Adipozyten induzieren bestimmte Genexpressionsmuster in Brustkrebszelllinien und verstärken die inflammatorische NfkB-Signalgebung in triple-negativen Brustkrebszellen

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Für meine Familie.

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1. Einleitung

1.1 Übergewicht und Adipositas – die Volkskrankheit des 21. Jahrhunderts

Übergewicht und Adipositas sind laut Weltgesundheitsorganisation (World Health Organisation, WHO 2016) definiert als die abnorme oder übermäßige Ansammlung von Körperfett. Zur Definition und Abgrenzung der beiden Begriffe dient der so genannte Körpermassenindex (Body-Mass-Index; BMI). Der BMI ist der Quotient aus Körpergewicht und Körpergröße zum Quadrat (kg/m²). Bei Erwachsenen gilt ein BMI \geq 25 kg/m² per WHO-Definition als Übergewicht, ein BMI von \geq 30 kg/m² als Adipositas. Als Übergewicht bezeichnet man demnach den Bereich zwischen Normalgewicht und Adipositas. Bei Adipositas hingegen liegt sehr starkes Übergewicht und dadurch ein krankhaft erhöhter Körperfettanteil vor. Man bezeichnet Adipositas daher auch als Fettleibigkeit oder Fettsucht.

Weltweit waren im Jahr 2016 mehr als 1,9 Milliarden (39%) Erwachsene (\geq 18 Jahre) übergewichtig und über 650 Millionen sogar fettleibig (13%). Insgesamt hat sich die Zahl adipöser Menschen seit 1975 in etwa verdreifacht (1). Auch in Deutschland ist Fettleibigkeit auf dem Vormarsch. Laut der DEGS1-Studie ("Studie zur Gesundheit Erwachsener") des Robert-Koch-Instituts aus dem Jahr 2013 sind ca. zwei Drittel der deutschen Männer (67%) und die Hälfte der deutschen Frauen (53%) übergewichtig (2). Die Prävalenz für Adipositas (BMI \geq 30 kg/m²) liegt für Männer bei 23%, für Frauen bei 24%; damit ist rund ein Viertel der erwachsenen Bundesbürger fettleibig.

Die Hauptursache für die zunehmende Prävalenz von Adipositas und Übergewicht scheint ein allgemeiner Anstieg der Kalorienaufnahme und eine damit einhergehende positive Kalorienbilanz zu sein (3). Schlechte Ernährungsgewohnheiten wie häufige Zwischenmahlzeiten, ein übermäßiger Verzehr von kohlenhydratreichen Getränken und sehr fettigen Mahlzeiten bedingen diese überhöhte Energiezufuhr (4; 5). Weitere Faktoren, die zu einer übermäßigen Gewichtszunahme beitragen können, sind eine zu geringe körperliche Aktivität (6), genetische Faktoren (7), aber auch bestimmte Erkrankungen und Medikamente, sowie psychologische und soziale Aspekte (8).

Adipositas und ihre assoziierten Komorbiditäten wie kardiovaskuläre Erkrankungen, Typ-2-Diabetes mellitus und Krebs, sind mittlerweile ein ernst zu nehmendes globales Problem, welches unsere Gesellschaft medizinisch, ökonomisch und sozial belastet (1). Allein in Deutschland liegen die Kosten für die Behandlung von Übergewicht und seinen Folgeerkrankungen bei 20 Milliarden Euro jährlich (9). Das übersteigt sogar die Kosten für Folgeerkrankungen durch Alkohol- (ca. 10 Mrd. €) oder Tabakkonsum (ca. 8 Mrd. €) (9).

1.2 Fettgewebe – Fett ist nicht gleich Fett

Durch die ansteigende Prävalenz von Adipositas und ihrer zahlreichen assoziierten Folgeerkrankungen ist das Fettgewebe in den letzten 3 Dekaden zunehmend in den Fokus der Forschung gerückt (10). Während es lange Zeit nur als Energiedepot des Körpers, ohne weitere nennenswerte Eigenschaften betrachtet wurde, ist heute klar, dass Fettgewebe ein komplexes, endokrines Organ ist, welches aus einer Vielzahl von interagierenden Zelltypen besteht. Neben der lipidbeladenen Adipozyten-Fraktion findet man auch eine stromal-vaskuläre Fraktion, welche sich aus Präadipozyten, pluripotenten Stammzellen, Endothelzellen, Makrophagen und anderen Immunzellen zusammensetzt (11; 12; 13). Die Fettgewebszellen produzieren einen komplexen Cocktail an Zytokinen, Wachstumsfaktoren und Adipokinen und nehmen damit parakrin und endokrin Einfluss auf andere Körpergewebe (14). Neben der Energiehomöostase werden so auch viele andere wichtige Prozesse des Körpers beeinflusst, wie z.B. die Fortpflanzung, Immunantwort, Blutdruckkontrolle, Gerinnung und Insulinsensitivität (10; 15; 16).

Klassischerweise unterscheidet man weißes (WAT – white adipose tissue) und braunes (BAT – brown adipose tissue) Fettgewebe, welche unterschiedliche Funktionen ausüben. Braunes Fettgewebe ist reich an Mitochondrien und besonders bei Säuglingen zu finden, wo es in der prä- und postnatalen Phase der Thermogenese durch β-Oxidation von Fettsäuren dient (15; 17; 18). Weißes Fettgewebe stellt den überwiegenden Anteil des Fettgewebes beim erwachsenen Menschen. Seine Hauptaufgabe ist die Energiehomöostase. Es speichert überschüssige Nahrungsenergie, hauptsächlich in Form von Triacylglyzeriden, welche bei erhöhtem Energiebedarf durch Lipolyse mobilisiert werden. Kürzlich konnte eine dritte Art von Fettgewebe identifiziert werden; das beige Fett. Dieses weist ebenso wie braunes Fettgewebe thermogene Eigenschaften auf (17).

Weißes Fettgewebe (WAT), welches beim Erwachsenen der vorherrschende Fetttypus ist, wird weiterhin nach seiner Lokalisation differenziert. So unterscheidet man hauptsächlich zwischen subkutanem (SAT - subcutaneous adipose tissue) und viszeralem (VAT - visceral adipose tissue) Fettgewebe (19). Im Unterhautfettgewebe (SAT) sind über 80% des Körperfetts gespeichert. Die meist diskutierten subkutanen Fettspeicher sind das abdominale, gluteale und femorale Depot. Das Viszeralfett oder auch intraabdominale Fett

macht 10-20% des gesamten Körperfetts aus und umhüllt die inneren Organe der Bauchhöhle. Obwohl subkutane und viszerale Depots beide zu dem weißen Fettgewebe gehören, unterscheiden sie sich in ihren metabolischen und endokrinen Funktionen (19; 20). Viszerales Fett ist insgesamt metabolisch aktiver als Subkutanfett, mit einem stärkeren Insulinstoffwechsel, einer vermehrten Triglyzeridsynthese und einer höheren lipolytischen Aktivität (21; 22; 23). Weiterhin weist VAT einen größeren Anteil an stromalvaskulärer Zellfraktion auf (19), mit einer höheren Anzahl an Immunzellen und weniger Präadipozyten (19; 24). Ebenso ist die Sekretion von proinflammatorischen Zytokinen (z.B. IL-6; IL-8; Plasminogen-Aktivator-Inhibitor Typ 1 (PAI-1)), Faktoren der angeborenen Immunantwort und Molekülen der Akuten-Phase-Reaktion im VAT höher (19; 25). Diese funktionellen Unterschiede zwischen VAT und SAT haben klinische Bedeutung. So ist vor allem ein Überschuss an viszeralem Fett, die sog. zentrale Adipositas ("Bauchfett"), positiv mit Fettgewebsassoziierten Komorbiditäten korreliert (19; 25; 26). Subkutane Fettansammlungen in der gluteofemoralen Region ("Hüftgold") hingegen scheinen sogar eine schützende Wirkung gegenüber metabolischen Erkrankungen zu haben (19).

1.3 Fehlfunktionen des Fettgewebes bei Adipositas

Fettgewebe besitzt die ausgeprägte Fähigkeit, sein Volumen zu vervielfachen. Was in Urzeiten überlebenswichtig war, um längere Hungerperioden zu überstehen, ist in der heutigen Überflussgesellschaft eher lästig und in Extremfällen sogar gesundheitsschädlich. Der enorme Größenzuwachs der Fettdepots in Zeiten überschüssiger Nahrungszufuhr kommt zunächst durch ein Anschwellen der bereits bestehenden Adipozyten zustande (Hypertrophie). Erst wenn eine kritische Größe der Fettzellen erreicht ist, wird die Proliferation und Differenzierung von Präadipozyten (Hyperplasie) induziert (27).

Die adipozytäre Hypertrophie führt zu Veränderungen in metabolischen und endokrinen Signalwegen des Fettgewebes, wodurch dieses zunehmend dysfunktional wird (15). Durch die extensive Ausdehnung des Fettgewebes bei gleichzeitig ausbleibender kompensatorischer Angiogenese kommt es zu Hypoxie, was wiederum die Ausschüttung proinflammatorischer Zytokine (IL-6, IL-8, PAI-1 und Tumornekrosefaktor-α (TNF-α)), diabetogener Faktoren (TNF-α, Resistin, Tissue inhibitor of matrix metalloproteinase 1 (TIMP1)) und profibrinogener Moleküle (Kollagen, Matrix-Metalloproteasen (MMP), TIMP) induziert (19; 28; 29). Makrophagen, Monozyten und andere Immunzellen infiltrieren das Gewebe und tragen zu einer chronischen niedrig-gradigen Entzündung bei (30). Diese

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Inflammation führt zur verstärkten Lipolyse in den Adipozyten, woraus eine vermehrte Ausschüttung freier Fettsäuren resultiert. Das wiederum führt zur verstärkten Insulinsekretion aus der Bauchspeicheldrüse, einer verminderten Insulinsensitivität in Muskeln und Leber, einer erhöhten VLDL-Sekretion (Very Low Density Lipoprotein, VLDL) aus der Leber und zu Schäden im Endothelium (19; 30).

Die durch extremes Übergewicht hervorgerufenen Veränderungen in der Funktionalität des Fettgewebes tragen zur Entwicklung metabolischer, kardiovaskulärer und neoplastischer Erkrankungen bei (19; 28).

1.4 Der Zusammenhang zwischen Adipositas und Krebs

1.4.1 Adipositas und die Tumormikroumgebung

Trotz starker epidemiologischer Evidenz, die Übergewicht und Adipositas mit einer erhöhten Inzidenz und Mortalität für bestimmte Krebsarten in Verbindung bringt, fehlen bislang detaillierte Kenntnisse über die konkreten molekularen Mechanismen, die diese Daten erklären. Da die Tumor-Mikroumgebung für die Entwicklung, das Wachstum und die Progression von Krebs von entscheidender Bedeutung ist, gelten Adipositasassoziierte Faktoren, welche zu einem tumorfreundlichen Milieu beitragen, als Schlüssel zur Verknüpfung von Adipositas und Krebs (siehe Abb. 1). Fettgewebe ist entsprechend seiner Funktionen auf zwei wesentliche Arten an der Tumorentwicklung- und Progression beteiligt: Zum einen trägt es durch seine endokrine Funktion zum Tumorwachstum und zur Metastasierung bei, indem es Signalmoleküle wie Adipokine, pro-inflammatorische Zytokine, Sexualhormone, extrazelluläre Matrix-Komponenten und pro-angiogene Faktoren sezerniert (28). Zum zweiten können die im Fettgewebe gespeicherten Lipide als Energie-Reservoir für benachbarte Tumorzellen dienen (28; 31).

Tumoren, deren Erkrankungsrisiko und/ oder Mortalitätsrate positiv mit Adipositas korreliert sind, wachsen häufig in Adipozyten-reichen Mikroumgebungen (z.B. Brustkrebs) bzw. metastasieren zu solchen Mikroumgebungen hin (z.B. Eierstock- und Magenkrebs), was auf eine Rolle der Adipozyten/ des Fettgewebes bei der Progression dieser Krebserkrankungen hindeutet (31; 32). Für viele dieser Krebsarten spiegelt der Grad der Invasion in das angrenzende Fettgewebe die Aggressivität des Tumors wider, und eine ausgedehnte Invasion weist auf eine schlechte Prognose hin (28; 33). An der invasiven Front von Brusttumoren, der Grenze zwischen Tumor und Fettgewebe, konnten sogenannte Tumor-assoziierte Adipozyten (Cancer-associated adipocytes, CAA)

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nachgewiesen werden (34). In diesen speziellen Adipozyten wurden durch den Kontakt mit Tumorzellen besondere morphologische und funktionale Veränderungen induziert. So zeigen sie eine starke Delipidation, mit einhergehender Verringerung der Expression terminaler Adipozyten-Differenzierungmarker (z.B. Leptin, Adiponektin) und einen Fibroblasten-ähnlichen Phänotyp. Dahingegen ist die Expression inflammatorischer Zytokine wie IL-6 und Plasminogen-Aktivator-Inhibitor Typ 1 (PAI-1) stark erhöht (34). Die aktuellen Forschungsergebnisse zu CAAs legen nahe, dass Brustkrebszellen Adipozyten in ihrer unmittelbaren Umgebung so umprogrammieren können, dass diese der Tumorprogression bestmöglich dienlich sind. So stellen die reprogrammierten Adipozyten sowohl Lipide bereit, um den hohen Energiebedarf von Krebszellen zu decken, als auch wachstumsfördernde Zytokine, welche die Ausbreitung des Tumors fördern (32).



Abbildung 1: Die Rolle von Adipositas bei der Progression von Brustkrebs nach C. Blücher & S.C. Stadler, 2017 (30). Die durch übermäßige Kalorienzufuhr hypertrophen Adipozyten sezernieren vermehrt Faktoren, die einen aggressiveren Brustkrebsphänotyp fördern, wie inflammatorische Zytokine, Leptin, freie Fettsäuren, IGF-1 (Insulin-like growth factor 1) und Komponenten der extrazellulären Matrix. Die Brustkrebszellen induzieren bei benachbarten Adipozyten einen Tumor-assoziierten Phänotyp (Cancer-associated Adipocytes, CAAs), der durch Dedifferenzierung und Delipidation gekennzeichnet ist und durch die Freisetzung freier Fettsäuren, inflammatorischer Zytokine und Proteasen das Tumorwachstum fördert.

1.4.2 Adipositas-induzierte Inflammation und Krebs

Chronische Entzündung ist eines der Hauptmerkmale von Krebs. Der durch starkes Übergewicht hervorgerufene chronische Entzündungsstatus des Fettgewebes spielt wahrscheinlich eine Schlüsselrolle bei der tumorfördernden Wirkung der Adipositas (35). Die unter überhöhter Nahrungsenergiezufuhr stark im Volumen angeschwollenen Adipozyten (adipozytäre Hypertrophie) können einen Durchmesser von bis zu 200 µm erreichen und überschreiten dann die typischen Diffusionsdistanzen von Sauerstoff aus den Gefäßen ins Gewebe (36; 37). So wird das Fettgewebe unter adipösen Bedingungen nur unzureichend mit Sauerstoff versorgt. Durch die Hypoxie wird eine Reihe von Veränderungen induziert, welche aus dem übergewichtigen Fettgewebe ein neuartig ausgerichtetes endokrines Immunorgan machen, das eine pro-inflammatorische Mikroumgebung kreiert (38; 39). So verändert sich der Anteil der einzelnen Zellfraktionen im WAT, sowie die Menge und Zusammensetzung der sekretierten Adipokine, Zytokine, Chemokine und hormonellen Faktoren (28; 40; 41). Bei Adipositas kommt es zu einer Abnahme der Reifung von Präadipozyten zu Adipozyten sowie zu einer Störung des Gleichgewichts zwischen zwei Hauptadipokinen, Leptin und Adiponektin (42; 43). Präadipozyten produzieren vorrangig Zytokine, die für ihre eigene Proliferation und für die Rekrutierung von endothelialen Vorläuferzellen, die zur Angiogenese benötigt werden, geeignet sind (40). Adiponektin, welches anti-angiogen und anti-proliferativ wirkt, und die Differenzierung von reifen Adipozyten stimuliert, ist im adipösen Zustand herunterreguliert (44). Leptin hingegen wird unter adipösen Bedingungen überexprimiert (28). Epidemiologische Beweise legen nahe, dass hohe Leptinspiegel mit einem erhöhten Risiko für Brustkrebs assoziiert sind (45; 46). So zeigte eine Studie, dass postmenopausale Frauen mit dem höchsten Taillenumfang und der höchsten Leptinkonzentration das höchste Brustkrebsrisiko aufwiesen (46). Darüber hinaus hatten Patientinnen mit Brustkrebs, die ein erhöhtes Level für Leptinrezeptor-mRNA-Transkripte in ihren Tumoren aufwiesen, in Verbindung mit erhöhten Serumleptinspiegeln eine schlechtere Prognose als Patientinnen ohne diese Faktoren (47). Leptin induziert Cyclin D1 (48), welches den Zellzyklus vorantreibt, und trägt durch die Aktivierung der Phosphatidylinositol-3-Kinase- (PI3K)-AKT- und Mitogen-aktivierte Proteinkinase (MAPK)-Signalkaskaden zum Tumorwachstum bei (48). Weiterhin erhöht Leptin auch die Migration und Motilität von Brustkrebszellen (49).

Die hypertrophierten Adipozyten im adipösen Fettgewebe produzieren große Mengen an entzündungsfördernden Faktoren, u.a. auch das Zytokin Monozyten-Chemoattraktives Protein-1 (MCP-1), welches Makrophagen anlockt (50). Die Zahl der

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Fettgewebsmakrophagen nimmt massiv und verschiebt zu sich vom antiinflammatorischen M2-Typ zum entzündungsfördernden M1-Typ (12; 51). Die Populationen der anderen Immunzellen verändern sich ebenfalls im adipösen Zustand. So wandern vermehrt proinflammatorische CD8+ T-Zellen, CD4+ Typ1 T-Helferzellen (Th1), Neutrophile, Mastzellen, reife B-Zellen und unreife Dendritische Zellen ins Fettgewebe ein (12; 51; 52). Zusammen sezernieren die Zellen des adipösen WAT zahlreiche bioaktive Moleküle, wie TNFa, IL-1β, IL-6, IL-8, chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 2 (CCL2), VEGF, Interferon gamma (IFN-y) und IL-17A (12; 51; 53). Dieser Cocktail an proinflammatorischen Zytokinen, Wachstumsfaktoren und Matrix-abbauenden Enzymen wie Matrix-Metalloproteasen (MMPs) führt zur Stimulierung des Tumorwachstums und der Angiogenese, einem Umbau der extrazellulären Matrix und einem Zustand der chronischniedriggradigen Entzündung im WAT (35; 54). Der permanente Entzündungszustand im adipösen Fettgewebe induziert die Lipolyse in den Adipozyten mit vermehrter Freisetzung freier Fettsäuren, welche wiederum Toll-like Rezeptoren (TLRs) (55) auf den Adipozyten (56) und Makrophagen (57) stimulieren. Die freien Fettsäuren und die im WAT zirkulierenden Zytokine aktivieren den NFkB-Signalweg in den Adipozyten und Immunzellen (56; 58; 59; 60; 61), welcher wiederum die Expression von Genen, die für inflammatorische Zytokine codieren, wie TNF-a, IL-1b, IL-6, IL-8 und CCL2, stimuliert (40; 60). So entsteht eine positive Rückkopplungsschleife der Entzündung im adipösen Milieu.

Neben den Immunzellen gibt es auch zahlreiche andere Zelltypen im Fettgewebe, welche die Tumorprogression vorantreiben (62; 63). So vermehren sich unter adipösen Bedingungen pluripotente, mesenchymale Vorläufer-Zellen des Fettgewebes, sog. adipose-derived stem cells, ASCs. Diese werden durch den Tumor rekrutiert, infiltrieren diesen und fördern lokal dessen Progression (64; 65; 66; 67). Die ASCs sezernieren Komponenten der extrazellulären Matrix, sowie Faktoren, die die Vaskularisierung stimulieren (64; 65; 68). Zudem weisen ASCs im adipösen Zustand ein verändertes Chemokin- und Zytokinrepertoire auf, welches die Proliferation und Migration von Krebszellen, die Tumorwanderung und -invasion sowie die Metastasierung in entfernte Organe vorantreibt (69; 70; 71).

Viele solide Tumoren enthalten Krebsstammzellen (Cancer stem cells, CSCs), die ein besonders hohes tumorigenes Potential haben und eine wichtige Rolle für die Metastasierung, Krebsrezidivierung und Medikamentenresistenz spielen (72; 73). Zum Beispiel werden Brustkrebs-Stammzellen durch die Selektionsmarker CD44+/CD24-/niedrig repräsentiert (74). Verschiedene Zytokine, die im adipösen Zustand aus dem Fettgewebe freigesetzt werden, fördern das Wachstum und das Überleben von CSCs. So wurde berichtet, dass hohe Konzentrationen von pro-inflammatorischen Zytokinen, wie IL-6 und IL-8, und auch das Adipokin Leptin, CSCs in Brustkrebsmodellen stimulieren (75; 76; 77). Weiterhin haben Kokultur-Experimente gezeigt, dass die Interaktion zwischen ASCs/ reifen Adipozyten/ unreifen Adipozyten und Brustkrebszellen die Produktion inflammatorischer Zytokine in beiden Zelltypen synergistisch verstärkt und die Anzahl der Krebszellen mit Tumorstammzelleigenschaften sowie die Invasivität der Brustkrebszellen erhöht (78). In der Klinik zeigen Personen mit Adipositas eine höhere Resistenz gegenüber Chemo- oder Strahlentherapie als schlanke Individuen, was teilweise auf die erhöhte Anzahl von CSCs zurückzuführen ist, die im Fettgewebe von Personen mit Fettleibigkeit vorhanden sind (28).

1.4.3 Die Insulin-IGF1-Achse

Eine Zunahme der Fettmasse, vor allem des Bauchfetts, geht häufig mit einer Insulinresistenz einher. Bei Patienten mit Insulinresistenz verringert sich die Empfindlichkeit von Geweben gegenüber Insulin, was zu erhöhten Blutzuckerspiegeln führt. Dies wiederum führt zu einer verstärkten Ausschüttung von Insulin - ein Teufelskreis. Chronische Hyperinsulinämie fördert die Sekretion des zirkulierenden insulinähnlichen Wachstumsfaktors 1 (Insulin-like growth factor 1, IGF-1) und reduziert die Produktion von IGF-Bindungsproteinen, was wiederum die Spiegel von zirkulierendem IGF erhöht (35). Adipositas ist durch Hyperinsulinämie, niedrige Serumspiegel von insulinähnlichem Wachstumsfaktor-bindendem Protein 1 (IGFBP-1) und erhöhte Spiegel von IGF-1 gekennzeichnet (79; 80; 81; 82; 83; 84). Der IGF-1-Rezeptor (IGF1R) und der Insulinrezeptor (InsR) können sowohl Homo- als auch Heterodimer- (Hybrid-) Rezeptoren bilden (85). Nach Ligandvermittelter Aktivierung wird die intrazelluläre Signaltransduktion über die PI3K-AKT-Kaskade und den MAPK-Weg initiiert (86), wodurch sich die mitogene und anti-apoptotische Wirkung von IGF-1 und Insulin entfaltet (87).

Verschiedene experimentelle und klinische Studien zeigen, dass Krebszellen Insulin- und IGF1-Rezeptoren exprimieren, und dass diese Rezeptoren wichtige Aktivatoren der PI3K-AKT- und MAPK-Signalkaskaden in neoplastischem Gewebe sind (79). So ist bekannt, dass Brustkrebszellen den IGF-1 Rezeptor häufig überexprimieren (88), sodass die unter Adipositas erhöhten Insulin- und IGF-1-Level einen wichtigen Beitrag zum Tumorwachstum leisten dürften (89). Die IGF-1-Signalgebung induziert auch die Aktivierung des Östrogen-Rezeptors α , was zu einer verstärkten Östrogen-Signalgebung führt und damit ebenfalls für die Progression von Brustkrebs relevant ist (90).

1.4.4 Östrogen-Synthese in adipösem Fettgewebe

Die Cytochrom P450-Aromatase wandelt Androgene in Östrogene um (91) und wahrt so das Gleichgewicht zwischen den Spiegeln dieser Sexualhormone. Bei prämenopausalen Frauen ist der Ovarialfollikel die Hauptproduktionsstätte von Aromatase; bei postmenopausalen Frauen hingegen wird Aromatase vorwiegend in Fibroblasten des Fettgewebes und in der Haut produziert (92). Die Bildung von extraovarialem Östrogen korreliert positiv mit Übergewicht bei prä- und postmenopausalen Frauen (93; 94; 95) und ein erhöhter Östrogenspiegel bei diesen Frauen ist mit einem erhöhten Brustkrebsrisiko verbunden (96). Bei krankhaft adipösen postmenopausalen Frauen können die Östrogenspiegel bis um das 10-fache erhöht sein (94). Verschiedene unabhängige Studien zeigen, dass die Aromatase-Enzymaktivität und die mRNA-Level in Tumorbenachbartem Brustfett im Vergleich zu denen in distalem Fett oder krankheitsfreiem Brustfettgewebe deutlich erhöht ist (94). Offenbar sind hormon-sensitive Tumorzellen dazu in der Lage, sich durch die Stimulierung der Aromatase-Expression und -Aktivität selbst ein Wachstumsförderndes Milieu zu schaffen. So wurde gezeigt, dass maligne Epithelzellen große Mengen an TNF und IL-11 sezernieren, wodurch die Differenzierung von umgebenden Präadipozyten zu reifen Adipozyten gehemmt wird. Zusätzlich stimulieren sie die Aromataseexpression in diesen undifferenzierten Fibroblasten (97; 98).

1.4.5 Tumorzellmetabolismus

Der Lipidstoffwechsel von Karzinomen ist von klinischer Relevanz. Tumorzellen können freie Fettsäuren (free fatty acids, FFAs) nutzen, um durch β-Oxidation Energie zu gewinnen (99). Eine vermehrte Verstoffwechslung von Lipiden, im Gegensatz zu Glukose, ist ein Kennzeichen der Aggressivität des Tumors (100). Zusätzlich zur Energiegewinnung dienen Fettsäure-Derivate als integrale Bestandteile der Krebszell-und der mitochondrialen Membran sowie als wichtige Signalmoleküle (101). Zum Beispiel regulieren die Lipid-Derivate Sphingosin-1-phosphat und Lysophosphatidsäure die Migration, Proliferation und Invasion von Krebszellen (102). Lipidomische Analysen beim Mammakarzinom zeigten, dass der Einbau endogener Fettsäuren in Membranphospholipide in den Tumorzellen im Vergleich zu normalem menschlichem Brustgewebe verstärkt ist, was mit der Tumorprogression, dem Hormonrezeptorstatus und dem Überleben der Patienten korreliert war (103). Trotz einer ausreichenden Versorgung mit Nahrungslipiden synthetisieren Tumorzellen die meisten Fettsäuren de novo (102). Eine erhöhte Lipogenese ist ein Kennzeichen vieler aggressiver Krebserkrankungen (104). So wurde bei Brustkrebszellen eine erhöhte Aktivität der Fettsäuresynthase (FASN), einem Enzym zur *de-novo*-Fettsäuresynthese, und eine Hochregulation der Monoacylglycerin-Lipase (MAGL), welche die intrazelluläre Freisetzung von Fettsäuren steuert, beobachtet (30). Zusammen fördern FASN und MAGL wahrscheinlich das Tumorwachstum, indem sie intrazelluläre Lipide synthetisieren und mobilisieren (104; 105; 106). Bei aggressiven, schnell wachsenden Krebserkrankungen wird die endogene Lipogenese jedoch unzureichend und Krebszellen gehen zur Aufnahme von extrazellulären Fettsäuren über. Durch die erhöhte lipolytische Aktivität benachbarter Adipozyten stehen freie Fettsäuren zur Verfügung, die von den Tumorzellen als Energiequelle verwendet werden (31; 107; 108). Unter Kokultur-Bedingungen wurde gezeigt, dass Brustkrebszellen die Lipolyse in Adipozyten induzieren können und die generierten Fettsäuren die Proliferation und Invasivität der Brustkrebszellen erhöhen (109). Ein molekularer Transmembrankomplex, der vor allem langkettige Fettsäuren an der Zellmembran bindet und ihre Aufnahme in die Zelle ermöglicht, basiert auf CD36, auch bekannt als FA-Translokase (110; 111). Die Überexpression von CD36 ist assoziiert mit der Progression und Metastasierung von Tumoren (112; 113; 114). CD36-exprimierende Krebszellen haben auch eine erhöhtes Überlebenspotential und eine stärkere Resistenz gegenüber Chemotherapien (108; 113).

Diese Daten zeigen, dass Tumorzellen metabolisch sehr flexibel sind und je nach den vorherrschenden Bedingungen ihrer Mikroumgebung alternative Stoffwechselwege beschreiten, um das Tumorwachstum und die –Progression zu fördern.

1.5 Ziele der Arbeit

Obwohl Übergewicht und Fettleibigkeit bekannte Risikofaktoren für verschiedene Krebsarten, einschließlich Brustkrebs, darstellen, fehlt immer noch ein vollständiges Bild der kausalen Mechanismen, durch die Adipositas die Initiierung und Progression von Krebs vorantreibt. So ist bekannt, dass Brustkrebszellen benachbarte Adipozyten des Brustfettgewebes reprogrammieren, sodass diese sowohl Lipide bereitstellen, um den hohen Energiebedarf der Krebszellen zu decken, als auch wachstumsfördernde Zytokine ausschütten, welche die Ausbreitung des Tumors fördern. Jedoch fehlen Erkenntnisse über die molekularen Veränderungen der Brustkrebszellen, die durch die Interaktion mit den Adipozyten induziert werden. Deshalb sollte in der vorliegenden Arbeit:

1. Ein reproduzierbares 2D-Kokultur-Modell für murine 3T3-L1-Adipozyten und humane Brustkrebszellen etabliert werden.

2. Der Einfluss der Adipozyten auf die Migrations- und Invasionsfähigkeiten der Brustkrebszellen untersucht werden.

3. Globale Genexpressionunterschiede der kokultivierten Brustkrebszellen mittels Mikroarrayanalyse untersucht werden.

4. Herausstechende Kandidatengene näher untersucht werden, um potentielle Mechanismen der Adipozyten-Brustkrebszell-Interaktion aufzudecken.

2 Publikation

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OPEN Adipocytes induce distinct gene expression profiles in mammary tumor cells and enhance inflammatory signaling in invasive breast cancer cells

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Obesity is a known risk factor for breast cancer. Since obesity rates are constantly rising worldwide, understanding the molecular details of the interaction between adipose tissue and breast tumors becomes an urgent task. To investigate potential molecular changes in breast cancer cells induced by co-existing adipocytes, we used a co-culture system of different breast cancer cell lines (MCF-7 and T47D: ER⁺/PR⁺/HER2⁻ and MDA-MB-231: ER⁻/PR⁻/HER2⁻) and murine 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Here, we report that co-culture with adipocytes revealed distinct changes in global gene expression pattern in the different breast cancer cell lines. Our microarray data revealed that in both ER⁺ cell lines, top upregulated genes showed significant enrichment for hormone receptor target genes. In triple-negative MDA-MB-231 cells, co-culture with adipocytes led to the induction of pro-inflammatory genes, mainly involving genes of the Nf- κ B signaling pathway. Moreover, co-cultured MDA-MB-231 cells showed increased secretion of the pro-inflammatory interleukins IL-6 and IL-8. Using a specific NF-κB inhibitor, these effects were significantly decreased. Finally, migratory capacities were significantly increased in triple-negative breast cancer cells upon co-culture with adipocytes, indicating an enhanced aggressive cell phenotype. Together, our studies illustrate that factors secreted by adipocytes have a significant impact on the molecular biology of breast cancer cells.

The worldwide rising incidence of obesity poses a great burden to health care practitioners and the global health system. Obesity is not only a well-known risk factor for metabolic and cardiovascular diseases, but also accounts for approximately one-third of all new cancer diagnoses in the United States and for up to 20% of total cancer-related mortality^{1.2}. There is increasing evidence linking obesity to elevated risk for several types of malignancies like breast, endometrial, colorectal and pancreatic cancer^{1,2}. Several epidemiological studies demonstrate that obesity and excessive accumulation of adipose tissue are independent negative prognostic factors for breast cancer^{3,4}. Although an increasing body of literature clearly demonstrates a link between increased body weight and tumor progression, the precise molecular mechanisms underlying this association remain elusive.

Adipose tissue mainly consists of mature adipocytes which are primarily responsible for energy homeostasis. However, there is accumulating evidence that their function is far more complex than just storing lipids. In fact, adipocytes also secrete cytokines, growth factors and adipokines and thereby influence other tissues in the body in a paracrine or endocrine manner⁵. Interestingly, numerous studies demonstrated that cytokines and adipokines such as IL-6, IL-1 β , TNF α and Leptin are major factors in breast cancer progression⁶. Thus, adipose tissue may be an important modulator of breast cancer cell biology.

The systemic effects of obesity on cancer are mainly the consequence of adipocyte dysfunction⁷. In case of caloric excess over a longer period of time, adipocytes become hypertrophic and lose both metabolic function

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and the control over the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines, hormones, lipid metabolites and free fatty acids (FFA)8. A hallmark of dysfunctional adipose tissue is a chronic state of low-grade inflammation. The increased secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines together with elevated lipid metabolites and FFAs support tumor progression by delivering essential building blocks and energy for cellular growth⁹⁻¹¹. Importantly, several recent studies demonstrated that breast cancer cells and neighbouring adipocytes of the tumoral stroma also interact with each other directly^{6,12}. This interaction leads to adipocytes with an activated, tumor supportive phenotype characterized by lipolysis, a decrease in adipocyte markers and an overexpression of pro-inflammatory cytokines like IL-6 and IL-1β. In turn, these so called cancer-associated adipocytes (CAA) contribute to the local inflammation and deliver energy for cell proliferation^{13,14}. Together, these observations clearly point out that breast tumor cells are actively influencing the surrounding stroma to create an advantageous inflammatory microenvironment which, in turn, further supports tumor progression. However, detailed knowledge about which molecular pathways are activated in breast cancer cells upon interaction with adipocytes is still elusive. Here, we set up a co-culture system to study the effects of adipose tissue on breast cancer cells. Following co-culture with differentiated adipocytes, we profiled global gene expression changes in breast cancer cells. To our knowledge, this is the first study showing comprehensive microarray data of several breast cancer cell lines co-cultured with adipocytes. Our results demonstrate that adipocytes markedly affect gene expression profiles of co-cultured breast cancer cells. Specifically, we highlight the striking effects of adipocytes on triple negative breast cancer cells, which show a significant induction of pro-inflammatory genes and pathways upon co-culture in addition to an enhanced ability of cell migration and invasion.

Results

Co-culture with mature adipocytes affects distinct genes and signaling pathways in breast cancer cell lines, depending on the breast cancer subtype. To identify genes and underlying pathways in human breast cancer cells affected by interaction with mature adipocytes, two estrogen-receptor positive (ER⁺) breast cancer cell lines, MCF-7 and T47D, and the triple-negative (TN) breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-231 were co-cultivated with or without differentiated 3T3-L1 cells for the purpose of a microarray gene expression analysis. Murine 3T3-L1 preadipocytes can be induced chemically to differentiate into mature adipocytes and are a well-established adipocyte model for lipid metabolism and obesity research. The use of *in vitro* differentiated 3T3-L1 adipocytes allowed comparable experimental conditions for each of the co-culture experiments with human breast cancer cell lines (Supplemental Fig. 1). For co-cultivation analyses of 3T3-L1 and breast cancer cells, we set up a two-dimensional transwell system, which enables intercellular communication through soluble factors secreted into the medium but inhibits intermixture of the different cell types. Following 5 days of co-culture with or without differentiated adipocytes, total RNA was isolated from the human breast cancer cells and subjected to microarray gene expression analyses.

Data analysis revealed distinct sets of differentially expressed genes in ER+ and ER- breast cancer cells. We first filtered genes by applying a \geq 2.0-fold change as cut-off value to identify the most up-and down-regulated genes (p < 0.05; FDR controlled) in response to co-cultivation with adipocytes (Fig. 1a-c; Supplemental Tables S2–S4).

In MCF-7 cells, 60 genes were differentially expressed by at least 2.0 fold following co-culture with adipocytes (51 up/9 down; Fig. 1a and Supplemental Table S2). Among up-regulated genes, 33% are genes known to be regulated by estrogen-signaling, such as *MGP*, *PLK1*, *PDZK1*, *TFF3* and *GREB*¹⁵⁻¹⁹. Similarly, in the second ER + cell line T47D, 29% of \geq 2.0-fold up- or down-regulated genes (48 total genes, 34 up/ 14 down; Fig. 1b and Supplemental Table S3) are regulated by estrogen-signaling, including *TFF1*, *TFF3*, *FOXJ1*, *IRS1* and *BMP4*¹⁸⁻²⁷. Gene expression analysis of the triple-negative (TN), invasive breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-231 revealed 26 genes (24 up/2 down) with at least 2.0-fold expression difference (Fig. 1c and Supplemental Table S4). Interestingly, the vast majority (67%) of these genes are involved in the inflammatory cell response, such as *IL8*, *CXCL2*, *IL6* or *IL1B*. Thus, interaction with adipocytes strongly induces several hormone-sensitive genes in the two ER⁺, non-invasive breast cancer cell lines MCF-7 and T47D, whereas in TN MDA-MB-231 cells, co-culture with adipocytes results in the induction of pro-inflammatory genes.

We next evaluated global gene expression signatures of MCF-7, T47D and MDA-MB-231 cells in response to co-culture with adipocytes by comparing all genes with at least \geq 1.3-fold expression change. As shown in Fig. 1d, the majority of genes differed between the three respective breast cancer cell lines, but more genes overlapped between the two ER+ cell lines MCF-7 and T47D as compared to the TN MDA-MB-231 cells. We then annotated the unique gene lists from MCF-7, T47D and MDA-MB-231 cells and performed an enrichment analysis to identify significantly over- or under-represented Gene Ontology (GO) terms (Supplemental Figure S2 and Supplemental Table S5). Each cell line revealed a distinct pattern of enriched GO terms, but MCF-7 and T47D cells shared five out of nine, respectively twelve, significantly overrepresented GO terms in the biological process data set. In contrast, triple negative MDA-MB-231 cells do not overlap with the two ER+ cell lines in any of the significantly enriched GO terms. The most significantly enriched category in MDA-MD-231 cells was "response to stress" (Figure S2 and Supplemental Table S5).

To enhance the information about which signaling pathways might be affected in MDA-MB-231 cells by co-culture with adipocytes, we performed a gene-set over-representation analysis using ConsensusPathDB. This gene set analysis included all genes found to be differentially expressed by at least 1.3 fold (n = 199) as compared to the control. Our analysis revealed that up-regulated genes are significantly over-represented in inflammation-related pathways, such as TNF signaling, NF-kB signaling and cytokines and inflammatory response (Table 1 and see Supplemental Table S6 for more details). Down-regulated genes in MDA-MB-231 cells showed a significant association with cell cycle related pathways such as Mitotic Cell Cycle and Mitotic G1-G1/S phases (Table 2 and see Supplemental Table S7 for more details). Thus, the pathway analysis substantiates



Figure 1. Distinct gene expression profiles in breast-cancer cell lines co-cultured with 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Rank-based heatmaps displaying the top up- and down-regulated genes (\geq 2.0-fold) in the breast cancer cell lines (**a**) MCF7, (**b**) T47D and (**c**) MDA-MB-231 co-cultured with 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Red indicates up-regulation in co-culture; blue indicates down-regulation; see Supplemental Tables S2–S4 for absolute fold-changes. (**d**) Venn-Diagram representation of significantly differentially expressed genes (\geq 1.3-fold expression differences) in the respective cell lines.

that a vast majority of the strongest up-regulated genes are genes involved in inflammatory processes, while down-regulated genes were associated with cell cycle regulation.

Confirmation of microarray data by quantitative Real-Time PCR (qRT-PCR). To validate the data of our microarray analysis, several of the most up- and down-regulated candidate genes in each breast cancer cell line were tested by qRT-PCR. Further, to determine if a sustained interaction of adipocytes and tumor cells was a requirement for the observed changes in the gene expression profiles of the breast cancer cell lines, breast cancer cells were either co-cultured with adipocyte-conditioned medium (ACM), or with 3T31-L1 adipocytes (CoAd). Moreover, to evaluate the impact of undifferentiated pre-adipocytes, cancer cells were co-cultured with undifferentiated 3T3-L1 fibroblasts (CoFi) as well. Cancer cells grown in regular growth medium served as controls. In T47D cells, qRT-PCR confirmed a significant up-regulation of the genes *TFF1*, *TIMP1* and *TGFBR3*

Pathway name	set size	overlapping genes (% of total genes in pathway)	p-value	database
TNF signaling pathway	110	17 (15.5%)	7.5e-12	KEGG
Rheumatoid arthritis	90	15 (16.9%)	3.69e-11	KEGG
NF-kappa B signaling pathway	95	14 (14.9%)	9.28e-10	KEGG
Spinal Cord Injury	117	14 (12.0%)	1.71e-08	Wikipathways
Senescence and Autophagy in Cancer	105	13 (12.4%)	3.72e-08	Wikipathways
Nuclear Receptors Meta-Pathway	316	22 (7.0%)	4.01e-08	Wikipathways
Glucocorticoid Receptor Pathway	71	11 (15.5%)	4.02e-08	Wikipathways
HTLV-I infection	258	19 (7.4%)	1.47e-07	KEGG
Photodynamic therapy-induced HIF-1 survival signaling	36	8 (22.2%)	1.62e-07	Wikipathways
AGE-RAGE signaling pathway in diabetic complications	101	12 (11.9%)	2.00e-07	KEGG
Selenium Micronutrient Network	83	11 (13.3%)	2.11e-07	Wikipathways
HIF-1-alpha transcription factor network	67	10 (14.9%)	2.43e-07	PID
Cytokines and Inflammatory Response	29	7 (25.0%)	4.15e-07	Wikipathways
AP-1 transcription factor network	71	10 (14.1%)	4.26e-07	PID

Table 1. Over-represented cellular pathways of up-regulated genes in MDA-MB-231 cells grown as a co-culturewith 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Over-represented cellular pathways of \geq 1.3-fold up-regulated genes in MDA-MB-231breast cancer cells grown as co-cultures with 3T3-L1 adipocytes for 5 days. The Consensus Path Database over-representation analysis was used including all available databases (accessed 25. April 2017).

Pathway name	set size	overlapping genes (% of total genes in pathway)	p-value	database
Cell Cycle, Mitotic	468	35 (7.5%)	2.95e-20	Reactome
Cell Cycle	551	37 (6.7%)	7.96e-20	Reactome
Retinoblastoma (RB) in Cancer	89	14 (15.7%)	5.92e-13	Wikipathways
M Phase	267	19 (7.1%)	6.79e-11	Reactome
DNA Replication	60	10 (16.7%)	7.56e-10	Reactome
S Phase	82	11 (13.4%)	1.16e-09	Reactome
Activation of the pre-replicative complex	32	8 (25.0%)	1.3e-09	Reactome
Mitotic Anaphase	135	13 (9.6%)	2.24e-09	Reactome
Mitotic Metaphase and Anaphase	136	13 (9.6%)	2.46e-09	Reactome
Mitotic G1-G1/S phases	92	11 (12.0%)	4.07e-09	Reactome
DNA Replication Pre-Initiation	37	8 (21.6%)	4.55e-09	Reactome
M/G1 Transition	37	8 (21.6%)	4.55e-09	Reactome
Synthesis of DNA	55	9 (16.4%)	6.54e-09	Reactome
DNA Replication	42	8 (19.0%)	1.33e-08	Wikipathways
Cell Cycle	103	11 (10.7%)	1.36e-08	Wikipathways

Table 2. Over-represented cellular pathways of down-regulated genes in MDA-MB-231 cells grown as a co-
culture with 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Over-represented cellular pathways of \geq 1.3-fold down-regulated genes in
MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells grown as co-cultures with 3T3-L1 adipocytes for 5 days. The Consensus Path
Database over-representation analysis used including all available databases (accessed 25. April 2017).

(Supplemental Fig. 3a) upon co-culture with 3T3-L1 adipocytes (CoAd). Likewise, the genes *VTCN1*, *EPAS1*, *GPNMB* and *CD24* were verified to be down-regulated (Supplemental Fig. 3b). Similar results were retrieved for MCF-7 cells, with a significant up-regulation of the genes *NAV2*, *EGR3* and *SERPINA3* and down-regulation of *MAFB*, *PCDH10* and *PABPC4L* under all mentioned culture conditions (Supplemental Fig. 4a,b). While in most cases co-culture with adipocytes led to the strongest up-or down-regulated of the selected genes, also co-culture with ACM often induced significant changes in gene expressions. These results are in line with accumulating clinical and experimental evidence showing that complex interactions between tumor cells and cells of the surrounding stroma exist and that factors secreted by adipocytes are involved in changing gene expression patterns of ER⁺ breast cancer cells.

Corroborating the microarray analysis, we also detected significant up-regulation of pro-inflammatory genes *IL8, IL6, IL1B* and *CFB* in MDA-MB-231 cells co-cultured with adipocytes (Fig. 2a). Interestingly, co-culture with 3T3-L1 adipocytes consistently led to the strongest up-regulations of the examined genes in MDA-MB-231 cells, whereas co-culture with ACM or 3T3-L1 fibroblasts resulted in smaller or no effects, respectively (Fig. 2a). These data indicate, that the strongest changes of expression levels of the mentioned genes are induced by the constant presence of differentiated adipocytes during the course of co-culture, most likely through the continuous, active exchange of secreted factors.



Figure 2. MDA-MB-231 cells show increased expression of pro-inflammatory genes and enhanced IL-8 and IL-6 secretion upon co-culture with differentiated 3T3-L1 adipocytes. MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells were co-cultured either with 3T3-L1 adipocytes (CoAd), 3T3-L1 fibroblasts (CoFi), Adipocyte-conditioned medium (ACM) or alone (control) for 5 days. (a) After 5 days of co-culture, total RNA was extracted. Relative mRNA expression of selected genes was determined by performing quantitative RT-PCR. (b) Following 5 days of co-culture, supernatants were collected and cytokine expression was determined using ELISA Kits specifically detecting human IL-8 and IL-6. Data are presented as the means \pm SD of triplicates from one representative experiment. Significance is relative to control unless indicated otherwise (*p < 0.05; **p < 0.005; ***p < 0.0005).

Interaction with adipocytes increases secretion of IL-8 and IL-6 by MDA-MB-231 cells. Interestingly, two of the most up-regulated genes in the TN breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-231 following co-culture with adipocytes were IL8 and IL6, encoding the pro-inflammatory cytokines IL-8 and IL-6. This was of special interest, since interleukins, such as IL-8 and IL-6, are considered to be metastatic factors in breast cancer progression^{9-14,28}. To test, whether the elevated mRNA expression levels of IL8 and IL6 would also translate into increased secretion of these cytokines by MDA-MB-231 cells, we determined human IL-8 and IL-6 levels in cell culture supernatants with ELISA kits specifically detecting human IL-8 and IL-6. Consistently, secreted levels of IL-8 and IL-6 originating from the human MDA-MB-231 cells were significantly increased in co-cultured cells as compared to controls (Fig. 2b). Cultivation of MDA-MB-231 cells with ACM also led to a significant increase of IL-8 and IL-6 secretion, but to a much lesser extent. In comparison, interaction with undifferentiated 3T3-L1 fibroblasts did not affect the cytokine secretion levels of MDA-MB-231 cells. These results indicate that the production of IL-8 and IL-6 in MDA-MB-231 cells is specifically enhanced by factors secreted from adipocytes and is even more pronounced if adipocytes are present over the entire course of co-cultivation. In addition, we determined murine IL-6 levels in cell culture supernatants (Supplemental Fig. 5). Interestingly, co-culture of adipocytes and breast cancer cells resulted in a drastic increase of murine IL-6 levels. Co-culture of breast cancer cells with fibroblasts also led to an increase of murine IL-6 from fibroblasts, but to a much lesser extent. In the supernatant of MDA-MB-231 cells alone no murine IL-6 was detectable. Together these results indicate that breast cancer cells provoke increased IL-6 secretion from adipocytes which probably feeds into the pro-inflammatory signaling loop of the breast cancer cells. To date, there are several lines of evidence indicating that tumor cells induce surrounding cells of the tumor stroma such as macrophages²⁹, fibroblasts and adipocytes^{13,14} to secrete cytokines and other factors to create a tumor-supporting micromilieu9. Our data here demonstrate for the first time, that the crosstalk between breast cancer cells and adipocytes also changes the expression profile of the tumor cells towards a pro-inflammatory phenotype.





Figure 3. Increased p65 phosphorylation and mRNA expression of NF- κ B target genes in co-cultured MDA-MB-231 cells. MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells were co-cultured either with 3T3-L1 adipocytes (CoAd), 3T3-L1 fibroblasts (CoFi), Adipocyte-conditioned medium (ACM) or alone for 5 days. (a) mRNA expression levels of selected NF- κ B-response genes were analysed by qRT-PCR analyses. Data are presented as the means \pm SD of triplicates from one representative experiment. Significance is relative to control unless indicated otherwise (*p<0.05; **p<0.005; (b) Representative immunoblots of indicated whole cell extracts of MDA-MB-231 cells probed with antibodies against NF- κ B p65, phosphorylated-NF- κ B p65 and Gapdh (loading control). Blots' images where cropped to show relevant areas.

Co-culture with adipocytes enhances NF-\kappaB signaling in MDA-MB-231 cells. In view of the up-regulated pro-inflammatory genes, e.g. *IL6* and *IL8*, and signaling pathways that can be assigned to NF- κ B signaling (see Table 1), we next wanted to examine if this pathway was in fact affected in MDA-MB-231 cells upon co-culture with differentiated adipocytes. Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of well-established NF-κB target genes BIRC3, ICAM1, TNFAIP3, PTGS2 and VCAM1, showed significantly higher expression levels of all of these genes in MDA-MB-231 cells co-cultivated with 3T3-L1 adipocytes as compared to breast cancer cells grown in presence of 3T3-L1 fibroblasts, ACM or regular growth medium (Fig. 3a). Moreover, Western blot analysis of MDA-MB-231 whole cell extracts showed increased levels of phospho-NF-6Bp65 in breast cancer cells co-cultured with adipocytes as compared to breast cancer cells co-cultured with fibroblasts or control medium whereas the levels of NF- κ Bp65 were comparable in all three samples (Fig. 3b). These data demonstrate that co-culture with adipocytes increases active NF-κB signaling in MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells. In addition, we applied STRING for an interaction analysis performed with all genes showing ≥ 2.0 -fold expression changes (n = 26) in MDA-MB-231 cells cultured with adipocytes. This analysis revealed a prominent cluster of interacting NF-κB signaling molecules (Fig. 4). 15 (57.7%) out of 26 included genes allocated to the NF-κB pathway, indicating that this network plays an important role in the response of MDA-MB-231 cells to stimuli produced by co-cultured adipocytes.

Activation of IL-8 in MDA-MB-231 cells co-cultured with adipocytes is dependent on active NF-κBsignaling. Given that co-culture with adipocytes led to increased expression levels of putative NF-κB target genes and increased IL-8 secretion, we performed co-culture experiments of MDA-MB-231 cells and adipocytes in the presence or absence of the NF-κB-inhibitor JSH-23. To examine if inhibition of NF-κB signaling directly affects the expression levels of downstream targets, quantitative RT-PCR analysis of established NF-κB target genes *ICAM1*, *IL6*, *IL8* and *RELB* was performed. The results showed significantly higher expression levels of these genes in MDA-MB-231 cells co-cultivated with 3T3-L1 adipocytes as compared to breast cancer cells grown in presence of 3T3-L1 fibroblasts or regular growth medium (Fig. 5a). Interestingly, addition of JSH-23 to co-cultures significantly reduced the expression levels of the mentioned genes. Next, to determine if inhibition of NF-κB-signaling would also affect the secretion of IL-8 from MDA-MB-231 cells, we analyzed secreted IL-8 levels by ELISA. Consistent with the results described above (Fig. 2a,b), secreted levels of IL-8 originating from the human MDA-MB-231 cells were significantly increased in breast cancer cells co-cultured with adipocytes as



Figure 4. STRING pathway analysis of up- and downregulated genes in MDA-MB-231 cells co-cultured with adipocytes. STRING pathway analysis of genes that were up- or down-regulated \geq 2.0 fold in MDA-MB-231 cells upon co-culture with 3T3-L1 adipocytes (genes listed in Supplemental Table S4). The identified interactions of the gene products revealed a cluster of NF- κ B target genes. Thicker lines are indicative for higher confidence of interaction.

compared to controls or co-culture with fibroblasts (Fig. 5b). Interaction with undifferentiated 3T3-L1 fibroblasts did not affect the cytokine secretion levels of IL-8 from MDA-MB-231 cells as compared to the medium only control. However, addition of JSH-23 ($20\,\mu$ M) significantly reduced the levels of secreted IL-8 in all treatment conditions, indicating that secretion of IL-8 is dependent on active NF- κ B-signaling in MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells.

Interaction with mature adipocytes increases the motility of MDA-MB-231 cells. In cancer cells, activation of inflammatory pathways such as NF- κ B-signaling, either induced by acute inflammatory processes or constitutively activated, can induce a pro-tumorigenic response, such as cell survival, controlling epithelial-mesenchymal-transition and metastasis³⁰. Given the robust induction of pro-inflammatory signaling pathways in response to interaction with adipocytes, we sought to evaluate the motility of MDA-MB-231 cells using transwell migration and invasion assays. Interestingly, MDA-MB-231 cells (co-) cultured with mature adipocytes showed significantly more migration and invasion than MDA-MB-231 cells (co-) cultured with undifferentiated preadipocytes, ACM or medium alone (Fig. 6). Thus, our findings demonstrate that interaction with adipocytes induces functional changes in MDA-MB-231 cells consistent with increased cell migration and invasion, important steps in cancer progression and metastasis. Taken together, our data show that interaction with adipocytes induces pro-inflammatory responses in breast cancer cells, in this case MDA-MB-231 cells, a fact that has been underappreciated thus far. In addition, we demonstrate that co-cultivation with adipocytes increases the motility of these TN breast cancer cells. These results are in line with the notion that activation of inflammatory pathways can enhance the aggressiveness of cancer cells³¹.

Discussion

Despite a growing body of evidence underlining the important role of obesity and excess adipose tissue in survival and growth of breast tumors, detailed knowledge about the molecular mechanisms linking adipocytes to tumor growth, survival, and metastasis is limited. We hypothesized that interaction with adipocytes leads to the induction of pro-tumorigenic genes in breast cancer cells, since adipocytes have been described to exert several tumor promoting effects on cancer cells^{13,14,32,33}.

To investigate potential molecular changes in breast cancer cells, induced by co-existing adipocytes, we established a two-dimensional co-culture system of three different human breast cancer cell lines (T47D; MCF-7: ER⁺/ PR⁺/HER2 ; MDA-MB-231: ER /PR /HER2) and murine 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Following co-culture, global gene expression in cancer cells was profiled by microarrays. To our knowledge, this is the first study showing comprehensive, genome-wide gene expression analyses in hormone receptor positive and negative breast cancer cells following co-culture with adipocytes. Our microarray data revealed changes in gene expression pattern in response to adipocytes, unique for each breast cancer cell line. However, the two ER positive cell lines T47D and MCF-7 shared the induction of several hormone-sensitive genes upon co-culture with adipocytes, whereas the invasive breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-231 showed a significant inflammatory response. Several studies have shown, that obesity is a risk factor for the development of hormone receptor positive breast cancer, especially in postmenopausal women³⁴⁻³⁶. Aromatization of androgens (androstenedione and testosterone) to estrogens (estradiol and estrone) is catalyzed by the aromatase. Whereas in premenopausal women the highest levels of aromatase are found in granulosa cells of the ovaries, adipose tissue becomes the major source of aromatase after menopause³⁷. Estrogen promotes tumor growth by binding to its receptors on ER+ tumor cells and stimulating the expression of estrogen responsive genes. In our adipocyte co-culture experiments approximately one third

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Figure 5. Increased expression of NF-kB target genes and secretion of hIL-8 is dependent on active NF-KB signaling in MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells. (a) MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells were co-cultured either with 3T3-L1 adipocytes (CoAd), 3T3-L1 fibroblasts (CoFi) or alone (control) for 5 days in presence or absence of 20 μ M JSH-23. mRNA expression levels of selected NF- κ B-target genes were analysed by qRT-PCR analyses. (b) Following 5 days of co-culture with or without 20 μ M of JSH-23 present, supernatants were collected and cytokine levels were determined using ELISA Kit specifically detecting human IL-8. Data are presented as the means \pm SD of triplicates from one representative experiment. Significance is relative to basal conditions (JSH-23 vs DMSO) unless indicated otherwise (*p < 0.05; **p < 0.005; ***p < 0.0005).

of the differentially expressed genes (\geq 2.0-fold) in the two hormone receptor positive breast cancer cell lines MCF-7 and T47D are hormone sensitive. These results are in line with the current understanding that ER+ breast cancer cells are strongly influenced by estrogen derived from adipose tissue, which is considered to be a major contributor to tumor proliferation and progression by activating pro-tumorigenic estrogen responsive genes such as TFF1/pS2, Cyclin D1 or c-myc^{21,38-41}.

The present knowledge concerning the role of adipose tissue in progression of triple negative breast cancer is far more limited. Triple negative breast cancer is associated with an aggressive pathology, a cancer diagnosis at younger ages and poorer survival⁴²⁻⁴⁴. Study reports regarding the relationship between BMI of breast cancer patients and the risk of triple negative breast cancer are rare and inconsistent. Whereas some studies reported a positive association between BMI and risk of postmenopausal triple negative breast cancer^{45,48}. However, a large number of studies demonstrated that adipose tissue in obesity is in a state of chronic low-grade inflammation as



Figure 6. Co-Culture with 3T3-L1 adipocyte significantly increases the migratory abilities of MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells. (a) Breast cancer cells were seeded into the upper chamber of a transwell-system (8 μ M pore size) with either 3T3-L1 adipocytes (CoAd), 3T3-L1 fibroblasts (CoFi) or adipocyte-conditioned medium (ACM) in the bottom well. DMEM complemented with 10% FCS served as control. (b) For invasion assays, breast cancer cells were seeded in tissue culture inserts coated with Matrigel. Following 21 h of co-culture, cells that had transversed to the lower surface of the membrane were fixed with 95% ethanol and cell nuclei were stained with DAPI and counted. Values represent the mean of duplicates \pm SD of one representative experiment. Significance is relative to control unless indicated otherwise (*p < 0.05; **p < 0.005).

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evidenced by the presence of immune cells such as lymphocytes and macrophages. Further, cytokines secreted by adipose tissue like IL-1 β , IL-6 and IL-8 have been implicated in tumor progression by stimulating tumorigenic pathways in cancer cells, such as TNF α and NF- κ B signaling. In addition to systemic effects of adipose tissue dysfunction, several recent studies demonstrated that dysfunctional adipose tissue exerts similar effects on tumor cells growing in their direct vicinity and vice versa^{6,12}. For instance, it has been shown that cancer cells induce changes in neighbouring adipocytes thereby creating activated fat cells called cancer-associated adipocytes (CAA). These CAAs are characterized by increased lipolysis, a decrease in adipocyte markers and an overexpression of pro-inflammatory cytokines like IL-6 and IL-1β. Conversely, these changes in the adipocytes contribute to the local inflammation and in turn drive tumor progression, among other mechanisms by promoting migration and invasion capabilities of breast cancer cells¹³. Here, in our study we present data showing that the interaction of adipocytes and breast cancer cells, not only stimulates the secretion of inflammatory cytokines in adipocytes, but also in the breast cancer cells themselves. A fact that has been underappreciated so far, since most of the conducted adipocyte-breast cancer cell co-culture studies focused on the up-regulation and secretion of cytokines induced in interacting adipocytes. In case of the TN MDA-MB-231 cells studied here, co-culture with adipocytes led to the induction of inflammatory pathways, such as NF- κ B and TNF α , and elevated secretion levels of IL-8 and IL-6. Interestingly, expression levels of IL8 and IL6 have been shown to be inversely correlated to the estrogen receptor status, with high IL8 and IL6 expression in ER⁻ breast cancer cell lines with high invasive potential⁴⁹

There is increasing evidence that NF- κ B signaling is an important player in cancer development and progression²³. NF- κ B signaling in cancer cells can be activated by factors such as IL-1 β , TNF α and IL-8, IL-6 and MCP-1 secreted by cells in the microenvironment of the tumor, e.g. macrophages or adipocytes^{51–53}. NF- κ B, in turn, is known to induce TNF α , IL-1, IL-6 and IL-8 and thereby contributing to tumor cell growth an proliferation⁵². Moreover, NF- κ B signaling contributes to cancer progression by regulating epithelial to mesenchymal transition and metastasis⁵⁴. These observations are in agreement with the results of our study. Next to the increased expression and secretion of IL-6 and IL-8 from MDA-MB-231 cells upon co-culture with adipocytes, pathway and STRING analyses of differentially expressed gene sets also indicated an activation of the NF- κ B signaling pathway. This was further corroborated by expression analyses of NF- κ B target genes revealing significant upregulation of these genes in MDA-MB-231 cells following co-culture with adipocytes. Interestingly, co-culture experiments with the specific NF-KB inhibitor JSH-23 drastically decreased these effects. We also found that co-culture with differentiated 3T3-L1-adipocytes significantly increased the migratory abilities of MDA-MB-231 cells by performing transwell migration and invasion assays. This observation is in line with findings from other groups demonstrating that interaction with adipocytes or adipocyte-conditioned medium enhances the ability of migration and invasion of cancer cells^{10,12,55}. It is very conceivable that one of the driving forces in increasing cell migration and invasion here are pro-inflammatory cytokines, like IL-6 and IL-8, secreted from mature adipocytes, which are known to play a role in breast cancer progression. In our work here, we demonstrate that co-culture with differentiated adipocytes not only induces IL-6 and IL-8 gene expression and production within TN breast cancer cells, but also increases murine IL-6 production of the adipocytes. This fits the hypothesis that factors secreted from co-cultivated adipocytes could feed into the autocrine production loop of IL-8 and IL-6 in MDA-MB-231 cells, thereby potentially promoting a more aggressive phenotype of these cells for example by enhancing NF- κ B signaling. To suspend this positive feedback loop of inflammation between breast tumor cells and their surrounding microenvironment seems to be a highly considerable treatment strategy, especially for the treatment of triple-negative breast carcinomas, which currently only have limited targeted therapeutic options. Therapeutics specifically inhibiting IL-6, IL-8 and NF- κ B signaling could be a promising treatment option for obses women with triple-negative breast cancer.

Materials and Methods

Cell culture of breast cancer cell lines. Human breast carcinoma cell lines MDA-MB-231, MCF-7 and T47D were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC). The murine pre-adipocyte cell line 3T3-L1 was kindly provided by Jan L. Breslow (The Rockefeller University, New York). MDA-MB-231, MCF-7 and 3T3-L1 cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) and Roswell Park Memorial Institute (RPMI) 1640 Medium (T47D) supplemented with 10% FCS (Biochrom GmbH-Millipore) and 1% Antibiotic-Antimycotic (Gibco[®]). T47D cells were grown in Roswell Park Memorial Institute (RPMI) 1640 Medium supplemented with 10% FCS (Biochrom GmbH-Millipore). All cell cultures were maintained at 37 °C in 5% CO₂.

In vitro differentiation of **3T3-L1** preadipocytes. Differentiation of **3T3-L1** preadipocytes into mature adipocytes was performed as previously described⁵⁶. In brief, 2-day postconfluent cells (designated day 0) were treated with DMEM, 10% FCS, 1% Antibiotic-Antimycotic (Gibco[®]), 0.5 mM 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine (IBMX), 0.25 μ m Dexamethasone, 1 μ g/ml insulin and 2 μ M Rosiglitazone (all Sigma-Aldrich) to induce differentiation. After 3 days, medium was replaced by DMEM, 10% FCS, 1% Antibiotic-Antimycotic (Gibco[®]) and 1 μ g/ml insulin. On day 6, medium was replaced with regular culture medium (DMEM, 10% FCS, 1% Antibiotic-Antimycotic), and further exchanged every 2-3 days. 3T3-L1 adipocytes were used for co-cultures with human breast cancer cells from day 10 to 18 after starting differentiation. 3T3-L1 preadipocyte control cells (undifferentiated control) were maintained in DMEM supplemented with 10% FCS and 1% Antibiotic-Antimycotic (Gibco[®]).

To generate adipocyte-conditioned medium (ACM), 3T3-L1 adipocytes (between day 10 and 18 after starting differentiation) were cultured in DMEM, 10% FCS, 1% Antibiotic-Antimycotic (Gibco[®]) for 48 h. ACM was then collected and filtered using a 0.8 µm syringe filter to remove any cellular debris.

Co-culture model. Murine 3T3-L1 adipocytes and human breast cancer cells were co-cultured using ThinCertTM cell culture inserts (0.4 µm pore size; Greiner BioOne) in 6-well tissue culture plates (Greiner BioOne), filled with regular growth medium. Breast cancer cells were seeded in the top chamber of the co-culture system with adipocytes (CoAd) or without (control) adipocytes in the bottom well. To analyze the effect of undifferentiated 3T3-L1 fibroblasts (preadipocytes) and adipocyte-conditioned medium on tumor cells, breast cancer cells were cultured with either fibroblasts (CoFi) or adipocyte-conditioned medium (ACM) in the bottom chamber. Inhibition of NF- κ B was performed with 20 µM JSH-23 (Selleckchem) dissolved in DMSO.

RNA isolation, cDNA synthesis and quantitative RT-PCR. For RNA isolation breast cancer cells were co-cultured with adipocytes (CoAd), fibroblasts (CoFi), ACM or by themselves (control) for 5 days. Total RNA was isolated using the QIAGEN RNeasy Micro Kit according to the manufacturer's instructions (QIAGEN). First strand cDNA was synthesized from 2 μ g of each total RNA sample using Superscript II reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen). Quantitative RT-PCRs were performed using EvaGreenTM Mastermix (Solis BioDyne, Estonia) on ViiA 7 thermocycler equipment (Applied Biosystems). The relative expression of each gene was determined using the comparative CT method ($\Delta\Delta$ Ct) and glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) as housekeeping gene⁵⁷. Each experiment was conducted with triplicates and replicated at least three times. All primer sequences used for RT-PCR analysis are listed in Supplemental Table 1.

Microarray analysis. RNA integrity was assessed with the Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies Inc., Palo Alto, California). cRNA labeling and hybridization to the Illumina HT-12 v4 expression bead chips was carried out at the DNA Technologies core unit of the Center of Clinical Research (IZKF), University Hospital Leipzig. All steps were performed according to the manufacturer's specifications. Microarrays were scanned on an iScan array scanner (Illumina) and raw array data were processed and background subtracted in Illumina GenomeStudio. Further analysis was performed using the Chipster open source platform⁵⁸. Expression values were quantile normalized and log2-transformed using the Bioconductor package 'lumi' implemented in Chipster⁵⁹. Statistical comparison between the sample groups was done within Chipster using the empirical Bayes method⁶⁰ and the Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) multiple-testing correction of the raw p-values. FDR threshold of 5% (q < 0.05) was used for filtering differentially expressed genes in each condition. The microarray data have been deposited in the ArrayExpress database at EMBL-EBI (www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress) under accession number E-MTAB-6855.

Panther Gene Ontology. We used the gene ontology (GO) enrichment tool from the PANTHER Classification System accessible at http://pantherdb.org (Version 13.1) to evaluate characteristics of sets of genes. Genelists from the respective breast cancer cell lines (MCF7, T47D, MDA231) included all genes with at least 1.3-fold expression changes upon co-culture with 3T3-L1 adipocytes and were tested for overrepresentation (PANTHER Overrepresentation Test (Released 20171205) in the PANTHER GO-slim Biological Process data set. The complete homo sapiens gene list was used as reference set to test for overrepresentation. Fisher's exact test with FDR multiple test correction was applied and p < 0.05 was considered significant.

Pathway analysis with ConsensusPathDB. Enrichment analysis was performed employing ConsensusPathDB (release 30), of the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics in Berlin, Germany, by using the overrepresentation analysis online tool (http://consensuspathdb.org/). To perform gene set analysis, genes that were found to be up- or down-regulated by at least 1.3-fold in breast cancer cells upon co-culture with 3T3-L1 adipocytes, were included. Up-and down-regulated genes were analyzed separately. We searched for pathways as defined by PID, NetPath, Biocarta, Reactome, Wikipathways and KEGG, with a minimal overlap with the input list of 2 and a p-value cutoff at 0.01.

String Database Analysis. The STRING database (Search Tool for the Retrieval of Interacting Genes/Proteins (http://string-db.org)) (Version 10) was used to visualize interactions among differentially expressed genes⁶¹.

Migration and Invasion Assays. Migration Assays were performed using ThinCertTM Cell culture inserts (8 µM pore size; 6-well plate) by Greiner Bio-One. For Invasion assays BD BioCoatTM MatrigelTM Invasion Chambers (8 µM pore size; BD Biosciences) were used. For both assays, MDA-MB-231 cells were resuspended in serum-free DMEM and seeded into the cell culture inserts at a cell density of 3×10^5 cells/well (Migration Assays) and 5×10^4 cells/well (Invasion Assays), respectively. The bottom chambers contained either 3T3-L1 adipocytes (CoAd), 3T3-L1 fibroblasts (CoFi), ACM or regular growth medium (DMEM, 10% FCS, 1% AA) as medium control. After 21 h of incubation, cell culture inserts were removed and membranes were fixed with 95% ethanol for 30 sec. The upper side of the membrane was wiped with cotton swabs to remove non-migrated cells. Membranes were then rinsed with clean water, cut out of the insert and mounted on slides with ProLong[®] Gold Antifade reagent containing DAP1 (Life Technologies) to stain nuclei. Microscopic images were taken (five optical fields/ membrane, 20 or 40x magnification) using a Zeiss Apotome Fluorescence Microscope. The values for cell migration and invasion were calculated as the mean of migrated and invaded cells/field. Experiments were performed in duplicates and repeated at least three times with consistent results.

ELISA. The concentrations of secreted human IL-6 (hIL-6) and IL-8 (hIL8) in cell culture supernatants were determined using human IL-6 and IL-8 ELISA Kits (MesoScale Discovery) as recommended by the manufacturer. The ELISA assays were evaluated for cross-reactivity with mouse IL-6 or KC/GRO (the mouse homologue for human IL-8) by the manufacturer. No significant cross-reactivity was observed. Mouse IL-6 (m IL-6) was detected using a ELISA kit (Cell Signaling) according to manufacturer's instructions.

Western Blot. Whole cell lysates were prepared as previously described⁶². Cell lysates were subjected to SDS-PAGE, transferred to PVDF membranes (Millipore), and then immunoblotted with antibodies against Gapdh (Fitzgerald, #10R-G109a), NF-κBp65 (Cell Signaling, #8242) and phospho-Nf-κBp65 (Cell Signaling, #8033).

Statistics. Results were analyzed by Student's t-test (two-tailed) or by ANOVA with Dunnett's post-test, when multiple comparisons were made. Statistical significance was defined as p < 0.05.

Data Availability. The microarray datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available in the ArrayExpress database, under accession number E-MTAB-6855.

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Author Contributions

A.N. and C.B. designed and performed experiments, analyzed data and wrote the manuscript. O.K., N.S., S.M. and M.S. performed experiments and analyzed data. J.T. provided intellectual input and edited the manuscript. R.B. provided intellectual input, analyzed data and edited the manuscript. S.C.S. conceived the study, designed experiments, analyzed data and wrote and edited the manuscript.

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3 Zusammenfassung der Arbeit

Dissertation zur Erlangung des akademischen Grades: Dr. rer. med.

Adipozyten induzieren bestimmte Genexpressionsmuster in Brustkrebszelllinien und verstärken die inflammatorische NfkB-Signalgebung in triple-negativen Brustkrebszellen

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Die weltweit stetig ansteigende Prävalenz von Adipositas und ihrer assoziierten Folgeerkrankungen stellt eine immer größer werdende Herausforderung für das globale Gesundheitssystem dar (2; 8; 115). So ist Fettleibigkeit nicht nur ein bekannter Risikofaktor für metabolische und kardiovaskuläre Erkrankungen, sondern ebenso mit einer erhöhten Inzidenz verschiedener Krebserkrankungen assoziiert, wie z.B. Brustkrebs, Darmkrebs und Bauchspeicheldrüsenkrebs (116; 117). Obwohl immer mehr Studien darauf hinweisen, dass Übergewicht das Fortschreiten von Krebserkrankungen begünstigt, sind die zugrunde liegenden molekularen Mechanismen bisher kaum beschrieben.

Fettgewebe, welches vordergründig aus reifen Adipozyten besteht und den Energiespeicher des Körpers darstellt, wird heutzutage als komplexes endokrines Organ wahrgenommen. So sezernieren Adipozyten einen komplexen Cocktail an Zytokinen, Wachstumsfaktoren und Adipokinen und nehmen damit parakrin und endokrin Einfluss auf andere Körpergewebe (14; 118; 119).

Für Brustkrebszellen wurde gezeigt, dass diese auch direkt mit benachbarten Adipozyten des Tumorstromas interagieren (120; 121). Diese Interaktion kann zur Ausbildung eines tumorfördernden Adipozyten-Phänotyps, der durch Lipolyse, verringerte Adipozytenmarker-Expression und eine Überexpression von inflammatorischen Zytokinen wie IL-6 und IL-1β gekennzeichnet ist, führen. Diese sogenannten "Cancer-associated Adipocytes (CAA)" tragen zur lokalen Entzündung bei und stellen Energie für die Tumorproliferation zur Verfügung (34; 122). Diese Forschungsergebnisse zeigen, dass Brustkrebszellen aktiv ihre benachbarten Zellen im Tumorstroma beeinflussen, um eine vorteilhafte inflammatorische Mikroumgebung zu erzeugen, welche wiederum die Tumorprogression fördert.

Detaillierte Kenntnisse über die molekularen Mechanismen, welche die Adipozyten mit dem Wachstum, Überleben und der Metastasierung der Tumoren verbinden, sind bisher begrenzt. In der vorliegenden Arbeit sollte untersucht werden, inwieweit die Interaktion mit Adipozyten zur Induktion von Genen in Brustkrebszellen führt, die mit Tumorprogression assoziiert werden.

Um potentielle molekulare Veränderungen in den Brustkrebszellen zu untersuchen, welche durch benachbarte Adipozyten induziert werden, wurde ein 2D-Kokultur-System von drei verschiedenen humanen Brustkrebszelllinien (T47D; MCF-7: ER+/PR+/HER2-; MDA-MB-231: ER-/PR-/HER2-) und murinen 3T3-L1 Adipozyten etabliert. Dieses System ermöglicht interzelluläre Kommunikation über lösliche, in das Kulturmedium sezernierte Faktoren, ohne direkten Kontakt zwischen den beiden Zelltypen zu erlauben. Nach der Kokultur wurde eine globale Genexpressionsanalyse der Brustkrebszellen mittels Mikroarray durchgeführt.

1. Mikroarray Genexpressionsanalyse: Die Kokultur mit reifen Adipozyten beeinflusst je nach Brustkrebssubtyp unterschiedliche Gene und Signalwege.

Die Mikroarray-Daten zeigten für jede Brustkrebszelllinie einzigartige Veränderungen im Genexpressionsmuster als Reaktion auf die Kokultur mit Adipozyten. Jedoch waren abhängig vom Brustkrebs-Subtyp, ER-positiv oder triple-negativ, Veränderungen im Expressionsmuster funktionell ähnlicher Gengruppen zu erkennen (Figure 1a-1c; Supplemental Tables S2-S4).

So waren jeweils ca. ein Drittel der mindestens um den Faktor 2 differentiell exprimierten Gene der beiden ER-positiven, nicht-invasiven Brustkrebszelllinien MCF7 und T47D, bekannte Östrogen-regulierte Gene (MCF7: Fig. 1a, Suppl. Table S2; T47D: Fig. 1b; Suppl. Table S3). Diese Ergebnisse stimmen mit dem derzeitigen Kenntnisstand überein, dass ER+ Brustkrebszellen stark von Östrogen aus dem Fettgewebe beeinflusst werden. Dieses leistet durch Aktivierung tumorfördernder Östrogen-sensitiver Gene, wie z.B. TFF1/pS2, Cyclin D1 oder c-myc (123; 124; 125; 126; 127) einen großen Beitrag zur Tumorproliferation und –progression.

Die triple-negative, invasive Brustkrebszelllinie MDA-MB-231 hingegen zeigte eine signifikante inflammatorische Reaktion. So waren 67% der mindestens um den Faktor 2 differentiell exprimierten Gene bekannte Faktoren der entzündlichen Zellantwort (Fig. 1c, Suppl. Table S4). Eine Überrepräsentationsanalyse aller mindestens 1,3-fach differentiell regulierten Gene (n=199) mit ConsensusPathDB zeigte ebenfalls, dass die unter Kokultur hochregulierten Gene signifikant in entzündungsrelevanten Signalwegen wie "Tumornekrosefaktor (TNF) Signaltransduktion", "NF-kB-Signalweg" und "Zytokine und Entzündungsantwort" überrepräsentiert waren (Table 1;Suppl. Table S6 für mehr Details).

2. Die Interaktion mit Adipozyten führt zur erhöhten Sekretion von IL-8 und IL-6 durch die triple-negative Brustkrebszelllinie MDA-MB-231

Auch mittels qRT-PCR konnte für die triple-negativen MDA-MB-231 Zellen eine erhebliche Überexpression der inflammatorischen Gene *IL8*, *IL6*, *IL1B* und *CFB* unter Kokultur mit reifen Adipozyten (CoAd) nachgewiesen werden. Die Effekte der Kokulturen mit Adipozyten-konditioniertem Medium (ACM) oder undifferenzierten 3T3-L1 Fibroblasten (CoFi) waren geringer oder nicht signifikant (Fig. 2a). Diese Daten legen nahe, dass für eine starke Veränderung der Genexpression die konstante Anwesenheit reifer Adipozyten und ein kontinuierlicher, aktiver Austausch der sezernierten Faktoren zwischen Brustkrebszellen und Adipozyten notwendig sind.

Man nimmt an, dass pro-inflammatorische Interleukine wie IL-8 und IL-6 Metastasierungsfaktoren während der Brustkrebsprogression sind (40; 128). Die Sekretion der beiden Zytokine durch MDA-MB-231 Zellen wurde daher mittels ELISA spezifisch für humanes IL-8 und IL-6 in Kokulturüberständen bestimmt. Bei den mit Adipozyten kokultivierten Brustkrebszellen konnte im Vergleich zur Kontrolle eine signifikant höhere Sekretion von IL-8 und IL-6 gemessen werden (Fig. 2b). Die Effekte der Kokulturen mit Adipozyten-konditioniertem Medium (ACM) oder undifferenzierten 3T3-L1 Fibroblasten (CoFi) waren auch hier geringer oder nicht signifikant.

Zusätzlich wurde das Level von murinem IL-6 in den Kokulturüberständen bestimmt (Suppl. Fig. 5). Dabei zeigte sich ein drastischer Anstieg von murinem IL-6 unter Kokultur mit MDA-MB-231 Brustkrebszellen.

Ein Erklärungsansatz ist, dass durch die Interaktion der MDA-MB-231 Zellen und Adipozyten eine inflammatorische Rückkopplungsschleife entsteht, welche in beiden Zelltypen entzündungsfördernde Eigenschaften verstärkt.

3. Die Kokultur mit Adipozyten verstärkt den NF-kB Signalweg in MDA-MB-231 Zellen

In der Literatur finden sich zunehmend Hinweise darauf, dass der NF-KB-Signalweg ein wichtiger Faktor bei der Entwicklung und Progression von Krebs ist (129). Neben der erhöhten Expression und Sekretion von IL-6 und IL-8 aus MDA-MB-231-Zellen nach Kokultur mit Adipozyten, wies die Überrepräsentationsanalyse differentiell exprimierter Gensätze mit ConsensusPathDB ebenfalls auf eine Aktivierung des NF-kB-Signalwegs hin. Desgleichen ergab eine zusätzlich durchgeführte STRING-Interaktionsanalyse der um mindestens Faktor 2 differentiell exprimierten Gene (n=26) in den mit Adipozyten MDA-MB-231 Zellen eine auffällige Ansammlung von kokultivierten NF-ĸB Signalmolekülen (Fig. 4). So konnten 15 (57.7%) der 26 eingeschlossenen Gene dem NFκB Signalweg zugeordnet werden. Dies wurde durch Expressionsanalysen der bekannten NF-kB-Zielgene BIRC3, ICAM1, TNFAIP3, PTGS2 und VCAM1 weiter untermauert, welche eine signifikante Überexpression in MDA-MB-231-Zellen nach Kokultur mit Adipozyten zeigten (Fig. 3a). Die Effekte der Kokulturen mit Adipozyten-konditioniertem Medium (ACM) oder undifferenzierten 3T3-L1 Fibroblasten (CoFi) waren meist geringer oder nicht signifikant. Auch eine Western Blot Analyse von MDA-MB-231 Zellextrakten zeigte erhöhte Level von phospho-NF-kBp65 in Brustkrebszellen, welche mit Adipozyten kokultiviert wurden (Fig. 3b), nicht jedoch in den Kokulturen mit 3T3-L1 Fibroblasten oder Kontrollmedium. Die Expressionslevel von NF-KBp65 waren in allen drei Proben vergleichbar.

Insgesamt demonstrieren diese Ergebnisse, dass die Kokultur mit Adipozyten die aktive NF-κB Signaltransduktion in den triple-negativen MDA-MB-231 Brustkrebszellen verstärkt.

4. Die Aktivierung von IL-8 in den MDA-MB-231 Zellen durch Kokultur mit Adipozyten ist abhängig von aktiver NF-κB Signaltransduktion

Um zu prüfen, ob eine Hemmung des NF-κB Signalwegs direkt die Expressionslevel von nachfolgenden Zielgenen beeinflusst, wurden Kokulturen von MDA-MB-231 Zellen und Adipozyten in der An- oder Abwesenheit des NF-κB-Inhibitors JSH-23 durchgeführt. Die

Analyse mittels quantitativer RT-PCR ergab eine signifikant höhere Expression der bekannten NF-κB Zielgene *ICAM1*, *IL6*, *IL8* und *RELB* in MDA-MB-231 Zellen nach Kokultur mit Adipozyten im Vergleich zu Kokulturen mit 3T3-L1 Fibroblasten oder Kontrollmedium (Fig. 5a). Die Zugabe von JSH-23 zu den Kokulturen resultierte in einer signifikant verminderten Expression der genannten Gene. Auch mittels ELISA konnte gezeigt werden, dass die IL-8 Sekretion der Brustkrebszellen nach Zugabe von JSH-23 signifikant verringert war (Fig. 5b). Daraus lässt sich schließen, dass die Sekretion von IL-8 in den MDA-MB-231 Brustkrebszellen abhängig von aktiver NF-κB-Signaltransduktion ist.

5. Die Interaktion mit reifen Adipozyten erhöht die Motilität der triple-negativen MDA-MB-231 Zellen

Ein inflammatorisches Mikromilieu kann die Aggressivität von Tumorzellen erhöhen (129), indem es Prozesse wie die epithelial-mesenchymale Transition und Metastasierung fördert (130). Angesichts der starken Induktion inflammatorischer Signalwege in den triplenegativen Brustkrebszellen als Resonanz auf die Kokultur mit Adipozyten, wurde die Zellmotilität der Brustkrebszellen mit Migrations- und Invasionsassays getestet. Dabei zeigte sich, dass MDA-MB-231 Zellen, die mit reifen Adipozyten kokultiviert wurden, eine signifikant höhere Migrations- und Invasionsrate aufwiesen als in Kokulturen mit undifferenzierten 3T3-L1 Fibroblasten, ACM oder Kontrollmedium (Fig. 6). Die Interaktion mit Adipozyten bewirkt demnach funktionelle Änderungen in den MDA-MB-231 Zellen, welche zu erhöhter Migrations- und Invasionsfähigkeit führen; wichtige Schritte in der Tumorprogression.

Zusammenfassend konnte in dieser Arbeit erstmal gezeigt werden, dass die Interaktion von Adipozyten und Brustkrebszellen nicht nur die Sekretion entzündungsfördernder Zytokine in den Adipozyten, sondern auch in den Brustkrebszellen selbst stimuliert. Im Fall der hier untersuchten triple-negativen MDA-MB-231 Zellen führt die Kokultur mit Adipozyten zur erhöhten Genexpression und Sekretion von IL-8 und IL-6, einer Verstärkung des NF-kB Signalwegs und erhöhten Migrations- und Invasionsfähigkeiten. Dies deutet darauf hin, dass zwischen den Adipozyten und Brustkrebszellen eine inflammatorische Rückkopplungsschleife aufgebaut wird, wodurch möglicherweise ein aggressiverer Phänotyp der Tumorzellen entsteht.

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5 Anlagen

5.1 Supplemental Material

Supplemental Material

Adipocytes induce distinct gene expression profiles in mammary tumor cells and enhance inflammatory signaling in invasive breast cancer cells

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Material and Methods

Oil Red O staining

To visualize the lipid content of undifferentiated and differentiated 3T3-L1 cells, a staining with the lipohilic dye oil red O was performed. 3T3-L1 cells were washed with PBS, fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (in PBS) for 10 min at RT and washed 2 times with PBS. A oil red O (Sigma-Aldrich, Germany) stock solution (5 g/L in isopropanol) was diluted 6:4 with distilled water and filtered immediately before use. Cells were stained with this oil red O working solution for 20 minutes at RT, followed by two washing steps with 60 % isopropanol and distilled water. Counterstain of the cells was performed by incubating the cells with a hematoxylin staining solution (Sigma-Aldrich, Germany) for 30 sec at RT. Cells were washed 2 times with tap water and PBS and kept in the fridge until imaging. An Axioskope phase contrast microscope with attached AxioCam MRc5 camera (Carl Zeiss AG, Germany) was used to examine the cells. Only plates showing at least 80 % of differentiated 3T3-L1 adipocytes throughout the plate were used for co-culture experiments, as compared to the undifferentiated controls.

IL-6 ELISA

The concentrations of secreted murine IL-6 in cell culture supernatants were determined using murine IL-6 ELISA Kits (R&D Systems) as recommended by the manufacturer.

5.1.1 Supplemental Figures

Supplemental Figures:



Figure S1: *In vitro* **differentiation of 3T3-L1 preadipocytes into adipocytes.** Representative phase contrast images of oil red O staining (red) of undifferentiated 3T3-L1 preadipocytes (A) and differentiated 3T3-L1 adipocytes (B). Haematoxylin was used as counterstain (blue).

MCF7:



T47D:



MDA231:



Figure S2: Overrepresentation analysis of GO terms.

Enrichment analysis for GO terms in the PANTHER GO-slim Biological Process data set was carried out using lists of differentially expressed genes from MCF-7, T47D or MDA-MB-231 cells co-cultured with 3T3-L1 adipocytes (\geq 1.3-fold expression change). The complete homo sapiens gene list was used as reference set to test for overrepresentation. Fisher's exact test with FDR multiple test correction was applied and p<0.05 was considered significant.



Figure S3: Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of selected candidate genes in T47D cells.

T47D and breast cancer cells were co-cultured either with 3T3-L1 adipocytes (CoAd), 3T3-L1 fibroblasts (CoFi), Adipocyte-conditioned medium (ACM) or alone for 5 days and total RNA was extracted. Relative mRNA expression levels of selected genes found to be differentially expressed in microarray analysis (co-culture with 3T3-L1 adipocytes (CoAd) vs. control) were determined. Data are presented as means \pm SD of triplicates from one representative experiment. Significance is relative to control conditions unless otherwise indicated with bars (* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.005; *** p < 0.0005).





MCF7 breast cancer cells were co-cultured either with 3T3-L1 adipocytes (CoAd), 3T3-L1 fibroblasts (CoFi), Adipocyte-conditioned medium (ACM) or alone for 5 days prior to total RNA extraction. Relative mRNA expression levels of selected genes found to be differentially expressed in microarray analysis (co-culture with 3T3-L1 adipocytes (CoAd) vs. control) were determined. Data are presented as means \pm SD of triplicates from one representative experiment. Significance is relative to basal conditions unless otherwise indicated with bars (* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.005; *** p < 0.0005).



Figure S5: Co-culture with MDA-MB-231 cells enhances IL-6 secretion from adipocytes.

Supernatants were collected after 5 days of co-culture between MDA-MB-231 cells and adipocytes (CoAd) or fibroblasts (CoFi), or from MDA-MB-231 cells alone (control). Adipocyte- (ACM) or fibroblast conditioned media (FCM) from differentiated or undifferentiated 3T3-L1 cells were used as controls to assess basal murine IL-6 levels in the media and served as reference. Cytokine expression was determined using an ELISA Kit specifically detecting murine IL-6. Data are presented as means \pm SD of triplicates from one representative experiment. Significance is relative to basal media conditions unless indicated otherwise (* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.005; *** p < 0.0005).



Complete white light and chemiluminescene images of Western Blot shown in Figure 3b.

5.1.2 Supplemental Tables

Table S1: Prin	ner Sequences	
Gene name	oligonucleotide sequence	5' -> 3'
TFF1	sense	GTCCCCTGGTGCTTCTATCC
	antisense	GGGACTAATCACCGTGCTGG
TIMP1	sense	ATTGCTGGAAAACTGCAGGATG
	antisense	CCGTCCACAAGCAATGAGTG
TGFBR3	sense	CATCGAGCTAATCACCCCCA
	antisense	CCTCTGCATTATTTTCAAGCC
VTCN1	sense	GCCAGTACCCAGATACGCTG
	antisense	ATGGAGTGTCTCCCTGAAATACC
EPAS1	sense	CCAAGCTAAAGGAGGAGCCC
	antisense	TGAAATCCGTCTGGGTACTGC
GPNMB	sense	CCAAGGGAGCATTCCCACG
	antisense	TGTACACCAAGAGGGAGATCA
CD24	sense	CCCAATCCAAATGGCGTCTG
	antisense	TGGATGTTGCCTCTCCTTCATC
NAV2	sense	AGAAGCGGAAGAACTGGGTC
	antisense	CATTTCGGAGCTGCATGACG
EGR3	sense	GGTGACCATGAGCAGTTTGC
	antisense	TAGGTCACGGTCTTGTTGCC
SERPINA3	sense	TCCCTGAGGCAGAGTTGAGA
	antisense	TCAGGGGCCTTCAGGACTAA
MAFB	sense	ACTTGAGCGAGAGGAGGAA
	antisense	CCTTGGTGACTTCTCGGGAC
PCDH10	sense	CTAGTTGACAGACCTCGCCG
	antisense	GCGTCCATCAGAAGGGACAA
PABPC4L	sense	CCTAGGAGGGCCAGATTGGT
	antisense	CCTCGGGATCACCACAAA
IL8	sense	GCTTGAAGTTTCACTGGCATCT
	antisense	CAGAGACAGCAGAGCACACA
IL6	sense	GAGATGCCGTCGAGGATGTA
	antisense	CTTCGGTCCAGTTGCCTTCTC
IL1B	sense	CATGGCCACAACAACTGACG
	antisense	AGCCATGGCAGAAGTACCTG
CFB	sense	TCTGTGACAACGGAGCGGG
	antisense	CCCATCCTCAGCATCGACTC
RELB	sense	CACTCTCGCTCGCCGTTTC
	antisense	CGAAGCCGTTCTCCTTGATGT

Table S2: The list of up- (\uparrow) and down- (\downarrow) regulated genes (\ge 2.0 fold) in MCF7 cells grown as a co-culture with 3T3-L1 adipocytes. The unpaired t-test with Benjamin- Hochberg FDR < 6% (false discovery rate) correction (with p value cut-off < 0.05) were conducted.

	< 0.05) wei			T
No	Fold change	Gene symbol	Gene name	p-value
1				
	<u></u> ↑4,84	EGR3	early growth response 3	<1.0E-06
2				
	<u></u> ↑4,35	NAV2	neuron navigator 2	<1.0E-06
3	<u>↑</u> / 23	MGP	matrix Gla protein	<1.0E-06
4	1 ,20			
	13,89	KLK6	kallikrein-related peptidase 6	<1.0E-06
5				
	13,45	ASS1	argininosuccinate synthase 1	<1.0E-06
6	↑ 2 40		serpin peptidase inhibitor, clade A (alpha-1	<1 0E 06
7	3,42	SERFINAS	anuproteinase, anutrypsin), member 3	<1.02-00
	13,36	MXD1	MAX dimerization protein 1	<1.0E-06
8				
	13,31	PDZK1	PDZ domain containing 1	<1.0E-06
9				
	13,11	FHL2	four and a half LIM domains 2	<1.0E-06
10	.0.44	0514405	sema domain, immunoglobulin domain (Ig), short basic domain, secreted, (semaphorin)	4 95 99
11	13,11	SEMA3B	38	<1.0E-06
	13,10	AK4	adenylate kinase 4	<1.0E-06
12				
	↑2,99	CD68	CD68 molecule	<1.0E-06
13	↑2 96	Н10	H19, imprinted maternally expressed	<1.0E-06
14	2,50	1113		
	↑2,87	TFF3	trefoil factor 3 (intestinal)	<1.0E-06
15				
	↑2,87	BHLHE40	basic helix-loop-helix family, member e40	<1.0E-06
16			growth regulation by estrogen in breast	
17	12,82	GREB1	cancer 1	<1.0E-06
	↑2,73	PDZK1P1	PDZ domain containing 1 pseudogene 1	<1.0E-06
18			dehvdrogenase/reductase (SDR family)	
	12,68	DHRS2	member 2	<1.0E-06
19				
	↑2,66	RGS22	regulator of G-protein signaling 22	<1.0E-06

20	↑2,64	ISG20	interferon stimulated exonuclease gene 20kDa	<1.0E-06
21				
	↑2,62	IGSF1	immunoglobulin superfamily, member 1	<1.0E-06
22				
00	↑2,59	MIR21	microRNA 21	<1.0E-06
23				
24	∱2,58	AK4	adenylate kinase 4	<1.0E-06
24	↑2,53	DUSP5	dual specificity phosphatase 5	<1.0E-06
25			solute carrier family 7 (cationic amino acid	
	↑2,41	SLC7A5	transporter, y+ system), member 5	<1.0E-06
26			BCL2/adenovirus E1B 19kDa interacting	
	<u></u> ↑2,36	BNIP3	protein 3	<1.0E-06
27			protein tyrosine phosphatase, receptor type, f polypeptide (PTPRF), interacting protein	
	↑2,34	PPFIA4	(liprin), alpha 4	<1.0E-06
28			C1q and tumor necrosis factor related	
20	↑2,34	C1QTNF6	protein 6	<1.0E-06
29	AD 04		adamulata kinana 4	
30	12,34	AN4	adenyiate kinase 4	1,00E-06
50	12,33	KRT13	keratin 13	<1.0E-06
31				
	↑2,23	ZNF750	zinc finger protein 750	<1.0E-06
32				
	12,21	NDRG1	N-myc downstream regulated 1	<1.0E-06
33				
24	12,20	CRABP1	cellular retinoic acid binding protein 1	1,00E-06
54	↑2,20	ANXA8L2	annexin A8-like 2	1,00E-06
35			translocated promoter region (to activated	,
	↑2,1 9	TPR	MET oncogene)	<1.0E-06
36				
	<u></u> ↑2,17	LOC727941	similar to RIKEN cDNA 4930443G12	<1.0E-06
37				
00	12,15	KLK3	kallikrein-related peptidase 3	<1.0E-06
১১	40.45		Annu afainn in a annu dh fa star - 1-1	
20	<u></u> Τ2,15	IGFA	transforming growth factor, alpha	<1.0E-06
55	↑ 0 10	HCDBS	heat shock 22kDa protoin 8	3 005 05
40	2, 1 2			3,00E-03
	↑2 12	Sep 05	septin 5	<1.0F-06
41	,• _ _		<u> </u>	
	↑2,12	CPE	carboxypeptidase E	5,00E-06

42				
	↑2,11	MTSS1	metastasis suppressor 1	<1.0E-06
43	40.40		family with sequence similarity 178, member	
11	∱2,10	FAM178B	В	1,00E-06
44	12,10	FAM102B	family with sequence similarity 102, member B	1,00E-06
45				
	12,07	KLK11	kallikrein-related peptidase 11	1,00E-06
46				
	↑2,06	KRT6A	keratin 6A	1,00E-06
47				
	↑2,06	ALDOC	aldolase C, fructose-bisphosphate	<1.0E-06
48				
	↑2,04	BOK	BCL2-related ovarian killer	1,00E-06
49			family with sequence similarity 46, member	
	↑2,02	FAM46C	C	1,00E-06
50				
	↑2,02	PITX1	paired-like homeodomain 1	1,00E-06
51			6-phosphofructo-2-kinase/fructose-2,6-	
	12,01	PFKFB4	biphosphatase 4	1,00E-06
52			potassium inwardly-rectifying channel,	
	↓2,60	KCNJ8	subfamily J, member 8	<1.0E-06
53				
	↓2,55	PCDH10	protocadherin 10	<1.0E-06
54				
	↓2,41	APOD	apolipoprotein D	<1.0E-06
55			v-maf musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma	
	↓2,39	MAFB	oncogene homolog B (avian)	<1.0E-06
56				
	↓2,19	PABPC4L	poly(A) binding protein, cytoplasmic 4-like	<1.0E-06
57			TRM2 tRNA methyltransferase 2 homolog B	
	↓2,17	TRMT2B	(S. cerevisiae)	3,80E-05
58			inhibitor of DNA binding 2. dominant	
	<u>↓2,0</u> 6	ID2	negative helix-loop-helix protein	<u>5,00</u> E-06
59				
	↓2,01	ANXA9	annexin A9	1,00E-06
60				
	↓2,00	LYPD1	LY6/PLAUR domain containing 1	1,00E-06

Table S3: The list of up- (\uparrow) and down- (\downarrow) regulated genes (\ge 2.0 fold) in T47D cells grown as a co-culture with 3T3-L1 adipocytes. The unpaired t-test with Benjamin- Hochberg FDR < 6% (false discovery rate) correction (with p value cut-off < 0.05) were conducted.

No	Fold change	Gene symbol	Gene name	p-value
1	↑9,93	TFF1	trefoil factor 1	<1.0E-06
2	<u></u> ↑4,25	TIMP1	TIMP metallopeptidase inhibitor 1	<1.0E-06
3	↑3,81	TFF3	trefoil factor 3 (intestinal)	<1.0E-06
4	13,37	SYN1	synapsin I	<1.0E-06
5	↑3,35	KREMEN2	kringle containing transmembrane protein 2	<1.0E-06
6	↑3,26	HEY2	hairy/enhancer-of-split related with YRPW motif 2	<1.0E-06
7	†3,10	TGFBR3	transforming growth factor, beta receptor III	<1.0E-06
8	<u></u> †3,01	FOXJ1	forkhead box J1	<1.0E-06
9	↑2,94	CDC20B	cell division cycle 20 homolog B (S. cerevisiae)	<1.0E-06
10	↑2,83	ABCC12	ATP-binding cassette, sub-family C (CFTR/MRP), member 12	<1.0E-06
11	↑2,82	FGFBP2	fibroblast growth factor binding protein 2	<1.0E-06
12	↑2,64	IRS1	insulin receptor substrate 1	<1.0E-06
13	↑2,59	PRAME	preferentially expressed antigen in melanoma	<1.0E-06
14	↑2,46	TNNT1	troponin T type 1 (skeletal, slow)	<1.0E-06
15	↑2,43	CYP4X1	cytochrome P450, family 4, subfamily X, polypeptide 1	<1.0E-06
16	↑2,41	SULF1	sulfatase 1	<1.0E-06
17	↑2,39	STMN3	stathmin-like 3	<1.0E-06
18	↑2,39	CCNO	cyclin O	<1.0E-06

19	↑2,35	CMTM7	CKLF-like MARVEL	<1.0E-06
			transmembrane domain containing	
			7	
20	↑2.35	C6orf126	chromosome 6 open reading frame	<1.0E-06
	1-,00		126	
21	↑2 34	OLEMI 2A	olfactomedin-like 2A	<1.0F-06
	12,01			
22	↑2,33	ABCC11	ATP-binding cassette, sub-family C	<1.0E-06
			(CFTR/MRP), member 11	
23	↑2,32	SLC16A3	solute carrier family 16, member 3	<1.0E-06
			(monocarboxylic acid transporter	
			4)	
24	↑2,30	CLIC6	chloride intracellular channel 6	<1.0E-06
25	↑2,27	TUBB2B	tubulin, beta 2B	<1.0E-06
26	↑2,18	CMTM7	CKLF-like MARVEL	<1.0E-06
			transmembrane domain containing	
			1	
27	↑2,11	ISG20	interferon stimulated exonuclease	<1.0E-06
			gene 20kDa	
28	<u>↑2.10</u>	SYTL4	synaptotagmin-like 4	<1.0E-06
	1_,			
29	↑2,09	DOK7	docking protein 7	<1.0E-06
30	↑2,08	SAT1	spermidine/spermine N1-	<1.0E-06
			acetyltransferase 1	
31	12.04	PNKD	paroxysmal nonkinesigenic	<1.0E-06
			dyskinesia	
32	<u>↑2 04</u>	L ENG	LENG O-fucosylpeptide 3-beta-N-	<1.0E-06
52	2,04	LING	acetylalucosaminyltransferase	<1.0∟-00
33	<u></u> ↑2,02	ACTA2	actin, alpha 2, smooth muscle,	<1.0E-06
			aorta	
34	↑2,00	BMP4	bone morphogenetic protein 4	<1.0E-06
35	↓4,27	VTCN1	V-set domain containing T cell	<1.0E-06
			activation inhibitor 1	
36	↓2,44	ALDH3B2	aldehyde dehydrogenase 3 family,	<1.0E-06
			member B2	
37	2.40	EPAS1	endothelial PAS domain protein 1	<1.0E-06
	¥=, ·•			
	1			

38	↓2,36	GPNMB	glycoprotein (transmembrane) nmb	<1.0E-06
39	↓2,32	SCARA3	scavenger receptor class A, member 3	<1.0E-06
40	↓2,32	ALDH1A3	aldehyde dehydrogenase 1 family, member A3	<1.0E-06
41	↓2,27	S100A9	S100 calcium binding protein A9	<1.0E-06
42	↓2,23	LOC149501	keratin 8 pseudogene	<1.0E-06
43	↓2,18	FBXO32	F-box protein 32	<1.0E-06
44	↓2,13	P2RY2	purinergic receptor P2Y, G-protein coupled, 2	<1.0E-06
45	↓2,08	SLC7A5	solute carrier family 7 (cationic amino acid transporter, y+ system), member 5	<1.0E-06
46	↓2,04	DLG2	discs, large homolog 2 (Drosophila)	<1.0E-06
47	↓2,04	SOD3	superoxide dismutase 3, extracellular	<1.0E-06
48	↓2,04	CD24	CD24 molecule	<1.0E-06

Table S4: The list of up- (\uparrow) and down- (\downarrow) regulated genes (≥ 2.0 fold) in MDA-MB-231 cells grown as a co-culture with 3T3-L1 adipocytes. The unpaired t-test with Benjamin- Hochberg FDR < 6% (false discovery rate) correction (with p value cut-off < 0.05) were conducted.

No	Fold	Gene	Gene name	p-value
	change	symbol		
1	13,95	IL8	interleukin 8	<1.0E-06
2	13,22	GDF15	growth differentiation factor 15	<1.0E-06
3	↑2,89	CFB	complement factor B	<1.0E-06
4	↑2,67	STC1	stanniocalcin 1	<1.0E-06
5	↑2,62	CXCL2	chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 2	<1.0E-06
6	↑2,43	LTB	lymphotoxin beta (TNF superfamily, member 3)	<1.0E-06
7	↑2,42	IL6	interleukin 6 (interferon, beta 2)	<1.0E-06
8	↑2,30	NDRG1	N-myc downstream regulated 1	<1.0E-06
9	↑2,27	IL1A	interleukin 1, alpha	<1.0E-06
10	↑2,25	IL24	interleukin 24	<1.0E-06
11	↑2,24	RASD1	RAS, dexamethasone-induced 1	<1.0E-06
12	↑2,24	PSG6	pregnancy specific beta-1- glycoprotein 6	<1.0E-06
13	↑2,22	IL1B	interleukin 1, beta	<1.0E-06
14	↑2,21	DUSP1	dual specificity phosphatase 1	<1.0E-06
15	<u></u> ↑2,19	PTGS2	prostaglandin-endoperoxide synthase 2 (prostaglandin G/H synthase and cyclooxygenase)	<1.0E-06
16	<u></u> ↑2,19	KYNU	kynureninase (L-kynurenine hydrolase)	<1.0E-06
17	↑2,19	SPINK4	serine peptidase inhibitor, Kazal type 4	<1.0E-06
18	↑2,18	CLDN7	claudin 7	<1.0E-06

19	↑2,09	ICAM1	intercellular adhesion molecule 1	<1.0E-06
20	↑2,09	MMP1	matrix metallopeptidase 1 (interstitial collagenase)	<1.0E-06
21	↑2,08	TNFSF10	tumor necrosis factor (ligand) superfamily, member 10	<1.0E-06
22	↑2,04	CSF2	colony stimulating factor 2 (granulocyte-macrophage)	<1.0E-06
23	<u></u> ↑2,02	EGR1	early growth response 1	<1.0E-06
24	↑2,00	CST1	cystatin SN	<1.0E-06
25	↓4,03	MGP	matrix Gla protein	1,00E-04
26	↓2,03	ID3	inhibitor of DNA binding 3, dominant negative helix-loop-helix protein	<1.0E-06

Tables S5-A, S5-B and S5-C: Enriched GO terms (Biological Process) in genes with ≥1.3-fold expression changes in (A) MCF7, (B) T47D and (C) MDA-MB-231 cells. Table S5_A: MCF7

	Homo sapiens (REF)	MCF	7 gene lis	t (≥1.3-fold ch	nange	e)	
PANTHER GO-Slim Biological Process	#	#	expecte d	Fold Enrichmen t	+/ -	raw P value	FDR
nervous system development	314	23	7,94	2,9	+	1,21E -05	1,47E -03
↓ system development	452	25	11,43	2,19	+	4,42E -04	2,16E -02
↓ Developmental process	1501	70	37,95	1,84	+	1,67E -06	4,06E -04
cellular component morphogenesis	423	23	10,69	2,15	+	9,31E -04	3,25E -02
cell differentiation	548	29	13,85	2,09	+	3,14E -04	1,92E -02
signal transduction	2318	84	58,61	1,43	+	9,93E -04	3,03E -02
↓ Cell communication	2686	93	67,91	1,37	+	2,02E -03	4,93E -02
metabolic process	5878	18 5	148,61	1,24	+	7,35E -04	2,99E -02
Unclassified	10206	20 9	258,04	0,81	-	2,87E -05	2,34E -03
sensory perception of chemical stimulus	282	0	7,13	< 0.01	-	1,52E -03	4,11E -02

Table S5_B: T47D

	Homo sapiens (REF)	T47[D gene list	(≥1.3-fold cha	ange)	
PANTHER GO-Slim Biological Process	#	#	expecte d	Fold Enrichmen t	+/ -	raw P value	FDR
transmembrane receptor protein serine/ threonine kinase signaling pathway	67	9	2,19	4,11	+	6,45E -04	3,15E -02
↓ cell communication	2686	11 6	87,7	1,32	+	2,13E -03	4,73E -02
↓ cellular process	8247	32 0	269,26	1,19	+	1,17E -04	1,42E -02
transmembrane receptor protein tyrosine kinase signaling pathway	151	13	4,93	2,64	+	2,19E -03	4,45E -02
fatty acid metabolic process	164	14	5,35	2,61	+	1,62E -03	4,40E -02

↓ lipid metabolic process	394	25	12,86	1,94	+	2,63E	4,93E
nervous svstem	314	24	10.25	2.34	+	-03 2.26E	-02 1.38E
development				_,		-04	-02
↓ developmental process	1501	73	49,01	1,49	+	9,56E -04	3,89E -02
cellular component morphogenesis	423	30	13,81	2,17	+	1,78E -04	1,44E -02
Unclassified	10206	28 0	333,22	0,84	-	6,31E -05	1,54E -02
sensory perception of smell	240	0	7,84	< 0.01	-	1,09E -03	3,80E -02
↓ sensory perception of chemical stimulus	282	1	9,21	0,11	-	1,82E -03	4,45E -02
↓ sensory perception	424	3	13,84	0,22	-	1,12E -03	3,40E -02
	4						
Table S5_C: MDA-MB-23	51						
Table S5_C: MDA-MB-23	Homo sapiens (REF)	MD	A-MB-231 ູ	jene list (≥1.3	-fold	change))
Table S5_C: MDA-MB-23 PANTHER GO-Slim Biological Process	Homo sapiens (REF) #	#	A-MB-231 g expecte d	jene list (≥1.3 Fold Enrichmen t	-fold +/ -	change raw P value	FDR
Table S5_C: MDA-MB-23 PANTHER GO-Slim Biological Process chromatin assembly	Homo sapiens (REF) # 40	# 5	A-MB-231 g expecte d 0,68	gene list (≥1.3 Fold Enrichmen t 7,33	-fold +/ - +	change raw P value 9,10E -04	FDR 4,44E -02
Table S5_C: MDA-MB-23PANTHER GO-Slim Biological Processchromatin assemblyDNA recombination	Homo sapiens (REF) # 40 52	MD / # 5 6	A-MB-231 g expecte d 0,68 0,89	yene list (≥1.3 Fold Enrichmen t 7,33 6,76	-fold +/ - +	change raw P value 9,10E -04 4,15E -04	FDR 4,44E -02 3,37E -02
Table S5_C: MDA-MB-23 PANTHER GO-Slim Biological Process chromatin assembly DNA recombination ↓ DNA metabolic process	Homo sapiens (REF) # 40 52 391	MD/ # 5 6 22	A-MB-231 g expecte d 0,68 0,89 6,67	yene list (≥1.3 Fold Enrichmen t 7,33 6,76 3,3	-fold +/ - + + +	change) raw P value 9,10E -04 4,15E -04 2,14E -06	FDR 4,44E -02 3,37E -02 5,22E -04
Table S5_C: MDA-MB-23 PANTHER GO-Slim Biological Process chromatin assembly DNA recombination ↓ DNA metabolic process DNA repair	Homo sapiens (REF) # 40 52 391 167	MD/ # 5 6 22 10	A-MB-231 g expecte d 0,68 0,89 6,67 2,85	Fold Enrichmen t 7,33 6,76 3,3 3,51	-fold +/ - + + + +	change) raw P value 9,10E -04 4,15E -04 2,14E -06 8,42E -04	FDR 4,44E -02 3,37E -02 5,22E -04 5,14E -02
Table S5_C: MDA-MB-23 PANTHER GO-Slim Biological Process chromatin assembly DNA recombination ↓ DNA metabolic process DNA repair response to stress	Homo sapiens (REF) # 40 52 391 167 653	MD/ # 5 6 22 10 29	A-MB-231 g expecte d 0,68 0,89 6,67 2,85 11,14	yene list (≥1.3 Fold Enrichmen t 7,33 6,76 3,3 3,51 2,6	-fold +/ - + + + + + +	change) raw P value 9,10E -04 4,15E -04 2,14E -06 8,42E -04 4,92E -06	FDR 4,44E -02 3,37E -02 5,22E -04 5,14E -02 6,00E -04
Table S5_C: MDA-MB-23 PANTHER GO-Slim Biological Process chromatin assembly DNA recombination ↓ DNA metabolic process DNA repair response to stress	Homo sapiens (REF) # 40 52 391 167 653	MD/ # 5 6 22 10 29	A-MB-231 g expecte d 0,68 0,89 6,67 2,85 11,14	gene list (≥1.3 Fold Enrichmen t 7,33 6,76 3,3 3,51 2,6	-fold +/ - + + + +	change) raw P value 9,10E -04 4,15E -04 2,14E -06 8,42E -04 4,92E -06	FDR 4,44E -02 3,37E -02 5,22E -04 5,14E -02 6,00E -04

Supplemental Tables S5-A, S5-B and S5-C:

Enriched GO terms (Biological Process) in genes with \geq 1.3-fold expression changes in (A) MCF7, (B) T47D and (C) MDA-MB-231 cells. Overrepresentation was tested in the PANTHER GO-slim Biological Process data set. The complete Homo Sapiens gene list was used as reference set to test for overrepresentation. # number of genes in Reference set or gene list. Expected: number of genes expected by chance in the gene list. +/- over-or under-representation. Fisher's exact test with FDR multiple test correction was applied and p<0.05 was considered significant.

↓ superior category of the preceding term

Table S6: Over-represented cellular pathways of \geq 1.3 fold up-regulated genes in MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells grown as co-cultures with 3T3-L1 adipocytes for 5 days. The Consensus Path Database over-representation analysis was used including all available databases (accessed 25. April 2017).

Pathway	set	number	p-value	database	genes
	size	of genes	p raide	uuubuoo	3
TNF signaling pathway - Homo sapiens	110	17 (15.5%)	7.5e-12	KEGG	TRAF1; CEBPB; BCL3; CXCL1; CFLAR; JUNB; PTGS2; NFKBIA; VCAM1; FOS; ICAM1; BIRC3; CXCL2; CSF2; TNFAIP3; IL1B; IL6
Rheumatoid arthritis - Homo sapiens	90	15 (16.9%)	3.69e-11	KEGG	IL11; HLA-DMA; HLA- DMB; HLA-DPA1; MMP1; VEGFA; FOS; ICAM1; CXCL1; IL23A; CSF2; LTB; IL1A; IL1B; IL6
NF-kappa B signaling pathway - Homo sapiens	95	14 (14.9%)	9.28e-10	KEGG	TRAF1; TICAM1; NFKB2; PTGS2; CFLAR; NFKBIA; VCAM1; ICAM1; BIRC3; RELB; CXCL2; LTB; TNFAIP3; IL1B
Spinal Cord Injury	117	14 (12.0%)	1.71e-08	Wikipathways	PTGS2; IL1B; IL1A; CSPG4; EGR1; ZFP36; CXCL1; IL6; LTB; ICAM1; RHOB; CXCL2; MYC; FOS
Senescence and Autophagy in Cancer	105	13 (12.4%)	3.72e-08	Wikipathways	IL1B; IL1A; MAP1LC3A; CXCL1; IGFBP3; IL6; TNFSF15; GABARAPL1; BMP2; CDKN1A; IL24; SERPINE1; CEBPB
Nuclear Receptors Meta-Pathway	316	22 (7.0%)	4.01e-08	Wikipathways	SLC2A3; IL1B; MAFF; TNFAIP3; FGFBP1; EGR1; SLC2A10; PTGS2; FTH1; HSPA1A; IL11; BHLHE40; MYC; BIRC3; SRGN; JUNB; TSC22D3; ANGPTL4; S100P; GSTA4; PDK4; NFKB2
Glucocorticoid Receptor Pathway	71	11 (15.5%)	4.02e-08	Wikipathways	BIRC3; PTGS2; TSC22D3; S100P; IL11; BHLHE40; TNFAIP3; SRGN; FGFBP1; NFKB2; ANGPTL4
HTLV-I infection - Homo sapiens (human)	258	19 (7.4%)	1.47e-07	KEGG	MYC; CDKN1A; FOS; HLA-A; HLA-DMB; HLA- DPA1; NFKBIA; RRAS; NFKB2; HLA-DMA; VCAM1; ICAM1; RELB; ZFP36; EGR1; CSF2; POLD4; ATF3; IL6
Photodynamic therapy-	36	8 (22.2%)	1.62e-07	Wikipathways	BNIP3L; BNIP3; SERPINE1; PTGS2;

induced HIF-1 survival signaling					PGK1; SLC2A3; IGFBP3; VEGFA
AGE-RAGE signaling pathway in diabetic complications - Homo sapiens	101	12 (11.9%)	2,00E-07	KEGG	F3; PIM1; VCAM1; VEGFA; COL4A5; ICAM1; IL1A; IL1B; EGR1; SERPINE1; PRKCZ; IL6
Selenium Micronutrient Network	83	11 (13.3%)	2.11e-07	Wikipathways	SERPINE1; ICAM1; SOD2; PRDX5; IL6; KYNU; CTH; NFKB2; SERPINA3; PTGS2; IL1B
HIF-1-alpha transcription factor network	67	10 (14.9%)	2.43e-07	PID	CA9; TFF3; SERPINE1; BHLHE40; PGK1; PLIN2; BNIP3; NDRG1; VEGFA; FOS
Cytokines and Inflammatory Response	29	7 (25.0%)	4.15e-07	Wikipathways	CXCL2; IL11; IL1B; IL1A; CXCL1; CSF2; IL6
AP-1 transcription factor network	71	10 (14.1%)	4.26e-07	PID	JUNB; HLA-A; MMP1; ATF3; FOS; CSF2; DUSP1; MYC; EGR1; IL6

Table S7: Over-represented cellular pathways of \geq 1.3 fold down-regulated genes in MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells grown as co-cultures with 3T3-L1 adipocytes for 5 days. The Consensus Path Database over-representation analysis was used including all available databases (accessed 25. April 2017).

D 4	Vallas		laccessed		
Pathway	set size	number of genes	p-value	database	genes
Cell Cycle, Mitotic	468	35 (7.5%)	2.95e-20	Reactome	H2AFX; KIF23; CDC25A; FOXM1; MCM2; CENPM; BUB1B; CDCA8; CENPF; HAUS8; ERCC6L; RBL1; NCAPG2; H2AFV; LMNB1; CDT1; POLE; ZWILCH; TMPO; KIF20A; MCM4; PRIM1; SKA2; PKMYT1; HIST1H2BK; E2F2; ZWINT; CENPE; POLA1; CDC7; KIF2C; MCM7; GINS2; CDCA5; FEN1
Cell Cycle	551	37 (6.7%)	7.96e-20	Reactome	H2AFX; KIF23; CDC25A; FOXM1; MCM2; CENPM; BUB1B; CDCA8; CENPF; ERCC6L; RBL1; NCAPG2; H2AFV; LMNB1; CDT1; POLE; ZWILCH; TMPO; KIF20A; MCM4; EXO1; HAUS8; PRIM1; SKA2; RMI1; PKMYT1; HIST1H2BK; E2F2; ZWINT; CENPE; POLA1; CDC7; KIF2C; MCM7; GINS2; CDCA5; FEN1
Retinoblasto ma (RB) in Cancer	89	14 (15.7%)	5.92e-13	Wikipathway s	CDC25A; PRKDC; CDT1; KIF4A; E2F2; TYMS; PRIM1; RRM2; FANCG; MCM7; MCM4; POLE; POLA1; CDC7
M Phase	267	19 (7.1%)	6.79e-11	Reactome	LMNB1; HIST1H2BK; ZWINT; H2AFX; ZWILCH; KIF23; NCAPG2; TMPO; CENPE; SKA2; KIF20A; ERCC6L; KIF2C; CDCA8; CDCA5; CENPF; BUB1B; H2AFV; CENPM
DNA Replication	60	10 (16.7%)	7.56e-10	Reactome	CDT1; POLA1; POLE; CDC7; PRIM1; MCM4; MCM2; FEN1; MCM7; GINS2
S Phase	82	11 (13.4%)	1.16e-09	Reactome	CDT1; POLA1; POLE; CDC25A; CDCA5; PRIM1; MCM4; MCM2; FEN1; MCM7; GINS2

Activation of the pre- replicative complex	32	8 (25.0%)	1.3e-09	Reactome	CDT1; POLA1; POLE; CDC7; PRIM1; MCM4; MCM2; MCM7
Mitotic Anaphase	135	13 (9.6%)	2.24e-09	Reactome	LMNB1; CDCA8; ZWINT; ZWILCH; TMPO; CENPE; SKA2; ERCCL6; CENPF; KIF2C; CENPM; CDCA5; BUB1B
Mitotic Metaphase and Anaphase	136	13 (9.6%)	2.46e-09	Reactome	LMNB1; CDCA8; ZWINT; ZWILCH; TMPO; CENPE; SKA2; ERCCL6; CENPF; KIF2C; CENPM; CDCA5; BUB1B
Mitotic G1- G1/S phases	92	11 (12.0%)	4.07e-09	Reactome	E2F2; CDT1; POLE; CDC25A; MCM2; POLA1; CDC7; RBL1; MCM4; MCM7; PRIM1
DNA Replication Pre-Initiation	37	8 (21.6%)	4.55e-09	Reactome	CDT1; POLA1; POLE; CDC7; PRIM1; MCM4; MCM2; MCM7
M/G1 Transition	37	8 (21.6%)	4.55e-09	Reactome	CDT1; POLA1; POLE; CDC7; PRIM1; MCM4; MCM2; MCM7
Synthesis of DNA	55	9 (16.4%)	6.54e-09	Reactome	CDT1; POLA1; POLE; PRIM1; MCM4; MCM2; FEN1; MCM7; GINS2
DNA Replication	42	8 (19.0%)	1.33e-08	Wikipathway s	CDT1; POLA1; POLE; CDC7; PRIM1; MCM4; MCM2; MCM7
Cell Cycle	103	11 (10.7%)	1.36e-08	Wikipathway s	CDC25A; MCM7; PRKDC; BUB1B; PKMYT1; E2F2; MCM2; MCM4; KITLG; CDC7; RBL1

5.2 Erklärung über den wissenschaftlichen Beitrag des Promovenden zur Publikation

Erklärung über den wissenschaftlichen Beitrag des Promovenden zur Publikation

Diese von mir, Annina Nickel, angefertigte Dissertation beruht maßgeblich auf den Ergebnissen, die folgender Publikation zu Grunde liegen:

Nickel A*, Blücher C*, Al Kadri O, Schwagarus N, Müller S, Schaab M, Thiery J, Burkhardt R, Stadler SC. Adipocytes induce distinct gene expression profiles in mammary tumor cells and enhance inflammatory signaling in invasive breast cancer cells. (* Geteilte Erstautorenschaft) Scientific Reports 2018, doi: 10.1038/s41598-018-27210-w, in press

Die Konzeption der experimentellen Schritte, die Eingang in die Publikation erhalten haben, habe ich in Zusammenarbeit mit Frau Blücher, Frau Dr. Stadler und Herrn Prof. Dr. Burkhardt durchgeführt. Zusammen mit Frau Dr. Stadler entwarf ich ein Kokultur-Modell zur Analyse von Interaktionen zwischen Brustkrebszellen und Adipozyten. Die Experimente zur Etablierung standardisierter Protokolle für die Differenzierung muriner 3T3-L1 Adipozyten und die Durchführung von 2D-Kokulturen reifer 3T3-L1 Adipozyten mit humanen Brustkrebszellen führte ich selbstständig und eigenverantwortlich durch. Für die folgenden Abbildungen und Tabellen habe ich die verwendeten Daten vollständig oder zum großen Teil erhoben, sowie die Abbildungen und Tabellen eigenständig erstellt; Tab. 1-2, Tab. S2-S4, Tab. S6-7, Fig. 2, Fig. 3a, Fig. 4, Fig. 6, Fig. S1, Fig. S3-S4. Die Daten, welche den Abbildungen und Tabellen Fig. 1, Fig. 3b, Fig. 5, Fig. S2, Fig. S5, Tab. S5 zu Grunde liegen, wurden von Frau Blücher erhoben. Die Mikroarrayanalyse wurde in der Core Unit DNA-Technologien von Dr. Knut Krohn an der Universität Leipzig durchgeführt. Die Auswertung der Mikroarray-Daten erfolgte durch Frau Dr. Stadler, Herrn Prof. Dr. Burkhardt und mich. Die für die qRT-PCR Analysen verwendeten Primer (Tab. S1) wurden von mir designt und getestet. Meine Daten habe ich in Rücksprache mit Frau Dr. Stadler und Herrn Prof. Dr. Burkhardt selbstständig und eigenverantwortlich ausgewertet. Die Erstellung des Manuskripts erfolgte in enger Zusammenarbeit mit Frau Dr. Stadler und Frau Blücher. Zusammenfassend habe ich neben Frau Dr. Stadler und Frau Blücher den Großteil der Arbeit dieser Publikation geleistet.

Štadler

Christina Blücher

Prof. Dr. Ralph Burkhard

Nancy Schwagarus

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Silvana Müller

of. Dr. Joachim lery

5.3 Verzeichnis der verwendeten Abkürzungen und Symbole

ACM	Adipozyten-konditioniertes Medium
ASC	adipose-derived stem cell
BAT	brown adipose tissue/ braunes Fettgewebe
BIRC3	Baculoviral IAP Repeat Containing 3
BMI	Body-Mass-Index
CAA	Cancer-associated adipocyte/ Tumor-assoziierte Adipozyten
CCL2	chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 2
CD	cluster of differentiation
CFB	Complement factor B
CoAd	Kokultur mit reifen Adipozyten
CoFi	Kokultur mit undifferenzierten Fibroblasten/ Präadipozyten
CSC	Cancer stem cell
ER	Endoplasmatisches Retikulum
ER	Estrogen receptor
FASN	Fettsäuresynthase
FFA	free fatty acid/ freie Fettsäure
HER2	human epidermal growth factor receptor 2
ICAM1	Intercellular adhesion molecule 1
IFN-γ	Interferon gamma
IGF-1	Insulin-like growth factor 1/ Insulinähnlicher Wachstumsfaktor 1
IGF1R	IGF-1-Rezeptor
IGFBP-1	Insulin-like-growth-factor-binding-protein 1
IL	Interleukin
InsR	Insulinrezeptor
MAGL	Monoacylglycerin-Lipase
MAPK	Mitogen-aktivierte Proteinkinase
MCP-1	Monozyten-Chemoattraktives Protein-1
MMP	Matrix-Metalloproteasen
mRNA	Messenger RNA/ Boten-RNA

NF-ĸB	nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells
PAI-1	Plasminogen-Aktivator-Inhibitor Typ 1
PI3K	Phosphatidylinositol-3-Kinase
PR	progesterone receptor
PTGS2	Prostaglandin-endoperoxide synthase 2
SAT	subcutaneous adipose tissue/ subkutanes Fettgewebe
TFF1	trefoil factor 1
TIMP1	Tissue inhibitor of matrix metalloproteinase 1
TLR	Toll-like Rezeptor
TNF-α	Tumor necrosis factor alpha/ Tumornekrosefaktor- α
TNFAIP3	Tumor necrosis factor alpha Induced Protein 3
VAT	visceral adipose tissue/ viszerales Fettgewebe
VCAM1	vascular cell adhesion molecule 1
VEGF	Vaskulärer endothelialer Wachstumsfaktor
VLDL	Very Low Density Lipoprotein
WAT	white adipose tissue/ weißes Fettgewebe
WHO	World Health Organisation

5.4 Erklärung über die eigenständige Abfassung der Arbeit

Hiermit erkläre ich, dass ich die vorliegende Arbeit selbstständig und ohne unzulässige Hilfe oder Benutzung anderer als der angegebenen Hilfsmittel angefertigt habe. Ich versichere, dass Dritte von mir weder unmittelbar noch mittelbar eine Vergütung oder geldwerte Leistungen für Arbeiten erhalten haben, die im Zusammenhang mit dem Inhalt der vorgelegten Dissertation stehen, und dass die vorgelegte Arbeit weder im Inland noch im Ausland in gleicher oder ähnlicher Form einer anderen Prüfungsbehörde zum Zweck einer Promotion oder eines anderen Prüfungsverfahrens vorgelegt wurde. Alles aus anderen Quellen und von anderen Personen übernommene Material, das in der Arbeit verwendet wurde oder auf das direkt Bezug genommen wird, wurde als solches kenntlich gemacht. Insbesondere wurden alle Personen genannt, die direkt an der Entstehung der vorliegenden Arbeit beteiligt waren. Die aktuellen gesetzlichen Vorgaben in Bezug auf die Zulassung der klinischen Studien, die Bestimmungen des Tierschutzgesetzes, die Bestimmungen des Gentechnikgesetzes und die allgemeinen Datenschutzbestimmungen wurden eingehalten. Ich versichere, dass ich die Regelungen der Satzung der Universität Leipzig zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis kenne und eingehalten habe.

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Datum

Unterschrift

5.5 Lebenslauf

5.6 Publikationsverzeichnis

Nickel A*, Blücher C*, Kadri OA, Schwagarus N, Müller S, Schaab M, Thiery J, Burkhardt R, Stadler SC. Adipocytes induce distinct gene expression profiles in mammary tumor cells and enhance inflammatory signaling in invasive breast cancer cells. Sci Rep. 2018 Jun 21;8(1):9482. doi: 10.1038/s41598-018-27210-w.

(* geteilte Erstautorenschaft)

Fischer M, Quaas M, <u>Nickel A</u>, Engeland K. Indirect p53-dependent transcriptional repression of Survivin, CDC25C, and PLK1 genes requires the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor p21/CDKN1A and CDE/CHR promoter sites binding the DREAM complex. *Oncotarget*. 2015 Dec 8;6(39):41402-17. doi: 10.18632/oncotarget.6356.

<u>Nickel A</u>, Stadler SC. **Role of epigenetic mechanisms in epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition of breast cancer cells.** *Transl Res.* 2015 Jan;165(1):126-42. doi: 10.1016/j.trsl.2014.04.001. Epub 2014 Apr 12.
5.7 Vorträge und Posterpräsentationen mit publizierten Abstracts

2013 (1) Spring School University of Leipzig, Germany

Epigenetics of Civilization Diseases May 27th–31st 2013

Establishment of an *in vitro* 2D-Co-culture system to study epithelial-tomesenchymal-transition of breast cancer cells associated with adipocytes.

A. Nickel, M. Schaab, F. Jeromin, J. Thiery, J. Kratzsch, R. Burkhardt, S.C. Stadler

(2) 1. Internationales LIFE-Symposium, Leipzig, 24.-27.09.2013

Establishment of an *in vitro* 2D-Co-culture system to study epithelial-tomesenchymal-transition of breast cancer cells associated with adipocytes.

A. Nickel, M. Schaab, F. Jeromin, J. Thiery, J. Kratzsch, R. Burkhardt, S.C. Stadler

2014 (1) 13. Research Festival Leipzig 2014

Use of an in vitro 2D-co-culture system to study molecular interactions between adipocytes and human breast cancer cells.

<u>A. Nickel</u>, M. Schaab, N. Schwagarus, N. Ney, N. Spindler, J. Kratzsch, J. Thiery, R. Burkhardt, S.C. Stadler

5.8 Danksagung

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