



The Nomogram Model Predicting Overall Survival and Guiding Clinical Decision in Patients With Glioblastoma Based on the SEER Database

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Li H, He Y, Huang L, Luo H and Zhu X (2020) The Nomogram Model Predicting Overall Survival and Guiding Clinical Decision in Patients With Glioblastoma Based on the SEER Database. Front. Oncol. 10:1051. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2020.01051 **Background:** Patients with glioblastoma have a poor prognosis. We want to develop and validate nomograms for predicting overall survival in patients with glioblastoma.

Methods: Data of patients with glioblastoma diagnosed pathologically in the SEER database from 2007 to 2016 were collected by SEER*Stat software. After eliminating invalid and missing clinical information, 3,635 patients (total group) were finally identified and randomly divided into the training group (2,183 cases) and the verification group (1,452 cases). Cox proportional risk regression model was used in the training group, the verification group and the total group to analyze the prognostic factors of patients in the training group, and then the nomogram was constructed. C-indexes and calibration curves were used to evaluate the predictive value of nomogram by internal (training group data) and external validation (verification group data).

Results: Cox proportional risk regression model in the training group showed that age, year of diagnosis, laterality, radiation, chemotherapy were all influential factors for prognosis of patients with glioblastoma (P < 0.05) and were all used to construct nomogram as well. The internal and external validation results of nomogram showed that the C-index of the training group was 0.729 [95% CI was (0.715, 0.743)], and the verification group was 0.734 [95% CI was (0.718, 0.750)]. The calibration curves of both groups showed good consistency.

Conclusions: The proposed nomogram resulted in accurate prognostic prediction for patients with glioblastoma.

Keywords: glioblastoma, nomogram, prognostic factors, predictor, overall survival

INTRODUCTION

Glioma is the most common primary central nervous system malignancy in adults, with an annual incidence of 5.26 per 100,000 people (1). In the WHO classification, grade IV glioma is glioblastoma (GBM) (2), which is the highest level (3) in the WHO classification of brain tumors. It is highly malignant (4) and patients have poor prognosis. It is a kind of cancer that is difficult

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to treat. Conventional treatments for glioblastoma include surgery, alkylation chemotherapy, and radiotherapy. Traditional treatments are often ineffective, not only because glioblastoma is highly invasive, but also because the blood-brain barrier prevents drugs from killing tumor cells completely. Within 2 cm of the primary site, 77% of GBM will recur (5). 72% of the cases will recur in field of radiotherapy (6). These factors are also associated with poor prognosis in patients with GBM.

SEER database (surveillance epidemiology and end results) (https://seer.cancer.gov/) is from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This database records in detail the demographic information, tumor site and morphology, diagnosis stage, treatment and prognosis of millions of patients with malignant tumors and carcinoma in situ in some states since 1973 (7), which provides good data for clinical studies of tumors. Nomogram includes a variety of cancer-related risk factors and presents their impacts on patients' survival in a visual way. It can personally predict the survival rate of patients and it is a common tool for prognosis assessment of cancer patients (8-10). In this study, we extracted the cases of glioblastoma in SEER database from 2007 to 2015, and constructed a nomogram to predict the survival rate of patients and guide clinical prognosis and treatment decisions.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

We used SEER*Stat (version 8.3.4) to collect 128,554 cases of nervous system tumors diagnosed pathologically. Then Excel 2016 was used to perform data cleaning to eliminate invalid data and select patients with glioblastoma from 2009 to 2015 (**Tables 1, 2**).

The data set partitioning function [createDataPartition] in the "caret" package of R version 3.5.3 was used for random grouping, so the cleaned data of patients were randomly divided into training group and verification group. In the training group, "survival" package was used for univariate and multivariate Cox proportional risk regression model analysis to screen prognostic factors, and "rms" package was used to construct nomogram. In nomogram's external validation, we calculated the total points of each patient based on the constructed nomogram in the verification group and Cox regression was performed with the total points as a factor. We calculated the C-index and drew calibration curve by Bootstrap method (resampling number B=100) in the training group and the verification group, respectively, for internal and external validation. The higher the C-index is, the more accurate the prognosis is (11). In the calibration curve, if the predicted value is equal to the actual observed value, the curve will be infinitely close to the ideal 45° slant (12). Risk score was constructed, and ROC (receiver operating characteristic) curve was derived to evaluate the predicting value. Both the C- index and area under the ROC curve (AUC) can be used to evaluate the discrimination between the real value and the predicted value of the model (12). Our study procedure is shown in Figure 1.



FIGURE 1 The procedure of building a nomogram for patients with glioblastoma. Firstly, we derived patients with nervous system tumors from the SEER database, then selected patients with glioblastoma, and eliminated the invalid data. Secondly, univariate and multivariate Cox regression analysis were performed to obtain individual variables affecting prognosis. Thirdly, individual variables were used to construct nomogram that predicted the prognosis of patients, then internal and external validation were performed.

RESULTS

Demographics and Clinicopathologic Characteristics of Patients

This study included the following characteristics into the analysis: age, race, sex, year of diagnosis, degree of differentiation, laterality, primary site surgery, radiation sequence with surgery, reason no cancer-directed surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, tumor size, cause-specific death classification, other cause of death classification, sequence number, NHIA (Hispanic, Non-Hisp), age at diagnosis, insurance, marital status at diagnosis (**Table 3**).

Independent Prognostic Factors in the Training Group

The results of the univariate analysis have been listed in **Table 3**. Multivariate Cox analyses demonstrated that age,

TABLE 1 | Cleaning of patient demographic data.

Variables	Before cleaning	After cleaning		
		Training cohort	Verification cohor	
Age (years)				
0–49	48,070	394	254	
50–54	10,044	271	174	
55–59	11,732	309	238	
60–64	12,440	338	250	
65–69	12,476	314	206	
70–74	11,621	267	160	
75–79	10,027	170	103	
80–84	7,011	93	52	
85+	5,133	27	15	
Race				
Black	8,399	98	82	
White	112,750	1,981	1,318	
Other	6,872	104	52	
Unknown	533			
Sex				
Female	56,923	850	602	
Male	71,631	1,333	850	
Year of diagnosis				
1975–2006	73,624			
2007–2009	16,058	744	479	
2010–2012	16,341	712	471	
2013–2015	17,078	727	502	
2016	5,453			
Type of follow-up expected				
Active follow-up	126,040			
Autopsy/death certificate only cases	2,423			
SF/Oakland only (originally inactive/now active)	91			
NHIA (Hispanic, Non-Hisp)				
Non-Spanish-Hispanic-Latino	114,658	1,927	1,288	
Spanish-Hispanic-Latino	13,896	256	164	
Age at diagnosis				
0–49	48,070	394	254	
50–65	36,731	980	705	
66+	43,753	809	493	
Type of reporting source				
Hospital inpatient/outpatient or clinic	122,674			
Others	5,880			
Insurance				
Uninsured	1,949	76	48	
Medicaid	7,913	239	176	
Insured	41,981	1,868	1,228	
Unknown	76,711			
Marital status at diagnosis				
Single (never married)	33,718	309	208	
Unmarried or domestic partner,	68,259	1,500	991	
Married (including common law)				
Separated; Divorced; Widowed	22,336	374	253	
Unknown	4,241			

(Continued)

TABLE 1 | Continued

Variables	Before cleaning	After	After cleaning		
		Training cohort	Verification cohort		
Status					
Alive	30,554	246	165		
Dead	98,000	1,937	1,287		



year of diagnosis, laterality, radiotherapy, chemotherapy were independent risk factors for overall survival (OS) (**Figure 2A**).

Prognostic Nomogram for OS

Nomogram was built by the "rms" package in R version 3.5.3 based on the results of multivariate analysis (**Figure 3**). The *rcorrp.cens* package in *Hmisc* was used to calculate the C-index for measuring the performance of the nomogram. The C-index for OS prediction was 0.729 (95% CI, 0.715–0.743). Calibration curves of 1-, 3-, or 5-years survival rates show good agreement between nomogram predictions and actual observations (**Figures 4A–C**). In training group, 1-, 3-, and 5-years survival AUCs were 0.722, 0.700, and 0.722, respectively (**Figures 5A–C**). **Figures 2B–F** showed the OS of the patients with GBM, and the survival curve declined sharply in the first 20 months.

Validation of Predictive Accuracy of the Nomogram for OS

In the verification group, the C-index of the nomogram for predicting OS was 0.734 (95% CI, 0.718–0.750), and calibration curves showed good agreement between nomogram-predicted probability and actual observations of 1-, 3-, or 5-years survival (**Figures 6A–C**). In verification group, 1-, 3-, and 5-years survival AUCs were 0.703, 0.672, and 0.640, respectively (**Figures 7A–C**).

DISCUSSION

Accurate and effective prognosis assessment is of clinical significance for individualized treatment and follow-up treatment of patients with GBM. GBM is usually diagnosed in late stage (13) by MRI with poor prognosis, therefore, a complete prognostic scoring system is essential. Nomogram

TABLE 2 | Cleaning of patient clinical and diagnostic data.

Variables	Before cleaning	After cleaning		
		Training cohort	Verification cohort	
Site				
Brain	126,386			
Cranial nerves other nervous system	2,168			
Behavior				
Malignant	128,554			
Site ICD-0-3				
C710-C719	126,482	2,183	1,452	
C700	2,072			
Histologic type ICD-O-3				
944	62,703	2,183	1,452	
Others	65,851			
The degree of differentiation				
Well; moderately; poorly differentiated	18,078	128	87	
Undifferentiated; anaplastic	34,705	2,055	1,365	
Unknown	75,771			
Laterality				
Not a paired site	72,168	259	173	
Right - origin of primary	27,278	1,011	649	
Left - origin of primary	26,541	913	630	
Others	2,567			
Derived AJCC stage group,7th ed (2010+)				
Blank(s), NA	128554			
Derived AJCC T,7th ed (2010+)				
Blank(s), NA	128554			
Derived AJCC N,7th ed (2010+)				
Blank(s), NA	128554			
Derived AJCC M,7th ed (2010+)				
Blank(s), NA	128554			
Primary site surgery				
0	27,775	344	205	
20	15,159	415	265	
21	8,838	413	263	
30	10,792	461	335	
40	12,349	249	162	
55	15,678	301	222	
10,	131	_	_	
22,	96	_	_	
, 90, 99, Blank(s)	37,736			
Scope region lymph nodes surgery (2003+)	01,100			
Blank(s), unknown or not applicable	128554			
Other region/distance surgery (2003+)	120001			
Any combo of sur proc to oth rg, dis lym nd, and/or dis site	8			
None; Blank(s); unknown	128,546			
Radiation sequence with surgery	120,040			
No radiation and/or cancer-directed surgery	71487	374	223	
Radiation (or including surgery)	57067	1,809	1,229	
Reason no cancer-directed surgery	51001	1,000	1,22プ	
Not recommended or not performed	28,904	344	205	
Surgery performed	28,904 86,124	1,839	205	
	00 1/4	1 0.22	1/4/	

Variables	Before cleaning	After cleaning		
		Training cohort	Verification cohort	
Radiation				
Refused or non-beam radiation	3,306	58	34	
Beam radiation	73,791	2,125	1,418	
Unknown	51,457			
Chemotherapy				
No/Unknown	79,585			
Yes	48,69			
Regional nodes examined (1988+)				
Unknown; blank(s)	128,554			
Regional nodes positive (1988+)				
Unknown; blank(s)	128554			
Size				
<=30 mm	12,415	467	316	
>30, <=50 mm	19,842	964	643	
>50mm	15,804	752	493	
Unknown, size not stated, not stated in patient record; not applicable; Blank(s)	80,493			
Extension				
All	128,554			
Cause-specific death classification				
Alive or dead of other cause	36,099	336	219	
Dead (attributable to this cancer dx)	77,697	1847	1233	
Dead (missing/unknown COD)	1,232			
N/A not first tumor	13526			
Other cause of death classification				
Alive or dead due to cancer	106,693	2,093	1,398	
Dead (attributable to causes other than this cancer dx)	7,103	90	54	
Dead (missing/unknown COD)	1,232			
N/A not first tumor	13,526			
Sequence number	,			
One primary only	111,771	2,145	1,425	
1st of 2 or more primaries	3,257	38	27	
Others; unknown	13,526			
Frist malignant primary indicator	,			
Yes	115,778			
No	12,776			
Total_malig	,			
1	112,208			
2	13,925			
3, 4, 5, 6, 7, unknown	2,421			
Total_begn	_,			
0	127,149			
1–7, unknown	1,405			
1-1, UHRHOWH	1,400			

COD, cause of death; NA, not applicable; **Total_malig**, total number of in situ/malignant tumors for patient; **Total_begn**, Total number of benign/borderline tumors for patient. In **Site ICD-0-3**, code C710-C719 mean "brain or cranial nerves other nervous system," code C700 means "cranial nerves other nervous system." In **Histologic Type ICD-0-3**, code 944 means glioblastoma. In **Primary site surgery**, code 0 means "none/no surgery of primary site/autopsy only"; code 10 means "tumor destruction, NOS (not otherwise specified)"; code 20 means "local excision of tumor, lesion, or mass, excisional biopsy"; code 21 means "subtotal resection of tumor, lesion or mass in brain", code 22 means "resection of tumor in spinal cord or nerve"; code 30 means "radical, total, gross resection of tumor, lesion or mass in brain"; code 40 means "partial resection of lobe of brain, when the surgery cannot be coded as 20-30"; code 55 means "gross total resection of lobe of brain (lobectomy)"; code 90 means "surgery, NOS"; 99 means "unknown if surgery performed; death certificate only". TABLE 3 | Univariate and multivariate analyses of prognostic parameter in glioblastoma using the Cox regression model.

Variables	Univariate cox			Multivariate cox			
	Hazard ratio	95% CI	<i>p</i> -value	Hazard ratio	95% CI	<i>p</i> -value	
Age							
<50	-	-	-	-	-	_	
50–54	1.70116	1.437-2.014	6.88 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.154	0.8227-1.6185	0.40702	
55–59	1.65626	1.405-1.953	1.99×10^{-9}	1.204	0.8605-1.6858	0.27823	
60–64	1.80213	1.536-2.115	5.34 × 10 ⁻¹³	1.362	0.9747-1.9046	0.07032	
65–69	2.06971	1.759-2.435	$<2 \times 10^{-16}$	1.734	1.4534-2.0699	1.02×10^{-9}	
70–74	2.55537	2.157-3.028	$<\!2 \times 10^{-16}$	1.961	1.6460-2.3371	4.95×10^{-1}	
75–79	3.699	3.054-4.480	$<2 \times 10^{-16}$	2.678	2.2011-3.2585	$<2 \times 10^{-16}$	
80–84	5.42584	4.276-6.885	$<2 \times 10^{-16}$	3.666	2.8617-4.6966	$<2 \times 10^{-16}$	
≥85	6.58357	4.428-9.789	$<\!2 \times 10^{-16}$	3.509	2.3364-5.2689	1.44×10^{-9}	
Race							
Black	-	-	-				
White	0.98572	0.7993-1.216	0.8930				
Others	0.74720	0.5553-1.005	0.0543				
Sex							
Female	-	-	-				
Male	1.02670	0.9367-1.125	0.573				
Year of diagnosis							
2007–2009	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2010–2012	0.91054	0.8192-1.8192	0.0823	1.114	0.9850-1.2609	0.08540	
2013–2015	0.88406	0.7900-0.9893	0.0317	1.524	1.3264–1.7514	2.79 × 10 ⁻⁹	
The degree of differentiation							
Well; moderately; poorly differentiated	-	-	-				
Undifferentiated; anaplastic	1.14822	0.9486 -1.39	0.156				
Laterality							
Not a paired site	-	-	-	-	-	_	
Right	0.66153	0.5749-0.7612	7.80×10^{-9}	0.8288	0.7185-0.9560	0.00997	
Left	0.62286	0.5405–0.7178	6.16 × 10 ⁻¹¹	0.7715	0.6678–0.8914	0.00043	
Surg prim site (1998+)							
0	-	-	-				
20	0.56257	0.4850-0.6526	3.10 × 10 ⁻¹⁴				
21	0.60341	0.5191–0.7014	4.64 × 10 ⁻¹¹				
30	0.46608	0.4020-0.5404	$<2 \times 10^{-16}$				
40	0.63234	0.5356-0.7465	6.27×10^{-8}				
55	0.51739	0.4407-0.6075	8.56 × 10 ⁻¹⁶				
Radiation sequence with surgery							
No radiation and/or cancer–directed surgery							
Radiation (or including surgery)	0.51393	0.4583–0.5763	$<2 \times 10^{-16}$				
Reason no cancer-directed surgery							
Not recommended/not performed	-	-	-				
Surgery performed	0.54541	0.4846-0.6138	$<2 \times 10^{-16}$				

TABLE 3 | Continued

Variables	Univariate cox			Multivariate cox		
	Hazard ratio	95% CI	<i>p</i> -value	Hazard ratio	95% CI	<i>p</i> -value
Radiation						
Refused or non-beam radiation	-	-	_			
Beam radiation	0.3623	0.2775-0.4729	8.34 × 10 ⁻¹⁴	0.5939	0.3981-0.8859	0.01066
Chemotherapy						
No/unknown	_	-	-			
Yes	0.41750	0.3672-0.4747	$<2 \times 10^{-16}$	0.5554	0.4829-0.6388	$<2 \times 10^{-16}$
Size (mm)						
≤30	_	-	-			
>30, ≤50	1.007	0.8952-1.133	0.905			
>50	1.014	0.8961-1.147	0.826			
Cause-specific death classification						
Alive or dead of other cause	_	-	-			
Dead (attributable to this cancer dx)	7.3289	5.914-9.083	$<2 \times 10^{-16}$			
Other cause of death classification						
Alive or dead due to cancer	-	-	-			
Dead (attributable to causes other than this cancer dx)	7.3289	5.914-9.083	$<\!2 \times 10^{-16}$			
Sequence number						
One primary only	-	-	-			
1st of 2 or more primaries	0.7093	0.4915-1.024	0.0665			
NHIA (Hispanic, Non–Hisp)						
Non-Spanish-Hispanic-Latino	_	-	-			
Spanish-Hispanic-Latino	0.8742	0.7593-1.006	0.0615			
Age at diagnosis						
0–49	-	-	-			
50–65	1.74	1.525-1.984	$<\!2 \times 10^{-16}$			
≥66	2.713	2.370-3.104	$<2 \times 10^{-16}$			
Insurance						
Uninsured	-	-	-			
Medicaid	0.9716	0.7397-1.276	0.836			
Insured	1.0055	0.7902-1.279	0.965			
Marital status at diagnosis						
Single	-	-	-			
Married or partner	1.19626	1.045-1.369	0.00916			
Separated, divorced or widowed	1.44977	1.232-1.706	7.86×10^{-6}			

Meaningless variables in statistical results are not listed in this table.

is a statistical tool that integrates a variety of prognostic risk factors and visualizes the overall impact of these risk factors on survival in each patient (14) to help clinicians develop intervention plan. Compared with other rating systems (such as AJCC 8th edition TNM staging system and the Nathan staging system), nomogram is more convenient and accurate, with a higher C-index, showing better predictive value (15, 16). Many scholars have produced nomograms for some tumors, such

as intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (17), invasive pulmonary adenocarcinoma (18), colorectal cancer (19), hepatocellular carcinoma with pulmonary metastasis (20), etc. SEER collects 450,000 cancer cases with high-quality information each year, and adjusts the collection of cancer staging information according to changes in cancer staging systems, such as AJCC (7). So that it provides a good data basis for establishing of nomogram.



FIGURE 3 | Nomogram predicting patients' 1 -, 3 -, and 5-years over survival with glioblastoma. The specific subtypes of each variables are projected to the point scale to obtain a value. The higher the value, the worse the prognosis of patients. The total value can be obtained by summing up the values of each variables. The 1-year, 3-years, and 5-years over survival of the patient can be obtained by downward projection of the total value in the total point scale. yr_diag, year of diagnosis; later, laterality; radia, radiation; chemo, chemotherapy.

To construct the nomogram, independent predictors of OS in patients with GBM should be determined first. Univariate and multivariate Cox proportional risk regression models were used to determine independent prognostic factors for OS. Multivariate Cox regression proportional analysis showed that age, year of diagnosis, laterality, radiation, chemotherapy were independent prognostic factors for OS in patients with GBM.

It is an acceptable view that the prognosis of cancer patients is worse with aging. Ladomersky et al. analyzed several databases (SEER, GTEx, and 10 k Immunomes) and found that the death rate of patients with GBM over 65 years old was more than seven times higher than that of patients under 65 years old, thus the prognosis of patients with GBM over 65 years old was much worse than that of patients with GBM under 65 years old (21). In our study, the results of multivariate analysis further showed that, for patients aged at least 65 years old, the older they were, the higher the HR (hazard ratio) was and the worse the prognosis was. That was similar to the results of Bartek's SEER based study, which showed a 0.8% increased risk of death from glioblastoma with each additional year of age at diagnosis (CI 1.008–1.008, p < 0.001) (22). Elderly patients are more likely to develop other high-risk complications (23–26). In addition, aging may promote the initiation or growth of GBM cells by suppressing the immune system, and may reduce the effectiveness of immunotherapy for patients with glioblastoma (21). All those will reduce the prognostic survival rate of patients with GBM.

For newly diagnosed glioblastoma, the most important treatment is the resection of the contrast-enhanced region on imaging, followed by radiotherapy and chemotherapy (27, 28).





The results of our multivariate analysis showed that both beam radiotherapy and chemotherapy can immensely reduce the risk of patients with glioblastoma and improve the survival rate. Yaprak et al. (29) and Liao et al. (30) proved the feasibility of radiotherapy for glioblastoma. In our study, the prognosis of patients with beam radiation therapy was better than with non-beam radiation therapy (including radioactive implants, brachytherapy, radioisotopes, etc.) or without radiotherapy. In addition, the results of our study indicate that patients with chemotherapy have a significantly higher survival rate than those without chemotherapy. This may be an important role played by temozolomide, the first-line chemotherapy drug for glioblastoma. Temozolomide's introduction significantly improved the prognosis of patients with glioblastoma. The Stupp protocol, proposed in 2005, is the standard of treatment for glioblastoma. It includes radiotherapy, concomitant and adjuvant chemotherapy with temozolomide (28). This kind of treatment significantly improved survival. Perry et al. (31) randomly divided 562 newly diagnosed glioblastoma patients over the age of 65 into two groups, one receiving only shortterm radiation therapy and the other receiving short-term radiation therapy plus adjuvant temozolomide. The results showed that the median overall survival of patients who received radiotherapy with temozolomide was longer than those who received chemotherapy alone (5.3 months vs. 3.9 months; P < 0.001).

The impact of tumor laterality on the prognosis of patients has not been fully investigated so far. Daniel et al. retrospectively analyzed 235 cases of patients with glioblastoma on surgical outcome, which were grouped for left—and right—sided GBM (32). The results showed that KPS (Karnofsky Performance Status) decreased significantly and PFS (progression-free survival) was shorter in patients with left hemisphere tumors, but their OS was not significantly different from those in patients with right hemisphere tumors. In our study, patients whose tumor originated at paired site (e.g., left or right hemisphere) had a better prognosis than those whose tumor originated at non-paired site. And patients whose tumors originated at the left had a lower risk than those whose tumors that originated at the right. Tumor laterality may be a noteworthy prognostic factor because different regions of the brain perform different functions, and neurologists may use conservative therapy to preserve some of the patient's functions for need.

Based on the above results, we propose the following suggestions for the treatment of patients with glioblastoma. Pay attention to the age of the patient, especially those aged 65 or older, because elderly people have a worse prognosis. Radiotherapy (especially beam radiotherapy) and chemotherapy should be used, as they can significantly improve the prognosis of patients with glioblastoma. Increase attention to tumor laterality, it may also be a potential prognostic factor.

However, our study has some limitations. Firstly, the SEER database does not include information about tumor markers, such as MGMT (O (6)-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase) promoter methylation (33) and IDH (isocitrate dehydrogenase) mutation (34), and the two markers have strong prognostic value in patients with glioblastoma. Secondly, the SEER database lacks records of neurological interventions, so this study was not discussed. Thirdly, the study objects of SEER, the American clinical database of tumors, are predominantly white people and black people but few Asians. That partly limited the application of our nomogram in Asian patients. Fourthly, as a retrospective study, both the training group and the verification group may be affected by selection bias.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, nomogram integrates easily available factors and serves as an easy-to-use tool to assist patients with glioblastoma in risk assessment and clinical decision-making. The nomogram proposed in this study may objectively and accurately predict 1-, 3, and 5-year OS of patients with glioblastoma. Additional studies





are needed to determine whether it is appropriate for the other patient group.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Publicly available datasets were analyzed in this study. This data can be found here: https://seer.cancer.gov/.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

HLi and XZ performed the statistical analyses. XZ checked the statistical accuracy as an expert in statistics. HLi performed the literature search and wrote the first draft of the manuscript.

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Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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