Supporting Information Appendix Sansone et al

"Packaging and transfer of mitochondrial DNA via exosomes regulate escape from dormancy in hormonal therapy resistant breast cancer"

Materials and Methods

Patient Plasma Collection

Human peripheral plasma samples (5-10ml) were obtained in EDTA tubes from 1) control healthy subjects, 2) patients with early stage breast cancer (who had their tumor surgically removed) and were cancer free, 3) de novo metastatic disease who had not started therapy and 4) in those with progression of metastatic disease on anti-estrogen therapy at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and all pathologically confirmed. All individuals provided informed consent for blood donation on approved institutional protocols (MSKCC IRB 12-137). Once blood was drawn, plasma was isolated within 4 hours. No samples were frozen.

Isolation and Nuclease treatment of EVs

Briefly plasma and conditioned media was centrifuged at 3000*g* for 20 min to remove any cell contamination. To remove apoptotic bodies, mitochondrial particles and large cell debris, the supernatants were centrifuged at 12,000*g* for 30 min. EVs were collected by spinning at 100,000*g* for 70 min. EVs were resuspended in 25ml of 1X PBS and loaded on a 5 ml 30% sucrose cushion (300g/L sucrose, 24g/L Tris base, pH 7.4). Samples were centrifuged at 100,000x*g* for 90' at 4°C. 3.5ml of the cushion, containing EVs, was diluted with 1X PBS and centrifuged at 100,000x*g* for 90' at 4°C. The EV containing pellet was resuspended in 25µl of PBS. Prior EV RNA/DNA isolation, EVs were treated with 1U of Baseline-ZERO™DNase0 (Epicentre), in order to eliminate contaminating ss- and ds-DNA, and processed with different nucleases to analyze its chemical and physical status. Enzymes were heat inactivated with an incubation of 10 minutes at 70°C.

In vivo studies: EV education of hormonal therapy resistant experimental breast cancer

All cancer cell lines were engineered to express a GFP positive luciferase expression vector for in vitro and in vivo imaging studies. Prior to in vivo inoculation, cancer cells were FACS sorted (for GFP) and injected bilaterally in the mammary fat pads of 5-7 weeks old non-obese diabetic/severe combined immunodeficiency mice (NOD/SCID, obtained from NCI Frederick, MD). Pre-clinical therapeutic trials were generated using xenografts from tumorigenic MCF7 and ZR751 clones treated with tamoxifen pellet or fulvestrant (Faslodex, HT, AstraZeneca), which was given intra-muscularly in the posterior/popliteal muscles (100mg/injection/weekly). The in vivo role of mtDNA+CAF-EVs in the promotion of HTR disease (Fig. 4*D* and Fig. 5*G*) was determined by first injecting HT-naïve cells $(10^5 \text{ MCF7/ZR751})$ into the MFPs of NOD/SCID mice followed by the injection of $3x10^9$ CAF-EVs (mtDNA^{hi}-EV or mtDNA^{b}-EVs; n=5 mice/group) into the venous circulation (retro-orbital injection, $3X10⁹$ particles/mouse/weekly) of mice. EV number was determined by Nanosight analysis. After 8 weeks, once tumors were established (~1cm, BLI 2x10⁹), HT (fulvestrant, 100mg/mouse/weekly) was administered for an additional 6 weeks. For each in vivo experiment, cancer cells were mixed with an equal volume of Matrigel™ (BD Biosciences) in a total volume of 50µl. Bioluminescence (BLI: Xenogen, Ivis System) was used to monitor both tumor growth (weekly) and metastatic burden (at necropsy). For metastatic assays, primary tumors were removed from mice bearing MCF7 xenografts and metastatic progression was followed by BLI in

the presence of tamoxifen (pellet). All the surgical procedures and animal care followed the institutional guidelines and an approved protocol from our IACUC at MSKCC.

Cell lines and primary cultures

Human cancer cell lines (Hela, Caski -cervical carcinoma-), human breast cancer cell lines (MCF7, ZR751, T47D, and BT474), human bone marrow stromal cell lines (HS5, HS27a) and human normal fibroblasts (MRC5, HMF) were purchased from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC). Murine CAFs (mCAFs) were isolated from xenografts by FACS purification (GFP negative, EpCAM negative). All cells were mycoplasma free and maintained in MEM and RPMI (ATCC and MSKCC Media Core) supplemented with 5% fetal bovine serum (Media Core), 2mM glutamine, 100units ml**-**¹ penicillin, and 0.1mg ml**-**¹ streptomycin (Media Core).

Analysis of Mitochondrial function

For in vitro labeling of mitochondria, MitoTracker dye was used (Invitrogen). For mitochondrial membrane potential TMRE was used according to manufacturer's protocol (Abcam, ab113852). Analysis of mitochondria function (fluorescence) was performed at the confocal microscopy (MSKCC). To measure mitochondrial complex activity, cell pellets were resuspended in assay buffer (125mM sucrose, 0.1mM EDTA, 25mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 0.025% Lauryl-β-D-maltoside), and enzymatic activities were assayed with 0.1–0.4·10⁶ cells/ml at 25°C spectrophotometrically. NADH:HAR reductase activity of Complex I was measured as a decrease in absorption at 340 nm (ϵ_{340nm} = 6.22 mM⁻¹cm¹) with 200µM NADH, 1mM HAR and 1mM KCN. Complex IV activity was measured as cytochrome oxidation at 550nm ($\epsilon_{550\text{nm}}$ = 21.5mM-cm-) with 50 μ M ferrocytochrome *c*. Activities are expressed in μ mol of substrate·min⁻¹·mg of protein⁻¹. For protein measurement cells were pelleted and resuspended in 1% deoxycholate. Protein content was determined with a BCA assay.

Electron Microscopy (EM)

Cells were washed with serum-free media or appropriate buffer. Both EVs and cells were fixed with a modified Karmovsky's fix of 2.5% glutaraldehyde, 4% paraformaldehyde and 0.02% picric acid in 0.1M sodium caocdylate buffer at pH 7.2. Following a secondary fixation in 1% osmium tetroxide and 1.5% potassium ferricyanide, samples were dehydrated through a graded ethanol series and embedded in an epon analog resin. Ultrathin sections were cut using a Fiatome diamond knife (Diatome, USA, Hatfield, PA) on a Leica Ultracut S ultramicrotome (Leica, Vienna, Austria). Sections were collected on copper grids further contrastated with lead citrate and viewed on a JEM 1400 electron microscope (JEOL, USA, Inc., Peabody, MA) operated at 120 kV. Images were recorded with a Veleta 2K x2K digital camera (Olympus-SIS, Germany).

Nucleic acid extraction

DNA extraction: cell pellets and EVs (ultracentrifugation of 10^{12} cells) were resuspended in 25µl of 1X PBS followed by the addition of 450µl of DNA extraction buffer (SDS 0.5- 1%, Tris-HCl 50mM pH 8.0, EDTA 0.1M) and 0,1mg/ml proteinase K 20mg/ml (ThermoFisher Scientific) and incubated O/N at 56°C. 500µl of phenol/chloroform (ThermoFisher Scientific) was added to each sample and centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 5' at room temperature. The upper phase, containing the DNA, was transferred to a new tube where 500µl of chloroform were added. Samples were centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 5' at room temperature; the DNA was washed a second time by repeating this step. The upper phase was transferred to a new tube with 450µl of isopropanol and 50µl of NaAc 3M. The samples were centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 10' at 4°C. The supernatant was discarded and the pellet washed with 750µl 70% EtOH and centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 5' at 4° C. The DNA pellet was air dried, resuspended in 20 μ l of DEPC H₂O and incubated at 37°C for 30'. DNA concentration was measured by loading 1µl of DNA on a Thermo Scientific NanoDrop™ 1000 Spectrophotometer and stored at -20°C until further

analyzed. For RNA extraction we used trizol (Invitrogen). EVs were suspended in 500µl of Trizol and vigorously mixed. The samples were centrifuged at 12,000x*g* for 30 seconds. 200µl of chloroform were added, mixed by inversion and incubated for 2-3' at RT. After a centrifugation at 12,000xg for 15' at 4°C, the upper phase was transferred to a new tube. 400µl of isopropanol and 3µl of glycogen were added to the sample and incubated O/N at -20 $^{\circ}$ C; the samples were then centrifuged at 12,000xg for 10' at 4 $^{\circ}$ C. The supernatant was discarded and the pellet washed in 750µl of cold 75% EtOH. The RNA was pelleted with a centrifugation at 8,000xg for 20' at 4° C, air dried and suspended in 10 μ l of DEPC H₂O. The RNA concentration was measured with a Thermo Scientific NanoDrop™ 1000 Spectrophotometer and treated for 1 hour at 37°C with 1U (for EVs) or 2U (for cells) of Baseline-ZERO™ DNase (Epicentre®). RNA was stored at - 80°C.

Reverse Transcription PCR (RT-PCR) and microarray analyses

cDNA was obtained by retro transcribing 1µg of RNA -previously treated with 1U (EVs) or 2U (cells) of Baseline-ZERO™ DNase0 (Epicentre®)- and using iScript™Select cDNA synthesis Kit (Bio-Rad). The cDNA was kept at -80°C for further analysis. For microarray analysis 250ng of RNA was processed, assayed and run on Illumina GX Human HT12 platform prepared according to the manufacture's' protocol at the Genomic Molecular Core Facility (MSKCC). Data were analyzed, submitted at GEO (GSE84104).

Rolling Circle PCR and canonical PCR

DNA was isolated using phenol/chloroform (ThermoFisher Scientific). Each amplification reaction was performed on a total of 20ng of DNA using the GeneAmp® PCR System 9700, version 2.5. The amplification program was the following: (i) Polymerase activation (2 min at 95°C), (ii) amplification stage (35 cycles, with each cycle consisting of 30 seconds at 95°C, 30 seconds at 60°C, and 60 seconds at 72°C), and (iii) extension stage (5 min at 72°C). All amplification reactions were performed using the GoTaq**®**Flexi

DNA Polymerase kit (Promega). PCR products were resolved on a 2% agarose gel. All primers used for this assay are listed at the end of the methods section. Rolling Circle amplification (RCA) was performed in EV-DNA according to the manufacturer's protocol (GE Healthcare Life Sciences): 1) EV-DNA was first digested with Plasmid Safe ATP-DNAse (Epicentre[®], 1U for 1 hour at 37°C) in order to degrade all non circular DNA 2) 10ng of previously digested EV-DNA was amplified using RCA methodology 3) 2ng of post-RCA amplicons were then amplified using qPCR with specific mtDNA and housekeeping DNA primers (Fig. S3*D* and Table S4).

Real time PCR

DNA and cDNAs were amplified by quantitative PCR (qPCR) using the Applied Biosystem Viia[™] 7 Real-Time PCR System in the Power SYBR® Green PCR Master Mix Buffer. Each sample was run in triplicate. DNA amplification was performed on 2ng DNA/reaction; cDNA amplification was performed on 1μ I of the cDNA/triplicate. All primers used in the Real Time assay are listed at the end of the section. For analysis, $\Delta\Delta_{\text{ct}}$ method was applied and fold change was calculated (2^{-oct}). In order to verify the specificity of the amplicons, other than the analysis of the Melting Temperature, amplicons were visualized on a 2% agarose gel using the ChemiDoc™ XRS+ System (Bio-Rad).

EV labeling and transfer to recipient cells

EVs from CAFs, were labeled using the PKH67 Green Fluorescent Cell Linker Kit for General Cell Membrane Labeling (Sigma-Aldrich) and Ethidium bromide (EtBr, 1.5ng/sample) for DNA staining. 10^5 HTD cells (MCF7 cells treated with HT-see description of cell lines) were grown in Nunc®Lab-Tek®Chamber Slide (Sigma-Aldrich), had been previously coated with fibronectin to allow for cell adhesion. Cells were then treated with $3X\{10^{7-8}\}$ labeled EVs and their localization determined 48 hours later.

Mitochondria were labeled using Red-MitoTracker® (25nM for 30 minutes at 37°C). Cells were washed and fixed (4% paraformaldehyde) and nuclei were stained with DAPI. Fluorescent confocal microscopy (Nikon Eclipse TE2000U) was used to localize EVs (green channel-PKH67), mitochondria (red channel) and nuclei acid (far red for EtBr) and analyzed using Nikon software (EZ-C1 3.6).

Protein, Immunohistochemistry and in vitro studies

For immunoblotting assays, cells were lysed in buffer (50mmol/L Tris at pH 7.5, 150mmol/L NaCl, 5µg/mL aprotinin, pepstatin, 1% NP-40, 1mmol/L EDTA, 0.25% deoxycholate, and protease inhibitor cocktail tablet, Sigma). Proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE, transferred to PVDF membranes, and blotted with specific antibodies: OXPHOS complex Antibody (Invitrogen, 45-7999, this antibody recognizes the mitochondrial subunit ATP5A1); tubulin (Santa Cruz Biotech. Inc: 10D8); Cd63 (EXOAB-CD63A-1, System Bioscience) and Actin (Santa Cruz Biotech. Inc). For immunostaining assays: organs were collected and fixed overnight in 4% paraformaldehyde, washed, embedded in paraffin and sectioned (Histo-Serve). H&E staining was performed by standard methods. The enrichment of CAFs in xenografts was determined by desmin immunohistochemistry (IHC) in tumour-derived sections. IHC was performed on Leica Bond RX (Leica Biosystems) with 1µg/ml Desmin Rabbit polyclonal antibody (Abcam cat#ab8592). For determination of cell viability, we seeded 2,500 cells per well in 96-well plates and treated them with fulvestrant (10µM). Viable cells were determined 7-14 days after treatment using trypan blue and cell counting using bright field microscopy or DAPI exclusion staining by flow cytometry (Dako Cytomation). Proliferation assays were carried out using CalceinAM technology (Invitrogen) or bioluminescence: cells were seeded in 96 wells plates treated with the pre-fluorescent/luciferin compound for 20min

and fluorescence/bioluminescence was read using a plate reader (SpectraMax plate platform/IVIS BLI xenogen).

Semi-Quantitative Mass Spectrometry analysis of CAF EV

Mass spectrometry analyses of EV were performed at the Rockefeller University Proteomics Resource Center (New York, NY, USA) using 10µg of CAF-EV protein. Samples were denatured using 8M urea, reduced using 10mM dithiothreitol, and alkylated using 100mM iodoacetamide, followed by proteolytic digestion with endoproteinase LysC (Wako Chemicals), and subsequent digestion with trypsin (Promega) for 5 hours at 37 °C and quenched with formic acid and the resulting peptide mixtures were desalted. Samples were dried and solubilized in buffer containing 2% acetonitrile and 2% formic acid. Approximately 3–5 µg of each sample was analysed by reverse-phase nano-LC-MS/MS (Ultimate 3000 coupled to QExactive, Thermo Scientific). Following loading on the C18 trap column (5 µm beads, Thermo Scientific) at a flow rate of 3µl min⁻¹, peptides were separated using a 75-µm-inner-diameter C18 column (3 µm beads Nikkyo Technos) at a flow rate of 200nl min⁻¹, with a gradient increasing from 5% Buffer B (0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile)/95% Buffer A (0.1% formic acid) to 40% Buffer B/60% Buffer A, over 140 minutes. All LC-MS/MS experiments were performed in data-dependent mode. Precursor mass spectra were recorded in a 300– 1,400 *m*/*z* mass range at 70,000 resolution, and 17,500 resolution for fragment ions (lowest mass: *m*/*z* 100). Data were recorded in profile mode. Up to 20 precursors per cycle were selected for fragmentation and dynamic exclusion was set to 45 seconds. Normalized collision energy was set to 27. Data were extracted and searched against Uniprot complete Mouse proteome databases (January 2013) concatenated with common contaminants using Proteome Discoverer 1.4 (Thermo Scientific) and Mascot 2.4 (Matrix Science). All cysteine residues were considered alkylated with acetamide. Amino-terminal glutamate to pyroglutamate conversion, oxidation of methionine, and protein N-terminal acetylation were allowed as variable modifications. Data were first searched using fully tryptic constraints. Matched peptides were filtered using a Percolator-based 1% false discovery rate. Spectra not being matched at a false discovery rate of 1% or better were re-searched allowing for semi-tryptic peptides. The average area of the three most abundant peptides for a matched protein was used to gauge protein amounts within and in between samples.

FACS Analysis

Human cancer cell lines (MCF7, ZR751, T47D, and BT474), were engineered to express a GFP/Luciferase vector. Cancer cells from xenografts were isolated from primary and metastatic tissues by enzymatic digestion (Collagenase/Hyaluronidase, Sigma-Aldrich), sorted (GFP⁺/DAPI⁻) and cultured in vitro. For FACS/Flow analyses xenograft derived tumors and metastases were digested in sterile Epicult media (Stem Cell Technology), minced with sterile razor blades and incubated for 3 hours in the presence of Collagenase/Hyaluronidase (1,000Units/sample, Voden Medical). Cells were washed with PBS supplemented with 1% bovine serum albumin (PBS-BSA 1%) and filtered through a 40µM nylon mesh (BD Biosciences). For the detection of CD44 and CD133, EpCAM antigens, cells were stained in a volume of 100µl (PBS-BSA 1%) with each antibody CD44-APC $(100nq/10^6 - 10^8$ cells Clone IM7, eBiosciences), CD133/1-PE (100ng/10 6 to-10 8 cells, clone AC133, Miltenyl Biotech) and EpCAM-FITC (250ng/10 6 to- 10^8 cells, Clone VU-1D9, Stem Cell Technologies). Cells were labeled on ice for 30 min and analyzed (BD FACS Aria III, Flow Core). Samples were analyzed for cell population distribution and sorted for GFP/viability (GFP⁺/DAPI⁻) and CD133/CD44 expression. For flow plot analyses, samples were run using FlowJo 7.5 software (Tree Star).

Primers

The reference sequences used for primers design are NC_010339 for the murine mitochondrial DNA/RNA, NC_012920 for the Human mitochondrial DNA/RNA (*SI Appendix*, Table S4).

Exit from dormancy via CAF-EVs

Generation of HTD cells was performed by treating ER+ (GFP+) breast cancer cell lines (MCF7, ZR751, BT474) with HT (fulvestrant, 10µM) for 2 months. Single, nonproliferating cancer cells were FACS purified by gating on GFP+ cells and by DAPI exclusion staining by flow cytometry (Dako Cytomation). Viable cell number was subsequently determined using trypan blue exclusion and cell counting using bright field microscopy HTD cells were then cultured in vitro or injected in vivo for further studies. In vitro assays: HTD cell were cultured in 96-well dishes (1000 cells/well) and treated with 10^7 EVs (mtDNA^{hi}-EV or mtDNA^{lo}-EVs) weekly (4x). Half of the cultures were also treated with HT (fulvestrant, 10µM, Sigma-Aldrich). Proliferation was determined by Calcein AM assay (InVitrogen). HTD were cultured in low attachment (Corning) 24-well plates. These were treated with $3x10^9$ mCAF-derived EVs (wt-mtDNA^{hi} or $p0$ -mtDNA^{lo}) weekly x4 in the presence with HT (fulvestrant, 10µM/weekly). After 40 days, mammosphere number (bright field microscopy) was determined after 40 days. In vivo assays: Dormant ZR751 cells (HTD) were isolated and $10⁵$ cells were injected in the IV inguinal MFP of NOD/SCID mice. All mice were subsequently injected with $3x10^9$ mCAFderived EVs (wt-mtDNA^{hi} or ρ 0-mtDNA^{lo}) weekly x8 (n=5 mice/group). Tumor growth was determined by BLI and after necropsy.

Immunogold Electron microscopy: exogenous EVs fusing with mitochondria Breast cancer cells (MDA-MB 231) were educated with B16F10 (murine melanoma cell line) EVs for 48 hours; cells were fixed with 2%PFA in 0.1M sodium cacodylate, pH 7.4

for 24 hours at 4 C. Cells were blocked using 3%BSA, 0.1% saponin in 0.1M sodium cacodylate and incubated overnight with a murine TSG101antibody (Novus NBP1- 80244) diluted to 1:300 in blocking solution. After washing in 0.1% saponin and 0.1M sodium cacodylate, cells were incubated with secondary antibody (Biotin anti-Rabbit, Vector Labs Cat#BA-2000) diluted to 1:1000 in blocking solution for 2 hours and washed again. Finally, cells were incubated with Alexa Fluor488 streptavidin FluoroNanogold (Nanoprobes, Cat#7216) diluted to 1:50 in blocking solution for 2 hours, washed and fixed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde overnight at 4 °C. HQ Silver enhancement (Nanoprobes,

Cat#2012) was performed for three minutes. TSG101 localization was confirmed using immunofluorescence before electron microscopy processing.

Electron Microscopy Processing

Sections were post-fixed in 1% Osmium tetroxide in 0.1M sodium cacodylate for 60 minutes on ice. After washing with water, cells were placed in 1% aqueous uranyl acetate for 30 minutes, dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol and embedded in Eponate. Sections were cut at 70nm, transferred to formvar coated slot grids and imaged on a JEOL 100CX at 80kVwith an AMT XR41 digital imaging system (Rockefeller University Electron Microscopy Core Center).

Fig. S1. Circulating EV DNA is enriched for whole mtDNA genome. (A) Dot plot of nuclear DNA copy number quantification as determined by qPCR for GAPDH gene in circulating EVs isolated from fresh collected plasma (5-8ml) of 8 healthy controls and 20 luminal breast cancer patients at different stage of their disease (SI Appendix, Table S1). Each point corresponds to a pateint sample. (B) Schematic and gel electrophoresis of whole mtDNA genome amplified in several patient derived circulating EV-DNA resulting from 46 overlapping PCR amplicons to cover all the mtDNA genome.

Fig. S2. OXPHOS inhibition abrogates HTR disease. (A) Proliferation potential as determined by in vitro cell growth (CalceinAM, fluorescence) in luminal (ER+) and triple negative cancer cell lines cultured in media with increasing concentration of glucose. (B) Oxygen consumption rates (OCR) ±oligomycin (200nM)/rotenone (100nM) in MCF7 and MDA-MB-231 cells as determined by seahorse technology.(C) Desmin immunohistochemical images of mCAFs in HTS/HTR-derived tissues (scale bar 25µm). (D) Murine (Mu)-mtDNA level as copy number (qPCR, ND1) in FACS (Epcam+/Dapi-) purified cancer cells from 3 different PDX cultures (PDX 1-3) generated from patient bone breast cancer metastases injected in the mammary fat pad of nude mice (see SI Appendix, Materials and Methods). (E) Schematic analysis of the generation of metastatic HTR disease in mice. Following 4 months from primary tumor xenografts (MCF7), tumor tissues were removed and mice were randomized to recieve HT (fulvestrant, 100ug/injection/weekly). Metastatic burden was analyzed by BLI and at necropsy by histological examination (H&E). (F) Proliferation potential in presence of oligomycin (100nM) and ±HT as determined by in vitro BLI in metastatic cells from HTS and HTR cells FACS purified from xenografts (Fig.2A). Error bars, mean±s.d. of BLI from n=3 samples. (G) mtDNA/nDNA level in circulating EVs from HTR xenografts as determined by copy number (GAPDH, ND1: qPCR Fold change). Data are reported as error bars, mean±s.d. of n=3 independent experiments (A, D-G). *P<0.05 (Student's t-test) and GLM anova after multiple comparisons (A).

E

EV mtDNA whole genome (46 amplicons)

EV mtDNA Long Range PCR

POSCT

င်္

Mito⁻

D

(Fold Increase, Log₁₀ Scale)

MONAVNONA

 $1x10⁶$

 $1x10$

 $1x10$

 $1x10³$

 $1x10²$

 10

Rolling Circle PCR (RCA)

mtDNA/nDNA

– EVS +Plasmid Safe + RCA
– EVS - Plasmid Safe + RCA
– Cells +Plasmid safe + RCA
– Cells -Plasmid safe + RCA

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Fig. S3. The entire mtDNA genome is present in EVs.

C

(A) Bar graph showing human mtDNA copy number (ND1) in MCF7 cells and EVs from two different experiments.

 (B) Bar graph of human mtDNA copy number in EV (10¹³) isolated from the conditioned media of human cancer cells and fibroblasts (5*10⁷ cells). CL1-3, xenograft derived MCF7 derivatives; HMF, normal mammary gland fibroblasts; MRC5, normal lung fibroblasts; CAFs SP, patient derived cancer associated fibroblast cultures; HS5, human bone marrow stromal cell line. (C) Representative gel electrophoresis images of mtDNA PCR amplicons Mito1/2 derived from EV-DNA. Pos CTRL, cellular derived DNA (HS27a). (D) EV-DNA 1) was isolated from 10¹³ mCAF-derived EVs (see SI Appendix, Materials and Methods) EV were pretreated with DNAse0 to devoid of cell free DNA contamination), 2) EV-DNA was digested with Plasmid Safe DNAse (1u/sample) to degrade non circular DNA, 3) 10ng of digested and ctrl EV-DNA (- Plasmid safe DNAse) was amplified using rolling circle PCR assay (RCA), 4) 2ng of post RCA product was then amplified using specific mtDNA or nDNA primers by qPCR (Mu-ND1 and Mu-GAPDH, SI Appendix, Table S4). Ratio of mtDNA/nDNA level by qPCR is shown as error bars, mean±s.d. (Fold Increase).

(E) Gel electrophoresis of whole mtDNA genome amplified in EV-DNA resulting from 46 overlapping PCR amplicons to cover all the mtDNA genome from multiple fibroblast and cancer cell lines.

(F) Table representing mtDNA mutations and SNPs in EVs and cells from HS27a and HMF cell lines. Data are reported as error bars, mean±s.d. of n=3 independent experiments (A, D); *P<0.05 (Student's t-test).

Fig. S4. Depletion of mitochondria DNA in CAFs hampered the EV-dependent up-regulation of OXPHOS potential in HT cells.

(A) Proliferation potential as determined by in vitro cell growth (CalceinAM) in mCAFs (wild type or $p0$). (B) Mitochondrial transcriptome as determined by qPCR in mCAFs cells (wild type or 00). Error bars, mean±s.d of fold change (reference wild type).*P<0.05 (Student's t-test). (C) OXPHOS potential in cancer cells ±HT (fulvestrant, 10μM) administered for 48 hours with mito^{ιο}-EVs and mito^ι EVs (10¹³EVs for 10⁶ cells). Error bars, mean±s.d of respiration rate under mitochondrial stressors (FCCP, oligomycin, rotenone).*P<0.05 (Student's t-test). (D) mtDNA level (qPCR, ND1) in HTS and HTR cells ±HT from Fig.4C (fulvestrant, 10µM). Error bars, mean±s.d. of fold change (reference HTS). (E) Murine (Mu)-mtDNA level as copy number (qPCR, ND1) in FACS (GFP+/Dapi-) purified cancer cells from xenografts (Fig.4D).*P<0.05 (Student's t-test).

Fig. S5. HT induced metabolic dormancy and reduction of mtDNA level.

(A) Representative bright field images of MCF7 po cells ± mitohi CAF-EVs (3*10⁹/weekly for 40 days). Bar graph of number of MS is also reported at the endpoint of the experiment (40 days). (B) HT led to decreased expression of mRNA involved in protein synthesis and OXPHOS signaling with z score and -log (p-values)- as determined by Ingenuity analysis of microarray data from RNA isolated Fig.5A (MCF7), single P values are also reported. (C) OXPHOS potential determined as changes of respiration rate under mitochondrial stressors by seahorse technology (oligomycin 1µM, rotenone 100nM) in cancer cells isolated from Fig.5B (MCF7, PT1). (D) Western Blot analysis of OXPHOS protein cocktail in cells from panel C. (D) Mitochondrial Complex I/IV activity quantification as determined by nmol/min/mg of protein in luminal breast cancer cell lines from panel A. Data are reported as error bars, mean±s.d. of n=3 independent experiments (C, E); *P<0.05 (Student's t-test).

Fig. S6. Mitohi EV educated HTR cells display proficient mitochondria. (A) Dormant MCF7/BT474 cells (HTD) were isolated (Fig. S5) and treated with 3*10⁹ mCAF-derived EVs (wt-mtDNA^{hi} or p0-mtDNA^{lo}) weekly x4.After 40 days, 3D growth as mammosphere (and mitochondrial membrane potential (Δψ) by TMRE staining (red) were determined scale bar 100µm.(B) Representative TEM images of a recipient cell cytoplasm (mitochondria rich area, breast cancer cells) following exogenous labeled TSG101 exosome education (murine EV). Immunogold for murine TSG101 was performed (murine TSG101 antibody does not recognize human antigen). Scale bar 250nm (C) Confocal Microscopy images of HTD cells (MCF7) following labeled CAF-EVs administration: CAF-EVs were isolated from 3*10⁹ mCAFs, labeled with PHK26 green (according to manufacturer's protocol) and EtBr (1.5 ng); PHK26^{pos}/EtBr^{pos} EVs were administered to cancer cells and 24h later confocal imaging was performed. Yellow arrows show colocalization of DNA and EVs. Scale bar 5μ m. (D) Mu-mtDNA copy number (qPCR, ND1) from HTD MCF7 cells (different clones) and controls cultured in vitro and in vivo (MFP) with mCAF-EVs (3*10⁹/weekly/1 month). (E) Murine mitochondrial RNA expression (as fold change -log10scale-) by qRT-PCR in HTR and HTS cells (reference HTDorm cells; BT474, see Fig. 5E); the expression of nuclear encoded murine (non-mitochondrial RNA) transcripts was also determined (Cox4, B2M). (F) Mitochondria morphology as determined by electron microscopy in the MCF7 model: cancer cells in absence of HT (control) and following HT-induced dormancy (HTD) ± CAF-EVs (mito^{lo} or mito^{hi}). Arrows shows damaged (loss of cristae, matrix-dense round mitochondria) and healthy mitochondria (1). Scale bar 200nm. (G) Mitochondrial Complex I/IV activity quantification as determined by nmol/min/mg of protein in luminal breast cancer cell lines from panel a. Data are reported as error bars, mean±s.d. of n=3 independent experiments, *P<0.05 (Student's t-test).

Α

Murine mtDNA electropherograms Human Cancer cells from mtDNA high EVs education

Fig. S7. Depletion of mtDNA abrogates the CAF-dependent tumorigenic potential of HTS cells. (A) Representative electropherograms of ND1 and ND5 sequences (amplicons 36, 16, 11, 10) derived from whole murine mtDNA sequencing using a set of NumtS (nuclear mitochondrial sequences)-excluding overlapping primers in cancer cells from Figure 5H (see SI Appendix, Materials and Methods).(B) Dot plot of murine mtDNA level (ND1 copy number) from FACS purified cancer cells derived from xenografts tissues of EV-treated mice and cultured in vitro for 30 days (2 different examples Xeno#1 and Xeno#2 and control are reported). Data are reported as error bars, mean±s.d. of n=3 samples. (C) Schematic of the experimental design: HTS cells (MCF7, Luciferase^{pos}) were originated *in vitro* following chronic fulvestrant administration (fulvestrant, 10µM/weekly for 2 months), were injected (10⁵) into the MFP of mice in presence/absence of mCAFs (wild type or $\rho 0$: 1:10=CAFs:MCF7). Tumor growth as BLI mean±s.d. was determined at the endpoint of the experiment (5 months from the injection, n=10 mice/group). *P<0.05 (Student's t-test). (D) Murine mtDNA expression as mean±s.d. copy number (ND1, qPCR) in xenograft derived cancer cells FACS (GFP+) isolated at the endpoint of experiment panel C. Representative gel electrophoresis images of murine mtDNA sequences (ND1, COX3, ND5) expressed in tumor cells (distinct lesions) purified via FACS from xenografts (panel C). Data are reported as error bars, mean±s.d. of n=3 samples. *P<0.05 (Student's t-test).

Fig. S8. The horizontal transfer of mtDNA occurs in cancer stem cell like cells in vivo. (A) DNA copy number of murine and human mtDNA (ND1) and nDNA (GAPDH) in nCSCs (CD44¹°CD133¹°) and CSCs (CD44^{hi}CD133^{hi}) derived from HTR MCF7 cells in vivo. (B) mtDNA level (qPCR Fold Increase ND1, as reference nCSCs-ND1 level) in nCSCs and CSCs cells from panel A. Data are reported as error bars, mean±s.d. of n=3 samples. *P<0.05 (Student's t-test).

Fig. S9. EV-mediated horizontal transfer of mtDNA promotes HTR disease and exit from therapy-induced dormancy. The horizontal transfer of mtDNA promotes hormonal therapy resistance. Extracellular vesicles (EVs) from cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs) contain the whole mtDNA genome, which is transferred to HT-derived dormant CSCs promoting mitochondrial activity (OXPHOS) and HTR disease via increased OXPHOS dependent self-renewal of CSCs (metastasis initiating cells, MICs).

Table S1. EV analysis from patients with HT-resistant (HTR) ER+/HER2- metastatic breast cancer and early stage disease 1. Subtype of Tumor: Invasive Lobular Carcinoma (ILC) or Invasive Ductal Carcinoma (IDC). Estrogen Receptor (ER) and Progesterone Receptor (PR) % Expression. 2. Disease Sites: Organs with metastatic disease. 3. Disease Volume: Low indicates <1% organ involvement; Hi indicates >10% organ involvement. 4. ND1 copy number/10ng of DNA and STD. 5. GAPDH copy number/10ng DNA and STD.

Table S2

Table S2.Cell line specific mitochondrial DNA variants (mutations and polymorphisms) and their presence in the extracellular vesicles (EVs).

Table S3. Mass Spectrometry analysis of mCAF derived EVs.

protein binding; metal ion binding

transporter activity; protein binding

binding; RNA binding

transducer activit
protein binding

receptor activity; protein binding catalytic activity; protein binding

metal ion binding; protein binding

RNA binding; protein binding

activit

15E8 **hosphate 1-dehydrogenasie in the 1-dehydrogenasie A** 1.15E8 nucleotide binding; catalytic activity; protein binding

Table S3. Mass Spectrometry analysis of mCAF derived EVs, mCAFs were isolated from HTR xenografts (Figure 2), cultured in vitro and EVs were isolated. Identified peptides were filtered using 1% False Discovery Rate (FDR) and Percolator (Kall et al, Nat Methods. 2007 Nov;4(11):923-5). Proteins were sorted out according to estimated abundance, which is represented in the column titled "Area". The area is calculated based on the most abundant peptides for the respective protein (Silva et al, Mol Cell Proteomics. 2006 Jan;5(1):144-56). Proteins not detected or present in low amounts are assigned an area zero. Proteins are annotated according to their molecular function, cellular component and biological process.Data were extracted and queried against Uniprot Mouse using Proteome Discoverer and Mascot. Potential common Fetal Bovine Serum and human contaminants were included in the Mouse database and were labeled "CON" in the column "Accession" (Bunkenborg et al, Proteomics. 2010, Aug;10(16):3040-4).

Table S4. Primers used in the study

Murine Mitochondrial Primers (Tan et al²)

Human Mitochondrial Primers

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Housekeeping Primers Human (nDNA)

Housekeeping Primers Murine (nDNA)

References

- 1. Dames, S., Eilbeck, K. & Mao, R. A high-throughput next-generation sequencing assay for the mitochondrial genome. Methods in molecular biology **1264**, 77-88 (2015).
- 2. Tan, A.S. *et al.* Mitochondrial genome acquisition restores respiratory function and tumorigenic potential of cancer cells without mitochondrial DNA. *Cell metabolism* 21, 81-94 (2015).