Profiles of miRNAs matched to biology in aromatase inhibitor resistant breast cancer

Supplementary Material

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Statistical and Bioinformatic Analyses

Extended statistical analyses were performed with R-3.2.2 including additional packages gplots-2.17.0 [1], partykit-1.0-3 [2], survival-2.38-3 [3] and edgeR-3.10.2 [4]. Open-access miRNA-Seq level 3 isoform quantification data (version 3.1.17.0) and clinical information (version 2.0.28.0) from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) breast cancer cohort (BRCA) were downloaded from TCGA data portal (https://tcga-data.nci.nih.gov/tcga/) on May 11, 2015. For 746 tumor samples both clinical data and miRNA expression data were available. edgeR was used to calculate the logarithmized counts per million (CPM) values as a measure of expression. To adjust for varying sequencing depth between miRNA-Seq libraries, raw read counts were normalized by edgeR using the trimmed mean of M values approach. By means of sequence identity, miRNAs covered by the Affymetrix miRNA2.0 chip and miRNAs measured by TCGA miRNA-Seq were associated to each other. TCGA breast cancer samples were previously classified using the PAM50 model [5]. PAM50 subtype assignments of 513 tumors were obtained from the Cancer Browser platform (https://genome-cancer.ucsc.edu/) (dataset: TCGA_BRCA_exp_HiSeqV2, version 2015-02-24). KEGG (Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes) pathway data were downloaded from http://www.kegg.jp/kegg/rest/ on June 11, 2015. Full and slim set of Gene Ontology annotations for human were downloaded from http://geneontology.org/page/downloads on September 17, 2015. RefSeq mRNA sequences (genome assembly hg19) were downloaded from UCSC Genome Browser (https://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgTables) on April 29, 2014. Processed CLIP-Seq data provided by the starBase v2.0 web-server (http://starbase.sysu.edu.cn/) were downloaded on April 30, 2014. The miRBase database (version 20) was downloaded on December 14, 2014.

miRNA expression in PAM50 subtypes: Based on raw read counts, miRNAs significantly differentially expressed between PAM50 subtypes were determined using non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis tests as well as pairwise Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney post-tests.

Survival analyses: Overall survival was used as endpoint in all survival analyses. Associations between survival and miRNA expression was explored using the conditional inference tree framework from the R package partykit. The method recursively partitions the samples in subsets with significantly differing survival functions. The *P*-value cut-off to accept a split was set to 0.1. The significance of the association between groups of samples and overall survival was analyzed by log-rank tests. Holm correction procedure [6] was applied to adjust resulting *P*-values for multiple testing.

Identification of miRNA sets: Putative functions of miRNA sets were identified via in silico functional enrichment analysis of the respective miRNA targets. The population of miRNAs consisted of 1,067 distinct miRNA that were both represented on the array and registered in miRBase version 20. We conducted a transcriptome-wide search on RefSeq mRNA sequences for miRNA targets using the TargetScan software (version 6.2). In order to increase the reliability of target predictions, predicted target sites were overlapped with experimentally identified miRNA-target interaction sites. The starBase v2.0 web-server provides a library of RNA-binding protein interaction sites collected from different CLIP-Seq experiments. Here, we used the subset of 36 CLIP-Seq experiments conducted within 11 different AGO-RNA interaction studies. Inclusion criteria for the definition of target sites were: (A) The target site had to be confirmed by at least one CLIP-Seq study and (B) the percentile value calculated by TargetScan to facilitate comparison of target lists of different miRNAs had to be above 75. A gene was considered to be a target of a certain miRNA if at least one of its associated transcripts contained a minimum of one accepted target site of that miRNA.

Over-represented functional categories are usually identified by comparing the observed overlap between category and miRNA target set with the expected overlap estimated from the background gene set. Notably, the definition of the background gene set is of crucial importance. It is well known, that miRNA targets are enriched for certain functions compared to non-miRNA targets [7,8] and therefore, the background gene set was compiled in such a way to include only predicted miRNA targets. This is critical in order to avoid a bias in the calling of functional terms. The resulting miRNA-gene interaction map included 1,067 miRNAs and 11,795 genes connected via 263,451 interactions.

KEGG pathway analyses: We based our pathway analyses on the number of interactions between miRNAs and pathway genes. The interaction map was filtered to include genes for which KEGG pathway annotations were available. This resulted in a background interaction map of 1,065 miRNAs, 4,330 genes and 99,246 interactions. Fisher's exact test was used to test if the number of observed interactions between genes of a certain pathway and a miRNA set significantly exceeded the number of expected interactions as estimated from the background interaction map. Additionally, we applied an approach in line with Bleazard et al. [9] using permutation tests for the identification of significantly associated pathways. Here, the number of interactions between a miRNA set and a pathway was compared with the number of interactions obtained from a random set of miRNAs of the same size as the input set sampled (without replacement) from the background miRNA set. Sampling was repeated 10,000 times and a permutation Pvalue was calculated using the proportion of random miRNA sets that exhibited equal or more interactions with the pathway genes. The overlap between gene sets from enriched KEGG pathways (P < 0.05) were illustrated as graph diagrams executed with yED Graph Editor (http://www.yworks.com/products/yed). Two nodes, representing two different KEGG pathways were connected if their intersection was significantly greater than expected (one-sided Fisher's exact test, correction for multiple testing by Holm's method). Importantly, non-miRNA targets among the pathway genes were not considered for the network construction. The node size refers to the pathway size in terms of the number of miRNA targets. The edge weight illustrates the degree of similarity between two pathways as measured by the Jaccard index. General KEGG pathways of the category "global and overview maps" and "pathways in cancer" were neglected.

Gene Ontology (GO) term enrichment: Over-representation of GO terms were analyzed for the sub-category 'Biological process'. Target gene lists generated from the overlap between gene sets from significantly enriched KEGG pathways were searched for enriched GO terms using the GORILLA tool

(http://cbl-gorilla.cs.technion.ac.il/). The background gene set was defined as all genes with a GO annotation. GO terms were summarized by removing redundant terms using REVIGO (http://revigo.irb.hr/) using default parameters.

REFERENCES

- Warnes GR, Bolker B, Bonebakker L, Gentleman R, Liaw WHA, Lumley T, Maechler M, Magnusson A, Moeller S, Schwartz M, Venables B. gplots: Various R programming tools for plotting data: R package version 2.17.0. <u>http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=gplots.</u> 2015.
- 2. Hothorn T, Zeileis A. partykit: A modular toolkit for recursive partytioning in R. Journal of Machine Learning Research. URL <u>http://EconPapers.RePEc.org/RePEc:inn:wpaper:2014-10.</u> 2015.
- 3. Therneau TM, Grambsch PM. Modeling survival data: Extending the cox model. New York: Springer; 2000.
- 4. Robinson MD, McCarthy DJ, Smyth GK. edgeR: a Bioconductor package for differential expression analysis of digital gene expression data. Bioinformatics. 2010; 26: 139-40.
- 5. The Cancer Genome Atlas Network. Comprehensive molecular portraits of human breast tumours. Nature. 2012; 490: 61-70.
- 6. Holm S. A simple sequentially rejective multiple test procedure. Scandinavian Journal of Statistics. 1979; 6: 65-70.
- 7. Cui Q, Yu Z, Pan Y, Purisima EO, Wang E. MicroRNAs preferentially target the genes with high transcriptional regulation complexity. Biochem Biophys Res Commun. 2007; 352: 733-8.
- 8. Godard P, van EJ. Pathway analysis from lists of microRNAs: common pitfalls and alternative strategy. Nucleic Acids Res. 2015; 43: 3490-7.
- 9. Bleazard T, Lamb JA, Griffiths-Jones S. Bias in microRNA functional enrichment analysis. Bioinformatics. 2015; 31: 1592-8.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Supplementary Table 1: miRNAs differentially expressed in MCF-7:2A vs. MCF-7:WS8 cells Supplementary Table 2: miRNAs differentially expressed in MCF-7:5C vs. MCF-7:WS8 cells Supplementary Table 3: miRNAs differentially expressed in MCF-7:5C vs. MCF-7:2A cells Supplementary Table 4: miRNAs differentially expressed in MCF-7:WS8 on E2 treatment (72h). MCF-7:WS8 vs MCF-7:WS8_E2 cells

Supplementary Table 5: Basal expression levels of stem cell-like and EMT-like genes in MCF-7:5C and MCF-7:2A cells



Supplementary Figure 1: miRNAs associated with E2-stimulated growth. Differentially expressed miRNAs of the basal MCF-7:WS8 phenotype following 72h of E_2 exposure (WS8_E₂ versus WS8) are compared to pairwise comparisons of 2A versus WS8 cells and 5C versus WS8 cells to identify growth-related miRNAs. The Venn diagram intersections highlight the 71 WS8 specific miRNAs (14+33+24) subject to changes during E_2 exposure. Thirty-three miRNAs overlap with the basal AI resistance phenotypes 2A and 5C.



Supplementary Figure 2: Basal levels of expression of candidate miRNAs between the AI-resistant (5C, 2A) and WS8 cells. Relative miRNA expression was quantified by RT-PCR using RNU44 for normalization. Results are shown for miR-221/222, -31, -127-3p, -409-3p and -432-5p with experiments done in triplicates *: P < 0.05, **: P < 0.001.

Α.	miR-487b	miR-127-3p	miR-432	miR-409-3p	miR-382	miR-379		
6 - 4 - 2 - 0 - 2 - 4 - 4 - 4	and and action and and action and a second action and action and action and a second action and a second action and a second action action and a second action acti	14	6	8 6 7 4 2 0 methods methods method	Basil Herz Lunk Lunk Normal	14 12 10 6 4 meter ord5 ar285 ar115 ar18 Betal Her2 LumA LumB Normal		
	miR-134	miR-409-5p	miR-495	miR-493	miR-376c	miR-370		
12 - 10 - Wd02009 6 - 4 - 2 -		e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	Baal Her2 Lunk Lunk Normal	Baal Herz Lunk Lung Normal	Basi Firz Lunk Lung Normal	8		
			miD 759	miP 154	miD 654 2m			
10 - 5 - Wd00000 0 - 5 -			mik-758		miR-654-3p	miR-493*		
	Basal Her2 LumA LumB Norma	I Basal Her2 LumA LumB Normal	Basal Her2 LumA LumB Normal	Basal Her2 LumA LumB Normal	Basal Her2 LumA LumB Normal	Basal Her2 LumA LumB Normal		

			m	11R-4	51°	
	10 -		0			
		0	0			
MAC	5 -	T	-	-	I	
log2(0 -			0000		1
	-5 -	° n=86	n=43	n#253	n=115	n=16
		Basal	Her2	LumA	LumB	Normal

B. yellow, orange: 2A specific miRs





blue, purple: 5C specific miRs









LumA













grey, red: 5C and 2A specific miRs:





Supplementary Figure 3: miRNA expression in PAM50-defined breast tumor subtypes from TCGA. Box-Whisker plots indicate expression differences between the subgroups Basal-like (Basal, n=86), HER2 positive (Her2, n=43), Luminal A (LumA, n=253), Luminal B (LumB, n=115) and Normal breast-like (Normal, n=16). A. Expression levels of chromosome 14q32.31 miRNAs show differences for 19 miRNAs in the various subgroups (Holm-adjusted P < 0.05). B. Expression levels of the remainder miRNAs in the breast cancer subgroups. Plots are sorted according to the 2A-specific, 5C-specific and the

2A-5C-intersection miRNAs (see color code in Figure 2A and B). Y-axes: log2CPM (CPM: counts per million). *: P < 0.05, **: P < 0.01, ***: P < 0.001 and ****: P < 0.0001.





Supplementary Figure 4: Kaplan-Meier curves of overall survival of breast cancer patients of TCGA stratified by miRNA expression. MiRNA expression cut-offs were determined by conditional inference tree models. High (red) and low (green) expression are indicated on the log2CPM scale (CPM: counts per million). **A.** Analyses across all 746 patients showed associations between high expression of miR-410, -381, -485-5p, -487a, -376c, -411, and -127-3p and favorable outcome as compared to low expression, respectively. **B.** Analyses across 253 patients with Luminal A tumors show associations of high expression of miR-431 and -654-3p with favorable outcome as compared to low expression, respectively. In contrast, low expression of miR-493* and -505* was associated with favorable outcome compared to high expression, respectively. Holm correction was applied to adjust *P*-values for multiple testing.



miRs 5	öC_up															
			Cire	cadiar	n rhyth	m _										
	C	holine n	netabo	olism i	n cance	er _										
		mTO	R sign	aling	pathwa	iy _										
			С)ocyte	meios	is _										
		TGF-bet	ta sign	aling	pathwa	iy _										
	Fc	epsilon I	RI sign	aling	pathwa	у										
Aldost	terone-re	gulated s	odium	n reab	sorptio	n										
Ν	Vatural kill	er cell m	ediate	ed cyt	otoxici	y_										
		F	≀heum	natoid	arthrit	is _										
				End	locytos	is _										
Glycosp	hingolipid	biosynt	nesis -	gangl	io serie	s _										
		Hipp	o sign	aling	pathwa	iy _										
		GnR	H sign	aling	pathwa	iy _										
C	Compleme	nt and c	oagula	ation o	cascade	es _										
			E	Bladde	r cance	er _										
	Thyroid	hormon	ie sign	aling	pathwa	iy _										
	Butirosi	n and ne	omyci	n bios	ynthes	is _										
		Renin	-angio	otensir	n syster	n _										
		PPA	R sign	aling	pathwa	iy										
miR 5C	C_down		Metab	polic p	athway	/s _										
			Parki	nson's	diseas	e _										
		F	Renal	cell ca	rcinom	a _										
			Path	ways i	n cance	er _										
No	n-alcohol	ic fatty li	ver di	sease	(NAFL)										
SN	ARE inter	actions ir	n vesic	ular t	ranspo	rt _										
		Prop	banoat	te me	tabolis	m _										
		Ra	as sign	aling	pathwa	iy _										
		Eth	ner lipi	id met	tabolisi	n _				1						
		Insuli	in sign	aling	pathwa	iy _										
		Erb	B sign	aling	pathwa	iy _									_	
	Muci	n type O-	Glyca	n bios	ynthes	is _									1	
		Glyc	erolipi	id me	tabolisi	n _										
		Acut	te mye	eloid l	eukem	ia _				_						
N	vatural kill	er cell m	ediate	ed cyt	otoxici	y _				1						
Gly	cosamino	glycan bi	osynti	hesis -	kerata	n									MCF-7	7:5C
Alanine	, aspartat	e and glu	Itamat	te me	tabolisi	n _									MCF-7	7:2A
	Taurine a	and hypo	taurin	ne met	tabolis	m _								P < (0.05	
		AMP	K sign	aling	pathwa	iy _									-	
						0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
										-log	g P-va	lue				
										-log	g P-va	lue				



D.



Supplementary Figure 5: KEGG pathways identified in miRNA functional enrichment analyses. A. 5C cell-specific enriched pathways stratified by up (red)- and down (green)-regulated miRNA subsets. The yellow node represents pathways enriched for both up- and down-regulated miRNA subsets. **B.** 2A cell-specific enriched pathways stratified by up (red)- and down (green)-regulated miRNA subsets. Yellow nodes represent pathways enriched for both up- and down-regulated miRNA subsets. The node size reflects the number of pathway-related genes regulated by the specific miRNA set. The edge weight illustrates the degree of gene overlap between two pathways as measured by the Jaccard index. Pathways highlighted in bold are enriched in both AI-resistant cell models. The font size reflects the unadjusted

Fisher test *P*-values from the enrichment analysis (P < 0.001, large (24 pts); $0.001 \le P < 0.01$, intermediate (18 pts); $0.01 \le P < 0.05$, small (12 pts)). **C.** Enriched pathways of 5C- and 2A-specific upand down-regulated miRNA subsets. X-axes represent $-\log_{10}$ value, Y-axes: enriched pathways sorted according to specific pathways enriched in 5C or 2A. **D.** Venn diagram illustrating pathway overlaps between up- and down-regulated miRNA sets of 5C and 2A cells (Table S1 and S2).



Supplementary Figure 6: Basal levels of gene and protein expression of key growth factor signal transduction mediators compared between AI resistance models 2A and 5C and their modulatory miRNAs. Gene expression levels were quantified by RT-PCR and protein expression levels were examined by Western blotting with β-action as loading control (WS8: E2 growth sensitive control). Up (red) and down (green) regulating miRNAs were obtained from specific miRNA sets given in Table 1. Putative miRNA-mRNA interaction thresholds were defined as CLIP confirmed Targetscan 7.0 in silico predictions (> 50 percentile). MiRNAs of the DLK-DIO3 cluster of chromosome 14 are underlined. Small down regulatory effects in 5C compared to 2A were observed for AKT1, MAPK1, KRAS, RAF-1. Small

up regulatory effects in 5C compared to 2A were observed for MTOR. *: P < 0.05, #: P < 0.01, **: P < 0.001 (comparisons to WS8).

Λ			-	-log ₁₀ <i>P</i> -value				
A.	0 2	0	40	60	80	100	120	140
immune system process				_				
cell surface receptor signaling pathway intracellular signal transduction						_		
signal transduction	_							
signal transduction by phosphorylation								
generation of precursor metabolites and energy regulation of cell proliferation								
regulation of apoptotic process								
regulation of programmed cell death								
regulation of cell death			-					
regulation of immune system process					•			
regulation of immune response								
positive regulation of immune system process innate immune response								
immune response-regulating signaling pathway								
immune response								
regulation of phosphorus metabolic process								
positive regulation of biological process	<u> </u>							
regulation of transferase activity								
positive regulation of catalytic activity								
positive regulation of transferase activity								
positive regulation of molecular function								
positive regulation of metabolic process								
positive regulation of cellular process								
positive regulation of response to stimulus								
negative regulation of biological process								
response to endogenous stimulus								
regulation of cellular protein metabolic process		_	_	_				
positive regulation of protein kinase activity	_							
regulation of protein phosphorylation								
regulation of protein kinase activity	-				_			
positive regulation of cellular metabolic process								
positive regulation of protein metabolic process								
regulation of phosphate metabolic process positive regulation of phosphate metabolic process								
positive regulation of macromolecule metabolic process	<u> </u>							
positive regulation of phosphorus metabolic process					_			
regulation of kinase activity regulation of protein modification process					_			
positive regulation of protein modification process					-			
regulation of phosphorylation	-							
positive regulation of MAPK cascade	-		_		-			
regulation of MAPK cascade								
activation of protein kinase activity positive regulation of kinase activity				_				
response to organic substance	_							
response to oxygen-containing compound								
cellular response to chemical stimulus defense response								
regulation of protein metabolic process								
regulation of response to stimulus			_					
phosphatidylinositol-mediated signaling inositol lipid-mediated signaling								
protein phosphorylation					•			
protein modification process								
MAPK cascade		_	_					
enzyme linked receptor protein signaling pathway								
Ras protein signal transduction response to stress								
neurotrophin signaling pathway								
regulation of cell communication					•			
regulation of intraceilular signal transduction positive regulation of signaling				_				
positive regulation of cell communication		-						
positive regulation of intracellular signal transduction								
regulation of signal transduction	-							
regulation of signaling					ı –			
response to nitrogen compound								
Fc-epsilon receptor signaling pathway								
response to chemical	<u> </u>			-				
transmembrane receptor protein tyrosine kinase signaling pathway fibroblast growth factor receptor signaling pathway				_				
neurotrophin TRK receptor signaling pathway								
vascular endothelial growth factor receptor signaling pathway								
epidermal growth factor receptor signaling pathway insulin recentor signaling pathway	-							
ERBB signaling pathway								
response to organonitrogen compound								
cellular response-regulating cell surface receptor signaling pathway								





Supplementary Figure 7: GO terms of the subcategory 'Biological Process' identified in Gene Set Enrichment Analyses with the GORILLA tool. Test set gene lists were obtained from KEGG pathway interaction networks (Figs. 5A, B). Resulting GO terms were summarized by removing redundant terms with REVIGO using default parameters. Terms were then filtered according to the following thresholds: frequency < 5% and $-\log_{10} P < 40$ (intersection gene set), $-\log_{10} P < 15$ (5C-, 2A-specific gene sets). Dark color bars represent major GO terms; light color bars specify minor sub-terms of major terms (bold). A. Intersection of 5C versus 2A gene sets. B. 5C-specific gene set. C. 2A-specific gene set. X-axes: adjusted $-\log_{10} P$ -Value; Y-axes: GO terms.



Supplementary Figure 8: Abbreviated GO terms of the subcategory 'Biological process' enriched in

5C and 2A models. Major (bold) and minor terms are listed for the AI resistance phenotype common to

the 5C and 2A models (grey boxes), 5C-specific (blue boxes) and 2A-specific phenotype (green boxes).



Supplementary Figure 9: miR-134 mimic and inhibition affect EGFR expression in MCF-7:2A and MCF-7:5C cells, respectively. A. In 2A cells miR-134 expression levels are significantly increased at 3 and 5 days. Although EGFR mRNA levels are increased, the downregulation of EGFR protein correlates with relative miR-134 levels. B. In 5C cells miR-134 expression levels are significantly decreased at 3 and 5 day inhibition. EGFR mRNA level is significantly increased after 5 days which correlates with an increase of EGFR protein. β -actin was used as loading control; NC: negative control. qRT-PCR experiments were done in triplicates; *: P < 0.05, **: P < 0.001.