

Table S1: Decision rules for high and unclear PROBAST ratings

Domain 1: Participants	
ROB category	Rules
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case-control studies: hospital controls or cases from only one center</li> <li>• Cohorts: self-selected screening population, no population sampling</li> <li>• Pooled studies and meta-analyses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If at least one study is included that should be rated as high</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No or limited information on the study participants</li> <li>• Pooled studies and meta-analyses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If no references to the studies included were provided</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Domain 2: Predictors	
ROB category	Rules
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pooled studies: default is <b>high ROB</b>, as heterogeneity between studies is assumed. Exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Justification was given that there was no heterogeneity e.g. because identical protocols were used to assess risk factors → <b>low ROB</b></li> <li>- Example from our studies: different assessment of number of nevi (nevi count on arms versus nevi count on whole body), but use of quantiles for risk model instead of absolute nevi counts [1] → <b>low ROB</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case-control studies: Use of risk factors for which recall bias is possible (especially risk factors related to UV exposure like “sunburns” and “sunbed use”)</li> <li>• No or limited information on the selection and assessment of predictors</li> </ul>
Domain 3: Outcome	
ROB category	Rules

High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple outcomes, not only melanoma (e.g., “severely dysplastic naevus/cannot exclude melanoma” [2])</li> <li>• Melanoma diagnosis not verified/histological confirmed (e.g. “suspected melanoma” [3])</li> <li>• Self-reported outcome e.g. lifetime melanoma via surveys</li> </ul>
Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No or limited information on outcome</li> </ul>
<b>Domain 4: Analysis</b>	
<b>ROB category</b>	<b>Rules</b>
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No validation (internal or external) Exception: prespecified models</li> <li>• No performance evaluation</li> <li>• Limited sample size concerning number of predictors</li> </ul>
Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No or limited information on analysis</li> <li>• Components of the analysis whose impact on the results is unclear. E.g., ordinal incorporation of PRS [4], rounding of model coefficients to define the risk score [5], handling of ordinal variable as continuous variable [6]</li> </ul>
<b>Overall ROB (according to the given rules in the PROBAST tool [7])</b>	
<b>Low ROB:</b>	<p>If all domains were rated low ROB.</p> <p>If a prediction model was developed without any external validation, and it was rated as low risk of bias for all domains, consider downgrading to high ROB.</p> <p>Such a model can only be considered as low ROB, if the development was based on a very large data set and included some form of internal validation</p>
<b>High ROB:</b>	If at least one domain was judged to be at high ROB.
<b>Unclear ROB:</b>	If an unclear risk of bias was noted in at least one domain and all other domains were rated low ROB.

Generally, within the domains, if criteria suggest both a “high” and an “unclear” ROB, the category “high” should be chosen for being more specific.

## References

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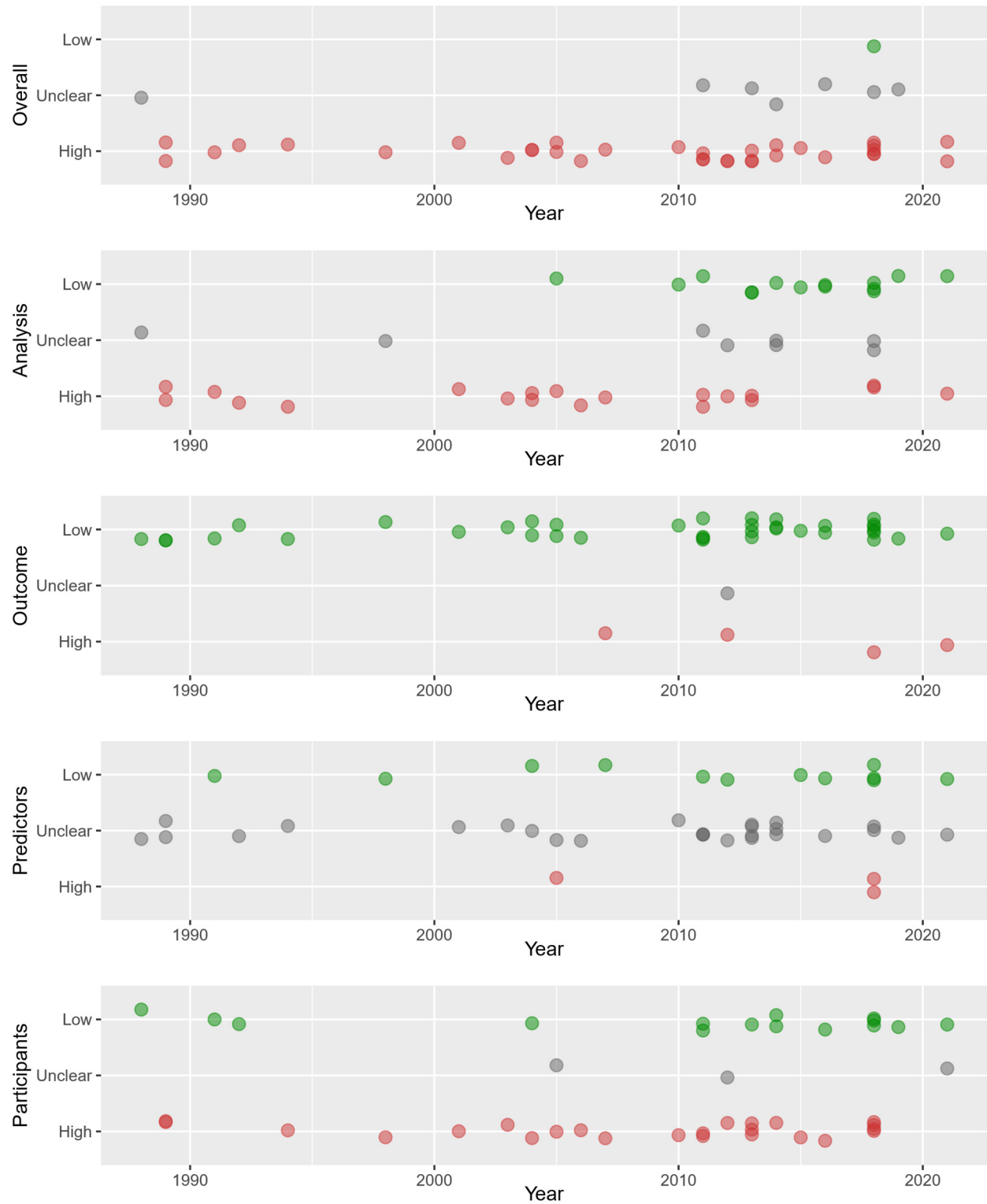


Figure S1: Distribution of overall and domain-specific ROB ratings over time (N=42 studies).