

Supplementary Materials for  
**Epinephrine promotes breast cancer metastasis through a ubiquitin-specific  
peptidase 22–mediated lipolysis circuit**

Yuanzhang Zhou *et al.*

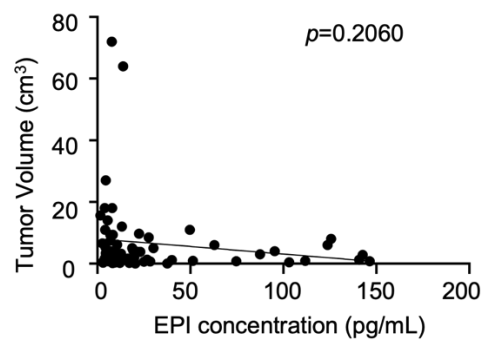
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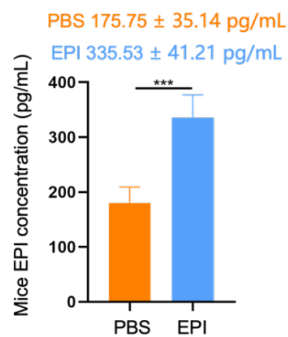
Figs. S1 to S16  
Tables S1 to S6

**Figure s1**



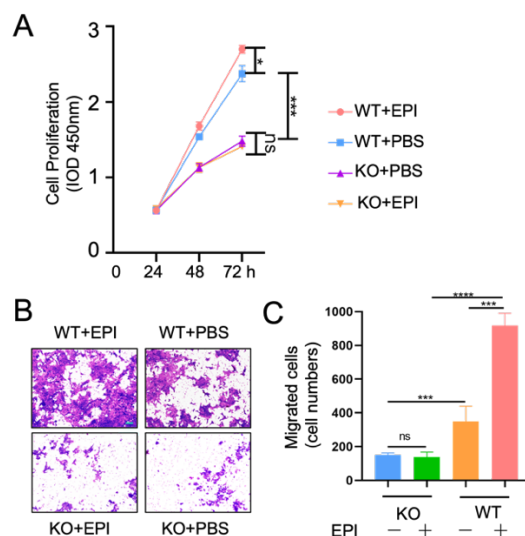
**Fig. s1:** Statistical analysis to determine the correlation between serum Epi levels and tumor volume. (n = 65). Pearson correlation coefficient was used as a measure of association.

**Figure s2**



**Fig. s2.** Analysis of the serum EPI concentrations in mice treated with the EPI and the PBS (N = 10 each group). Data are expressed as mean ± SD. Statistical significance was determined by unpaired Student's *t* test. Statistical significance was concluded at \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ .

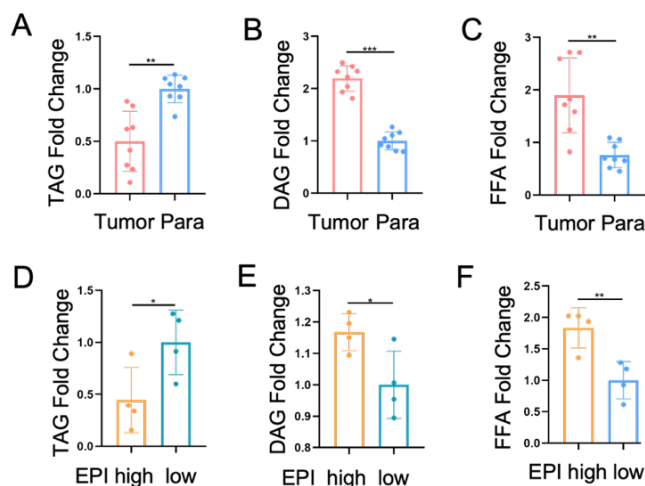
**Figure s3**



**Fig. s3.** Analysis of the effects of EPI on 4T1 cell growth and migration. (A) The effect of *USP22* knock out on the 4T1 cell proliferation in the presence of Epi or not were determined by the WST-8

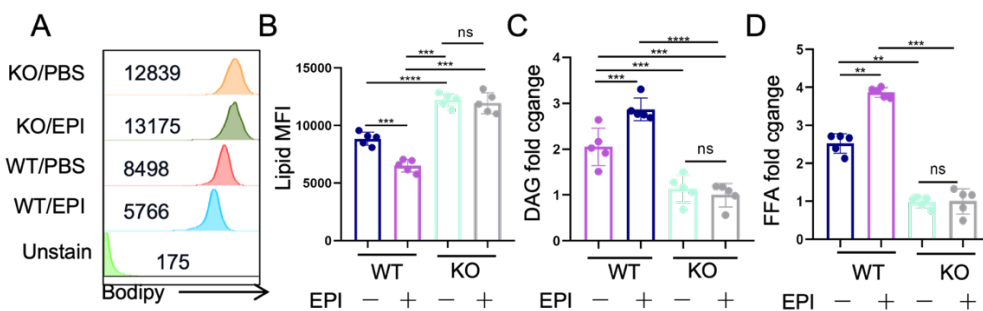
reagent (n = 3). (B & C) Transwell assays were conducted to assess the migratory capacity of the indicated types of 4T1 cells (n = 3). Representative images are shown in (B), scar bar: 100 $\mu$ m, and migrated cells were counted from five random fields (C). Statistical significance was determined by unpaired Student's *t* test or one-way ANOVA test. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of three independent experiments. Statistical significance was concluded at \**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.01, \*\*\**P* < 0.001; ns represents no statistical significance.

**Figure s4**



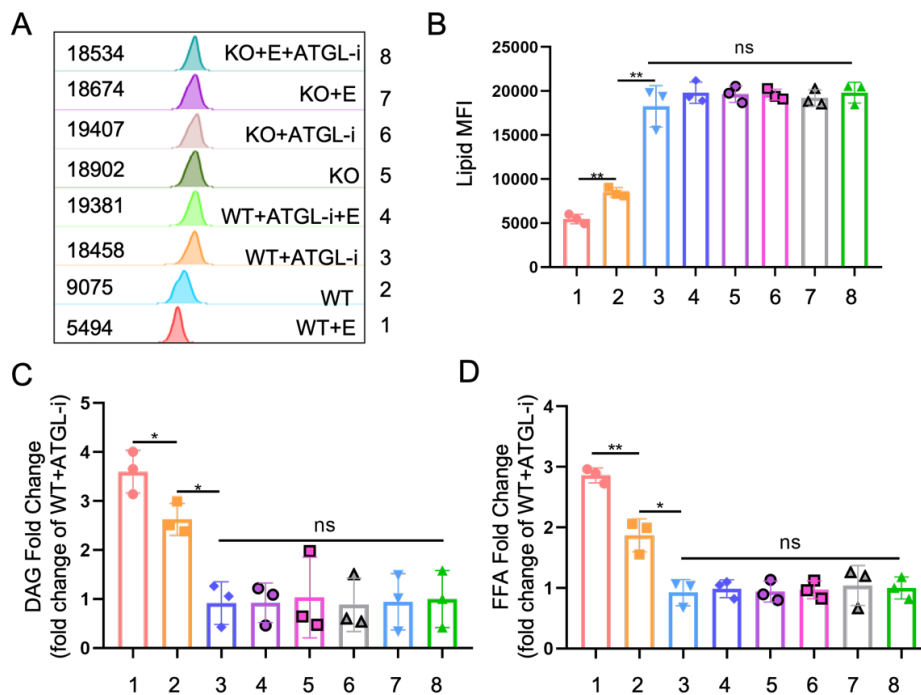
**Fig. s4: Analysis of the lipid components in tumor and para-tumor tissues.** (A-C) Relative levels of TAG (A), DAG (B), FFA (C) in 8 pairs of breast cancer and matched non-tumorous tissues (fold change of mean value of non-tumorous group) (para-tumor, n = 8; tumor, n = 8). (D-F) Relative levels of TAG (D), DAG (E), FFA (F) in 8 breast cancer tissues as indicated group (fold change of mean value of Epi<sup>low</sup> group) (Epi<sup>high</sup>, n = 4; Epi<sup>low</sup>, n = 4). Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD. Statistical significance was determined by unpaired Student's *t* test. Statistical significance was concluded at \**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.01. \*\*\**P* < 0.001; ns represents no statistical significance.

**Figure s5**



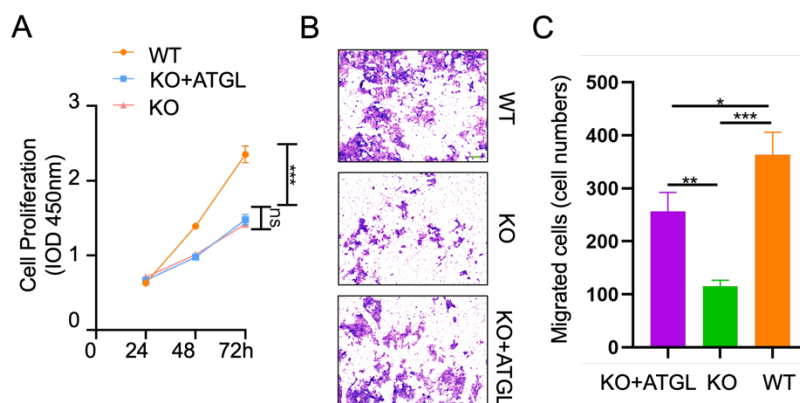
**Fig. s5. The effect of EPI on 4T1 cell lipolysis.** (A-D) Intracellular lipid analysis in WT and USP22-null 4T-1 cells isolated from the xenograft tumors as shown in Fig. 2Q, including bodipy (A & B), DAG (C) and FFA (D). Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of five independent experiments. Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA test or unpaired Student's *t* test. Statistical significance was concluded at \**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.01. \*\*\**P* < 0.001; ns represents no statistical significance.

**Figure s6**



**Fig. s6. The effect of ATGL inhibitor on EPI-induced lipolysis.** WT and USP22 KO 4T1 cells were treated with EPI or further with ATGL specific inhibitor Atglitatin (50  $\mu$ M) for 24 hours. **(A & B)** The bodipy staining and **(C & D)** the levels of DAG (C) and FFA (D) were analyzed (N=3). Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA test or unpaired Student's *t* test. Data are expressed as mean $\pm$ SD of three independent experiments. Statistical significance was concluded at \**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.01, \*\*\**P* < 0.001; ns: no statistical significance.

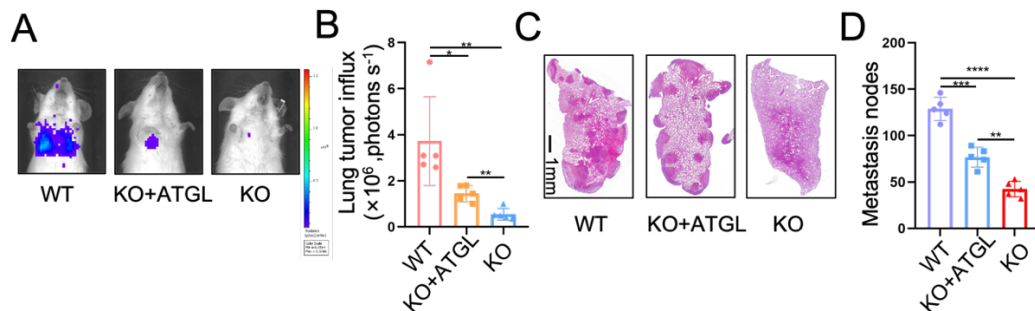
**Figure s7**



**Fig. s7. Analysis of the effects of ATGL expression on USP22-null 4T1 cell growth and migration.** **(A)** The effect of overexpression of *ATGL* in the knockout on the 4T1 cell proliferation were determined by the WST-8 reagent. **(B-C)** Transwell assays were performed to evaluate the migratory capacity of the indicated types of 4T1 cells (n = 3). Representative images are presented in (B), scar bar: 100 $\mu$ m, and the number of migrated cells was quantified from five random fields (C). Statistical significance was determined by unpaired Student's *t* test or one-way ANOVA test. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of three independent experiments. Statistical significance was concluded at \**P* < 0.05,

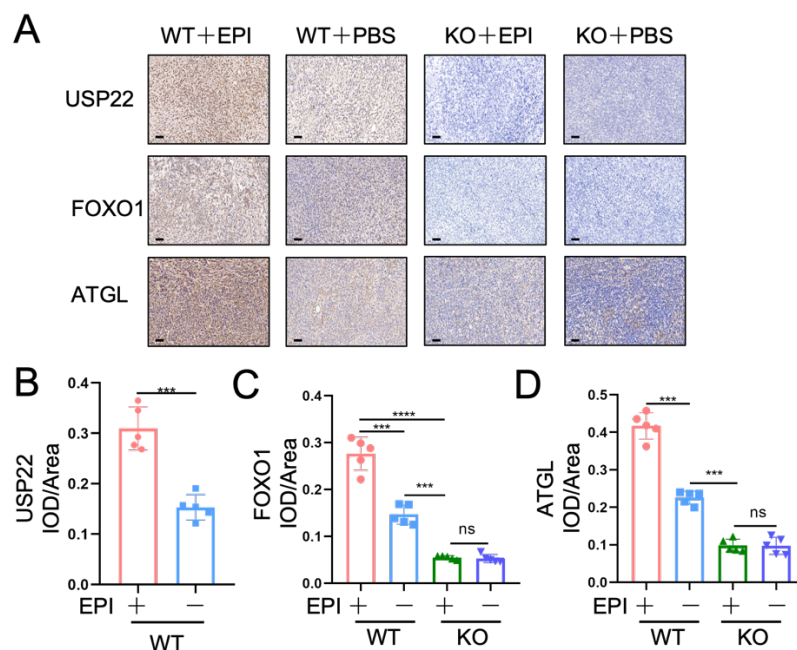
**\*\* $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ ; ns: no statistical significance.**

**Figure s8**



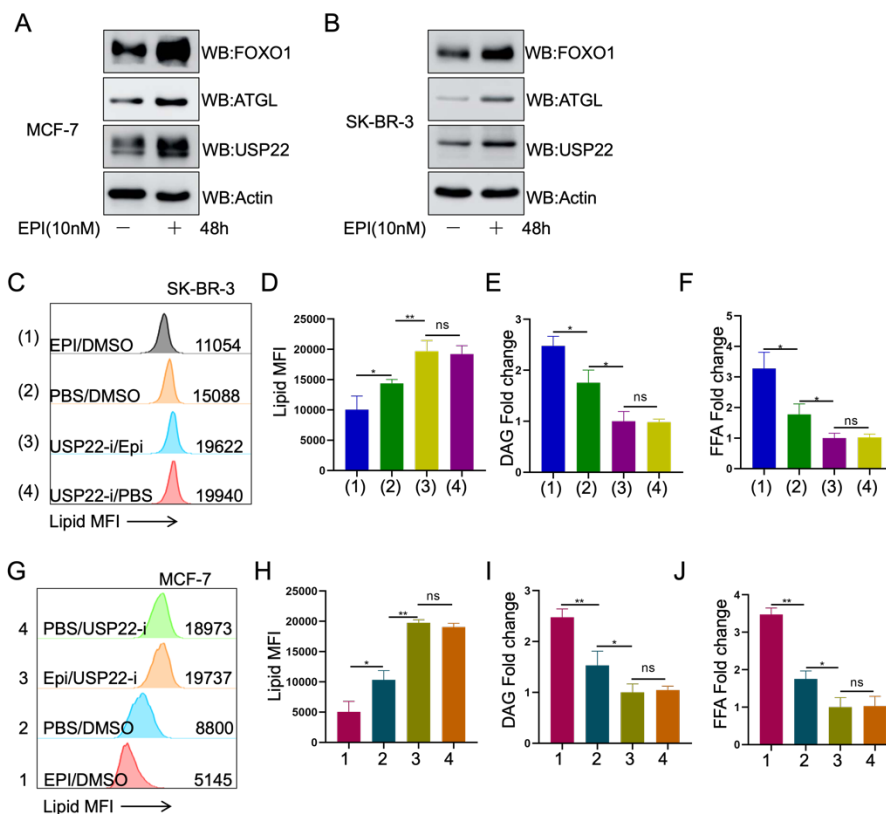
**Fig. s8: Analysis of the effects of ATGL expression on USP22-null 4T1 tumor metastasis. (A-D)** A total of  $0.5 \times 10^5$  WT, USP22-KO + ATGL 4T1 cells or USP22-KO 4T1 cells transduced with ATGL were injected via the tail vein into BALB/C mice. Lung metastases were measured by luminol fluorescence (A & B) and H & E staining (C & D). Statistical significance was determined by unpaired Student's  $t$  test or one-way ANOVA test. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of five independent experiments. Statistical significance was concluded at  $*P < 0.05$ ,  $**P < 0.01$ ,  $***P < 0.001$ ; ns: no statistical significance.

**Figure s9**



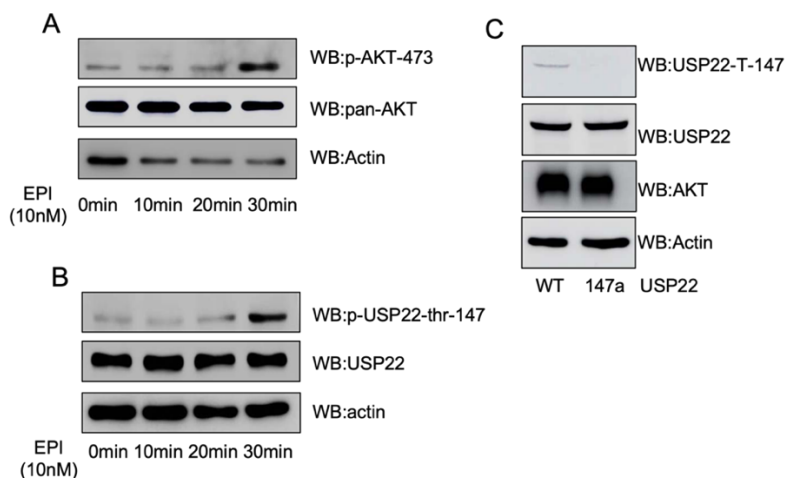
**Fig. s9.** Analysis of USP22, FOXO1 and ATGL expression levels by immunohistochemistry in syngeneic tumor tissues as shown in Fig. 2Q. Representative images (A), scale bar: 50  $\mu$ m and quantification data (B-D) are shown. Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA test or unpaired Student's  $t$  test. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of five independent experiments. Statistical significance was concluded at  $*P < 0.05$ ,  $**P < 0.01$ ,  $***P < 0.001$ ; ns: no statistical significance.

**Figure s10**



**Fig. 10. Analysis of EPI-induced USP22 and lipolysis in MCF-7 and SK-BR-3 cells. (A & B)** Analysis of USP22, ATGL, FOXO1 protein expression in MCF-7 cells (A) and SK-BR-3 cells (B) after treated with Epi for 48h. (C-J) Intracellular lipid analysis, including bodipy, DAG and FFA in indicated types of SK-BR-3 cells (C-F) or MCF-7 cells (G-J). (n = 3). Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA test or unpaired Student's *t* test. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of three independent experiments. Statistical significance was concluded at \**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.01, \*\*\**P* < 0.001; ns: no statistical significance.

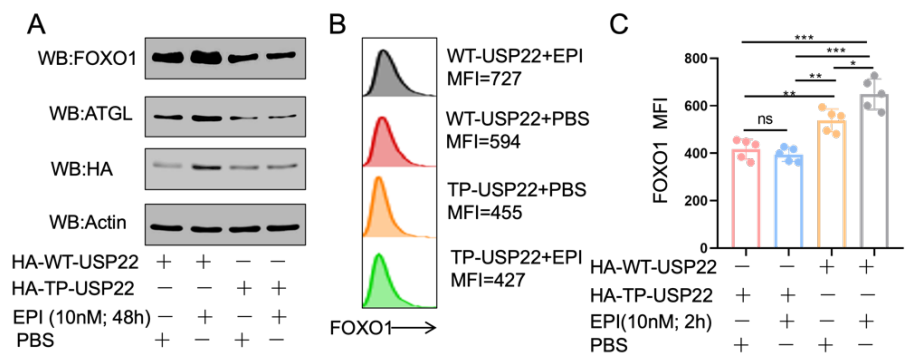
**Figure s11**



**Fig. s11. Analysis of EPI-induced AKT phosphorylation. (A)** Immunoblot analysis of p-AKT-473 protein expression in MDA-MB-231 cells treated with EPI or PBS for indicated times. (B).

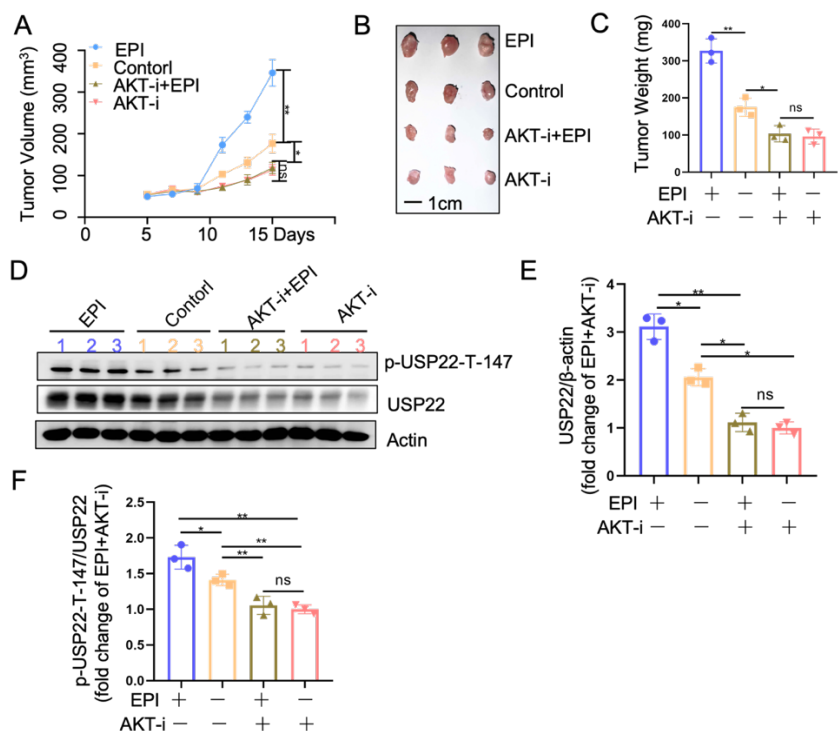
Immunoblot analysis of p-USP22-thr-147 protein expression in MDA-MB-231 cells treated with EPI or PBS for indicated times. **(C)** WT or USP22/T147A mutants with or without AKT were transfected to USP22 KO 4T1 cells. USP22 phosphorylation was determined by immunoblotting with anti-p-147-USP22 Ab (top panel). The expression levels of total USP22 (middle panel) and AKT (bottom panel) were confirmed.

**Figure s12**



**Fig. s12. The effect of USP22 phosphorylation on lipolysis in 4T1 cells.** **(A)** Analysis of USP22, FOXO1, ATGL protein expression in USP22-KO MDA-MB-231 cells transfected with the WT-USP22 plasmid or the TP-USP22 plasmid and treated with Epi or PBS. **(B-C)** The effect of EPI on FOXO1 protein expression in USP22-KO MDA-MB-231 cells transfected with the WT-USP22 plasmid or the TP-USP22 plasmid. Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA test or unpaired Student's *t* test. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of five independent experiments. Statistical significance was concluded at \* $P < 0.05$ , \*\* $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ ; ns: no statistical significance.

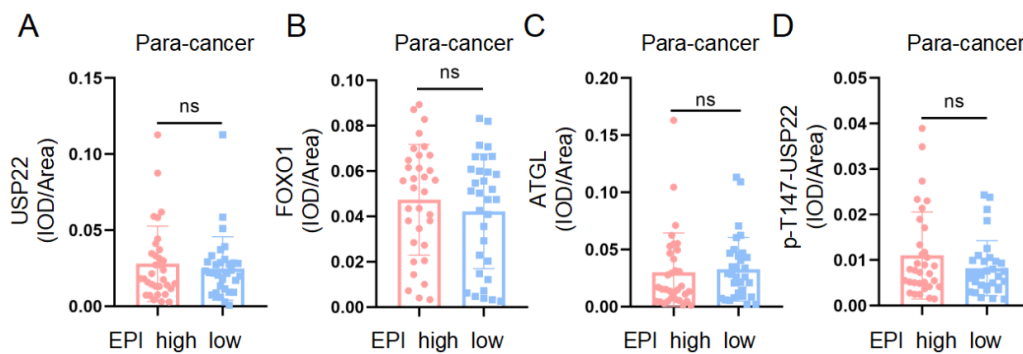
**Figure s13**



**Fig. s13. The effect of AKT inhibition on USP22 phosphorylation in tumors.** **(A-C)** Triple-negative

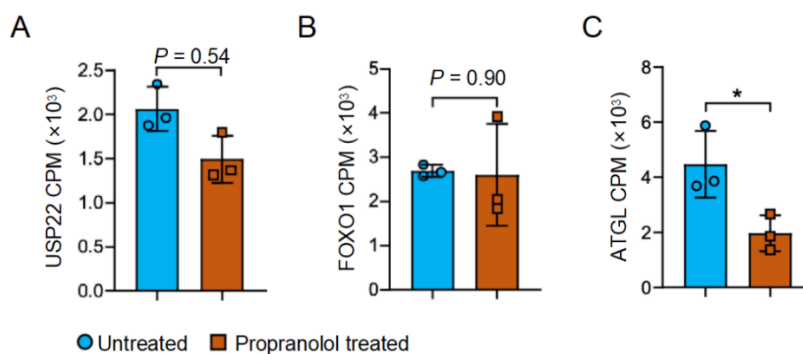
breast cancer 4T1 cells were injected into mammary fat pad of BALB/c mice (N=3 each group). Tumor volume (A), and tumor weight (B & C) were measured. (D) Analysis of USP22 and p-USP22-T-147 protein expression in tumor tissue from (B). (E-F) Quantitative analysis of USP22 and p-USP22-T-147 protein expression in the (D). Beta-actin used as a control to quantify the expression of USP22 (E). Quantification of phosphorylation is presented as ratios of signal intensities of phosphorylated protein (p-USP22-T-147) to total protein (USP22) (F). Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA test or unpaired Student's *t* test. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD of three independent experiments. Statistical significance was concluded at \* $P < 0.05$ , \*\* $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ ; ns: no statistical significance.

**Figure s14**



**Fig. s14:** (A) Analysis of USP22(A), FOXO1(B), ATGL(C), p-USP22-T147(D) expression of human para-breast cancer tissues in EPI<sup>high</sup> and EPI<sup>low</sup> patients (Epi<sup>low</sup>, n = 33; and Epi<sup>high</sup>, n = 32). Statistical significance was determined by unpaired Student's *t* test. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD. Statistical significance was concluded at \* $P < 0.05$ , \*\* $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ ; ns: no statistical significance.

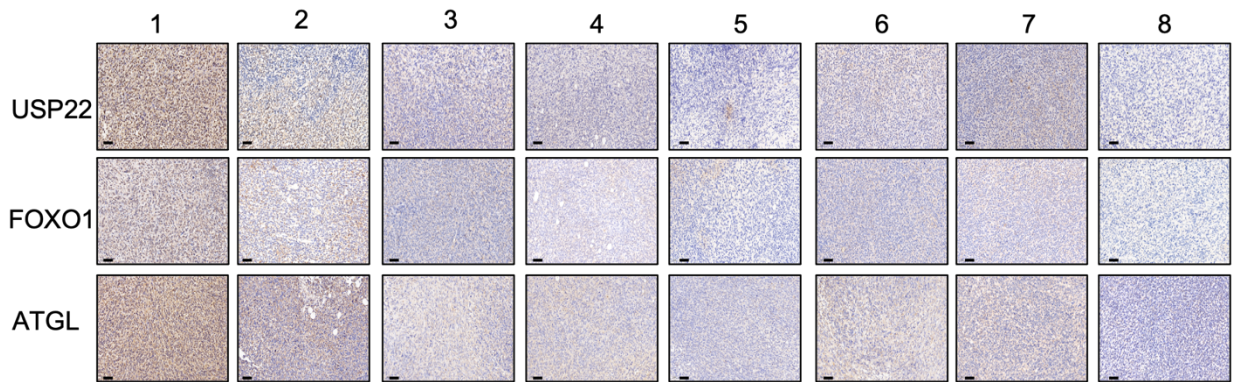
**Figure s15**



**Fig. s15:** Analysis of *Usp22* (A), *Foxo1* (B) and *Atgl* (C) expressions of GSM5740291. The data set was from three repeated RNA-seq analysis of the human medulloblastoma ONS-76 cells treated with propranolol or control PBS. CPM: counts per million cells. Unpaired Students *t* test was used for statistical analysis, \*  $p < 0.05$ .



**Figure s16.**



**Fig. s16:** Representative immunohistochemistry photomicrographs of tissues stained with USP22, FOXO1, ATGL from the tumor in the Fig. 7A, scale bar: 50  $\mu$ m.

**Supplementary Table 1** Association of plasma epinephrine level with clinical and pathological characteristics of breast cancer patients

Variable	All case N (%)	Patient # Plasma EPI Low & High		P <sup>A</sup>
		Low	High	
HER2				0.321
—	52 (80)	28	24	
+	13 (20)	5	8	
PR				0.812
—	15 (23)	8	7	
+	50 (77)	25	25	
ER				0.294
—	11 (16.9)	4	7	
+	54 (83.1)	29	25	
Tumor Stage				0.426
0	1 (1.55)	0	1	
1	27 (41.5)	13	14	
2	31 (47.7)	16	15	
3	5 (7.7)	4	1	
4	1 (1.55)	0	1	

<sup>A</sup>  $\chi^2$  test; n = 65. ER+: ER  $\geq$  + and  $\geq$  1% ; ER-: ER < 1%; PR+: PR  $\geq$  + and  $\geq$  1%; PR-: PR < 1%; HER2+: HER2 3+ or HER2 2+ and FISH +; HER2-: HER2 0 or 1+ or HER2 2+.

**Supplementary Table 2. gRNAs used for USP22 KO in mouse and human breast cancer cells.**

Sample	sg-RNA Sequence
sgRNA for human USP22	sgRNA-A1: TTCAAAGCAGCCAATACTCCAGG
	sgRNA-A2: GATGCGAGCCCTTCGTGTTGAGG
sgRNA for mouse USP22	sgRNA-A1: GTTGTCCGCATTAACAATGCTGG
	sgRNA-A2: AGATGTGGACGGTGCACGCGAGG

**Supplementary Table 3: PCR primers for USP22 analysis.**

Primer for PCR	Sequence
Primer for exon of human USP22	For: 5' - CCCCTGTA CTTAAGGTAAGAGTAGC - 3'
	Rev: 5' - TAGCATGCACTGAGGTTGGG - 3'
Primer for exon of mouse USP22	For: 5'-ATTCCTTCATTCCCAGGGCG-3'
	Rev: 5'-CAGGGATCATGTCCGGGAAGT-3'

**Supplementary Table 4: Primers used for ChIP-qPCR analysis.**

Primer for ChIP	sg-RNA Sequence
Primer for promoter of PNPLA2	For 5'- TTCATGGGTTGAGGGTGCTTC- 3' Rev: 5'- ACATCACTCCCTCATGGCAG - 3'

**Supplementary Table 5. Abs used for the study.**

Antibodies reagent	Source	Catalog
FOXO1	Cell Signaling Technology	2880
USP22	Abcam	ab195289
pan-AKT	Proteintech	60203-2-Ig
p-AKT-473	Cell Signaling Technology	4051
Phospho-USP22(thr147)	Invitrogen	PA5-105351
Phosphoserine/threonine	Invitrogen	MA5-38234
ATGL	Absin	abs137233
HA-tag	Cell Signaling Technology	3724S
His-tag	Cell Signaling Technology	12698S
Flag-HRP	Sigma	A8592
Flag	Sigma	F-1804
HA-tag	Santa-cruze	sc-7392
myc-tag	Cell Signaling Technology	2276S
myc-HRP	Cell Signaling Technology	2040S
$\beta$ -actin	Proteintech	66009-1-Ig
GAPDH	Proteintech	10494-1-AP
anti-rabbit IgG antibody	Cell Signaling Technology	7074S
anti-mouse IgG antibody	Cell Signaling Technology	7076S

**Supplementary Table 6. Primers for real-time RT-PCR analysis.**

Primer name (RT-qPCR)	Sequence(5'-3')
human-ATGL-F	CCATCACAGTGTCCCCCTTC
human -ATGL-R	AACTGGATGCTGGTGTGGT
human -USP22-F	CTGGGACATCAGCTTGGATCT
human -USP22-R	CTTTCCCCGTTTACCACGTTG
human -FOXO1-F	TTCACCCAGCCCAAACCTACC
human -FOXO1-R	GAGTCCAGGCGCACAGTTAT
human -ACTB-F	GGGAAATCGTGCGTGACATT
human -ACTB-R	GGAACCGCTCATTGCCAAT