Data in Brief

Genomic analysis to define molecular basis of aggressiveness in a mouse model of oral cancer

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A B S T R A C T

To investigate the molecular basis underlying aggressive behavior in oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC), our laboratory developed a carcinogen-induced mouse oral cancer (MOC) cell line model that encompasses the growth and metastasis spectrum of its human counterpart. We performed next-generation sequencing (NGS) and gene expression microarray profiles to explore the genomic and transcriptional backgrounds of the differential MOC line phenotypes, as well as, the cross-species relevance of the model. Here we describe the comparative analysis of NGS (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample?LinkName=bioproject_biosample_all&from_uid=247825) and expression microarray (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE50041) data from the MOC lines and corresponding human data, as described in our recent publication [1].
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Direct link to deposited data

NGS: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample?LinkName=bioproject_biosample_all&from_uid=247825
Microarray: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE50041

Experimental design, materials and methods

Cell lines

We have previously described a 7,12 dimethylbenzanthracene (DMBA)-induced mouse cell line model of OSCC where individual lines display fixed in vivo phenotypes [2]. We classified these lines into indolent or aggressive subtypes based on their in vivo growth patterns in syngeneic mice. Indolent lines formed primary tumors at orthotopic and heterotopic injection sites but did not display evidence of metastasis. By contrast the aggressive lines all displayed regional lymph node as well as occasional lung metastases. Further genotyping analysis revealed that the three aggressive lines were related with MOC2-7 and MOC2-10 being derived from the MOC2 line.

Sequencing

MOC lines were grown in defined media and used for genomic DNA preparation, while CXCR3−/− DNA was generated from mouse

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splenocytes (Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit). NGS was performed at The Genome Institute at Washington University School of Medicine with their standard platforms and resulted in excellent depth of coverage. A critical point in the analysis was due to the lack of control tissue available from the original mice bearing the parental tumors. Thus, mutation reads were normalized to the reference C57BL/6 genome and a genomic database of 17 commonly used strains of inbred laboratory mice.

Human mutational data from all oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) cases were acquired from published data, The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA), The Broad Institute platform, and from cBioPortal (http://www.cbioportal.org/public-portal/).

Sequencing quality control and analysis

Analysis of sequencing data is described in detail in our publication [1]. We excluded the common and well-known variants using the dbSNP filter, and the novel variants were manually reviewed to decrease the false discovery rate. With the goal of further understanding the signatures of metastasis and identifying immune targets, we performed Varscan copy number analysis and recurrent gene analysis. We also performed clonality analysis using the point mutations to reveal the subclonal architecture within the cell lines.

Growth phenotype-specific mutations, and comparative analysis between aggressive versus indolent MOC lines, and lymph node metastasis negative versus lymph node positive TCGA OSCC samples, were established in Microsoft Excel using IF and VLOOKUP commands. The prevalence of specific mutations in human OSCC cases from TCGA was determined using cBioPortal.

Microarray analysis

The normalized expression data were imported into Partek Genomics Suite 6.6. Further analysis is described in our recent publication and resulted in the identification of gene sets representing a mouse signature of aggressiveness [1]. Iterative and tandem gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was used to find overlap of the mouse signature genes in three human datasets, and to eliminate mouse-specific transcripts. This process trimmed the number of cross-species relevant transcripts to 188 genes.

Discussion

We describe here our two-fold genomic approach, of exome sequencing and expression microarray, to expose mutational and transcriptional alterations and to delineate the genetic basis of aggressive growth in our murine OSCC model. By performing a comparative analysis with human genomic and gene expression data, we found (1) overlap with the most commonly mutated genes in human HNSCC, (2) new potential driver mutations, (3) novel candidate genes with transcriptional changes associated with aggressive growth, and (4) a cross-species conserved 118-gene signature predictive of aggressive disease and metastasis in OSCC. These data support the use of carcinogen-induced mouse oral cancer cell lines as a high-fidelity model of the human counterpart.

Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest.

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