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RECEIVED 14 May 2025 ACCEPTED 22 July 2025 PUBLISHED 30 July 2025

#### CITATION

Cong X, Zou X, Zhu R, Li Y, Liu L and Zhang J (2025) Development and validation of an interpretable risk prediction model for perioperative ischemic stroke in noncardiac, nonvascular, and nonneurosurgical patients: a retrospective study. Front. Physiol. 16:1628475. doi: 10.3389/fphys.2025.1628475

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# Development and validation of an interpretable risk prediction model for perioperative ischemic stroke in noncardiac, nonvascular, and nonneurosurgical patients: a retrospective study

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**Background:** Perioperative stroke is a severe complication for patients undergoing non-cardiac, non-vascular, and non-neurosurgical surgeries, resulting in significant morbidity and mortality. Despite its clinical relevance, effective predictive models for stroke risk in this population are scarce. This study seeks to develop and validate an interpretable predictive model that incorporates essential perioperative variables to assess stroke risk. The goal is to enhance risk stratification and support more informed clinical decision-making.

**Methods:** A retrospective cohort study included 106,328 patients aged 18 years or older who underwent non-cardiac, non-vascular, and non-neurosurgical surgeries at our institution. The development cohort comprised 74,429 patients, with 140 perioperative stroke incidents, while the validation cohort consisted of 31,899 patients, with 59 incidents. Risk factors for perioperative stroke were identified using univariable logistic regression analysis. The Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator (LASSO) regression method was applied to select variables, followed by the development, validation, and performance evaluation of the predictive model using multivariate logistic regression analysis.

**Results:** The prediction model, developed using nine variables including demographic information, medical history, and pre- and post-operative data, demonstrated strong discriminatory power in predicting perioperative stroke (AUC = 0.869; 95% CI, 0.827–0.910). It also exhibited an excellent fit with the validation cohort (Hosmer–Lemeshow test,  $\chi^2$  = 6.877, P = 0.650). Additionally, the SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations) interpretability model was integrated to enhance the model's transparency, allowing clinicians to better understand the contribution of each predictor. Decision curve analysis confirmed the model's significant net benefit, further validating its clinical utility.

**Conclusion:** This study developed and validated a robust predictive model for perioperative stroke risk in patients undergoing non-cardiac, non-vascular, and non-neurosurgical procedures. Despite its retrospective design, the model exhibited strong performance and clinical relevance. It provides a solid foundation for future multi-center studies aimed at refining and expanding its applicability.

KEYWORDS

prediction model, risk assessment, perioperative stroke, noncardiac, nonvascular, and nonneurosurgical procedures, general anesthesia

#### Introduction

Perioperative stroke is a serious complication that can occur within 30 days after surgery, leading to significant neurological dysfunction, prolonged hospitalization, and increased mortality rates (Vlisides and Mashour, 2016). The incidence of perioperative stroke varies across different surgery types, ranging from 0.1% to 1.9% in non-cardiac surgeries to 1.9%–9.7% in cardiovascular surgeries (Ng et al., 2011; Marcucci et al., 2023). While several risk factors for perioperative stroke have been identified, traditional statistical-based prediction models struggle with nonlinearity and variable selection issues (Chahine et al., 2023). Recently, machine learning has emerged as a promising tool for predicting perioperative stroke in patients undergoing non-cardiac surgeries (Fernandes et al., 2021; Abraham et al., 2023).

This study aims to collect preoperative and intraoperative data, including relevant variables and demographics, from patients undergoing non-cardiac surgeries to develop an interpretable risk prediction model for perioperative stroke. The results will enhance physicians' understanding of the mechanisms behind perioperative stroke, ultimately supporting informed decision-making and improving stroke prevention and prediction.

### Materials and methods

# Study design and study population

Data from the electronic medical records of patients treated at Henan Provincial People's Hospital between November 2014

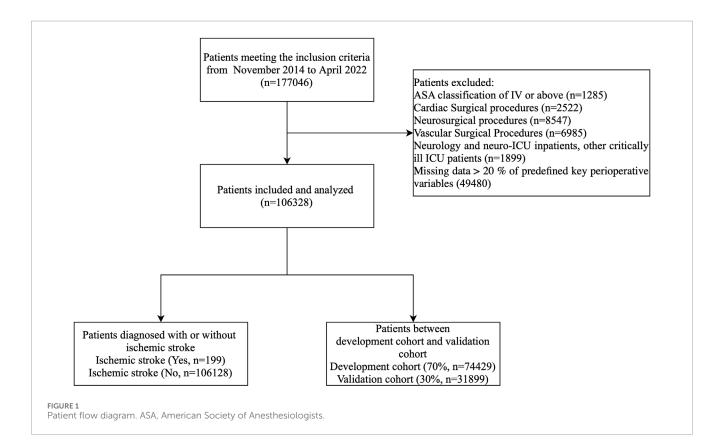


TABLE 1 Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of included patients diagnosed with or without ischemic stroke.

| Variables  | Categories                                   | Total (n =<br>106,328) | No postoperative ischemic stroke | Postoperative ischemic stroke | Р      |
|--|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
|  |  |                        | No (n = 106,129)                 | Yes (n = 199)                 |        |
| Emergency operation, n (%)                           |  |                        |                                  |                               | <0.001 |
|  | No   | 92,972 (87.4)          | 92,818 (87.4)                    | 154 (77.4)                    |        |
|  | Yes  | 13,356 (12.6)          | 13,311 (12.5)                    | 45 (22.6)                     |        |
| Sex, n (%)   |  |                        |                                  |                               | <0.001 |
|  | male   | 46,481 (43.7)          | 46,369 (43.7)                    | 112 (56.3)                    |        |
|  | female                                       | 59,847 (56.3)          | 59,760 (56.3)                    | 87 (43.7)                     |        |
| Age, (Median [Q1, Q3]), yr                           |  | 52 (40, 63)            | 52 (40, 63)                      | 68 (62, 75)                   | <0.00  |
| Duration of the procedure,<br>(Median [Q1, Q3]), min |  | 140 (100, 210)         | 140 (100, 210)                   | 170 (120, 245)                | <0.001 |
| Duration of anesthesia,<br>(Median [Q1, Q3]), min    |  | 156 (110, 230)         | 155 (110, 230)                   | 190 (133, 265)                | <0.00  |
| ASA classification, n (%)                            |  |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00  |
|  | I  | 10,816 (10.2)          | 10,816 (10.2)                    | 0 (0.0)                       |        |
|  | II   | 79,995 (75.3)          | 79,897 (75.3)                    | 98 (49.2)                     |        |
|  | III  | 15,517 (14.6)          | 15,416 (14.5)                    | 101 (50.8)                    |        |
| Methods of anesthesia, n (%)                         |  |                        |                                  |                               | 0.106  |
|  | Simple general anesthesia                    | 72,209 (67.9)          | 72,085 (67.9)                    | 124 (62.3)                    |        |
|  | General anesthesia combined with nerve block | 34,119 (32.1)          | 34,044 (32.1)                    | 75 (37.7)                     |        |
| Urine output, (Median [Q1, Q3]), ml                  |  | 300 (100, 500)         | 300 (100, 500)                   | 300 (200, 500)                | 0.115  |
| Amount of blood loss,<br>(Median [Q1, Q3]), ml       |  | 50 (20, 200)           | 50 (20, 200)                     | 100 (30, 200)                 | <0.00  |
| History of smoking, n (%)                            |  |                        |                                  |                               | 0.881  |
|  | No   | 97,817 (92.0)          | 97,635 (92.0)                    | 182 (91.5)                    |        |
|  | Yes  | 8,511 (8.0)            | 8,494 (8.0)                      | 17 (8.5)                      |        |
| History of drinking, n (%)                           |  |                        |                                  |                               | 0.002  |
|  | No   | 95,825 (90.1)          | 95,659 (90.1)                    | 166 (83.4)                    |        |
| _  | Yes  | 10,503 (9.9)           | 10,470 (9.9)                     | 33 (16.6)                     |        |
| Ascites, n (%)                                       |  |                        |                                  |                               | 1      |
|  | No   | 101,938 (95.9)         | 101,747 (95.9)                   | 191 (96.0)                    |        |
|  | Yes  | 4,390 (4.1)            | 4,382 (4.1)                      | 8 (4.0)                       |        |

TABLE 1 (Continued) Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of included patients diagnosed with or without ischemic stroke.

| Variables                               | Categories | Total (n =<br>106,328) | No postoperative ischemic stroke | Postoperative ischemic stroke | Р     |
|---|------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
|   |            |                        | No (n = 106,129)                 | Yes (n = 199)                 |       |
| Hypertension, n (%)                     |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00 |
|   | No         | 93,361 (87.8)          | 93,227 (87.8)                    | 134 (67.3)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 12,967 (12.2)          | 12,902 (12.2)                    | 65 (32.7)                     |       |
| Diabetes, n (%)                         |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00 |
|   | No         | 99,138 (93.2)          | 98,983 (93.2)                    | 155 (77.9)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 7,190 (6.8)            | 7,146 (6.8)                      | 44 (22.1)                     |       |
| Coronary heart disease, n<br>(%)        |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00 |
|   | No         | 102,624 (96.5)         | 102,448 (96.5)                   | 176 (88.4)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 3,704 (3.5)            | 3,681 (3.5)                      | 23 (11.6)                     |       |
| Stenocardia, n (%)                      |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00 |
|   | No         | 106,155 (99.8)         | 105,961 (99.8)                   | 194 (97.5)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 173 (0.2)              | 168 (0.2)                        | 5 (2.5)                       |       |
| Valvular heart disease, n<br>(%)        |            |                        |                                  |                               | 0.014 |
|   | No         | 105,583 (99.3)         | 105,389 (99.3)                   | 194 (97.5)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 745 (0.7)              | 740 (0.7)                        | 5 (2.5)                       |       |
| Myocardial infarction, n<br>(%)         |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00 |
|   | No         | 105,968 (99.7)         | 105,776 (99.7)                   | 192 (96.5)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 360 (0.3)              | 353 (0.3)                        | 7 (3.5)                       |       |
| Heart failure, n (%)                    |            |                        |                                  |                               | 0.02  |
|   | No         | 106,214 (99.0)         | 106,017 (99.9)                   | 197 (99.0)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 114 (1.0)              | 112 (0.1)                        | 2 (1.0)                       |       |
| Arrhythmia, n (%)                       |            |                        |                                  |                               | 0.132 |
|   | No         | 105,290 (99.0)         | 105,095 (99.0)                   | 195 (98.0)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 1,038 (1.0)            | 1,034 (1.0)                      | 4 (2.0)                       |       |
| Atrial fibrillation, n (%)              |            |                        |                                  |                               | 0.134 |
|   | No         | 105,987 (99.7)         | 105,790 (99.7)                   | 197 (99.0)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 341 (0.3)              | 339 (0.3)                        | 2 (1.0)                       |       |
| Intracoronary stent implantation, n (%) |            |                        |                                  |                               | 0.027 |

TABLE 1 (Continued) Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of included patients diagnosed with or without ischemic stroke.

| Variables                                 | Categories | Total (n =<br>106,328) | No postoperative ischemic stroke | Postoperative ischemic stroke | Р     |
|---|------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
|   |            |                        | No (n = 106,129)                 | Yes (n = 199)                 |       |
|   | No         | 105,728 (99.4)         | 105,533 (99.4)                   | 195 (98.0)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 600 (0.6)              | 596 (0.6)                        | 4 (2.0)                       |       |
| Cardiac surgery, n (%)                    |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00 |
|   | No         | 13,284 (12.5)          | 13,284 (12.5)                    | 0 (0)                         |       |
|   | Yes        | 93,044 (87.5)          | 92,845 (87.5)                    | 199 (100.0)                   |       |
| Peripheral vascular<br>disease, n (%)     |            |                        |                                  |                               | 0.01  |
|   | No         | 99,429 (93.5)          | 99,252 (93.5)                    | 177 (88.9)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 6,899 (6.5)            | 6,877 (6.5)                      | 22 (11.1)                     |       |
| COPD, n (%)                               |            |                        |                                  |                               | 1     |
|   | No         | 105,543 (99.3)         | 105,345 (99.3)                   | 198 (99.5)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 785 (0.7)              | 784 (0.7)                        | 1 (0.5)                       |       |
| Dialysis, n (%)                           |            |                        |                                  |                               | 0.59  |
|   | No         | 104,364 (98.2)         | 104,167 (98.2)                   | 197 (99.0)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 1964 (1.8)             | 1962 (1.8)                       | 2 (1.0)                       |       |
| Renal insufficiency, n (%)                |            |                        |                                  |                               | 0.63  |
|   | No         | 105,685 (99.4)         | 105,486 (99.4)                   | 199 (100.0)                   |       |
|   | Yes        | 643 (0.6)              | 643 (0.6)                        | 0 (0.0)                       |       |
| History of cerebrovascular disease, n (%) |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00 |
|   | No         | 102,270 (96.2)         | 102,128 (96.2)                   | 142 (71.4)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 4,058 (3.8)            | 4,001 (3.8)                      | 57 (28.6)                     |       |
| TIA, n (%)                                |            |                        |                                  |                               | 1     |
|   | No         | 106,261 (100.0)        | 106,062 (100.0)                  | 199 (100)                     |       |
|   | Yes        | 67 (0.0)               | 67 (0.0)                         | 0 (0)                         |       |
| Stroke, n (%)                             |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00 |
|   | No         | 102,725 (96.6)         | 102,579 (96.6)                   | 146 (73.4)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 3,603 (3.4)            | 3,550 (3.4)                      | 53 (26.6)                     |       |
| Paraplegia, n (%)                         |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00 |
|   | No         | 106,134 (99.8)         | 105,939 (99.8)                   | 195 (98.0)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 194 (0.2)              | 190 (0.2)                        | 4 (2.0)                       |       |

TABLE 1 (Continued) Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of included patients diagnosed with or without ischemic stroke.

| Variables  | Categories | Total (n = 106,328) | No postoperative ischemic stroke | Postoperative ischemic stroke | Р      |
|--|------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
|  |            |                     | No (n = 106,129)                 | Yes (n = 199)                 |        |
| Cancer, n (%)  |            |                     |                                  |                               | 0.128  |
|  | No         | 93,815 (88.2)       | 93,632 (88.2)                    | 183 (92.0)                    |        |
|  | Yes        | 12,513 (11.8)       | 12,497 (11.8)                    | 16 (8.0)                      |        |
| Preoperative white blood<br>cell count, (Median [Q1,<br>Q3]), 10 <sup>9</sup> /L         |            | 6.35 (5.1, 8.2)     | 6.35 (5.1, 8.2)                  | 6.73 (5.16, 8.54)             | 0.139  |
| Preoperative red blood cell count, (Median [Q1, Q3]), $10^{12}/L$                        |            | 4.21 (3.8, 4.61)    | 4.22 (3.8, 4.61)                 | 3.99 (3.54, 4.4)              | <0.001 |
| Preoperative platelet count, (Median [Q1, Q3]), $10^9/L$                                 |            | 226 (183, 274)      | 226 (183, 274)                   | 215 (165.5, 271)              | 0.04   |
| Preoperative hemoglobin levels, (Median [Q1, Q3]), g/L                                   |            | 126 (112, 139)      | 126 (112, 139)                   | 120 (106.5, 134)              | <0.001 |
| Preoperative serum<br>creatinine, (Median [Q1,<br>Q3]), µmol/L                           |            | 55 (47, 66)         | 55 (47, 66)                      | 56 (48, 72)                   | 0.024  |
| Preoperative serum<br>albumin levels, (Median<br>[Q1, Q3]), g/L                          |            | 40.7 (37, 44)       | 40.7 (37, 44)                    | 37 (34.05, 40.5)              | <0.00  |
| Preoperative alanine<br>aminotransferase, (Median<br>[Q1, Q3]), U/L                      |            | 18 (12.6, 29)       | 18 (12.6, 29)                    | 18 (12.5, 31)                 | 0.681  |
| Preoperative aspartate<br>aminotransferase, (Median<br>[Q1, Q3]), U/L                    |            | 19.4 (16, 25.7)     | 19.4 (16, 25.7)                  | 21.5 (16.65, 30)              | 0.01   |
| Preoperative serum<br>sodium, (Median [Q1,<br>Q3]), mmol/L                               |            | 141 (139, 142)      | 141 (139, 142)                   | 140.7 (138, 142)              | 0.013  |
| Preoperative blood<br>potassium, (Median [Q1,<br>Q3]), mmol/L                            |            | 4.17 (3.9, 4.43)    | 4.17 (3.9, 4.43)                 | 4.09 (3.74, 4.38)             | 0.001  |
| Preoperative blood<br>calcium, (Median [Q1,<br>Q3]), mmol/L                              |            | 2.24 (2.14, 2.33)   | 2.24 (2.14, 2.33)                | 2.18 (2.08, 2.28)             | <0.00  |
| Preoperative thrombin time, (Median [Q1, Q3]), s   |            | 16.5 (15.5, 17.6)   | 16.5 (15.5, 17.6)                | 16.6 (15.6, 17.5)             | 0.644  |
| Preoperative plasma<br>activated partial<br>thromboplastin time,<br>(Median [Q1, Q3]), s |            | 34.1 (30.4, 37.5)   | 34.1 (30.4, 37.5)                | 34.1 (29.65, 37.5)            | 0.905  |
| Preoperative plasma<br>prothrombin time,<br>(Median [Q1, Q3]), s                         |            | 12.1 (11.5, 12.9)   | 12.1 (11.5, 12.9)                | 12.3 (11.4, 13.1)             | 0.059  |

TABLE 1 (Continued) Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of included patients diagnosed with or without ischemic stroke.

| Variables  | Categories | Total (n =<br>106,328) | No postoperative ischemic stroke | Postoperative ischemic stroke | Р      |
|--|------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
|  |            |                        | No (n = 106,129)                 | Yes (n = 199)                 |        |
| Preoperative international<br>normalized ratio, (Median<br>[Q1, Q3]) |            | 0.93 (0.87, 1.02)      | 0.93 (0.87, 1.02)                | 0.95 (0.88, 1.08)             | 0.006  |
| Intraoperative MAP<br>≤60 mmHg for 5–10 min,<br>n (%)                |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.003 |
|  | No         | 105,195 (99.0)         | 105,006 (99.0)                   | 189 (95.0)                    |        |
|  | Yes        | 1,133 (1.0)            | 1,123 (1.0)                      | 10 (5.0)                      |        |
| Preoperative ACEI drugs, n (%)                                       |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00  |
|  | No         | 100,054 (94.1)         | 99,884 (94.1)                    | 170 (85.4)                    |        |
|  | Yes        | 6,274 (5.9)            | 6,245 (5.9)                      | 29 (14.6)                     |        |
| Perioperative<br>non-steroidal drugs, n (%)                          |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00  |
|  | No         | 22,707 (21.4)          | 22,700 (21.4)                    | 7 (3.5)                       |        |
|  | Yes        | 83,621 (78.6)          | 83,429 (78.6)                    | 192 (96.5)                    |        |
| Postoperative intravenous thrombolysis, n (%)                        |            |                        |                                  |                               | 0.033  |
|  | No         | 106,310 (100.0)        | 106,112 (100.0)                  | 198 (99.5)                    |        |
|  | Yes        | 18 (0.0)               | 17 (0.0)                         | 1 (0.5)                       |        |
| Postoperative statins, n (%)   | No         | 104.115 (07.0)         | 102.005 (07.0)                   | 120 (65.2)                    | <0.00  |
|  |            | 104,115 (97.9)         | 103,985 (97.9)                   | 130 (65.3)                    |        |
| Destanguative stating in (0/)  | Yes        | 2,213 (2.1)            | 2,144 (2.1)                      | 69 (34.7)                     | <0.00  |
| Postoperative statins, n (%)   | No         | 104,115 (98)           | 103,985 (98)                     | 130 (65)                      | <0.00  |
|  | Yes        | 2,213 (2)              | 2,144 (2)                        | 69 (35)                       |        |
| Postoperative anticoagulants, n (%)                                  | ies        | 2,213 (2)              | 2,144 (2)                        | 09 (33)                       | <0.00  |
|  | No         | 71,861 (67.6)          | 71,815 (67.7)                    | 46 (23.1)                     |        |
|  | Yes        | 34,467 (32.4)          | 34,314 (32.3)                    | 153 (76.9)                    |        |
| Postoperative antiplatelet drugs, n (%)                              |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.00  |
|  | No         | 102,252 (96.3)         | 102,126 (96.2)                   | 126 (63.3)                    |        |
|  | Yes        | 4,076 (3.8)            | 4,003 (3.8)                      | 73 (36.7)                     |        |

| TARIF 1 | (Continued) Reseline | demographic and cl | linical characteristics of | included natients diagnosi | ed with or without ischemic stroke. |
|---------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|         |                      |                    |                            |                            |                                     |

| Variables                               | Categories | Total (n =<br>106,328) | No postoperative ischemic stroke | Postoperative ischemic stroke | Р      |
|---|------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
|   |            |                        | No (n = 106,129)                 | Yes (n = 199)                 |        |
| Postoperative<br>butylphthalides, n (%) |            |                        |                                  |                               | <0.001 |
|   | No         | 106,102 (99.8)         | 105,965 (99.8)                   | 137 (68.8)                    |        |
|   | Yes        | 226 (0.2)              | 164 (0.2)                        | 62 (31.2)                     |        |

Abbreviations: ASA, american society of anesthesiologists; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; TIA, transient ischemic attack.

and June 2021 were retrospectively analyzed. This period was selected because it provides the most consistent dataset from our electronic medical record (EMR) database, which was established in 2021. Although the database extends to 2023, advancements in surgical techniques and perioperative protocols after 2021 could introduce variability, so the analysis was limited to this timeframe for consistency. Ethical approval for the study was granted by the Ethics Review Committee of Henan Provincial People's Hospital (Approval No. 2021-157), and all methods adhered to the Declaration of Helsinki. Informed consent was waived by the committee, as the study complied with relevant ethical guidelines and regulations.

Patients aged ≥18 years who underwent any surgical procedure under general anesthesia at Henan Provincial People's Hospital between November 1, 2014, and June 30, 2021 (n = 177,046) were identified from our electronic medical record system. To ensure comprehensive data capture, patients included in the study were required to have at least one follow-up within 30 days after surgery. Follow-up visits were scheduled to capture the occurrence of perioperative strokes. However, in cases where patients did not have a stroke during their follow-up visit but had one after the visit but still within 30 days, additional monitoring through the hospital's EHR system was used to capture these events. Any stroke occurring after a follow-up visit within the 30-day period was recorded, and these patients were included in the analysis. We applied the following exclusion criteria in a stepwise fashion (Figure 1).

- American Society of Anesthesiologists physical status IV or V (n = 1,285);
- 2. Cardiac surgical procedures (n = 2,522);
- 3. Neurosurgical procedures (n = 8,547);
- 4. Vascular surgical procedures (n = 6,985);
- 5. Admission to neurology wards, neuro–intensive care units, or other critically ill ICUs (n = 1899);
- 6. Missing data >20% of predefined key perioperative variables (n = 49,480).

After sequential exclusions, 106,328 patients remained for analysis. Within this analytic cohort, 199 patients experienced a perioperative ischemic stroke and 106,129 did not. To develop and validate the risk prediction model, we randomly allocated 70% of the cohort (n = 74,429) to the development cohort and the remaining 30% (n = 31,899) to the validation cohort, preserving the overall event rate.

## Data preprocessing

Missing values were handled using multiple imputation with the MICE (Multivariate Imputation by Chained Equations) package in R. This method generates multiple plausible values for each missing data point, resulting in several complete datasets. The results from these datasets were combined to provide robust estimates while accounting for the uncertainty of missing data. Sensitivity analyses were performed to assess the impact of imputation on the model's performance.

#### **Variables**

This study included clinical data from 106,328 patients who underwent non-cardiac, non-vascular surgeries. Perioperative demographic, clinical, imaging, and laboratory data were systematically collected from the preoperative period through the first 7 days post-surgery. The study focused on the following variables.

- 1. The demographic characteristics included age, sex, height, weight, and BMI (Body Mass Index).
- The surgery-related factors, such as ASA (American Standards Association) grade, type and duration of surgery, anaesthesia duration and method, urine output, and blood loss volume, were also included.
- The comorbidities included a history of smoking and alcohol consumption, ascites, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, various cardiac conditions, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), renal issues, and cerebrovascular diseases.
- 4. The laboratory test results included blood counts; serum creatinine levels; albumin levels; liver enzymes; and various coagulation profiles.
- Preoperative medications included a range of antihypertensive, anticoagulant, antiplatelet, and other drugs, along with specific details such as the duration of discontinuation of certain medications.
- 6. The vital signs monitored intraoperatively included blood pressure, heart rate, temperature, BIS (bispectral index) value, and end-tidal carbon dioxide.
- 7. Intraoperative medications ranged from inhaled anaesthetics to various drugs, including diuretics and anticoagulants.

TABLE 2 Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of included patients between training cohort and validation cohort.

| Variables  | Categories                                   | Total (n = 106,328) | Training cohort<br>(n = 74,429) | Validation cohort<br>(n = 31,899) | P     |
|--|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Ischemic stroke, n (%)                               |  |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.975 |
|  | No   | 106,129 (100.0)     | 74,289 (100.0)                  | 31,840 (100.0)                    |       |
|  | Yes  | 199 (0.0)           | 140 (0.0)                       | 59 (0.0)                          |       |
| Emergency operation, n (%)                           |  |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.894 |
|  | No   | 92,972 (87.4)       | 65,087 (87.6)                   | 27,885 (87.6)                     |       |
|  | Yes  | 13,356 (12.6)       | 9,342 (12.6)                    | 4,014 (12.6)                      |       |
| Sex, n (%)   |  |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.572 |
|  | male   | 46,481 (43.7)       | 32,494 (43.7)                   | 13,987 (43.9)                     |       |
|  | female                                       | 59,847 (56.3)       | 41,935 (56.4)                   | 17,912 (56.2)                     |       |
| Age, (Median [Q1, Q3]), yr                           |  | 52 (40, 63)         | 52 (40, 63)                     | 52 (40, 63)                       | 0.316 |
| Duration of the procedure,<br>(Median [Q1, Q3]), min |  | 140 (100, 210)      | 140 (100, 210)                  | 140 (100, 210)                    | 0.56  |
| Duration of anesthesia,<br>(Median [Q1, Q3]), min    |  | 156 (110, 230)      | 156 (110, 230)                  | 155 (110, 230)                    | 0.582 |
| ASA classification, n (%)                            |  |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.875 |
|  | I  | 10,816 (10.2)       | 7,579 (10.2)                    | 3,237 (10.2)                      |       |
|  | П  | 79,995 (75.3)       | 55,964 (75.4)                   | 24,031 (75.5)                     |       |
|  | III  | 15,517 (14.6)       | 10,886 (14.6)                   | 4,631 (14.5)                      |       |
| Methods of anesthesia, n (%)                         |  |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.47  |
|  | Simple general anesthesia                    | 72,209 (67.9)       | 50,495 (68.0)                   | 21,714 (68.2)                     |       |
|  | General anesthesia combined with nerve block | 34,119 (32.1)       | 23,934 (32.0)                   | 10,185 (32.0)                     |       |
| Urine output, (Median [Q1, Q3]), ml                  |  | 300 (100, 500)      | 300 (100, 500)                  | 300 (100, 500)                    | 0.938 |
| Amount of blood loss,<br>(Median [Q1, Q3]), ml       |  | 50 (20, 200)        | 50 (20, 200)                    | 50 (20, 200)                      | 0.128 |
| History of smoking, n (%)                            |  |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.508 |
|  | No   | 97,817 (92.0)       | 68,444 (92.0)                   | 29,373 (92.0)                     |       |
|  | Yes  | 8,511 (8.0)         | 5,985 (8.0)                     | 2,526 (8.0)                       |       |
| History of drinking, n (%)                           |  |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.388 |
|  | No   | 95,825 (90.0)       | 67,038 (90.1)                   | 28,787 (89.9)                     |       |
|  | Yes  | 10,503 (10.0)       | 7,391 (9.9)                     | 3,112 (10.1)                      |       |
| Ascites, n (%)                                       |  |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.698 |
|  | No   | 101,938 (96.0)      | 71,344 (95.9)                   | 30,594 (96.2)                     |       |

TABLE 2 (Continued) Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of included patients between training cohort and validation cohort.

| Variables                               | Categories | Total (n = 106,328) | Training cohort<br>(n = 74,429) | Validation cohort<br>(n = 31,899) | P    |
|---|------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
|   | Yes        | 4,390 (4.0)         | 3,085 (4.1)                     | 1,305 (3.8)                       |      |
| Hypertension, n (%)                     |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.85 |
|   | No         | 93,361 (87.9)       | 65,343 (87.9)                   | 28,018 (87.9)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 12,967 (12.1)       | 9,086 (12.1)                    | 3,881 (12.1)                      |      |
| Diabetes, n (%)                         |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.41 |
|   | No         | 99,138 (93.2)       | 69,365 (93.2)                   | 29,773 (93.2)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 7,190 (6.8)         | 5,064 (6.8)                     | 2,126 (6.8)                       |      |
| Coronary heart disease, n<br>(%)        |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.36 |
|   | No         | 102,624 (96.4)      | 71,811 (96.5)                   | 30,813 (96.3)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 3,704 (3.6)         | 2,618 (3.5)                     | 1,086 (3.7)                       |      |
| Stenocardia, n (%)                      |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.81 |
|   | No         | 106,155 (99.8)      | 74,306 (99.8)                   | 31,849 (99.8)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 173 (0.2)           | 123 (0.2)                       | 50 (0.2)                          |      |
| Valvular heart disease, n<br>(%)        |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 1    |
|   | No         | 105,583 (99.3)      | 73,907 (99.3)                   | 31,676 (99.3)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 745 (0.7)           | 522 (0.7)                       | 223 (0.7)                         |      |
| Myocardial infarction, n<br>(%)         |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.45 |
|   | No         | 105,968 (99.7)      | 74,170 (99.7)                   | 31,798 (99.7)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 360 (0.3)           | 259 (0.3)                       | 101 (0.3)                         |      |
| Heart failure, n (%)                    |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.72 |
|   | No         | 106,214 (99.9)      | 74,347 (99.9)                   | 31,867 (99.9)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 114 (0.1)           | 82 (0.1)                        | 32 (0.1)                          |      |
| Arrhythmia, n (%)                       |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.24 |
|   | No         | 105,290 (99.0)      | 73,720 (99.0)                   | 31,570 (99.0)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 1,038 (1.0)         | 709 (1.0)                       | 329 (1.0)                         |      |
| Atrial fibrillation, n (%)              |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.33 |
|   | No         | 105,987 (100.0)     | 74,199 (100.0)                  | 31,788 (100.0)                    |      |
|   | Yes        | 341 (0.0)           | 230 (0.0)                       | 111 (0.0)                         |      |
| Intracoronary stent implantation, n (%) |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.68 |
|   | No         | 105,728 (99.4)      | 74,004 (99.4)                   | 31,724 (99.4)                     |      |

TABLE 2 (Continued) Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of included patients between training cohort and validation cohort.

| Variables                                 | Categories | Total (n = 106,328) | Training cohort<br>(n = 74,429) | Validation cohort<br>(n = 31,899) | P    |
|---|------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
|   | Yes        | 600 (0.6)           | 425 (0.6)                       | 175 (0.6)                         |      |
| Cardiac surgery, n (%)                    |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.45 |
|   | No         | 13,284 (12.5)       | 9,336 (12.5)                    | 3,948 (12.4)                      |      |
|   | Yes        | 93,044 (87.5)       | 65,093 (87.5)                   | 27,951 (87.6)                     |      |
| Peripheral vascular disease,<br>n (%)     |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.57 |
|   | No         | 99,429 (93.5)       | 69,621 (93.6)                   | 29,808 (93.4)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 6,899 (6.5)         | 4,808 (6.4)                     | 2091 (6.6)                        |      |
| COPD, n (%)                               |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.75 |
|   | No         | 105,543 (99.3)      | 73,884 (99.3)                   | 31,659 (99.2)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 785 (0.7)           | 545 (0.7)                       | 240 (0.8)                         |      |
| Dialysis, n (%)                           |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 1    |
|   | No         | 104,364 (98.2)      | 73,054 (98.1)                   | 31,310 (98.2)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 1964 (1.8)          | 1,375 (1.9)                     | 589 (1.8)                         |      |
| Renal insufficiency, n (%)                |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.76 |
|   | No         | 105,685 (99.4)      | 73,975 (99.4)                   | 31,710 (99.4)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 643 (0.6)           | 454 (0.6)                       | 189 (0.6)                         |      |
| History of cerebrovascular disease, n (%) |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.57 |
|   | No         | 102,270 (96.2)      | 71,605 (96.2)                   | 30,665 (96.2)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 4,058 (3.8)         | 2,824 (3.8)                     | 1,234 (3.8)                       |      |
| TIA, n (%)                                |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.70 |
|   | No         | 106,261 (99.9)      | 74,384 (99.9)                   | 31,877 (99.9)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 67 (0.1)            | 45 (0.1)                        | 22 (0.1)                          |      |
| Stroke, n (%)                             |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.98 |
|   | No         | 102,725 (97.0)      | 71,906 (97.0)                   | 30,819 (97.0)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 3,603 (3.0)         | 2,523 (3.0)                     | 1,080 (3.0)                       |      |
| Paraplegia, n (%)                         |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.22 |
|   | No         | 106,134 (99.8)      | 74,285 (99.8)                   | 31,849 (99.8)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 194 (0.2)           | 144 (0.2)                       | 50 (0.2)                          |      |
| Cancer, n (%)                             |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.14 |
|   | No         | 93,815 (88.2)       | 65,600 (88.2)                   | 28,215 (88.2)                     |      |
|   | Yes        | 12,513 (11.8)       | 8,829 (11.8)                    | 3,684 (11.8)                      |      |

TABLE 2 (Continued) Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of included patients between training cohort and validation cohort.

| Variables  | Categories | Total (n = 106,328) | Training cohort<br>(n = 74,429) | Validation cohort<br>(n = 31,899) | P     |
|--|------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Preoperative white blood cell count, (Median [Q1, Q3]), 10 <sup>9</sup> /L               |            | 6.35 (5.1, 8.2)     | 6.36 (5.1, 8.2)                 | 6.32 (5.09, 8.19)                 | 0.136 |
| Preoperative red blood cell count, (Median [Q1, Q3]), $10^{12}/L$                        |            | 4.21 (3.8, 4.61)    | 4.21 (3.8, 4.61)                | 4.22 (3.8, 4.61)                  | 0.408 |
| Preoperative platelet count,<br>(Median [Q1, Q3]), 10 <sup>9</sup> /L                    |            | 226 (183, 274)      | 225 (183, 273)                  | 226 (183, 274)                    | 0.173 |
| Preoperative hemoglobin levels, (Median [Q1, Q3]), g/L                                   |            | 126 (112, 139)      | 126 (112, 139)                  | 126 (112, 139)                    | 0.412 |
| Preoperative serum<br>creatinine, (Median [Q1,<br>Q3]), µmol/L                           |            | 55 (47, 66)         | 55 (47, 66)                     | 55 (48, 66)                       | 0.623 |
| Preoperative serum<br>albumin levels, (Median<br>[Q1, Q3]), g/L                          |            | 40.7 (37, 44)       | 40.7 (37, 44)                   | 40.7 (37, 44)                     | 0.228 |
| Preoperative alanine<br>aminotransferase, (Median<br>[Q1, Q3]), U/L                      |            | 18 (12.6, 29)       | 18 (12.6, 29)                   | 18 (12.8, 29)                     | 0.162 |
| Preoperative aspartate<br>aminotransferase, (Median<br>[Q1, Q3]), U/L                    |            | 19.4 (16, 25.7)     | 19.4 (16, 25.7)                 | 19.4 (16, 25.7)                   | 0.875 |
| Preoperative serum sodium,<br>(Median [Q1, Q3]), mmol/L                                  |            | 141 (139, 142)      | 141 (139, 142)                  | 141 (139, 143)                    | 0.078 |
| Preoperative blood<br>potassium, (Median [Q1,<br>Q3]), mmol/L                            |            | 4.17 (3.9, 4.43)    | 4.17 (3.9, 4.43)                | 4.17 (3.91, 4.43)                 | 0.685 |
| Preoperative blood calcium,<br>(Median [Q1, Q3]), mmol/L                                 |            | 2.24 (2.14, 2.33)   | 2.24 (2.14, 2.33)               | 2.24 (2.14, 2.33)                 | 0.736 |
| Preoperative thrombin time, (Median [Q1, Q3]), s   |            | 16.5 (15.5, 17.6)   | 16.5 (15.5, 17.6)               | 16.5 (15.5, 17.6)                 | 0.588 |
| Preoperative plasma<br>activated partial<br>thromboplastin time,<br>(Median [Q1, Q3]), s |            | 34.1 (30.4, 37.5)   | 34 (30.4, 37.5)                 | 34.1 (30.4, 37.5)                 | 0.775 |
| Preoperative plasma<br>prothrombin time, (Median<br>[Q1, Q3]), s                         |            | 12.1 (11.5, 12.9)   | 12.1 (11.5, 12.9)               | 12.1 (11.5, 12.9)                 | 0.732 |
| Preoperative international<br>normalized ratio, (Median<br>[Q1, Q3])                     |            | 0.93 (0.87, 1.02)   | 0.93 (0.87, 1.02)               | 0.93 (0.87, 1.02)                 | 0.603 |
| Intraoperative MAP<br>≤60 mmHg for 5–10 min, n<br>(%)                                    |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.047 |
|  | No         | 105,195 (99.0)      | 73,605 (99.0)                   | 31,590 (99.0)                     |       |
|  | Yes        | 1,133 (1.0)         | 824 (1.0)                       | 309 (1.0)                         |       |

TABLE 2 (Continued) Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of included patients between training cohort and validation cohort.

| Variables                                     | Categories | Total (n = 106,328) | Training cohort<br>(n = 74,429) | Validation cohort<br>(n = 31,899) | Р     |
|---|------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Preoperative ACEI drugs, n (%)                |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.297 |
|   | No         | 100,054 (94.1)      | 70,000 (94.0)                   | 30,054 (94.2)                     |       |
|   | Yes        | 6,274 (5.9)         | 4,429 (6.0)                     | 1845 (5.8)                        |       |
| Perioperative non-steroidal drugs, n (%)      |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.436 |
|   | No         | 22,707 (21.4)       | 15,943 (21.4)                   | 6,764 (21.2)                      |       |
|   | Yes        | 83,621 (78.6)       | 58,486 (78.6)                   | 25,135 (78.8)                     |       |
| Postoperative intravenous thrombolysis, n (%) |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.572 |
|   | No         | 106,310 (100.0)     | 74,418 (100.0)                  | 31,892 (100.0)                    |       |
|   | Yes        | 18 (0.0)            | 11 (0.0)                        | 7 (0.0)                           |       |
| Postoperative statins, n (%)                  |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.653 |
|   | No         | 104,115 (97.9)      | 72,890 (97.9)                   | 31,225 (97.8)                     |       |
|   | Yes        | 2,213 (2.1)         | 1,539 (2.1)                     | 674 (2.2)                         |       |
| Postoperative anticoagulants, n (%)           |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.393 |
|   | No         | 71,861 (67.6)       | 50,242 (67.5)                   | 21,619 (67.8)                     |       |
|   | Yes        | 34,467 (32.4)       | 24,187 (32.5)                   | 10,280 (32.2)                     |       |
| Postoperative antiplatelet drugs, n (%)       |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.991 |
|   | No         | 102,252 (96.2)      | 71,575 (96.2)                   | 30,677 (96.2)                     |       |
|   | Yes        | 4,076 (3.8)         | 2,854 (3.8)                     | 1,222 (3.8)                       |       |
| Postoperative<br>butylphthalides, n (%)       |            |                     |                                 |                                   | 0.631 |
|   | No         | 106,102 (99.8)      | 74,267 (99.8)                   | 31,835 (99.8)                     |       |
|   | Yes        | 226 (0.2)           | 162 (0.2)                       | 64 (0.2)                          |       |

Abbreviations: ASA, american society of an esthesiologists; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; TIA, transient is chemic attack.

- 8. Intraoperative fluids and blood transfusions included colloids, crystalloids, and various blood components.
- 9. Intraoperative vasopressor drugs encompassed a range of medications from ephedrine to phenylephrine.
- 10. Postoperative medications included statins, anticoagulants, antiplatelets, and other drugs, along with details regarding their dosages and durations.

Postoperative medications, including anticoagulants, antiplatelet drugs, and statins, were administered during the first 7 days after surgery to prevent secondary cardiovascular or cerebrovascular events.

# Perioperative ischemic stroke definition

Perioperative ischemic stroke was defined as a new focal neurological deficit occurring within 30 days after surgery, confirmed by neuroimaging (CT or MRI), and diagnosed by board-certified neurologists (Mashour et al., 2011). Diagnoses were recorded in the patients' medical records. To account for strokes that occurred after follow-up visits but still within the 30-day period, we employed a robust data collection approach using the hospital's electronic health record (EHR) system to capture any stroke events. Additionally, patients were monitored for adverse events through follow-up calls and subsequent clinic visits.

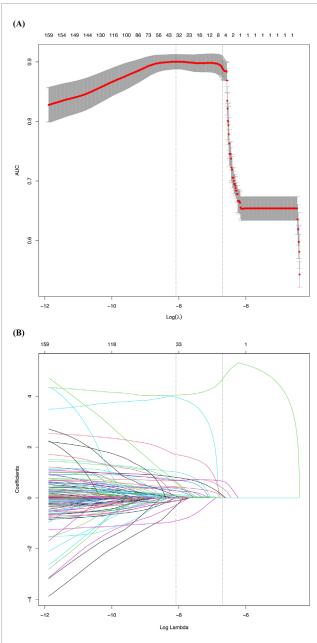


FIGURE 2 Factor selection using the least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (LASSO) logistic regression: (A) The cross-validation curve, where the vertical axis represents the area under the curve (AUC) and the horizontal axis represents  $\log(\lambda)$ . Two black dashed lines indicate  $\lambda$ .min (the  $\lambda$  value with the highest AUC) and  $\lambda$ .1se (the largest  $\lambda$  within 1 standard error of  $\lambda$ .min). The gray shaded area represents the confidence interval for the mean AUC; (B) The LASSO coefficient profiles of the 179 candidate variables. Each curve represents the trajectory of a predictor variable's coefficient as log( $\lambda$ ) changes. Two black dashed lines indicate  $\lambda$ .min and  $\lambda$ .1se, consistent with Figure 2A.

### Statistical analysis

To ensure adequate statistical power, a power calculation was conducted prior to the study. Based on an estimated perioperative stroke incidence of 0.19% (consistent with previous studies) and the requirement of at least 10 events per variable (EPV: Events Per Variable) for logistic regression, a minimum of 160 stroke events

was needed to analyze 16 predictor variables. Our cohort included 199 stroke events, exceeding this threshold and providing sufficient power (>80%) to detect significant predictors with an alpha level of 0.05. The total cohort size of 106,328 patients ensured adequate stroke event capture while maintaining a representative sample.

Various statistical methods were used to analyze continuous and categorical variables. Continuous variables are presented as medians with interquartile ranges (25th to 75th percentiles), with differences assessed using the Mann–Whitney U test. Categorical variables are presented as frequencies and percentages, with differences evaluated using the chi-square test or Fisher's exact test.

Logistic regression analysis was performed using the glmnet package in R, with the LASSO (Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator) method applied for variable selection. Hyperparameter tuning for LASSO logistic regression was performed via tenfold cross-validation, with the optimal lambda value selected based on the minimum cross-validation error. Significant variables identified by LASSO were further incorporated into the logistic regression model using a forward stepwise selection procedure to minimize the Akaike information criterion (AIC), ensuring a parsimonious model with minimal variable inclusion.

Multivariate logistic regression analysis was used to assess multicollinearity by calculating the variance inflation factor (VIF). VIF values below 10 indicated no multicollinearity concerns. For variables significantly correlated with the main outcomes, odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated.

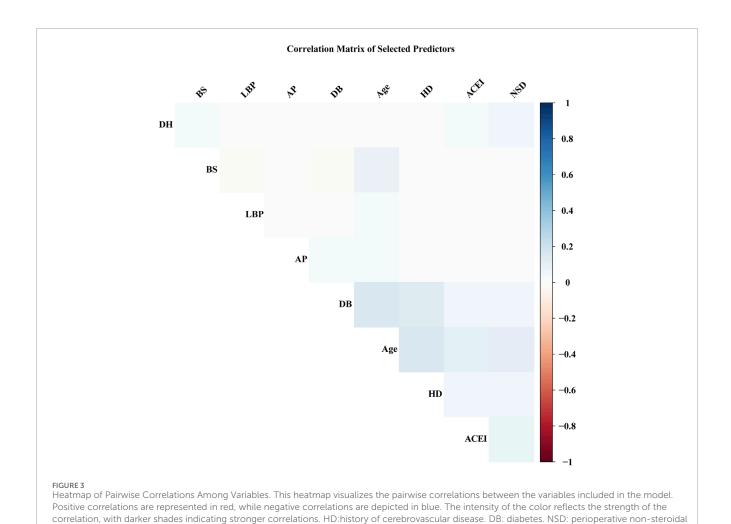
The model's discriminative ability was evaluated using a diagnostic chart that included key variables. Discriminative ability was assessed with the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve, with the area under the curve (AUC) quantifying model performance. Calibration was assessed using calibration plots and Spiegelhalter's Z test, which indicated good calibration when predicted values closely matched actual risk. Additionally, the SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations) interpretability model was applied to provide insights into the contribution of each predictor, enhancing the model's transparency and interpretability for clinical decision-making.

A randomly generated sample of 70% of the cohort (using a seed) was applied for the development cohort, with the remaining 30% used for the validation cohort. The rms package in R was employed for graphical evaluation. All tests were two-sided, with a p-value of less than 0.05 indicating statistical significance. Statistical analysis was conducted using R version 4.3.1.

#### Results

A total of 106,328 adult patients met the inclusion criteria during the study period, and after applying the exclusion criteria, the study cohort consisted of 70,718 patients. We analyzed data from 199 perioperative stroke patients, allocating 140 to the development cohort and 59 to the validation cohort. Tables 1,2 present descriptive statistical analyses: Table 1 compares patients with and without ischemic stroke, while Table 2 contrasts the development and validation cohorts.

To identify predictive factors and develop a corresponding model, we employed the LASSO logistic regression algorithm. Out of 179 factors, 31 with nonzero coefficients were selected



drugs. DH: drinking history. BS: preoperative blood sodium level. ACEI: preoperative ACEI drugs. LBP: intraoperative MAP ≤60 mmHg for 5–10 min. AP:

TABLE 3 Variance inflation factors (VIF) and corresponding tolerance

angina pectoris.

| Variable                                 | VIF     | Tolerance |
|--|---------|-----------|
| 1 31 133 13                              | • • • • |           |
| Age                                      | 1.07    | 0.935     |
| Drinking history                         | 1.007   | 0.993     |
| Diabetes                                 | 1.048   | 0.954     |
| Angina pectoris                          | 1.002   | 0.998     |
| History of cerebrovascular disease       | 1.047   | 0.956     |
| Intraoperative MAP ≤60 mmHg for 5–10 min | 1.002   | 0.998     |
| Preoperative blood sodium level          | 1.004   | 0.996     |
| Preoperative ACEI drugs                  | 1.019   | 0.982     |

based on an optimal lambda value of 0.0003226 (Figures 2A,B). LASSO regression enhances model interpretability by reducing the number of predictors, focusing on the most clinically relevant

factors. Figure 3 and Table 3 display the correlation matrix, variance inflation factors (VIF), and tolerance values for each variable, respectively.

Ultimately, the final model included 9 significant factors: age (OR: 1.07, 95% CI: 1.06–1.09), drinking history (OR: 2.20, 95% CI: 1.44–3.37), diabetes (OR: 1.89, 95% CI: 1.26–2.84), angina pectoris (OR: 8.00, 95% CI: 2.80–22.87), history of cerebrovascular disease (OR: 3.60, 95% CI: 2.42–5.36), intraoperative MAP ≤60 mmHg for 5–10 min (OR: 3.12, 95% CI: 1.42–6.86), preoperative blood sodium level (OR: 0.95, 95% CI: 0.91–0.99), preoperative ACEI drugs (OR: 2.03, 95% CI: 1.31–3.14), perioperative non-steroidal drugs (OR: 4.35, 95% CI: 1.77–10.67) (Table 4).

After validating the development and validation cohorts, the model achieved an AUC of 0.864 (95% CI 0.839–0.890) in the development cohort and 0.869 (95% CI 0.827–0.910) in the validation cohort (Figures 4A,B). At the optimal threshold of 0.002, sensitivity and specificity were 0.771 and 0.807 in the development cohort, and 0.794 and 0.814 in the validation cohort. The corresponding F1 scores were 0.785 and 0.802, respectively, demonstrating the model's ability to distinguish between stroke and non-stroke patients despite the imbalanced dataset.

Calibration analysis showed strong agreement between predicted and observed probabilities, with Brier scores of 0.002

TABLE 4 Multivariate logistic regression analysis for risk factors associated with acute ischemic stroke in perioperative noncardiac, nonvascular, and nonneurosurgical surgery patients.

| Variables                                      | В      | SE    | OR   | CI (95%)   | Z      | Р     |
|--|--------|-------|------|------------|--------|-------|
| Intercept                                      | -4.762 | 3.129 | 0.01 | 0-3.94     | -1.522 | 0.128 |
| Age  | 0.068  | 0.007 | 1.07 | 1.06-1.09  | 9.151  | 0     |
| Drinking history [Yes]                         | 0.789  | 0.218 | 2.2  | 1.44-3.37  | 3.621  | 0     |
| Diabetes [Yes]                                 | 0.639  | 0.206 | 1.89 | 1.26-2.84  | 3.096  | 0.002 |
| Angina pectoris [Yes]                          | 2.079  | 0.536 | 8    | 2.8-22.87  | 3.881  | 0     |
| History of cerebrovascular disease [Yes]       | 1.282  | 0.203 | 3.6  | 2.42-5.36  | 6.301  | 0     |
| Intraoperative MAP ≤60 mmHg for 5–10 min [Yes] | 1.138  | 0.402 | 3.12 | 1.42-6.86  | 2.832  | 0.005 |
| Preoperative blood sodium level                | -0.053 | 0.022 | 0.95 | 0.91-0.99  | -2.44  | 0.015 |
| Preoperative ACEI drugs [Yes]                  | 0.706  | 0.224 | 2.03 | 1.31-3.14  | 3.152  | 0.002 |
| Perioperative non-steroidal drugs [Yes]        | 1.47   | 0.458 | 4.35 | 1.77-10.67 | 3.212  | 0.001 |

Abbreviations: B, regression coefficient; SE, standard error; OR, odds ratio; CI, 95% confidence interval.

in both cohorts. Hosmer–Lemeshow test results indicated good calibration (development cohort:  $\chi^2 = 5.680$ , P = 0.771; validation cohort:  $\chi^2 = 6.877$ , P = 0.650). Calibration plots further confirmed the model's reliability in both cohorts (Figures 4C,D).

Decision curve analysis (DCA) was performed to assess the clinical utility of the predictive model. This method calculates the net benefit of applying the model across a range of threshold probabilities, comparing it to two baseline strategies: treating all patients or treating none. The threshold probabilities, ranging from 0% to 94% in the development cohort and 0%–92% in the validation cohort, represent the minimum predicted risk at which a clinical decision (e.g., initiating treatment) would be made. The model showed a positive net benefit within these ranges, supporting its utility for patients undergoing non-cardiac, non-vascular, and non-neurosurgical surgeries (Figures 5A,B).

Figure 6A presents the SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) summary plot for Logistic regression model, where the X-axis represents SHAP values (higher values indicate stronger contributions to stroke prediction). Feature magnitude is represented by a color gradient, ranging from purple (high values) to yellow (low values).

The top four predictors of stroke risk were age, a history of cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, and the use of perioperative non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Advanced age, a prior history of cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, and the perioperative use of NSAIDs were strongly associated with an elevated risk of stroke. Other significant factors included a history of alcohol consumption, abnormal serum sodium levels, low usage rates of ACE inhibitors, intraoperative hypotension (mean arterial pressure [MAP]  $\leq$  60 mmHg for 5–10 min), and a history of angina pectoris.

These findings were further supported by the feature importance rankings in Figure 6B. The interpretability of the model was also demonstrated through individualized case

analyses. Figure 6C shows SHAP force plots for a representative non-stroke patient, highlighting feature-specific contributions to the prediction.

Our thorough validation process confirmed the model's effectiveness in clinical settings. We developed and validated a logistic regression model based on patient characteristics and stroke risk factors, employing various graphical methods for evaluation.

#### Discussion

Perioperative strokes in non-cardiac and non-neurological surgery patients are relatively rare, occurring in approximately 0.1%–0.8% of patients. Notably, the incidence rises to 7% among patients older than 65 years, with many strokes remaining undetected (Lindberg and Flexman, 2021). Although less frequently diagnosed following non-cardiac, non-carotid, or non-neurological surgeries, these strokes are significant postoperative complications, contributing to increased perioperative mortality, morbidity, longer hospital stays, and higher healthcare costs (Ng et al., 2011; Lewis et al., 2019).

Preventing perioperative strokes is challenging due to complex and diverse risk factors. Common comorbidities in these patients, such as atrial fibrillation, diabetes, and hypertension, are all significant stroke risk factors (Reinert et al., 2021). Additionally, perioperative stress responses, medication adjustments, and the surgery itself can further elevate stroke risk (Vlisides and Mashour, 2016).

Clinical prediction models are essential for accurately forecasting perioperative strokes. These models, which integrate factors such as age, medical history, and surgery type, are effective at identifying high-risk patients and outperform traditional assessment methods (Goeller and Bartels, 2021).

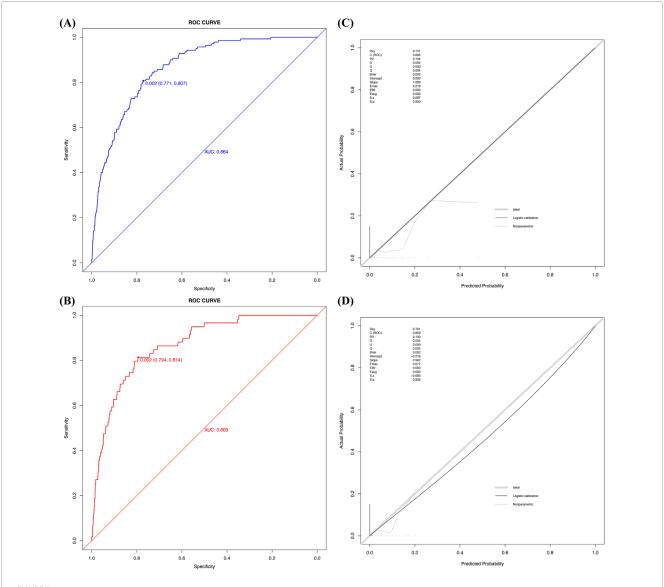
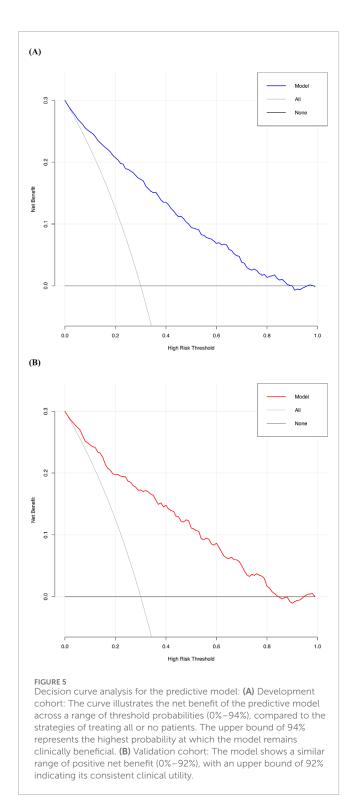


FIGURE 4
The ROC curve and calibration plot of the predictive model: **(A)** ROC curve for the development cohort, showing an AUC of 0.864 (95% CI: 0.839–0.890), with sensitivity (0.771) and specificity (0.807) at the optimal threshold of 0.002. **(B)** ROC curve for the validation cohort, showing an AUC of 0.869 (95% CI: 0.827–0.910), with sensitivity (0.794) and specificity (0.814) at the same threshold. **(C)** Calibration plot for the development cohort, demonstrating excellent calibration. C-index (0.866): Represents the model's discriminative ability, similar to AUC.  $R^2$  (0.144): Indicates the proportion of variance explained by the model. Slope (1) and Intercept (0.000): Reflect perfect calibration, with minimal bias. Brier score (0.002): Measures prediction error, where lower values indicate better calibration. **(D)** Calibration plot for the validation cohort, confirming good calibration. C-index (0.850): Indicates strong discriminative ability.  $R^2$  (0.130): Reflects the proportion of variance explained. Slope (0.962) and Intercept (-0.218): Highlight a slight deviation from perfect calibration. Brier score (0.002): Confirms low prediction error and good calibration.

Unlike traditional statistical models, machine learning models capture complex, nonlinear relationships between risk factors, improving prediction accuracy. This is especially useful in clinical practice, where risk factors often interact in ways that are difficult for traditional models to fully account for. Developing personalized treatment plans based on these models can enhance treatment efficacy and reduce unnecessary interventions. However, the effectiveness of these treatments depends on data quality and adaptation to various clinical scenarios (Woo et al., 2021).

Applying these models in resource-limited settings remains challenging, necessitating continuous improvements to ensure their relevance in clinical practice and bridge the gap between clinical and research settings (Goeller and Bartels, 2021; Woo et al., 2021).

This study focuses on ischemic stroke and its risk factors during the perioperative period. Through statistical analysis and comprehensive evaluation, the model's reliability in predicting perioperative stroke risk in non-cardiac surgery patients was confirmed (Goeller and Bartels, 2021; Woo et al., 2021). The model can help clinicians develop early, tailored treatment strategies.



Our model incorporates nine predictive factors (Vlisides and Moore, 2021): age, drinking history, diabetes, angina pectoris, cerebrovascular disease history, intraoperative MAP ≤60 mmHg for 5–10 min, preoperative blood sodium level, preoperative ACE inhibitor use, and perioperative NSAID use. By

incorporating clinically relevant variables and their coefficients, along with the SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations) interpretability model, the model improves interpretability. This approach enables clinicians to assess the relative importance of each predictor in perioperative stroke risk. The inclusion of SHAP further facilitates informed decision-making by offering clear insights into the contribution of each factor, thereby identifying actionable variables for intervention.

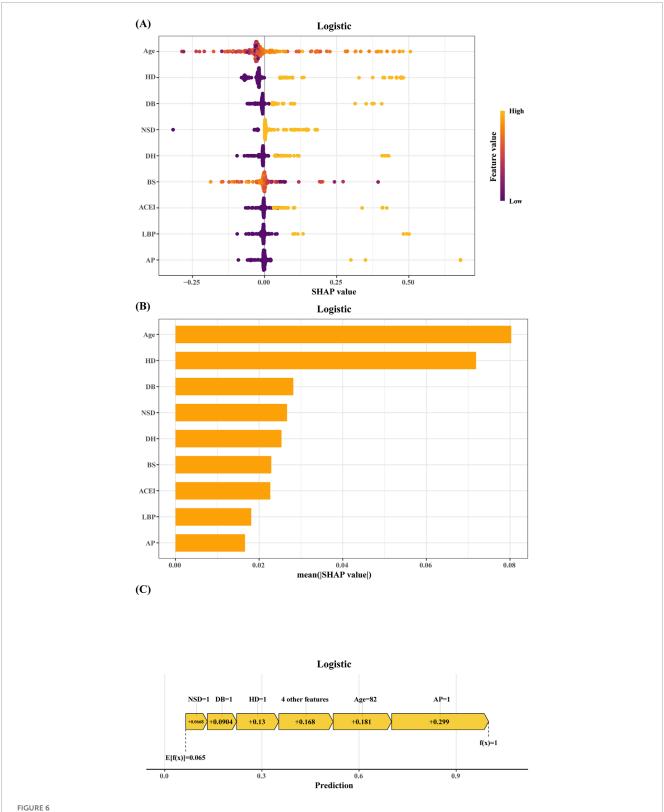
Preoperatively, stroke risk is positively correlated with advanced age, alcohol consumption, diabetes, angina, and cerebrovascular disease history (Pai et al., 2017). Additionally, low serum sodium levels and cessation of ACE inhibitors during the perioperative period increase stroke risk (Roshanov et al., 2017; Khan et al., 2021). Intraoperatively, prolonged low MAP and NSAID use are key risk factors (Pai et al., 2017; Vlisides and Moore, 2021).

Wu and Fang (2020) developed a stroke prediction model for individuals over 60, using SMOTE technology to balance the data, identifying sex, LDL cholesterol, blood glucose, hypertension, and uric acid as key predictors. (Wu and Fang, 2020). Another study involving patients over 65 years old undergoing non-cardiac surgery used various machine learning techniques to evaluate factors such as age, chest pain history, heart failure symptoms, high-risk surgeries, intraoperative blood pressure, serum creatinine levels, left ventricular ejection fraction, and perioperative transfusions to predict adverse cardio-cerebral events (Wu et al., 2023). These findings highlight the value of machine learning in risk factor analysis.

Unlike previous studies that focused on older populations or specific patient groups, our study included adult patients of all ages undergoing non-cardiac, non-vascular, and nonneurosurgical procedures, improving the generalizability of the findings. By using advanced machine learning techniques, including comprehensive imputations and integrating logistic and LASSO regression, we addressed challenges such as nonlinearity and multicollinearity, resulting in a highly interpretable and clinically relevant model. These methods, supported by previous research comparing machine learning to traditional logistic regression in prognostic modeling (Liew et al., 2022), produced exceptional AUC values of 0.864 and 0.869 in the development and validation cohorts, respectively. Internal validation confirmed the model's robustness and its potential to guide early interventions and improve perioperative stroke prevention strategies.

This study has several limitations. First, as a single-center investigation, the findings require external validation (Riley et al., 2021). Additionally, the retrospective design introduces potential biases, such as selection bias, and limits the ability to account for changes in clinical practices over time. To mitigate these limitations, we employed random sampling, robust statistical methods, and thorough model validation to minimize bias.

The model primarily focuses on preoperative and intraoperative variables, such as age, medical history, and surgical conditions. It is designed for perioperative risk stratification and guiding



SHAP of the model: (A) Characteristic attributes in SHAP. The abscissa is the SHAP value, and each line denotes a feature. Higher eigenvalues are indicated by purple dots, and lower eigenvalues are indicated by yellow dots; (B) Feature importance ranking of the Logistic regression model; (C) Interpretability analysis of 1 independent samples. HD:history of cerebrovascular disease. DB: diabetes. NSD: perioperative non-steroidal drugs. DH: drinking history. BS: preoperative blood sodium level. ACEI: preoperative ACEI drugs. LBP: intraoperative MAP ≤60 mmHg for 5−10 min. AP, angina pectoris.

postoperative management rather than preoperative decisionmaking. While retrospective data lacks prospective validation, it offers an efficient approach for developing and validating predictive models using large, real-world datasets. These findings provide critical insights for optimizing perioperative management and lay the groundwork for future multi-center, prospective studies to integrate preoperative predictors and enhance clinical decisionmaking.

### Conclusion

This study developed and validated a robust predictive model for perioperative stroke risk in non-cardiac, non-vascular, and non-neurosurgical patients. Despite its retrospective design, the model demonstrated strong discriminatory performance and clinical relevance. These findings provide a solid foundation for future multi-center, prospective studies to refine the model, incorporate additional variables, and expand its applicability to diverse patient populations.

# Data availability statement

The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

#### Ethics statement

The studies involving humans were approved by Henan Provincial People's Hospital's Ethics Review Committee. The studies were conducted in accordance with the local legislation and institutional requirements. Written informed consent for participation was not required from the participants or the participant' legal guardians/next of kin in accordance with the national legislation and institutional requirements. Written informed consent was not obtained from the individual(s) for the publication of any potentially identifiable images or data included in this article because The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by the Henan Provincial People's Hospital's Ethics Review Committee. The ethics committee waived the requirement of written informed consent for participation.

#### Author contributions

XC: Writing – review and editing, Data curation, Methodology, Writing – original draft, Conceptualization, Investigation. XZ:

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Methodology, Conceptualization, Investigation, Data curation, Writing – review and editing, Writing – original draft. RZ: Methodology, Data curation, Investigation, Writing – original draft, Conceptualization, Writing – review and editing. YL: Investigation, Writing – review and editing, Methodology, Data curation, Conceptualization, Writing – original draft. LL: Writing – review and editing, Writing – original draft, Data curation, Investigation, Methodology, Conceptualization, JZ: Investigation, Writing – review and editing, Conceptualization, Writing – original draft, Data curation, Methodology.

# **Funding**

The author(s) declare that financial support was received for the research and/or publication of this article. This study was supported by grants from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (grant nos. 82071217).

# **Acknowledgments**

We would like to thank Linlin Xu and Tongyan Sun of Hangzhou Le9 Healthcare Technology Co., Ltd., for their assistance in the clinical data extraction during the study.

#### 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.

#### Generative Al statement

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