

A decision support system for primary headache through machine learning

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Background: Primary headache is a disorder with a high incidence and low diagnostic accuracy; the incidence of migraine and tension-type headache ranks first among primary headaches. AI decision support systems have shown great potential in the medical field. Therefore, we attempt to use machine learning to build a clinical decision-making system for primary headaches. **Methods:** The demographic data and headache characteristics of 173 patients were collected by questionnaires. Decision tree, random forest, gradient boosting algorithm and SVM models were used to construct a discriminant model and a confusion matrix was used to calculate the evaluation indicators of the models. Furthermore, through univariate statistical analysis and machine learning, we finally identified the two most important characteristics for distinguishing migraines and tension-type headaches. **Results:** In the models, we give more importance to the F1 score than to the other confusion matrix-based metrics. The logistic regression model has the best discrimination effect, with the F1 score reaching 0.90 and the area under the ROC curve also being the largest at 0.95. Furthermore, we identified the most important factors of the two disorders through statistical analysis and machine learning: nausea/vomiting and photophobia/phonophobia may be potential independent factors for the identification of migraines and tension-type headaches. **Conclusions:** Applying machine learning to the decision-making system for primary headaches can achieve a high diagnostic accuracy. Among them, the discrimination effect obtained by the integrated algorithm is significantly better than that of a single learner. Second, nausea/vomiting, photophobia/phonophobia may be the most important factors for distinguishing migraine from tension-type headaches.

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Abstract

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accuracy; the incidence of migraine and tension-type headache ranks first among primary

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Therefore, we attempt to use machine learning to build a clinical decision-making system for

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by questionnaires. Decision tree, random forest, gradient boosting algorithm and SVM models

were used to construct a discriminant model and a confusion matrix was used to calculate the

evaluation indicators of the models. Furthermore, through univariate statistical analysis and

machine learning, we finally identified the two most important characteristics for distinguishing

migraines and tension-type headaches.

26

27 **Results** : In the models, we give more importance to the F1 score than to the other confusion
28 matrix-based metrics. The logistic regression model has the best discrimination effect, with the
29 F1 score reaching 0.90 and the area under the ROC curve also being the largest at 0.95.
30 Furthermore, we identified the most important factors of the two disorders through statistical
31 analysis and machine learning: nausea/vomiting and photophobia/phonophobia may be potential
32 independent factors for the identification of migraines and tension-type headaches. **Conclusions**
33 : Applying machine learning to the decision-making system for primary headaches can achieve
34 a high diagnostic accuracy. Among them, the discrimination effect obtained by the integrated
35 algorithm is significantly better than that of a single learner. Second, nausea/vomiting,
36 photophobia/phonophobia may be the most important factors for distinguishing migraine from
37 tension-type headaches.

38

39 **Introduction**

40 Headache is one of the most common symptoms in neurology clinics [1]. More than 50% of adults
41 in European countries say they have suffered from headaches in the past year [2]. In China, the 1-
42 year prevalence of primary headache is reported to be 23.8%. The prevalence of migraine was
43 9.3%, and that of tension-type headaches was 10.3% [3]. In North America, although headaches
44 have a higher burden of disability than Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and epilepsy, the
45 National Institutes of Health has the least amount of research funding dedicated to headaches. In
46 China, due to the massive population base, patients spend 672.7 billion yuan each year because of
47 primary headaches, accounting for 2.24% of China's GDP [4]. Although headaches do not
48 seriously threaten the lives of patients, they can severely affect their work and quality of life, cause
49 them to withdraw from society, and place heavy burdens on the patients' psychology, physiology
50 and family as well as China's national economy.

51 Headaches are divided into primary headaches and secondary headaches. There are many causes
52 of headaches. Due to the similarity of symptoms, it is easy for general practitioners to misdiagnose
53 and miss these diagnoses. Second, the International Headache Society (IHS) released the latest
54 headache classification in January 2018, which is the International Classification of Headache
55 Disorders (ICHD-III) [5], listing more than 200 headache variants. This complicated classification
56 is a very challenging task for general clinicians, especially for primary headache, which lacks clear
57 laboratory and imaging examination assistance. In addition, there is no objective gold standard, so
58 it is more difficult to diagnose and classify headaches. At last but not least, because the medical
59 community has generally not paid enough attention to headaches in clinical practice for a long
60 time, the proficiency level regarding the headache classification standards by clinicians is uneven.
61 For example, "vascular headache" and "nervous headache" are still used to diagnose primary
62 headache. Standardizing and improving the accuracy of the clinical diagnosis of headache has a
63 long way to go.

64 According to reports, there are more primary headaches than secondary headaches, and the
65 incidence of migraines and tension-type headaches ranks first among primary headaches [6].
66 Migraine includes migraine with aura and migraine without aura. They are typically unilateral,
67 pulsating, and moderate to severe; daily physical activity can exacerbate these headaches, and they
68 are often accompanied by nausea/vomiting and/or photophobia/phonophobia. Migraine without
69 aura is a recurring headache lasting 4-72 hours. Migraine with aura is the gradual appearance of
70 visual, sensory, or other central nervous system symptoms that can be fully recovered from on one
71 side before the onset of headache. Tension-type headache is the most common type of primary
72 headache; these headache attacks are not frequent, usually lasting several minutes to several days.
73 These headaches are typically characterized by mild to moderate bilateral compression or band-

74 like headaches that are not aggravated by daily physical activity and are not often accompanied by
75 nausea/vomiting, or photophobia/phonophobia. Although there is a large difference between
76 typical migraines and tension-type headaches, the symptoms of most patients are not typical,
77 especially tension-type headaches and migraine without aura. Thus, it is often difficult to
78 distinguish between them. Due to the many differences in the treatment of the two disorders,
79 misdiagnosis and missed diagnosis will inevitably delay the treatment of the patient.

80 At present, the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is in full swing. Applying expert
81 systems and machine learning methods to each field will set off a new wave. Among these fields,
82 machine learning has begun to be applied in medicine. Currently, the use of classifier medical
83 decision support systems is gradually increasing and shows great potential in medical diagnosis.
84 Automatic classifiers, which are faster than clinicians, can minimize errors in disease recognition
85 and improve diagnostic accuracy. In addition, support vector machine (SVM) models, random
86 forests, etc. have been used in the diagnosis of heart disease [7], breast cancer [8], prostate cancer
87 [9], Alzheimer's disease [10], and many other diseases.

88 As early as 2013, Bartosz et al proposed the automatic diagnosis of primary headaches through
89 machine learning. By comparing the diagnosis difference between advanced machine learning
90 technology and clinicians, the computer decision support system achieved a higher diagnostic
91 accuracy [11]. In recent years, Gilles et al proposed an end-to-end decision support system to
92 improve the efficiency of the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up stage in the treatment of primary
93 headaches. The decision support system includes three large components and a shared backend: a
94 mobile application for patients, a web application for doctors to visualize the collected data, and
95 an automatic diagnosis module. In the automatic diagnosis module, a decision tree is used for
96 modeling [12]. Yin et al proposed a primary headache decision-making system based on

97 international headache diagnostic criteria and conducted a four-month clinical evaluation at the
98 International Headache Center of a tertiary hospital in Beijing. Good results have been obtained in
99 terms of the sensitivity and specificity of this system for diagnosing headaches [13]. Considering
100 the incomplete language rules when human experts express their knowledge, Monire et al
101 improved the algorithm and used the Learning-From-Examples (LEF) algorithm to train the
102 diagnostic fuzzy system, and the correct recognition rate reached 85%. They further proposed
103 SVM- and multilayer perceptron (MLP)--based decision support systems, achieving 90% and 88%
104 accuracy rates, respectively [14]. Although various types of research have been devoted to
105 computer decision support systems, there are still major obstacles to their widespread use in
106 clinical practice. Further exploration of decision support systems and the transformation of AI are
107 our research directions.

108 To achieve a higher headache diagnostic accuracy, we first collected information and related
109 characteristics of primary headache patients in neurology clinics through questionnaires and then
110 entered them into the system. We try to find the best model by comparing various machine learning
111 algorithms. Furthermore, through feature selection, we identified the most important factors that
112 distinguish migraine from tension-type headaches, which will provide a basis for clinicians to
113 quickly diagnose headaches.

114 **Materials & Methods**

115

116 This is a cross-sectional study designed to obtain a diagnostic discriminant model for migraines
117 and tension-type headaches and to screen out the most important factors for distinguishing the two.
118 The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Ninth People's Hospital affiliated to
119 Shanghai Jiao Tong University Medicine (approval no.SH9H-2021-T72-1), and met the
120 requirements of the Declaration of Helsinki. Eligible patients were diagnosed with headaches

121 between October 2019 and September 2020 at the Department of Neurology, Shanghai Ninth
122 People's Hospital. After magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) examination of the brain excluding
123 organic brain disease, the patients were diagnosed with primary headaches. All the patients are
124 residents of China. We collected demographic data and headache characteristics of the patients by
125 completing the questionnaire. Before the study, we obtained signed informed consent from the
126 participating patients. After the questionnaire was collected, we followed up on the patient's
127 headache improvement two weeks later over the phone to further verify the diagnosis. Finally, we
128 included 173 patients with a definite diagnosis of primary headache (84 patients with migraine
129 headaches and 89 patients with tension-type headaches) for research.

130 **Discriminant model establishment**

131 Firstly, we designed a paper questionnaire for outpatient to fill in. The questionnaire included a
132 total of 19 questions to collect the demographic data (age, sex, occupation, height, and weight) of
133 the patients and the headache characteristics (course, duration, nature, location, severe intensity,
134 accompanying symptoms, triggers, alleviative way, and whether activity aggravates the headache).
135 After analysis and modification by three experienced neurologists, the questionnaire can
136 effectively collect patients' related information and the data obtained are reliable to a certain
137 extent.

138 Furthermore, related examinations and MRI were used to rule out the patient's secondary factors.
139 For the questionnaire information we collected, three different neurologists are invited to make a
140 diagnose for each patient. Combined with the diagnosis and follow-up results, each patient was
141 finally diagnosed accurately. Due to the low proportion of primary headaches such as neuralgia
142 and cluster headaches in the collected samples, to reduce the problems caused by sample
143 imbalance, we excluded these relatively rare types of headaches, finally including 173 patients (84

144 patients with migraines and 89 patients with tension-type headaches) in the study (Fig1). Each
145 patient's headache may have multiple natures or be accompanied by multiple symptoms.
146 Therefore, we performed a binary classification of the collected data and obtained a total of 48
147 variables. Considering that the incidence of many of the variables is extremely low, we first
148 identified 10 statistically significant indicators between the two through the chi-square test: the
149 course of the disease, whether the headache is accompanied by throbbing, whether it is located in
150 the occiput, the severity, whether it is accompanied by nausea/vomiting, whether it is accompanied
151 by photophobia/phonophobia, how does the headache change after activity, and how the headache
152 is relieved. Using the above 10 feature variables, we randomly divided the entire dataset into a
153 training set and a test set at a ratio of 8:2, which are used to build and evaluate the primary headache
154 models. Data analysis was performed in Python (version 3.6.1). We used the decision tree [15],
155 random forest [16], gradient boosting [17], logistic regression, and SVM [18] algorithms to
156 construct discriminant models. The decision tree is a nonparametric supervised learning method
157 [15]. It can summarize decision rules from a series of data with features and labels, then present
158 these rules in a tree structure to solve classification problems. Random forest and gradient boosting
159 are integrated algorithms that complete the learning task by constructing and combining multiple
160 learners. Integrated learning by combining multiple learners, often achieves a significantly
161 superior generalization performance than a single learner. Random forest, as the name suggests,
162 builds a forest composed of many decision trees in a random manner; but there is no obvious
163 dependency between each decision tree [16]. In contrast, gradient boosting requires a strong
164 dependence between individual learners through the continuous decline in the loss function so that
165 each model is built in the direction of the gradient descent of the model loss function [17]. An
166 SVM is an algorithm that has been rapidly developed in recent years and is increasingly used in

167 the field of biological information [18]. The purpose of this method is to find an optimal decision
168 boundary in a multidimensional space, which can divide all the sample units into two categories
169 and maximize the distance between two closest points in different categories. The edge point
170 between the two closest points is called an SVM. From an academic point of view, the SVM may
171 be the closest machine learning algorithm to deep learning. Furthermore, we calculated the F1
172 score, accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity as the evaluation indicators of the model through the
173 common confusion matrix, and then measured the prediction result (receiver operating
174 characteristic, ROC) curve and the area under the ROC curve [19]. The F1 score is the harmonic
175 mean of the precision and recall. It is used in statistics to measure the accuracy of two
176 classifications and assume that recall and precision are equally important. Therefore, we primarily
177 focus on the F1 score rather than the other confusion matrix indicators and rank the results based
178 on this indicator to identify the best discriminant model.

179 **Feature selecting**

180 For clinicians to quickly distinguish whether a headache is a migraine or tension-type headache,
181 the 10 variables still have redundancies. Therefore, we identify the two variables that are most
182 meaningful for diagnosing migraines and tension-type headaches through feature ranking. First,
183 we adopted traditional univariate biometric analysis and then performed machine learning
184 analysis. For the univariate test, we used the Pearson correlation coefficient (PCC) [20], and the
185 chi-square test to compare each feature across the two groups [21]. The PCC represents the linear
186 correlation between the elements of the two lists [20]. If the elements in the two lists are linearly
187 correlated, the absolute value of the PCC will produce a high value close to 1; otherwise, it will be
188 close to 0. The chi-square test checks the two features to observe the probability of the distribution
189 occurring by chance [21]. Each feature tested will produce a p-value. Although the P-value does

190 not represent the strength of the relationship between the two variables, it gives us a hint: the lower
191 the p-value is, the greater certainty that the two variables are related. Furthermore, we ranked the
192 feature importance with the random forest method [22]. The random forest model is a nonlinear
193 decision tree combination model. It is easy to implement and has superior performance. It was
194 once known as "the method that represents the level of integrated learning technology". Using the
195 random forest algorithm for feature selection is superior to linear discriminant analysis and mean
196 squared error methods for eliminating redundant features. Its main idea is to judge how much each
197 feature has contributed to each tree in the random forest and then take the average value and
198 compare the contribution of each feature separately. Usually, we use the Gini index as an
199 evaluation indicator [22]. Compared with the PCC, the random forest is more capable of mining
200 the deep correlation of data features.

201 **Results**

202 **Patient baseline characteristics**

203 In our study, we enrolled 242 patients with primary headache. In total, 45 patients were excluded
204 according to the exclusion criteria. In addition, 24 patients were not followed up within 2 weeks
205 (Fig 1). Finally, we included 173 patients (84 patients with migraines and 89 patients with tension-
206 type headaches). For these 173 patients, we randomly divided them into a training set and test set
207 at an 8:2 ratio. Our questionnaire collected 48 patient characteristics through 19 questions. First,
208 we used the chi-square test to identify 10 meaningful characteristics and included them in the study
209 (Table 1).

210 **Model building**

211 For the above 10 feature variables, we used the decision tree, random forest, gradient boosting,
212 logistic regression, and SVM algorithms to construct the discriminant models. The F1 score,
213 accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity were calculated through the confusion matrix (Table 2), and

214 then the discrimination result curve (ROC curve) was constructed, and the area under the ROC
215 curve were measured (Fig 2). The F1 score of the decision tree is 0.69, which is significantly lower
216 than that of the integrated learning algorithm and SVM models. The random forest, gradient
217 boosting algorithm, and SVM models have similar discrimination effects. The F1 scores are 0.86,
218 0.87, and 0.87, and the areas under the ROC curves are 0.90, 0.91, and 0.84, respectively. Logistic
219 regression had the best discrimination effect, with the F1 score reaching 0.90 and the area under
220 the ROC curve also being the largest at 0.95. The discrimination effect achieved by the integrated
221 algorithm is better than that of a single learner, and the discrimination effect of logistic regression
222 is the best.

223 **Feature selection**

224 For feature selection, we chose two methods: univariate statistical analysis and machine learning.
225 For the univariate test, we used the PCC (Fig 3) and the chi-square test (Table 3) to compare each
226 feature in the two groups and rank them according to the p-value. Through the univariate chi-
227 square tests, we determined that the p-values of the variables indicating whether the headache was
228 accompanied by nausea/vomiting and whether the headache was accompanied by
229 photophobia/phonophobia were the smallest. These two variables have the greatest power in
230 distinguishing the two disorders. The PCC further confirms the strong correlation between
231 elements of two list. The odds ratios (ORs) for nausea/vomiting and photophobia/phonophobia
232 were 0.4, which were higher than those of the other characteristic variables. Through a simple
233 correlation analysis, we observe that patients with nausea/vomiting or photophobia/phonophobia
234 are more likely to be diagnosed with migraine headaches than tension-type headaches. To confirm
235 and explore the deeper relationship between the two disorders, we further ranked the feature
236 importance through the random forest model (Table 4). Among them, the importance of

237 nausea/vomiting and photophobia/phonophobia were 0.1897 and 0.1573, respectively, ranking as
238 the top two variables.

239 In actual clinical work, migraine patients have more severe headaches and longer disease courses,
240 usually accompanied by nausea/vomiting and photophobia/phonophobia. However, tension-type
241 headaches are generally mild, and are not accompanied by nausea/vomiting and
242 photophobia/phonophobia. Our results are consistent with clinical experience. Therefore, we
243 further compared the headache severity and nausea/vomiting and photophobia/phonophobia (Fig
244 4). Compared with tension-type headaches, migraine patients are more likely to experience nausea/
245 vomiting and photophobia/phonophobia. Migraines were more severe and were mainly
246 concentrated among the moderate to severe cases, while tension-type headaches were mainly
247 concentrated among the mild to moderate cases.

248

249 **Discussion**

250 **Model building**

251 It is the current trend to apply AI to all walks of life and the application of AI to the medical field
252 is a way for us to follow this trend. We used machine learning to identify primary headaches,
253 which providing a starting point for advancing the transformation of AI. In this study, we
254 established a discriminant model for the two types of primary headaches (migraines and tension-
255 type headaches) by machine learning algorithms based on 10 indicators. Diagnosis of primary
256 headache, which is a functional disorder without an objective gold standard for diagnosis, is very
257 difficult. Especially for the intermediate state of these two diseases, the ICHD-III diagnostic
258 criteria is only suitable of the diagnosis of a typical headache. For atypical headache and the
259 intermediate headache state, many clinicians can rely only on their own clinical experience, and
260 this subjective method inevitably has a great impact on the accuracy of disease diagnosis. In other

261 words, the clinical diagnosis made by different clinicians is highly subjective, different and
262 unstable. Second, some scholars believe that there may be an overlap between many primary
263 headaches [23], where multiple headache symptoms exist simultaneously. Such overlapping
264 headaches are common with migraines and tension-type headaches. There are differences in the
265 treatment of each type of headache. Only a clear diagnosis can improve these treatments. This
266 intermediate state of existence and overlapping conditions make it difficult for clinicians to
267 diagnose primary headaches. Computer aided decision-making system is developing rapidly in
268 various fields, naturally, the application in clinical medicine is no exception. Computer-aided
269 diagnosis by clinicians will be the direction of future development. Previous studies have mainly
270 focused on expert decision-making systems based on international diagnostic standards [24-26]. It
271 is difficult to make a diagnosis based on the ICHD-III criteria for the intermediate state and the
272 overlap of clinical diseases. Perhaps it is more efficient and accurate to diagnose diseases based
273 on individualized learning and reasoning based on samples than a pure expert decision-making
274 system. We build this model through machine learning and explore the differences between
275 samples through the learning and processing of sample data. In addition, for related headache data,
276 we can further perform cluster analysis, improve headache classification. Because of the subjective
277 nature of the diagnosis, previous clinicians performed their own work, and often came to different
278 conclusions for the same case. After the promotion and application of the decision-making system
279 and through continuous learning and revision, the diagnostic criteria used by clinicians can develop
280 in the same direction.

281 **Feature screening**

282 In the process of diagnosing primary headache, more than 10 variables are still redundant. In
283 addition, various characteristic variables may contradict each other; some of the characteristics

284 may be consistent with migraine, and other characteristics may be consistent with tension-type
285 headache. To help clinicians quickly grasp the key points of the disease, this study further screened
286 the 10 variables through univariate statistical analysis and machine learning to find the most
287 important factors for distinguishing migraines and tension-type headaches: whether the headache
288 is accompanied by nausea/vomiting and whether the headache is accompanied by
289 photophobia/phonophobia may be potential independent predictors. In previous studies on
290 simplified headache diagnostic criteria [27], the univariate migraine model including nausea can
291 achieve a positive likelihood ratio of 4.8 and a negative likelihood ratio of 0.23. By including three
292 variables for nausea, photophobia, and throbbing headache, the migraine model achieves a positive
293 likelihood ratio of 6.7 and a negative likelihood ratio of 0.23. The ID Migraine™ screening
294 instrument has been found to be an effective and reliable migraine screening instrument, among
295 which disability, nausea, and photophobia provide the best performance [28]. In our research,
296 although we did not separately screen for nausea, vomiting, photophobia, and phonophobia, in
297 general, our results obtained through statistical analysis and machine learning are consistent with
298 those of previous studies. Nausea/vomiting, photophobia/phonophobia, and phonophobia play a
299 vital role in distinguishing migraines from tension-type headaches.

300 Inevitably, our study also has certain flaws. 1. Our discriminant model includes only the two types
301 of headaches with the highest incidence: migraines and tension-type headaches. Although it can
302 solve most of the problems related to clinical diagnosis of headaches, other primary headaches and
303 secondary headaches are not included. So, adding other headache categories will be the future
304 direction of our system. 2. The diagnosis of headache is easily affected by the clinical experience
305 of each expert. Although we followed up with the patient's headache improvement after 2 weeks
306 to verify the diagnosis, changes in the patient's living habits and many other factors had a certain

307 impact on the follow-up results. 3. We mainly included headache patients who visited a doctor,
308 leading to selection bias. Patients with milder headaches who did not go to the doctor were not
309 included in the study. 4. Our sample size is still small, and we need to further increase the sample
310 size to verify and test the model.

311 **Conclusions**

312 Primary headache is a disorder with high incidence and low diagnostic accuracy. This study used
313 machine learning to construct a discriminant model for migraines and tension-type headaches. The
314 discriminant effect achieved by the integrated algorithms such as the random forest and gradient
315 boosting algorithms is better than that of a single learner, and the discrimination effect of the
316 logistic regression model is the best. Furthermore, we identified the most important factors for the
317 identification of the two diseases through statistical analysis and machine learning; whether the
318 headache is accompanied by nausea/vomiting and whether the headache is accompanied by
319 photophobia/phonophobia may be potential independent factors for identifying migraines and
320 tension-type headaches. However, due to our small sample size, we need to increase the sample
321 size to further verify and improve the model.

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323 X-MY and M-GL collected the data, and contributed to the data management. F-FL conceived
324 the study, compared the results of the biostatistics feature rankings and the machine learning
325 feature rankings, wrote the manuscript. G-SB revised the final version of the manuscript. All
326 authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

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Table 1 (on next page)

Table 1 Patient baseline characteristics

Characteristics	Entire cohort				Training set				Validation set			
	Migraine	Tension-type headache	Total	P-value	Migraine	Tension-type headache	Total	P-value	Migraine	Tension-type headache	Total	P-value
Sex												
Female	20 (23.8%)	39 (43.8%)	59 (34.1%)	P=0.01	17 (24.3%)	31 (45.6%)	48 (34.8%)	P=0.01	3 (21.4%)	8 (38.1%)	11 (31.4%)	P=0.46
Male	64 (76.2%)	50 (56.2%)	114 (65.9%)		53 (75.7%)	37 (54.4%)	90 (65.2%)		11 (78.6%)	13 (61.9%)	24 (68.6%)	
Course												
Year	11 (13.1%)	38 (42.7%)	49 (28.3%)	P < 0.001	11 (15.7%)	28 (41.2%)	39 (28.3%)	P=0.00	0	10 (47.6%)	10 (28.6%)	P=0.00
Month	73 (86.9%)	51 (57.3%)	124 (71.7%)		59 (84.3%)	40 (58.8%)	99 (71.7%)		14 (100%)	11 (52.4%)	25 (71.4%)	
Throbbing												
Yes	17 (20.2%)	6 (6.7%)	23 (13.3%)	P=0.01	14 (20.0%)	5 (7.4%)	19 (13.8%)	P=0.03	3 (21.4%)	1 (4.8%)	4 (11.4%)	P=0.28
No	67 (79.8%)	83 (93.3%)	150 (86.7%)		56 (80.0%)	63 (92.6%)	119 (86.2%)		11 (78.6%)	20 (95.2%)	25 (88.6%)	
Occiput												
Yes	22 (26.2%)	43 (48.3%)	65 (37.6%)	P=0.00	18 (25.7%)	28 (41.2%)	46 (33.3%)	P=0.05	4 (28.6%)	15 (71.4%)	19 (54.3%)	P=0.02
No	62 (73.8%)	46 (51.7%)	108 (62.4%)		52 (74.3%)	40 (58.8%)	92 (66.7%)		10 (71.4%)	6 (28.6%)	16 (45.7%)	
Severe intensity												
Light	13 (15.5%)	30 (33.7%)	43 (24.9%)	P < 0.001	12 (17.1%)	24 (35.3%)	36 (26.1%)	P < 0.001	1 (7.1%)	6 (28.6%)	7 (20.0%)	P=0.31
Medium	44 (52.4%)	51 (57.3%)	95 (54.9%)		35 (50.0%)	39 (57.4%)	74 (53.6%)		9 (64.3%)	12 (57.1%)	21 (60.0%)	
Heavy	27 (32.1%)	8 (9.0%)	35 (20.2%)		23 (31.9%)	5 (7.4%)	28 (20.3%)		4 (28.6%)	3 (14.3%)	7 (20.0%)	
Nausea/vomiting												
Yes	44 (52.4%)	16 (18.0%)	60 (34.7%)	P < 0.001	36 (51.4%)	14 (20.6%)	50 (36.2%)	P < 0.001	8 (57.1%)	2 (9.5%)	10 (28.6%)	P=0.01
No	40 (47.6%)	73 (82.0%)	113 (65.3%)		34 (48.6%)	54 (79.4%)	88 (63.8%)		6 (42.9%)	19 (90.5%)	25 (71.4%)	
Photophobia/phonophobia												
Yes	27 (32.1%)	4 (4.5%)	31 (17.9%)	P < 0.001	24 (34.3%)	4 (5.9%)	28 (20.3%)	P < 0.001	3 (21.4%)	0	3 (8.6%)	P=0.06
No	57 (67.9%)	85 (95.5%)	142 (82.1%)		46 (65.7%)	64 (94.1%)	110 (79.7%)		11 (78.6%)	21 (100%)	32 (91.4%)	
Spark												
Yes	11 (13.1%)	3 (3.4%)	14 (8.1%)	P<0.02	8 (11.4%)	2 (2.9%)	10 (7.2%)	P=0.11	3 (21.4%)	1 (4.8%)	4 (11.4%)	P=0.28

No	73 (86.9%)	86 (96.6%)	159 (91.9%)		62 (88.6%)	66 (97.1%)	128 (92.8%)		11 (78.8%)	20 (95.2%)	31 (88.6%)	
Characteristics	Entire cohort			P-value	Training set			P-value	Validation set			P-value
	Migraine	Tension- type headache	Total		Migraine	Tension- type headache	Total		Migraine	Tension- type headache	Total	
Change after activities												
Aggravate	41 (48.8%)	18 (20.2%)	59 (34.1%)	P <	34 (48.6%)	15 (22.1%)	49 (35.5%)	P=0.01	7 (50.0%)	3 (14.3%)	10 (28.6%)	P=0.07
Unchanged	38 (45.2%)	62 (69.7%)	100 (57.8%)	0.001	32 (45.7%)	46 (67.6%)	78 (56.5%)		6 (42.9%)	16 (76.2%)	22 (62.9%)	
Relieve	5 (6.0%)	9 (10.1%)	14 (8.1%)		4 (5.7%)	7 (10.3%)	11 (8.0)		1 (7.1%)	2 (9.5%)	3 (8.5%)	
Alleviative way												
Persistence	9 (10.7%)	14 (15.7%)	23 (13.3%)	P=0.00	8 (11.4%)	10 (14.7%)	18 (13.0%)	P=0.00	1 (7.1%)	4 (19%)	5 (14.3%)	P=0.62
Rest	25 (29.8%)	45 (50.6%)	70 (40.5%)		18 (25.7%)	35 (51.5%)	53 (38.4%)		7 (50.0%)	10 (47.6%)	17 (48.6%)	
Drug	48 (57.1%)	25 (28.1%)	73 (42.2%)		42 (60.0%)	19 (27.9%)	61 (44.2%)		6 (42.9%)	6 (28.6%)	12 (34.3%)	
Else	2 (2.4%)	5 (5.6%)	7 (4.0%)		2 (2.9%)	4 (5.9%)	6 (4.4%)		0	1 (4.8%)	1 (2.8%)	

Table 2 (on next page)

Table 2 Evaluation of the discriminant effect of various models

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Table 2 Evaluation of the discriminant effect of various models

	F1-score	Accuracy	TP rate	TN rate	ROC-AUC
Decision tree	0.69	0.74	0.76	0.71	0.74
Random Forests	0.86	0.89	0.90	0.86	0.90
Gradient boosting	0.87	0.89	0.86	0.93	0.91
Logistic regression	0.90	0.91	0.90	0.93	0.95
SVM-linear	0.87	0.89	0.86	0.93	0.84

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Table 3 (on next page)

Table 3 chi-square test

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Table 3 chi-square test

Characteristic variable	P-value
Photophobia/phonophobia	P < 0.001
Nausea/vomiting	P < 0.001
Course	P < 0.001
Change after activities	P < 0.001
Severe intensity	P < 0.001
Alleviative way	P=0.00
Occiput	P=0.00
Throbbing	P=0.01
Spark	P=0.02

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Table 4 (on next page)

Table 4 Random forest importance ranking

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2**Table 4** Random forest importance ranking

Characteristic variable	importance
Nausea/vomiting	0.1897
Photophobia/phonophobia	0.1573
Change after activities	0.1144
Course	0.1124
Severe intensity	0.1083
Alleviative way	0.0837
Occiput	0.0754
Spark	0.0604
Throbbing	0.0444

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Figure 1

Study flow chart

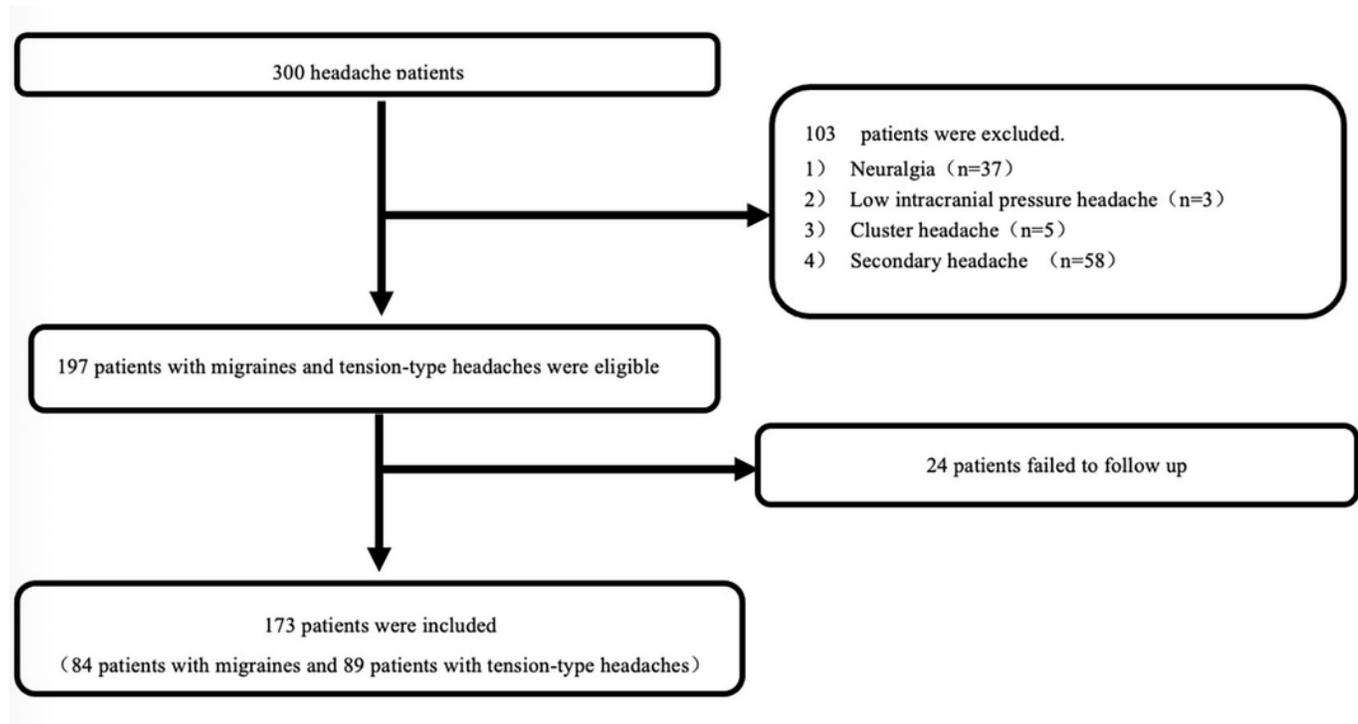


Figure 2

ROC curves of various discriminant models

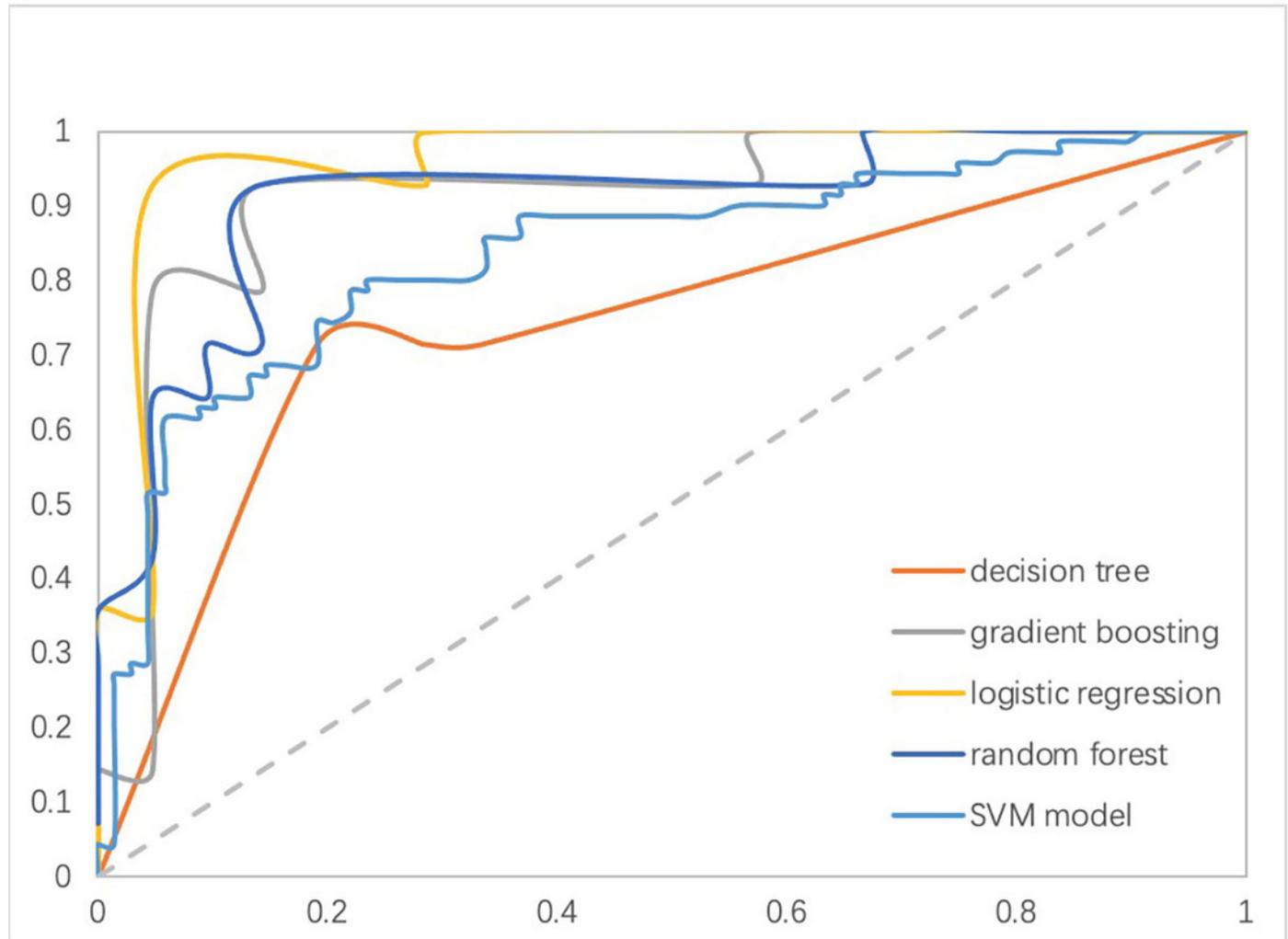


Figure 3

Pearson correlation coefficient

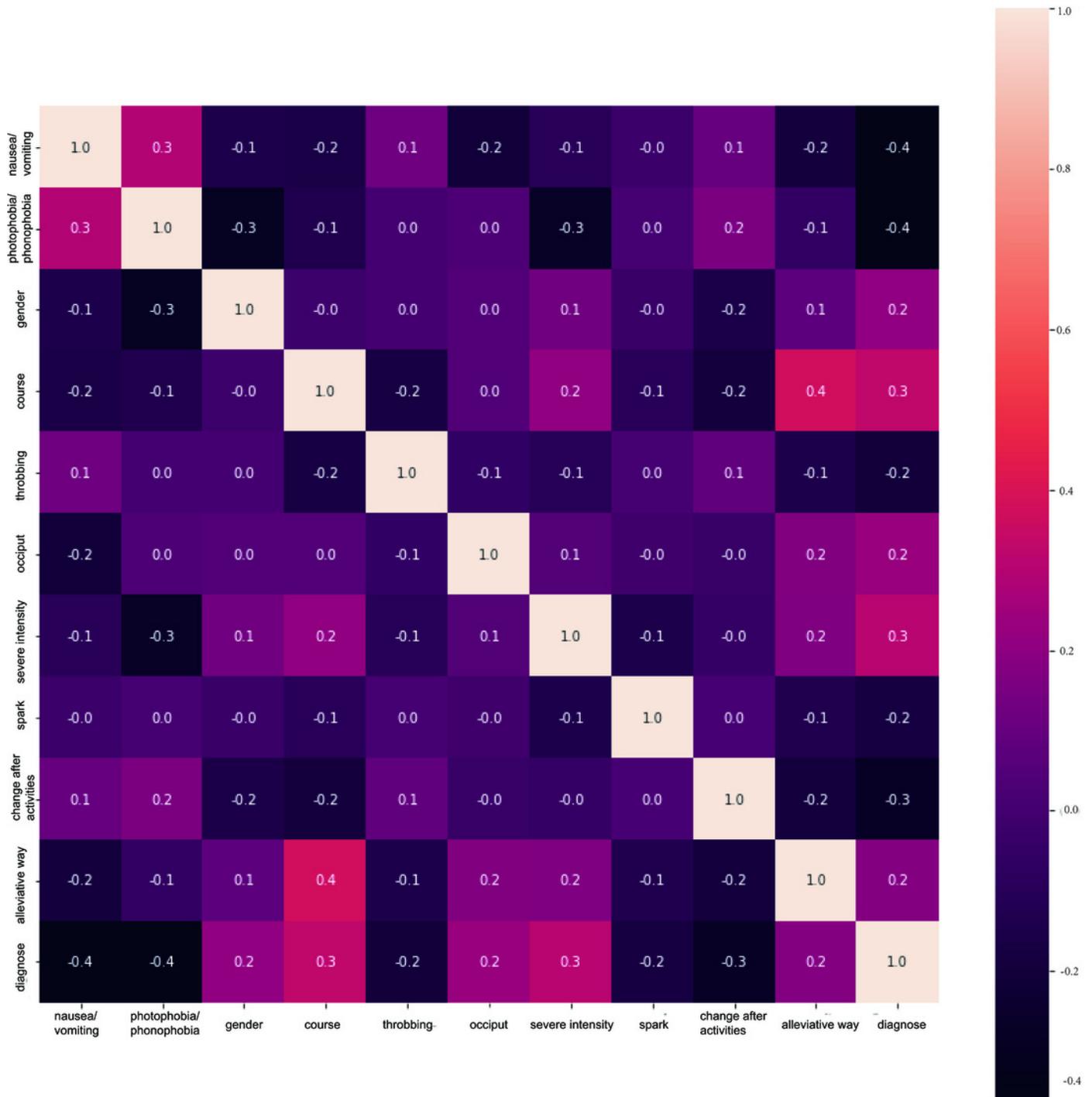


Figure 4

The correlation between headache severe intensity, nausea/vomiting, and photophobia/phonophobia

