

Supplementary Information for

Metastatic triple negative breast cancer adapts its metabolism to destination tissues while retaining key metabolic signatures

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Materials and Methods

Data retrieval and processing

RNA-seq raw counts for primary TNBC samples and their matched distant metastases were downloaded from NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) via accession number GSE110590. Primary tumors from seven patients clinically classified as basal TNBC subtype were selected with their matched distant metastases to brain (7 samples), lung (6 samples), liver (5 samples), lymph node (2 samples), adrenal gland (2 samples), and skin (2 samples) (Table S1). To allow rigorous comparison of the profiles, we retrieved RNA-Seq data (raw gene counts) of primary tumor and adjacent normal tissue for these specific tissues as well as breast from GDC legacy (TCGA 2015) which had an identical processing of sequencing reads and expression quantification pipeline with TNBC dataset (reads were aligned to the hg19 genome using MapSplice, and gene values were quantitated with RSEM)(1), using the TCGAbiolinks R package(2), yielding a total of 1108 primary tumor and 183 paired-adjacent-normal (NT) samples. Primary tumor samples with consensus purity scores lower than 80% were filtered out. GTEx samples were downloaded directly from the Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx) project database (http://www.gtexportal.org/home/datasets) on July 11, 2019 (Version7) to add healthy tissue data to our study, for a total of 3362 samples for 6 different tissues. The adjacent-normal tissue data for skin cutaneous melanoma (SKCM), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBC), and adrenocortical carcinoma (ACC) were not available, nor was healthy data for lymph node from the GTEx dataset. We filtered the healthy tissue and tumor samples to include only female subjects to eliminate potential gender effects from our analysis. Finally, all datasets were merged, and the counts were converted to FPKM using the DESeg2 package in R followed by TPM (transcripts per million) normalization. Uniform alignment and expression quantification analysis pipeline is not sufficient and that an explicit correction for batch effects is essential to ensure that samples from different studies are comparable(3, 4). Comparability between different conditions in our dataset was examined by using relative log expression (RLE) analysis(5). Choosing datasets with identical sequencing reads processing pipelines alone was not sufficient, and that further batch effects needed to be removed to bring expression abundance levels from different data sources into comparable ranges. Subsequently, batch adjustment was performed using ComBat from the SVAseq R package(6-8) on log-transformed quantile-normalized TPM data(4). ComBat is a flexible method based on empirical Bayes regression to reduce heterogeneity from multiple datasets while preserving the biological signals in the data even when the experimental design across the datasets is unbalanced(3). This procedure reduced the variations between datasets as can be observed in the RLE values, which were largely indistinguishable between conditions and typically lower than one. We also used metastatic SKCM cohort from TCGA, including 103 primary and 368 metastatic tumor samples which are all from one dataset to prove the independency of the results to batch correction method.

Gene expression-based analyses and statistical methods

Hybrid hierarchical k-means clustering (HHK).

For HHK(9) of expression data, we used the function hkmeans in the R package factoextra(10) using default parameters (distance: Euclidean, hierarchical clustering method: Ward.D2, k-means algorithm: Hartigan-Wong) and the number of clusters was estimated using silhouette in R. The silhouette coefficient(11), a measure of how similar an object is to its own cluster compared to other clusters, was used for cutting (coloring) the dendrogram.

Dimensionality reduction.

Dimensionality reduction was performed using two methods: UMAP and principal component analysis (PCA). For Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP)(12) we used 'umap' and 'prcomp' (with the 'center' option set to TRUE) functions in R on log₂-transformed TPM values (RNA-seq).

Deconvolution.

The deconvolution workflow was performed using the R package DeconRNASeq (13). This algorithm performs a non-negative quadratic programming for estimating the globally optimized mixing proportions of distinctive tissue types. Here we used two distinct cancer types as reference: the median expression levels of the samples for primary tumors of the origin tissue and the primary tumors of the metastatic tissues, and differentially expressed genes of two distinct cancer types with LFC>1 and p_{adj} ≤0.01 were used as the gene expression signature of the references. Accordingly, the result of this procedure is the estimated proportion of the "destination tissue_TP contribution" to the metastatic tumors. A value of 1 represents the maximum proportion of "destination tissue_TP contribution", and 0 the minimum proportion of "destination tissue_TP and breast_TP, respectively. High-purity tumor samples for melanoma cancer analysis were extracted using consensus purity estimate (CPE) scores(14) for TCGA primary solid tumor samples (CPE>0.80 or IHC>0.80).

Differential expression (DE) analysis.

Differences in sample preparation and batch effects can have substantial consequences on DE results. Therefore, we used batch-adjusted gene expression values for pairs of the three conditions for metastatic tumors in each tissue type, where low-count genes were removed beforehand. Differential expression analysis was then conducted using the R package 'limma' for metastatic tumors with at least 3 samples versus basal TNBC primary tumors. A gene was considered as differentially expressed if its Benjamini-Hochberg corrected p-value < 0.01 and had >2-fold expression change.

Gene set analysis.

analysis Gene set (GSA) was performed using а MATLAB implementation (https://github.com/JonathanRob/GeneSetAnalysisMatlab) of the R package 'Piano'(15), with different gene set collections retrieved from the Molecular Signatures Database (MSigBD) version 7.1, including hallmark, KEGG and GO molecular function. The other gene set collections used were metabolite and subsystem gene set collections extracted from the human genome-scale metabolic model, Human-GEM(16). The GSA approach we used in this study enables the incorporation of log fold-change directionality (increase or decrease) information for evaluating the significance of gene set enrichment. The enriched gene sets were filtered by padj < 0.01 for both "non-directional" gene set p-values (p.non.dir) and "distinct directional" p-values (p.dist.dir).

Adjustment of p values.

All adjusted p values (p_{adj}) reported in the study were adjusted to control for the false discovery rate (FDR) using the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure. Statistical significance in this study was defined as $p_{adj} < 0.01$.

Metabolic network generation and analysis

Condition-specific metabolic model reconstruction and structural comparison.

For each tissue or tumor type, the median TPM value expression of each gene among all samples was calculated and used as input to the updated tINIT (task-driven integrative network algorithm(17) inference for tissues) on the Human-GEM GitHub repository (https://github.com/SysBioChalmers/Human-GEM)(16), with an expression threshold of 1 TPM. The resulting 33 models were analyzed by comparing their structure (reaction content) using a binary reaction inclusion matrix with rows and columns corresponding to reactions and tINITmodels, respectively. A value of one indicates inclusion of a reaction in a model, while zero corresponds to reactions absent from a model. To compare reaction content of the models we performed UMAP of the reaction inclusion matrix in two dimensions, based on the Hamming distance as the distance metric. Further comparison of reaction content in models was conducted by calculating the pairwise Jaccard distances between the columns of the binary reaction inclusion matrix using "dist.binary" function in R. The results were visualized as a clustered heatmap and colored by Jaccard similarity. In addition, to identify specific reactions for each condition we utilized "make comb mat" function (with the mode option set to "distinct") from R package ComplexHeatmap(18) to make a combination matrix for UpSet plots.

Gene essentiality analysis.

Gene essentiality prediction was performed based on the impact of each gene deletion on biomass production in each model. A gene was considered as "essential" for a model if its deletion changed the biomass reaction flux to zero when performing flux balance analysis (FBA). We then excluded the genes which showed essentiality in all the healthy- and cancer- specific models and the remaining genes were visualized in a heatmap, where a value of 1 corresponded to an essential gene in each model.

Construction of enzyme-constrained metabolic models and analysis

The tissue- and tumor type- specific metabolic models generated by the tINIT algorithm were converted to enzyme-constrained models using the GECKO (enhancement of a GEM with Enzymatic Constraints using Kinetic and Omics data) framework(19) with applied modifications based on Human-GEM(16). Metabolite uptakes were constrained based on nutrients available in Ham's media (20). Flux variability analysis (FVA) was conducted on the enzyme-constrained tumor-specific metabolic models using the "comparativeFVA" function on the GECKO GitHub repository (https://github.com/SysBioChalmers/GECKO). Since reversible reactions are split into pairs of irreversible reactions in enzyme-constrained models, flux through each of these reactions was maximized while its reaction pair was constrained to zero to avoid infinite flux variability caused by an artificial flux cycle. Maximum fluxes of both the directions of each reaction. Finally, we identified the differentially changed reaction capacities (DRC) for each of the TNBC metastatic tumors and the primary tumors of their metastatic organs, versus TNBC primary tumors, then plotted them together to visualize common metabolic features.

Supplementary figures



Figure S1. Assessment of comparability between different conditions in combined dataset. **A** Density and relative log expression (RLE) plots for the gene expression TPM values **B** Density and RLE plots for the batch-adjusted gene expression TPM values. RLE analysis showed choosing datasets with identical sequencing reads processing pipelines alone was not sufficient, and that further batch effects needed to be removed to bring expression abundance levels from different data sources into comparable ranges. Each color shows a specific dataset. Purple, coral, and green represent samples coming from GSE110590, TCGA and GTEx datasets, respectively.



Figure S2. Relative log expression (RLE) plots for the gene expression TPM values in combined datasets of TNBC metastatic and primary tumors, and liver, lung, and brain primary tumors and healthy tissues, separately. **A** Before batch correction. **B** After batch correction.



Figure S3. Silhouette plot. Silhouette coefficient illustrates how close each point in one cluster is to points in the neighboring clusters. A high value indicates that the object is well matched to its own cluster and poorly matched to the neighboring clusters.



Figure S4. Deconvolution analysis of TNBC-TM samples using median expression levels of breast-TPs and TPs of the destination tissues as references by choosing different thresholds. **A** DEGs with LFC≥2 (left) and DEGs with LFC≥3.3 (right) used as signature genes. Reducing the number of signature genes used in the deconvolution analysis led to an increase in similarity between each of metastatic tumor profiles (maroon) and TP profile of their destination tissue. **B** Pearson correlation of purity scores of TNBC metastatic tumors and their similarities to primary tumors of their metastatic sites.



Figure S5. Intermediate state of SKCM-TMs between SKCM-TPs and TPs of the metastatic organs. **A** RLE plot of TPM values in combined dataset before batch correction (top) and after batch correction (bottom). **B** PCA plots for each group including TPs of tissue of destination and SKCM-TM and SKCM-TP. **C** Deconvolution analysis of SKCM-TMs using median expression levels of SKCM-TPs and TPs of the destination tissues as references.



Figure S6. Deconvolution analysis of SKCM-TM samples using more significant signature genes. DEGs with LFC≥2 (left) and DEGs with LFC≥3.3 (right) were used as signature genes. **A** Reducing the number of signature genes used in the deconvolution analysis increased the similarity between each of metastatic tumor profiles (maroon) and the TP profile of their destination tissue. **B** Pearson correlation between purity scores of SKCM metastatic tumors of lymph node axilla and their similarities to primary tumors of their host tissues using all samples (left) (R=-0.13, p=0.21), and samples with higher purity than 80% which was used in this study (right) (R=-0.02, p=0.86).



Figure S7. Gene set analysis of TNBC-TMs versus breast-TPs shows organ dependent divergence of TNBC-TMs from their original primary tumors. **A** Directional gene set analysis (GSA) of DE analysis results for TNBC metastases in lung, liver, and brain versus paired- breast-TPs. KEGG gene set collection was used, and sets with <10 genes were excluded. The more significant (lower value) of the two directional p-values for each gene set is shown in the heatmap as a log10-transformed value. The value is also "signed", meaning that gene sets with a more significant decrease than increase (p_{adj,dist-dir-down} < p_{adj,dist-dir-up}) are negative (enriched in breast-TPs; blue); otherwise, they are positive (enriched in TNBC-TMs; red). Only gene sets with a

p_{adj,dist-dir} less than 0.01 in at least one metastatic tumor are shown. **B** Non-directional GSA results for three comparisons. The "p.non.directional" value for each gene set is filtered based on non.dir p-values less than 0.01, and shown in the heatmap as a log10-transformed p-value. **c**. Directional GSA using GO molecular function collection for three comparisons. The more significant (lower value) of the two directional p-values for each gene set is shown in the heatmap as a log10-transformed value. Only 30 gene sets with lowest p_{adj,dist-dir} among all directionality types are shown. The most significant molecular functions which enriched consistently in TNBC-TMs are associated with receptors, transmembrane transporters, and channels.



Figure S8. Correlation of significant DEGs to differentiate TNBC-TMs from their origin. **A** Significantly changed genes in gene sets associated with the epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT), glycolysis, and oxidative phosphorylation are shown in the heat maps, colored by log₂FC of the genes in TNBC metastases compared with breast-TPs. **B** Significantly changed genes in gene set associated with pancreas beta cells are shown in the heat maps, colored by log₂FC of the genes in TNBC metastases compared with breast-TPs.

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Figure S9. Divergence of SKCM metastatic tumors from skin-TPs based on metabolic signatures. Deconvolution analysis of the SKCM -TM samples using median expression levels of metabolism associated genes in skin-TPs and TPs of the tissue of destination as references. The result of the analysis is the fraction of similarity of each TM sample (maroon) to the TPs of the tissue of its destination based on only their metabolic genes.



Figure S10. Visualization of differences in generated metabolic models for each condition using UMAP plot. Each point is a metabolic model which is colored and shaped based on tissue type and condition, respectively.



Figure S11. Metabolic signatures of TNBC-TMs in different tissues. **A** Shown are subsystems associated with metastatic specific reactions extracted from GEMs. **B** metabolic subsystems of common reactions between TNBC-TM models and breast-TP model as retained signatures.



Figure S12. Graphical representation of the flux analysis pipeline. The pipeline was used to construct and analysis of ecGEMs for breast-TP, TNBC-TMs and their associated primary tumors. Flux variability analysis reveals metabolic reprogramming of TNBC metastases in distinct tissues. Comparison of FVA results of TNBC metastases in distinct tissues and their associated primary tumors are plotted based on log₂-transformed fold changes (LFC) in reaction capacities of ecGEMs. Finally reactions with LFC >1 in at least one condition were plotted. Fluxes were simulated by maximizing biomass production while specifying only which metabolites were present in Ham's medium. The composition of medium was retrieved from Robinson et al (20). "TNBC-TM in distant tissues" stands for metastatic tumors originated from TNBC but colonized in a distant destination tissue while "Distant tissue_TP" stands for primary tumors of distant destination tissues.



Figure S13. Flux variability analysis reveals metabolic reprogramming of TNBC metastases in distinct tissues. Comparison of FVA results of TNBC metastases in distinct tissues and their associated primary tumors are plotted based on log₂-transformed fold changes in reaction capacities of GEMs specific to brain-TM, liver-TM, brain-TP and liver-TP versus breast-TP. Shown are reactions with LFC >1 in at least one condition.



Figure S14. Flux variability analysis reveals metabolic reprogramming of TNBC metastases in lung (left) and skin (right) tissues. Comparison of FVA results of TNBC metastases in distinct tissues and their associated primary tumors are plotted based on log₂-transformed fold changes in reaction capacities of GEMs specific to lung-TM and skin-TM, lung-TP and skin-TP versus breast-TP. Shown are reactions with log₂FC >1 in at least one condition.



Figure S15. Flux variability analysis reveals metabolic reprogramming of TNBC metastases in lymph node (left) and adrenal gland (right) tissues. Comparison of FVA results of TNBC metastases in distinct tissues and their associated primary tumors are plotted based on log₂-transformed fold changes in reaction capacities of GEMs specific to lymph node-TM, adrenal gland-TM, lymph node-TP, adrenal gland (ACC)-TP and versus breast-TP. Shown are reactions with log₂FC >1 in at least one condition.



Figure S16. Abundant metabolic pathways. Heatmap of reactions which are specific for each of cancer types. A value of one (black) represents reactions which are included in TM and/or TP specific GEMs and is not included in healthy and NT GEMs. Their associated metabolic pathways are shown in the barplot (right) by different colors and each color represents a subsystem.

Table S1.

Clinical History of the Selected Patients from dataset GSE110590. This subset includes patients with basal TNBC primary tumor and their matched distant metastases to different tissues). Samples with low quality were excluded. (1 = no treatment exposure; 2 = post-treatment sample;

3 = post-treatment and post-radiation)

Clinical History of the Selected Patients from Dataset GSE110590 (This subset includes patients with basal TNBC primary tumor and their their matched distant metastases to different tissues). Samples with low quality are excluded

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Patient	Race	ER Status (0 = negative; 1 = positive)	PR Status (0 = negative; 1 = positive)	HER2 Status (0 = negative; 1 = positive)	Age at Diagnosis	Stage at Diagnosis	Time to relapse (months)	Overall Survival (months)	Chemotherapy received	Estrogen- directed therapy received	Her2 directed therapies received	Other biologic therapies received	Patient	Primary	Liver	Lung	Brain	LN A	Adrenal	Skin
A1	Caucasian	0	0	0	64	T4N2M1	0	1,5	Taxol				A1	3	2	1		1	1	
A5	African American	0	0	0	65	T4N0M0	23	26	docetaxel, 5-fluorouracil, epirubicin, cyclophosphamide, capecitabine			pamidronat e	A5	3						2
Α7	African American	0	0	0	57	T2N2M0	17	24	doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide, paclitaxel, capectiabine, carboplatin				A7	2	2	2	3			
A11	Caucasian	0	0	0	46	T2N0M0	35	56	doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide, paclitaxel, gemcitabine, carboplatin			Ispinesib	A11	1	2	2	3			
A15	Caucasian	0	0	0	59	T4N0M0	8	12	doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide, paclitaxel, carboplatin, capecitabine, bevacizumab		lapatinib	cetuximab	A15	3	2	2		2		
A20	Caucasian	0	0	0	63	T2N2M0	22	38	doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide, paclitaxel, gemcitabine, carboplatin, capecitabine, vinorelbine			bevacizuma b, denosumab	A20	1	2	2	2	2	2	
A23	Caucasian	0	0	0	49	T4N2M0	17	37	doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide, paclitaxel, carboplatin, capecitabine, gemcitabine			bevacizuma b, anti- death receptor 5 investigativ e therapy	A23	1			3	2		

Table S2.

List of some currently investigated inhibitors for the suggested drug targets presented in Fig. 5B. NA was used for those drugs which have been found from literature, but their drug bank IDs were not found.

Drug Target	Pathway	Drug name	Drug Bank ID	References
IDO1; Indoleamine 2,3- dioxygenase 1	Kynurenine pathway/ tryptophan metabolism	 Epacadostat Linrodostat (BMS-986205) Indoximod (D-1MT) Navoximod (GDC-0919; NLG-919) Cannabidiol EOS-200271 	 DB11717 DB14986 DB12827 DB15439 DB09061 NA 	(21–26)
IDO2; Indoleamine 2,3- dioxygenase 2	Kynurenine pathway/ tryptophan metabolism	Indoximod (D-1MT)680C91	DB12827NA	(21, 27–30)
TDO2; Tryptophan 2,3- dioxygenase	Kynurenine pathway/ tryptophan metabolism	 680C91 Navoximod (GDC-0919; NLG-919) Tolmetin (MCN-2559) Nalidixic acid (NSC-82174) 	 NA DB14986 DB00500 DB00779 	(23, 24, 31–34)
KYNU; L-kynureninase	Kynurenine pathway/ tryptophan metabolism	 m-Hydroxyhippuric acid 3,6,9,12,15-Pentaoxaheptadecane 	DB07069DB02343	(35–37)
KMO; Kynurenine 3- monooxygenase	Kynurenine pathway/ tryptophan metabolism	 Ro-61–8048 UPF648 CHDI-340246 	NANANA	(23, 38–43)
GOT2; Aspartate aminotransferase	Tryptophan metabolism	 Pyridoxal phosphate 4'-Deoxy-4'-Acetylyamino- Pyridoxal-5'-Phosphate 	DB00114DB02783	(44, 45)
QPRT; quinolinate phosphoribosyltran sferase	Nicotinate and nicotinamide metabolism/ tryptophan metabolism	Phthalic acid	• DB02746	(23, 46)
NADSYN1; Glutamine- dependent NAD(+) synthetase	Nicotinate and nicotinamide metabolism/ tryptophan metabolism	Glutamic acid	• DB00142	(47, 48)

Table S2. continued.

Drug Target	Pathway	Drug name	Drug Bank ID	References
HAAO; 3- hydroxyanthranilate 3,4-dioxygenase	Nicotinate and nicotinamide metabolism/ tryptophan metabolism	 2-amino-4-chloro-3- hydroxybenzoic acid 4-Chloro-3-hydroxyanthranilate 	 DB04598 NA 	(49–51)
CUBN; cubilin	Vitamin D metabolism/ cholestrol metabolism/ lipid metabolism	Hydroxocobalamin	• DB00200	(44, 52)
LRP2; Low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 2	Vitamin D metabolism	GentamicinUrokinase	DB00798DB00013	(53–55)
GC; Vitamin D-binding protein	Vitamin D metabolism	 Calcitriol (DB00136) Ergocalciferol (DB00153) Oleic Acid (DB04224) 	DB00136DB00153DB04224	(56–58)
CYP27B1; Cytochrome P450 Family 27 Subfamily B Member 1	Vitamin D metabolism	• anastrozole (ZD-1033)	• DB01217	(59)
AKR1D1; Aldo-keto reductase family 1 member D1	Bile acid biosynthesis/ retinol metabolism pathways	 Norethisterone Finasteride Azelaic acid 5beta-dihydrotestosterone 3,20-Pregnanedione 	 DB00717 DB01216 DB00548 DB07447 DB07557 	(37, 60–62)
AKR1C4; Aldo-keto reductase family 1 member C1	Bile acid biosynthesis/ retinol metabolism pathways	 Flufenamic Nabumetone Fenofibrate Norethisterone Oxcarbazepine 	 DB02266 DB00461 DB01039 DB00717 DB00776 	(60, 63–67)
AMACR; Alpha-methylacyl- CoA racemase	Bile acid biosynthesis	IbuprofenDexibuprofen	DB01050DB09213	(68–70)

Table S2. continued.

Drug Target	Pathway	Drug name	Drug Bank ID	References	
CYP46A1; cholesterol 24- hydroxylase	Bile acid biosynthesis	 Zaragozic acid Soticlestat (TAK-935, OV935) 	NA NA	(71–74)	
CYP7A1; Cholesterol 7a- hydroxylase	Bile acid biosynthesis	 Levoketoconazole Cyclosporin A Obeticholic acid 	 DB05667 DB00091 DB05990 	(71, 75– 78)	
CYP8B1	Bile acid biosynthesis	 C12-pyridine bearing steroid Seviteronel (VT-464) ketoconazole exemestane letrozole aminobenzotriazole 3CI-APHC 	 NA DB12275 DB01026 DB00990 DB01006 NA NA 	(79–82)	
EHHADH; Peroxisomal bifunctional enzyme	Fatty acid oxidation	Reduced nicotinamide adenine diphosphate	• DB00157	(44, 52)	
HSD17B4; hydroxysteroid (17- beta) dehydrogenase 4	Fatty acid oxidation	 (R)-3-hydroxydecanoyl-CoA Reduced nicotinamide adenine diphosphate 	DB03192DB00157	(37, 44, 52, 83)	
GSTM1; Glutathione S- transferase Mu 1	Glutathione metabolism	 Curcumin Chloroquine 5-fluorotryptophan (9S,10S)-9-(S-glutathionyl)-10- hydroxy-9,10- dihydrophenanthrene (9R,10R)-9-(S-glutathionyl)-10- hydroxy-9,10- dihydrophenanthrene Zinc trihydroxide S-(2,4-dinitrophenyl) glutathione 	 DB11672 DB00608 DB03314 DB04187 DB01834 DB02165 DB02458 	(37, 44, 52, 84, 85)	
HSD3B2; 3 beta- hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase/Delta 5>4-isomerase type 2	Steroid degradation, Steroid hormone biosynthesis	 Norethisterone Medroxyprogesterone acetate Trilostane 	DB00717DB00603DB01108	(60, 86– 88)	

Dataset S1. Metastatic tumor-specific reactions.

Dataset S2. Common reactions between TNBC_TMs and TNBC_TPs.

Dataset S3. Cancer-specific reactions.

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