

Molecular Profiling to Determine Clonality of Serial Magnetic Resonance Imaging/Ultrasound Fusion Biopsies from Men on Active Surveillance for Low-Risk Prostate Cancer

Ganesh S. Palapattu^{1,2}, Simpa S. Salami¹, Andi K. Cani³, Daniel H. Hovelson⁴, Lorena Lazo de la Vega³, Kelly R. Vandenberg³, Jarred V. Bratley³, Chia-Jen Liu³, Lakshmi P. Kunju³, Jeffery S. Montgomery^{1,2}, Todd M. Morgan^{1,2}, Shyam Natarajan⁵, Jiaoti Huang⁶, Scott A. Tomlins^{1,2,3}, and Leonard S. Marks⁵

Abstract

Purpose: To determine whether MRI/ultrasound (MRI/US) fusion biopsy facilitates longitudinal resampling of the same clonal focus of prostate cancer and to determine whether high-grade cancers can evolve from low-grade clones.

Experimental Design: All men on active surveillance who underwent tracking MRI/US fusion biopsy of Gleason 6 prostate cancer, on at least two distinct occasions, between 2012 and 2014 were enrolled. MRI/US fusion was used to track and resample specific cancer foci. IHC for ERG and targeted RNA/DNA next-generation sequencing (NGS) were performed on formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded prostate biopsy specimens to assess clonality.

Results: Thirty-one men with median age and PSA of 65 years and 4.6 ng/mL, respectively, were analyzed. The median sampling interval was 12 months (range, 5–35). Of the 26 evaluable men, ERG IHC concordance was found between initial and repeat

biopsies in 25 (96%), indicating resampling of the same clonal focus over time. Targeted NGS supported ERG IHC results and identified unique and shared driving mutations, such as *IDH1* and *SPOP*, in paired specimens. Of the nine men (34.6%) who were found to have Gleason ≥ 7 on repeat biopsy, all displayed temporal ERG concordance. Prioritized genetic alterations were detected in 50% (13/26) of paired samples. Oncogenic mutations were detected in 22% (2/9) of Gleason 6 cancers prior to progression and 44% (4/9) of Gleason ≥ 7 cancers when progression occurred.

Conclusions: Precise tracking of prostate cancer foci via MRI/US fusion biopsy allowed subsequent resampling of the same clonal focus of cancer over time. Further research is needed to clarify the grade progression potential of Gleason 6 prostate cancer. *Clin Cancer Res*; 1–7. ©2016 AACR.

¹Department of Urology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. ²Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. ³Department of Pathology, Michigan Center for Translational Pathology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. ⁴Computational Medicine & Bioinformatics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. ⁵Department of Urology, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, California. ⁶Department of Pathology, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina.

Note: Supplementary data for this article are available at Clinical Cancer Research Online (<http://clincancerres.aacrjournals.org/>).

G.S. Palapattu and S.S. Salami contributed equally to this article.

Prior presentation: This work was presented in a podium session at the 2016 AUA Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

Corresponding Authors: Ganesh S. Palapattu, Department of Urology, The University of Michigan, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr., 3875 TC, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-5330. Phone: 734-763-9269; Fax: 734-936-9127; E-mail: gpalapat@med.umich.edu; Scott A. Tomlins, tomli@med.umich.edu; and Leonard S. Marks, UCLA School of Medicine, Wasserman Building, 300 Stein Plaza, 3rd Fl, Los Angeles, CA 90095. Phone: 310-794-3070; Fax: 310-794-3060; E-mail: LMarks@mednet.ucla.edu

doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-16-1454

©2016 American Association for Cancer Research.

Introduction

Contemporary advances in our understanding of the biology and clinical trajectory of low-risk prostate cancer have led to the growing adoption of active surveillance (AS) strategies (1–3). The main objective of AS is to reduce prostate cancer overtreatment, while reserving curative therapy for when disease progression is detected (4, 5). Because of prostate cancer multifocality, precise sampling of prostate cancer foci to assess true disease status is paramount to optimizing AS strategies. Currently, this is typically done with either systematic, yet random sampling of the prostate or by cognitively directed prostate biopsy. Unfortunately, both of these techniques lack precision. Traditional transrectal ultrasound (TRUS)-guided biopsy platforms are confounded by prostate cancer multifocality and sampling bias (i.e., only ~0.04% of the prostate is normally assessed; ref. 6).

Recently, MRI/ultrasound (MRI/US) fusion-guided prostate biopsy platforms have been introduced to facilitate targeted sampling of regions of interest (i.e., areas considered at risk of harboring high-grade prostate cancer on imaging) as well as longitudinal assessment of specific sites (7–10). Tracking biopsy sites within the prostate, based on needle tracks recorded by the

Translational Relevance

Use of active surveillance (AS) to manage "low-risk" prostate cancer is increasing rapidly. Follow-up biopsy is the main method to determine whether continued surveillance or active intervention is most appropriate. However, follow-up biopsy has until recently been a blind procedure, in which the detection of progressive cancer, not suitable for surveillance, may be missed as a result of sampling error at the outset. Herein, we report the use of biopsy site tracking via MRI/ultrasound (MRI/US) fusion to sample a specific locus of cancer cells serially over a median interval of 1 year. Through detailed molecular study of temporally paired cancer tissues, we determined that serial sampling of a specific prostate cancer clone over time is possible. We also observed molecular evidence that some low-grade prostate cancers harbor deleterious genetic alterations and may progress to higher grade disease during AS. Our findings provide rationale for employing MRI/US fusion biopsy strategies to monitor patients on AS and suggest that some Gleason 6 cancers may not be indolent.

Artemis MRI/US fusion device, we showed in prior work that the precision of MRI/US fusion biopsy for resampling areas is within 3 mm following initial biopsy (9, 11). However, the accuracy of tracking biopsy in longitudinal resampling of the same clonal focus of cancer is unknown. Furthermore, it is currently unknown whether high-grade prostate cancers may arise from low-grade cancers or, rather, are a byproduct of *de novo* outgrowth (12–16). The former notion forms the clinical basis of current AS strategies.

Herein, using molecular techniques, we assessed the potential of repeat MRI/US fusion-guided prostate biopsy to sample the same clonal focus of cancer over time in a cohort of men undergoing AS. We hypothesized that MRI/US fusion-guided prostate biopsy would allow precise reassessment of the same clonal focus of prostate cancer sampled at a later time. Furthermore, we sought to shed light on the histopathologic fate of Gleason 6 cancers, that is, the ability of high-grade cancers to evolve from low-grade clones.

Patients and Methods

Cohort description

Subjects were consecutive men with Gleason 6 prostate cancer foci who underwent an initial diagnostic and a subsequent confirmatory biopsy between January 2012 and December 2014. All were enrolled in an Institutional Review Board (IRB)-approved AS registry at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA; Los Angeles, CA). Inclusion criteria for this analysis were that two biopsies were performed at least 4 months apart and that evaluable tissue was available at both time points. Exclusion criteria included any previous form of prostate ablative treatment, androgen deprivation therapy, or 5 α -reductase inhibitor use. Characteristics of the group are shown in Table 1.

Biopsy strategy

Biopsy methods and resampling technique using the Artemis device are shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and Supplementary Fig. S1. Prior to the initial biopsy, multiparametric MRI (mpMRI) of the prostate was obtained using a 3T (Siemens Medical Solutions) magnet

and a transabdominal coil, as described previously (9, 11). In 16 men, the prostate cancer focus was within an MRI target [region of interest (ROI)]; in 15 men, the focus was not in an ROI. Segmentation and initial MRI/US fusion biopsy were performed as described previously, using the Artemis device to obtain samples from any ROI seen on mpMRI and systematically via the 12-point template incorporated into the device (Fig. 1; refs. 9, 11). All biopsy sites were mapped, electronically tracked, and saved to enable resampling of the same site. Follow-up biopsy was targeted at the previously identified prostate cancer focus (obtaining 1 core every 3 mm along the longest axis of the lesion; 3–5 cores), which was recorded on the Artemis device (Fig. 2; refs. 9, 11). The ability of this system to resample the same site has been previously reported to be within 1.2 ± 1.1 mm margin of error (11, 17). MRI was not repeated prior to undergoing resampling of tracked biopsy sites.

Tissue preparation

Diagnostic formalin-fixed and paraffin-embedded (FFPE) prostate biopsy tissue obtained from the initial and repeat MRI/US fusion-guided prostate biopsy for each participant was procured. Pathology slides selected for next-generation sequencing (NGS) were re-reviewed independently by two board-certified anatomic pathologists with genitourinary pathology interest (J. Huang and S.A. Tomlins) to confirm Gleason score, volume of cancer, and to identify areas for NGS (discrepancies were resolved by a third pathologist, L.P. Kunju). IHC and NGS were performed with IRB approval on a single FFPE biopsy block with cancer (representing the highest Gleason score) per time point. FFPE sections ($10\text{--}11 \times 5 \mu\text{m}$) were cut from each block, with H&E staining performed on the first and last sections to confirm tumor. The penultimate slide was used for ERG IHC. The remaining slides were used for manual tumor dissection with a scalpel for DNA/RNA isolation.

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of the study cohort ($N = 31$)

Variable	Value
Age (years)	65 (46–74)
Race/ethnicity	
African American	1 (3.2)
Asian	3 (9.7)
Caucasian	26 (83.9)
Hispanic	1 (3.2)
Family history of prostate cancer	13 (41.9)
Abnormal DRE	5 (16.1)
Serum PSA (ng/mL)	
Initial biopsy	4.56 (0.49–21.00)
Repeat biopsy	4.60 (0.47–10.90)
Prostate volume (cm^3)	42.0 (17.0–81.1)
PSA density at initial biopsy (ng/mL/cm^3)	0.097 (0.023–0.328)
Final Gleason score ^a	
6	20 (64.5)
3 + 4	8 (25.8)
4 + 3	2 (6.5)
8–10	1 (3.2)
Cancer core length (mm)	
Initial biopsy	2.5 (0.5–7)
Repeat biopsy	2.0 (0.5–13)
Interval between biopsies (months)	12 (5–35)

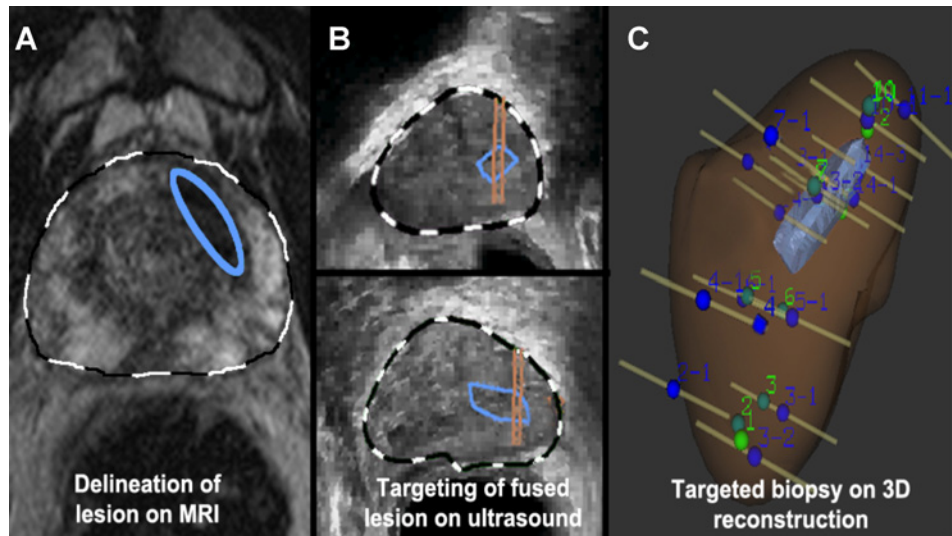
NOTE: Median (range) and frequency (percentages) are presented for continuous and categorical variables, respectively.

Abbreviation: DRE, digital rectal exam.

^aAll patients had Gleason 6 disease at study entry.

Figure 1.

Targeted biopsy using MRI/US fusion system. **A**, A lesion was identified on MRI and delineated on T2WI by radiologist (blue ellipse). The MRI was fused with real-time ultrasound images. **B**, Lesion was identified in sagittal and axial planes (blue enclosures), and biopsy targeting the lesion was established (parallel lines overlying blue enclosures). **C**, Sites of targeted and 12-core biopsies were recorded in a 3D reconstruction, confirming that several targeted biopsies penetrated region of interest. Reprinted with permission from Natarajan et al. (11).



ERG IHC

ERG rearrangement status is a clonal marker in prostate cancer (16, 18–20). Thus, to determine clonality of cancer specimens, we assessed *ERG* status on cancerous tissues obtained from the same focus at both time points (Supplementary Fig. S1). IHC for *ERG* was performed using the Ventana Benchmark System and rabbit monoclonal anti-*ERG* (clone 5B7, Ventana Medical Systems), as described previously (21, 22). *ERG* positivity was defined as diffuse, moderate, to strong nuclear immunoreactivity (21).

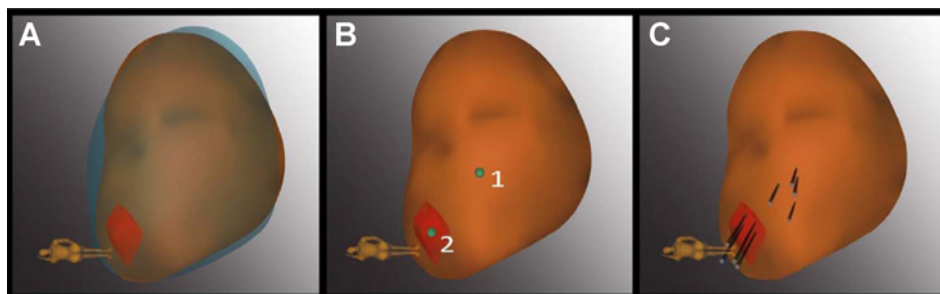
Targeted DNA/RNA NGS

DNA and RNA were coisolated from each specimen as described previously (23). DNA and RNA libraries were generated per sample using the Ion AmpliSeq Library Kit (Life Technologies), as described previously (23). We prepared templates for DNA and RNA libraries using the Ion PI Template OT2 200 Kit v3 on the Ion One Touch 2, and sequencing was performed on Ion Proton P1 chips using the Ion PI Sequencing 200 Kit v3 (200 base pair reads), essentially as described previously (24, 25). NGS data analysis was performed using Torrent Suite (4.2.0) and the

Coverage Analysis Plug-ins (both v4.0-r73765), along with the Ion Reporter (4.2.0) Targeted NGS, fusion analysis workflow and in-house-validated pipelines as described in the Supplementary Methods (24–27). A sample was classified as fusion positive if a fusion isoform was supported by ≥ 20 reads and $\geq 3.0\%$ total mapped reads; otherwise, it was classified as fusion negative.

Statistical analysis

Demographic, relevant clinical and pathologic data of the cohort were abstracted from medical records and entered into a secure electronic HIPAA-compliant database. Biopsies were performed at UCLA and genetic studies were performed at University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI) with IRB approval. For each tissue sample, genetic alterations were classified as present or absent, and compared between paired "initial" and "repeat" tissue samples to assess clonality and reclassification from Gleason 6 to Gleason >6 prostate cancer. Statistical analyses were performed using R (R Foundation for Statistical Computing; <http://www.R-project.org>). Two-tailed statistical tests were used for all comparisons, and $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

**Figure 2.**

Tracking technique for repeat sampling with Artemis device. **A**, The 3D model of the prostate from the second biopsy (brown) was superimposed on the model from the first biopsy (blue), showing a close match in size and shape. The models were created in real time at biopsy by the Artemis device. An MRI target (red) was displayed in the model. **B**, The location of prior positive sites (1 and 2) was mapped by the device (green dots). Site 1 was a systematic site; site 2 was from the MRI-targeted core. **C**, Four cores (black cylinders) were taken from each site. 3D, 3-dimensional. Reprinted with permission from Sonn et al. (9).

Results

Of the 275 men on AS for prostate cancer during the study period, 31 met eligibility criteria of whom 26 (84%) had cancer present on initial and repeat biopsy sections in quantities sufficient for ERG staining. Concordant ERG status in initial and repeat biopsies was observed in 25 of 26 (96%) patients, with 10 (38%), 15 (58%), and 1 (4%) patient demonstrating concordant ERG^{+/+}, concordant ERG^{-/-}, and discordant ERG⁻/ERG⁺ paired biopsies, respectively (Fig. 3 and Supplementary Fig. S1). Our observation of 96% concordance is highly significant compared with that expected by chance [expected: 50% (13/26) concordant (ERG^{+/+} and ERG^{-/-}); observed: 96% (25/26) concordant (ERG^{+/+} and ERG^{-/-}); $P = 0.0003$]. RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) using the OncoPrint Comprehensive Panel (OCP), which targets recurrent cancer gene fusions (including all known 5' and 3' partners in prostate cancer *ETS* gene fusions), was evaluable in paired initial and repeat specimens from 13 patients. Concordant *ETS* fusion status in initial and repeat samples was present in 12 of 13 (92%) patients, and RNA-seq results were consistent with ERG IHC status in all samples with evaluable staining. Of interest, patient 29, who did not show grade progression on repeat biopsy, had ERG⁻ and ERG⁺ cancer by IHC on initial and repeat biopsy, respectively. RNA-seq identified a *TMPRSS2:ETV1* fusion in the ERG⁻ initial biopsy sample and a *TMPRSS2:ERG* fusion in the ERG⁺ repeat

biopsy sample (Table 2), supporting the sampling of two distinct clonal foci in this case.

In addition to *ETS* gene fusions, *SPOP* and *IDH1* mutations are early driving molecular alterations in prostate cancer and define molecular subtypes (~10% and 1% of all prostate cancers, respectively) that are mutually exclusive with *ERG* gene fusions (24, 28, 29). Both alterations are targeted by the DNA component of the OCP; thus, we assessed for *SPOP* and *IDH1* mutation status as clonal markers in serial samples. In patient 4, who showed grade progression on repeat biopsy and was ERG⁻ on initial (IHC⁻/RNAseq⁻) and repeat biopsy (IHC^{N/A}/RNAseq⁻), we identified a high-confidence prioritized *SPOP* F133L mutation by targeted DNA sequencing (DNA-seq) exclusively in the repeat biopsy specimen [3/670 reads (0.4%) in the initial sample vs. 111/864 reads (13%) in the repeat sample], consistent with serial sampling of two clonally distinct foci. In contrast, patient 22, who did not show grade progression and was ERG⁻ on initial and repeat biopsy (both IHC⁻/RNAseq⁻), harbored high-confidence prioritized *SPOP* F125V mutations by targeted DNA-seq in both serial samples [7/124 reads (6%) in the initial sample vs. 20/264 reads (8%) in the repeat sample]. Similarly, patient 23, who also progressed to Gleason score 3 + 4 = 7 on repeat biopsy and was ERG⁻ on initial and repeat biopsy (both IHC⁻/RNAseq⁻), harbored high-confidence prioritized *IDH1* R132C mutations by targeted DNA-seq in both serial samples [128/400 reads (32%)

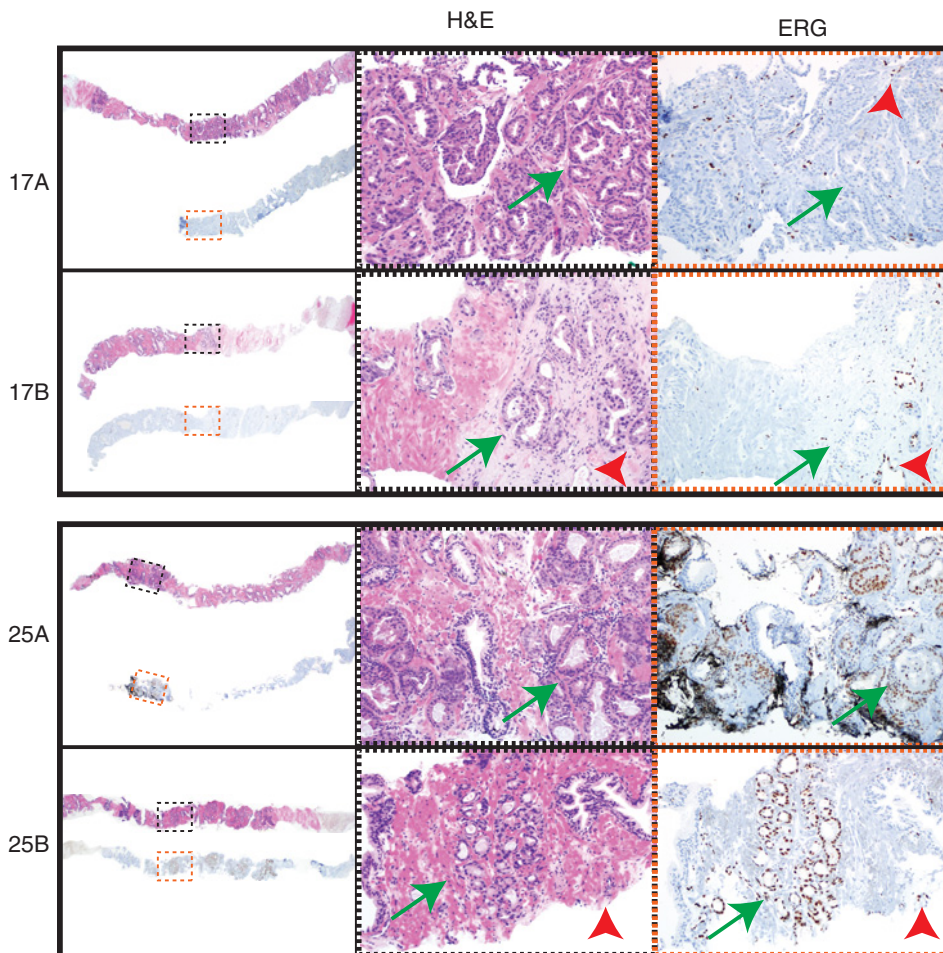


Figure 3.

Examples of ERG IHC in paired initial and repeat prostate biopsies. For patients (Pt) 17 and 25, hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) stain of biopsy cores and corresponding ERG IHC are shown for paired initial and repeat biopsy samples. Low-power views of corresponding H&E and ERG IHC are shown on the left, with areas shown in higher power indicated by black (H&E, middle) and red (ERG IHC, right) dashed boxes. Green arrows, areas of cancer. For ERG IHC, staining of endogenous ERG in endothelial cells as an internal positive control is indicated by red arrowheads. Original magnification, $\times 2$ (left) and $\times 10$ (middle and right). Overall in our cohort, 96% of patients showed concordant ERG IHC status between paired early and repeat biopsies, supporting frequent sampling of the same clonal focus.

Table 2. Pathologic and genetic profile of the biopsy samples exhibiting prioritized genetic alterations

ID	ERG status		Gleason score		Prioritized mutations		Variant allele frequency	
	Initial	Repeat	Initial	Repeat	Gene	Mutation	Initial	Repeat
1	+	+	6	3 + 4	<i>SPEN</i>	P2984L	0.0%	10.9%
4	–	N/A	6	3 + 4	<i>SPOP</i>	F133L	0.4%	12.9%
7	–	–	6	6	<i>BRCA2</i>	K2524fs	0.0%	10.1%
8	+	+	6	6	<i>ARID1B</i>	Q1491R	10.6%	0.7%
					<i>NOTCH1</i>	P743S	28.3%	0.0%
9	–	N/A	6	6	<i>ZC3H13</i>	N55H	31.3%	8.6%
18	–	–	6	3 + 4	<i>TP53</i>	R196P	0.2%	12.2%
					<i>PIK3CA</i>	V344M	0.1%	11.4%
19	+	+	6	6	<i>APC</i>	A1718V	0.0%	19.8%
22	–	–	6	6	<i>SPOP</i>	F125V	5.7%	7.6%
23	–	–	6	3 + 4	<i>IDH1</i>	R132C	32.0%	19.0%
					<i>RNF213</i>	S411X	50.9%	46.9%
25	+	+	6	3 + 4	<i>GAS6</i>	P285L	0.0%	11.4%
					<i>NOTCH1</i>	P168S	0.0%	16.7%
					<i>ATRX</i>	M6I	0.0%	24.5%
27	+	+	6	4 + 4	<i>ARID1A</i>	E1958K	27.4%	0.5%
					<i>KMT2B</i>	R2092G	36.6%	32.5%
28	+	+	6	6	<i>KMT2B</i>	A1964T	16.9%	0.0%
					<i>ARHGAP35</i>	V644I	13.0%	0.1%
29	–	+	6	6	<i>NCOR1</i>	S1750C	15.4%	0.0%

NOTE: ERG status (by IHC) and Gleason score of profiled initial and repeat biopsies is indicated. The variant allele frequencies (in %) of high-confidence somatic mutations identified in initial and/or repeat biopsies is given (bold indicates detected).

Abbreviations: ID, patient identification; N/A, insufficient sample for analysis.

in the initial sample vs. 85/448 reads (19%) in the repeat sample]. *IDH1* R132H mutations were confirmed in both samples by Sanger sequencing (data not shown). Concordant *IDH1* mutations in this case with grade progression support a clonal relationship between serially sampled low- and high-grade cancer components. Taken together, through IHC and targeted RNA-seq/DNA-seq, our data support MRI/US fusion as being able to sample the same prostate cancer focus over time.

Overall, of the 26 evaluable cases, nine (34.6%) progressed to high-grade disease. Repeat biopsies, however, showed only a small focus ($\leq 10\%$) of a higher Gleason grade component in three of the nine cases. All nine cases (100%) that progressed to high-grade disease demonstrated ERG concordance between the initial and repeat biopsies, strongly suggesting that these high-grade cancers shared a clonal relationship with their low-grade counterparts.

Discussion

In this study, we demonstrate, using electronic biopsy site tracking and ERG IHC status as a clonal marker, that a clonal focus of prostate cancer may be serially sampled over a median interval of 1 year. In men on AS, a 96% ERG status concordance between paired biopsies obtained from the same location over time was found using MRI/US fusion biopsy guidance. This finding strongly suggests that the tissues assayed at two different time points were of the same clonal origin (18). In addition, the results also provide support for the notion that high-grade prostate cancer (i.e., \geq Gleason 7) may arise clonally from Gleason 6 disease and further implies that some Gleason 6 prostate cancer may not be indolent.

Effective AS rests on accurate patient selection and the ability to precisely detect changes in disease status over time. Results from our study, and others, suggest that MRI/US fusion-guided biopsy facilitates both (14). It is not uncommon to obtain a negative TRUS-guided prostate needle biopsy during AS, even when biopsies are cognitively guided toward areas of presumed disease (14).

One explanation is the lack of precision of TRUS in tracking and locating areas of previously diagnosed prostate cancer. In prior work, the precision of MRI/US fusion biopsy for resampling areas to within 3 mm was confirmed in phantom models and validated in a patient cohort (9, 11). Clinical validation in this study was assessed by targeting the same site as determined by repetitive 3D modeling during the same biopsy accession. Furthermore, a recent report by Ukimura and colleagues, employing a commercial cell cycle-based gene expression signature interrogating biopsy samples assayed 1 year apart, suggested a same site biopsy precision of 86% but could not determine clonality (30). In the current study, we present molecular data to clearly show that MRI/US-targeted biopsy can serially sample the same clonal focus of prostate cancer.

At present, it is unclear whether high-grade prostate cancers arise *de novo* or whether Gleason 6 cancers possess the biological potential for high-grade progression. In a recent epidemiologic study, Penney and colleagues concluded that Gleason grade progression of prostate cancer is uncommon (31). Similar to other reports, the evidence presented stems from the decline in advanced stage disease in the PSA era compared with the pre-PSA era, without a corresponding decrease in the proportion of high-grade disease across the same time period (31–33). Such analyses, however, are unable to evaluate the possibility of grade progression on an individual level. In a cross-sectional study evaluating the clonal origin of Gleason grades 3 and 4 cancer, Sowalsky and colleagues examined adjacent foci of disease (16). The authors reported 100% concordance for the *TMPRSS2:ERG* gene fusion and identical *TMPRSS2:ERG* fusion breakpoints in selected cases, suggesting a common clonal origin between contiguous areas of cancer. In another analysis of multifocal prostate cancer with metastasis, VanderWeele and colleagues concluded that (i) a single progenitor can give rise to both low- and high-grade disease; (ii) early divergence occurs between low- and high-grade foci; and (iii) late divergence occurs between high-grade foci and metastases. Although both studies suggest that high-grade disease

may arise from low-grade lesions, neither study can ascertain the temporal progression of high-grade disease (34).

The ability to longitudinally assess the same focus of prostate cancer over time has only recently been made possible by MRI/US fusion biopsy platforms. In our cohort using MRI/US fusion biopsy with longitudinal sampling, we found that 100% of cases that progressed from Gleason 6 to ≥ 7 cancer demonstrated concordance for ERG status. These data obtained via molecular profiling are the first to show that high-grade disease may arise clonally from Gleason 6 prostate cancer over time. A notable corollary to this is the notion that some Gleason 6 cancers may not be indolent and should be followed carefully. A case report of a lethal clone arising from Gleason pattern 3 (although in the presence of additional distinct large high-grade tumors) is in line with this and suggests that heterogeneity may also exist within low-grade lesions *vis-à-vis* aggressive potential (35). More work is needed to discern the molecular profile of Gleason 6 prostate cancer destined to progress.

Our study has several limitations. First, repeat biopsy was performed after 5 to 35 months based on routine clinical practice, with the ideal time to track grade progression unknown. Second, as fusion biopsy technology continues to accumulate, the reproducibility of our findings with more generalized use of MRI/US fusion biopsy technology needs to be evaluated. Third, our cohort is relatively small, and our findings should be tested in larger populations. And fourth, an element of sampling bias remains an important confounder of our study. We cannot say with certainty that high-grade lesions did not exist at the time of initial biopsy where low-grade lesions were observed. As only a small focus of high-grade component was found in some repeat biopsies, initially, nonsampled high-grade lesions that were present in close continuity with low-grade lesions might have given us the false impression of grade progression (Supplementary Fig. S1). Future studies that aim to additionally sample areas around targeted biopsy sites, at high density, may address this issue.

The strength of this study lies in its longitudinal nature and the performance of contemporary molecular techniques on minute FFPE biopsy samples. The current findings provide molecular data to support the clinical use of MRI/US fusion biopsy platforms in the management of men on AS. In addition, our results add to our understanding of the biology of low-grade prostate cancer and suggest that some Gleason 6 cancers may not be indolent. If these findings are confirmed, MRI/US fusion biopsy may become a new standard for monitoring the growing number of men on AS. Additional work is needed to confirm our findings and to develop genomic predictors of Gleason 6 prostate cancer progression.

Conclusions

In this study, we demonstrate that serial MRI/US-targeted prostate biopsy allows accurate assessment of the same clonal focus of cancer over time, even in the absence of an MRI target. Molecular profiling of tissue obtained in a longitudinal fashion suggests that Gleason ≥ 7 prostate cancer may arise clonally from

Gleason 6 disease. These findings may have significant impact on the clinical management of the growing number of men with low-grade prostate cancer being managed with AS. Larger studies are needed to validate our findings and to definitively determine the risk of low-grade prostate cancer progression.

Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

D.H. Hovelson reports receiving travel support from Thermo Fisher. T.M. Morgan reports receiving commercial research grants from and is a consultant/advisory board member for Myriad Genetics. S.A. Tomlins is an employee of Strata Oncology; reports receiving commercial research grants from Astellas and Thermo Fisher; holds a patent on ETS gene fusion licensed to Hologic/Gen-Probe and Ventana Medical Systems; is a consultant/advisory board member for Abbvie, Astellas/Medivation, Janssen, and Ventana Medical Systems; and reports receiving travel support from Thermo Fisher. No potential conflicts of interest were disclosed by the other authors.

Disclaimer

The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NCI or the NIH.

Authors' Contributions

Conception and design: G.S. Palapattu, S.S. Salami, J. Huang, S.A. Tomlins, L.S. Marks

Development of methodology: G.S. Palapattu, S.S. Salami, A.K. Cani, D.H. Hovelson, J. Huang, S.A. Tomlins, L.S. Marks

Acquisition of data (provided animals, acquired and managed patients, provided facilities, etc.): G.S. Palapattu, S.S. Salami, A.K. Cani, L. Lazo de la Vega, K.R. Vandenberg, J.V. Bratley, C.-J. Liu, S. Natarajan, J. Huang, L.S. Marks

Analysis and interpretation of data (e.g., statistical analysis, biostatistics, computational analysis): G.S. Palapattu, S.S. Salami, A.K. Cani, D.H. Hovelson, L. Lazo de la Vega, L.P. Kunju, T.M. Morgan, S.A. Tomlins, L.S. Marks

Writing, review, and/or revision of the manuscript: G.S. Palapattu, S.S. Salami, A.K. Cani, D.H. Hovelson, K.R. Vandenberg, L.P. Kunju, J.S. Montgomery, T.M. Morgan, S. Natarajan, S.A. Tomlins, L.S. Marks

Administrative, technical, or material support (i.e., reporting or organizing data, constructing databases): G.S. Palapattu, S.S. Salami, L. Lazo de la Vega, S. Natarajan, J. Huang, L.S. Marks

Study supervision: G.S. Palapattu, S.A. Tomlins, L.S. Marks

Grant Support

This work was supported in part by award number R01CA158627 (to L.S. Marks) and 5 P50 CA186786-05 (to G.S. Palapattu) from the NCI. Additional support was provided by the Beckman Coulter Foundation, the Jean Perkins Foundation, and the Steven C. Gordon Family Foundation. This work was also supported in part by the Department of Defense PC130652 (to S.A. Tomlins), W81XWH-14-1-0287 (to T.M. Morgan). S.S. Salami is supported by the Urology Care Foundation. S.A. Tomlins and T.M. Morgan are supported by the A. Alfred Taubman Medical Research Institute and the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Research reported in this publication was supported by the Pilot Training Grant in Translational Research (to K.R. Vandenberg) provided by the Department of Pathology, University of Michigan.

The costs of publication of this article were defrayed in part by the payment of page charges. This article must therefore be hereby marked *advertisement* in accordance with 18 U.S.C. Section 1734 solely to indicate this fact.

Received June 8, 2016; revised August 21, 2016; accepted September 11, 2016; published OnlineFirst September 11, 2016.

References

- Carter HB, Sauvageot J, Walsh PC, Epstein JI. Prospective evaluation of men with stage T1c adenocarcinoma of the prostate. *J Urol* 1997; 157:2206-9.
- Klotz L, Zhang L, Lam A, Nam R, Mamedov A, Loblaw A. Clinical results of long-term follow-up of a large, active surveillance cohort with localized prostate cancer. *J Clin Oncol* 2010;28:126-31.

3. Tosoian JJ, Mamawala M, Epstein JI, Landis P, Wolf S, Trock BJ, et al. Intermediate and longer-term outcomes from a prospective active-surveillance program for favorable-risk prostate cancer. *J Clin Oncol* 2015;33:3379–85.
4. Thompson I, Thrasher JB, Aus G, Burnett AL, Canby-Hagino ED, Cookson MS, et al. Guideline for the management of clinically localized prostate cancer: 2007 update. *J Urol* 2007;177:2106–31.
5. Mohler JL, Kantoff PW, Armstrong AJ, Bahnson RR, Cohen M, D'Amico AV, et al. Prostate cancer, version 2.2014. *J Natl Compr Canc Netw* 2014;12:686–718.
6. Fleshner NE, O'Sullivan M, Fair WR. Prevalence and predictors of a positive repeat transrectal ultrasound guided needle biopsy of the prostate. *J Urol* 1997;158:505–8.
7. Pinto PA, Chung PH, Rastinehad AR, Baccala AA, Kruecker J, Benjamin CJ, et al. Magnetic resonance imaging/ultrasound fusion guided prostate biopsy improves cancer detection following transrectal ultrasound fusion biopsy and correlates with multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging. *J Urol* 2011;186:1281–5.
8. Rastinehad AR, Turkbey B, Salami SS, Yaskiv O, George AK, Fakhoury M, et al. Improving detection of clinically significant prostate cancer: magnetic resonance imaging/transrectal ultrasound fusion guided prostate biopsy. *J Urol* 2014;191:1749–54.
9. Sonn GA, Filson CP, Chang E, Natarajan S, Margolis DJ, Macairan M, et al. Initial experience with electronic tracking of specific tumor sites in men undergoing active surveillance of prostate cancer. *Urol Oncol* 2014;32:952–7.
10. Filson CP, Natarajan S, Margolis DJ, Huang J, Lieu P, Dorey FJ, et al. Prostate cancer detection with magnetic resonance-ultrasound fusion biopsy: the role of systematic and targeted biopsies. *Cancer* 2016;122:884–92.
11. Natarajan S, Marks LS, Margolis DJ, Huang J, Macairan ML, Lieu P, et al. Clinical application of a 3D ultrasound-guided prostate biopsy system. *Urol Oncol* 2011;29:334–42.
12. Epstein JI, Walsh PC, Carter HB. Dedifferentiation of prostate cancer grade with time in men followed expectantly for stage T1c disease. *J Urol* 2001;166:1688–91.
13. Sheridan TB, Carter HB, Wang W, Landis PB, Epstein JI. Change in prostate cancer grade over time in men followed expectantly for stage T1c disease. *J Urol* 2008;179:901–4.
14. Porten SP, Whitson JM, Cowan JE, Cooperberg MR, Shinohara K, Perez N, et al. Changes in prostate cancer grade on serial biopsy in men undergoing active surveillance. *J Clin Oncol* 2011;29:2795–800.
15. Lavery HJ, Droller MJ. Do Gleason patterns 3 and 4 prostate cancer represent separate disease states? *J Urol* 2012;188:1667–75.
16. Sowalsky AG, Ye H, Bubleby GJ, Balk SP. Clonal progression of prostate cancers from Gleason grade 3 to grade 4. *Cancer Res* 2013;73:1050–5.
17. Bax J, Cool D, Gardi L, Knight K, Smith D, Montreuil J, et al. Mechanically assisted 3D ultrasound guided prostate biopsy system. *Med Phys* 2008;35:5397–410.
18. Furusato B, Tan S-H, Young D, Dobi A, Sun C, Mohamed AA, et al. ERG oncoprotein expression in prostate cancer: clonal progression of ERG-positive tumor cells and potential for ERG-based stratification. *Prostate Cancer Prostatic Dis* 2010;13:228–37.
19. Young A, Palanisamy N, Siddiqui J, Wood DP, Wei JT, Chinnaiyan AM, et al. Correlation of urine TMPRSS2:ERG and PCA3 to ERG+ and total prostate cancer burden. *Am J Clin Pathol* 2012;138:685–96.
20. Haffner MC, Weier C, Xu MM, Vaghasia A, Gurel B, Gumuskaya B, et al. Molecular evidence that invasive adenocarcinoma can mimic prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN) and intraductal carcinoma through retrograde glandular colonization. *J Pathol* 2016;238:31–41.
21. Tomlins SA, Palanisamy N, Siddiqui J, Chinnaiyan AM, Kunju LP. Antibody-based detection of ERG rearrangements in prostate core biopsies, including diagnostically challenging cases: ERG staining in prostate core biopsies. *Arch Pathol Lab Med* 2012;136:935–46.
22. Udager AM, Shi Y, Tomlins SA, Alva A, Siddiqui J, Cao X, et al. Frequent discordance between ERG gene rearrangement and ERG protein expression in a rapid autopsy cohort of patients with lethal, metastatic, castration-resistant prostate cancer. *Prostate* 2014;74:1199–208.
23. Warrick JL, Hovelson DH, Amin A, Liu C-J, Cani AK, McDaniel AS, et al. Tumor evolution and progression in multifocal and paired non-invasive/invasive urothelial carcinoma. *Virchows Arch* 2015;466:297–311.
24. Hovelson DH, McDaniel AS, Cani AK, Johnson B, Rhodes K, Williams PD, et al. Development and validation of a scalable next-generation sequencing system for assessing relevant somatic variants in solid tumors. *Neoplasia* 2015;17:385–99.
25. McDaniel AS, Hovelson DH, Cani AK, Liu C-J, Zhai Y, Zhang Y, et al. Genomic Profiling of Penile Squamous Cell Carcinoma Reveals New Opportunities for Targeted Therapy. *Cancer Res* 2015;75:5219–27.
26. Cani AK, Hovelson DH, McDaniel AS, Sadis S, Haller MJ, Yadati V, et al. Next-Gen sequencing exposes frequent MED12 mutations and actionable therapeutic targets in phyllodes tumors. *Mol Cancer Res* 2015;13:613–9.
27. McDaniel AS, Stall JN, Hovelson DH, Cani AK, Liu C-J, Tomlins SA, et al. Next-Generation sequencing of tubal intraepithelial carcinomas. *JAMA Oncol* 2015;1:1128–32.
28. Barbieri CE, Baca SC, Lawrence MS, Demichelis F, Blattner M, Theurillat J-P, et al. Exome sequencing identifies recurrent SPOP, FOXA1 and MED12 mutations in prostate cancer. *Nat Genet* 2012;44:685–9.
29. The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network. The molecular taxonomy of primary prostate cancer. *Cell* 2015;163:1011–25.
30. Ukimura O, Gross ME, de Castro Abreu AL, Azhar RA, Matsugasumi T, Ushijima S, et al. A novel technique using three-dimensionally documented biopsy mapping allows precise re-visiting of prostate cancer foci with serial surveillance of cell cycle progression gene panel. *Prostate* 2015;75:863–71.
31. Penney KL, Stampfer MJ, Jahn JL, Sinnott JA, Flavin R, Rider JR, et al. Gleason grade progression is uncommon. *Cancer Res* 2013;73:5163–8.
32. Crawford ED. Epidemiology of prostate cancer. *Urology* 2003;62:3–12.
33. Falzarano SM, Magi-Galluzzi C. Prostate cancer staging and grading at radical prostatectomy over time. *Adv Anat Pathol* 2011;18:159–64.
34. VanderWeele DJ, Brown CD, Taxy JB, Gillard M, Hatcher DM, Tom WR, et al. Low-grade prostate cancer diverges early from high grade and metastatic disease. *Cancer Sci* 2014;105:1079–85.
35. Haffner MC, Mosbrugger T, Esopi DM, Fedor H, Heaphy CM, Walker DA, et al. Tracking the clonal origin of lethal prostate cancer. *J Clin Invest* 2013;123:4918–22.