A Molecular Portrait of Asian Breast Cancer:

Multi-Omics and Immune Profiling of a Prospective Breast Cancer Cohort Enriched in Young, Premenopausal Patients

Zhengyan 'George' Kan Pfizer Oncology Research, San Diego, CA





Disclosure

- I am an employee of Pfizer Inc.
- I own Pfizer stocks.



Collaboration between SMC and Pfizer



Dr. Yeon Hee Park

Associate Professor Division of Hematology-Oncology, Department of Medicine, Samsung Medical Center, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Seoul, Korea



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Outline

- Background on Asian young, pre-menopausal breast cancer (YBC)
- Genomic landscape of Asian YBC and OBC
- Comparing molecular characteristics between YBC and OBC
- Immune-oncology (IO) profiling using expression signature and histopathological analyses



The Proportion of YBC is Significantly Higher in East Asia than in the West





South Korea: KBCS registry (2008) Japan: Cancer statistics in Japan (2007) USA: SEER data (2004-2008)

Poor Outcome of HR+ Breast Cancer at Very Young Age is due to Tamoxifen Resistance





Report from the Korean Breast Cancer Society. J Clin Oncol. 2007 Jun 10;25(17):2360-8.

Introduction

- The proportion of YBC (age ≤ 40) among BC in East Asia is estimated to be 16-32%, significantly higher than the 7% reported in Western countries.
- Breast cancers (BC) in younger, premenopausal patients (YBC) tend to be more aggressive with worse prognosis, higher chance of relapse and poorer response to endocrine therapies compared to breast cancers in older patients (OBC).
- Genomic and molecular characterizations have deepened our understanding of breast cancer biology, however, the molecular bases of Asian YBC remains poorly characterized.



Study Work Flow



Molecular Subtype Classification

- We identified molecular subtypes using three methods: ER and HER2 immunohistochemistry analyses (IHC); gene expression classifier called PAM50; naïve Bayesian classifier (NMC) based on *ESR1*, *PGR* gene expression and *ERBB2* copy number data.
- A consensus classification was derived based on all three classifications, which are 92% concordant.



Molecular Subtype Comparison



Significantly Mutated Genes

Gene	# Mut. samples	Mut. Freq. (n = 133)	Mut. Rate (Mb)	p-value	q-value	Mut. Freq. (TCGA)	Rank (TCGA)	Gene Description
TP53	63	47.37%	153.34549	0	0	36.9%	1	tumor protein p53
GATA3	18	13.53%	55.74866	8.88E-16	8.38E-12	10.7%	3	GATA binding protein 3
РІКЗСА	39	29.32%	40.9562	3.77E-15	2.37E-11	35.5%	2	phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate 3-kinase, catalytic subunit alpha
CBFB	6	4.51%	30.50222	4.19E-08	0.000198	1.6%	13	core-binding factor, beta subunit
PTEN	4	3.01%	9.93236	1.39E-06	0.00525	3.4%	9	phosphatase and tensin homolog
NF1	7	5.26%	2.88505	6.55E-05	0.195	2.8%	25	neurofibromin 1
ARID1A	6	4.51%	3.28988	7.23E-05	0.195	2.4%	N/A	AT rich interactive domain 1A (SWI- like)



Landscape of Genomic Alterations



Pfizer Research Unit

Mutations More Prevalent in OBC than in YBC



CNVs More Prevalent in OBC than in YBC



CNV More Prevalent in OBC than in YBC





CNV More Prevalent in OBC than in YBC



Research Unit

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OBC Tumors More Proliferative than YBC





OBC Tumors More Proliferative than YBC



What Pathways are Differentially Expressed in HR+ YBC vs. OBC?



Endocrine Therapy Resistance Signatures Upregulated in YBC



Research Article

Genome-Wide Analysis of Aromatase Inhibitor-Resistant, Tamoxifen-Resistant, and Long-Term Estrogen-Deprived Cells Reveals a Role for Estrogen Receptor

Selma Masri,¹ Sheryl Phung,¹ Xin Wang,¹ Xiwei Wu,² Yate-Ching Yuan,² Lawrence Wagman,³ and Shiuan Chen¹

¹Department of Surgical Research, ²Division of Information Sciences, and ³Department of General Oncologic Surgery, Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope, Duarte, California



Oxidative Phosphorylation Pathways Upregulated in HR+ YBC vs. OBC







Cell Cycle and Proliferation Pathways Upregulated in HR+ OBC vs. YBC





Immune and Inflammatory Pathways Upregulated in HR+ OBC vs. YBC







Immuno-oncology (IO) Therapies

- Tumor antigens may be recognized by immune surveillance and activates cell killing by tumor • infiltrating cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL).
- T-cell responses are inhibited by immune checkpoint pathways mediated by CTLA4, PD1/PD-L1 etc. .
- Immune checkpoint blockade by IO therapies amplifies anti-tumor immune responses Nivolumab . (α CTLA4), Pembrolizumab (α PD1), Avelumab (α PDL1).



Drake et al. Breathing new life into immunotherapy. 2014. Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology.

Chen & Mellman. Oncology meets Immunology. 2013. Immunity

Classification of TIL Subtypes based on Immune Expression Signature



Cytolytic Activity Varies across TIL Subtypes, Normal Breast Tissues and Cell lines



immune_class

medium

CCLE



OBC Seem More Immunogenic than YBC





Histopathological IO analyses

- We performed H&E staining and immunohistochemistry (IHC) analyses of three TIL markers (*CD4*, *CD8* and *CD45*) on 111 tumors.
- TIL score was calculated as log₁₀T, where T is the average TIL count from 5 separate regions of the H&E image.
- Digital imaging analysis was performed to quantify the relevant tissue area and the number of marker positive cells within those regions for each IHC slide.
 - Cell density is calculated as the number of marker positive cells in each mm² of analyzed tissue.



Histopathological and Expression IO Analyses are Highly Concordant



TIL Subtype

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Histopathological and Expression IO Analyses are Highly Concordant



30

Summary

- We have performed the first large-scale multi-omics study of Asian breast cancer that would significantly contribute to the compendium of molecular data available for young, premenopausal breast cancer.
- The molecular landscape of Asian BC cohort is similar to Western BC studies in terms of major landmarks ER over-expression, *ERBB2* amplification and mutations in *TP53*, *PIK3CA* and *GATA3*.
 - We have identified ARID1A as a significantly mutated gene in breast cancer.
- There are potentially significant molecular distinctions between Asian YBC vs. OBC.
 - BRCA1/BRCA2 germline loss-of-function mutations are enriched in HR+ YBC.
 - YBC tumors appear to be less proliferative and smaller in size than OBC while OBC tumors harbor more mutations and copy number alterations than YBC.
 - Endocrine resistance signatures are up-regulated in HR+ YBC than in OBC, pointing to a molecular mechanism for tamoxifen resistance previously reported for Korean YBC.
 - Within the HR+ subtype, energy metabolism pathways such as oxidative phosphorylation appears to be up-regulated in YBC while cell cycle/proliferation and immune/inflammatory pathways appear to be up-regulated in OBC.
- Gene expression signature analyses have identified four subtypes of varying tumorinfiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) and cytolytic activities.
 - YBC seems to be less immunogenic than OBC with a lower mutation burden.
 - Expression-based and histopathological analyses of IO markers are strongly correlated.

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Clinical Characteristics of Western YBC

Box 3 | Clinical characteristics in women <40

- High risk of local recurrence
- Short median time from diagnosis to local recurrence
- High risk of mortality following local recurrence
- High risk of contralateral breast cancer
- High proportion oestrogen receptor-negative or progesterone receptor-negative disease
- High proportion of HER2-positive disease
- High proportion TP53-positive tumours



Compare Subtype Proportions in YBC vs. OBC

IHC/Clinical	OBC	OBC (%)	YBC	YBC (%)
ER+	28	46.7%	46*	62.2%
ER+HER2+	7	11.7%	10	17.9%
HER2+	10	16.7%	2	3.6%
TN	13	21.7%	13	23.2%
UA	2	3.3%	3	5.4%
	60		74	

PAM50	OBC	OBC (%)	YBC	YBC (%)	
LumA	7	11.7%	21	38.2%	<i>p</i> = 0.0011
LumB	28	46.7%	16	29.1%	p = 0.06
Her2	12	20.0%	3	5.5%	
Basal	12	20.0%	14	25.5%	
Normal	1	1.7%	1	1.8%	
	60		55		

(RNASEQ n = 115)

Consensus	OBC	OBC (%)	YBC	YBC (%)		Consensus	OBC	OBC (%)	YBC	YBC (%)	
ER+	29	48.3%	44	59.5%	<i>P</i> = 0.225	ER+	29	48.3%	31	56.4%	P = 0.456
ER+HER2+	9	15.0%	10	17.9%		ER+HER2+	9	15.0%	9	16.4%	
HER2+	9	15.0%	4	7.1%	<i>P</i> = 0.08	HER2+	9	15.0%	2	3.6%	P = 0.056
TN	13	21.7%	16	28.6%	P = 0.58	TN	13	21.7%	13	23.6%	P = 0.83
	60		74				60		55		

- Contrary to previous reports, Asian YBC is enriched in Luminal A and HER2+ subtypes.
- In addition, Asian YBC is not significantly enriched in TNBC.
- Asian YBC is dominated by HR+ diseases 77% including both ER+ and ER+/HER2+.



Genomic alterations enriched in YBC or OBC.

Туре	Gene	YBC (n=73)	OBC (n=60)	p-value	q-value
Somatic Mutation	TP53	27 (37.0%)	36 (60.0%)	0.0093	0.1395
Somatic Mutation	NF1	1 (1.4%)	6 (10.0%)	0.0456	0.293143
Somatic Mutation	CBFB	1 (1.4%)	5 (8.3%)	0.0903	0.507938
Somatic Mutation	РІКЗСА	19 (26.0%)	20 (33.3%)	0.4444	1
Somatic Mutation	GATA3	11 (15.1%)	7 (11.7%)	0.6191	1
Somatic Mutation	PTEN	3 (4.1%)	1 (1.7%)	0.6266	1
Somatic Mutation	ARID1A	3 (4.1%)	3 (5.0%)	1	1
Amplification	МҮС	0	5 (8.3%)	0.017	0.136
Amplification	ERBB2	10 (13.7%)	17 (28.3%)	0.0507	0.2028
Somatic Mutation	BRCA1	1 (1.4%)	0	0.55	
Germline LOF	BRCA1	3 (4%)	0	0.16	
Germline LOF	BRCA2	6 (8%)	3 (5.0%)	0.3533	
Somatic/Germline	BRCA1/2	10 (13.7%)	3 (5.0%)	0.08	

TP53, NF1 protein-altering somatic mutations and MYC, ERBB2 amplifications are enriched in OBC. Loss-of-function (LOF) mutations affecting BRCA1 or BRCA2 are enriched in YBC.



What Pathways are Differentially Expressed in HR+ YBC vs. OBC?

Subtype	Up-regulated	Database	Geneset	# Genes	NES	FDR q-val
HR+	YBC	Hallmark	OXIDATIVE_PHOSPHORYLATION	199	-2.81478	0
HR+	YBC	KEGG	PARKINSONS_DISEASE	113	-2.58741	0
HR+	YBC	REACTOME	RESPIRATORY_ELECTRON_TRANSPORT	65	-2.52911	0
HR+	YBC	Biocarta	PROTEASOME_PATHWAY	28	-2.48144	0
HR+	YBC	KEGG	OXIDATIVE_PHOSPHORYLATION	116	-2.47474	0
HR+	YBC	REACTOME	FORMATION_OF_ATP_BY_CHEMIOSMOTIC_COUPLING	13	-2.32748	0
HR+	YBC	Hallmark	ESTROGEN_RESPONSE_EARLY	200	-2.32048	0
HR+	YBC	REACTOME	TCA_CYCLE_AND_RESPIRATORY_ELECTRON_TRANSPORT	117	-2.21898	0.00328
HR+	YBC	KEGG	DRUG_METABOLISM_CYTOCHROME_P450	72	-2.21243	0.00285
HR+	YBC	Hallmark	ESTROGEN_RESPONSE_LATE	199	-2.13894	0
HR+	OBC	KEGG	LEISHMANIA_INFECTION	70	1.73803	0.03707
HR+	OBC	KEGG	PRIMARY_IMMUNODEFICIENCY	35	1.61149	0.09367
HR+	OBC	KEGG	INTESTINAL_IMMUNE_NETWORK_FOR_IGA_PRODUCTION	46	1.60056	0.08103
HR+	OBC	KEGG	ALLOGRAFT_REJECTION	35	1.58956	0.07455
HR+	OBC	KEGG	NOD_LIKE_RECEPTOR_SIGNALING_PATHWAY	61	1.56616	0.08697
HR+	OBC	KEGG	SYSTEMIC_LUPUS_ERYTHEMATOSUS	134	1.5536	0.09184
HR+	OBC	Hallmark	ALLOGRAFT_REJECTION	200	1.49757	0.06265
HR+	OBC	Hallmark	G2M_CHECKPOINT	200	1.46906	0.05
HR+	OBC	Hallmark	MYC_TARGETS_V2	58	1.4509	0.04217
HR+	OBC	Hallmark	E2F_TARGETS	199	1.41913	0.05067
HR+	OBC	Hallmark	MITOTIC_SPINDLE	199	1.41661	0.04119
HR+	OBC	Hallmark	INFLAMMATORY_RESPONSE	198	1.40403	0.04037



Ene
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EST

ergy metabolism trogen response Immune/inflammatory

Cell cycle/proliferation

GSEA Analyses Revealed Differentially Expressed Pathways in YBC vs. OBC





Enrichment plot:

pathway genes by Vertical lines.

GSEA Analyses Revealed Differentially Expressed Pathways in YBC vs. OBC





Expression patterns of all pathway genes in OBC and YBC samples are shown in the heatmap (F-G).

Classification of TIL Subtypes based on Immune Cell Expression Signature

- Tumor infiltrated lymphocytes (TIL) play important roles in tumor suppression and immuno-oncology (IO) therapies such as checkpoint inhibitors (αPD-L1).
- Using gene expression signatures representing distinct immune cell types [REF], we classified the cohort into four subtypes of varying TIL activities: high, medium, low and quiet.
- OBC tumors are significantly enriched (*p*-value: 0.01291) in the TIL-high subtype than YBC tumors, suggesting that OBC tumors are more immunogenic than YBC tumors.
- This is consistent with the observation that OBC exhibits higher burden of protein-altering somatic mutations than YBC samples (40 vs. 26, *p*-value: 0.034), presumably giving rise to more neoantigens.



"Big" Questions

- What are the molecular drivers of Asian BC?
- What are the differences between YBC and OBC?

 Can we learn something new about Breast Cancer in general?



What Pathways are Differentially Expressed in HR+ YBC vs. OBC?



Cytolytic Activity Varies with Chemotherapy Treatment Statuses



IHC Cell Density vs. Gene Expression



Comparing IHC Cell Densities in YBC vs. OBC



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TIL Score Higher in HR+ OBC vs. YBC

