Artificial intelligence applied: data-driven vector representations of adverse events and drugs in pharmacovigilance

vigiVec

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Methods

We train a Word2Vec Skipgram neural network model with 20 dimensions to predict co-reported drugs and adverse events on each report in VigiBase.

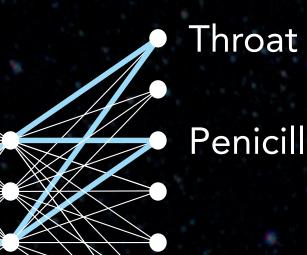
Throat tightness

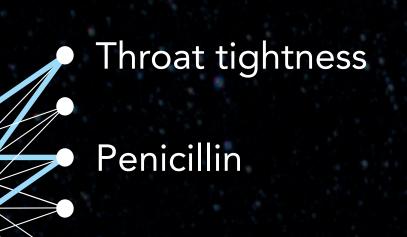
VigiBase

Pharyngeal oedema

Penicillin

The weights from the trained neural network are then used as the vector representations for each drug and adverse event.



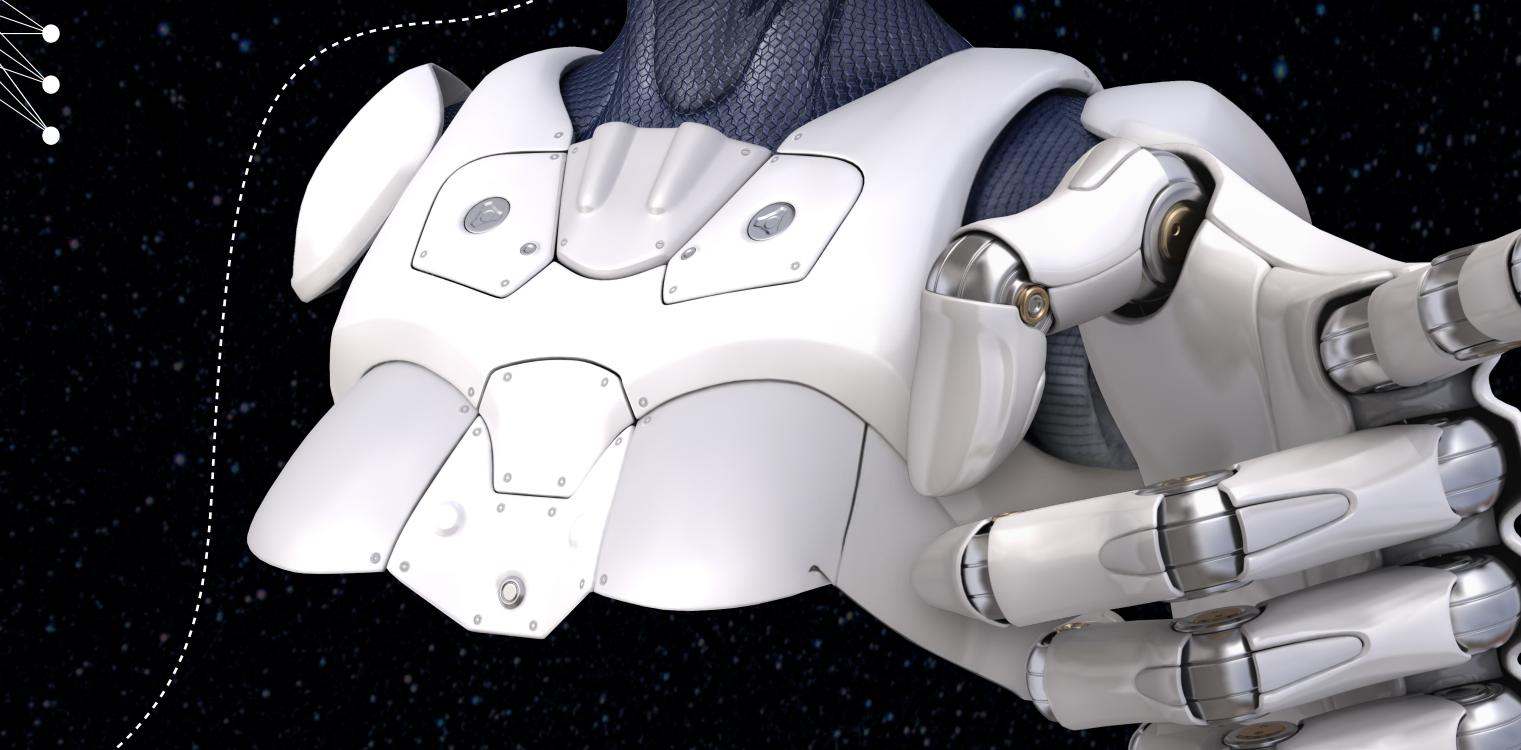


Objective:

To evaluate stability and clinical relatedness of nearest neighbors identified via vector representations for adverse events and drugs derived from global pharmacovigilance reporting patterns.

Background:

Pharmacovigilance requires identification of adverse event terms related to the same clinical condition, and solely relying on hierarchies in medical terminologies is often not sufficient. Similar challenges exist for the analysis of medicinal products. By utilizing advancements in machine learning UMC has developed vigiVec, yielding vector representations of MedDRA preferred terms and WHODrug active substances.



Pharyngeal paraesthesia

Paraesthesia oral Swollen tongue

Throat tightness Pharyngeal oedema

Enlarged uvula Pharyngeal hypoaesthesia

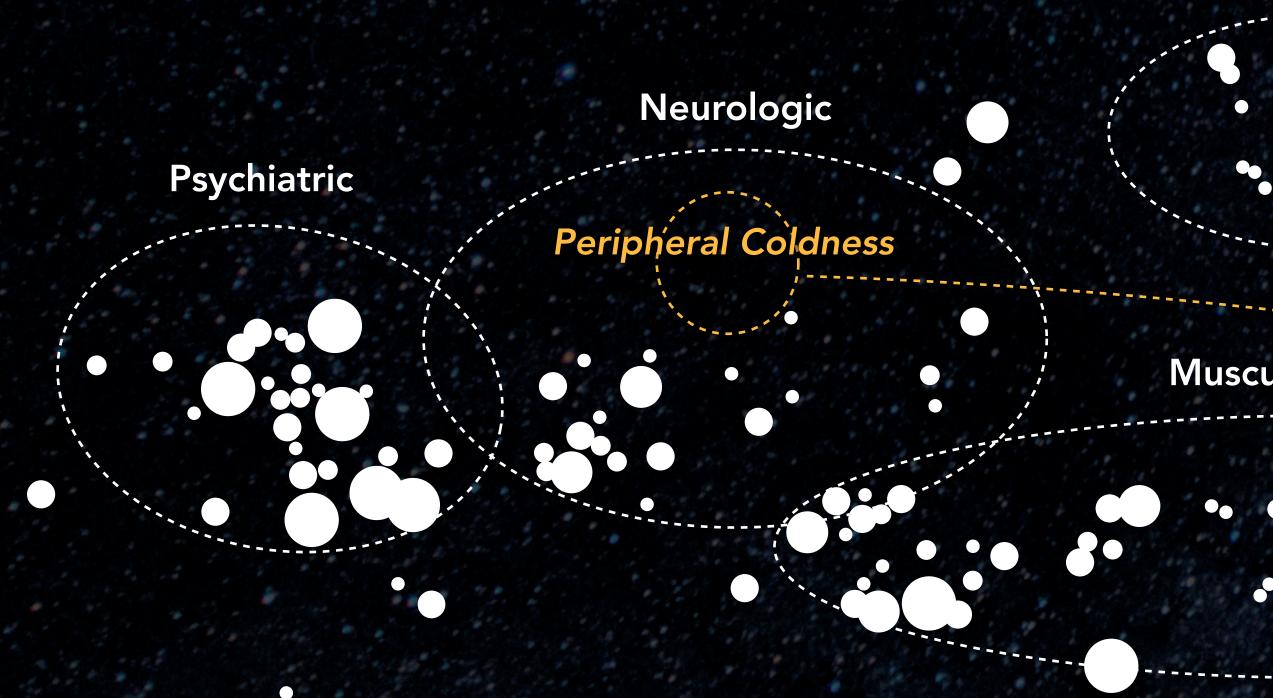
Throat irritation Choking sensation

Pharyngeal swelling

• Shared MedDRA SMQ

• Shared MedDRA HLT

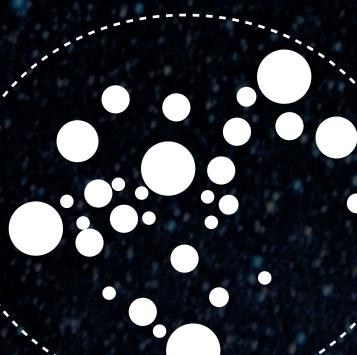
Results



Hypersensitivity



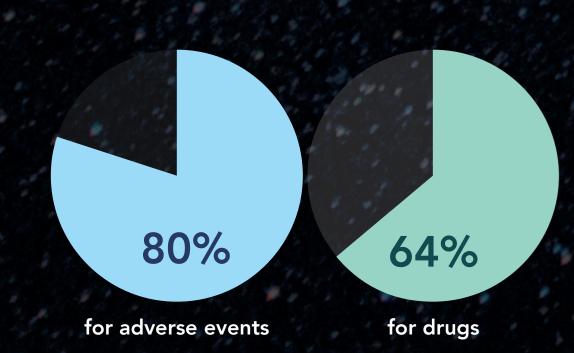
Dermatologic



Musculoskeletal

Stability

The stability was measured as the average overlap in the ten nearest neighbors for each adverse event or drug, in repeated fitting of vigiVec.



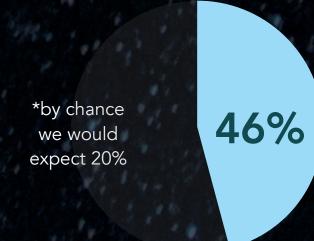
Conclusions

The semantic representations of vigiVec are stable and show a high level of clinical relatedness. Data-driven identification of clinically related adverse events and drugs may complement existing medical hierarchies, supporting domain experts in pharmacovigilance.

Clinical relatedness

Clinical relatedness was measured through term intruder detection, where a medical doctor was asked to identify a random intruder among the four nearest neighbors to a specific adverse event or drug.





for adverse events outside HLT for adverse events inside HLT Term intruder detection rate

Peripheral Coldness

Feeling of body temperature change Sensation of blood flow

Term intruder detection

