



Predicting risk for Alcohol Use Disorder using longitudinal data with multimodal biomarkers and family history: a machine learning study

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Abstract

Predictive models have succeeded in distinguishing between individuals with Alcohol use Disorder (AUD) and controls. However, predictive models identifying who is prone to develop AUD and the biomarkers indicating a predisposition to AUD are still unclear. Our sample ($n = 656$) included offspring and non-offspring of European American (EA) and African American (AA) ancestry from the Collaborative Study of the Genetics of Alcoholism (COGA) who were recruited as early as age 12 and were unaffected at first assessment and reassessed years later as AUD (DSM-5) ($n = 328$) or unaffected ($n = 328$). Machine learning analysis was performed for 220 EEG measures, 149 alcohol-related single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) from a recent large Genome-wide Association Study (GWAS) of alcohol use/misuse and two family history (mother DSM-5 AUD and father DSM-5 AUD) features using supervised, Linear Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifier to test which features assessed before developing AUD predict those who go on to develop AUD. Age, gender, and ancestry stratified analyses were performed. Results indicate significant and higher accuracy rates for the AA compared with the EA prediction models and a higher model accuracy trend among females compared with males for both ancestries. Combined EEG and SNP features model outperformed models based on only EEG features or only SNP features for both EA and AA samples. This multidimensional superiority was confirmed in a follow-up analysis in the AA age groups (12–15, 16–19, 20–30) and EA age group (16–19). In both ancestry samples, the youngest age group achieved higher accuracy score than the two other older age groups. Maternal AUD increased the model's accuracy in both ancestries' samples. Several discriminative EEG measures and SNPs features were identified, including lower posterior gamma, higher slow wave connectivity (delta, theta, alpha), higher frontal gamma ratio, higher beta correlation in the parietal area, and 5 SNPs: rs4780836, rs2605140, rs11690265, rs692854, and rs13380649. Results highlight the significance of sampling uniformity followed by stratified (e.g., ancestry, gender, developmental period) analysis, and wider selection of features, to generate better prediction scores allowing a more accurate estimation of AUD development.

Introduction

Identifying who is vulnerable to develop Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD), determining 'sensitive periods', and

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finding relevant biological markers are a major challenge. Studies show that rates of alcohol consumption dramatically increase during the teenage years [1] and genetic and environmental factors can increase the risk for transitioning to AUD [2]. However, clear indication as to who is prone to develop AUD is still unclear. Recent studies have suggested that multidimensional modeling of genetic, biological, and psychosocial information may better reflect the underlying pathophysiology compared with one-dimensional measures [3, 4]. Indeed, over the last decade, machine learning (ML) approaches and data mining processes have been successfully applied for analysis of multidimensional datasets including neuroimaging and genetic data to help in the context of disease diagnosis [5, 6], outperforming classical regression approaches [7]. ML Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifiers have succeeded in predicting diagnosis, clinical outcomes, and classifying disorders such as depression [6], schizophrenia [4, 8], and AUD [9–11]. Specifically, AUD classifiers achieved significant accuracy utilizing electrophysiological features such as EEG coherence and spectral power (89.3%) [10, 11], EEG's nonlinear features (91.7%) [9], family history (FH) of AUD, and psycho-social features [3, 7], as well as genetic information [3, 12]. However, there are no longitudinal studies that analyzed the predictive model of AUD based on data acquired prior to its development, thus, avoiding the confounding with effects of AUD. Such a model can give important information about biomarkers, which can indicate the sensitivity to develop AUD. The current study used longitudinal multidimensional data from COGA (e.g., clinical, electrophysiological, SNP, FH), including individuals of European American (EA) and African American (AA) ancestry. COGA collects data and follows AUD/non-AUD individuals starting as early as age 12, enabling a unique opportunity to compare individual's status before and after AUD developed.

Our central hypothesis was that a multidimensional features model will result in a better prediction than each of the modalities separately (EEG measures and genomic data) and that the addition of a FH feature will further increase the prediction score. In this paper, we present a supervised ML method (SVM) to classify individuals before AUD emerged into those who developed AUD years later and those who did not. The analysis incorporates EEG measures, FH information, and data on a set of SNPs derived from recent GWAS of alcohol consumption [12, 13], alcohol dependence [14, 15], and alcohol-related EEG measures [15, 16], as features. An essential aspect of identifying a true classifier is to control for possible effects of confounding variables such as age [17, 18], gender [19, 20], and ancestry [21, 22] which can lead to misclassification of the model [23]. Age, gender, and ancestry stratified analysis can lead to separate, more accurate models for each of the groups

[17, 19, 21]. Using stratification to control for the confounding variables, age, gender, and ancestry, we expected to find differences in the prediction models between the groups. We also examined the most discriminative features in the predictive models, enhancing our understanding of brain mechanism/genetics/FH features underlying AUD development, risk, and resilience.

Method

Participants

The data comprised 656 participants (376 males and 280 females) from Collaborative Study of the Genetics of Alcoholism (COGA), examined within the age range of 12–30 years. Data from six collection sites were included in this study. Ascertainment and assessment procedures of COGA recruits have been described elsewhere [24–26] and in Supplementary Materials. For this study we examined only participants who were unaffected at their first visit and reassessed years later and divided them into two groups: DSM-5 AUD and unaffected controls. The AUD group ($n = 328$, 188 males, 140 females) was defined as those diagnosed as unaffected during the first visit (mean age: 17.88 ± 2.95) and diagnosed with lifetime DSM-5 AUD during a follow-up visit (mean number of years between visits = 7.36 ± 3.01). The control group ($n = 328$, 188 males, 140 females) was age matched ($p = 0.5$) to the AUD group during the first visit (mean age: 17.69 ± 3.11) and diagnosed as unaffected both at that visit and during a follow-up visit (mean number of years between visits = 6.64 ± 3.35) (Fig. 1). In a series of analyses, the groups were further divided according to ancestry (EA, AA), age (early adolescence: 12–15 years old, late adolescence: 16–19 years old, and adults: 20–30 years old) [27, 28] and gender (male, female). All groups were matched on age. Ancestry, gender,

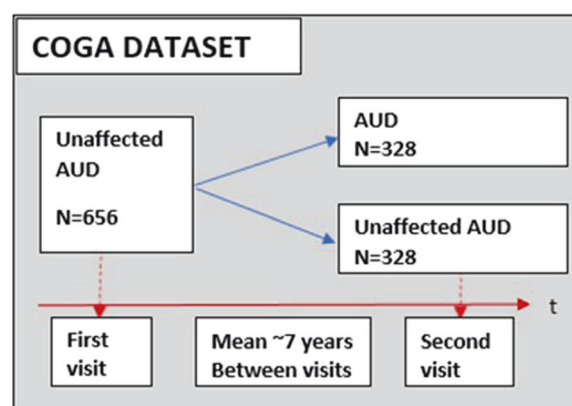


Fig. 1 A data-flow diagram

age, and missing values dictated a series of analyses that included different subsets of subjects. Full description of each of the groups can be found in Supplementary Tables 1 and 2.

Procedure

EEG data acquisition and preprocessing

Resting EEG was recorded for 4 min in all participants as they were resting on a comfortable chair in a dimly lit, sound-attenuated RF-shielded booth (Industrial Acoustics, Inc., Bronx, NY, USA). A 64-channel electrode cap (Electro-Cap International, Inc., Eaton, OH, USA) based on the extended 10–20 System [29, 30] was used. Participants were asked to stay awake with eyes closed and not to move. EEG recording and preprocessing procedures are described in Supplementary Materials.

Feature extraction

EEG extracted features Full description of the EEG features extraction analysis can be found in Supplementary Materials. The following electrophysiological features were extracted: 1. The spectral power (**40 features**). 2. Coherence values (**90 features**). 3. Correlation values (**90 features**).

FH extracted features Parental AUD data (mother or father DSM-5 AUD) (**2 features**).

Genetic data extracted features SNPs (149 features; Supplementary Table 3) were selected based upon associations with EEG and alcohol-related traits from several recent Genome-wide Association Study (GWAS) involving EA and AA populations. These include fast beta EEG [16], alcohol consumption [12, 13], DSM-IV alcohol dependence [14, 15], and maximum number of alcoholic drinks within 24 h [31]. Genotyping, imputation, and quality control have been previously reported [32, 33] and can be found in Supplementary Materials.

Feature selection and classification model estimation

Feature selection and model estimation and validation were done separately for every group (i.e., only EEG, only SNPs, combined EEG + SNP, male, female, AA, EA, and different age groups). To control for variables overfitting we used regularization method [4, 34], enhancing the prediction accuracy and interpretability of the statistical model. Specifically, for feature selection we used the least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (LASSO) penalty as

described by Tibshirani [35]. The sparsity property of LASSO (i.e. generating coefficient estimates of exactly zero), makes it attractive for feature selection as it reduces the estimation variance while providing a more interpretable final model [36]. Its application to genomic data [37, 38] has shown that selecting a small number of representative features can achieve satisfactory classification. We first determined the regularization parameter using a tenfold cross-validation (CV) procedure, with the label: control vs. AUD as the response variable. All features with a non-zero coefficient were retained for subsequent analyses. The reduced set of most discriminant features was fed into the classifier to classify the study participants into their respective groups, i.e., either AUD or controls.

A linear-kernel SVM was trained to distinguish between the two groups in a tenfold CV procedure that included parameter optimization. For the tenfold CV, subjects were randomly divided into ten equal groups, a classifier was then trained on nine of the ten groups and tested on the left-out one. Every fold, the entire dataset was shuffled to insure randomization of the groups. Due to the effect of the random division on the classification results we repeated this process ten times, averaging the output results. To evaluate model performance, we recorded the number of true positives (TP, number of correctly classified AUD) and true negatives (TN, number of correctly classified controls) scores. Classification accuracy was computed as a ratio of sum of TP and TN divided by the sum of all classified subjects. Area under curve (*AUC*) [3] and *F*-scores were used to evaluate the classification models, while *F* was defined by the equation [10, 11, 39] $F = (1 + \beta^2) \times \frac{\text{Precision} \times \text{recall}}{\beta \times \text{precision} + \text{recall}}$ and can be interpreted as a weighted harmonic average of precision and recall values [39]. The precision is defined as the number of true positives divided by the number of true positives plus the number of false positives and the recall is defined as the number of true positives divided by the number of true positives plus the number of false negatives. Due to an absence of prior information about either precision or recall, the beta value was set to 1. More description of models' calculation and comparison can be found in Supplementary Materials.

Results

Different SVM prediction models with overlapping features and different subsets of subjects divided according to ancestry, age, and gender were used for the predictive models. Table 1 summarizes the results of the significant predictive model scores across ancestry, gender, and age (see Supplementary Tables 4–6 for full results), revealing higher scores for the AA than for the EA sample ($p < 0.001$), for females over males in both EA (borderline trend)

Table 1 Selected significant models, classifying AUD and unaffected controls divided by ancestry, age and gender

Model features	Specificity (%)	Sensitivity (%)	Accuracy (%)	AUC	F
EEG					
EEG male	68.4	72.66	70.53	0.84	0.71
EEG female	73.5	77.86	75.68	0.86	0.76
EEG (12–15)	73.99	72.68	73.35	0.87	0.72
EA					
EEG + SNP	69.03	75.04	72.04	0.84	0.73
EEG + SNP female	76.82	81	78.91	0.9	0.79
EEG + SNP male mother AUD	70.94	68.08	69.54	0.78	0.69
EEG + SNP female father AUD	70.15	78.22	74.18	0.92	0.76
EEG + SNP female mother AUD	75.16	79.48	77.32	0.89	0.78
EEG + SNP (12–15)	68.43	79.23	74.2	0.89	0.76
AA					
EEG + SNP	74.14	78.43	76.29	0.9	0.77
EEG + SNP female	71.02	87.67	79.33	0.99	0.81
EEG + SNP male mother AUD	74.69	67.78	71.23	0.83	0.71
EEG + SNP female father AUD	85.71	89.38	87.55	0.99	0.89
EEG + SNP female mother AUD	81.3	92.92	87.11	0.99	0.88
EEG + SNP (12–15)	79.55	79.52	79.54	0.93	0.79
EEG + SNP (16–19)	65.46	85.56	76.53	0.92	0.80
EEG + SNP (20–30)	73.2	73.18	73.19	0.97	0.71

F tests were used for comparisons between the two groups. AUC (area under the curve) calculations were used for classification analysis in order to determine which of the used models predicts the labels best. Values are means of the ten CV fold model calculation

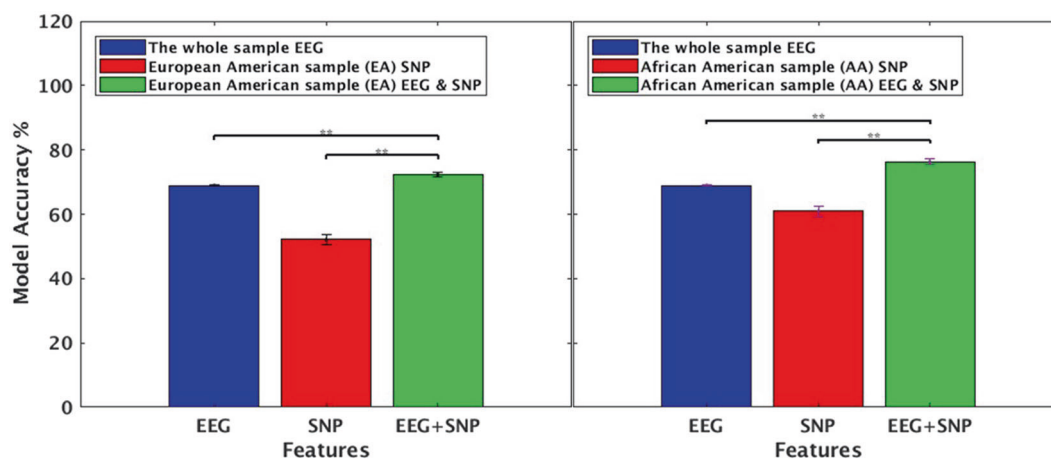


Fig. 2 Model accuracy by ancestry. Classification obtained by the only EEG features, only SNP features and by the combined EEG and SNP features for EA and AA samples. Results indicate that the

combined model has higher accuracy than the EEG based model, and the SNP based model. The error bars are standard deviations. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

and AA ($p_{(EA\ male\ vs.\ female)} = 0.06$, $p_{(AA\ male\ vs.\ female)} = 0.03$) and for the younger age group over the others in both samples (EA; $F_2 = 76.29$, $p < 0.001$, AA; $F_2 = 8.27$, $p = 0.001$) (Table 1). Table 1 and Fig. 2 highlight that the combined model of EEG + SNP was more accurate than the model based on only EEG features or only SNP features for both the AA and EA samples

(EA; $p_{(EEG\ vs.\ EEG+SNP)} < 0.001$, $p_{(SNP\ vs.\ EEG+SNP)} < 0.001$) (AA; $p_{(EEG\ vs.\ EEG+SNP)} < 0.001$, $p_{(SNP\ vs.\ EEG+SNP)} < 0.001$). Results were confirmed in a follow up analysis in the AA and EA age groups (AA: $p_{(early\ adolescence, EEG\ vs.\ EEG+SNP)} < .001$, $p_{(late\ adolescence, EEG\ vs.\ EEG+SNP)} < 0.001$, $p_{(adults, EEG\ vs.\ EEG+SNP)} < 0.001$) (EA: $p_{(late\ adolescence\ s, EEG\ vs.\ EEG+SNP)} = 0.002$) (Table 1,

Supplementary Fig. 1). The EA age groups combined models reached significance in the early and late adolescence age range but did not outperform the EEG based model accuracy (Table 1, Supplementary Fig. 1). Gender stratified analyses unveiled higher model accuracy in the AA female group over the male in all three features categories (EEG, SNPs, and the combined EEG + SNP model) (whole sample; $p(\text{EEG male vs. EEG female}) < 0.001$, AA; $p(\text{SNP male vs. SNP female}) = 0.008$, $p(\text{EEG+SNP male vs. EEG+SNP female}) < 0.001$) while in the EA group only the combined model EA: $p(\text{EEG+SNP male vs. EEG+SNP female}) < 0.001$ (Fig. 3). Overall, out of all the combined models of EEG + SNP features, the AA and EA female groups achieved the highest accuracy of 79.33% (specificity = 71.02%, sensitivity = 87.67%, $AUC = 0.99$, $F = 0.81$), 78.91% (specificity = 76.82%, sensitivity = 81%, $AUC = 0.9$, $F = 0.79$), respectively, and the AA and EA early adolescence range age of 79.54% (specificity = 79.55%, sensitivity = 79.52%, $AUC = 0.93$, $F = 0.79$), 74.2% (specificity = 68.43%, sensitivity = 79.23%, $AUC = 0.89$, $F = 0.76$), respectively (full list

of the significant models in Table 1). Interestingly, we found gender and ethnicity differences when comparing the addition of the FH feature of mother DSM-5 AUD or father DSM-5 AUD to the combined model of EEG + SNP. For both AA and EA, male and female samples, mother AUD feature increased model accuracy EA: ($p(\text{son-mother vs. EEG+SNP}) < 0.001$) ($p(\text{daughter-mother vs. EEG+SNP}) = 0.02$), AA: ($p(\text{son-mother vs. EEG+SNP}) = 0.001$, $p(\text{daughter-mother vs. EEG+SNP}) < 0.001$). Father AUD increased the accuracy of the combined model only for the AA female sample ($p(\text{daughter-father vs. EEG+SNP}) < 0.001$) (Table 1, Fig. 4). Finally, the AA female group with the combined model of EEG + SNP features with the addition of FH of father AUD or mother AUD feature achieved the highest accuracy of 87.55% (father AUD) (specificity = 85.71%, sensitivity = 89.38%, $AUC = 0.99$, $F = 0.89$) and 87.11% (mother AUD) (specificity = 81.3%, sensitivity = 92.92%, $AUC = 0.99$, $F = 0.88$). Comparing the EA and AA groups' sensitivity and specificity values revealed higher sensitivity values in the AA sample ($p(\text{sensitivity}) = 0.002$).

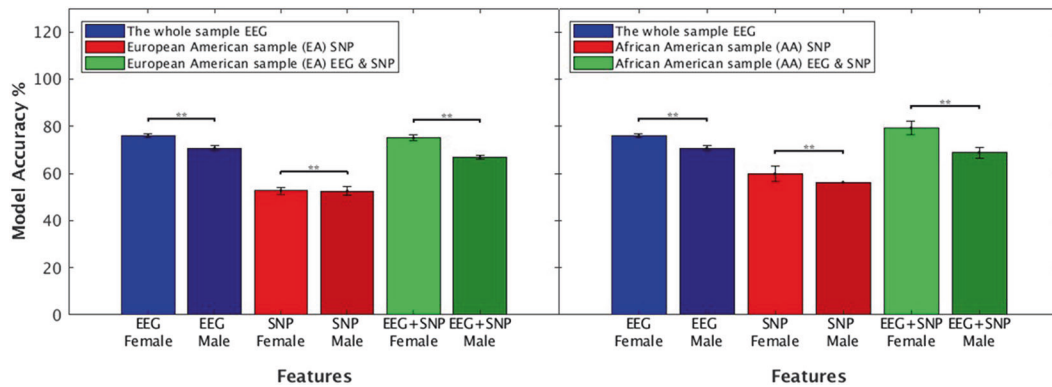


Fig. 3 Model accuracy by gender and ancestry. Classification accuracy obtained by the only EEG features, only SNP features and by the combined EEG and SNP features, stratified by gender. Results indicate

higher accuracy scores for the female compared to male in both EA and AA samples for the three models-based features. The error bars are standard deviations. $*p < 0.05$, $**p < 0.01$

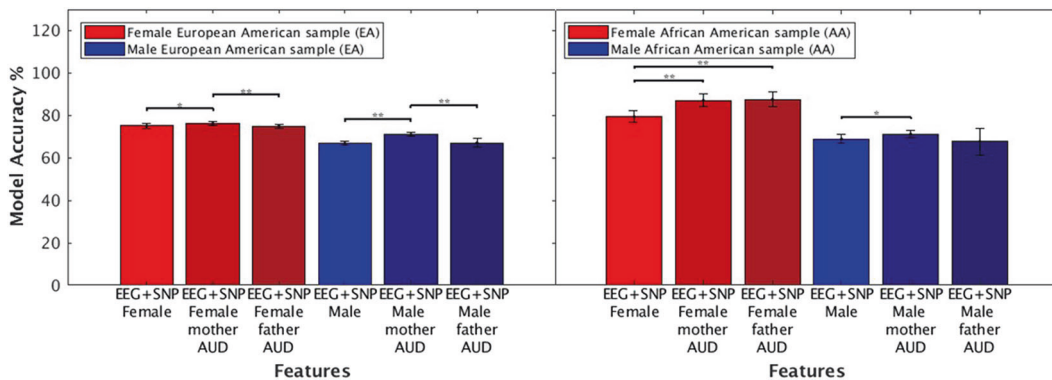


Fig. 4 Model accuracy by gender, family history and ancestry. Mother AUD and father AUD features were added to the female and male models. Results highlight ancestry and gender differences of the effect of parent AUD over the accuracy of the model. For both AA

and EA, male and female samples, mother AUD feature increased model accuracy. Father AUD increased the accuracy of the combined model for the AA female sample. The error bars are standard deviations. $*p < 0.05$, $**p < 0.01$

Discriminative features

EEG

Supplementary Table 7 presents a summary of selected shared and group specific features stratified by ancestry and gender for the combined EEG and SNP models. The most consistent EEG predictor shared by all the AUD groups for the combined EEG + SNP based model, which distinguished the participants with AUD from the controls, included lower posterior gamma (e.g., amplitude, coherence, correlation) and higher slow wave connectivity (delta, theta, alpha) in multiple locations (weight ranking for each group/band/frequency in Supplementary Table 7 and 8–11). All AUD groups exhibited lower occipital gamma amplitude compared to control (weight ranking 1–4). EA-AUD genders shared lower gamma parietal interhemispheric coherence (male) and amplitude (female) (weight ranking 2,4), AA-AUD genders shared lower delta occipital interhemispheric correlation (weight ranking 1,7) and EA and AA female samples shared lower Frontal–Parietal gamma correlation (weight ranking 2,8). On the other hand, higher theta was revealed in AUD EA male interhemispheric connectivity in the occipital, frontal and temporal lobes (weight ranking 1,4,5) while both female groups showed higher slow wave intrahemispheric connectivity (delta, alpha) in frontal–parietal (AA, EA) (weight ranking 2,8) and temporal–parietal (EA) (weight ranking 4) lobes. The groups differed in higher frontal gamma ratio and higher beta correlation in the parietal area (AA male) (weight ranking 2) and lower beta intrahemispheric correlation in the frontal–parietal (EA female) (weight ranking 5).

SNPs

A summary of the most robust SNP predictors for vulnerability to develop AUD is presented in Supplementary Table 12 (the full features ranking is in Supplementary Tables 8–11). EA and AA-AUD females shared one SNP, which was found on chromosome 16 (rs4780836, weight ranking 9,7). Ancestry-gender-specific loci were found for EA AUD female sample on chromosome 17 gene FLII (rs2605140, weight ranking 7), and on chromosome 18 (rs303757, weight ranking 18), and two on chromosome 3 (rs7430178, weight ranking 3), (rs13093097, weight ranking 3).

In the AA female sample, loci were found on chromosome 2 (rs11690265, weight ranking 2), and two on chromosome 18 (rs167336, weight ranking 18), and (rs303754, weight ranking 18) and on chromosome 11 (rs34467936, weight ranking 11), and two on chromosome 16 (rs62057756, weight ranking 16), and (rs28709965, weight ranking 16). A locus was found for EA-AUD male sample

on chromosome 19 gene FUT2 (rs692854, weight ranking 19), and for the AA-AUD male sample on chromosome 16 (rs13380649, weight ranking 16). Overall, females had more SNP features than males ($\#SNP_{(AA\ female)} = 8$, ($\#SNP_{(AA\ male)} = 1$) ($\#SNP_{(EA\ female)} = 5$, ($\#SNP_{(EA\ male)} = 1$) (Supplementary Tables 5 and 6).

Discussion

Machine learning applications hold promise for creating innovative disease prediction models based on longitudinal data. This study used COGA's rich datasets with EEG, genetic, and FH information acquired from individuals as early as age 12, before developing AUD, and followed years later when they either were diagnosed as DSM-5 AUD or unaffected. This is the first study to formulate a prediction model for those who are predisposed to develop AUD using ML with multidimensional features while considering gender and ancestry. We found higher accuracy rates for the prediction models in AA than EA samples. In both AA and EA samples combining EEG and SNP features resulted in higher accuracy scores than the models based on only EEG features or only SNPs, and these results were confirmed in a follow-up analysis (same dataset) within the different AA age groups (early adolescence, late adolescence, and adults) and EA late adolescence age group. Gender analyses revealed trend of higher model accuracy in the female group over the male group in both the EA and the AA for all three features categories (EEG, SNPs, and the combined EEG + SNP model). We further found gender differences in model accuracy with parental history of AUD added to the model. Interestingly, both EA and AA samples showed history of maternal AUD as a discriminative feature, increasing the accuracy of the combined EEG + SNP based model. History of paternal AUD increased the model accuracy over the combined EEG + SNP based model only in the AA females. In both samples, the younger age group achieved higher accuracy score than the two older age groups. Several discriminative EEG and SNP features were identified for each of the models revealing novel gender and ancestry specific AUD predisposition biomarkers. Overall, our findings suggest that higher model accuracy is anchored in a wide range of multidimensional features generated from specific homogenous samples (e.g., gender, age, ancestry). Importantly, identifying group-related specific features will generate formulation of better prediction models.

The ML model based on the combined genetic data and EEG data achieved better classification accuracy than using either alone. These results indicate that these two modalities might reflect somewhat different aspects of AUD etiology, and cannot replace each other in terms of portraying the disease, also confirming previous literature

results showing the advantage of a ML model using multiple dimensions to classify a disease [3]. Importantly, these results open the door to more personalized approaches to predicting diseases. Models based on different modalities can include features that change over time (i.e., brain structures and functions) [40] and over human maturation (i.e., behavior and psychology) [41] making it possible to focus on specific groups (such as categorization by age, gender, ancestry, FH, culture, and behavior) to create prediction models where individualization has real value to advance personalized care for patients.

Accurate predictive models rely on an optimal subset of a given feature set for a given population. The given set of features in the current study better predicted AUD females than males, and AA-AUD than EA-AUD, implying the need to continue and search for group-specific variables with importance or ‘strength’ relatable to each group. For example, the low prediction score of both male groups might relate to the models’ limited genetic discriminative features (i.e., only one SNP was implicated in any of the male models) in comparison with the females’ models (where 4–5 SNPs were implicated).

Our results indicate that across gender and ancestry, individuals who are vulnerable to AUD have posterior (e.g. occipital, parietal) lower gamma activity. These findings are in accordance with a recent review on the neurophysiological correlates of numerous psychiatric disorders, such as depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety and AUD, showing that the most dominant pattern of change across disorder types is power decreases across higher frequencies [42]. Indeed, we found lower parietal gamma (amplitude and coherence) in EA in both males and females and lower frontal–parietal gamma connectivity in only female groups in both EA and AA, all together suggesting that lower posterior gamma is not only a disease biomarker but also a predisposition factor for increased vulnerability to develop AUD. Gamma activity has been proposed to promote the feed forward or “bottom-up” flow of information from lower to higher regions of the brain during thalamocortical iterative recurrent activity [43]. Reduction in the gamma band power and connectivity is possibly index disruption in bottom-up communication across the posterior cortex leading to sensory and executive dysfunctions, which may reflect altered cortical integration.

On the other hand, we found increased connectivity of slower wave bands (delta, theta, alpha) for both EA genders. These results confirm previous finding of increased absolute theta log power at all locations on the scalp of eyes-closed EEGs of alcohol-dependent individuals [44] and increased frontal [45] and occipital [46] theta in binge drinkers, as well as, increased interhemispheric [47] and intrahemispheric theta coherence [48] when compared with controls. Increased cortical theta is usually linked to deep resting stages [49],

transition to sleep [50] and while practicing meditation [51]. These mental processes relate to the suggested model of the “posterior salience network” unfolded in a functional connectivity analysis during rest as an interoceptive network, regulating central somatic awareness, physiological reactivity, and internal homeostatic states [52, 53]. These results suggest that higher-theta-connectivity alcohol-vulnerable individuals have reduced outside attention over introspect inside attention.

Various SNPs were implicated as salient features in predicting the vulnerability to develop AUD. Interestingly, they varied by gender and ancestry. Moreover, females and males did not share any implicated SNPs, which may shed light on previous discrepancies observed in unstratified studies. One variant on chromosome 16 (rs4780836), previously associated in a large GWAS with alcohol consumption [12], was found both in AA and EA females’ models suggesting gender-specificity of this susceptibility marker. While this study focused on individual SNPs from previous GWAS, future studies should aggregate information from a large number of potentially causal SNPs, such as Polygenic Risk Score, to increase features matching [12, 54]

The ability to predict vulnerability and identify related predisposition biomarkers holds enormous possibilities including preventions tactics, treatments or simply avoidance. Equally important is the ability to identify resilience factors, those biomarkers or psychosocial “protective” characteristics, that can thwart or prevent the progress of alcohol dependence. Overall, our findings demonstrate the importance of embedded ancestry, gender and age in the calculation of model prediction of the development of AUD. This approach we argue, should be expanded to any diagnosis or prediction of treatment response. We further show that the model based on various features from different realms (genetics, electrophysiology, and FH) outperform prediction models based on singular-realm features. Wider selection of features with a narrower approach when choosing the sample will generate better prediction scores, enabling accurate anticipation of the development of an undesirable disorder. We also identified specific robust features of EEG and SNP measurement for each gender/ancestry group, further deepening our understanding of the predisposition of brain mechanisms underlying the future development of AUD. Future studies are required to further validate these results with larger cohorts, sampling uniformity and wider selection of features.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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