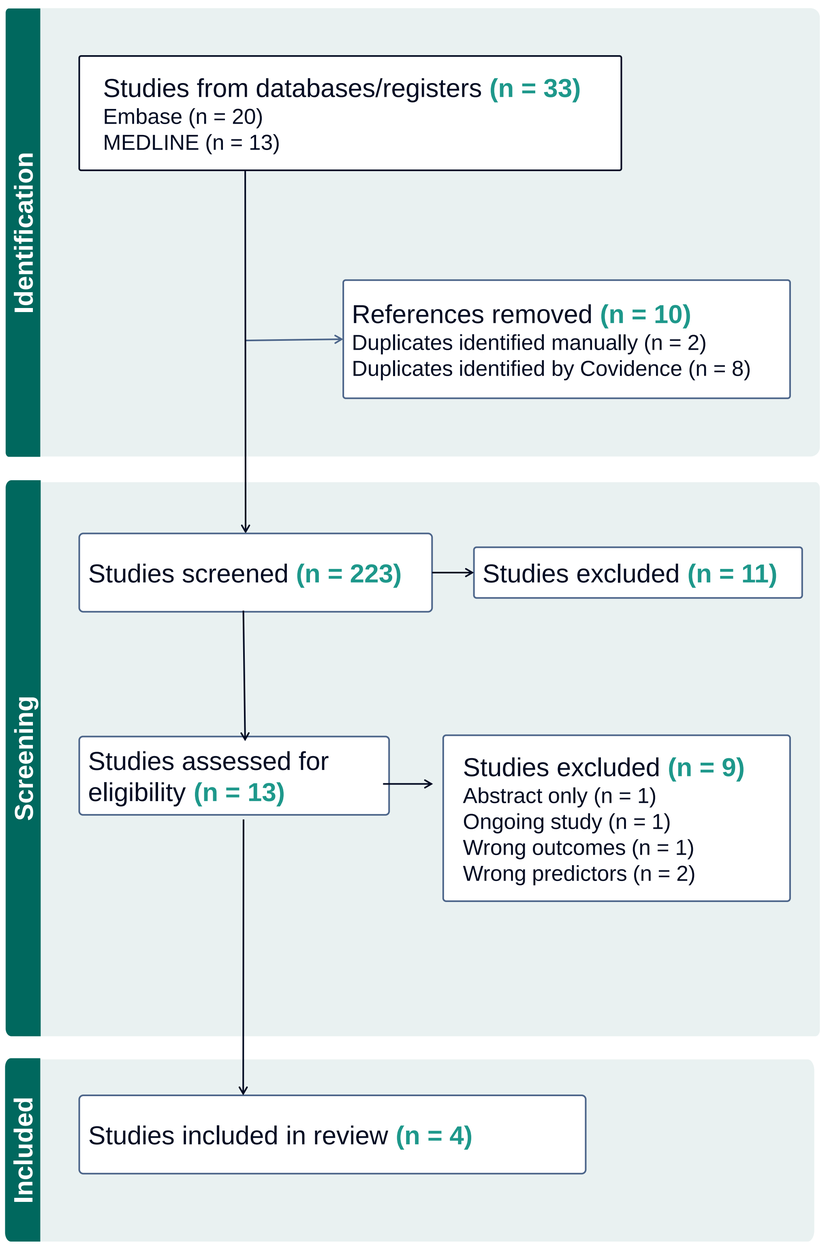


Figure 1. PRIMSA flowchart of search results and inclusion of external validation studies assessing the predictive utility of the CP-GEP model.

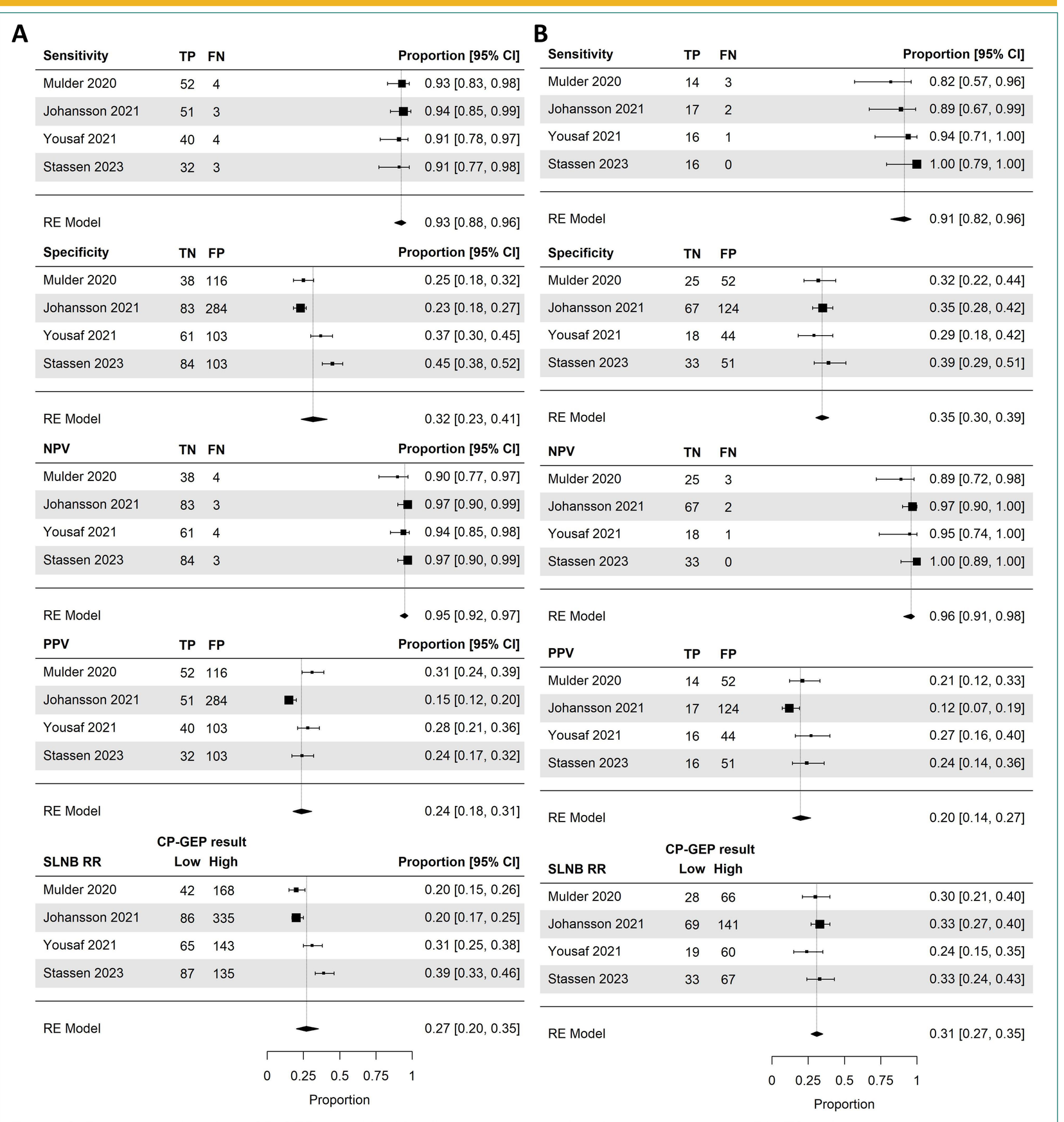


Figure 2. Predictive utility of the CP-GEP model for **(A)** all primary tumour classification groups and **(B)** pT2 melanomas only.

Conclusions

- **The CP-GEP model demonstrated the hallmarks of an effective deselection tool for SLNB, particularly in patients with pT2 melanomas**
- **Additional research into pT1 melanomas with greater sample sizes will be crucial in determining the true predictive utility of the model for this subgroup**

References

Acknowledgements

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Contact Information
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