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Machine Learning-based Quality Control Procedure For Merging Whole Genome Sequencing Datasets In Rare Genetic Variant Research.

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Increased availability of Whole-genome sequencing (WGS) resulted in creation of numerous sequencing projects and genomic information databanks. By combining datasets provided by different institutions one can easily increase the sample size of a study while avoiding direct costs of sequencing these samples. Unfortunately, sequencing data obtained from different institution possesses a unique pattern of technical errors, represented as genetic variants of artifactual nature. These variants of nonbiological origin compromise the results of a subsequent association study. Quality control (QC) of WGS data is essential to prevent false associations. Traditional approaches mitigate artifactual variants by removing rare genetic variants from combined datasets. This practice hinders the investigation of rare and less-common genetic variants in phenotypic trait inheritance. We are working on a machine learning-based QC procedure that reduces artifactual variants while preserving true rare genetic variation.

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