

### Dynamic predictions of survival in NSCLC, using tumor load measurements: A longitudinal joint modeling approach

Nidal Al-Huniti



Problem Statement:

- Various endpoints are used at various stage of drug development in oncology but what is their predictive value?
- Multiple sources of data can be integrated using drug-disease modeling to predict clinical outcome and rationalize drug combinations

QCP Approach:

- A statistically valid basis for modeling and interpretation of longitudinal response dynamics, in the context of time-to-event (survival) has been developed and validated
- Modeling of trial-level survival data will inform individual-level joint models of tumor size and survival to make earlier trial prediction



# Three Modelling Approaches Can Make Maximal Use of Data in Oncology

1. Bayesian Meta-Analyses Trial-level data linking PFS & OS

2. Bayesian Joint Modeling Patient–level tumor size dynamics – and possibly other covariates/biomarkers - to predict PFS & OS

3. Quantitative Systems Pharmacology Integration of biology & pharmacology to predict, in context, tumor size dynamics and key biomarkers



### Context

- Suppose we observe **repeated measurements** of a **clinical biomarker** on a group of individuals
- May be clinical trial patients or some observational cohort



• In addition we observe the **time to some event** endpoint, e.g. death

### Example data measured in oncology

#### Target lesions



#### Non-target lesions



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Images from Fournier L et al 2014 KM plots from Xu et al 2016



## *Problem*: Rich longitudinal tumor dynamic data are reduced to categorical endpoints with a subsequent loss of information



- RECIST = Response Evaluation Criteria In Solid Tumors
   SLD = Sum of Longest Diameters of target lesions
- CR = Complete Response
- PR = Partial Response
- SD = Stable Disease
- PD = Progressive Disease

Slide from Andy Stein, Novartis, PhUSE 2013



## **"Traditional" Sequential Approach : Longitudinal Modeling Provides Covariates to Event Model**



{a1, a2, a3} are Cox coefficients linking each patient measurement to Survival

Wang Y et al.: Elucidation of Relationship between Tumor Size and Survival in NSCLC Patients Can Aid Early Decision Making in Clinical Drug Development. Clin Pharmacol Ther 2009; 86(2):167-174. IMED Biotech Unit

### 2. Joint Modeling of Tumor Size Dynamics, Biomarkers and Other Baseline Covariates to Improve Prediction of Outcome





#### Joint Modelling in the Literature (since 90s) Appl. Statist. (1994

43, No. 1, pp. 49-93

#### Informative Drop-out in Longitudinal Data Analysis

By P. DIGGLET Lancaster University, UK

and M. G. KENWARD

University of Reading, UK

#### SIMULTANEOUSLY MODELLING CENSORED SURVIVAL DATA AND REPEATEDLY MEASURED COVARIATES: A GIBBS SAMPLING APPROACH

#### CHERYL L. FAUCETT

Department of Biostatistics. University of California, Los Angeles, 10833 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024, U.S.A.

AND STATISTICS IN MEDICINE, VOL. 15, 1663-1685 (1996)

DUNCAN C. THOMAS

Department of Preventive Medicine, University of Southern California, 1540 Alcazar Street Suite 220, Los Angeles, CA 00022 1/5 4

Development and validation of a dynamic prognostic tool for prostate cancer recurrence using repeated measures of posttreatment PSA: a joint modeling approach

#### CÉCILE PROUST-LIMA\*

Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale U897, Biostatistics Department and Université Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2, Bordeaux, F-33076, France Biostatistics (2009), 10, 3, pp. 535-549 cecile.proust@isped.u-bordeaux2.fr doi:10.1093/biostatistics/kxp009 Advance Access publication on April 15, 2009

JEREMY M. G. TAYLOR

Department of Biostatistics and Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Joint modeling of multivariate longitudinal measurements and survival data with applications to Parkinson's disease

Statistical Methods in Medical Research 2016, Vol. 25(4) 1346-1358 © The Author(s) 2013 Reprints and permissions: sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermissions.nav DOI: 10.1177/0962280213480877 smm.sagepub.com

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Bo He and Sheng Luo

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com BOIENCE CONRECT.

Journal of Multivariate Analysis 91 (2004) 18-34

Ameral of Multivariate Analysis

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#### A new joint model for longitudinal and survival data with a cure fraction

#### Ming-Hui Chen,<sup>a</sup> Joseph G. Ibrahim,<sup>b,\*</sup> and Debaivoti Sinha<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269-4120. USA <sup>b</sup> Department of Biostatistics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7420, USA <sup>c</sup> Department of Biostatistics and Epidemioloav Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC 29425, USA

Desmée et al. BMC Medical Research Methodology (2017) 17:105 DOI 10 1186/s12874-017-0382-9

**BMC Medical Research** Methodology

#### **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

Nonlinear joint models for individual dynamic prediction of risk of death using Hamiltonian Monte Carlo: application to metastatic prostate cancer INSERM, Université Paris Diderot, Sorbonne Paris Cité,

Solène Desmée<sup>1\*</sup>, France Mentré<sup>1</sup>, Christine Vevrat-Follet<sup>2</sup>, Bernard Sébastien<sup>3</sup> and Jérémie Guedi<sup>1</sup>

Biometrical Journal 53 (2011) 5, 750–763 DOI: 10.1002/bimj.201100052

Joint modelling of longitudinal and time-to-event data with application to predicting abdominal aortic aneurysm growth and rupture

Michael J. Sweeting\* and Simon G. Thompson

MRC Biostatistics Unit, Institute of Public Health, Robinson Way, Cambridge, CB2 0SR, UK



# What is "joint modelling" of longitudinal and time-to-event data?

- Treats both the longitudinal biomarker(s) and the event as outcome data
- Each outcome is modelled using a distinct regression submodel:
  - A (multivariate) **mixed effects model** for the longitudinal outcome(s)
  - A proportional hazards model for the time-to-event outcome
- The regression submodels are linked through shared individual-specific parameters and estimated simultaneously under a joint likelihood function

### Why use "joint modelling"?

- Want to understand whether (some function of) the longitudinal outcome is associated with the risk of the event (i.e. epidemiological questions)
  - Joint models offer advantages over just using the biomarker as a time-varying covariate (described in the next slide!)
- Want to develop a **dynamic prognostic model**, where predictions of event risk can be updated as new longitudinal biomarker measurements become available (i.e. clinical risk prediction)
- Possibly other reasons:
  - e.g. adjusting for informative dropout, separating out "direct" and "indirect" effects of treatment

### Joint model formulation

• Longitudinal submodel

$$y_{ijm}(t) \text{ is the value at time } t \text{ of the}$$

$$m^{\text{th}} \text{ longitudinal marker } (m = 1, ..., M)$$
for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  individual  $(i = 1, ..., N)$ 
at the  $j^{\text{th}}$  time point  $(j = 1, ..., n_{im})$ 

$$T_i^* \text{ is "true" event time, } C_i \text{ is the censoring}$$
time
$$T_i = \min(T_i^*, C_i) \text{ and } d_i = I(T_i^* \leq C_i)$$

 $y_{ijm}(t)$  follows a distribution in the exponential family with expected value  $\mu_{ijm}(t)$  and

$$\eta_{ijm}(t) = g_m \left( \mu_{ijm}(t) \right) = \mathbf{x}_{ijm}^T(t) \mathbf{\beta}_m + \mathbf{z}_{ijm}^T(t) \mathbf{b}_{im}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_{i1} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{b}_{iM} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{b}_i \sim N(0, \mathbf{\Sigma})$$

• Event submodel

$$h_i(t) = h_0(t) \exp\left(\mathbf{w}_i^T(t)\mathbf{\gamma} + \sum_{m=1}^M \alpha_m \,\mu_{im}(t)\right)$$

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• Known as a current value "association structure"

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$$\eta_{ijm}(t) = g_m \left(\mu_{ijm}(t)\right) = x_{ijm}^T(t)\beta_m + z_{ijm}^T(t)b_{im}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_{i1} \\ \vdots \\ b_{iM} \end{bmatrix} = b_i \sim N(0, \Sigma)$$
• Event submodel
$$h_i(t) \\ = h_0(t) \exp\left(w_i^T(t)\gamma + \sum_{m=1}^M \alpha_m \mu_{im}(t)\right)$$
Whereas  $\mu_{im}(t)$  is both:
$$- \text{ error-prone} \\ - \text{ measured at discrete times} \\ \text{Whereas } \mu_{im}(t) \text{ is both:} \\ - \text{ error-free} \\ - \text{ modelled in continuous time} \\ \text{Therefore less bias in } \alpha_m \\ \text{compared with a time-dependent} \\ \text{Cox model.} \end{cases}$$

• Known as a current value "association structure"

### Joint modelling software

- An abundance of methodological developments in joint modelling
- But not all methods have been translated into "user-friendly" software
- Well established software for one longitudinal outcome
  - e.g. stjm (Stata); joineR, JM, JMbayes, frailtypack (R); JMFit (SAS)
- Recent software developments for multiple longitudinal outcomes
  - R packages: rstanarm, joineRML, JMbayes, survtd
- Each package has its strengths and limitations
  - e.g. (non-)normally distributed longitudinal outcomes, selected association structures, speed, etc.

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### Bayesian joint models via Stan

- Included in **rstanarm** version  $\ge 2.17.2$ 
  - <u>https://cran.r-project.org/package=rstanarm</u>
  - <u>https://github.com/stan-dev/rstanarm</u>
- Can specify multiple longitudinal outcomes
- Allows for multilevel clustering in longitudinal submodels (e.g. time < patients < clinics)
- Variety of families (and link functions) for the longitudinal outcomes
  - e.g. normal, binomial, Poisson, negative binomial, Gamma, inverse Gaussian
- Variety of association structures
- Variety of **prior distributions** 
  - Regression coefficients: normal, student t, Cauchy, shrinkage priors (horseshoe, lasso)
- Posterior predictions including "dynamic predictions" of event outcome
- Baseline hazard
  - B-splines regression, Weibull, piecewise constant



### Iressa IPASS Study Was Used to Investigate the Relationship Between Tumor Dynamics and Survival

Gefitinib (N=609) or Carboplatin + Paclitaxel (N=608) Hazard ratio for progression or death

- Overall: 0.74; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.65 to 0.85; P<0.001
- In EGFR-mutant (N=261): 0.48; 95% CI, 0.36 to 0.64
- In EGFR-wild type (N=176): 2.85; 95% Cl, 2.05 to 3.98



IMED Biotech Unit Mok TS et al. Gefitinib or carboplatin-paclitaxel in pulmonary adenocarcinoma. N Engl J Med. 2009 Sep 3;361(10):947-52

#### Modeling of Tumor Size Dynamics in Humans Comparison of approaches

#### More 'empirical'

 $y(t) = y_0 e^{-dt} + gt$ 

#### **Advantages**

- Simple structure but cannot capture all types of treatment response patterns
- Minimal number of parameters; can obtain identifiable parameter estimates across different, even small datasets

#### Limitations

- Does not account for varying dose information (e.g., dose de-escalation and modification)
- Cannot be used to extrapolate tumor dynamics to different dosing regimens (incl. discontinuation) within a study or across studies

#### More 'mechanistic' (ODEs)

 $\frac{dy}{dt} = net\_growth - drug\_induced\_decay$ 

#### **Advantages**

- Various characteristics of drug effects can be flexibly modeled:
  - Dose dependence
  - Drugs only acting on a fraction of cells
  - Delay in drug action
  - Drug resistance, drug discontinuation

#### Limitations

 Models have more parameters than empirical models; more information needed need to identify parameter values

#### The model with two tumor cell clones (drug-sensitive and drug-resistant)



P(s) and P(R) might differ in:

1) Intrinsic proliferation rate;

2) Resistance to hypoxia;

- 3) Angiogenesis capability;
- 4) Sensitivity to CTLs attack and/or immunogenicity

P(S) and P(R)– drug-sensitive and drug-resistant clones of tumor cells; Q/N - quiescent/necrotic tumor regions; TAF - tumor angiogenesis factors



### Modeling of Tumor Size Dynamics in Humans

#### More 'empirical'

 $y(t) = y_0 e^{-dt} + gt$ 

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  - Drug resistance, drug discontinuation

#### **Middle ground**

Use inference from mechanistic modelling to guide priors on parameters after progression



### Joint Model with an Empirical Mean-Shift Longitudinal Submodel for Tumour Burden

Basic Joint Model structure for survival and longitudinal biomarker(s):

$$egin{aligned} eta_{i imes extsf{gef}} &\sim \mathcal{N}(\ \lambda_{0b} + \lambda_{1b} extsf{gef} + (\lambda_{2b} + \lambda_{3b} extsf{gef}) extsf{base.sld}, \sigma_{eta}^2) \ lpha_{i imes extsf{gef}} &\sim \mathcal{N}(\ \lambda_{0a} + \lambda_{1a} extsf{gef}, \sigma_{lpha}^2) & extsf{Mean shift}: extsf{gef terms set t} \ TS_{0i imes extsf{gef}} &\sim \mathcal{N}(\ \lambda_{0t} + \lambda_{1t} extsf{gef}, \sigma_{TS0}^2) & extsf{after progression events} \end{aligned}$$

**IMED Biotech Unit** 

Stan and a branch of the R package rstanarm were used to fit this model. Many thanks to Sam Brilleman, the Stan developers, and the authors of rstanarm.



to 0

- Consider 2 patients
- Same baseline covariates (same dosing, EGFR status, WHO performance status)





- Consider 2 patients
- Same baseline covariates (same dosing, EGFR status, WHO performance status)

#### 2 months Subject E1742620 E1852874 100% 250 Tumour Burden (mm) 120 120 200 200 200 200 Survival Probability 75% 50% 25% 0% 0 5 10 15 0 months Showing 80% posterior CI



- **Consider 2 patients**
- Same baseline covariates (same dosing, EGFR status, WHO performance status)

#### 5 months

Subject E1742620 E1852874





- Consider 2 patients
- Same baseline covariates (same dosing, EGFR status, WHO performance status)

#### 11 months Subject E1742620 E1852874 100% 250 Tumour Burden (mm) 1200 1200 200 200 200 Survival Probability 75% 50% 25% 0% 0 5 10 15 0 months

Showing 80% posterior CI



### 2. Joint Modeling: Example, gefitinib (EGFR inh) & chemotherapy



27 IMED Biote

### Bayesian Joint modeling in Stan using b-spline and no lag time





# Model predicts IFUM OS using baseline data cut-of1f

Posterior predicted values on IFUM (external validation)

Dynamic predictions fit using baseline longitudinal data only



Rizopoulos, D. (2011). Dynamic predictions and prospective accuracy in joint models for longitudinal and time-to-event data. *Biometrics* **67**, 819–829.

### Average Tumor Load Trajectory Varies According to Treatment among EGFR+ Patients

## Population average values, limited to observed occasions

## Population average values, adjusted for censoring & survivorship bias





IMED Biotech Unit Mok TS et al. Gefitinib or carboplatin-paclitaxel in pulmonary adenocarcinoma. N Engl J Med. 2009 Sep 3;361(10):947-57

### Conclusion

- A statistically valid basis for modeling and interpretation of longitudinal response dynamics, in the context of time-to-event (survival) censoring, through development of a joint longitudinal/event model has been developed and validated.
- Modeling of trial-level survival data will inform individual-level joint models of tumor size and survival to make earlier trial prediction
- The modeling approach can be applied to:
  - Predict outcome for early clinical results
  - Support ranking of drug combinations
  - Optimize late-phase trial designs and/or project survival outcome from early-phase data



### **Acknowledgements**

- We thank numerous collaborators at AZ, who have contributed to data & development of these models, including:
- Quantitative Clinical Pharmacology:
  - David Carlile, Lulu Chu, Bishoy Hanna, Kaitlyn Minchella, Ganesh Mugundu, Hongmei Xu, Xiao Tong, Diansong Zhou, James Dunyak, Helen Tomkinson, Sergey Aksenov, Gabriel Helmlinger and Don Stanski
  - *M&S Decisions*, Moscow: Yuri Kosinsky, Boris Shulgin and Dmitry Onishchenko
  - Stan Group: Eric Novik and Daniel Lee in collaboration with Jacki Buros from Hammer Lab / Dept of Genetics and Genomics, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt Sinai and Sam Brillman from Monash University.



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### Back up

### **Association structures**

• A more general form for the event submodel is

$$h_i(t) = h_0(t) \exp\left(\boldsymbol{w_i^T(t)\gamma} + \sum_{m=1}^{M} \sum_{q=1}^{Q_m} \alpha_{mq} f_{mq}(\boldsymbol{\beta_m}, \boldsymbol{b_{im}}; t)\right)$$

 This posits an association between the log hazard of the event and any function of the longitudinal submodel parameters; for example, defining f<sub>mq</sub>(.) as:

$$\eta_{im}(t) \longrightarrow \text{Linear predictor (or expected value of the biomarker) at time} t$$

$$\frac{d\eta_{im}(t)}{dt} \longrightarrow \text{Rate of change in the linear predictor (or biomarker) at time } t$$

$$\int_{0}^{t} \eta_{im}(s) \, ds \longrightarrow \text{Area under linear predictor (or biomarker trajectory), up to time } t$$

 $\eta_{im}(t-u)$   $\longrightarrow$  Lagged value (for some lag time u)

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### **Joint Modeling to Predict Survival**

Time-dependent mixed-effects model informs hazard

### Joint model (first-order):

$$\begin{cases} h_i(t|\mathcal{M}_i(t)) = h_0(t) \cdot \exp\left(\gamma^{\mathrm{T}} w_i + \alpha_0 \cdot m_i(t) + \alpha_1 \cdot m_i'(t)\right) \\ y_i(t) = m_i(t) + \varepsilon_i(t) = \\ = x_i^{\mathrm{T}}(t) \cdot \beta + z_i^{\mathrm{T}}(t) \cdot b_i + \varepsilon_i(t) \end{cases}$$

Survival model may be dependent on the *rate-ofchange* of tumor size
Also, *delay term* may be implemented

Survival submodel updated:

$$m'_i(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \{ x_i^{\mathrm{T}}(t) \cdot \beta + z_i^{\mathrm{T}}(t) \cdot b_i \}$$

#### Longitudinal submodel:

 $y_i(t)$  – measurements of  $m_i(t)$  (with error)  $x_i(t)$  and  $\beta$  – fixed-effects design matrix and coefficients  $z_i(t)$  and  $b_i$  – random-effects design matrix and coefficients,  $b_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, D)$ 

rstanarm was used to jointly model

the relationship between tumor dynamics (size) measurements and PFS /OS



### 2. Joint Modeling: Example, gefitinib (EGFR inh)

 Consider 2 patients with same baseline covariates (same dosing, EGFR status, WHO performance status)



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### 2. Joint Modeling: Example, gefitinib (EGFR inh)

- Consider 2 patients with same baseline covariates (same dosing, EGFR status, WHO performance status)
- Their therapeutic prognoses differ only because of differences in tumour dynamics (baseline & trajectory)



### **Continuous modeling of endpoints: Joint approach**



Time after treatment initiation

40

► Individual survival function:

$$S_i(t|\mathcal{M}_i(t)) = \exp\left\{-\int_0^t h_i(s|\mathcal{M}_i(s)) ds\right\}$$

- ► Log-likelihood is maximized for  $\{T_i, \delta_i, yi\}$
- *T<sub>i</sub>* is the time to event
- $\delta_i$  is the censoring indicator
- $y_i(t)$  is the longitudinal evolution

measured with error!

Maximization is conditional on baseline covariates

*Ibrahim 2010, J Clin Oncol 28:2796-2801 Rizopoulos 2010, J Stat Soft 35:1-33* 



for *i*th subj.

*Problem:* Different clinical endpoints are used in each phase, but are they correlated and predictive of the next phase?

PRECLINICAL	PHASE I, II	PHASE III
Tumor Growth Inhibition (TGI)	Tumor Dynamics Overall Response Rate (ORR)	Progression Free Survival (PFS) Overall survival (OS)

PROBLEM: Rich longitudinal tumor dynamic data are reduced to categorical endpoints with a subsequent loss of information



5

Slide adapted from Andy Stein, Novartis, PhUSE 2013

### Modeling of Tumor Size Dynamics in Humans Comparison of approaches

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#### **Advantages**

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#### Limitations

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### Joint Model with an Empirical Mean-Shift Longitudinal Submodel for Tumor Burden

$$\begin{cases} h_i(t|\mathcal{M}_i(t)) = h_0(t)exp\left\{\gamma^\top w_i + \alpha m_i(t)\right\}\\ y_i(t) = m_i(t) + \varepsilon_i(t)\\ m_i(t) = \beta_i t + TS_{0i}e^{-\alpha_i t} \end{cases}$$

#### Where

$$\mathcal{M}_{i}(t) = \left\{ m_{i}(s), 0 \leq s < t \right\}$$
  
$$\boldsymbol{\alpha} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{\alpha}^{2})$$
  
$$\varepsilon_{i}(t) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2})$$



### **Spherical model of tumor lesion**





#### The model assumptions:

- Spherical geometry of tumor lesion is assumed. Proliferative (P) cells form external "viable rim" of tumor, and Quiescent (Q) cells form internal core of tumor;
- 2) P -> Q transition rate is driven by hypoxia and depends on current value of vascular density in P-zone. Q cells elimination rate is constant and relatively slow;

3) Equilibrium thickness of "viable rim" is independent on tumor diameter, and depends on tumor **angiogenesis capability** and P cells **resistance-to-hypoxia** parameter values;

4) Chemo or target drug kills P cells, not Q cells.

### Step 2: The model with two tumor cell clones (drug-sensitive and drug-resistant)



#### P(s) and P(R) might differ in:

- 1) Intrinsic proliferation rate;
- 2) Resistance to hypoxia;
- 3) Angiogenesis capability;
- 4) Sensitivity to CTLs attack and/or immunogenicity

- P(S) and P(R)- drug-sensitive and drug-resistant clones of tumor cells;
- Q/N quiescent/necrotic tumor regions;
- TAF tumor angiogenesis factors



### The model structure and assumptions made



#### One clone model

Tumor volume: TV = P+QTumor diameter:  $TD = 2^{(3/4\pi * TV)^{1/3}}$ Tumor surface:  $TS = 4 \pi^{*} (TD/2)^{1/2}$ 

Blood vessels amount: va= dPmax\*TS; Vascular density: vd= va/P;

P cells survival function: Survp = vd/(vd + Kp)

dP/dt = kp\*P - kpq \* (1 - Survp) \* PdQ/dt = kpq \* (1 - Survp) \* P - kq\*Q Spherical geometry of tumor lesion is assumed.
 P (proliferative) cells form external "viable rim" of tumor;
 Q (quiescent) cells form internal core of tumor;

2) Thickness of "viable rim" is independent on tumor diameter, and depends mainly on dPmax (tumor angiogenesis capability) and Kp (hypoxia-dependent resistance) parameter values.

3) Chemo drug kills P cells, not Q cells

#### Two clones model

Tumor volume: TV = P1+P2+Q Tumor diameter: TD =  $2*(3/4\pi * TV)^{1/3}$ Tumor surface: TS =  $4\pi * (TD/2)^{1/2}$ 

Blood vessels amount: va= dPmax\*TS, where dPmax = {dPmax1\*P1+ dPmax2\*P2}/(P1+P2) Vascular density: vd= va/(P1+P2);

P1 cells survival function: Survp1 = vd/(vd + Kp1)P2 cells survival function: Survp2 = vd/(vd + Kp2)

dP1/dt = kp\*P1 - kpq \* (1 - Survp1)\*P1dP2/dt = kp\*P2 - kpq \* (1 - Survp2)\*P2 $dQ/dt = kpq*{(1 - Survp1)*P1 + (1 - Survp2)*P2} - kq*Q$ 



### **Individual Risks Estimated Dynamically**

The longitudinal and survival components of the joint model are typically linked (joined) through the relative risk function



### **Association structures**

• A more **general form** for the event submodel is

$$h_i(t) = h_0(t) \exp\left(\boldsymbol{w_i^T(t)\gamma} + \sum_{m=1}^{M} \sum_{q=1}^{Q_m} \alpha_{mq} f_{mq}(\boldsymbol{\beta_m}, \boldsymbol{b_{im}}; t)\right)$$

• This posits an association between the log hazard of the event and any function of the longitudinal submodel parameters