

# DOCTORAL THESIS

Development and validation of prediction models for the 5-year risk  
of type 2 diabetes in a Japanese population: Japan Public Health  
Center-based Prospective (JPHC) Diabetes Study

(5年間の2型糖尿病罹患リスクの予測モデルの開発および検証：  
多目的コホート糖尿病研究)

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Original Article

**Development and validation of prediction models for the 5-year risk of type 2 diabetes in a Japanese population: Japan Public Health Center-based Prospective (JPHC) Diabetes Study**

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Prediction models for incidence of type 2 diabetes

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1 **ABSTRACT**

2 **Background:** This study aimed to develop models to predict the 5-year incidence of T2DM in  
3 a Japanese population and validate them externally in an independent Japanese population.

4 **Methods:** Data from 10,986 participants (aged 46–75 years) in the development cohort of the  
5 Japan Public Health Center-based Prospective Diabetes Study and 11,345 participants (aged  
6 46–75 years) in the validation cohort of the Japan Epidemiology Collaboration on Occupational  
7 Health Study were used to develop and validate the risk scores in logistic regression models.

8 **Results:** We considered non-invasive (sex, body mass index, family history of diabetes mellitus,  
9 and diastolic blood pressure) and invasive (glycated hemoglobin [HbA1c] and fasting plasma  
10 glucose [FPG]) predictors to predict the 5-year probability of incident diabetes. The area under  
11 the receiver operating characteristic curve was 0.643 for the non-invasive risk model, 0.786 for  
12 the invasive risk model with HbA1c but not FPG, and 0.845 for the invasive risk model with  
13 HbA1c and FPG. The optimism for the performance of all models was small by internal  
14 validation. In the internal-external cross-validation, these models tended to show similar  
15 discriminative ability across different areas. The discriminative ability of each model was  
16 confirmed using external validation datasets. The invasive risk model with only HbA1c was  
17 well-calibrated in the validation cohort.

18 **Conclusions:** Our invasive risk models are expected to discriminate between high- and low-  
19 risk individuals with T2DM in a Japanese population.

20 **Keywords:** Diabetes, risk score, prediction model, Japanese population, Japan Public Health  
21 Center-based Prospective (JPHC) Study

## 22 1. Introduction

23 Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a group of metabolic diseases characterized by hyperglycemia  
24 resulting from defects in insulin secretion, insulin action, or both.<sup>1</sup> According to the  
25 International Diabetes Federation, the global prevalence of diabetes in 2021 was estimated to  
26 be 10.5% (537 million people) and was expected to rise to 12.2% (783 million) by 2045.<sup>2</sup>  
27 Diabetes is thought to be one of the top ten causes of adult death.<sup>3</sup> In Japan, because of its aging  
28 population, the absolute number of people with diabetes is expected to substantially increase  
29 in the coming decades.<sup>4</sup> Since several intervention studies in different ethnic populations have  
30 demonstrated that type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) can be effectively prevented through diet  
31 and lifestyle modifications in high-risk individuals;<sup>5-8</sup> identifying high-risk individuals and  
32 having them make diet and lifestyle changes is important for preventing diabetes onset.

33 A disease risk score is a calculated number or score that estimates the probability or rate  
34 of disease occurrence, derived from the risk factors of the disease. At present, there are several  
35 diabetes risk scores.<sup>9-13</sup> However, the substantial differences in diabetes incidence among ethnic  
36 groups<sup>14,15</sup> impact the performance of each model.<sup>16</sup> Although there are at least six diabetes  
37 risk prediction models for the Japanese population,<sup>17-22</sup> none are based on a general population  
38 across multiple areas in Japan. Although invasive risk scores are likely to have better predictive  
39 performance, non-invasive risk scores may be useful because they are less expensive and more  
40 convenient than invasive risk scores in large-scale screening.

41 Therefore, we aimed to develop regression models that used non-invasive and invasive  
42 predictors to predict the 5-year incidence of diabetes in a Japanese population and validate  
43 them externally in an independent Japanese population.

44

## 45 2. METHODS/DESIGN

## 46 2.1 Study population

47 The Japan Public Health Center-based Prospective Study (JPHC Study), designed to  
48 collect evidence based on multipurpose cohort studies to benefit health maintenance and  
49 improvement approaches, was initiated in 1990 for Cohort I and in 1993 for Cohort II. It  
50 included residents of 11 public health center areas (Iwate, Akita, Nagano, Okinawa, and Tokyo  
51 prefectures for Cohort I; Ibaraki, Niigata, Kochi, Nagasaki, Okinawa, and Osaka prefectures  
52 for Cohort II), aged 40–69 years at each baseline survey. Participants in this analysis underwent  
53 annual health checkups, completed self-administered questionnaire surveys, and provided  
54 blood samples. Specific details of the study design have been published previously.<sup>23</sup>

55 The JPHC Diabetes Study started in 1998–1999 for Cohort II (residents of the Osaka  
56 prefectures were excluded because the health checkup schedule was different from those of the  
57 other areas) and in 2000–2001 for Cohort I. In the baseline surveys, participants in Cohort I  
58 were 51–70 years old and 46–75 years old in Cohort II. A self-administered questionnaire,  
59 given during health checkups, collected data regarding family history of diabetes, previous  
60 diabetes examination results, any diagnosis of diabetes by a physician, current diabetes  
61 medications, signs of diabetic complications, a brief history of changes in body weight, time  
62 spent walking, and childbirth history.<sup>24</sup> The 5-year follow-up survey was performed in the same  
63 way in 2003–2004 for Cohort II and in 2005–2006 for Cohort I.

64 Among 28,362 adults enrolled in the baseline survey of this study, 10,986 (39%) were  
65 included in the final analysis. As shown in **Figure 1**, participants with diabetes (n=2,776) and  
66 those whose diabetes status could not be determined (n=4) at the baseline survey were excluded.  
67 Then, participants who responded to the 6-year follow-up survey but not to the 5-year follow-  
68 up survey (n = 1,625) and those who did not respond to the 5-year follow-up survey (n = 12,964)  
69 were excluded. Finally, participants who could not be diagnosed as being either diabetic or

70 non-diabetic (n=7) at the 5-year follow-up survey were excluded. The remaining 10,986  
71 participants were included in the analysis to develop a prediction model.

72 The Japan Epidemiology Collaboration on Occupational Health (J-ECOH) Study is an  
73 ongoing multi-center epidemiologic study conducted on workers from 12 companies spanning  
74 various industries; details of the study design have been published elsewhere.<sup>20</sup> For the present  
75 external validation, we retrieved data from one participating company that provided health  
76 checkup data, including a family history of diabetes, and defined an analytic cohort comprising  
77 individuals who had received health checkups in the fiscal year 2013 (baseline). As described  
78 elsewhere<sup>25</sup>, study participants in the J-ECOH study were asked to select up to three activities  
79 from a list of 20 activities and the frequency (times per month) and duration (minutes per  
80 occasion) for each activity. Leisure-time physical activity (minutes per month) was computed  
81 by summing up the duration of activities reported by each participant. A total of 19,827  
82 participants aged 46–75 years underwent a baseline checkup and had no missing data necessary  
83 for the validation analysis. Of these, individuals with diabetes at baseline (n = 2,663) and non-  
84 attendants to the 5-year health checkup in the fiscal year 2018 (n = 5,819) were excluded.  
85 Finally, 11,345 (57%) were used to validate the prediction models (**Figure 1**).

86 All participants provided written informed consent. The JPHC Study was approved by the  
87 ethics committees of Yokohama City University and the National Cancer Center, Japan, and  
88 was also approved by the ethics committee of the National Center for Global Health and  
89 Medicine, Japan. The J-ECOH study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the National  
90 Center for Global Health and Medicine, Japan.

91

## 92 **2.2 Predictors**

93 Based on previous literature, we selected 16 potential diabetes predictors (non-invasive  
94 predictors: age, sex, body mass index [BMI], time spent walking, family history of DM, systolic  
95 blood pressure [SBP], and diastolic blood pressure [DBP]; levels of invasive predictors: alanine  
96 aminotransferase [ALT], aspartate aminotransferase [AST],  $\gamma$ -glutamyl transferase [GGT],  
97 high-density lipoprotein [HDL], total cholesterol [TC], triglyceride [TG], estimated glomerular  
98 filtration rate [eGFR], fasting plasma glucose [FPG], and glycated hemoglobin [HbA1c]). All  
99 these factors were associated with the development of T2DM in previous studies.<sup>26-34</sup>

100 Data on age, height, weight, time spent walking, and family history of DM were acquired  
101 from the questionnaire; BMI was calculated as the weight in kilograms divided by the squared  
102 height in meters. The participants were classified into four levels based on the time spent  
103 walking: walking time < 0.5, 0.5–1, 1–2, or > 2 hours per day. A family history of diabetes was  
104 defined as the presence of diabetes in first-degree relatives. Blood pressure measurements were  
105 recorded during the health checkups.

106 When collecting blood samples, participants were not required to fast. Since fasting status  
107 has a great influence on TG levels, this parameter was excluded from our analysis. eGFR  
108 (mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>) was calculated using the formula:  $= 194 \times \text{serum creatinine}^{-1.094} \times \text{age}^{-0.287}$   
109  $\times 0.739$  (if female).<sup>35</sup> The recorded HbA1c level (expressed per the Japan Diabetes Society  
110 [JDS]) was converted to the National Glycohemoglobin Standardization Program (NGSP)  
111 equivalent using the following formula:  $\text{HbA1c (\%)} = 1.02 \times \text{HbA1c (JDS) (\%)} + 0.25\%$ .<sup>36</sup>

112

### 113 **2.3 Primary outcome measures**

114 The diagnostic criteria for DM were as follows: (1) HbA1c value  $\geq 6.5\%$ , (2) FPG value  
115  $\geq 126$  mg/dL, (3) random plasma glucose level  $\geq 200$  mg/dL, (4) physician-diagnosed DM  
116 (self-reported), or (5) undergoing any kind of diabetes treatment, including diet or exercise



117 interventions (self-reported). These diagnostic criteria were used to exclude patients with  
118 diabetes at baseline and to confirm the number of patients diagnosed with diabetes at the 5-  
119 year follow-up in both the JPHC and J-ECOH studies. It was previously shown that 94% of  
120 self-reported diabetes cases were confirmed by medical reports in a subsample of the JPHC  
121 Study participants.<sup>37</sup>

122

## 123 **2.4 Statistical analysis**

124 After the multiple imputations as described later, logistic regression models were used to  
125 develop prediction models for diabetes incidence and to estimate  $\beta$  coefficients, odds ratios  
126 (ORs), and 95% confidence intervals (CIs). First, we examined all variables in the univariate  
127 regression model. We used a multiple logistic regression model with backward variable  
128 selection (fastbw function from the rms package) to determine significant variables in each  
129 multiple imputed dataset and in each JPHC Diabetes Study area. Predictors selected in more  
130 than 50% of the multiple imputed datasets among >50% of the areas were included in the final  
131 models<sup>38</sup>. Model 1 considered all non-invasive risk factors as potential predictors; Model 2  
132 considered all non-invasive and invasive predictors, except FPG; and Model 3 considered all  
133 variables. Because the proportion of available FPG values was low, a model with FPG could  
134 produce unstable estimates because of missing data. Therefore, we developed Models 2 and 3  
135 separately, although we imputed the FPG values using the multiple imputation method.

136 We used the rcorr function from the Hmisc package to assess multicollinearity, which  
137 suggested that the predictors did not strongly correlate with each other. We also examined  
138 missing values for several predictors. Assuming that the probability of missing data is  
139 determined only by the observed data (i.e., missing at the random condition), we used the  
140 multiple imputations by chained equations (MICE) algorithm<sup>39</sup> to impute the missing data. One

141 hundred datasets were created based on the known information to obtain different imputed  
142 values.

143 Among the continuous predictors, age, DBP, eGFR, and TC levels tended to be linearly  
144 associated, whereas the remaining variables were more likely to be non-linearly associated with  
145 diabetes incidence (predictors selected in the final model are shown in **Supplemental Figure**  
146 **1**), after assessing non-linearity using restricted cubic splines (rcs function from the rms  
147 package) and Akaike's information criterion (AIC function from the stats package). The rcs  
148 function was used to fit the nonlinear regression models by setting up special attributes (such  
149 as knots and nonlinear term indicators). The AIC evaluates how well a model fits the data  
150 (a smaller value of AIC is better).<sup>40</sup> Pooled  $\beta$  coefficients were estimated over the imputed  
151 datasets (fit.mult.impute function from the Hmisc package). All analyses were performed using  
152 R, version 4.2.0 (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria).<sup>41</sup>

153

## 154 **2.5 Model validation**

155 The final models were developed in the entire sample (eight areas) and evaluated via an  
156 internal validation of the JPHC Study dataset. The J-ECOH Study dataset was used for external  
157 validation. For the internal validation, we assessed the discrimination of the prediction models  
158 by calculating the area under the receiver operator characteristic (ROC) curve (AUC; also  
159 known as C-statistic)<sup>40,42</sup> using the roc function from the pROC package. Bootstrapping was  
160 used to quantify the optimism of our prediction models and to obtain optimism-corrected  
161 performance estimates (the number of bootstrap iterations was 1000). Optimism-corrected  
162 performance was calculated as optimism-corrected performance = apparent performance in the  
163 original sample – optimism, where optimism = bootstrap performance – test performance).<sup>42</sup>  
164 An AUC value of 0.5 indicates that the model is no better than random chance, while a value

165 of 1 indicates that the model perfectly distinguishes cases and non-cases. We assessed the  
166 calibration (the agreement of observed outcomes with the predicted risk) of the prediction  
167 models by creating calibration plots using the `val.prob.ci.2` function from the  
168 `CalibrationCurves` package. Apparent AUCs and calibration plots were estimated using a  
169 stacked dataset that stacks the 100 imputed data sets into a single data set.<sup>42</sup> Optimism-  
170 corrected AUCs were estimated within each imputed data set and averaged over 100 imputed  
171 data sets to obtain summary results.<sup>42</sup>

172 In the absence of a sufficiently large sample size, a random split sample approach or a non-  
173 random split sample approach is likely to provide unstable validation results. Therefore, to  
174 validate prediction models in different settings, we performed the internal-external cross-  
175 validation in the JPHC Diabetes Study (**Supplemental Figure 2**), as recommended by  
176 Steyerberg and Harrell.<sup>42,43</sup> For the internal-external cross-validation, the model development  
177 was performed in 7 areas by sequentially dropping one area at a time. Then, the models were  
178 validated in the omitted area by calculating AUC using the `roc` function from the `pROC`  
179 package.

180 For external validation, the discrimination and calibration performances of the developed  
181 models also used AUCs (`roc` function from the `pROC` package) and calibration plots  
182 (`val.prob.ci.2` function from the `CalibrationCurves` package). In addition, to adjust the predicted  
183 risks for the validation cohort, we estimated the correction factor by using the function  
184 `odds_adjust` from the `predtools` package.

185 All analyses for model validation were conducted in each imputed dataset, and validation  
186 parameters were averaged to obtain pooled results.

187 To understand the impact on participants who did not participate in the follow-up survey,  
188 sensitivity analyses were also performed for the JPHC Diabetes Study and the J-ECOH Study.

189 Sensitivity analyses included all participants without diabetes at baseline. MICE was also used  
190 to impute missing data and 100 datasets were created based on known information to obtain  
191 different imputed values. Since people who did not participate in the 5-year follow-up survey  
192 could not determine whether they had diabetes, we counted the status of the patients in 100  
193 datasets after imputation. If they were considered to have diabetes in more than 50 datasets,  
194 they were diagnosed with diabetes, otherwise, they were not. The average of probability was  
195 used to create the calibration plot.

196

## 197 **2.6 Model presentation**

198 The models were presented as formula based on the logistic regression coefficients.  
199 Thereafter, the risk score was calculated using an Excel spreadsheet (Microsoft; Redmond, WA,  
200 USA) created according to the formula (**eMaterial**: DM\_model\_calculations.xlsx). In addition,  
201 the study followed the Transparent Reporting of a multivariable prediction model for  
202 Individual Prognosis Or Diagnosis (TRIPOD) statement<sup>44</sup> to improve the transparency and  
203 quality of reporting of these prediction models.

204

## 205 **3. Results**

206 The characteristics of the JPHC Study participants are presented in **Table 1 and**  
207 **Supplemental Table 1**. At the 5-year follow-up, 707 (6.4%) new diabetes cases were recorded.  
208 The median age was 63 years, and the number of women was 7377 (67.1%). People tended to  
209 exercise more than 2 hours a day (43.7%) rather than less than half an hour (12.6%).  
210 Approximately 11.2% of the participants had a family history of diabetes. Missing values were  
211 observed for 12 predictors in the derivation cohort. FPG was the variable with the most missing  
212 values in the data set, 7131 (64.9%). The mice package was used to perform multiple

213 imputations for the missing values. In total, 8896 of the required 164,790 values (5.4%) were  
214 needed to impute for the final analysis.

215 Characteristics of the J-ECOH Study participants are presented in **Table 1**. There were  
216 fewer women (15.6 %), and approximately 17.6% of participants had a family history of  
217 diabetes in the J-ECOH study. There were 673 (5.9%) new diabetes cases at the 5-year follow-  
218 up. We also compared the baseline characteristics of participants who were not included in the  
219 final analysis of the JPHC Diabetes Study and the J-ECOH Study and found that they had  
220 similar characteristics to the analyzed participants (**Supplemental Table 3**).

221 **Table 2** shows the differences in parameters between participants with and without  
222 diabetes and the relationship between risk factors and type 2 diabetes risk. There was little  
223 difference in age between participants with and without incident diabetes; however, there was  
224 a higher proportion of men among those with incident diabetes than among those without it.  
225 The risk of diabetes decreased with increased walking time. In addition, participants with  
226 incident type 2 diabetes had a family history of diabetes more frequently. For continuous  
227 variables (BMI, SBP, DBP, and the levels of ALT, AST, GGT, TC, FPG, and HbA1c), the  
228 median values were higher in the diabetes group than in the non-diabetes group. In contrast,  
229 HDL levels tended to be lower in those with incident diabetes than in those without diabetes.

230 Finally, sex, BMI, family history of DM, and DBP were selected for Model 1, family  
231 history of DM and HbA1c for Model 2, and family history of DM, HbA1c, and FPG for Model  
232 3. For internal-external cross-validation, the AUCs of Model 1 ranged from 0.532 to 0.723, the  
233 AUCs of Model 2 ranged from 0.742 to 0.851, and the AUCs of Model 3 ranged from 0.807 to  
234 0.895 (**Figure 2**). For the internal validation of the final models, the model performance is  
235 shown in **Figure 2**. The AUC of Model 1 was 0.643, that of Model 2 yielded an AUC of 0.786,  
236 and that of Model 3 had an AUC of 0.845. After bootstrap optimism correction, the AUCs

237 slightly decreased to 0.639, 0.785, and 0.844, respectively. The discriminative ability of each  
238 model was confirmed in the J-ECOH Study; the AUCs were 0.692, 0.831, and 0.874 in Models  
239 1,2, and 3, respectively.

240 The calibration curves (**Figure 3**) indicated that the predicted and empirical probabilities  
241 were close to each other, indicating that the prediction models fitted the data well in the  
242 development cohort. As shown in **Figure 3**, the probability of diabetes in high-risk participants  
243 was overestimated in Models 1 and 3 in the validation cohort. The extent of agreement between  
244 the observed outcomes and predicted risk in Model 2 was better than that in Models 1 and 3 in  
245 the validation cohort.

246 The predictive performance did not materially change when a family history of diabetes  
247 was defined as the presence of diabetes in a family member, regardless of the degree of the  
248 relationship (**Supplemental Table 2; Supplemental Figure 4**). In addition, the calibration  
249 plots in the validation cohort remained unchanged after the intercept adjustments  
250 (**Supplemental Figure 5**). After a sensitivity analysis that included participants who did not  
251 participate in the follow-up survey, the AUCs in the JPHC Diabetes Study changed to 0.631,  
252 0.764, and 0.848, and those in the J-ECOH Study changed to 0.676, 0.834, and 0.874 in models  
253 1, 2, and 3, respectively (**Supplemental Figure 3**). The calibration performance did not  
254 improve in the sensitivity analysis, as shown in **Supplemental Figure 6**.

255 **Table 3** shows the content of the Excel spreadsheet used to obtain approximate predictions  
256 for the individuals. Using the medians for continuous predictors and the category with more  
257 participants for categorical variables, we calculated the average risk probability of DM to be  
258 3.94% in Model 1, 3.32% in Model 2, and 1.54% in Model 3. Here, we provide an example  
259 using Model 2 to show how to obtain DM risk probability. A male with a family history of

260 diabetes demonstrated a BMI of 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, a diastolic blood pressure of 80 mmHg, and an  
261 HbA1c of 6%. By entering these data into Excel, the risk of DM was estimated to be 23.89%.

262

#### 263 4. Discussion

264 In this study, we developed three models to predict the risk of DM. All models showed  
265 good discrimination and calibration in internal validations. The internal-external cross-  
266 validation indicated that these models showed similar discriminative ability across eight areas.  
267 To the best of our knowledge, this is the first diabetes risk score developed and validated using  
268 a nationwide population in Japan to predict the 5-year incidence of type 2 diabetes. For the  
269 non-invasive model, sex, BMI, family history of diabetes, and DBP were used to create a non-  
270 invasive prediction model that showed good predictive ability (AUC=0.643) for the 5-  
271 year incidence of type 2 diabetes. The risk models that included HbA1c showed better  
272 predictive ability, with an AUC of 0.786, and the predictive model performed best when both  
273 FPG and HbA1c levels were included (AUC=0.845), consistent with previous studies.<sup>18-21</sup>  
274 Although the AUC values decreased after optimism correction, all remained reliable, as also  
275 observed in the internal-external cross-validation and external validation cohort. The AUC  
276 values were higher in the J-ECOH Study than in the JPHC Diabetes Study, indicating that the  
277 developed models were generally good at discrimination. For the calibration performance,  
278 however, calibration plots of Models 1 and 3 were poor in the validation cohort. This indicates  
279 that the predicted probabilities overestimated the observed probabilities in the validation cohort.  
280 In comparison, Model 2 was well-calibrated in the J-ECOH Study. Since Model 2 tended to  
281 underestimate the observed probability in the highest decile of the predicted probability in the  
282 J-ECOH Study, the model should be used with caution, especially for those with a high  
283 predicted probability.

284 Several earlier studies developed diabetes prediction models for Japanese populations,<sup>17-</sup>  
285 <sup>22</sup> including the earliest known diabetes risk score model that was published in 2008 for  
286 residents of the Ibaraki prefecture.<sup>17</sup> The model included BMI, blood glucose level, SBP,  
287 treatment for hypertension, TG levels, and smoking habits as predictors; however, it did not  
288 provide the AUC value. The Hisayama study included 1935 participants in the development  
289 model and 1147 in the validation model. However, all the participants were residents of a rural  
290 town, suggesting limited study generalizability.<sup>18</sup> Two risk models were established in the  
291 Hisayama Study. Age, sex, family history of diabetes, abdominal circumference, BMI,  
292 hypertension, regular exercise, and current smoking were included in the noninvasive risk  
293 model, with an AUC of 0.700, which increased to 0.772 when FPG levels were added. The  
294 participants in the Toranomon Hospital Health Management Center Study 6 mainly involved  
295 apparently healthy Japanese government employees<sup>19</sup>; it included four risk scores. The AUC of  
296 the model that included age, sex, family history of diabetes, current smoking, and BMI was  
297 0.708, which increased to 0.836 when the FPG level was added, 0.837 when HbA1c was  
298 included, and 0.887 when both FPG and HbA1c levels were added. In the Japan Epidemiology  
299 Collaboration on Occupational Health Study (J-ECOH Study),<sup>20, 21</sup> most participants were  
300 workers in large companies, and the risk predictors did not include a family history of diabetes.  
301 3- and 7-year predicted probabilities of DM were created using age, sex, smoking status,  
302 abdominal obesity, BMI, and hypertension status in the basic model or by adding FPG or  
303 HbA1c levels or adding both FPG and HbA1c levels. The AUC values ranged from 0.717 to  
304 0.893 for the 3-year incidence of DM and from 0.73 to 0.89 for the 7-year incidence of DM.  
305 The Aizawa Hospital Study<sup>22</sup> included individuals who underwent general health examinations  
306 at the Health Center of Aizawa Hospital (development cohort, 2080 individuals; validation  
307 cohort, 2079 individuals).



308 Compared with these previous studies, we developed the model based on a population  
309 across multiple areas in Japan. Our models provided AUCs (unlike the Ibaraki Prefectural  
310 Health Study), included a family history of DM (unlike the J-ECOH Study), and were not  
311 limited to one region or occupation (unlike all the studies mentioned before). Therefore, we  
312 believe that our models are more representative of a Japanese population. We confirmed the  
313 validity of our prediction models with internal validation using bootstrapping and internal-  
314 external cross-validation in the JPHC Diabetes Study. These procedures are recommended by  
315 Steyerberg and Harrell.<sup>42,43</sup> In addition, we fully utilized the information of continuous  
316 variables such as HbA1c or FPG using the cubic spline function to model potential nonlinear  
317 relations between variables and to avoid information loss. Finally, our models showed good  
318 performance in distinguishing between individuals with and without the risk of developing  
319 diabetes.

320 There are several possible explanations as to why the population of the J-ECOH study did  
321 not present good calibration performance. As shown in Table 1, the study participants of the J-  
322 ECOH study were younger (median age: 51 vs. 63) and tended to have lower SBP (median:  
323 122 vs. 130) than those in the JPHC Diabetes Study. These factors are established risk factors  
324 for type 2 diabetes and these were not included in our prediction models, which may have  
325 affected the calibration performance.

326 Our study had several limitations. First, approximately 51% (12964/25582) of the  
327 participants without diabetes in the JPHC Diabetes Study and 34% (5819/17164) of the  
328 participants without diabetes in the J-ECOH Study participated in the baseline survey but did  
329 not visit the 5-year follow-up survey, potentially causing selection bias. However, when we  
330 included those who did not complete the 5-year follow-up survey and imputed the outcomes  
331 using the MICE, the results did not materially change (**Supplemental Figure 3**). Second, we

332 did not conduct oral glucose tolerance tests to define the incidence of type 2 diabetes, possibly  
333 underestimating the incidence.<sup>24</sup> Furthermore, although our internal validation via  
334 bootstrapping did not indicate any severe optimism, some optimism may exist because our  
335 bootstrapping procedure could not incorporate the uncertainty of the model selection and  
336 variable selection. In addition, we used the dataset from 20 years ago to create the prediction  
337 model, which may not be as accurate as data collected more recently. Finally, although our  
338 previous findings<sup>45</sup> suggested that adding a genetic risk score might provide incremental model  
339 predictive performance, we did not include the genetic risk score in this study.

340 In conclusion, 5-year models for predicting the incidence of type 2 diabetes, with high  
341 discrimination and calibration, were developed and validated in this population-based study  
342 among a Japanese population. The invasive risk model with only HbA1c provides a tool for  
343 the targeted selection of patients with the greatest need for intervention.

344

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350

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365

#### 366 **Conflict of interest**

367 The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest with respect to this research study  
368 and paper.

369

370 **Data Availability:** Data analyzed in the present study are not publicly available because  
371 permission has not been obtained from the ethical board, but the information on how to  
372 access to JPHC data is available by following instructions at  
373 <https://epi.ncc.go.jp/en/jphc/805/8155.html>. J-ECOH Study data are available at the National  
374 Center for Global Health and Medicine and can be shared upon request by academic  
375 researchers for non-commercial research. Inquiries and applications can be made to the  
376 Department of Epidemiology and Prevention, Center for Clinical Sciences, National Center  
377 for Global Health and Medicine, Tokyo, Japan (Dr. Mizoue, [mizoue@ri.ncgm.go.jp](mailto:mizoue@ri.ncgm.go.jp)).

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**Table 1. Characteristics of participants in the JPHC Diabetes Study and the J-ECOH Study<sup>a</sup>**

Characteristic <sup>a</sup>	JPHC Diabetes Study (n= 10986)		Characteristic <sup>a</sup>	J-ECOH Study (n= 11,345)	
	Value <sup>b</sup>	Missing values, n (%)		Value <sup>b</sup>	Missing values, n (%)
Age (years)	63 (57–67)	0	Age (years)	51 (48–54)	0
Women	7377 (67.1%)	0	Women	1,773 (15.6 %)	0
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.5 (21.5–25. 6)	23 (0.2)	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.2 (21.4–25.3)	0
Walking time (hours per day)			Leisure-time physical activity (minutes per month)	0 (0–84)	391 (3.4)
≤0.5 hours	1379 (12. 6%)	130 (1.2)			

0.5–1 hour	2322 (21.1%)				
1–2 hours	2349 (21.4%)				
≥2 hours	4806 (43.7%)				
Family history of diabetes	1225 (11.2%)	0	Family history of diabetes	1,996 (17.6%)	0
SBP (mmHg)	130 (119–140)	6 (0.1)	SBP (mmHg)	122 (113–130)	0
DBP (mmHg)	78 (70–84)	6 (0.1)	DBP (mmHg)	79 (72–84)	0
HDL (mg/dL)	57 (48–67)	1 (0.0)	HDL (mg/dL)	55 (46–65)	0
TC (mg/dL)	207 (186–230)	1 (0.0)	TC (mg/dL)	201 (181–221)	16 (0.1)
FPG (mg/dL)	93 (88–100)	7131 (64.9)	FPG (mg/dL)	98 (92–105)	0
HbA1c (%)	5.5 (5.1–5.7)	34 (0.3)	HbA1c (%)	5.5 (5.3–5.7)	0

ALT (IU/L)	18 (15–24)	7 (0.1)	ALT (IU/L)	21 (16–29)	0
AST (IU/L)	22 (19–27)	1 (0.0)	AST (IU/L)	21 (18–26)	0
GGT (IU/L)	21 (15–33)	7 (0.1)	GGT (IU/L)	30 (20–51)	0
eGFR (mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> )	73.8 (63.4–82.5)	1549 (14.1)	eGFR (mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> )	78.8 (69.7–89.4)	5549 (48.9)
5-year outcome	707 (6.4%)	0	5-year outcome	673 (5.9%)	0

Abbreviations: ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; BMI, body mass index; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; GGT,  $\gamma$ -glutamyl transferase; HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; SBP, systolic blood pressure; TC, total cholesterol.

<sup>a</sup>Characteristics were collected at baseline.

<sup>b</sup>Continuous variables are medians (interquartile ranges) and categorical variables are numbers (percentages).

**Table 2. Distribution of study variables by DM status in the JPHC Diabetes Study.**

Characteristics <sup>b</sup>	Participants	Participants with	Odds ratio (95% CI) <sup>c,d</sup>			
	without incident DM <sup>a</sup> (n = 10279)	incident DM <sup>a</sup> (n = 707)	Univariate	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Age <sup>e</sup> (years)	63 (57–67)	64(59–68)	1.23 (1.09–1.38)	–	–	–
Sex (%)						
Female	6980 (95%)	397 (5%)	1 (ref.)	1 (ref.)	–	–
Male	3299 (91%)	310 (9%)	1.65 (1.42–1.93)	1.74 (1.49–2.04)	–	–
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.5 (21.5–25.5)	24.5 (22.4–26.7)	1.78 (1.45–2.18)	1.73 (1.41–2.13)	–	–
Walking time <sup>e</sup> (hours per day)						

≤0.5 hour	1278 (93%)	101 (7%)	1.22 (0.97–1.54)	–	–	–
0.5–1 hour	2164 (93%)	158 (7%)	1.13 (0.92–1.38)	–	–	–
1–2 hours	2196 (93%)	153 (7%)	1.08 (0.88–1.32)	–	–	–
≥2 hours	4514 (94%)	292 (6%)	1 (ref.)	–	–	–
Family history of diabetes						
(%)						
Yes	1082 (88%)	143 (12%)	2.16 (1.78–2.62)	2.26 (1.86–2.75)	1.64 (1.33–2.03)	1.56 (1.23–1.98)
No	9197 (94%)	564 (6%)	1 (ref.)	1 (ref.)	1 (ref.)	1 (ref.)
SBP <sup>c</sup> (mmHg)	130 (118–140)	134 (124–144)	1.44 (1.29–1.60)	–	–	–
DBP (mmHg)	78 (70–84)	80 (70–86)	1.19 (1.08–1.32)	1.04 (0.94–1.16)	–	–

HDL <sup>c</sup> (mg/dL)	57 (48–68)	53 (45–64)	0.60 (0.49–0.74)	–	–	–
TC <sup>c</sup> (mg/dL)	207 (186–229)	211 (188–232)	1.13 (1.02–1.25)	–	–	–
FPG (mg/dL)	93 (88–99)	106 (97–115)	4.16 (2.83–6.10)	–	–	2.95 (1.98–4.39)
HbA1c (%)	5.4 (5.1–5.7)	5.9 (5.6–6.1)	3.50 (2.91–4.22)	–	3.44 (2.86–4.13)	2.63 (2.17–3.19)
ALT <sup>c</sup> (IU/L)	18 (14–24)	21 (16–28)	1.58 (1.37–1.83)	–	–	–
AST <sup>c</sup> (IU/L)	22 (19–26)	24 (20–29)	1.54 (1.32–1.79)	–	–	–
GGT <sup>c</sup> (IU/L)	21 (15–32)	26 (18–43)	2.07 (1.77–2.42)	–	–	–
eGFR <sup>c</sup> (mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> )	73.8 (63.4–82.5)	73.5 (63.4–83.0)	0.98 (0.92–1.06)	–	–	–

Abbreviations: ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; BMI, body mass index; CI, confidence interval; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; DM, diabetes mellitus; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; GGT,  $\gamma$ -glutamyl transferase; HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; ref., reference; SBP, systolic blood pressure; TC, total cholesterol.

<sup>a</sup>Continuous variables are shown as medians (interquartile ranges) and categorical variables as numbers (percentages) unless otherwise indicated.



<sup>b</sup>A backward stepwise variable selection method was used to select the variables to be included in the prediction model.

<sup>c</sup>Odds ratios were estimated using logistic regression models after multiple imputations. Model 1 included sex, BMI, family history of DM, and DBP. Model 2 included a family history of DM, and HbA1c. Model 3 included a family history of DM, FPG level and HbA1c.

<sup>d</sup>Interquartile range (0.75 vs. 0.25 quantile) odds ratios are shown for continuous variables. For example, odds ratio for age compares the 3rd quartile with the 1st quartile of age. Odds ratios for categorical predictors were compared between each group and the reference group (the smallest group).

<sup>e</sup>Not included in each model after the backward stepwise variable selection method.

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**Table 3. Prediction Model and Calculation Table.**

Predictors <sup>a</sup>	Variables	Units	Coefficient			Average values <sup>c</sup>	Coefficient × Average values			Your patient (Example using Model 2) <sup>d</sup>	
			Model 1	Model 2	Model 3		Model 1	Model 2	Model 3		
Constant	Intercept	–	-1.47	-7.96	-4.11	1	-1.47	-7.96	-4.11	1	-7.96
Sex	Female	0/1	-0.56	–	–	1	-0.56	–	–	<b>0</b>	–
BMI	BMI	kg/m2	-0.08	–	–	23.50	-1.83	–	–	<b>25</b>	–
	(BMI-19.0) <sup>3+</sup>		0.00	–	–	91.13	0.45	–	–	216.00	–
	(BMI-22.4) <sup>3+</sup>		-0.01	–	–	1.33	-0.02	–	–	17.58	–

	(BMI- 24.7) <sup>3+</sup>		0.01	–	–	0.00	0.00	–	–	0.03	–
	(BMI- 28.9) <sup>3+</sup>		-0.00	–	–	0.00	0.00	–	–	0.00	–
Family history of DM	Family history of DM	0/1	0.82	0.50	0.45	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>1</b>	0.50
DBP <sup>b</sup>	DBP	mm Hg	0.00	–	–	78	0.24	–	–	<b>80</b>	–
HbA1c <sup>b</sup>	HbA1c	%	–	0.77	0.44	5.5	–	4.24	2.43	<b>6.0</b>	4.63
	(HbA1c- 4.9) <sup>3+</sup>		–	1.59	1.44	0.2	–	0.34	0.31	1.33	2.11

	(HbA1c- 5.5) <sup>3+</sup>		-	-3.49	-3.17	0.0	-	0.00	0.00	0.13	-0.44
	(HbA1c- 6.0) <sup>3+</sup>		-	1.90	1.73	0.0	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FPG <sup>b</sup>	FPG	mg/dl	-	-	-0.03	93	-	-	-3.02	<b>100</b>	-
	(FPG - 81) <sup>3+</sup>		-	-	0.00	1728.0	-	-	0.07	6859.00	-
	(FPG - 88) <sup>3+</sup>		-	-	0.00	125.00	-	-	0.16	1728.00	-
	(FPG - 93) <sup>3+</sup>		-	-	-0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00	343.00	-

(FPG -	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00	1.00	-
99) <sup>3+</sup>									
(FPG -	-	-	-0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	-
112) <sup>3+</sup>									

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Probability	3.94%	3.32%	1.54%	23.89%
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Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; DM, diabetes mellitus; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin.

<sup>a</sup>Variables were selected using the backward stepwise method, and multiple imputations by chained equations (MICE) method was used to handle missing data.

<sup>b</sup>Knots were placed at the 10th, 50th, and 90th percentiles for HbA1c; at the 5th, 35th, 65th, and 95th percentiles for BMI, and at the 5th, 27.5th, 50th, 72.5th, and 95th percentiles for FPG.

<sup>c</sup>To calculate the average risk probability of the DM. The medians were used for continuous predictors. The category with more participants were used for categorical variables.

<sup>d</sup>An example is provided. A male with a family history of diabetes, diastolic blood pressure of 80 mmHg, BMI of 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, and HbA1c level of 6.0%.

After pooling the coefficients in the final multivariable model, the formula for the five-year incidence of type 2 diabetes can be summarized as  $1/[1+\exp(-L)]$ ,

where L in Model 1 =  $-1.4677114 - 0.55636706 \times [\text{Sex} = \text{"female"}] - 0.077979787 \times \text{BMI} + 0.0048939561 \times (\text{BMI} - 19.0)^3 - 0.014293364 \times (\text{BMI} - 22.4)^3 + 0.010584929 \times (\text{BMI} - 24.7)^3 - 0.0011855209 \times (\text{BMI} - 28.9)^3 + 0.81638492 \times [\text{Family history of diabetes} = \text{"YES"}] + 0.0030199043 \times \text{DBP}$ ;

where L in Model 2 =  $-7.9560656 + 0.49588037 \times [\text{Family history of diabetes} = \text{"YES"}] + 0.77107227 \times \text{HbA1c} + 1.5861765 \times (\text{HbA1c} - 4.9)^3 - 3.4895883 \times (\text{HbA1c} - 5.5)^3 + 1.9034118 \times (\text{HbA1c} - 6.0)^3$ ;

where L in Model 3 =  $-4.1097962 + 0.44533254 \times [\text{Family history of diabetes} = \text{"YES"}] + 0.44201803 \times \text{HbA1c} + 1.4426444 \times (\text{HbA1c} - 4.9)^3 - 3.1738177 \times (\text{HbA1c} - 5.5)^3 + 1.7311733 \times (\text{HbA1c} - 6.0)^3 - 0.032485574 \times \text{FPG} + 0.000040103209 \times (\text{FPG} - 81)^3 + 0.0012713229 \times (\text{FPG} - 88)^3 - 0.0028839757 \times (\text{FPG} - 93)^3 + 0.001772353 \times (\text{FPG} - 99)^3 - 0.00019980342 \times (\text{FPG} - 112)^3$ .

Notes: in L,

1. Square brackets  $[c] = 1$  if the participant falls into category c;  $[c] = 0$  otherwise.

2. Round brackets indicate  $(x)_+ = x$  if  $x > 0$ , and  $(x)_+ = 0$  otherwise.

3. Measurement units: BMI ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ ), DBP (mmHg), HbA1c (%), and FPG (mg/dL).

4. Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin.

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## Figure Legends

**Figure 1: Participant selection flow diagram for the development and validation cohorts.**

**Figure 2. Receiver operating characteristic curves for the development and validation cohorts.**

Abbreviations: AUC, the area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve; BMI, body mass index; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin.

Model 1: included sex, BMI, a family history of DM, and DBP.

Model 2: included a family history of DM and HbA1c

Model 3: included a family history of DM, HbA1c, and FPG

C-statistic (AUC): in the JPHC Diabetes Study, Model 1 = 0.643, Model 2 = 0.786, and Model 3 = 0.845; after optimism correction, the AUCs decreased to 0.639, 0.785, and 0.844, respectively. The number of bootstrap iterations was 1000. After internal-external cross-validation, the AUCs of each area in Model 1 = 0.629, 0.688, 0.634, 0.723, 0.633, 0.532, 0.595, and 0.686, respectively; the AUCs of each area in Model 2 = 0.823, 0.772, 0.754, 0.846, 0.851, 0.806, 0.742, and 0.798, respectively; the AUCs of each area in Model 3 = 0.855, 0.853, 0.817, 0.895, 0.884, 0.807, 0.809, and 0.868, respectively. The AUCs in the J-ECOH Study were 0.692, 0.831, and 0.874 in Models 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

**Figure 3. Calibration plots to show relations between predicted and observed probabilities in the development and validation cohorts.**

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin.



Model 1: included sex, BMI, a family history of DM, and DBP.

Model 2: included a family history of DM and HbA1c

Model 3: included a family history of DM, HbA1c, and FPG

Calibration plots were created to graphically assess the agreement of the mean observed risk with the mean predicted risk according to the deciles of the predicted risk. Ideal: ideal line for the prediction model. Flexible calibration (RCS): "RCS" generates a flexible calibration curve based on restricted cubic splines. CL flexible: 95% confidence limits for the flexible calibration curve with dashed lines. Grouped observations: mean predicted probability and observed proportion of diabetes incidence in each of the deciles (ten groups of equal size).

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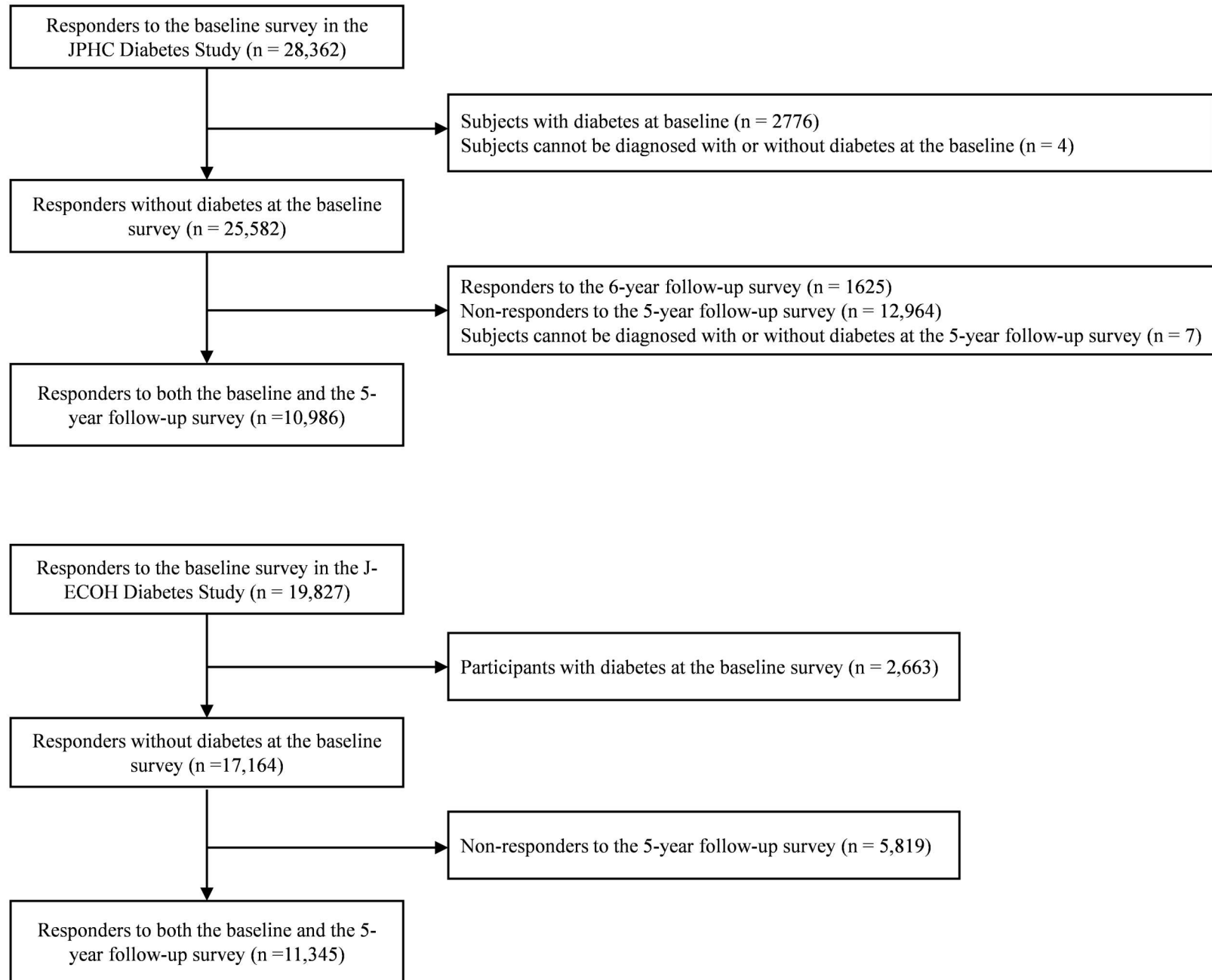
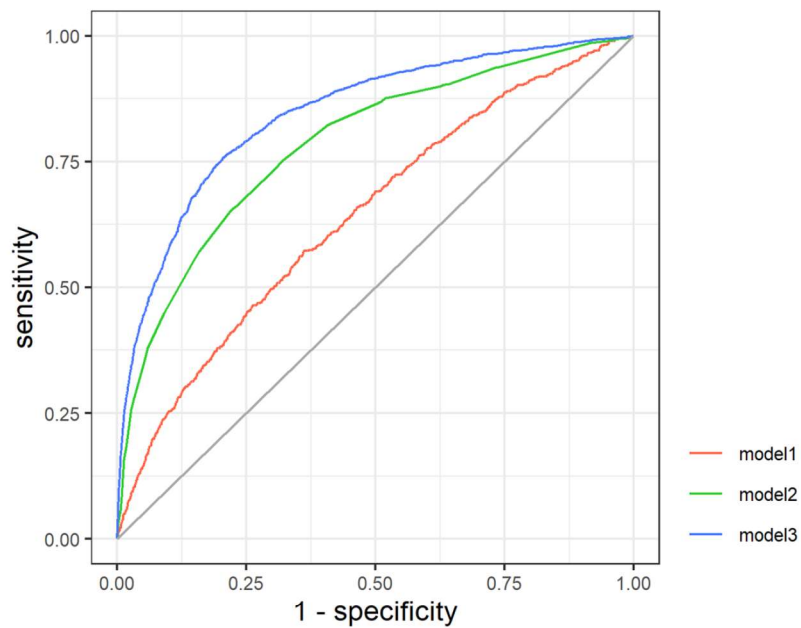
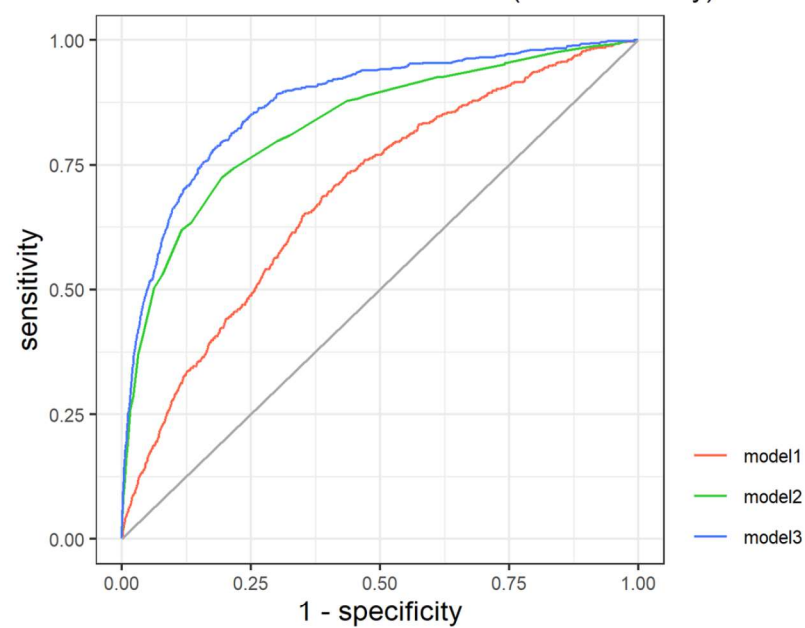


Figure 1.

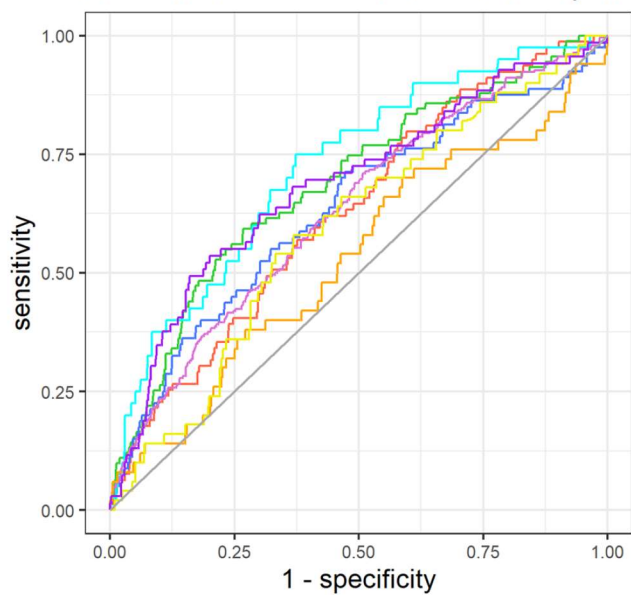
ROC curves for the development cohort (JPHC Diabetes Study)



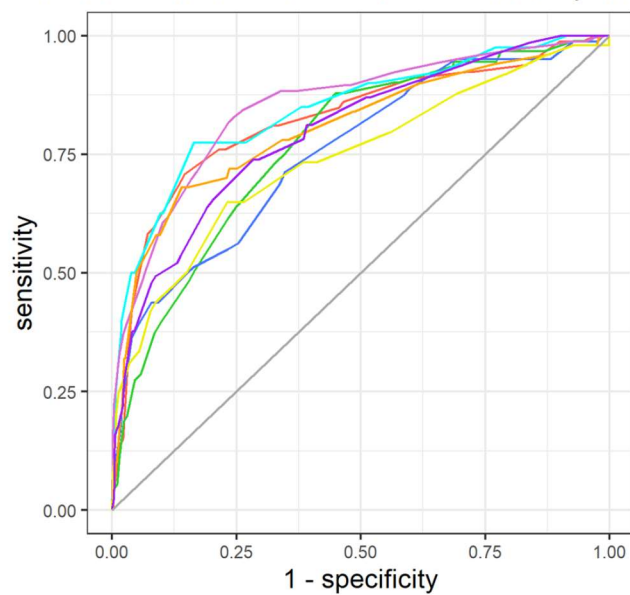
ROC curves for the validation cohort (J-ECOH Study)



ROC curves for each area in the JPHC Diabetes Study: Model 1



ROC curves for each area in the JPHC Diabetes Study: Model 2



ROC curves for each area in the JPHC Diabetes Study: Model 3

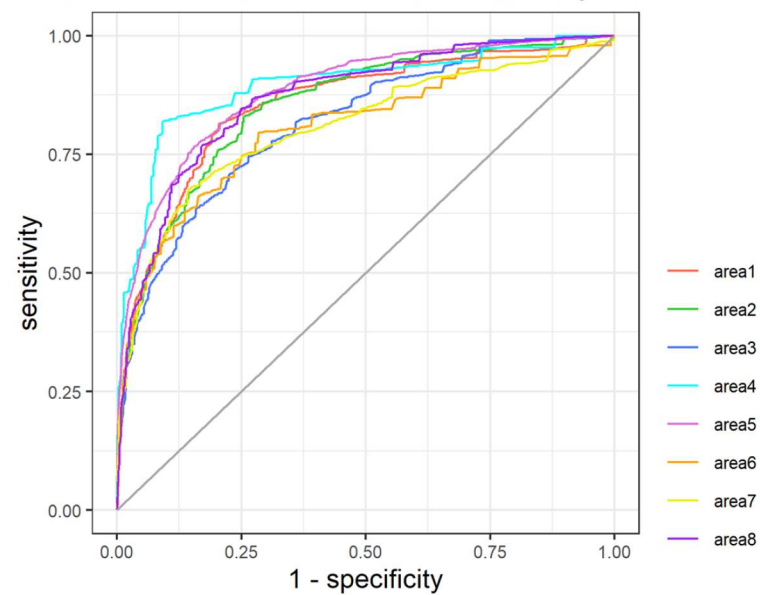


Figure 2.

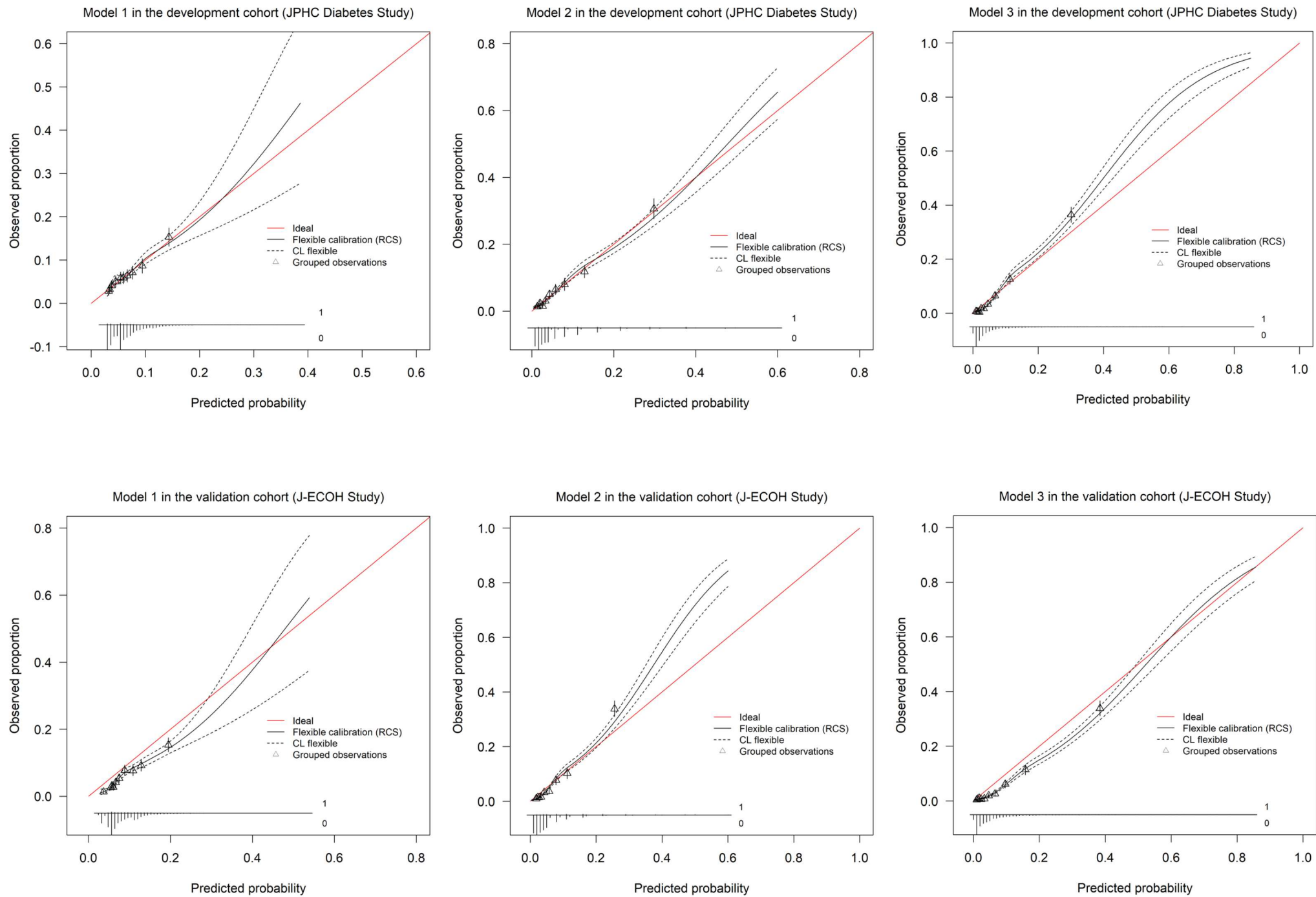


Figure 3.

# Publication List

## I. 主論文（本人を筆頭とする原著論文）

Development and validation of prediction models for the 5-year risk of type 2 diabetes in a Japanese population: Japan Public Health Center-based Prospective (JPHC) Diabetes Study

**Xu, J.**, Goto, A., Konishi, M., Kato, M., Mizoue, T., Terauchi, Y., Tsugane, S., Sawada, N., Noda, M., for the JPHC Study Group<sup>†</sup>

(<sup>†</sup>Japan Members listed in <http://epi.ncc.go.jp/en/jphc/781/3838.html>.)

Journal of Epidemiology. JE20220329. Doi: 10.2188/jea.JE20220329. Advanced online publication.2023

## II. 参考論文（主論文の内容以外の論文）

1. Prediction models for neutralization activity against emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants: A cross-sectional study

Goto, A., Miyakawa, K., Nakayama, I., Yagome, S., **Xu, J.**, Kaneko, M., Ohtake, N., Kato, H., and Ryo A.:

Frontiers in Microbiology. Vol 14, pp. 1~10, 2023

2. Usual source and better quality of primary care are associated with lower loneliness scores: a cross-sectional study

Kaneko, M., Shinoda, S., Nakayama, I., **Xu, J.**, Yagome, S., Goto, A.:

Family Practice. cmad049, pp. 1~9, 2023