Comprehensive analysis of serum tumor markers and *BRCA1/2* germline mutations in Chinese ovarian cancer patients

Hongyu Deng1,2 | Ming Chen3 | Xinwu Guo3 | Jianfu Heng2 | Xunxun Xu3 |
Limin Peng3 | Hui Jiang4 | Guoli Li4 | Julia X. Day3 | Jinliang Li4 |
Dongyong Shan5 | Yinghua Li2 | Yanjie Zhou2 | Bin Liu6 | Lizhong Dai3 |
Xiaochun Wang1 | Jun Wang4,3

1Department of Laboratory Medicine, Xiangya School of Medicine, Central South University, Changsha, China
2Hunan Cancer Hospital & The Affiliated Cancer Hospital of Xiangya School of Medicine, Central South University, Changsha, China
3Sanway Gene Technology Inc., Changsha, China
4School of Life Sciences, Central South University, Changsha, China
5Department of Oncology, The Third Xiangya Hospital of Central South University, Changsha, China
6Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dalian Municipal Central Hospital Affiliated to Dalian Medical University, Dalian, China

Abstract

**Background:** The serum tumor markers has been widely used in ovarian cancer diagnosis. *BRCA1/2* germline mutations are the most common predisposing factors for ovarian cancer development. This study aimed to comprehensively investigate serum tumor markers and *BRCA1/2* germline mutations and analyze their associations with ovarian cancer.

**Methods:** Levels of 11 serum tumor markers were examined in ovarian cancer patients and controls with benign gynecologic diseases. By integrating multiplex PCR and next-generation sequencing technologies, *BRCA1/2* germline mutations were analyzed and confirmed by Sanger sequencing. The discriminative models with serum tumor markers and *BRCA1/2* mutation status were constructed for ovarian cancer detection and patient stratification.

**Results:** Among 11 markers, six of them were significantly elevated and only beta-human chorionic gonadotropin (β-HCG) was significantly reduced in ovarian cancer patients. A total of 54 (23.3%) ovarian cancer patients were found to harbor *BRCA1/2* deleterious mutations, and *BRCA1/2* mutations were significantly associated with Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer-related tumors and family history of cancer. Carbohydrate antigen 125 showed a good performance in ovarian cancer detection as a single marker (AUC = 0.799), while a panel of eight markers showed a good performance in *BRCA1* mutation detection with an AUC value of 0.974. In addition, a panel of five serum tumor markers combined with *BRCA1/2* mutation status showed a good performance in lymph node metastasis prediction (AUC = 0.843).
Ovarian cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the first leading cause of the gynecologic malignancies related deaths, with 238,700 new cases and 151,900 deaths worldwide in 2012 (Lu & Chen, 2014; Torre et al., 2015). The incidence of ovarian cancer in China has increased annually during the past 10 years, with up to 52,100 new cases and 22,500 deaths in 2015 (Chen et al., 2016). Ovarian cancer is a heterogeneous disease that can originate from surface epithelial cells, specialized stromal cells or germ cells, which can be subdivided into several histological subtypes including serous, mucinous, endometrioid, and clear cell tumors (Weiderpass & Tyczynski, 2015). In addition, ovarian cancer is one of the most lethal gynecologic malignancies to diagnose and difficult to detect at early stage (Buzolin et al., 2017).

Serum tumor markers play a crucial role in ovarian cancer diagnosis. Carbohydrate antigen 125 (CA125), a transmembrane glycoprotein produced by coelomic epithelium, is the first recommended serum marker for early detection and monitoring relapse of ovarian cancer (Fan et al., 2016). The expression of CA125 can be used to evaluate the treatment of ovarian cancer, which has been considered to be the most helpful clinical serological marker of ovarian cancer, especially in serous carcinoma (Esselen et al., 2016). Human epididymis protein 4 (HE4) is a protein that consists of a single peptide and two whey acidic protein domains containing a “four-disulfide core” with eight cysteine residues (Clauss, Lilja, & Lundwall, 2002). CA125 and HE4 have been approved by the FDA for monitoring treatment and detecting of ovarian cancer (Montagnana et al., 2011). Besides CA125 and HE4, many other serum markers have been studied in ovarian cancer. For example, carbohydrate antigen 15-3 (CA15-3) was over-expressed in a wide variety of ovarian cancer (Williams et al., 2014) and elevated in approximately 70% of ovarian cancer patients, predominantly in those with advanced disease (Jeschke et al., 2012). The level of serum β-HCG was associated with ovarian cancer, with high levels in advanced FIGO stages (III and IV), regardless of histological type of tumor (Djurdjevic, Maksimovic, Pantelic, Golubovic, & Curcic, 2011). These markers in ovarian cancer detection have been individually investigated in many laboratories and clinical tests. However, the sensitivity and specificity of these markers still need further evaluation in Chinese patients, and it is meaningful to find tumor marker panels with high sensitivity and specificity in ovarian cancer diagnosis.

BRCA1 and BRCA2 are two high-susceptibility genes for familial ovarian cancer (Miki et al., 1994; Wooster et al., 1995). Individuals who inherit BRCA1/2 germline mutations showed a high lifetime risk and early onset of ovarian cancer (Choi et al., 2015). Genetic testing for BRCA1/2 mutations has been proved to be a key step in the risk assessment, prognosis, treatment, and prevention of ovarian cancer (Pan & Xie, 2017). Recently, screening BRCA1/2 mutations has been applied as a companion diagnostic test guiding clinical medication for ovarian cancer patients (Daly et al., 2017). Poly ADP-ribose polymerase (PARP) inhibitors are novel targeted drugs, which have recently been approved to treat advanced ovarian cancer patients carrying BRCA1/2 mutations (Shi et al., 2017). Ovarian cancer patients with BRCA1/2 mutations will most likely benefit from PARP inhibitors compared to non-BRCA mutated patients (Dizon, 2017). BRCA1/2 mutation detection could become a routine clinical practice for evaluation of women with ovarian cancer for personalized medicine (Spriggs & Longo, 2016).

To investigate serum tumor markers and BRCA1/2 germline mutations in Chinese ovarian cancer patients, we examined the concentrations of serum tumor markers in 232 ovarian cancer patients and 219 controls with benign gynecologic diseases and screened the entire coding exons and exon-intron boundaries of BRCA1/2 in ovarian cancer patients. The discriminative models with serum tumor markers and BRCA1/2 mutation status were also established for ovarian cancer detection and patient stratification.

# 2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

## 2.1 Study subjects

The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Hunan Cancer Hospital, Changsha, China. All participants had provided written informed consent for participation in this study. Preoperative peripheral blood samples were collected from 232 ovarian cancer patients and 219 controls with benign gynecologic diseases in Hunan Cancer Hospital from 2015...
to 2017. The 219 female controls were diagnosed with benign gynecologic diseases including uterine fibroids, ovarian cyst, ovarian benign mass, ovary teratoma, endometriosis. The clinicopathological characteristics of all ovarian cancer patients were summarized in Table 1, and that of benign controls were summarized Table S2. All ovarian cancer patients were diagnosed pathologically by experienced gynecologic pathologists.

2.2 | Measurement of serum tumor markers

Levels of several serum tumor markers, including alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), β-HCG, CA125, CA15-3, carbohydrate antigen 19-9 (CA19-9), carbohydrate antigen 242 (CA242), carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), ferritin, human growth hormone (HGH), neuron-specific enolase (NSE), were measured by Protein Chip-Chemiluminescence (Health Digit, Huzhou, China). HE4 were measured separately with ELISA method. The measurement of HE4 level was only collected in 61 ovarian cancer patients and 60 controls due to the late clinical adoption of HE4 test started in year 2017 in this cohort.

2.3 | Sequencing experiments and mutation analysis

Genomic DNA was extracted from each blood sample using TIANamp Genomic DNA Kit (TianGen Biotech, Beijing, China) and quantified using Nanodrop 2000 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Wilmington, DE). Target enrichment and library preparation were performed by PCR using Human BRCA1/2 Sequencing Panel Kit (Sansure Biotech, Hunan, China) according to the manufacture's instruction, which can amplify the entire coding exons and exon-intron boundaries of BRCA1/2 genes simultaneously. The library PCR products were purified with AMPure XP system (Beckman Coulter, Brea, CA), and quantified using Qubit® dsDNA HS Assay Kit (Life Technologies, Foster City, CA) then pooled into one complete library with equimolar ratio. The prepared libraries were sequenced on MiSeq system (Illumina, San Diego, CA) using MiSeq Reagent Kit v2 (500 cycles). Analysis of sequencing data, mutation annotation, and mutation confirmation by Sanger sequencing were performed using our previously described methods (Li et al., 2017). The sequence numbering was based on transcript and protein sequence of BRCA1 (NM_007294.3 and NP_009225.1) and BRCA2 (NM_000059.3 and NP_000050.2), respectively.

2.4 | Statistical analysis

Continuous data were summarized using mean and standard deviation and the difference was determined by the t test. The χ² test was used to compare categorical variables between groups across clinicopathological characteristics except age at diagnosis. Alternatively, Fisher’s exact test was used when χ² test was violated. The Wilcoxon rank sum test was used to analyze the difference of age at diagnosis and levels of serum tumor markers between BRCA1/2 mutation carriers and non-BRCA1/2 mutation carriers. The obtained p values were considered statistically significant if the p value is <0.05. The false discovery rate procedure was used to adjust p values for multiple testing (Holm, 1979). Logistic regression analysis was used to construct discriminative models with serum tumor markers and BRCA1/2 mutation status for ovarian cancer detection and patient stratification. The predictive performance of logistic regression models was evaluated by sensitivity, specificity, accuracy, and the area under the ROC curve (AUC) measurements. The leave-one-out cross-validation prediction error was also estimated as a performance measurement for these models. All of the computations were performed using the R software (version 3.3.3, http://www.cran.r-project.org).

3 | RESULTS

3.1 | Levels of serum tumor markers in ovarian cancer and the associations with clinicopathological characteristics

Among the 11 serum tumor markers, AFP, CA125, CA19-9, CA242, CEA, Ferritin, NSE and HE4 showed elevated levels and CA15-3, HGH, and β-HCG showed reduced levels in ovarian cancer patients (Table 2). The levels of CA125, CA19-9, CEA, Ferritin, NSE, and HE4 were significantly elevated (p = 2.82E-24, 0.021, 0.029, 6.98E-17, 1.92E-06, 1.63E-07, respectively) and the level of β-HCG was significantly reduced (p = 1.33E-07) in ovarian cancer patients. The serum levels of CA125, Ferritin, β-HCG, and NSE were displayed in Figure 1a. The mean level of CA125 was elevated more than fivefold in ovarian cancer patients when comparing to that in controls (296.14 U/mL vs. 55.74 U/mL). In contrast, the mean level of β-HCG was dramatically reduced in ovarian cancer patients when comparing to that in controls (0.9 ng/ml vs. 26.69 ng/ml). In addition, the mean level of HE4 was also elevated more than sixfold in ovarian cancer patients when comparing to that in controls (271.29 ng/ml vs. 40.33 ng/ml), although it was measured only in 61 ovarian cancer patients and 60 controls.

In addition, CA19-9 and Ferritin was significantly higher in elder and younger patients. CA125, CA15-3, and Ferritin level was significantly associated with Histological subtype. CA125, Ferritin, NSE, and β-HCG level was significantly associated with FIGO stage. In high grade tumor the CA125, CA15-3, and Ferritin were significantly high expressed. Moreover, an association between Ferritin level and Menopausal age was found in ovarian cancer patients.
| Characteristics                  | BRCA1 No. (%) | BRCA2 No. (%) | BRCA1/2 No. (%) | Non-BRCA No. (%) | p  \(^a\) | p  \(^b\) | p  \(^c\) | p  \(^d\) |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Age at diagnosis                |               |               |                 |                  |           |           |           |           |
| ≤40                             | 27(11.64%)    | 3(7.90%)      | 0(0.00%)        | 3(5.56%)         | 24(13.48%)|           |           |           |
| 41–50                           | 85(36.64%)    | 15(39.47%)    | 5(31.25%)       | 0(0.00%)         | 65(36.52%)|           |           |           |
| 51–60                           | 71(30.60%)    | 16(42.11%)    | 5(31.25%)       | 21(38.89%)       | 50(28.09%)|           |           |           |
| ≥61                             | 49(21.12%)    | 4(10.53%)     | 6(37.50%)       | 10(18.52%)       | 39(21.91%)|           |           |           |
| Mean                            | 51.11         | 51.21         | 55.38           | 52.44            | 50.71     | 0.093     | 0.990     | 0.088     | 0.390     |
| Histological subtype            |               |               |                 |                  |           |           |           |           |
| Serous                          | 176(75.86%)   | 34(89.47%)    | 48(88.89%)      | 128(71.91%)      |           |           |           |           |
| Mucinous                        | 16(6.90%)     | 0(0.00%)      | 0(0.00%)        | 0(0.00%)         | 16(8.99%) |           |           |           |
| Endometrioid                    | 7(3.02%)      | 1(2.63%)      | 2(3.70%)        | 5(2.81%)         |           |           |           |           |
| Clear cell                      | 7(3.02%)      | 0(0.00%)      | 1(1.85%)        | 6(3.37%)         |           |           |           |           |
| Others                          | 21(9.05%)     | 1(2.63%)      | 1(1.85%)        | 20(11.24%)       |           |           |           |           |
| Unknown                         | 5(2.16%)      | 2(5.26%)      | 2(3.70%)        | 3(1.69%)         |           |           |           |           |
| FIGO stage \(^c\)              |               |               |                 |                  | 0.651     | 0.019     | 0.282     | 0.007     |
| I                               | 48(20.69%)    | 1(2.63%)      | 1(6.25%)        | 2(3.70%)         | 46(25.84%)|           |           |           |
| II                              | 22(9.48%)     | 3(7.89%)      | 2(12.50%)       | 5(9.26%)         | 17(9.55%) |           |           |           |
| III                             | 118(50.86%)   | 24(63.16%)    | 32(59.26%)      | 86(48.31%)       |           |           |           |           |
| IV                              | 25(10.78%)    | 5(13.16%)     | 8(14.81%)       | 17(9.55%)        |           |           |           |           |
| Unknown                         | 19(8.19%)     | 5(13.16%)     | 7(12.96%)       | 12(6.74%)        |           |           |           |           |
| Grade                           |               |               |                 |                  | 0.944     | 0.335     | 0.647     | 0.256     |
| Low                             | 11(4.74%)     | 3(7.89%)      | 4(7.41%)        | 7(3.93%)         |           |           |           |           |
| Middle                          | 22(9.48%)     | 2(5.26%)      | 3(5.56%)        | 10(19.67%)       |           |           |           |           |
| High                            | 134(57.76%)   | 26(68.42%)    | 39(72.22%)      | 95(53.37%)       |           |           |           |           |
| Unknown                         | 65(28.02%)    | 7(18.42%)     | 8(14.81%)       | 57(32.02%)       |           |           |           |           |
| Lymph node metastasis \(^f\)   |               |               |                 |                  | 0.594     | 0.025     | 0.354     | 0.024     |
| Positive (+)                    | 98(42.24%)    | 22(57.89%)    | 30(55.56%)      | 68(38.20%)       |           |           |           |           |
| Negative (−)                    | 134(57.76%)   | 16(42.11%)    | 24(44.44%)      | 110(61.80%)      |           |           |           |           |
| Menstrual age                   |               |               |                 |                  |           |           |           |           |
| ≤13                             | 72(31.03%)    | 13(34.21%)    | 19(35.19%)      | 53(29.78%)       |           |           |           |           |
| 14–15                           | 100(43.10%)   | 13(34.21%)    | 21(38.89%)      | 79(44.38%)       |           |           |           |           |
| ≥16                             | 53(22.84%)    | 10(26.32%)    | 12(22.22%)      | 41(23.03%)       |           |           |           |           |
| Unknown                         | 7(3.02%)      | 2(5.26%)      | 2(3.70%)        | 5(2.81%)         |           |           |           |           |
| Menopausal age                  |               |               |                 |                  | 0.347     | 0.389     | 0.354     | 0.447     |
| Premenopausal                   | 70(30.17%)    | 9(23.68%)     | 13(24.07%)      | 57(32.02%)       |           |           |           |           |
| ≤45                             | 41(17.67%)    | 10(26.32%)    | 11(20.37%)      | 30(16.85%)       |           |           |           |           |
| 46–50                           | 67(28.88%)    | 11(28.95%)    | 19(35.19%)      | 48(26.97%)       |           |           |           |           |
| ≥51                             | 43(18.53%)    | 5(13.16%)     | 8(14.81%)       | 35(19.66%)       |           |           |           |           |
| Unknown                         | 11(4.74%)     | 3(7.89%)      | 3(5.56%)        | 8(4.49%)         |           |           |           |           |
| Parity                          |               |               |                 |                  | 0.321     | 0.834     | 0.185     | 0.475     |
| ≤1                              | 31(13.36%)    | 4(10.53%)     | 5(9.26%)        | 26(14.61%)       |           |           |           |           |
| 2–3                             | 120(51.72%)   | 19(50.00%)    | 31(57.41%)      | 89(50.00%)       |           |           |           |           |
| ≥4                              | 75(32.33%)    | 13(34.21%)    | 16(29.63%)      | 59(33.15%)       |           |           |           |           |
| Unknown                         | 6(2.59%)      | 2(5.26%)      | 2(3.70%)        | 4(2.25%)         |           |           |           |           |

(Continues)
Deleterious germline mutations of \textit{BRCA1/2} in ovarian cancer patients

Among the 232 ovarian cancer patients, a total of 43 deleterious germline mutation loci were identified in 54 ovarian cancer patients (Table 3). The entire frequency of \textit{BRCA1/2} deleterious germline mutations in this study was 23.3% (54/232). Among these 43 mutations, there were 30 frameshift mutations (six insertions, 21 deletions, three deletion-and-insertions), six stop-gain mutations, six splicing mutations, and one missense mutation. Except for the six splicing mutations, all of the \textit{BRCA1/2} mutations were illustrated on the protein structures in Figure 2. All deleterious mutations were confirmed by Sanger sequencing (Figure S1).

### Table 1 (Continued)

| Characteristics                   | No. (%) | \textit{BRCA1} No. (%) | \textit{BRCA2} No. (%) | \textit{BRCA1/2} No. (%) | Non-\textit{BRCA} No. (%) | \(p^a\) | \(p^b\) | \(p^c\) | \(p^d\) |
|-----------------------------------|---------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Personal history of cancer        |         |                        |                        |                          |                           | 0.313  | 0.139  | 1.000  | 0.418  |
| Yes                               | 14(6.03%)| 5(13.16%)              | 0(0.00%)               | 5(9.26%)                 | 9(5.06%)                  |        |        |        |        |
| No                                | 218(93.97%)| 33(86.84%)             | 16(100.00%)            | 49(90.74%)               | 169(94.94%)               |        |        |        |        |
| HBOC\(^g\)-related tumor         |         |                        |                        |                          |                           | 0.894  | <0.001 | 0.004  | <0.001 |
| Yes                               | 11(4.74%)| 6(15.79%)              | 3(18.75%)              | 9(16.67%)                | 2(1.12%)                  |        |        |        |        |
| No                                | 221(95.26%)| 32(84.21%)             | 13(81.25%)             | 45(83.33%)               | 176(98.88%)               |        |        |        |        |
| Family history of tumors          |         |                        |                        |                          |                           | 0.811  | 0.049  | 0.377  | 0.014  |
| Yes                               | 38(16.38%)| 10(26.32%)             | 4(25.00%)              | 14(25.93%)               | 24(13.48%)                |        |        |        |        |
| No                                | 194(83.62%)| 28(73.68%)             | 12(75.00%)             | 40(74.07%)               | 154(86.52%)               |        |        |        |        |

\textit{Note.} Here, \(p\) values for comparing difference of age were calculated by the Wilcoxon rank sum test; while \(P\) values for comparing categorical variables across other clinicopathological characteristics were calculated by \(\chi^2\) test; \(p\) value \(< 0.05\) in bold.

\(^a\)\text{\textit{BRCA1} mutation carriers versus \textit{BRCA2} mutation carriers.} \(^b\)\text{\textit{BRCA1} mutation carriers versus non-\textit{BRCA} mutation carriers.} \(^c\)\text{\textit{BRCA2} mutation carriers versus non-\textit{BRCA} mutation carriers.} \(^d\)\text{\textit{BRCA1/2} mutation carriers versus non-\textit{BRCA} mutation carriers.} \(^e\)\text{FIGO: International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics.} \(^f\)\text{Lymph node metastasis was detected with histopathology during surgery.} \(^g\)\text{HBOC: Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer.}

### Table 2

Comparison of serum tumor markers between ovarian cancer patients and benign controls

| Tumor marker | Concentration (mean ± SD)\(^a\) | Direction | Corrected \(p\) value\(^b\) |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| AFP (ng/mL)  | 3.28 ± 3.06                     | ↑         | 0.054                       |
| CA125 (U/mL)| 55.74 ± 115.51                  | ↑         | 2.82E-24                    |
| CA15−3 (U/mL)| 31.09 ± 99.33                  | ↓         | 0.11                        |
| CA19−9 (U/mL)| 24.49 ± 63.80                  | ↑         | 0.021                       |
| CA242 (U/mL)| 9.23 ± 30.45                    | ↑         | 0.101                       |
| CEA (ng/mL)  | 1.55 ± 5.52                     | ↑         | 0.029                       |
| Ferritin (ng/mL)| 46.49 ± 71.19               | ↑         | 6.98E-17                    |
| HGH (ng/ml)  | 0.62 ± 2.65                     | ↓         | 0.329                       |
| NSE (ng/mL)  | 3.61 ± 5.08                     | ↑         | 1.92E-06                    |
| β-HCG (ng/mL)| 26.69 ± 67.05                  | ↓         | 1.33E-07                    |
| HE4 (pmol/L) | 40.33 ± 14.73                   | ↑         | 1.63E-07                    |

\(^a\)\text{SD: Standard deviation.} \(^b\)\text{\(p\) value calculated by the \(t\) test and corrected using FDR's correction procedure, and corrected \(p\) value \(<0.05\) in bold.} \(^c\)\text{The measurement of HE4 level was only collected in 61 ovarian cancer patients and 60 benign controls.}

### 3.2 \ Deleterious germline mutations of \textit{BRCA1/2} in ovarian cancer patients

Among the 232 ovarian cancer patients, a total of 43 deleterious germline mutation loci were identified in 54 ovarian cancer patients (Table 3). The entire frequency of \textit{BRCA1/2} deleterious germline mutations in this study was 23.3% (54/232). Among these 43 mutations, there were 30 frameshift mutations (six insertions, 21 deletions, three deletion-and-insertions), six stop-gain mutations, six splicing mutations, and one missense mutation. Except for the six splicing mutations, all of the \textit{BRCA1/2} mutations were illustrated on the protein structures in Figure 2. All deleterious mutations were confirmed by Sanger sequencing (Figure S1). For \textit{BRCA1}, 30 deleterious germline mutations were found in 38 patients (38/232, 16.4%), including six recurrent mutations (c.3770_3771delAG and c.4712delT each present in 3 patients, c.220C>T, c.981_982delAT, c.3288_3289delAA, and c.4185+1G>A each in 2 patients) and five novel mutations (c.440delT, c.2302delA, c.2553_2554insGAAAGTGAA, c.3114delA, and c.4886_4887delinsC). For \textit{BRCA2}, 13 deleterious germline mutations were found in 16 (6.9%) patients, including two recurrent mutations (c.3109C>T in 3 cases and c.3598_3599delTG in 2 cases). A total of six mutations in \textit{BRCA2} (c.1508_1509delinsT, c.3628_3629delGA, c.5446dupA, c.6400_6401delAA, c.8645_8646dupAA and c.8954-1G>C) were novel.
3.3 Associations of \textit{BRCA1}/2 mutations with clinicopathological characteristics and serum tumor markers

The associations of \textit{BRCA1}/2 deleterious germline mutation status with clinicopathological characteristics of the 232 patients were summarized in Table 1. Regarding to histological subtype of ovarian cancer patients, there was statistically significant difference between \textit{BRCA1}/2 mutation carriers and non-\textit{BRCA} mutation carriers in histological subtype ($p = 0.011$). In addition, the FIGO stage of \textit{BRCA1} mutation carriers and \textit{BRCA1}/2 mutation carriers were significantly different from non-\textit{BRCA} mutation carriers ($p = 0.019$ and 0.007 respectively). Notably, \textit{BRCA1} mutation carriers and \textit{BRCA1}/2 mutation carriers were significantly more likely to be positive in lymph node metastasis, when compared with non-\textit{BRCA} mutation carriers ($p = 0.025$ and 0.024, respectively).

We also investigated whether deleterious germline mutations were associated with Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer (HBOC) related tumor (Table 1). In this study, 38 patients showed family history of cancer and 11 patients had HBOC-related tumors. Overall, 9 in 11 patients with HBOC-related tumor had \textit{BRCA1}/2 deleterious mutations. Compared to non-\textit{BRCA} mutation carriers, \textit{BRCA1}, \textit{BRCA2}, and \textit{BRCA1}/2 mutations carriers all showed significant association with HBOC-related tumors ($p < 0.001$, $p = 0.004$, and $p < 0.001$, respectively). \textit{BRCA1} mutation carriers and \textit{BRCA1}/2 mutation carriers also showed significant association with family history of cancer, when compared with non-\textit{BRCA} mutation carriers ($p = 0.049$ and 0.014, respectively).
The associations between BRCA1/2 deleterious germline mutation status and serum levels of tumor markers were summarized in Table S1. The levels of CA125 in BRCA1 and BRCA1/2 mutation carriers were significantly higher than that in non-BRCA mutation carriers ($p = 0.010$ and $0.040$, respectively). BRCA1 mutation carriers had significantly higher levels of CA15-3, β-HCG ($p = 0.035$ and 0.027 respectively), and significantly lower level of HGH ($p = 0.027$) than non-BRCA mutation carriers. No significant difference was found in other serum tumor markers.

**TABLE 3** Deleterious germline mutations of BRCA1/2 found in 232 ovarian cancer patients

| Gene     | Exon  | Nucleotide change$^a$ | Effect on protein$^a$ | dbsNP ID     | Mutation type$^b$ | Previously reported$^c$ | #Cases | HBOC-related Cases |
|----------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| BRCA1    | Intron3 | c.134+1G>T           | —                     | rs80358043   | Splicing          | BIC|ClinVar            | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon5  | c.190T>C              | p.C64R                | rs80357064   | Missense          | BIC| ClinVar|UMD|LOVD          | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon6  | c.220C>T              | p.Q74*                | rs80357234   | Stop-gain         | BIC|ClinVar|UMD            | 2      | 1                |
| BRCA1    | exon7  | c.342_343delITC       | p.P115*               | rs80357881   | Frameshift del    | BIC|ClinVar|UMD            | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon7  | c.440delIT            | p.L147fs              |             | Frameshift del    | Novel                  | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.981_982delAT        | p.C328fs              | rs80357772   | Frameshift del    | BIC|ClinVar|UMD|LOVD          | 2      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.1012A>T             | p.K338*               | rs397508826  | Stop-gain         | ClinVar                | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.1934delC            | p.S645fs              |             | Frameshift del    | https://doi.org/10.18632/oncotarget.7027 | 1 | 0 |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.1952dupA            | p.K652fs              | rs80357885   | Frameshift ins    | BIC|ClinVar            | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.2269_2269delIG      | p.V757fs              | rs80357583   | Frameshift del    | BIC|ClinVar|UMD|LOVD          | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.2302delA            | p.S768fs              |             | Frameshift del    | Novel                  | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.2553_2554insGAAA    | p.L852fs              |             | Frameshift ins    | Novel                  | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.2679_2682delGAAA    | p.K893fs              | rs80357596   | Frameshift del    | BIC|ClinVar|UMD|LOVD          | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.2685_2686delAA      | p.P897fs              | rs80357636   | Frameshift del    | BIC|ClinVar|UMD|LOVD          | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.3114delA            | p.A1039fs             |             | Frameshift del    | Novel                  | 1      | 1                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.3288_3289delAA      | p.L1098fs             | rs80357686   | Frameshift del    | BIC|ClinVar|UMD            | 2      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.3294delGT           | p.P1099fs             | rs876658626  | Frameshift del    | ClinVar                | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.3418_3419insTGAC    | p.S1140fs             |             | Frameshift ins    | https://doi.org/10.1007/s00432-017-2465-8 | 1 | 0 |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.3599_3600delAG      | p.Q1200fs             | rs398122674  | Frameshift del    | ClinVar                | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.3756_3759delGTCT    | p.S1253fs             | rs80357868   | Frameshift del    | BIC|ClinVar|UMD|LOVD          | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.3758_3759delCT      | p.S1253fs             |             | Frameshift del    | https://doi.org/10.18632/oncotarget.10814 | 1 | 0 |
| BRCA1    | exon11 | c.3770_3771delAG      | p.E1257fs             | rs80357579   | Frameshift del    | BIC|ClinVar|UMD|LOVD          | 3      | 2                |
| BRCA1    | Intron11| c.4097-1G>A           | —                     | rs80358070   | Splicing          | BIC|ClinVar|UMD|LOVD          | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | Intron11| c.4185+1G>A           | —                     | rs80358076   | Splicing          | ClinVar|LOVD          | 2      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon16  | c.4712delIT           | p.F1571fs             | rs86037790   | Frameshift del    | ClinVar                | 3      | 1                |
| BRCA1    | exon16  | c.4801A>T             | p.K1601*              | rs80357303   | Stop-gain         | BIC|ClinVar            | 1      | 1                |
| BRCA1    | exon16  | c.4886_4887delinsC    | p.E1629fs             |             | Frameshift delins | Novel                  | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | Intron16| c.4986+5G>A           | —                     | rs397509211  | Splicing          | ClinVar                | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | exon20  | c.5239C>T             | p.Q174*               | rs80357367   | Stop-gain         | BIC|ClinVar|LOVD          | 1      | 0                |
| BRCA1    | Intron21| c.5332+1delG          | —                     | rs397509263  | Splicing          | ClinVar|https://doi.org/10.1007/s10549–011–1596-x | 1 | 0 |

(Continues)
3.4 Logistic regression analysis for ovarian cancer detection and patient stratification

By logistic regression analysis, we evaluated the performance of tumor markers in ovarian cancer detection and patient stratification (Table 4). Among the 10 serum tumor markers in 232 patients and 219 controls, CA125 showed the best performance in ovarian cancer detection as a single marker (AUC = 0.799, Sensitivity = 0.551, Specificity = 0.881) (Table 4, Figure 1b). In the combinations of different
markers, a panel of eight markers (AFP, β-HCG, CA125, CA15-3, CEA, Ferritin, HGH, and NSE) showed the best performance in ovarian cancer detection (AUC = 0.873, Sensitivity = 0.727, Specificity = 0.826) (Table 4, Figure 1b). Although we had limited number of samples with HE4 information, we investigated if adding this marker could improve detection performance. While only considering 61 ovarian cancer patients and 60 controls with HE4 serum levels, HE4 as a single marker showed a comparable performance in ovarian cancer detection (AUC = 0.767, Sensitivity = 0.541, Specificity = 0.933) to that of CA125 (AUC = 0.802, Sensitivity = 0.541, Specificity = 0.883), and the previous 8-marker panel plus HE4 showed an improved performance in ovarian cancer detection (AUC = 0.916, Sensitivity = 0.770, Specificity = 0.900) (Table 4, Figure 1c). In patient stratification analysis, a panel of seven markers (β-HCG, CA125, CA15-3, CA19-9, CA242, CEA, and HE4) showed a good performance in prediction of BRCA1/2 mutation carriers (AUC = 0.881, Sensitivity = 0.583, Specificity = 0.939) to that of CA125 (AUC = 0.802, Sensitivity = 0.541, Specificity = 0.883), and the previous 8-marker panel plus HE4 showed an improved performance in ovarian cancer detection (AUC = 0.916, Sensitivity = 0.770, Specificity = 0.900) (Table 4, Figure 1c). In patient stratification analysis, a panel of seven markers (β-HCG, CA125, CA15-3, CA19-9, CA242, CEA, and HE4) showed a good performance in prediction of BRCA1/2 mutation carriers (AUC = 0.881, Sensitivity = 0.583, Specificity = 0.939) to that of CA125 (AUC = 0.802, Sensitivity = 0.541, Specificity = 0.883), and the previous 8-marker panel plus HE4 showed an improved performance in ovarian cancer detection (AUC = 0.916, Sensitivity = 0.770, Specificity = 0.900) (Table 4, Figure 1c).

### Table 4: The predictive performance of logistic regression models for classification

| Classification (class distribution) | Model variables | CV error<sup>a</sup> | Sensitivity | Specificity | Accuracy | AUC  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|------------|----------|------|
| Ovarian cancer patients vs. controls (232, 219)<sup>b</sup> | CA125 | 0.189 | 0.551 | 0.881 | 0.713 | 0.799 |
|  | AFP, β-HCG, CA125, CA15-3, CEA, Ferritin, HGH, NSE | 0.152 | 0.727 | 0.826 | 0.776 | 0.873 |
| Ovarian cancer patients vs. controls with HE4 (61, 60)<sup>c</sup> | CA125 | 0.197 | 0.541 | 0.883 | 0.711 | 0.802 |
|  | HE4 | 0.178 | 0.541 | 0.933 | 0.736 | 0.767 |
|  | CA125, HE4 | 0.167 | 0.623 | 0.933 | 0.777 | 0.823 |
|  | AFP, β-HCG, CA125, CA15-3, CEA, Ferritin, HE4, HGH, NSE | 0.152 | 0.770 | 0.900 | 0.835 | 0.916 |
| BRCA1/2 mutation carriers vs. non-BRCA carriers (12, 49)<sup>d</sup> | β-HCG, CA125, CA15-3, CA19-9, CA242, CEA, HE4 | 0.177 | 0.583 | 0.939 | 0.869 | 0.881 |
|  | lymph node metastasis, β-HCG, CA125, CA15-3, CA19-9, CA242, CEA, HE4 | 0.154 | 0.667 | 0.980 | 0.918 | 0.917 |
| BRCA1 mutation carriers vs. non-BRCA1 carriers (7, 54)<sup>d</sup> | AFP, β-HCG, CA125, CA15-3, CA19-9, CA242, CEA, HE4 | 0.152 | 0.714 | 1.000 | 0.967 | 0.974 |
|  | lymph node metastasis, AFP, β-HCG, CA125, CA15-3, CA19-9, CA242, CEA, HE4 | 0.148 | 0.714 | 0.981 | 0.951 | 0.976 |
| Lymph node metastasis: positive vs. negative (20, 41)<sup>d</sup> | AFP, CA125, CA19-9, CA242, HE4 | 0.256 | 0.200 | 0.878 | 0.656 | 0.735 |
|  | BRCA1 mutation, BRCA2 mutation, AFP, CA125, CA19-9, CA242, HE4 | 0.242 | 0.600 | 0.902 | 0.803 | 0.843 |

<sup>a</sup>The adjusted estimate of leave-one-out cross-validation (LOOCV) prediction error. <sup>b</sup>The models were based on 232 ovarian cancer patients and 219 controls. <sup>c</sup>The models were based on 61 ovarian cancer patients and 60 controls with HE4 levels. <sup>d</sup>The models were based on 61 ovarian cancer patients with HE4 levels.

---

4 | DISCUSSION

Serum tumor markers and BRCA1/2 germline mutations are crucial factors in cancer diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis. In this study, we comprehensively investigated multiple serum tumor markers and BRCA1/2 germline mutations in a Chinese cohort of ovarian cancer patients. The controls we used in this study were from women who visited hospital with benign gynecologic diseases, which might represent real clinic situation better than using healthy woman as control. We found that several serum tumor markers were associated with BRCA1/2 mutation status. BRCA1/2 mutation status provides important information for the identification of patients that are most likely to benefit from treatment with PARP inhibitors and guides treatment.
decisions. In this study, the overall frequency of \textit{BRCA1/2} deleterious germline mutation was 23.3\% (16.38\% in \textit{BRCA1} and 6.90\% in \textit{BRCA2}) in patients from Hunan province in mid-south China. This frequency was close to two multicenter studies from eastern and north China ovarian cancer patients by NGS (Shi et al., 2017; Wu et al., 2017) 16.7\% (13.1\% in \textit{BRCA1} and 3.9\% in \textit{BRCA2}) and 28.4\% (20.8\% in \textit{BRCA1} and 7.6\% in \textit{BRCA2}), respectively. HBOC is syndrome primarily associated with mutations in \textit{BRCA1} or \textit{BRCA2} genes. Same as previous study, the \textit{BRCA1/2} germline mutations were significantly associated with HBOC-related tumor or family history (Bolton et al., 2012; Maistro et al., 2016; Shi et al., 2017). These ovarian cancer patients carrying \textit{BRCA1/2} mutations could benefit from PARP inhibitors for targeted treatment (Shi et al., 2017).

Serum tumor markers play a crucial role in ovarian cancer diagnosis, prognosis prediction, and monitoring disease progression (Richards et al., 2015). \textit{CA125} as a single marker showed good performance in ovarian cancer detection (AUC = 0.799), but with low sensitivity in ovarian cancer diagnosis, prognosis prediction, and monitoring disease progression (Richards et al., 2015). \textit{CA125} as a single marker in ovarian cancer diagnosis, prognosis prediction, and monitoring disease progression has been reported (Llabres, Zhu, & Dannies, 2010). Elevated serum level of CA15-3, \(\beta\)-HCG was significantly higher in \textit{BRCA1} mutation carriers than nonmutation carriers. Although the difference is not significant after adjusted, it still could be observed that there were differences in levels of CA15-3, \(\beta\)-HCG, HGH between \textit{BRCA1} mutation carriers, and non-\textit{BRCA} mutation carriers. Both genetic variations and serum tumor markers are crucial features of cancer. Combined genetics and serum tumor marker variation detection would improve cancer diagnosis and treatment in clinical. A recent research provided inspiring result by combining 12 tumor markers and 16 genes mutation analysis for cancer early detection including ovarian cancer (Cohen et al., 2018). The crucial tumor markers and mutations, such as AFP, CA125, CEA, CA199, \textit{HE4} and \textit{TP53} (OMIM:191170), \textit{PIK3CA} (OMIM:171834), \textit{EGFR} (OMIM:131550), \textit{BRAF} (OMIM:164757) mutations were included in their cancer SEEK panel. The combined analysis of tumor markers and genetic variations would be a promising method for ovarian cancer detection and provide guideline for treatment. The panels we reported here could be alternative biomarkers for patient stratification using targeted therapy in ovarian cancer such as PARP inhibitor.

In conclusion, we analyzed serum tumor markers and the prevalence of \textit{BRCA1/2} germline mutations in Chinese ovarian cancer patients. The identified panels of serum tumor markers showed a good performance in ovarian cancer prediction. In addition, the serum tumor markers combining \textit{BRCA1/2} mutation status could also predict metastasis status. These findings provided important information for ovarian cancer prediction and patient stratification, which eventually would benefit the diagnosis and treatment for ovarian cancer patients.

**ETHICAL STANDARDS**

We declare that the experiments performed in this study comply with the current laws of the People's Republic of China.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported in part by grants from the Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 81372228), grants from China Hunan Provincial Science and Technology Department (No. 2016GK3022, 2016XXK2033, 2016JC2053, and 2016JJC2068), and Natural Science Foundation of Hunan province (2018J3791).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Ming Chen, Xinwu Guo, Xunxun Xu, Limin Peng, Lizhong Dai, and Jun Wang are employees of Sanway Gene Technology Inc. Julia X. Day is a student from La Jolla Country Day School (La Jolla, CA, USA), who worked as an intern at Sanway Gene Technology Inc.

AUTHORS’ CONTRIBUTIONS

Hongyu Deng, Xunxun Xu, Guoli Li, Hui Jiang, JL, and Julia X. Day performed the experiments. Xinwu Guo, Ming Chen, and Limin Peng analyzed the data. Jun Wang, Lizhong Dai, and Xiaochun Wang conceived the study and participated in its design and coordination. Hongyu Deng, Dongyong Shan, Yinhua Li, Yanjie Zhou, and Bin Liu collected specimens for the project. Hongyu Deng, Xinwu Guo, Jianfu Heng, Ming Chen, and JW drafted the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

ORCID

Jun Wang https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8008-4563

REFERENCES

Bian, J., Li, B., Kou, X. J., Wang, X. N., Sun, X. X., & Ming, L. (2014). Clinical applicability of multi-tumor marker protein chips for diagnosing ovarian cancer. Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention, 15(19), 8409–8411. https://doi.org/10.7314/APICP.2014.15.19.8409
Bolton, K. L., Chenexiv-Trench, G., Goh, C., Sadetzki, S., Ramus, S. J., Karlan, B. Y., … Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network. (2012). Association between BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations and survival in women with invasive epithelial ovarian cancer. JAMA, 307(4), 382–390. https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2012.20
Buzolin, A. L., Moreira, C. M., Sacramento, P. R., Oku, A. Y., Fornari, A. R. D. S., Antonio, D. S. M., … Mitne-Neto, M. (2017). Development and validation of a variant detection workflow for BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes and its clinical application based on the Ion Torrent technology. Human Genomics, 11(1), 14. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40246-017-0110-x
Chen, W., Zheng, R., Baade, P. D., Zhang, S., Zeng, H., Bray, F., … He, J. (2016). Cancer statistics in China, 2015. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, 66(2), 115–132. https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21338
Choi, M. C., Heo, J.-H., Jang, J.-H., Jung, S. G., Park, H., Joo, W. D., … Kim, S. J. (2015). Germline mutations of BRCA1 and BRCA2 in Korean ovarian cancer patients: Finding founder mutations. International Journal of Gynecological Cancer, 25(8), 1386–1391. https://doi.org/10.1097/IGC.0000000000000529
Chudecka-Glaz, A., Cymbaluk-Ploska, A., Strojna, A., & Menkszak, J. (2017). HE4 serum levels in patients with BRCA1 gene mutation undergoing prophylactic surgery as well as in other benign and malignant gynecological diseases. Disease Markers, 2017, 1–13. https://doi.org/10.1155/2017/9792756
Claus, A., Lilja, H., & Lundwall, A. (2002). A locus on human chromosome 20 contains several genes expressing protease inhibitor domains with homology to whey acidic protein. Biochemical Journal, 368(1), 233–242. https://doi.org/10.1042/BJ20020869
Cohen, J. D., Li, L. U., Wang, Y., Thoburn, C., Afshar, B., Daniilova, L., … Papadopoulos, N. (2018). Detection and localization of surgically resectable cancers with a multi-analyte blood test. Science, 359(6378), 926–930. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aar3247
Daly, M. B., Pilarski, R., Berry, M., Buys, S. S., Farmer, M., Friedman, S., … Darlow, S. (2017). NCCN guidelines insights: Genetic/familial high-risk assessment: Breast and ovarian, version 2.2017. Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, 15(1), 9–20. https://doi.org/10.6004/jnccn.2017.0003
Dizon, D. S. (2017). PARP inhibitors for targeted treatment in ovarian cancer. The Lancet, 390:1929–1930. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)32418-2
Djurđević, S., Maksimović, M., Pantelíc, M., Golubović, A., & Curcic, A. (2011). Usefulness of beta hCG as tumor marker in the diagnosis and follow up of patients with ovarian cancer. Journal of BUON, 16(4), 715–721.
Esselen, K. M., Cronin, A. M., Bixel, K., Bookman, M. A., Burger, R. A., Cohn, D. E., … Wright, A. A. (2016). Use of CA-125 tests and computed tomographic scans for surveillance in ovarian cancer. JAMA Oncology, 2(11), 1427–1433. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaoncol.2016.1842
Fan, L., Yin, M., Ke, C., Ge, T., Zhang, G., Zhang, W., … Li, K. (2016). Use of plasma metabolomics to identify diagnostic biomarkers for early stage epithelial ovarian cancer. Journal of Cancer, 7(10), 1265–1272. https://doi.org/10.7150/jca.15074
Holm, S. (1979). A simple sequentially rejective multiple test procedure. Scandinavian Journal of Statistics, 6(2), 65–70.
Jeschke, U., Wiest, I., Schumacher, A. L., Kupka, M., Rack, B., Stahn, R., … Dian, D. (2012). Determination of MUC1 in sera of ovarian cancer patients and in sera of patients with benign changes of the ovaries with CA15-3, CA27.29, and PankoMab. Anticancer Research, 32(5), 2185–2189.
Li, G., Guo, X., Tang, L., Chen, M., Luo, X., Peng, L., … Wang, J. (2017). Analysis of BRCA1/2 mutation spectrum and prevalence in unselected Chinese breast cancer patients by next-generation sequencing. Journal of Cancer Research and Clinical Oncology, 143(10), 2011–2024. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00432-017-2465-8
Liu, W., Wang, Z., Ma, J., Hou, Y., Zhao, J., Dong, B., … Guo, Y. (2017). Elevated serum level of CA125 is a biomarker that can be used to alter prognosis determined by BRCA mutation and family history in ovarian cancer. Genetic Testing and Molecular Biomarkers, 21(5), 547–554. https://doi.org/10.1089/gtmb.2017.0104
Lu, Z., & Chen, J. (2014). Introduction of WHO classification of tumours of female reproductive organs, fourth edition. Zhonghua Bing Xue Za Zhi, 43(10), 649–650.
Maistro, S., Teixeira, N., Encinas, G., Katayama, M. L. H., Niewiadonski, V. D. T., Cabral, L. G., … Folgueira, M. A. A. K. (2016). Germline mutations in BRCA1 and BRCA2 in epithelial ovarian cancer...
patients in Brazil. BMC Cancer, 16(1), 934. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12885-016-2966-x

Miki, Y., Swensen, J., Shattuck-Eidens, D., Futreal, P. A., Harshman, K., Tavtigian, S. … Skolnick, M. H. (1994). A strong candidate for the breast and ovarian cancer susceptibility gene BRCA1. Science, 266(5182), 66–71.

Montagnana, M., Danese, E., Giudici, S., Franchi, M., Guidi, G. C., Plebani, M., Lippi, G. (2011). HE4 in ovarian cancer: From discovery to clinical application. Advances in Clinical Chemistry, 55, 1–20.

Pan, Z., & Xie, X. (2017). BRCA mutations in the manifestation and treatment of ovarian cancer. Oncotarget, 8(57), 97657–97670. https://doi.org/10.18632/oncotarget.18280

Petrillo, M., Marchetti, C., De Leo, R., Musella, A., Capoluongo, E., Paris, I., … Fagotti, A. (2017). BRCA mutational status, initial disease presentation, and clinical outcome in high-grade serous advanced ovarian cancer: a multicenter study. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 217(3), 334.e1–334.e9. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2017.05.036.

Richards, S., Aziz, N., Bale, S., Bik, D., Das, S., Gastier-Foster, J., … Rehm, H. L. (2015). Standards and guidelines for the interpretation of sequence variants: A joint consensus recommendation of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and the Association for Molecular Pathology. Genetics in Medicine, 17(5), 405–424. https://doi.org/10.1038/gim.2015.30

Santovena, A., Farina, J. B., Llabres, M., Zhu, Y., & Dannies, P. (2010). Pharmacokinetics analysis of sustained release hGH biodegradable implantable tablets using a mouse model of human ovarian cancer. International Journal of Pharmaceutics, 388(1–2), 175–180. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpharm.2009.12.054

Shi, T., Wang, P., Xie, C., Yin, S., Shi, D., Wei, C., … Zang, R. (2017). BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations in ovarian cancer patients from China: Ethnic-related mutations in BRCA1 associated with an increased risk of ovarian cancer. International Journal of Cancer, 140(9), 2051–2059. https://doi.org/10.1002/ijc.30633

Spriggs, D. R., & Longo, D. L. (2016). PARP inhibitors in ovarian cancer treatment. New England Journal of Medicine, 375(22), 2197–2198. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMct1612843

Torre, L. A., Bray, F., Siegel, R. L., Ferlay, J., Lortet-Tieulent, J., & Jemal, A. (2015). Global cancer statistics, 2012. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, 65(2), 87–108. https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21262

Weiderpass, E., & Tyczynski, J. E. (2015). Epidemiology of patients with ovarian cancer with and without a BRCA1/2 mutation. Molecular Diagnosis & Therapy, 19(6), 351–364. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40291-015-0168-x

Williams, K. A., Terry, K. L., Tworoger, S. S., Vitonis, A. F., Titus, L. J., & Cramer, D. W. (2014). Polymorphisms of MUC16 (CA125) and MUC1 (CA15.3) in relation to ovarian cancer risk and survival. PLoS One, 9(2), e88334. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0088334

Wooster, R., Bignell, G., Lancaster, J., Swift, S., Seal, S., Mangion, J., … Stratton, M. R. (1995). Identification of the breast cancer susceptibility gene BRCA2. Nature, 378(6559), 789–792. https://doi.org/10.1038/378789a0

Wu, X., Wu, L., Kong, B., Liu, J., Yin, R., Wen, H., … Liu, Y. (2017). The first nationwide multicenter prevalence study of germline BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations in Chinese ovarian cancer patients. International Journal of Gynecological Cancer, 27:1650–1657. https://doi.org/10.1097/IGC.0000000000001065

Yang, W. L., Lu, Z., & Bast, R. C. Jr (2017). The role of biomarkers in the management of epithelial ovarian cancer. Expert Review of Molecular Diagnostics, 17(6), 577–591. https://doi.org/10.1080/14737559.2017.1326820

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of the article.

How to cite this article: Deng H, Chen M, Guo X, et al. Comprehensive analysis of serum tumor markers and BRCA1/2 germline mutations in Chinese ovarian cancer patients. Mol Genet Genomic Med. 2019;7:e672. https://doi.org/10.1002/mgg3.672