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Stability of patient-specific features of altered DNA replication timing in xenografts of primary human acute lymphoblastic leukemia

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Abstract

Genome-wide DNA replication timing (RT) profiles reflect the global 3D chromosome architecture of cells. They also provide a comprehensive and unique megabase-scale picture of the cellular epigenetic state. Thus normal differentiation involves reproducible changes in RT and transformation generally perturbs these, although the potential effects of altered RT on the properties of transformed cells remain largely unknown. A major challenge to interrogating these issues in human acute lymphoid leukemia (ALL) is the low proliferative activity of most of the cells, which may be further reduced in cryopreserved samples and difficult to overcome in vitro. In contrast, the ability of many human ALL cell populations to expand when transplanted in highly immunodeficient mice is well documented. To examine the stability of DNA RT profiles of serially passaged xenografts of primary human B- and T-ALL cells, we first devised a method that circumvents the need for BrdU incorporation to distinguish early versus late S-phase cells. Using this and more standard protocols, we found consistent strong retention in xenografts of the original

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patient-specific RT features, for all 8 primary human ALL cases surveyed (7 B-ALLs and one T-ALL). Moreover, in a case where genomic analyses indicated changing subclonal dynamics in serial passages, the RT profiles tracked concordantly. These results show that DNA RT is a relatively stable feature of human ALLs propagated in immunodeficient mice. In addition, they suggest the power of this approach for future interrogation of the origin and consequences of altered DNA RT in these diseases.

Graphical Abstract

Keywords

replication timing (RT); acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL); patient-derived xenograft (PDX); copy number variation (CNV)

Introduction

Significant strides have been made in identifying features of different human acute lymphoid leukemia (ALL) cases that predict treatment success or failure with a high probability. Nevertheless, many aspects of the leukemogenic process are still poorly understood. Current therapeutic regimens for ALL are also still less than 100% curative, particularly in adults, and also have deleterious short-term and long-term toxicities (Irving et al., 2016). New strategies for elucidating the biological heterogeneity of ALLs, improving their risk stratification, and for developing more personalized and less toxic curative therapies therefore continue to command interest.

DNA replication timing (RT) refers to the temporal order in which different segments of the genome replicate during S-phase. We recently demonstrated that the proliferating subset of cells in different subtypes of human pediatric B-cell precursor ALL (B-ALL) display

disease-specific features in their genome wide RT profiles (Pope et al., 2014; Ryba et al., 2012). RT is fundamentally different from many hallmarks of cancer because it is a robust property of epigenetically distinct cell types and their megabase-level 3D chromosomal organization rather than of individual genes or regulatory elements (Rivera-Mulia and Gilbert, 2016a; Rivera-Mulia and Gilbert, 2016b). Because mutation rates are significantly higher in regions of DNA that are replicated during late versus early S-phase, knowledge of RT in patient samples aids the distinction of driver and passenger mutations (Lawrence et al., 2013; Lochovsky et al.; Polak et al., 2015; Shugay et al., 2012; Sima and Gilbert, 2014; Supek and Lehner, 2015; Woo and Li, 2012). RT patterns in human ALL cells may also contain information relevant to prognosis and therapy. However, at present, the multiplicity of factors that determine RT profiles and their stability remains unknown. Data for RT profiles of fresh and experimentally expanded samples of patient ALL should thus provide new opportunities to interrogate their biological and clinical significance.

A major impediment to studies of RT in human ALLs has been the usually low frequency of dividing cells in fresh or cryopreserved patients' samples (Ryba et al., 2012). In addition, conditions that support or stimulate ALL cell survival and proliferation *ex vivo* are generally lacking or poorly understood, although some progress in this regard has been recently reported (Pal et al., 2016). Genetically engineered mouse models of human leukemia offer an experimental alternative, but these face the same cell growth problems and rarely recapitulate the genetic complexity associated with the clinical examples of the human leukemias they are intended to model (Beer and Eaves, 2015). A more promising alternative is afforded by the use of highly immunodeficient mice transplanted with primary patientderived ALL cells where retention of many characteristics of the initial leukemia cells, including their patterns of dissemination, organ infiltration, and immunophenotypic, and genomic stability have been demonstrated (Morisot et al., 2010; Nowak et al., 2015). Genomic analysis of such patient-derived xenografts (PDXs) has also been useful in revealing their subclonal architecture and evolution (Anderson et al., 2011; Notta et al., 2011; Shlush et al., 2014).

Here, we demonstrate the feasibility of analyzing the RT profiles of human ALL cells before and after serial passaging as PDXs. The results reveal stability in both their patient- and subclone-specific RT profiles.

Materials and Methods

Patient samples

Patient bone marrow (BM) and peripheral blood (PB) samples were available from previously collected samples (Morisot et al., 2010; Ryba et al., 2012), or from patients enrolled in new studies (Medyouf et al., 2010). Informed consent was obtained in all cases and samples collected and assigned anonymized unique identifiers according to protocols approved by the Institutional Review Boards of the organizations where the samples were obtained. Subjects included all genders, minorities, and children. Fresh samples were centrifuged on Ficoll-Hypaque or Lymphoprep to isolate the low-density (1.077 g/L) fraction, which were then labeled with BrdU either when freshly obtained or after cryopreservation in media containing fetal bovine serum (FBS) plus 10% DMSO.

PDXs

All PDXs were generated by injecting cells intravenously into either 6–8-week-old NOD*scid*-IL2R γ c^{-/-} (NSG) mice given an acute dose of 250 cGy ¹³⁷Cs γ -rays, or NOD- $Rag1^{-/-}$ -IL2R $\gamma c^{-/-}$ (NRG) mice given 900 cGy ¹³⁷Cs γ -rays delivered over 3 hours (Miller et al., 2017). Mice were then monitored daily and euthanized if severely ill or as required experimentally. Spleens and/or BM cells were harvested from euthanized mice and single cell suspensions prepared. Low-density cells were used for phenotyping, genotyping, DNA-RT assessments and for further transplants either directly or after cryopreservation. All methods using mice followed protocols approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees of the organizations where they were performed.

Genome-wide DNA-RT analysis

RT profiles were generated using one of the following 3 protocols depending on the number of proliferating cells available and their efficiency of BrdU incorporation. In the first, propidium iodide-stained cells were fractioned by fluorescent-activated cell sorting (FACS) into early and late S-phase fractions, total genomic DNA then extracted from both fractions. BrdU-labeled nascent DNA was then enriched by immunoprecipitation using an anti-BrdU antibody, differentially labeled with Cy3 or Cy5 and co-hybridized to NimbleGen HD2 microarrays (E/L repli-chip). In the second method, cells were separated by FACS into G1 and S-phase fractions based on their propidium iodide-stained DNA content, and total genomic DNA extracted from both fractions, that were then differentially labeled with Cy3 or Cy5 and co-hybridized to NimbleGen HD2 microarrays (S/G1 repli-chip). In the third method, BrdU-labeled cells were separated by FACS into early and late S-phase fractions, total genomic DNA extracted from both, adaptors for next-generation sequencing (Illumina) ligated using NEBNext® Ultra™ DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina, and the BrdU-labeled nascent DNA from each fraction enriched by anti-BrdU immunoprecipitation prior to being indexed, amplified, pooled, and sequenced on a HiSeq2500 platform with 50 bp single end mode to obtain approximately 5 million mapped reads/library (E/L repli-seq).

Computational methods

For Repli-chip data (both S/G1 and E/L methods), fluorescence intensities were first normalized within and between arrays using the limma package in R to determine a $log₂$ ratio of signals from "early S" vs. "late S" fractions, or "S" vs. "G1" fractions, for each probe, as described (Ryba et al. 2011a). Repli-seq data were first clipped using a quality score of 30 as the threshold, then mapped to HG19 by bowtie2 and reads per million counted for non-overlapping 6-kb windows in each library. Finally, the $log₂$ ratio of "reads from each early S fraction"/"reads from the matching late S fraction" was calculated for each sample. Repli-chip and repli-seq data were then re-scaled to equivalent ranges by quantile normalization as described (Rivera-Mulia et al., 2015), and smoothened using loess with a span of 300 kb to 1 Mb.

Cluster analyses were performed as described (Rivera-Mulia et al., 2015). Briefly, data were averaged into non-overlapping 204-kb windows (13,158 windows throughout the autosomal genome). Early and late replication patterns were defined by RT log₂ ratios of \sim 0.3 or \sim 0.3, respectively. Significantly variable regions were defined as those that replicated early in

at least one sample and late in at least one other sample (Rivera-Mulia et al. 2015). K-means clustering was performed using Cluster 3.0 (de Hoon et al. 2004) after constant regions were removed, leaving 1,514 windows. Further hierarchical clustering was then performed. Heatmaps and dendrograms were generated in JavaTreeView (Saldanha, 2004). A correlation matrix was made using the corrplot R package.

Copy number variant (CNV) analysis

CNVs was estimated from array and DNA sequencing data as follows: read counts from early- and late-S fractions were collected for non-overlapping 6-kb windows, respectively, then compensated for mapping using the read counts in the same window sizes as for the control human DNA (average of many samples). Read counts for E and L fractions in 6-kb windows were further windowed into 50-kb non-overlapping bins. After quantile normalization, total read counts (E+L) for each sample were calculated. Finally, log_2 ratios of sample/control were calculated for CNV analysis with the DNA copy package in ([http://](http://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/DNAcopy.html) [bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/DNAcopy.html\)](http://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/DNAcopy.html).

Results

Establishment of protocols for generating RT profiles from proliferating ALL cells independent of their ability to actively incorporate BrdU

The most robust method for obtaining RT profiles is to pulse-label cells with BrdU for approximately 20% of the S–phase period, then separate the cells into early and late S-phase fractions by FACS, and isolate the nascently synthesized (BrdU-substituted) DNA in the two fractions by anti-BrdU immunoprecipitation (Dileep et al., 2012; Ryba et al., 2011). The relative enrichment of any given sequence in the BrdU-substituted DNA from each of the two fractions is then calculated. Sequences identified in early S-phase are set as the numerator and those in late S-phase as the denominator (E/L) to enable more positive values to be represented in the early S-phase cells. This method has a dynamic range of 4,000-fold (when sequencing is used; Repli-seq) or 64-fold (using microarrays; Repli-chip) (Dileep et al., 2015), but requires a minimum of 2,000 BrdU-labeled cells (1,000 per S-phase fraction). We previously found that a few million freshly obtained BM or PB cells from ALL patients at diagnosis or relapse consistently yielded sufficient S-phase cells for high quality RT analysis (Ryba et al., 2012). However, subsequent attempts to apply this method to cryopreserved ALL samples failed in nearly half the cases tested.

We therefore investigated a third protocol that exploits the relative CNV between cells in early and late S-phase fractions to infer RT data (Gilbert, 2010) (see also Figure 1A). When unlabeled proliferating cells are first sorted into separate populations of cells distributed throughout S-phase and cells in G1 and then whole genome sequencing is performed on these two fractions, RT can then be expressed as the ratio of reads found in S:G1. DNA that replicates earlier is present in S-phase cells at up to twice the copy number as DNA that replicates later and normalizing the reads for S-phase cells to reads for cells in G1 controls for any sample-specific CNVs (Gilbert, 2010). This protocol circumvents the need for viable cells to incorporate BrdU, but decreases the dynamic range of the data to less than 2-fold.

Figure 1B shows an example of results obtained when all 3 methods (Repli-chip E/L and S/G1; and Repli-seq E/L) were applied to the same sample; in this case spleen cells isolated from a mouse transplanted with a primary B-ALL sample and subjected either directly to the S/G1 method or first labeled ex vivo with BrdU and then subjected to the E/L method. The ex vivo BrdU method for labeling DNA was selected as preliminary experiments with the same cells indicated that an intravenous injection of BrdU did not yield sufficient BrdUimmunoprecipitated DNA (data not shown). Despite the difference in dynamic range

between the 2 methods for RT profiling, the data obtained proved to be comparable after scaling and quantile normalization. Together, these results establish protocols for generating high quality RT profiles from human cells even when those in S-phase at the time of analysis may no longer be viable.

PDXs of patient ALL cells retain global RT profiles of their cell type of origin

We then used these protocols to examine the uniqueness of the RT profiles generated from different patient ALL samples and the stability of these profiles after serial passaging in mice. PDXs were generated from 7 B-ALL patients and from one T-ALL sample. In 4 of these cases, samples from secondary and sometimes tertiary passages were obtained and analyzed (Table I **and** Supplementary Table 1). From a first-pass visual inspection, the RT profiles obtained for each patient's initial clinical sample appeared to have unique features that were also present in the derived PDX(s) (Figure 2A). This suggested extensive preservation of the mechanisms that account for these differences.

To determine whether these RT profiles are preserved genome wide, we first divided the autosomal genome into 13,158 non-overlapping 204-kb segments. We then generated a correlation matrix between all sample datasets including several additional samples of nonleukemic cells as comparators (Figure 2B). This analysis showed the B-ALL PDX RT profiles to be more similar globally to the RT profiles of a large group of primary B-ALL cells, as compared to a series of non-leukemic B-cell lines or freshly isolated PB T-cells. The PDX RT profiles were also shown to be substantially different from the RT profiles of the human embryonic stem cells analyzed. Although the RT profiles for different B-ALL patient's cells were more heterogeneous than those for the non-leukemic B- and T-cells, those from the B-ALL patients' cells still formed a correlated group (Figure 2B). The RT profile of the T-ALL patient's sample was also strongly correlated to its PDX and more strongly to the RT profile of normal PB T-cells than to the RT profiles of the non-leukemic B-cell lines. These results demonstrate the ability of the protocols shown in Figure 1 to detect case-specific RT features preserved in PDX (Figure 2A) and that RT profiles are globally preserved after passage through PDX (Figure 2B).

PDX samples retain the unique RT signatures of the initial ALL sample

Correlations of RT derived from genome wide analyses (Figure 2B) do not, however, usually allow closely related cell types to be distinguished, due to the fact that they include spurious measurements of differences in regions that do not differ in RT (noise). In a previous analysis of 26 different normal human cell types, we used unsupervised K-means and hierarchical clustering to identify 200 kb segments of chromosomal DNA that showed cell type-specific RT patterns, to which we then assigned the term, "RT signatures" (Rivera-

Mulia et al., 2015). We restricted the identification of these RT signatures to include only those segments defined as "RT variable" because they were found to have replicated with a $Log_2(E/L)$ of 0.3 in at least one cell type and -0.3 in at least one other cell type. These criteria enabled differences in the RT profiles of closely related stages of differentiation in the same lineage to be resolved.

To investigate further the patient specificity of the RT profiles obtained in the present study, we adopted these same criteria to derive RT signatures from the data obtained for all of the patient and PDX samples as well as for the non-leukemic cell types shown in Figure 2B. The complete array of "RT variable" segments thus identified were found to cover 40% of the 200 DNA segments used to subdivide the entire genome. K-means and hierarchical clustering of these variable segments showed the original B-ALL cells and their corresponding PDXs formed separate patient-specific clusters (Figure 3A). The same analysis also identified specific clusters (RT signatures) for pluripotent cells (clusters 4, 5, 11 and 13), non-leukemic lymphoid cells (clusters 1, 6 and 10) B-ALL cells (clusters 2 and 14) and the single case of T-ALL before and after passage in PDX (clusters 3 and 7).

To further stratify the ALL samples (initial and PDX-derived), we repeated the above analysis after removing the data for all of the other samples, but using the same criteria to define RT variable regions. This reduced the RT variable regions to only 10% of the genome and spread the relative correlation between samples over a broader dynamic range but still retained a high correlation between each patient and his/her PDX samples (Figure 3B), with the exception of B-ALL #4 (discussed below). These results revealed additional ALL casespecific RT signatures not detected in Figure 3A. Statistical significance of these RT signatures was confirmed by pairwise T-test with bonferroni correction (Supplementary Figure 1). Importantly, patient and corresponding PDX samples cluster in all cases (except patient 4 discussed below), demonstrating that the RT features (RT of individual chromosomal segments that constitute each RT signature) extracted by unbiased clustering are stably maintained through multiple serial passages of each ALL in immunodeficient mice.

The RT signatures unveiled in Figure 3B are dominated by those of the single T-ALL case and its PDX. This is due to the fact that most genomic segments that survive the stringent filter imposed for "RT variable" regions reflect differences between the B-ALL samples and the single T-ALL sample. To analyze the differences between the B-ALL samples with greater sensitivity, we identified 60 kb chromosomal segments with the top 10% standard deviation in RT between the three frozen banked B-ALL patient samples analyzed and then repeated an unsupervised K-means and hierarchical clustering analysis of these. This allowed us to segment the same percentage of the genome as in Figure 3B, but focused on the differences that exclusively distinguish the three B-ALL patients. The results revealed distinct patient specific clusters (RT signatures) that track with each patient and its corresponding PDX(s) (Figure 4A). Examples of these regions, which included those features identified by visual inspection in Figure 2A, are shown in Figure 4B. Statistical significance of these RT signatures was confirmed by pairwise T-test with bonferroni correction (Supplementary Figure 2). Altogether, these results demonstrate that patientspecific RT features are stably maintained through multiple serial PDX passages.

RT profiles can identify subclone outgrowths in PDXs

As shown in Figures 3A–C and 4A, cells from case B-ALL #4 exhibited an interesting exception to the general stability of the RT profile seen in other patients' PDXs. In the case of B-ALL #4, many of the specific features of the RT profile of the original sample were also present in the second PDX but the RT signatures of the first and third passage PDXs formed a separate cluster. Examples of RT features from these distinct RT signatures are shown in Figure 5A. Since RT profiles inherently quantify the relative abundance of sequences across the entire genome, the data derived from them can also detect the CNV signature of the cells present (Ryba et al., 2012). Thus, we next asked whether the altered RT signatures obtained in the first and third passage PDXs were accompanied by parallel fluctuations in the prevalence of genomically distinct subclones. Examination of the CNV status of the cells from B-ALL #4 through the same serial PDX passages revealed 2 autosomal CNVs that were present in the patient's initial cells and the second passage PDX but absent from the first and third passage PDXs that displayed a common deviant RTsignature (Figure 5B). This result is consistent with the first and third PDXs being derived from a subclone that was not evident in the patient's original sample. These findings are interesting because unique CNV profiles reflect the composite prevalence of genetically distinct subclones within the population analyzed, whereas RT profiles are determined exclusively by those cells that were proliferating which are not known to be a constant fraction of all subclones. However, the observed concordance in the fluctuating dynamics of CNV and RT profiles with serial passaging suggests that these were related, at least in this example.

DISCUSSION

As normal cells differentiate, the timing of replication of different segments of their chromosomal DNA changes, reflecting their changing 3D folding states (Dileep et al., 2015). DNA replication that occurs early in S-phase increases gene dosage, and cells use specific mechanisms to compensate for gene dosage effects incurred during their passage through each cell cycle (Voichek et al., 2016). DNA RT patterns are likewise affected by genetic and epigenetic changes that confer malignant properties on cells. RT patterns are therefore of interest both as potential novel biomarkers of different diseases and as possible hallmarks of the altered properties these cells acquire, particularly those responsible for perturbing cell growth in vivo.

We have previously documented changes in the RT profiles of human B-ALL (Ryba et al., 2012), but the extent of their specificity or stability has not been previously investigated. Here we report the results for samples from 8 additional ALL patients, 5 of which were also examined after passage and expansion in mice. The RT profiles obtained confirm their disease and patient specificity and further demonstrate their preservation in the derived PDXs. These results thus establish RT as a stable epigenetic property of patient-derived ALL cells that is retained after many cell divisions.

Interestingly, the PDXs derived from B-ALL #4 showed subclone-specific differences in the RT signatures obtained from the cells harvested from different passages of PDXs. In this example, the RT profile of the second passage PDX mirrored that of the primary sample, but

the first and third PDXs were different and similar to one another. Tracking CNVs within these same cells revealed a picture of alternating dominant subclones derived from the same patient. This dynamic is similar to a previously reported example of a serially passaged B-ALL in which CNV data also showed that a subclone not initially detectable in the patient's original sample emerged in the first PDX, and was then followed by re-emergence of the CNV pattern in the original cells in a second passage PDX (Nowak et al., 2015). It is also similar to data obtained for adult AML or colon cancer using Southern blots to track the changing growth dynamics of subclones identified by retroviral insertion sites (Hope et al., 2004; Kreso et al., 2013). Similar data has also been obtained for genetically defined (Eirew et al., 2015) or DNA-barcoded (Nguyen et al., 2014) subclones tracked in PDXs derived from primary samples of human breast cancer or *de novo* generated human breast cancers (Nguyen et al., 2014). It remains unclear as to whether these dynamic fluctuations in dominant subclones are stochastically or biologically determined since a similar result can be obtained with cell lines that have a very high innate tumorigenic efficiency in the same types of immunodeficient hosts (Nguyen et al., 2014). Regardless, our results demonstrate that RT profiles are a stable epigenetic property of these subclones throughout their dynamic fluctuations.

Taken together, these results underscore the promise of DNA RT of PDXs as a new and promising approach to elucidate the subclonal dynamics that underpin the variable evolution and progression of human ALLs and possibly other human malignancies as and the mechanisms driving these changes.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

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- **1.** DNA RT profiling methodology for cryopreserved ALL samples and PDXs.
- **2.** RT is a stable characteristic of patients' ALL cells and subclone outgrowths.
- **3.** PDXs can be exploited to study the biological significance of altered RT in ALL

Figure 1. RT profiles from ALL PDXs

A. Outline of a genome-wide RT assay. BrdU labeling of nascent DNA (E/L) is preferred whenever cells are actively proliferating. However, RT profiles can also be obtained on patient samples that have lost metabolic activity but retain their S-phase DNA content based on an analysis of their DNA copy number differences (S/G1). **B.** Comparison of log₂ ratios for both methods applied to the same spleen cells derived from a B-ALL PDX. Although the S/G1 method gives a dynamic range of <2-fold vs. up to >1,000-fold from the E/L method, the profiles are comparable. In the bottom panel, data from all 3 methods were quantile normalized to each other. **C**. Exemplary scaled and normalized plot of chromosome 1 from the same samples as in **B**.

Figure 2. Preservation of RT profiles in PDXs

A. Representative loci that showed patient-specific RT differences. RT of DNA from each of 3 primary patient samples and their PDXs has been conserved at the loci shown. **B.** Genome-wide Pearson correlation matrix using 204-kb windows. Cell types are color-coded as B-ALL (purple), embryonic stem (ES) cells (gray), and normal T- or B-cells (orange).

Figure 3. RT signatures of patients are preserved in PDX

K-means and hierarchical clustering of initial ALL samples, derived PDXs and multiple samples of non-leukemic cells **(A),** and the same analysis of patient and their PDX samples only **(B)**. RT variable 204-kb windows were defined as early replicated in at least one sample (RT log₂ ratio $\,$ 0.3) and late replicated in at least one other sample (RT log₂ ratio ≤-0.3) and processed by cluster analysis. The percentage of autosomal DNA segments that showed significant variation in RT is shown. Dendrograms were constructed based on the correlation values between distinct cell types (distance = correlation value -1). A correlation threshold of >0.6 was used to color label the major branches of the dendrograms. The distinct RT signatures identified are indicated by numbered grey boxes. Method of RT profiling is indicated (E/L vs. S/G1). Since the single T-ALL patient sample exhibits the most significantly different RT differences as compared to the BALL samples, most of the K-means clusters (RT signatures) are unique in the T-ALL patient sample. Figure 4 shows a clustering excluding this sample.

Figure 4. RT signatures distinguishing B-ALL patients are also preserved in PDX

A. Similar analysis as shown in Figure 3 except that 60kb RT variable regions were defined as the top 10% regions of standard deviation amongst only the B-ALL patients and their PDX and only those patients and PDX were subjected to K-means and hierarchical clustering analysis. Clusters 3,5, and 6 are specific for patient 11-064. Clusters 7 and 9 distinguish the clonal architecture of patient 4 (see Figure 5). Cluster 10 is shared between 11-064 and Case21. **B.** Exemplary plots of selected RT signature features (chromosomal segments or rows in Fig 4A) with the K-means cluster indicated in each panel. As expected, this unbiased analysis identified the regions shown in Figure 2A that were detected by visual inspection (panels i and ii). Panels vii and viii show signature features that distinguish the different clones in Patient 4 (P4) and those P4 profiles are extracted and shown separately below each panel. Note that examples of features that are significantly different for one particular patient are shown (panels iii, iv, vi, ix) with the outlier patient indicated but most RT features are variable between all patients. All features distinguish some patients from others while each patient has a unique pattern within each RT signature.

Figure 5. Changes in RT signatures in a serially passaged PDX mirror changes in genomically defined subclonal differences

(A) Exemplary chromosomal region where B-ALL #4 RT matched the $2nd$, but not the $1st$ and 3rd, serial PDX passage. (**B**) Two autosomal CNVs identified in the RT data of the original ALL cells were found to be present in the 2nd, but not the first or third passage. PDX. Note that these CNVs did not result in a change in RT that would be detected as a significant RT variation but rather served as a genetic marker to track the alternating outgrowth of different subclones in sequential passages.

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Table 1