Primary cutaneous CD30+ T-cell lymphoproliferative disorders are the second most common cutaneous lymphomas. According to the World Health Organization, CD30+ T-cell lymphoproliferative disorders include primary cutaneous anaplastic large cell lymphoma (C-ALCL) and lymphomatoid papulosis (LyP) as well as borderline lesions. C-ALCL and LyP are thought to represent two ends of a spectrum of diseases that have different clinical presentations, clinical courses, and prognoses in their classic forms but share the same histology of medium to large CD30+ atypical lymphoid cell infiltrates. Because the behavior of these entities is different clinically and prognostically, we aim to search for oncogenic genomic variants using whole-exome sequencing that drive the development of LyP and C-ALCL. Clinical information, pathology, immunohistochemistry, and T-cell rearrangements on six cases of LyP and five cases of C-ALCL were reviewed to confirm the rendered diagnosis before whole-exome sequencing of all specimens. Both LyP and C-ALCL had recurrent alterations in epigenetic modifying genes affecting histone methylation and acetylation (SETD2, KMT2A, KMT2D, and CREBBP). However, they also harbor unique differences with mutations in signal transducer and activator of transcription gene STAT3 of the Jak/signal transducer and activator of transcription pathway and EOMES, a transcription factor involved in lymphocyte development, only noted in C-ALCL specimens. Genomic characterization of LyP and C-ALCL in this series confirms the role of multiple pathways involved in the biology and development of these lymphomatous processes. The identification of similar aberrations within the epigenetic modifying genes emphasizes common potential development mechanisms of lymphomagenesis within lymphoproliferative disorders being shared between LyP and C-ALCL; however, the presence of differences may account for the differences in clinical course.
In our cohort of patients, the male:female ratio was 3:2 for LyP and 4:1 for C-ALCL. Almost all patients were diagnosed after 2008 except for one patient whose initial diagnosis was in 1971. Lesions in both patient subtypes showed no predilection for any single area of the skin surface. Three of the five patients diagnosed with LyP were treated with skin-directed therapy, whereas the remaining two needed therapy with systemic, low-dose methotrexate. Of the patients with C-ALCL, three required systemic therapy owing to extensive, relapsing disease, whereas two required skin-directed therapy alone.

The overall survival of patients with LyP and C-ALCL was excellent, with all patients diagnosed with LyP alive to date. Of the patients with C-ALCL, one of the five patients died, but this was not due to the disease.

A histologic review showed that all cases of C-ALCL had >75% of the cells with large, anaplastic cells in sheets. In cases of LyP, all met the criteria for histologic subtypes A or C (Swerdlow et al., 2017). With regard to immunohistochemistry (IHC), all cases were positive for CD3, CD4, and CD30 with loss of CD7. CD8 was negative in all cases. All cases of C-ALCL were negative for ALK-1 IHC, and both were found to be negative. Regarding cytotoxic markers, three of the six LyP cases and two of the five C-ALCL cases were positive for one of the three cytotoxic markers (TIA-1, perforin, and/or granzyme) (Table 1). All cases except one did not have IHC performed for TCR-delta.

### Genomic landscape of LyP and C-ALCL

The sample size is small, reflecting the rarity of the disease even at tertiary referral centers. However, we observed recurrent mutations displaying overlap with other lymphomas in epigenetic modifying genes, the Jak/signal transducer and activator of transcription (STAT) pathway, and the T-cell signaling pathway.

All cases of CD30^+LPDs had recurrent mutations in at least one of the epigenetic modifying genes, with the most frequent mutations found in the mixed lineage methyltransferase family involved in the methylation of H3K4: CREBBP (n = 3, 27%), KMT2A (n = 4, 36%), KMT2D (n = 4, 36%), SETD2 (n = 3, 27%), and SMARCA4 (n = 3, 27%) (Figure 1). Specific H3K4 methyltransferase mutations included KMT2A (p.482H, p.S3479X [stopgain], p.P1279T) (n = 3, 27%), KMT2D (p.P2230Q, p.L978P) (n = 2, 18%), and KMT2C (p.P3598T) (n = 1, 9%). We also noted mutations in the SET domain such as SETD2 (p.R1548X [stopgain], p.E2128D, p.K2360N) (n = 3, 27%), SETD4 (p.P121T) (n = 1, 9%), SETD5 (p.G486D) (n = 1, 9%), and SETDB1 (splice-site) (n = 1, 9%).

Within the Jak/STAT pathway, mutations of STAT3 were observed in two cases of C-ALCL (p.Y640F, p.G656C, SH2 domain) (n = 2, 18%), those of STAT5B were found in one case of LyP (p.S420Y, STAT-binding domain) (n = 1, 9%), and Jak1 mutation was found in one case of LyP (p.F286C, FERM domain) (n = 1, 9%).

Mutations were also identified in the T-cell signaling and activation pathway. Three of the five cases of C-ALCL showed loss-of-function mutations (p.S493Y, p.P21Q, p.S652X) in EOMES, a T-box transcription factor important in lymphocyte development (McLane et al., 2013). We had two cases of C-ALCL and one case of LyP with NOTCH1 mutations, supporting the importance of this gene in T-cell lymphomas. There was one case of C-ALCL and two cases of LyP with mutations in IRF4.

We also had copy number (CN) analysis on nine cases of CD30^+LPD (six LyP and three C-ALCL), and none of them showed CN loss of TP53 or CDKN2A–CDKN2B compared with that in the normal, supporting the findings of other studies that the lack of these abnormalities may be associated with indolent behavior (Laharanne et al., 2010) (Figure 2). We also did not observe recurrent CN aberrations of genes in the Jak/STAT pathway or epigenetic regulators.

### DISCUSSION

The etiology, pathogenesis, and molecular characteristics of LyP and C-ALCL remain largely unknown (Swerdlow et al., 2017). Although multiple molecular changes, including chromosomal, genomic, and gene expression aberrations as well as altered microRNA expression and methylation patterns have been described for the histologic mimics of CD30^+LPDs, little is known about the molecular profile of

### Table 1. Histologic Characteristics of Six Cases of LyP and Five Cases of Primary C-ALCL

| Case | Sex | DX   | Age at Biopsy | CD3 | CD4 | CD5 | CD7 | CD8 | CD30 | TIA-1 | GB | Pi | BF1 | Gamma | TCR |
|------|-----|------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|----|----|-----|--------|-----|
| 1a   | M   | LyP  | 62           | neg | pos | neg | neg | neg | neg | pos | ND  | ND  | ND  | neg   |       |
| 1b   | M   | LyP  | 62           | pos | pos | neg | neg | neg | pos | ND  | ND  | ND  | ND  | ND   |       |
| 2    | M   | LyP  | 70           | pos | pos | ND  | neg | neg | neg | pos | ND  | ND  | ND  | ND   |       |
| 3    | F   | LyP  | 54           | pos | pos | ND  | neg | neg | neg | pos | ND  | ND  | ND  | ND   |       |
| 4    | M   | LyP  | 65           | pos | pos | ND  | neg | neg | pos | pos | ND  | ND  | ND  | ND   |       |
| 5    | F   | C-ALCL | 23        | pos | pos | ND  | neg | neg | pos | ND  | ND  | ND  | ND   |       |
| 6    | F   | C-ALCL | 50        | pos | pos | ND  | neg | neg | pos | ND  | ND  | ND  | ND   |       |
| 7    | M   | C-ALCL | 33        | pos | pos | ND  | neg | neg | pos | ND  | ND  | ND  | ND   |       |
| 8    | M   | C-ALCL | 89        | pos | pos | ND  | neg | neg | pos | pos | ND  | ND  | ND   |       |
| 9    | M   | C-ALCL | 70        | pos | pos | ND  | neg | neg | pos | ND  | ND  | ND  | ND   |       |
| 10   | M   | C-ALCL | 65        | Pos | pos | ND  | neg | pos | ND  | ND  | ND  | ND   | ND   |       |

Abbreviations: C-ALCL, cutaneous anaplastic large cell lymphoma; DX, diagnosis; F, female; GB, Granzyme B; LyP, lymphomatoid papulosis; M, male; ND, not done; neg, negative; Pi, Perforin; pos, positive.

Cases 1a (biopsy performed in April 2018) and case 1b (biopsy performed in November 2018) are from the same patient. All specimens are ALK negative (not shown).
Figure 1. Whole-exome sequencing of C-ALCL and LyP with frequent mutations related to specific pathways. ALC, anaplastic large cell lymphoma; C-ALCL, cutaneous anaplastic large cell lymphoma; LyP, lymphomatoid papulosis; STAT, signal transducer and activator of transcription.
LyP or C-ALCL. This serves as a barrier to the differentiation among these entities, with continued reliance on clinical interpretation rather than on the use of genetic information for diagnosis or therapeutic intervention.

Although our sample size is small, reflecting the rarity of the disease even at tertiary referral centers, we noted recurrent mutations in several pathways. CD30⁺LPD is a subtype of CTCL; hence, we compared our data with those of other types of CTCL, MF, and Sezary syndrome. The mutational landscape showed overlap most notably in the Jak/STAT pathway, with mutations in Jak1, STAT3, and STAT5B and the epigenetic modifying genes of CREBBP, KMT2C, and KMT2D (Supplementary Table S1) (Choi et al., 2015; Kiel et al., 2015; McGirt et al., 2015; Ungewickell et al., 2015; Woollard et al., 2016). All our LyP and C-ALCL samples in this study had recurrent mutations in epigenetic modifying genes affecting histone methylation and acetylation. In particular, they harbored frequent mutations related to the mixed lineage methyltransferase family involved in the methylation of H3K4, which is important in regulating gene transcription. Many of the same mutations in epigenetic and histone modification genes such as KMT2D, KMT2A, SETD2, and CREBBP noted in our population are also seen in peripheral T-cell lymphoma and breast implant–associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma (Bi-ALCL) (Ji et al., 2018). Whole-exome sequencing of a large series of Bi-ALCL showed recurrent mutations in similar epigenetic regulators in 74% of cases, involving notably KMT2C (26%), KMT2D (9%), CHD2 (15%), and CREBBP (15%) (Laurent et al., 2020). The overlap of Bi-ALCL with CD30⁺LPD is interesting because the histologic and immunophenotypic findings of both entities are very similar, as is the relatively indolent behavior of both. However, KMT2D mutations are also seen in more aggressive diseases as well such as mixed lineage leukemia, acute myeloid leukemia, and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. In mixed lineage leukemia, KMT2D interacts directly with p53 to promote the expression of p53 target genes (Rao and Dou, 2015). It is postulated that loss-of-function KMT2D mutations promote tumorigenesis through the dysregulation of enhancer activity regulated by tumor suppressors (e.g., p53) and oncogenes (e.g., MYC), perhaps leading to more aggressive disease. In addition, recent work by Lobello et al. (2019) noted KMT2D mutations as well as TP53 in patients with sALCL. Prognostically, the most recurrent genes mutated in patients with a dismal outcome in their study of 275 cases (dead and/or relapsed patients) were TP53, STAT3, and Jak1. Of note, although TP53 can be mutated in other forms of CTCL, such as MF and Sezary syndrome as well as sALCL, that was not seen in our cases.

Interestingly, the loss-of-function mutation in SETD2 noted in both LyP and C-ALCL are similar to those seen in enteropathy-associated T-cell lymphoma and hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma (Moffitt et al., 2017) but is uncommon in other CTCLs such as cutaneous gamma-delta T-cell lymphoma and BI-ALCL (Choi et al., 2015; Laurent et al., 2020; Park et al., 2017). Loss of SETD2 leads to an expansion of γδ T cells, which is the primary cell type in enteropathy-associated T-cell lymphoma and hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma (Skucha et al., 2019). Several cases of LyP have been reported to carry a γδ phenotype (Morimura et al., 2011). However, in our small set of cases, the tissue samples were exhausted, prohibiting a standard examination of this IHC, particularly in the cases carrying a SETD2 mutation.

The Jak/STAT pathway is involved with cytokine signaling, proliferation of healthy T lymphocytes, and the differentiation of T helper cell subsets. In this study, mutations in this pathway were identified in both LyP (Jak1, STAT3B) and C-ALCL (STAT3). Mutations as well as CN alterations of Jak2, STAT3, and STAT5B have been reported in MF/Sezary syndrome (Choi et al., 2015; Eriksen et al., 2001). Alteration of the Jak/STAT pathway in malignant CTCL cells is postulated to play a role in their differentiation into T helper type 2 or regulatory T cell subtypes. STAT3 and Jak1 have also been found to be mutated solely in ALK-negative sALCL (as opposed to ALK positive), the major histologic mimic of CD30⁺LPD (Lobello et al., 2019). Mutations in STAT3 were more recurrent in ALK-negative patients with ALCL, with shorter overall survival. Bi-ALCL also displays gain-of-function mutations in this pathway, including STAT3 (38%), Jak1 (18%), and STAT5B (3%), and in negative regulators.

Figure 2. Copy number analysis of pertinent genes related to cutaneous lymphoma. ALCL, anaplastic large cell lymphoma; LYP, lymphomatoid papulosis.
including SOCS3 (6%), SOCS1 (3%), and PTPN1 (3%). All Bl-ALCLs expressed phosphorylated STAT3 on immunohistochemical staining, regardless of the mutational status of genes in the Jak/STAT pathway.

EOMES is a T-box transcription factor important for both the function and homeostasis of effector and memory T cells as well as lymphocyte development and differentiation (McLane et al., 2013). In our series, EOMES was mutated, resulting in a loss of function in 60% of C-ALCL but in none of the cases of LyP. Genomic alterations, particularly in-frame insertion–deletion, in EOMES has also been noted in 18% of cases of Bl-ALCL (Laurent et al., 2020). A study by Intlekofer et al. (2005) showed that Tbx21 and EOMES have a cooperative function that is important to the cytotoxic programming of T cells and that mutations or deletions in these genes lead to a defective cytotoxic program. NOTCH1 mutations were also seen in two cases of C-ALCL and in one case of LyP. Notch1 appears to play an important role in C-ALCL (Kamstrup et al., 2008) and sALCL with activating mutations, particularly in the heterodimerization or PEST domain (Weng et al., 2004). We also identified one case of C-ALCL and two cases of LyP with mutations in IRF4. IRF4 is an important gene for T-cell activation, and the translocation with DUSP22 has been detected in cases of C-ALCL and sALCL (Luchtel et al., 2018). Mutations of IRF4 are commonly seen in adult T-cell lymphoma/leukemia and are believed to be a major downstream target of NF-κB (Kataoka et al., 2015).

Of note, the major histologic mimic of CD30+LPD, ALK-negative sALCL, has an aggressive course necessitating systemic therapy. Hence, the differential of these entities is important. Although there is overlap with CD30+LPD-harboring mutations in STAT3 and Jak1, which are mutated in the ALK−sALCL, other recurrently mutated genes such as TP53, EPHA5, LRP1B, PRDM1, and SOCS1 were not found in our study of CD30+LPD. Mutations in STAT3 were more recurrent in patients with ALK−sALCL with shorter overall survival, and clones harboring mutated TP53 were detectable more often in relapsed Salcl, thereby suggesting a possible driving role (Lobello et al., 2019). Genes involved in cell cycle control and apoptosis, such as TP53, although frequently mutated in other cutaneous lymphomas such as MF and Sezary syndrome, were not noted in our cohorts (Choi et al., 2015; Karenko et al., 2007; Laharanne et al., 2010; McGirt et al., 2015). TP53 mutation is more characteristic of aggressive and advanced cutaneous lymphomas, which may explain its absence in more indolent LyP and C-ALCL.

Genomic characterization of LyP and C-ALCL in this series confirms the role of multiple pathways that overlap not only with cutaneous lymphoma but also with other systemic lymphomas. However, although the Jak/STAT pathway and epigenetic alterations possibly play a role in the pathogenesis of these diseases, genes involved in cell cycle control and apoptosis (i.e., TP53, PLCG1) that are characteristic of more aggressive diseases were not identified and may support the indolent behavior of these cases. Extending this investigation to a larger number of samples will allow us to confirm these findings and identify additional mutations that may help distinguish CD30+LPD from other histologic mimics of this disease spectrum and identify, to our knowledge, previously unreported targets for therapy.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Institutional Review Board approval was obtained at each institution. A waiver of informed consent was approved by the Institutional Review Board for use of the archived material. The clinical and pathologic information associated with each case were reviewed centrally at the City of Hope National Medical Center to confirm the rendered diagnosis by dermatologists (CQ and FA), dermatopathologists (FA, CQ, VP), and a hematopathologist (JS). IHC was performed on 3–4-micron sections of formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue using antibodies to CD3, CD4, CD7, CD8, and CD30. The slides were stained on the Ventana Discovery XT platform (Ventana, Tucson, AZ) and on a Leica Bond III instrument (Leica Biosystems, Chicago, IL). In the course of clinical diagnostics, some cases had stains performed for CD5, CD20, TIA-1, granzyme, and CD30. The slides were stained on the Ventana Discovery XT platform (Ventana, Tucson, AZ) and on a Leica Bond III instrument (Leica Biosystems, Chicago, IL). In the course of clinical diagnostics, some cases had stains performed for CD5, CD20, TIA-1, granzyme, and CD30.

Table 2. Immunohistochemical Stains and the Clones that Were Used for Routine Staining of Cutaneous T-cell Lymphomas

| Antibody | Clone | Vendor |
|----------|-------|--------|
| CD3      | 2GV6  | Ventana, Tucson, AZ |
| CD4      | SP3   | Ventana, Tucson, AZ |
| CD7      | SP94  | Ventana, Tucson, AZ |
| CD8      | SP57  | Ventana, Tucson, AZ |
| CD30     | Ber-H2 Dako Laboratories, Carpinteria, CA |
| CD5      | SP19  | Ventana, Tucson, AZ |
| CD20     | L26   | Ventana, Tucson, AZ |
| TIA-1    | 2G9A10F5 Beckman Coulter, Fullerton, CA |
| Granzyme | Polyclonal | Ventana, Tucson, AZ |
| Perforin  | MRQ-23 | Ventana, Tucson, AZ |
| Beta-F1   | BA3   | Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA |
| TCR-Delta | H-41  | Santa Cruz Antibodies, Santa Cruz, CA |
| Ki-67     | 30-9  | Ventana, Tucson, AZ |
| ALK-1     | ALK01 | Ventana, Tucson, AZ |

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sensitivity DNA kit and Qubit 2.0 Fluorometer. Enriched libraries were subjected to paired-end 100 bp sequencing using a HiSeq 2500 to achieve ×50 coverage. Initial correlative and descriptive analyses were performed on archival tissue to discover the genomic signatures unique to each disease entity. Genomic profiles of these entities were compared with those of matched normal skin specimens in all cases. For whole-exome sequencing data, raw sequencing reads were aligned to the human reference genome hg38 using Burrows-Wheeler Aligner (version 0.7); duplicate marking and indel realignment were conducted using Picard (version 2.9), and the base quality was recalibrated using Genome Analysis Toolkit (version 4.1). Variant calling was performed using two variant callers: VarScan (version 2.4) and Genome Analysis Toolkit (version 4.1) Mutect2, with somatic mode using paired normal and tumor samples. ANNOVAR was used for variant annotation against public databases such as COSMIC, version 83; gnomAD; and ClinVar. Variants affecting the coding region or splice sites were retained. We then kept variants that had variant allele frequency in the tumor sample of at least 5%, with more than four reads supporting variant allele plus at least one read supporting forward and reverse strands. Next, we merged the variants called by the two variant callers and filtered out the variants with minor allele frequency over 1% and that were not expressed in normal T cells using in-house gene expression profiling data. The interpretation databases were used to determine the importance of the variants. We rescued variants using looser criteria if the genes were reported in other studies for further investigation. Somatic CN analysis was conducted using Bioconductor package TitanCNA. Various types of structural variations, including large insertions/deletions, inversions, and translocations, were identified using Pindel and Lumpy.

We then compared our CD30+ LPD genomic profile with published datasets of other cutaneous lymphomas with the goal of identifying unique profiles that would help to differentiate these entities.

**CN analysis**
Calculation of read coverage, correction of guanine-cytosine content and mappability biases, and data segmentation were performed at 50 kb bins across the genome using ichorCNA, version 0.3.2 (Adalsteinsson et al., 2017). TitanCNA, version 1.24.0, with recommended parameters for exome sequencing, and GISTIC2, version 2.0.23 (Mermel et al., 2011), with confident level 0.9, were used to identify CN variations using ichorCNA-generated segments. Significant regions of CN alteration that are log2 CN ratio >0.1 or <−0.1 were selected from identified CN alterations. Overlapped significant regions between detected CN events by TitanCNA and GISTIC2 remained for annotation. Annotating CN variation was accomplished using AnnosV, version 3.0.5 (Geoffroy et al., 2018).

**Data availability statement**
Datasets related to this article can be found at https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra, hosted at Sequence Read Archive under submission SUB8951650. (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/PRJNA695786).

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**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
VP is a consultant for Genentech. CQ is on the advisory board/steering committee for Helsinn, Kyowa Kirin, Bioniz, Miragen, Trillium, and Malinckrodt and on speakers Bureau for Helsinn and is funded by Celgene. JZ is consulting for Seagen, Verastem, Curio, Kyowa Kirin, and Mundipharma and is on speakers Bureau for Seagen, Kyowa Kirin and received support from Seattle Genetics and Secura Bioresearch. The remaining authors state no conflict of interest.

**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**
Supplementary material is linked to the online version of the paper at www.jidonline.org, and at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jidi.2021.100068.

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