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Precision medicine in hepatocellular carcinoma: From cell lines to patients

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The concept of "precision medicine"

- Precision Medicine refers to the tailoring of medical treatment to the individual characteristics of each patient.
- It does not literally mean the creation of drugs or medical devices that are unique to a patient, but rather the ability to classify individuals into subpopulations that differ in their susceptibility to a particular disease.
- Precision medicine often involves the application of panomic analysis and systems biology to analyze the cause of an individual patient's disease at the molecular level and then to utilize targeted treatments (possibly in combination) to address that individual patient's disease process.
- Preventive or therapeutic interventions can then be concentrated on those who will benefit, sparing expense and side effects for those who will not.

Main content of the work

Over the past few years we have built the world's largest cell bank of liver cancer cell lines, Liver Cancer Model Repository (LIMORE) with our collaboration partners.

We established a corresponding "dry" and "wet" combined database, and based on LIMORE Cell Bank, we have screened out a number of potential disease related biomarkers, which can be used for the evaluation of the efficacy and prognosis of anti-liver cancer drugs.

For the precise treatment of the liver cancer we have successfully used the LIMORE system to discover a disease biomarker, which is a **secreted protein**, and can be used as a companion to the diagnosis of Sorafenib's prognosis and efficacy.

Hepatocellular carcinoma(HCC) is a major health problem globally and especially in China

nternational Agency for Research on Cancer



The fifth most common cancer 55% in China The second leading cause of cancer Five year survival rate is only 8.9% 50% in China

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a worldwide disease problem. In Asia, especially China, the incidence and mortality of liver cancer are the highest. More than 50% of new cases and deaths occur in China every year, which brings great burden to China's health.



HCC genetic heterogeneity among patients



Genetic heterogeneity complicates the prediction of cancer prognosis

Totoki Y et al. *Nature Genetics*. 2014 Schulze K et al. *Nature Genetics*. 2015

HCC genetic heterogeneity among patients



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HCC genetic heterogeneity among patients



Genetic heterogeneity complicates the prediction of cancer prognosis. Therefore, Motivated by these studies, we aim to establish a large panel of liver cancer cell lines from different ancestries to better represent the genetic heterogeneity of liver cancer.

Totoki Y et al. *Nature Genetics*. 2014 Schulze K et al. *Nature Genetics*. 2015







Gleevec in chronic myelogenous leukemia Herceptin in breast cancer Tarceva in lung cancer



In the era of precision medicine, people have a new understanding of the treatment of diseases. Gleevec in chronic myelogenous leukemia Herceptin in breast cancer Tarceva in lung cancer

Precision medicine: Peek-a-WHO



Models! Models! Models!

Precision medicine: Peek-a-WHO



Our works is: Rapid establishment of a genedrug knowledge base through large-scale analysis in models, then we can peek who will be a right patient for give a right treatments.

Models! Models! Models!

Models must reflect genetic heterogeneity



Models to reflect aenetic heterogeneity Patient derived xenografts (PDX) are

Patient derived xenografts (PDX) are models of cancer where the tissue or cells from a patient's tumor are implanted into an immuno-deficient or humanized mouse. PDX models are used to create an environment that allows for the natural growth of cancer, its monitoring, and corresponding treatment evaluations for the original patient.

sponse



Models to reflect genetic heterogeneity

Genetic

He

Patient derived Cancer Cell (PDC) are

models of cancer where the cells from a patient's tumor are implanted into a petri dish and stay alive. PDC cell line are used to monitoring, and corresponding
r treatment evaluations for the original

Patient Derived Xer treatment evaluations for the original patient.



sponse

Patient Derived Cancer CellCancer cell line
(PDC)Patient Derived OrganoidOrganoid
(PDO)

Models to reflect genetic heterogeneity



Patient Derived Xer Patient derived Organoid (PDO) are

models of cancer where the tissue or cells from a patient's tumor are implanted into a special petri dish and stay alive. PDO contains a local tumor microenvironment, can be used to monitoring, and corresponding treatment evaluations for the original patient.



Patient Derived Organoid

Patient Derived Car

Organoid (PDO)





These three models are very good, but they are expensive and Time consuming. Is there any other choice? **Again Cell Line**?

History of cancer cell line-based platforms



NCI, National Cancer Institute; MCTS, multicellular tumour spheroids; CCLE, Cancer Cell Line Encyclopedia; GDSC, Genomics of Drug Sensitivity in Cancer; CTRP, Cancer Therapeutics Response Portal; MCLP, MD Anderson Cell Lines Project.

Sharma SV et al. Nature Review Cancer. 2010.

History of cancer cell line-based platforms



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The earliest cell line platform dates back

different cancer types to form the NCI60 cell line platform for large-scale chemical

to the 1980s. The National Cancer Institute collected 60 cell lines from

With the understanding of cancer heterogeneity, NCI60 has been unable to meet the needs of the analysis. Beginning in 2006, tissue-specific cell line platforms consisting of cell lines of the same cancer type have been reported in lung cancer and breast cancer, and can include dozens of cell $_{\rm H}$ lines for a cancer type.

1951

ell line-based platforms



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Sharma SV et al. Nature Review Cancer. 2010.

So far, we have not found a suitable cell line platform for liver cancer research. Can a large panel of liver cancer cell lines facilitate to address the challenges?

Establishment of Liver Cancer Model Repository (LIMORE)

1, Establishment of cell line is of low efficiency

2, Cell lines gain similar mutations

3, Represent genetic heterogeneity and drug response

4, Database of LIMORE cell bank

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Establishment of HCC cell lines



Establishment of HCC cell lines from Chinese patients



45 new liver cancer cell lines The success rate of cell culture : ~50%

Liver Cancer Model Repository (LIMORE)



Finally, we have a total of 76 liver cancer cell lines. This is far more than CCLE in liver cancer. These liver cancer cell lines and data would be a great platform for liver cancer research. About half of them are from Chinese. 70% are from HBV positive patients.



cancer cell lines. This is far more del Repository (LIMORE)

Liver cancer cell lines



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cancer cell lines. This is far more del Repository (LIMORE)

Liver cancer cell lines





Do HCC cell lines retain mutation landscape of primary HCCs?

Establishment of Liver Cancer Model Repository (LIMORE)

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Cell lines retain genomic alterations of primary HCCs





Cell lines also retain expression profiles of primary HCCs



TOP 100 - READ ARTICLES -2016 OFFICIAL AUTHOR SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

Qiu et al Sci Rep 2016 July

Cell lines also retain expression profiles of primary HCCs

corresponding The groups (tissue, PDC, cell line) have completely similar expression patterns and clustered are together.



CLC1 CLC2 CLC4 0 CLC1PDC CLC1PDC CLC3PDC CLC3PD

Qiu et al Sci Rep 2016 July



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Cell lines vs. HCC: CNV heterogeneity



Schulze K et al. Nature Genetics. 2015


Cell lines vs. HCC: Driver alteration heterogeneity



Landscape of cancer functional genes (CFGs) in LIMORE

Cell lines vs. HCC: Driver alteration heterogeneity



We calculated the mutational profiles of the major liver cancer-driven genes in 65 cell lines in LIMORE, and compared them with the mutational profiles of the major liver cancer-driven genes in 1185 samples in TCGA, and found that the Spearman similarity coefficient between them was as high as 0.67. It is shown that the whole cell line of LIMORE can well reflect the heterogeneity of the mutation of the driving gene of liver cancer tumor tissue.



Splicing Frameshift indel Chinese Japanese Korean NBNC

Cancer type comparison



Cancer type compa^{We} lines

We used different tumor cell lines to describe tumor heterogeneity. It can be seen that LIMORE shows the closest similarity to liver tumor tissue.



LIMORE system is a completely new cell line system that comprehensively reflects the heterogeneity of liver cancer, and is a good and simple model system for studying liver cancer.

Sensitivities of liver cancer cell lines to 99 anti-cancer drugs





We performed 99 anti-cancer drug susceptibility experiments on 66 liver cancer cell lines in LIMORE. By integrating the genetic information of the cell line with the drug sensitivity analysis, a number of potential molecular biomarkers indicating drug susceptibility could be identified.

Overview of pharmacogenomic landscape Elastic net regression



We use *elastic net regression model*

to build our pharmaco-genomic landscape, here small red hexagons are drugs, small blue dots are genes. This map links the drugacting phenotype of each individual cell line with the gene expression and gene mutation patterns of the cell line under the action of the drug.

FGF19 alterations and **FGFR** inhibitors





CTNNB1 activating mutations and drug sensitivities



CT In the susceptibility test to the LIMORE cell line, we found that the activating mutations in CTNNB1 are associated with three drug-sensitive enhancements, bi2536 (PLK inhibitor), PF562271 (FAK inhibitor), panobinostat (HDAC inhibitor) Here, the CTNNB1 gene encodes the protein β-catenin.





Sorafenib for Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma

- A multi-kinase inhibitor, c-Raf, b-Raf, VEGFR, PDGFR...
- The only approved drug for advanced HCC.
- Patients' response is low.

How to improve sorafenib response?

- 1. patient stratification
- 2. combination therapy

	Sorafenib group (n=150)	Placebo group (n=76)
Complete response	0 (0)	0 (0)
Partial response	5 (3·3)	1 (1·3)
Stable disease	81 (54.0)	21 (27.6)
Progressive disease	46 (30.7)	41 (54.0)
Not assessable	18 (12.0)	13 (17.1)

Sorafenib for Advanced Hepato The efficacy of liver

The efficacy of liver cancer patients for Sorafenib drug treatment is relatively poor. Patients' response is low. Even comparing with placebo is not much better.

- A multi-kinase inhibitor, c-Raf, b-Raf, VE(
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Improving sorafenib efficacy: 1) patient stratification



The vertical axis of this histogram reflects The smaller the value, the more cells are killed and the more sensitive. Each column is a cell line. The bottom row shows the mutation of a gene. Red is the cell line in ciated with sorafenib response which the gene has mutations. White is a cell line that has no mutations.

the sensitivity of the cell line to Sorafenib. cacy: 1) patient stratification



These two heat maps show genes associated with sensitivity and resistance to Sorafenib. The higher the gene expression shown in the heat map above (red-yellow), the more sensitive Sorafenib. The higher the gene expression shown in the heat map below, the more resistant sorafenib.



From these calculations, we found some genes related to the efficacy of Sorafenib. Among these genes, we chose a gene with high scores and secreted into the blood to study whether this gene can be used as an evaluation of Sorafenib. a pharmacological prognostic biomarker.

Improving sorafenib efficacy: 1) patient stratification



Improving sorafenib efficacy: 1) patient stratification

serum biomarker



The last slide found some genes related to the efficacy of Sorafenib. Among these genes, we selected a gene with high scores and **secreted into the blood**, validated in PDX and patients, The results of the validation are consistent with the results in the cell line. So this gene can be used as a biomarker to evaluate the efficacy of Sorafenib.

serum b



We observed the expression of the genes Improving sorafenib effica found in the patient's PDX model, and the results of the validation in the PDX model are as follows. Two columns indicate that the gene is high (expressed value > 21.22) and low expressed (expressed value < 21.22). The gene is highly expressed and more likely to be sensitive to Sorafenib (blue).



p=0.02 by Fisher's exact test

The protein expression of the genes we observed in the patients was verified here. cy: 1) patient stratification Two columns indicate that the protein of the gene is highly expressed in the blood (protein expression value > 0.96) and low expression (expression value < 0.96). Patients with high protein expression are more likely to be sensitive to Sorafenib (blue).



biomarker



We successfully identified a secreted protein using the LIMORE system, which can be used as a biomarker for the accompanying diagnosis of anti-liver cancer treatment of Sorafenib and evaluates the therapeutic effect and prognosis.

Improving sorafenib efficacy: 1) patient stratification

Prediction model



Heat maps of all genes associated with sorafenib susceptibility in 11 cell lines

The figure shows the results of the prediction model on 22 PDXs. The horizontal axis is the predicted value and the vertical axis is the actual value of the experimental test. Both are very relevant

C

0.50



Heat maps of all genes associated with sorafenib susceptibility in 11 cell lines

Our analysis found many genes related to the Improving sorafenib effica (sensitivity of Sorafenib, and one of them was selected and verified in the last slide. Based Predic on these related genes, we used the Eletric Net Regression algorithm to establish a predictive model, and then evaluated whether the model could predict the efficacy of Sorafenib well on 11 independent cell lines and 22 PDX.



The figure shows the results of the prediction model on 22 PDXs. The horizontal axis is the predicted value and the vertical axis is the actual value of the experimental test. Both are very relevant

Improving Sorafenib efficacy: 2) combination therapy



combination.

Improving sorafenib efficacy: 2) combination therapy



CDI>1.5

Π

1.2<CDI<1.5 1<CDI<1.2

0.8<CDI<1

CDI<0.5

0.5<CDI<0.8

Antagonism

Synergism

The last few slides were all about the efficacy of Sorafenib when used alone. This slide shows the efficacy of Sorafenib in combination with other drugs.

Improving sorafenib efficacy: 2) combination therapy



In the above graph, each point is a drug, and the vertical axis represents the average CDI of all the cell lines after the combination of the drugs and Sorafenib. Blue medicine is an effective example of several combinations. Red medicine is an poor example of several combinations.

In the figure below, each column is a drug. The color of the column indicates the CDI interval of this drug in combination with Sorafenib on the cell line. The more blue, the more effective the combination is in the cell line, the more red, the more invalid the combination.



Establishment of Liver Cancer Model Repository (LIMORE)

1, Establishment of cell line is of low efficiency

2, Cell lines gain additional mutations

3, Represent genetic heterogeneity and drug response

4, Database of LIMORE cell bank

LIMORE: Liver Cancer Model Repository

The world's largest liver cancer cell line, and an integrated database of "omics" and "drug action" data

Workflow

LIMORE: a preclinical platform for liver cancer by collecting available liver cancer cell lines and establishing new cell lines from primary liver cancers



- 32 collected cell lines including the widely used Huh7, Hep3B and PLC/PRF/5.
- 34 established new cell lines from HCCs.

Workflow



Data

- number of cell lines: 66 (32 published and 34 established)
- data type: clinical data, whole genome sequencing (WGS), exome sequencing (WES) ,RNA sequencing (RNAseq) and drug response data



Data

- number of cell lines: 66 (32 published and 34 established)
- data type: clinical data, whole genome sequencing (WGS), exome sequencing (WES) ,RNA sequencing (RNAseq) and drug response data
- number of single drugs: 100



CCLE: "Cancer Cell Line Encyclopedia" maintained by Novartis GDSC: "The Genomics of Drug Sensitivity in Cancer" Project is a collaboration between the Cancer Genome Project at the Wellcome anger Institute (UK) and the Center for Molecular Therapeutics, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center (USA)

Implementation

- database: MySQL
- page: PHP+JQuery
- URL: www.picb.ac.cn/limore

- Browse and result page
- keyword: cell line, genomic features and drug



Browse and result page
keyword: cell line

	Liver Cancer Cell Lines									
	Please query the registered cell line models and their related clinical, experimental and sequencing information.									
Show 10 • entries				Search:						
Name 🔺	Ethnicity 🔶	Subtype 🍦	Virus 🍦	Mediums 🔶	DNA-Seq	RNA-Seq 🍦	Resource			
CLC1	Chinese	HCC	HBV	primary medium	WGS	RNA-Seq	New			
CLC10	Chinese	HCC	HBV	primary medium	WGS	RNA-Seq	New			
CLC11	Chinese	HCC	HBV	primary medium	WGS	RNA-Seq	New			
CLC12	Chinese	HCC	HBV	primary medium	WGS	RNA-Seq	New			
CLC13	Chinese	HCC	HBV	primary medium	WGS	RNA-Seq	New			
CLC14	Chinese	HCC	HBV	primary medium	WGS	RNA-Seq	New			
CLC15	Chinese	HCC	HBV	ROCKI	WGS	RNA-Seq	New			
CLC16	Chinese	HCC	HBV	primary medium	WGS	RNA-Seq	New			
CLC17	Chinese	HCC	HBV	primary medium	WGS	RNA-Seq	New			
CLC18	Chinese	HCC	HBV	primary medium	WGS	RNA-Seq	New			

- Browse and result page
- keyword: genomic features-----expression



• Browse and result page

keyword: genomic features-----mutations


- Browse and result page
- keyword: genomic features-----mutations

Show 10 🔻 entries Search:												
Cell line IE) 🔺 🗛 chan	ige Classificati	ion	Туре	Chr 🔶	Start pos 🍦	End	d pos 🍦	ref 👙	Var 🍦	Strand	
CLC1	p.V143M	Missense_Mutation	SNP	17	7578503	7578503	С	Т	+	E	NSP0000026930	5
CLC10	p.R196*	Nonsense_Mutation	SNP	17	7578263	7578263	G	А	+	E	NSP0000026930	5
CLC11	p.C238F	Missense_Mutation	SNP	17	7577568	7577568	С	А	+	E	NSP0000026930	5
CLC13	p.G105D	Missense_Mutation	SNP	17	7579373	7579373	С	Т	+	E	NSP0000026930	5
CLC14	p.R175H	Missense_Mutation	SNP	17	7578406	7578406	С	Т	+	E	NSP0000026930	5
CLC16	p.X261_splice	Splice_Site	SNP	17	7577157	7577157	Т	А	+	E	NSP0000026930	5
CLC17	p.E62*	Nonsense_Mutation	SNP	17	7579503	7579503	С	А	+	E	NSP0000026930	5
CLC19	p.R282W	Missense_Mutation	SNP	17	7577094	7577094	G	А	+	E	NSP0000026930	5
CLC2	p.G266E	Missense_Mutation	SNP	17	7577141	7577141	С	Т	+	E	NSP0000026930	5
CLC20	p.R282W	Missense_Mutation	SNP	17	7577094	7577094	G	А	+	E	NSP0000026930	5
Download								Previous	1	2 3	4 5 Nex	xt

- Browse and result page
- >keyword: genomic features----oncoprint

TP53 TE	ERT 1	rsc2			
Submit	R	eset	example		
TERT	0000	8%			
TERT TP53	000 000	8% 94%			
TERT TP53 TSC2	000 000 000	8% 94% 12%			

- Browse and result page
- ≻keyword: drug name

Show 10	Show 10 v entries Search:								
Name 🔺	Alias 🗍	Targets 🗍	Category .	Pathway 🕴	Clinical 🗍	Concentration \$	Company	Catalogue	
17-AAG	Tanespimycin	HSP90	Protein Folding and Stability	Protein Folding	clinical development	10uM	Selleck	S1141	
ABT-199	Venetoclax, GDC-0199	Bcl2	Apoptosis	Apoptosis	clinically used	10uM	Selleck	S8048	
ABT-263	Navitoclax Bcl2		Apoptosis	Apoptosis	clinical development	10uM	Selleck	S1001	
Afatinib	BIBW2992	EGFR, HER2	Receptor/Upstream signal activation	EGFR signaling	clinically used	20uM	Selleck	S1011	
Alisertib	MLN8237	Aurora A	Cell cycle	Mitosis	clinical development	10uM	Selleck	S1133	
Apatinib	YN968D1	VEGFR	Receptor/Upstream signal activation	RTK signaling	clinically used	10uM	Selleck	S2221	
AT-406	SM-406, ARRY-334543	IAP	Apoptosis	Apoptosis	clinical development	10uM	Selleck	S2754	
AT-7519	CDK		Cell cycle	Cell cycle	clinical development	10uM	Selleck	S1524	
Axitinib	VEGFR, PDGFR, c-Kit Receptor/L		Receptor/Upstream signal activation	RTK signaling	clinically used	10uM	Selleck	S1005	
AZD6244	Selumetinib	MEK	Intracellular signaling pathway	MAPK signaling	MAPK signaling clinical development 10		10uM Selleck		
Showing 1 to	10 of 99 entries				Previous 1	2 3 4	5	10 Next	

• Batch download page

Resource: this page allows access to all of LIMORE data for batch download.

Download link	Details
Clinical information of 66 liver cancer cell lines	The epidemiology information of patients from which LIMORE cell lines were derived from. Additional detailed information of our newly generated cell lines would be provided upon request.
Gene expression profiles of 66 cell lines	Gene expression profiles of 66 cell lines from RNA-Seq data.
Key somatic coding mutations of 66 cell lines	Somatic coding mutations in key cancer genes from 66 cell lines' WGS/WES data. All the somatic coding mutations can be obtained from the publication. All the somatic noncoding mutations would be added soon. All the germline mutations are under controlled access and would be available upon request.
HBV integration of 55 cell lines	HBV integration data of 55 cell lines from WGS data.
Copy number data of 55 cell lines	Copy number profiles of 55 cell lines from WGS data using GISTIC analysis.
Drug response data of 66 cell lines	This data contains all the screened drug responses in 66 cell lines. The value is the relative cell number after drug treatment (at the indicated dose) normalized to DMSO control.
More data	To be added: annotation of noncoding mutations.

Summary

- Over the past few years we have built the world's largest cell bank of liver cancer cell lines, *Liver Cancer Model Repository (LIMORE)*
- LIMORE system is a completely new cell line system that comprehensively reflects the heterogeneity of liver cancer, and is a good and simple model system for studying liver cancer.
- Established a corresponding "dry" and "wet" combined database.
- Use LIMORE, we have screened out a number of potential disease biomarkers, which can be used as a biomarker for the evaluation of the efficacy and prognosis of anti-liver cancer drugs.
- We successfully used the LIMORE system to discover a disease biomarker that can be used as a companion diagnosis of Sorafenib's prognosis and efficacy.
- LIMORE Cell Bank is a very valuable and potential platform to help us conduct precision medicine research on liver cancer treatment.

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