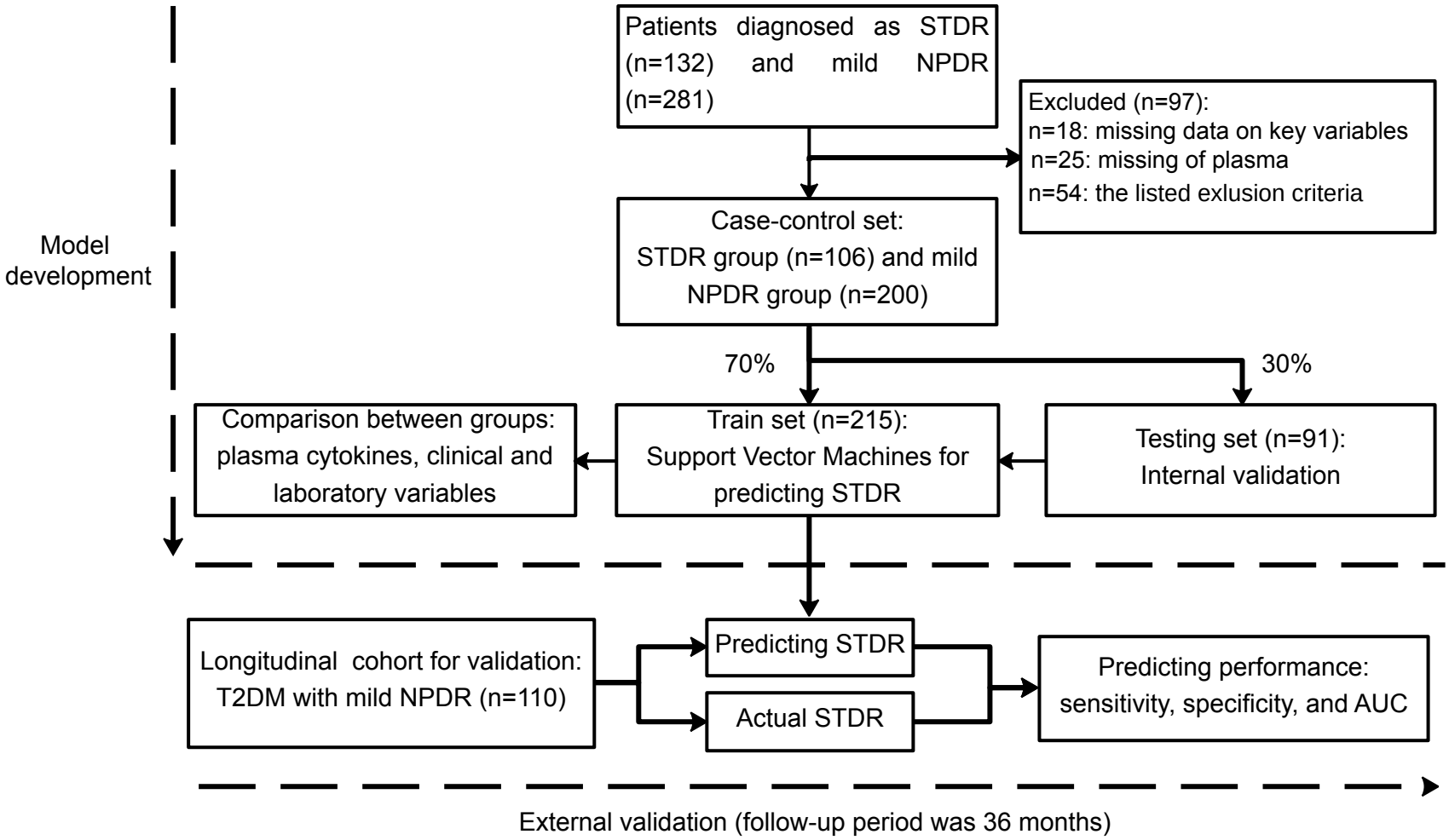
Model development
Patients diagnosed as STDR (n=132) and mild NPDR (n=281)
Excluded (n=97):
n=18: missing data on key variables
n=25: missing of plasma
n=54: the listed exlusion criteria
Case-control set:
STDR group (n=106) and mild NPDR group (n=200)
70%
30%
Comparison between groups: plasma cytokines, clinical and laboratory variables
Train set (n=215):
Support Vector Machines for predicting STDR
Testing set (n=91):
Internal validation
Longitudinal cohort for validation:
T2DM with mild NPDR (n=110)
Predicting STDR
Actual STDR
Predicting performance:
sensitivity, specificity, and AUC
External validation (follow-up period was 36 months)