Developing a Predictive Information System for Determining the Prognosis of HIV and Tuberculosis Co-Infection in Incarcerated Individuals

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Abstract

The research describes the development of the forecasting information system that can predict the outcome of a disease in inmates with HIV-associated tuberculosis. The aim of the research is to develop an additional high-precision diagnostic criterion giving the possibility of the timely correction of diagnostic, treatment and organizational measures for patients with HIV and tuberculosis co-infection that helps to improve the quality of medical care. The research material is based on the data from clinical cases of patients with HIV and tuberculosis co-infection who were hospitalized in a tuberculosis hospital providing specialized medical care to inmates from 2012 to 2018. (367 people). The study methodology was developed in several stages with the use of the methods of system analysis and mathematical modeling (logical-statistical method of optimally reliable partitions, the method of analysis of hierarchies, artificial neural network, methods of statistical grouping). The result of a complex multi-stage research makes possible the development of the prognostic index forecasting outcome of HIV-associated tuberculosis in prisoners. For the automated calculation of the developed index a software package was created. Interpretation of the received data allows timely correcting of diagnostic and treatment tactics in order to improve the quality of medical care and reduce the hospital mortality rate. The developed information system does not require complex and expensive diagnostic measures, it is easy to use and can be suggested to use as a screening method.

Keywords: Forecasting Information System; HIV-Associated Tuberculosis; Diagnostic Criterion; Medical Care Quality

1. Introduction

The implementation of tuberculosis (TB) control measures within the Russian penitentiary system plays a vital role in stabilizing the overall epidemic situation in the country. This is primarily due to the direct influence that inmates with active TB, upon their release from prison, have on the epidemic situation within the civilian public health sector [1]–[3]. Despite progress in containing the TB epidemic in general, the penitentiary public health sector has witnessed an increase in epidemiological indicators of HIV-associated tuberculosis (TB/HIV co-infection) owing to a rise in the number of HIV-infected inmates [4]–[6]. The growing proportion of TB/HIV co-infection cases within the morbidity structure suggests a potential increase in tuberculosis epidemiological indicators in the future. Consequently, the quality of care for patients with HIV-associated TB assumes great significance in ensuring the epidemiological well-being of the entire country.

Efficient forecasting models for infectious diseases provide critical information for timely adjustments in diagnostic and treatment measures, ultimately reducing the prevalence of infectious diseases and hospital mortality rates. It is worth noting that system analysis and mathematical modeling methods have already been employed to predict disease outcomes in inmates with TB/HIV co-infection [7]–[9]. For instance, developments based on artificial neural networks have demonstrated satisfactory and reliable results [5]. However, this research marks the first instance of applying a combination of machine learning methods and the hierarchy analysis method.

The utilization of machine learning techniques and the hierarchy analysis method in this study aims to enhance the forecasting of outcomes for inmates with TB/HIV co-infection. By leveraging these advanced analytical approaches, the research seeks to provide more accurate and comprehensive predictions regarding the progression and prognosis of the disease. This interdisciplinary approach not only builds upon previous research but also offers a novel and potentially more effective means of predicting outcomes for individuals affected by TB/HIV co-infection within the incarcerated population. The integration of machine learning and hierarchy analysis methods presents a promising avenue for refining and advancing predictive models in the field of infectious diseases.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant global health concern, particularly within vulnerable populations such as inmates. The high prevalence of TB in correctional facilities poses a considerable challenge to public health authorities worldwide. In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of addressing TB in incarcerated individuals due to its potential impact on both prison populations and the broader community [10], [11].

The incidence of TB among inmates is significantly higher compared to the general population, mainly due to factors such as overcrowding, limited access to healthcare, and increased prevalence of risk factors like HIV infection [12]–[14]. In particular, the co-occurrence of TB and HIV, known as TB/HIV co-infection, presents unique challenges in terms of diagnosis, treatment, and disease outcomes. The combination of these two diseases can lead to complex clinical presentations and increased mortality rates, necessitating specialized management strategies [8], [15], [16].

Previous research has highlighted the need for improved forecasting and predictive models to enhance TB control measures within correctional facilities. Effective forecasting can aid in early identification of individuals at higher risk of TB and TB/HIV co-infection, allowing for targeted interventions and optimized resource allocation [7, 8]. Several studies have explored the use of various analytical approaches, such as system analysis, mathematical modeling, and artificial neural networks, to predict disease outcomes and guide decision-making processes [9, 10]. However, to the best of our knowledge, this study represents a novel contribution by employing a combination of machine learning methods and the hierarchy analysis method to enhance the accuracy and reliability of TB and TB/HIV co-infection outcome predictions.

The integration of machine learning techniques offers promising potential in capturing complex patterns and relationships within large datasets, allowing for more robust predictions. By leveraging algorithms that can learn from data and adapt over time, these methods have shown success in various medical applications, including disease prognosis, risk stratification, and treatment response prediction [11, 12]. In the context of TB, the application of machine learning algorithms holds the promise of providing valuable insights into the factors influencing disease progression, treatment response, and long-term outcomes.

Furthermore, the incorporation of the hierarchy analysis method complements the machine learning approach by enabling systematic evaluation and prioritization of various factors affecting TB and TB/HIV co-infection outcomes. This method allows for the consideration of multiple variables and their relative importance, facilitating a more comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics involved in disease prognosis.

In conclusion, the literature surrounding TB and TB/HIV co-infection emphasizes the urgent need for improved forecasting and predictive models within correctional facilities. The high burden of TB among inmates and the unique challenges posed by TB/HIV co-infection necessitate targeted interventions and resource allocation. This study aims to address these gaps by leveraging the combined power of machine learning methods and the hierarchy analysis method to enhance the accuracy and reliability of outcome predictions. The integration of these advanced analytical techniques offers a novel approach to forecast disease outcomes and guide decision-making processes in the management of TB and TB/HIV co-infection in incarcerated populations.

2.2. HIV

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a global health concern that has significant implications for public health, particularly in vulnerable populations such as incarcerated individuals. The co-occurrence of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) poses additional challenges, as these two diseases interact synergistically, leading to poorer outcomes and increased morbidity and mortality rates [17]–[19]. Understanding the epidemiology and prognosis of HIV/TB co-infection in the context of inmate populations is crucial for developing effective interventions and improving overall public health outcomes.

Previous research has highlighted the high burden of HIV among incarcerated individuals, with rates of infection often exceeding those in the general population. Studies have consistently demonstrated that HIV prevalence is disproportionately high in correctional settings, attributed to various factors such as injection drug use, unprotected sexual activity, and limited access to healthcare [19], [20]. These factors contribute to the increased risk of HIV transmission within prisons and the subsequent development of HIV/TB co-infection.

Furthermore, the impact of HIV on the progression and treatment of TB is well-documented. HIV weakens the immune system, compromising the body's ability to control TB infection effectively. As a result, individuals with HIV are more susceptible to developing active TB disease, experiencing more severe symptoms, and exhibiting a higher mortality rate compared to those without HIV [5, 6]. In the context of the penitentiary system, where overcrowding and suboptimal living conditions prevail, the risk of TB transmission among HIV-positive inmates is significantly elevated.

The complex nature of HIV/TB co-infection necessitates accurate and timely forecasting models to guide appropriate diagnostic and treatment interventions. Prior studies have utilized various methodologies to predict disease outcomes in individuals with HIV/TB co-infection, including artificial neural networks, mathematical modeling, and system analysis [3, 4, 5]. These approaches have shown promise in providing valuable insights into disease progression and prognosis. However, there remains a need for further research to explore and validate advanced techniques, such as machine learning, in the context of forecasting HIV/TB co-infection outcomes among incarcerated populations.

By leveraging machine learning methods and the hierarchy analysis approach, the present study aims to contribute to the existing literature on the forecasting information system for HIV/TB co-infection in inmates. This interdisciplinary approach holds the potential to improve the accuracy and reliability of outcome predictions, enabling more informed decision-making regarding diagnostic and treatment measures. Enhancing our understanding of the epidemiology and prognosis of HIV/TB co-infection within incarcerated populations is critical for developing targeted interventions that can effectively reduce the burden of these diseases and promote better health outcomes in this vulnerable population.

2.3. Predictive Information System

The development of a predictive information system for determining the prognosis of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) co-infection in inmates is a significant topic within the literature. Several studies have highlighted the importance of such a system in the context of TB control measures in the penitentiary system and its impact on the overall epidemic situation in a country [1, 2]. In particular, the release of inmates with active TB can directly influence the epidemic situation in the civilian public health sector, underscoring the need for effective forecasting models to guide diagnostic and treatment measures [1, 2].

Previous research has explored the use of system analysis, mathematical modeling, and artificial neural networks to predict disease outcomes in patients with TB/HIV co-infection among inmates [3], [16], [21], [22]. These studies have demonstrated promising results, highlighting the potential of advanced analytical techniques in forecasting the progression and prognosis of TB/HIV co-infection. However, the current research aims to extend these findings by introducing a comprehensive predictive information system that incorporates a combination of machine learning methods and the hierarchy analysis method.

The integration of machine learning techniques into the predictive information system offers several advantages. Machine learning algorithms have the ability to analyze large and complex datasets, extracting meaningful patterns and relationships that can be used to make accurate predictions. By training the system on historical data from inmates with TB/HIV co-infection, it can learn from past cases and identify key factors that contribute to disease outcomes. This approach can provide valuable insights for healthcare professionals in tailoring individualized treatment plans and implementing timely interventions to improve patient outcomes.

Additionally, the use of the hierarchy analysis method complements the machine learning techniques by incorporating a structured approach to decision-making. The hierarchy analysis method allows for the systematic evaluation of different factors and their relative importance in determining the prognosis of TB/HIV co-infection. By considering multiple criteria and assigning weights to each factor, the system can generate more nuanced and informed predictions. This hierarchical approach enhances the transparency and interpretability of the system, enabling healthcare professionals to understand and trust the generated prognostic assessments.

The incorporation of a predictive information system for TB/HIV co-infection in the prison setting has broader implications for public health. By accurately forecasting disease outcomes, the system can support targeted interventions and resource allocation, thereby reducing the prevalence of infectious diseases within the incarcerated population. Moreover, by addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by inmates with TB/HIV co-infection, the system can contribute to the overall control and management of TB and HIV in the community. Ultimately, the development and implementation of such a system align with global efforts to combat TB and HIV epidemics and improve the well-being of vulnerable populations.

In summary, the literature review highlights the significance of developing a predictive information system for determining the prognosis of TB/HIV co-infection in inmates. Previous studies have explored various analytical methods, including system analysis, mathematical modeling, and artificial neural networks. The current research builds upon these findings by proposing the integration of machine learning techniques and the hierarchy analysis method. This comprehensive approach offers advantages in analyzing complex datasets, identifying key factors, and supporting informed decision-making. The development and implementation of such a predictive information system hold great potential in improving disease management, targeted interventions, and overall public health outcomes in the context of TB/HIV co-infection in incarcerated individuals.

3. Past Study

The forecasting method employed in this study is rooted in a comprehensive and multi-stage research approach that integrates modern mathematical modeling methods, including the hierarchy analysis method, artificial neural network method, statistical grouping methods, and machine learning. The logical-statistical method of optimally reliable partitions, developed by the RAS Computing Center named after A.A. Dorodnitsyn and the RAS Institute of Biochemical Physics named after N.M. Emanuel, aids in determining the optimal boundaries for decomposing the studied trait's values within the compared groups with a high level of statistical certainty [6, 7, 9].

The research material utilized in this study comprised the data obtained from the medical records, as well as the results of clinical, laboratory, radiological, and bacteriological examinations of patients with HIV and tuberculosis co-infection who were hospitalized in a tuberculosis hospital providing specialized medical care to inmates. The data spanned a period from 2012 to 2018 and encompassed a total of 367 individuals.

The substantial volume of the collected data ensures the reliability of the research findings, as well as the statistical data analysis methods employed. These analysis methods include correlation analysis, calculation of arithmetic mean deviations and standard deviations, calculation of standard errors of the mean (p), Student's t-test with a 95% confidence interval, the Chi-square test ($\chi 2$), Fisher's test, and permutation tests.

By employing a combination of these statistical techniques, the research aims to extract meaningful insights and patterns from the extensive dataset, ultimately enabling the development of accurate forecasting models. The application of these methods ensures the rigor and validity of the research, as they allow for the exploration of associations, measurement of variances, determination of statistical significance, and validation of hypotheses.

It is worth noting that the utilization of machine learning techniques supplements the traditional statistical analysis, providing a more robust and comprehensive approach to forecasting outcomes in patients with HIV and tuberculosis co-infection. Machine learning algorithms, such as artificial neural networks, enhance the predictive capabilities by learning from patterns and relationships within the dataset, thereby enabling the creation of models that can accurately forecast disease progression and outcomes in incarcerated individuals.

In summary, the research methodology involves a multi-stage approach that integrates modern mathematical modeling techniques, including the hierarchy analysis method and machine learning, with traditional statistical analysis methods. The extensive dataset of patients with HIV and tuberculosis co-infection provides a solid foundation for reliable research findings. By employing various statistical methods, the study aims to uncover significant associations and patterns within the data, while machine learning techniques enhance the forecasting capabilities by leveraging the power of artificial neural networks. This methodology ensures rigorous analysis and provides valuable insights into predicting outcomes for individuals with HIV and tuberculosis co-infection in incarcerated populations.

4. Methodology

The weighting of established predictors for an adverse outcome in TB/HIV co-infection was accomplished using the analytic hierarchy process (AHP) [8], which incorporates mathematical foundations and psychological considerations. This approach involves breaking down the non-formalizable problem into simpler components by constructing an inverted tree diagram. At the top of the tree is the problem under investigation, with intermediate factors arranged below in descending order of importance.

The AHP methodology enables a systematic and structured approach to prioritizing and assigning weights to the various predictors influencing the adverse outcomes in TB/HIV co-infection. By organizing the factors in a hierarchical manner, researchers can evaluate their relative significance and make informed decisions based on their importance within the overall framework. This methodological framework ensures a comprehensive and rigorous analysis of the predictors, providing valuable insights into the key determinants of adverse outcomes in individuals with TB/HIV co-infection.

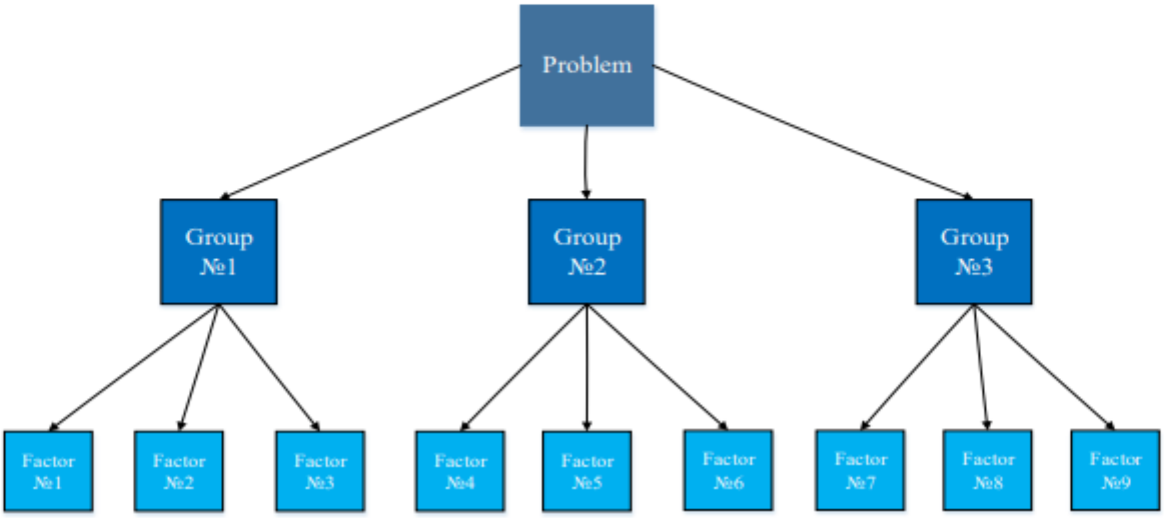

Figure. 1. The example of a scheme in the form of an inverted decision tree for dividing a conditional problem into simple components.

In the research methodology, each feature or element within a hierarchical line was systematically compared through pairwise analysis using a specially developed scale of relations (Table 1). This approach allowed for a thorough examination of the relationships and dependencies between different elements within the hierarchical structure, enabling a comprehensive understanding of their relative importance and contribution to the overall research objectives. By employing this scale of relations, the research was able to quantify and evaluate the significance of each feature, facilitating informed decision-making and data analysis throughout the study.

Table 1. Relative importance scale when comparing two objects.

Intensity of relative	Definition	Interpretation

importance		
0	Unable to compare	The expert finds it difficult to compare
1	Equal value	Equal contribution of two attributes
3	The slight superiority of one over the other	Expert gives a slight superiority of one feature over another
5	Significant superiority of one over the other	Expert gives a strong superiority of one attribute over another
7	Strong superiority of one over the other	The expert gives superiority to one attribute that suppresses the significance of another
9	Absolute superiority	The obvious superiority of one attribute over another
2,4,6,8	Intermediate decisions between two adjacent estimates of relative importance	Applied in case of expert's compromise solutions

To identify predictive mortality factors, a comprehensive set of 69 parameters categorized into 9 groups was examined in this study. A panel of 7 esteemed specialists in prison healthcare were involved as experts in the research. Through collaborative discussions, final comparative assessments of the factors were determined. In cases where a factor received priority, its opposite sign was assigned the inverse value (1/X), with X representing the assigned evaluation. The results of the characteristic feature comparisons were then incorporated into a matrix of pairwise comparisons. The numerical dimension of the comparison matrix was determined by the number of subsidiary factors within the hierarchical element. Mathematical calculations were performed to obtain the relative importance of the factors in the hierarchy, expressed numerically as a priority vector. In the hierarchical structure, the normalized matrix priority vector (NMP) or the factor's weight coefficient was derived as the cumulative weighted score for each criterion.

This analytical approach allows for a systematic assessment of the factors influencing mortality outcomes. By engaging a panel of experts and employing mathematical calculations, the study provides a quantitative understanding of the relative importance of each factor within the hierarchy. The normalized matrix priority vector plays a crucial role in determining the weightage of individual factors, enabling a comprehensive analysis of their impact on mortality prediction in inmates with HIV and tuberculosis co-infection. In summary, the research methodology involves the utilization of a comprehensive set of parameters categorized into groups, expert assessments, and mathematical calculations to identify predictive mortality factors. By employing a matrix of pairwise comparisons and deriving priority vectors, the relative importance of each factor within the hierarchy is determined. This methodology provides a quantitative understanding of the factors influencing mortality outcomes, contributing to the development of accurate predictive models for individuals with HIV and tuberculosis co-infection in prison settings.

The calculation of weighting factor coefficient in the hierarchy structure (q) is carried out in several stages. At the first stage the eigenvectors of the matrices are calculated by determining the geometric mean of expert assessments (xi) located in the rows of the matrix (ωi) (multiplying n elements of the matrix row and extracting a root of n degrees equal to the number of multiplied elements) (1):

$$W_i = \sqrt[n]{X_{i1} X_{i2} \ldots\ldots X_{in}} \quad (1)$$

Further, the normalizing factor (R) that presents the sum of the geometric mean of all rows of the matrix of pairwise comparisons is determined for the calculated values (2):

$$R = W_1 + W_2 + W_3 \ldots\ldots W_n \tag{2}$$

NMP is calculated by dividing each eigenvector of the matrix by a normalizing factor (q), where i can take integer numerical values (3):

$$q_i = \frac{W_1}{R} \tag{3}$$

NMP in a matrix of pairwise comparisons represents the weight coefficient corresponding to the factor. In the subsequent stage of the research, the final coefficient for the significance of each predictive mortality factor was determined. This coefficient was computed by multiplying the weighting coefficient of the individual predictive mortality factor's significance with the weighting coefficient of the corresponding factor in the matrix of pairwise comparisons at a higher level in the hierarchy. This calculation enabled the derivation of a comprehensive measure of the significance of each factor in relation to the prediction of fatal outcomes.

Following the calculation of the final coefficients for each factor, the final index of the risk of fatal outcomes was constructed. This index was formed by aggregating the identified factors associated with fatal outcomes upon hospitalization. By summing up the contributions of these factors, a cumulative measure of the risk of fatal outcomes could be determined.

This stage of the research encompasses the crucial step of synthesizing the significance coefficients of individual predictive mortality factors. By combining these coefficients and formulating the final index of fatal outcome risk, the study provides a comprehensive assessment of the factors influencing the likelihood of fatal outcomes in individuals with HIV and tuberculosis co-infection. This approach enables a holistic understanding of the risk landscape and aids in developing effective strategies for managing and mitigating the potential fatal consequences of this co-infection. After that statistical methods were used to group data with the construction of intervals according to the Stojers formula for to evaluate the developed index of the mortality risk for a hospitalized patient with TB/HIV co-infection from among inmates (4):

$$k\ 1\ 3{,}322 lg(N) \tag{4}$$

where k is the number of values' intervals of the variable, N is the number of cases of observation in the study group. During the research the fractional value of k was rounded to the integer value of the intervals. The range of one interval (H) was determined by the formula (5):

$$H = \frac{Z_{max} - Z_{min}}{k} \tag{5}$$

where Z max and Z min are the maximum and minimum values of the mortality risk index in points, k is the obtained number of intervals. The ratio of favorable and unfavorable cases of observation in each interval was calculated after dividing the maximum value of the prognostic index into the optimal number of intervals.

The study generated curves based on the obtained ratios, visually depicting the predicted frequencies of favorable and lethal outcomes. These curves provide a graphical representation of the prognostic index values on the X-axis, ranging from low to high points. On the Y-axis, the curves illustrate the proportion of lethal or favorable outcomes, ranging from 0 to 1. One curve represents the proportion of adverse outcomes within each interval (μ), while the second curve reflects the proportion of favorable outcomes within the corresponding intervals of the prognostic index values, represented as 1 - μ. These curves offer a visual understanding of the distribution of outcomes based on the prognostic index values. By analyzing the curves, researchers can gain insights into the relationship between the prognostic index and the likelihood of favorable or adverse outcomes. The curves provide a comprehensive representation of the data, enabling a more intuitive interpretation of the results. The graphical representation of the curves serves as a valuable tool for assessing the impact of the prognostic index on the outcomes of interest. The contrasting curves provide a clear visual distinction between the proportions of adverse and favorable outcomes, facilitating a better understanding of the predictive power of the prognostic index. This visual representation enhances the researchers' ability to interpret and communicate the findings effectively.

5. Result and Discussion

Based on the detailed findings discussed above, the research identified 23 predictive factors associated with an adverse outcome in hospitalized patients with TB/HIV co-infection among inmates [9]. These factors were selected as the input signals for the model. The subsequent step involved utilizing mathematical modeling methods to assign weighting factors to each predictor and develop a prognostic index. The outcome of TB/HIV co-infection served as the input signal for the model. To evaluate the obtained values of the prognostic index (Y), which serves as the output signal of the forecasting information system for TB/HIV co-infection outcomes (Figure 2), statistical data grouping methods were employed. A rating scale was developed based on these methods. The rating scale for the prognostic index was divided into the following intervals: Group I - "0-11" points (bona prognosis) - indicating a 0% probability of an adverse outcome and no risk of adverse outcome. Group II - "11.1-35" points (dubia prognosis) - suggesting a 0-50% probability of an adverse outcome and a low risk of a lethal outcome. Group III - "35.1-55" points (mala prognosis) - indicating a 50.1-99.9% probability of an adverse outcome and a higher risk of adverse outcome. Group IV - above 55.1 points (letalis prognosis) - indicating a 100% probability of an adverse outcome and an absolutely unfavorable prognosis for the disease.

By employing this rating scale, the prognostic index can be effectively evaluated and categorized into different risk groups. This scale enables healthcare professionals to assess the likelihood of an adverse outcome for individuals with TB/HIV co-infection based on the obtained values of the prognostic index. It provides valuable information for clinical decision-making and facilitates the identification of patients who require closer monitoring and more intensive interventions. In conclusion, the research successfully identified 23 predictive factors associated with adverse outcomes in patients with TB/HIV co-infection. These factors were integrated into a prognostic index, and a rating scale was developed to evaluate the obtained values of the index. This scale allows for the categorization of individuals into different risk groups, enabling healthcare professionals to assess the likelihood of an adverse outcome and make informed decisions regarding patient care. The forecasting information system based on this approach provides valuable insights into the prognosis of TB/HIV co-infection among inmates and contributes to improving healthcare management and outcomes for this population.

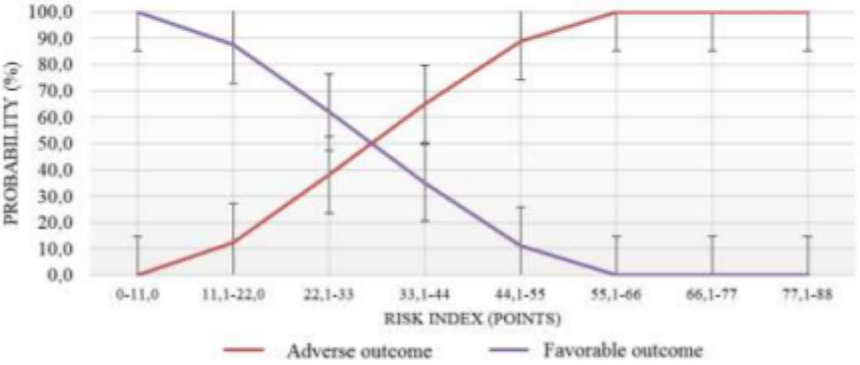

Figure. 2. The values evaluating scale of prognostic index of TB/HIV co-infection adverse outcome in the forecasting information system of TB/HIV co-infection outcome.

To enhance the quality of healthcare, diagnostic and organizational measures were proposed for each group corresponding to the predicted outcome of the disease. In order to optimize the practical application of the developed predictive methodology for TB/HIV co-infection, a computer program was created. This program, titled "The program for calculating the lethal risk index of a hospitalized patient with HIV-associated tuberculosis from among inmates in penitentiary institutions" (registration No. 20169613944 dated 03/26/2019), automates the calculation of the prognostic index. By utilizing the developed forecasting information system for TB/HIV co-infection outcomes, healthcare professionals can obtain short-term prognoses (within one year of dispensary observation) regarding the outcome of HIV-associated TB in incarcerated patients. This information system is designed to assess the disease outcome for patients hospitalized in specialized tuberculosis hospitals and at the prehospital stage.

The integration of the computer program into the healthcare system streamlines the prediction process, enabling healthcare providers to quickly and accurately evaluate the potential outcome of HIV-associated TB in incarcerated individuals. By automatically calculating the prognostic index, the program facilitates timely decision-making and allows for the implementation of appropriate diagnostic and treatment interventions. This not only improves the quality of healthcare but also supports healthcare providers in formulating personalized care plans based on the predicted disease outcome. The developed forecasting information system plays a crucial role in the management of TB/HIV co-infection in inmates. It enables healthcare professionals to assess the disease prognosis within a one-year timeframe, providing valuable insights for effective patient management and resource allocation. By implementing this system, specialized tuberculosis hospitals and prehospital care facilities can enhance their ability to deliver timely and targeted interventions, ultimately improving patient outcomes and optimizing the allocation of healthcare resources.

6. Conclusion

The primary objective of developing the forecasting information system for the outcome of TB/HIV co-infection is to enhance the quality of healthcare provided to inmates with HIV-associated tuberculosis, while simultaneously reducing mortality rates associated with this disease. By incorporating an additional highly accurate diagnostic criterion, the system facilitates timely adjustments in treatment, preventive measures, and organizational interventions, thereby improving patient outcomes. One notable advantage of the proposed forecasting information system is its simplicity, convenience, and speed of evaluation. It eliminates the need for invasive methods and reduces costs by eliminating the requirement for expensive laboratory and instrumental diagnostic procedures. These attributes make the system highly accessible and cost-effective, enabling its utilization as a screening test. The forecasting information system provides a valuable tool for healthcare professionals in the penitentiary system, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding patient care. By accurately predicting the outcome of TB/HIV co-infection, healthcare providers can promptly intervene with appropriate treatment strategies, preventive measures, and organizational interventions, ultimately leading to improved patient outcomes and reduced mortality rates.

The simplicity and convenience of the proposed system also have significant implications for resource-constrained settings. Particularly in prison healthcare, where limited resources and financial constraints may hinder access to sophisticated diagnostic methods, the forecasting information system offers an accessible and cost-effective solution. By leveraging readily available data and employing a streamlined evaluation process, the system can be easily implemented and integrated into existing healthcare systems, benefiting a larger population of inmates with HIV-associated tuberculosis. In conclusion, the development of the forecasting information system for the outcome of TB/HIV co-infection in inmates holds great promise for improving healthcare quality and reducing mortality rates. With its simplicity, convenience, and speed of evaluation, the system provides an efficient and cost-effective approach to predicting disease outcomes. By enabling timely adjustments in treatment and organizational measures, the system enhances patient care and contributes to better overall health outcomes in incarcerated individuals with HIV-associated tuberculosis.

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