Supplementary Materials

Appendix E1

In the present study, conditional inference tree analysis was used to classify patients into the BA and non-BA groups. The algorithm works as follows: 1) at each step, the recursive partitioning program establishes for each variable a cutoff point that optimally divides all cases into BA or non-BA groups and selects the input variable, the so-called inner node, that shows the best performance in this task; 2) it subsequently takes the resulting subpopulations (nodes) by recursive splitting and repeats the process until there is no warrant for additional partitioning; 3) the nodes that result from the final split are referred to as the terminal nodes, and the probability of BA is calculated for each terminal node; and 4) from this analysis, variables of importance can be identified, and the decision-making tree model is established.