



Analysis of somatic retrotransposition in human cancers

Citation

Lee, Eunjung, Rebecca Iskow, Lixing Yang, Omer Gokcumen, Psalm Haseley, Lovelace J Luquette, Jens G Lohr, et al. 2012. Analysis of somatic retrotransposition in human cancers. BMC Proceedings 6(Suppl 6): 023.

Published Version

doi:10.1186/1753-6561-6-S6-023

Permanent link

http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:10513576

Terms of Use

This article was downloaded from Harvard University's DASH repository, and is made available under the terms and conditions applicable to Other Posted Material, as set forth at http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:dash.current.terms-of-use#LAA

Share Your Story

The Harvard community has made this article openly available. Please share how this access benefits you. <u>Submit a story</u>.

<u>Accessibility</u>

ORAL PRESENTATION



Open Access

Analysis of somatic retrotransposition in human cancers

Eunjung Lee^{1,2}, Rebecca Iskow³, Lixing Yang¹, Omer Gokcumen³, Psalm Haseley^{1,2}, Lovelace J Luquette III¹, Jens G Lohr^{4,5}, Christopher C Harris⁶, Li Ding⁶, Richard K Wilson⁶, David A Wheeler⁷, Richard A Gibbs⁷, Raju Kucherlapati^{2,8}, Charles Lee³, Peter V Kharchenko¹, Peter J Park^{1,2*}

From Beyond the Genome 2012 Boston, MA, USA. 27-29 September 2012

Background

Close to half of the human genome is derived from transposable elements (TEs), and some TE families continue to generate new insertions through RNA-mediated mechanisms. Due to its mutagenic potential, such retrotransposition is normally suppressed by epigenetic and post-transcriptional mechanisms. However, the epigenetic and regulatory disruptions commonly observed in cancers may allow for TE activation, and a few examples have been reported in lung and colon cancer previously.

Materials and methods

To systematically evaluate the frequency of such events across different tumor types and assess their impact in human cancers, we developed Tea (Transposable element analyzer), a computational pipeline to detect TE insertions at single nucleotide level and extract their mechanistic signatures. We applied Tea to the high-coverage ($>30\times$) tumor and matched normal genome pairs from 43 cancer patients across five tumor types as well as three healthy individuals.

Results

We identified 194 high-confidence somatic TE insertions (183 L1, 10 Alu, 1 ERV), most of which were generated through endonuclease-mediated retrotransposition mechanism. The novel L1 and Alu insertions were all found in the epithelial cancers (colorectal, prostate, ovarian), and none were detected in the examined blood or brain tumor samples. The somatic L1 insertions tend to occur in genes that are commonly mutated in cancer, and disrupt the expression of the targeted genes. To further

¹Center for Biomedical Informatics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

illustrate the distinct genomic distribution of the somatic TE landing sites, we compared their placement with the 7,449 non-reference polymorphic TE insertions that we have identified from 44 normal genomes. The TE landing sites are strongly biased towards genomic regions that exhibit cancer-specific decrease in DNA methylation.

Conclusions

Our analysis illustrates the functional impact of somatic TE insertions and suggests resulting positive selection toward tumorigenesis.

Author details

¹Center for Biomedical Informatics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA. ²Division of Genetics, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA 02115, USA. ³Department of Pathology, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA. ⁴The Eli and Edythe Broad Institute, Cambridge, MA 02412, USA. ⁵Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA 02115, USA. ⁶The Genome Institute, Washington University, School of Medicine, St Louis, MO 63108, USA. ⁷Human Genome Sequencing Center, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX 77030, USA. ⁸Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA.

Published: 1 October 2012

doi:10.1186/1753-6561-6-S6-O23 Cite this article as: Lee *et al*: Analysis of somatic retrotransposition in human cancers. *BMC Proceedings* 2012 6(Suppl 6):O23.



© 2012 Lee et al; licensee BioMed Central Ltd. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.