

# Sequencing of Intraepithelial Squamous Cell

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## Introduction

population has palpable nodules. Nonpalpable nodules are considerably more common, affecting an estimated 40% to 50% of the population. In comparison, the American Cancer Society reported that only 19,500 new instances of thyroid cancer were diagnosed in 2001, accounting for 1.5% of all new malignancies. The use of high-resolution sonography has resulted in a high rate of detection of thyroid nodules over the last decade, but determining whether nodules are benign or malignant remains difficult due to significant overlap in sonographic features. Papillary carcinoma is the most prevalent kind of thyroid follicular epithelial cancer. Despite the proclivity for lymphatic propagation to cervical nodes, the majority of patients with these tumours have a great long-term prognosis if properly treated. Appropriate therapy, then, is based mainly on the pathologist's ability to make a correct diagnosis. Historically, the presence of papillary architecture was used to identify PC. This entity is now diagnosed based on nuclear traits such as optical clearing, elongation, overlapping, micronucleoli, and irregular shapes with grooves and pseudoinclusions.

## About the Study

However, identifying these traits can be difficult at times, and distinguishing papillary cancer from follicular adenoma can be problematic. HBME-1, particular cytokeratins such as CK19, and ret are proposed indicators of thyroid cancer; the latter two markers each designate a subpopulation of PC. HBME-1 is a mesothelial cell marker. Several studies have shown that it can be used as a marker for malignant thyroid tumours of follicular epithelial origin. In thyroid follicular epithelial tumours, HBME-1 positive is therefore predictive of malignancy, although it does not always imply papillary differentiation.

Papillary carcinomas have been demonstrated to exhibit high levels of CK19 expression with widespread cytoplasmic reactivity. Although this marker is seen in reactive thyroid follicular epithelium, most authors have not found widespread CK19 positivity in follicular adenomas or carcinomas.

The ret or ptc family of chimeric oncogenes is the product of numerous chromosomal rearrangements affecting the ret gene; they are particular to papillary carcinomas and are seen in up to 77% of these tumours. Because the protein products of the ret/PTC oncogenes all include the intracellular tyrosine kinase domain of the normal ret protooncogene, they may be immunohistochemically identified with an antibody to the carboxy terminus of ret. We tested the diagnostic accuracy of this trio of immunohistochemical stains on a variety of thyroid lesions.

Thyroid cancer incidence has tripled in the last 30 years, and the frequency of various histologies and genetic profiles has shifted over time. Except for

medullary carcinoma, all thyroid malignancies are formed from follicular cells that compose the simple unicellular epithelium of the normal thyroid. Papillary thyroid carcinomas, so termed because of their papillary histological architecture, account for 80% of all thyroid malignancies. Furthermore, PTCs have various subtypes, including the follicular variety, which has a mainly follicular development pattern. PTCs are normally treatable, with a 5-year survival rate of more than 95%, although they can occasionally dedifferentiate into more aggressive and deadly thyroid tumours. Surgery, thyroid hormone, and radioactive iodine therapy are now used in treatment.

Previous genetic investigations have found a high prevalence of activating somatic changes in genes encoding effectors in the mitogen-activated protein kinase signalling pathway, including BRAF and RAS point mutations. These mutations are virtually invariably mutually exclusive, implying that the downstream consequences are similar or redundant. The numerous MAPK pathway mutations are significantly linked to unique clinicopathological features, as well as gene expression and DNA methylation patterns. Low-frequency mutations in members of the phosphoinositide 3-kinase pathway, such as PTEN, PIK3CA, and AKT1, have also been documented.

We report the results of The Cancer Genome Atlas project's thorough multiplatform study of 496 PTCs, the biggest cohort investigated to date. To maximise the development of the compendium of tumor-initiating changes, clinically aggressive thyroid tumours were eliminated. While the exclusion of histologically aggressive tumours hampered several components of the study, the homogenous PTC cohort allowed for robust correlative studies of multidimensional molecular data. We were able to investigate the signalling and differentiation effects of the common drivers because of the comparatively silent PTC genome. Furthermore, the cohort enabled us to identify integrated genetic subtypes associated with histology, signalling, differentiation status, and risk assessment. We believe that our findings will lead to better clinicopathologic categorization and patient treatment.

Tumor samples and matched germline DNA from blood or normal thyroid from 496 individuals comprised 324 classical-type, 99 follicular-variant, tall cell variant, unusual PTC variants, and 29 without histological annotation, most of whom were nonirradiated patients. The risk of tumour recurrence was evaluated using the 2009 American Thyroid Association standards, and mortality risk was assessed using MACIS scores (see Supplemental Information). At the TCGA genome sequencing and characterization facilities, we gathered comprehensive and high-quality molecular data using one proteome and six genomic platforms, and we evaluated the data at numerous genomic data analysis centres. Although 496 original tumours were evaluated, the number of relevant instances varied among platforms, primarily due to technical issues, with 390 tumours analysed on all main platforms.

Our analytical technique was divided into three stages, each of which was based on the integration of many molecular data sets. To begin, we detected somatic mutations such as single nucleotide variations, minor insertions and deletions, gene fusions, and copy-number changes in order to define the genomic landscape of PTC and find driver events in situations where no previously known driver was found. We then concentrated on the effects of the driver mutations. We created a gene expression profile from these data and used it to characterise cancers. Using protein and mRNA expression data, we then investigated the differential signalling effects of the most frequent pathogenic mutations in the group, BRAFV600E and RAS. Finally, we utilised the molecular data to create molecular categories of PTC and combined these classifications with Genotype, signalling, differentiation, and risk data.

In comparison to other malignancies, whole exome DNA sequencing of 402 tumour or normal pairs revealed a modest somatic mutation density.

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The density of mutations was associated to age, recurrence risk, and MACIS score. We regressed the impact of age from mutation density to account for the confounding effect of age at diagnosis and found that the correlation of risk with age-corrected mutation density maintained. This link was preserved for the CT cohort but not for the other variations. The link between mutation density and age implies that age, rather than the 45-year cutoff utilised in many staging systems, should be considered as a continuous variable in risk classification.

Other factors, such as genotype or radiation exposure, had little effect on mutation densities. The highest TCVs were commensurate with their known mutation density. Five cancers with BRAFV600E mutations similar to bladder cancer, aggressive histologic features had higher mutation densities. The ten tumours with the greatest mutation densities were identified. enriched in mutations related to the APOBEC process. PTC is a MAPK-driven malignancy with two mutually exclusive drivers that have different signalling outcomes: BRAFV600E and mutant RAS.

Tumors fueled by BRAFV600E do not respond to negative ERK-RAF feedback, resulting in excessive MAPK activity. Tumors generated by RAS and RTK fusions, on the other hand, signal via RAF dimers that respond to ERK feedback, resulting in decreased MAPK signalling. This uneven signalling produces significant phenotypic variations. For example, in BRAFV600E cancers, expression of genes important for iodine absorption and metabolism is drastically decreased, but in "RAF-dimer" tumours, expression of these genes is mostly conserved. These findings, together with the comparatively modest number of other chromosomal changes, provide a clear picture of the signalling and transcriptional outputs of these two genes.

The differential expression profile of genes involved in thyroid hormone production reported between BRAFV600E and RAS-driven cancers is replicated. Correlation in knock-in mutation-induced mouse PTC models either

BRAFV600E or HrasG12V, implying that these are the result of constitutive activation of these drivers [1-5].

## Conclusion

In comparison to other malignancies, whole exome DNA sequencing of 402 tumour or normal pairs revealed a modest somatic mutation density. The density of mutations was associated to age, recurrence risk, and MACIS score. We regressed the impact of age from mutation density to account for the confounding effect of age at diagnosis and found that the correlation of risk with age-corrected mutation density maintained. This link was preserved for the CT cohort but not for the other variations. The link between mutation density and age implies that age, rather than the 45-year cutoff utilised in many staging systems, should be considered as a continuous variable in risk classification.

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