

Supplementary Information for

Extracellular RNA in a single droplet of human serum reflects physiologic and disease states

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Fig. S1. Concentrations and lengths of exRNA in human serum. (A) Measured concentrations of exRNA (y axis) in ten serum samples (columns) from three donors (indexed by α , β , γ). The exRNA of each sample was purified by one of the four commercially available methods (indexed by E, N, Q, T). E: exoRNeasy by QIAGEN, N: NORGEN RNA purification kit, Q: QIAzol by QIAGEN, T: TRIzolTM LS by ThermoFisher. (B) Length distributions of exRNA. The relative densities in arbitrary fluorescent unit (FU, scale bar) are plotted against the length separated exRNA (nucleotides (nt), y axis) in each sample (lane). Arrows: density peaks. As a control, 1 µL Ultrapure water was given as input to bioanalyzer (Water lane), which yielded smaller than 0.2 FU at any size. Nearly all detected exRNA are within the size range of 20 to 200 nt ($FU > 0.2$).

Fig. S2. Flowchart of the SILVER-seq pipeline. UMI: Unique molecular identifiers.

Fig. S3. Comparison of input volumes with serum from two additional donors. (A) Percentage of uniquely mapped reads (y axis) for each library. (B) Number of exRNAs with 5 or more Transcripts Per Million (TPM) in each library (column).

Fig. S4. Comparison of SILVER-seq and standard RNA-seq. (A-B) Comparison of standard RNA-seq libraries (RNA-seq-1, RNA-seq-2) and a SILVER-seq library generated from different aliquots of the same serum sample (Donor 4). (A) Bioanalyzer derived size distributions of the final sequencing libraries. (B) Venn diagram of the numbers of detected exRNA genes from the three libraries. (C) Pairwise Pearson correlation coefficient (PCC) of measured exRNA levels between two sequencing libraries, based on serum aliquots from Donor 4 (blue bars) and 5 (orange bars). (D-G) Variability of SILVER-seq measurements. (D) Venn diagram of the numbers of detected exRNA genes from two SILVER-seq libraries (SILVER-seq-1, SILVER-seq-2) and a standard RNA-seq library (RNA-seq-3). (E-G) Scatter plots of exRNAs (dots) with expression levels (log(TPM)) derived from RNA-seq-3 (x axis) and SILVER-seq-1 (y axis) (E), RNAseq-3 and SILVER-seq-2 (F), as well as SILVER-seq-1 and SILVER-seq-2 (G).

Fig. S5. Saturation analysis. The number of exRNAs (y axis) detected from the pooled sequencing data of the number of aliquots (# of aliquots, x axis). Volume: the cumulative volume of the corresponding number of aliquots.

Fig. S6. Summary of 128 serum samples by sequencing depth (x axis). Status R: cancer with recurrence; N: cancer without recurrence, H: normal. Also see Table S3.

Fig. S7. Histogram of q-values derived from KS tests for uniform distribution. Each full-length transcript that is longer than 500 nt and covered by at least 100 sequencing reads was subjected to a KS test. The null hypothesis is that the sequencing reads are uniformly distributed across the full-length transcript. The alternative hypothesis is that the sequencing reads are not uniformly distributed. The KS test q-value indicates the degree of deviation of the reads from uniformly covering this full-length transcript.

Fig. S8. Age associated exRNAs. exRNAs with expression levels (y axis) positively (A-C) and negatively (D-F) correlated with chronological age (x axis).

Fig. S9. Histograms exRNA expression level (Log2(TPM+1), x axis) in every sample. C1 – C96: cancer samples. N1 – N32: normal samples.

Fig. S10. Comparison of expression levels between breast cancer and normal breast. The RNA-seq data of 1,099 breast cancer tissue samples were generated by TCGA (red) and 178 normal breast tissues were generated by GTEx (blue) and were uniformly processed by UCSC's Xena platform. The normalized read counts (y axis) produced by Xena removed data processing differences and minimized batch efforts.

Fig. S11. Sensitivity of the PCA analysis to the choice of genes. (A) PCA with all genes (60,675 annotated genes, Hg38). (B) PCA analyses with the exRNAs that were detected in either 25% or more cancer samples or 25% or more normal samples (25%-recurring exRNAs). (C) PCA analyses with the exRNAs that were detected in either 50% or more cancer samples or 50% or more normal samples (50%-recurring exRNAs). Cancer and normal samples remained mixed in PC1 but somewhat separated in PC2. Red: cancer samples. Blue: normal samples.

Fig. S12. PCA plots by RNA type. The genes of each RNA type (plot title) that were detected in either 25% or more cancer samples or 25% or more normal samples were used for PCA analysis. (A-C) The RNA types that poorly (A), moderately (B), and clearly separated (C) cancer (red) and normal samples (blue) by the first two principal components.

Fig. S13. Classification of cancer and normal serums by random forest. All the genes of each RNA type (panel title) were used as the features. Three ROC curves were generated from 3-fold cross validations.

Fig. S14. Classification of cancer and normal serums by SVM. All the genes of each RNA type (panel title) were used as the features. Three ROC curves were generated from 3-fold cross validations.

Fig. S15. Classification of recurrence and non-recurrence cancer samples by random forest. All the genes of each RNA type (panel title) were used as the features. Three ROC curves were generated from 3-fold cross validations.

Fig. S16. Classification of recurrence and non-recurrence cancer samples by SVM. All the genes of each RNA type (panel title) were used as the features. Three ROC curves were generated from 3-fold cross validations.

Fig. S17. Principle component analysis of the 96 samples (dots) based on 100 exRNAs. Her2-enriched, luminal A or normal-like, luminal B, and triple negative samples are colored coded in pink, green, blue, and purple, respectively.

Table S1. Contingency tables of exRNAs detected in RNA-seq-1, RNA-seq-2, and SILVER-seq. Corresponding to Figure S4B.

A

Odds ratio = 5.188 , Chi-squared p-value = 0

B

Odds ratio = 4.000 , Chi-squared p-value = 0

C

Odds ratio = 4.499 , Chi-squared p-value = 0

D

Odds ratio =6.891, Chi-squared p-value = 2.572e-106

Table S2. Contingency tables of exRNAs detected in SILVER-seq-1, SILVER-seq-2, and RNA-seq-3. Corresponding to Figure S4D.

A

Odds ratio = 6.350 , Chi-squared p-value = 0

B

Odds ratio = 5.517 , Chi-squared p-value = 0

C

Odds ratio = 8.697, Chi-squared p-value = 4.89e-315

D

Odds ratio = 6.227 , Chi-squared p-value = 0

Table S3. Summary of SILVER-seq data from 128 serum samples. C-R Status: Serum collected from the cancer patients who had cancer recurrences within 5 years of chemotherapy. C-N: Serum collected from the cancer patients who did not exhibit cancer recurrence during a 5-year follow-up after chemotherapy. N: serum from normal donors.

Table S4. Summary of the 96 breast cancer serum samples. Recurrence status R: Serum collected from the cancer patients who had cancer recurrences within 5 years of chemotherapy. Recurrence Status N: Serum collected from the cancer patients who did not exhibit cancer recurrence during a 5-year follow-up after chemotherapy. Chemo-, GnRH (Gonadotropin-releasing hormone), TAM (Tamoxifen), AI (Aromatase inhibitors) and BSO (Bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy) therapy status B: Serum was collected before the treatment started. Therapy status D: Serum was collected while the treatment was in progress. Therapy status A: Serum was collected after the treatment ended. Therapy status N/A: No record or not applicable.

Table S5. Prior-association genes. The genes that have been associated with breast cancer by prior literature.

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