



BIOMARKERS, GENOMICS, PROTEOMICS, AND GENE REGULATION

Single-Cell Genetic Analysis Reveals Insights into Clonal Development of Prostate Cancers and Indicates Loss of *PTEN* as a Marker of Poor Prognosis

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Gauging the risk of developing progressive disease is a major challenge in prostate cancer patient management. We used genetic markers to understand genomic alteration dynamics during disease progression. By using a novel, advanced, multicolor fluorescence *in situ* hybridization approach, we enumerated copy numbers of six genes previously identified by array comparative genomic hybridization to be involved in aggressive prostate cancer [*TBL1XR1*, *CTTNBP2*, *MYC* (alias *c-myc*), *PTEN*, *MEN1*, and *PDGFB*] in six nonrecurrent and seven recurrent radical prostatectomy cases. An *ERG* break-apart probe to detect *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusions was included. Subsequent hybridization of probe panels and cell relocation resulted in signal counts for all probes in each individual cell analyzed. Differences in the degree of chromosomal and genomic instability (ie, tumor heterogeneity) or the percentage of cells with *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion between samples with or without progression were not observed. Tumors from patients that progressed had more chromosomal gains and losses, and showed a higher degree of selection for a predominant clonal pattern. *PTEN* loss was the most frequent aberration in progressers (57%), followed by *TBL1XR1* gain (29%). *MYC* gain was observed in one progresser, which was the only lesion with an *ERG* gain, but no *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion. According to our results, a probe set consisting of *PTEN*, *MYC*, and *TBL1XR1* would detect progressers with 86% sensitivity and 100% specificity. This will be evaluated further in larger studies. (*Am J Pathol* 2014, 184: 2671–2686; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajpath.2014.06.030>)

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-cutaneous neoplasm among US males (238,590 estimated cases in 2013) and is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths (29,720 estimated deaths).¹ Disease incidence exceeds mortality by a factor of 8; this suggests that many prostate cancers do not result in disease-associated death. This observation is attributable to the fact that many prostate cancers do not progress to metastatic disease. Patients with more indolent tumors would benefit from an active surveillance approach. Men with aggressive disease, however,

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need immediate and often adjuvant therapy after radical prostatectomy (RP) to improve survival. Although serum-level screening for prostate-specific antigen (PSA) has increased detection of prostate cancer at earlier stages,² sensitive and specific tests to distinguish men with indolent disease from men with aggressive prostate cancers are still lacking, which generates a dilemma in how to adapt risk-associated treatments.³

Numerous studies have identified genomic changes as potential predictors of progression.^{3–8} Perhaps the best-known tumor marker specific to prostate cancer is the fusion of *TMPRSS2* and *ERG* on chromosome 21.⁹ Fusions of these two genes have been observed in approximately 30% to 60% of prostate cancers,^{9–17} but whether the gene fusion predicts tumor progression is controversial.^{12,18,19} One explanation might be that many possible *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusions exist, which result in transcripts with different consequences for disease prognostication.^{13,20–22} An additional problem in elucidating the role of *TMPRSS2-ERG* in tumor progression might be intratumor heterogeneity.^{23–25}

Deep sequencing of somatic mutations^{26–28} and approaches to enumerate copy number variation on the level of single cells^{29–31} in cancer have led to increasing recognition of the importance of such intratumor heterogeneity in cancer progression. Herein, we explore intratumor heterogeneity of prostate tumors using a special break-apart probe for the *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion¹⁰ and six single-gene probes selected on the basis of a prior array comparative genome hybridization (aCGH) study.³² Paris et al³² screened prostate cancers treated with RP from patients with similar high recurrence risk, but different clinical outcomes, for chromosomal aberrations with aCGH. Comparison with an independent set of metastases revealed approximately 40 candidate markers associated with metastatic potential. For the current study, we chose six of these markers (listed herein in chromosome order)—*TBL1XR1* (3q26.23), *CTTNBP2* (7q31.2), *MYC* (alias *c-myc*; 8q24.21), *PTEN* (10q23.1), *MEN1* (11q13), and *PDGFB* (22q13.1)—to be tested for their potential use as indicators of progressive disease. The markers and two centromeric control/enumerator probes (CEP8 and CEP10) were applied as fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH) probes to single-cell suspensions prepared from archived formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) material for a subset of cases from the original study³² (ie, seven prostate cancers from patients with recurrence and six tumors from patients without recurrence after RP). Our novel approach of multiplexing FISH probes³¹ allowed signal enumeration in the same cells.

Probes were selected on the basis of the aCGH loci mapping to a gene. Two of the gene probes represent genes with well-known roles in prostate cancers, *MYC*^{33,34} and *PTEN*.^{35,36} Many prostate cancer studies have reported the co-occurrence of *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion and loss of *PTEN*^{37,38}; others have reported the co-occurrence of gain of *MYC* and loss of *PTEN*.^{39,40} A third gene in our probe set, *MEN1*, is a known cancer-associated gene, but with few

studies in prostate cancer. *TBL1XR1*, *CTTNBP2*, and *PDGFB* have rarely been the objects of targeted studies in prostate cancer, but there is evidence supporting their potential relevance to prostate cancer.

Biallelic inactivation of *MEN1* results in multiple endocrine neoplasia, type 1,⁴¹ leading to hormone-related tumors, and *MEN1* is considered to function as a classic tumor suppressor. *Men1*^{+/-} mice are susceptible to prostate cancer.⁴² In human prostate cancer, however, *MEN1* has copy number gains and is usually overexpressed, making it an oncogene.^{43,44}

TBL1XR1 is an E3 ubiquitin ligase, which is expressed in the prostate.⁴⁵ One of its principal functions is to recruit β -catenin to the promoters of Wnt target genes.⁴⁶ The β -catenin binding leads to increased transcription of lymphoid enhancer-binding factor 1 target genes by displacing proteins of the transcriptional repressor family called transducing-like enhancers from lymphoid enhancer-binding factor 1.⁴⁷ Evidence implicating increased nuclear location of β -catenin in prostate cancer and its progression includes the following: i) various associations between increased Wnt signaling and prostate cancer metastasis to the bone, ii) somatic mutations in specific regions of *CTNNB1*, the gene encoding β -catenin, in 5% of prostate cancers, iii) significantly increased frequency of positive nuclear staining for β -catenin in prostate cancers, and iv) both direct and indirect regulatory effects of β -catenin binding to the *AR* gene, which encodes the androgen receptor.⁴⁸

As for *MEN1*, whether *TBL1XR1* functions as an oncogene or as a tumor suppressor varies by tumor type. *TBL1XR1* is overexpressed and in a region of recurrent copy number gains in lung cancer⁴⁹ and in breast cancer.⁵⁰ However, *TBL1XR1* is recurrently mutated or deleted in hematological malignancies,⁵⁰ and its expression inhibits the growth of head and neck cancer cells.⁴⁵

Platelet-derived growth factor (*PDGF*) comprises a set of four ligands (PDGFs A, B, C, and D) that bind to two receptors (*PDGFRA* and *PDGFRB*) to deliver signals that affect cell growth, cell shape, and chemotaxis.⁵¹ *PDGFRA* and *PDGFRB*, which encode the receptor units, are overexpressed in bone marrow metastases of prostate cancer,⁵² and higher *PDGFRB* expression is part of a five-gene expression-based predictor for prostate cancer recurrence.⁵³ There is a competition between two of its ligands, *PDGFB* and *PDGFD*, in prostate cancer, such that when *PTEN* is lost, *PDGFD* is preferred.⁵⁴

CTTNBP2 influences the size and number of dendritic spines.⁵⁵ *CTTNBP2* has roles in other tissues, including binding of the RAD21-cohesin complex.⁵⁶ More specific to prostate cancer, *CTTNBP2* is in a block of genes on chromosome 7 that is differentially methylated in prostate cancer cell lines.⁵⁷

We applied two layers of analysis to this panel of FISH probes. First, we pursued the conventional strategy of profiling the probe set in subsets of tumor samples from RP patients with different clinical outcomes (herein, non-

progressers and progressers) to identify combinations of probes that distinguish patient groups. We also pursued a novel, unconventional goal of building a mathematical model of cellular-level progression for each tumor sample and derived test statistics that can collectively distinguish the two groups of patients.⁵⁸ The first goal is fulfilled with a candidate three-probe test, which effectively distinguishes progressers from non-progressers in our study; however, it will require validation in a larger sample. Independent of that, our modeling work provided insights into genome dynamics of prostate cancer progression.

Materials and Methods

Materials

FFPE surgery specimens of prostate carcinomas from six patients with non-progressive disease and seven patients with progressive disease after RP were retrieved from the archives of the Tissue Core at the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of California (San Francisco, CA), using samples designated for research purposes. Recurrence or progressive disease was defined as two consecutive PSA measurements within 1 year of ≥ 0.2 ng/mL and/or evidence of metastatic disease. The clinical data are summarized in Table 1.

The material was prepared using a dividing procedure that has been described previously.³¹ The hematoxylin and eosin (H&E)-stained sections were used to verify that each section consisted of at least 50% tumor material. The 50- μ m unstained sections were then disintegrated, and cytopspins were prepared as described.³¹

In addition, we used three FFPE surgery specimens of prostate carcinomas from the University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein, Campus Lübeck (Lübeck, Germany), to test a three-color FISH probe panel on tissue sections

(4 μ m thick) to assess the feasibility of implementing this test in routine pathological analysis.

The material for the current study has been coded, and an exemption has been issued by the NIH Office of Human Subjects Research for use of the de-identified data.

FISH Data

The cytopspins were evaluated by FISH with CEPs for centromeres 8 and 10 and six locus-specific identifier probes for the following genes: *TBLIXR1* (3q26.23), *CTTNBP2* (7q31.2), *MYC* (8q24.21), *PTEN* (10q23.1), *MEN1* (11q13), and *PDGFB* (22q13.1) (Abbott Molecular, Des Plaines, IL). The probes were selected on the basis of previous aCGH data,³² and each probe represented approximately 200 to 600 kb of genomic sequence centered on the gene of interest; the probes were directly labeled with fluorophores. The centromere probes, *PTEN* and *MYC*, were labeled in SpectrumAqua or SpectrumGreen (Abbott Molecular). *CTTNBP2* and *MEN1* were labeled in SpectrumRed, whereas *PDGFB* and *TBLIXR1* were labeled in SpectrumGold. The FISH probes were combined into two panels. The panel for the first hybridization consisted of *CEP10*, *PTEN*, *CTTNBP2*, and *PDGFB*. The panel for the second, subsequent hybridization contained *CEP8*, *MYC*, *MEN1*, and *TBLIXR1*. The samples were also evaluated for their *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion status with an *ERG* break-apart probe¹⁰ in a third, subsequent hybridization. The *ERG* probe hybridization was recorded in three-digit patterns for each cell, with the first digit registering the number of normal *ERG* alleles (red and green signals on top of each other), the second digit referring to the number of telomeric *ERG* probe signals (single green signals), and the third digit representing the number of centromeric *ERG* probe signals (single red signals). Therefore, a 200 pattern would be indicative of a normal diploid status of *ERG*, whereas a 111

Table 1 Clinical Patient Data

Patient group	Patient no.	Age (years)	PreOp PSA (ng/mL)	Gleason primary	Gleason secondary	Gleason sum	Surgical year	Follow-up duration or time (months)	Margin status	Seminal vesicle involvement	Lymph node involvement	Extracapsular extension
Non-progressers	1	60.4	7.2	3	5	8	1994	72.16	Neg	No	Neg	No
	2	65.8	19.4	3	4	7	1996	30.81	Neg	No	Neg	No
	3	64.4	7.3	3	4	7	2000	78.18	Neg	No	Neg	Yes
	4	52.5	5.1	3	5	8	1998	65.59	Neg	No	Neg	No
	5	63.8	6	3	4	7	1995	63.16	Neg	No	Neg	No
	6	53.8	4.5	4	3	7	2001	55.82	Neg	No	Neg	No
Progressers	7	61.2	11.1	3	4	7	1996	5.03	Pos	No	Neg	Yes
	8	60.4	10.2	3	4	7	2000	2.56	Neg	No	Neg	No
	9	65.8	15.7	3	4	7	2000	3.72	Neg	No	Neg	Yes
	10	64.4	10.9	4	3	7	2002	1.38	Pos	Yes	Neg	Yes
	11	68.6	14.3	4	3	7	2003	9.11	Neg	No	Neg	No
	12	75.2	5.5	3	4	7	2003	45.7	Neg	No	Pos	No
	13	60	24	4	3	7	2003	1.84	Neg	Yes	Pos	Yes

Neg, negative; Pos, positive; PreOp, preoperative.

or a 101 pattern would be indicative of a fusion of *TMPRSS2-ERG* by insertion/translocation or deletion, respectively.¹⁰

One cytospin per case was hybridized and evaluated with the above mentioned three different probe sets using single-cell FISH methods, as described previously.³¹ Detection of the *ERG* break-apart probe was performed according to Perner et al.¹⁰ In all 13 samples, all probes could be counted. This resulted in an eight-probe signal pattern plus a three-digit *TMPRSS2-ERG* pattern for each cell analyzed, with an average of 316 (range, 197 to 372) interphase nuclei counted for each case. As previously described,³¹ for each cell, a ploidy value (diploid, triploid, or tetraploid) was assigned to each signal pattern on the basis of the assessment of the pattern. A computer program developed to assign gain and loss patterns by comparing signal counts to the ploidy value⁵⁹ was applied, and the patterns were sorted according to their frequency and displayed in color charts giving an overview of the clonal populations and the overall heterogeneity observed in the tumors (Figure 1).³¹

The tissue sections (4 μ m thick) were deparaffinized in xylene, hydrated, and pretreated with 0.02% pepsin for 25 to 70 minutes. Slides were then washed in 1 \times phosphate-buffered saline, dehydrated, air dried, and codenatured at 72°C for 5 minutes with a three-color probe panel consisting of *MYC-TBL1XR1-PTEN*. The probe panel was either labeled in-house by nick translation using Dyomics 415-dUTP (Dyomics, Jena, Germany) for *MYC* or Dyomics 505-dUTP for *TBL1XR1* and SpectrumOrange-dUTP (Abbott Molecular) for *PTEN*, or provided by Abbott Molecular in the following color scheme: *MYC* in SpectrumAqua, *PTEN* in SpectrumGreen, and *TBL1XR1* in SpectrumGold. The slides were detected with a 2-minute wash in 2 \times standard saline citrate (SSC)/0.3% NP40 at 48°C, followed by 1 minute in 2 \times SSC/0.1% NP40 and 1 minute in 2 \times SSC, both at room temperature. Slides were air dried and coverslipped, and images were taken with a Leica DMRXA microscope (Leica, Wetzlar, Germany) equipped with custom filters (Chroma, Bellows Falls, VT) and a CoolSnap camera (Photometrics, Tucson, AZ).

DNA Ploidy Measurements

Nuclear DNA ploidy status was assessed by image cytometry using Feulgen-stained cytospins of dissociated cells from all samples, except for case 10, because of insufficient cell material. The staining procedure, internal standardization, and cell selection criteria were based on published methods.⁶⁰ At least 7803 particles per sample (mean, 24,000; range, 7803 to 72,101) were detected automatically using the ICM imaging system (Ahrens ICM Cytometry System; Meßtechnische Beratung, Bargteheide/Hamburg, Germany). At least 603 cells (mean, 2953; range, 603 to 8422) per sample were interactively selected in the ICM cell gallery and quantitatively measured for their DNA content. All DNA values were expressed in relation to the

corresponding staining controls (lymphocytes), which were given the value 2c, denoting normal diploid DNA content. The DNA profiles were classified as previously described.⁶⁰ Samples were assessed as euploid when <5% of cells showed DNA values >4.5c. Aneuploidy was defined as >5% of cells presenting with DNA values exceeding the tetraploid region (>4.5c).

aCGH Data

The previously acquired aCGH data for regions containing the genes used in our FISH analysis were extracted from the existing data set.⁶¹ The aCGH-based copy number calls for all 13 cases and 6 genes were recorded and aligned with the corresponding FISH calls for the purpose of comparing by correlation analysis of the copy number estimates obtained by aCGH and by FISH.

Analysis of Tumor Heterogeneity

We refer to the ordered list of count values for each probe as a signal count pattern. To explore the possibility that tumors with progression are more or less heterogeneous than tumors without progression, we compared three measures of diversity in the distribution of FISH signal count patterns: i) instability index, ii) Shannon index, and iii) Simpson index.⁶² The indices were computed for each sample and were then compared between the progresser and non-progresser distributions by either comparing the mean or using a Wilcoxon signed-rank test. The instability index is defined as 100 times the number of cell count patterns divided by the number of cells. To define the other two indices, let p_i be the probability of the i^{th} cell count pattern. Then, the Shannon index, which is commonly used in information theory (alias entropy), is as follows:

$$-\sum p_i \log_2(p_i). \quad (1)$$

The Simpson index, which is commonly used in population genetics, is $\sum p_i^2$.

Estimation of Empirical Significance of a Set of Gene Gains/Losses to Distinguish Non-Progressers versus Progressers

To assign an empirical P value for sets of gains and losses that may distinguish non-progressers versus progressers, we used simulation. Permutation tests were performed in which a status of gain/loss/neither for each of the six genes (*TBL1XR1*, *CTTNBP2*, *MYC*, *PTEN*, *MEN1*, and *PDGFB*) was assigned at random to 13 samples, with the progresser/non-progresser status permuted. In each replicate, the number of samples with a gain or loss of each gene was fixed to match the observed data. In this context, a classifier is a nonempty set of gene gains and losses from the six genes that predicts whether a sample comes from a progresser, if at least one of the gains and losses is present, or from a non-

progresser, if at least one of the specified gains and losses is not present. Each gene may be specified as gained, specified as lost, or not used in the classifier. Therefore, there are 729 possible classifiers ($3^6 - 1$). For each replicate r , we considered all possible classifiers. The test statistic A (classifier, r) assigned to a classifier was the arithmetic mean of sensitivity and specificity. For each of the 10,000 replicates r , the test statistic $S(r)$ was the maximum test statistic A among all possible classifiers for fixed r . The empirical P value assigned to a classifier of the observed data was the fraction of replicates r for which the $S(r)$ is greater than or equal to A (classifier, observed data).

Modeling Tumor Progression and Analysis of Node Depth

For each of the 13 tumors, we modeled the progression of copy number changes using FISHtrees software,⁵⁸ which infers phylogenetic trees describing progression among the observed cell types as distinguished by their probe copy numbers. A tree is inferred from the data for each tumor to heuristically seek to minimize the total number of copy number changes across the tree. In this analysis, we used the six gene probes and we used the break-apart probe to assess the copy number of *ERG*. We did not use the fusion status or the centromere probes. For each tumor, FISHtrees generated a tree model in which the normal state (2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2) is at the root of the inferred tree and each edge moving away from the root to a new node corresponds to a change in copy number of one gene. For each node, we also stored the number of cells observed to match the seven-component signal count pattern for that node.

The number of steps away from the root is usually called the depth of a node. Our prior work on cervical cancer progression trees⁵⁸ showed that the distribution of cells by depths provides a measure of tree topology that is predictive of progression potential. To test whether this characterization of tree topology is similarly predictive of prostate cancer progression, we performed an analogous test. We computed the percentages of cells represented by nodes at each depth in the tree, as described previously.⁵⁸ We used percentages of cells at each depth rather than total cells to normalize for differing numbers of cells analyzed for different tumors. We visualized the distribution of the depths of cells in progressers versus non-progressers by a bar graph. We then tested for significance of the difference between average depths for non-progressers versus progressers by a Wilcoxon signed-rank test. Because we hypothesized that the trees derived from progresser samples would have greater average depth, the Wilcoxon P values were one sided.

Results

In a previously published aCGH study,³² we identified loci that were differentially gained or lost in primary prostate

cancers from patients with non-progressive or progressive disease after RP. A subset of the genes was validated by TaqMan analysis.³² On the basis of these results and the feasibility of probe design, FISH probes centered on the genes of interest were selected. We hybridized the selected FISH probes targeting the six most promising markers [ie, *TBLIXR1* (3q26.23), *CTTNBP2* (7q31.2), *MYC* (8q24.21), *PTEN* (10q23.1), *MEN1* (11q13), and *PDGFB* (22q13.1)], together with centromere probes for chromosomes 8 and 10 and an *ERG* break-apart probe¹⁰ for determining whether the fusion status of *TMPRSS2-ERG* could serve as an additional progression marker. The probes were sequentially hybridized to interphase cells prepared as cytopins from 13 primary prostate carcinomas (six non-progressers and seven progressers).⁶³ Signal patterns were counted in 197 to 372 nuclei per sample (average, 316 nuclei), excluding nuclei with two signals for all probes and a 200 pattern (indicating two normal alleles) for the *ERG* break-apart probe.

Clinical Features

Pertinent clinical parameters are summarized in Table 1. All patients were at high risk of recurrence by the D'Amico Risk Classification.⁶³ No clinical variables were found to be confounding.⁶¹

Chromosomal Instability and Clonal Patterns

The FISH probe panels were hybridized sequentially to individual nuclei of the same specimen. Repeated hybridization and relocation of the cells afforded us the possibility of enumerating clonal aberration patterns on a cell-to-cell basis for all six gene probes, the two centromere probes, and the *ERG* break-apart probe. The FISH signal patterns were assigned to two groups: patterns for which each cell fitting the pattern had an identical count for all signals, termed signal pattern clones, and patterns for which each cell fitting the pattern matched each other cell in the direction of change (gain, loss, or normal) of each signal but not necessarily in the exact counts, termed imbalance clones. For example, in case 10, the major imbalance clone is gain of *TBLIXR1*, gain of *CTTNBP2*, normal for *MYC*, loss of *PTEN*, normal for *MEN1*, normal for *PDGFB*, and break-apart probe pattern 101 (case 10) (Figure 1). To visualize and compare major imbalance clones in prostate carcinomas with or without progressive disease, each cell of the lesion was displayed according to its *ERG* break-apart patterns and its gain, loss, or unchanged (normal) status, with the gene probes sorted according to their chromosomal location from the top to the bottom of the chart and with the patterns observed displayed from left to right sorted by frequency (Figure 1). In addition, the frequency of gained and lost status for each of the gene loci and each *ERG* break-apart pattern was calculated in percentages of the total cell population, the average ploidy of the lesion, and the average

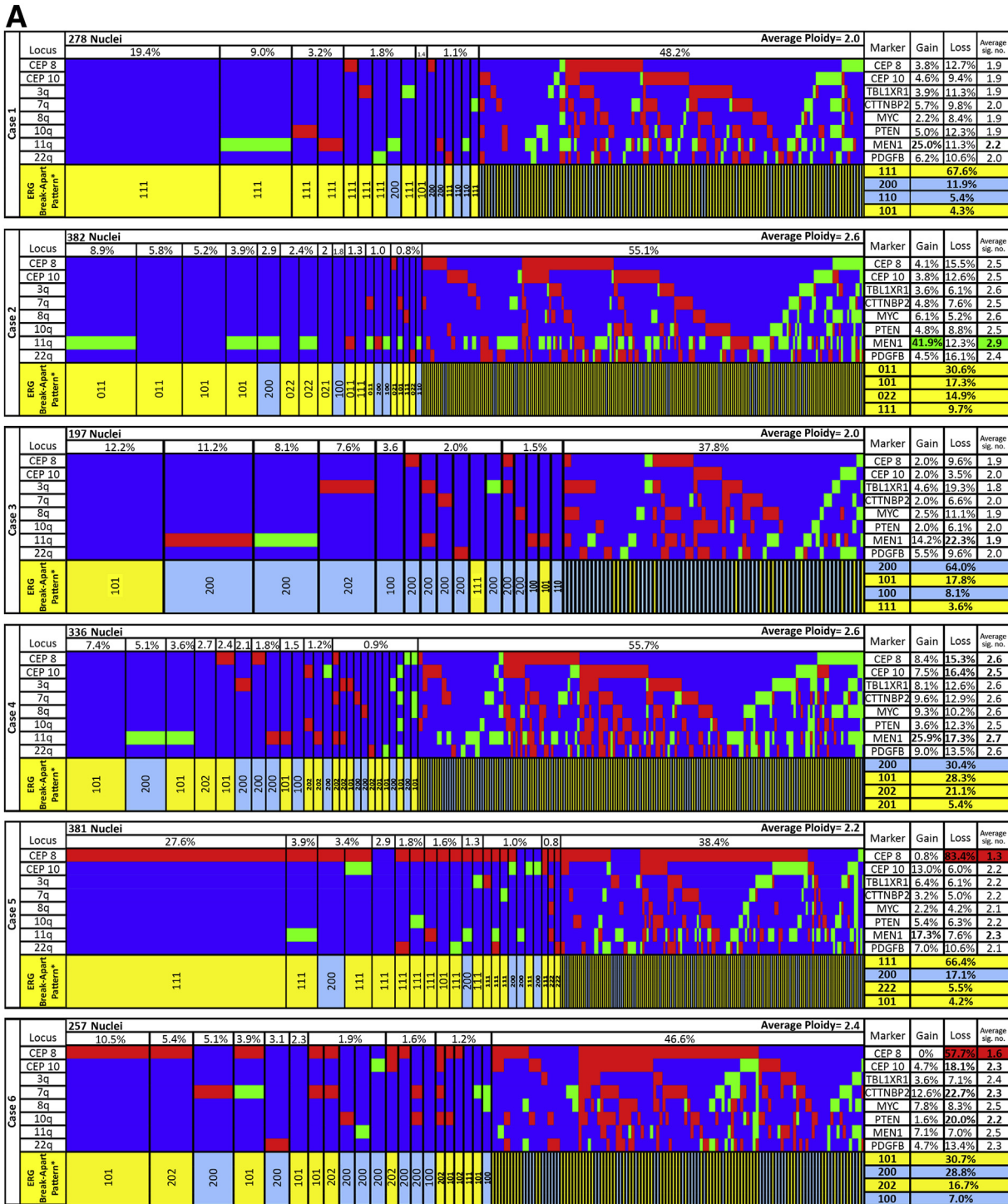


Figure 1 Summary of imbalance clones in six cases of primary prostate carcinoma without progression (cases 1 to 6; **A**) and seven cases with progression (cases 7 to 13; **B**). Green, gains; red, losses; blue, unchanged. The organization of the graphs is the same for all cases and is explained for case 1 in detail from left to right. The Locus column shows the chromosome arm. Each vertical line separates the most common imbalance clones. The row above the imbalance clones displays the percentages at which the clones were found. For example, the most frequent clone in case 1 comprised 19.4% of the cells with an *ERG* break-apart fusion pattern of 111, indicating fusion by insertion, but exhibited no other gains or losses. The second most frequent clone comprised 9.0% of the cells and had the same *ERG* pattern 111 but showed, in addition to that change, a gain of *MEN1*. Two clones that each comprised 3.2% of the tumor cell population followed. Both showed also the 111 pattern for fusion, but one of them had a loss for *PTEN* and the other displayed a loss for *MEN1*. The Marker column shows the gene/probe name. The Gain column shows that 25% of the cells had a gain of *MEN1*. None of the gains and losses comprised >30% of the cell population in case 1. The Average sig. no. column shows that the average signal count for *MEN1* in the entire population was 2.2. The percentage of gains or losses in >30% of the cells is in red (loss) and green (gain), respectively, highlighting (eg, *MEN1* gain in case 2). Two hundred seventy-eight nuclei were counted for case 1. Average ploidy values were calculated from the ploidy values assigned to each nucleus by signal patterns (as described in *Materials and Methods*). The numerical *ERG* break-apart patterns (as described in *Materials and Methods*) are displayed in the bottom row. Fusion events are yellow, and patterns indicating normal *ERG* alleles are light blue. The four most frequently observed *ERG* break-apart patterns are displayed at the bottom right.

Table 2 Summary of Results for Primary Prostate Carcinomas with and without Progressive Disease

Patient group	Case no.	Total no. of cells counted	Total no. of signal patterns	Instability index (no. of patterns × 100/no. of cells)	% Diploid cells (according to FISH signals)	DNA cytometry measurement		% Cells with <i>TMPRSS2-ERG</i> fusion	Major clonal imbalance patterns	Major clonal signal patterns
						Ploidy	Stem line			
Non-progressers	1	278	139	50	100.0	Euploid	1.92	80.2	19% Fusion, 9% Fusion + <i>MEN1</i> gain	19% 22222222111
	2	382	226	59.2	70.9	Euploid	1.69	84.3	13% Fusion + <i>MEN1</i> gain, 11% Fusion	7% 2222232011 4% 2222232101 2% 2222242011 12% 2222222101
	3	197	85	43.1	100.0	Euploid	1.96	23.4	12% Fusion, 11% No fusion + <i>MEN1</i> loss, 8% No fusion + <i>MEN1</i> gain	7% 2222222101 3% 4444444202
	4	336	208	61.9	67.0	Euploid	2	63.7	11% Fusion, 5% No fusion + <i>MEN1</i> gain, 4% Fusion + <i>MEN1</i> gain	28% 1222222111 4% Fusion + CEP8 loss + <i>MEN1</i> gain
	5	381	159	41.7	92.1	Euploid	2.01	80.8	16% Fusion + CEP8 loss, 5% No fusion + <i>CTTNBP2</i> loss, 4% Fusion + CEP8 loss + <i>CTTNBP2</i> gain	11% 1222222101 5% 2444444202
	6	257	139	54.1	77.8	Euploid	2.02	60.7	Average size of major imbalance clone = 16.5%	Average size of major signal pattern clone = 14.0%
	Average	305.2	159.3	51.7	84.6	NA	1.93	65.5		
Progressers	7	330	212	64.2	88.7	Euploid	2	5.2	24% <i>ERG</i> gain + CEP8 gain + <i>MYC</i> (alias <i>c-myc</i>) gain, 6% <i>ERG</i> gain + CEP8 gain + <i>MYC</i> gain + <i>MEN1</i> gain	9% 42225222300 4% 32225222300 3% 42224222300
	8	372	96	25.8	97.6	Euploid	2.01	53.5	30% Fusion, 14% No fusion + CEP8 loss, 9% No fusion + <i>PDGFB</i> loss	15% 2222222111 7% Fusion + CEP10 gain + <i>PTEN</i> loss
	9	340	158	46.5	95.3	Euploid	2.01	84.1	24% Fusion + <i>TBL1XR1</i> gain + <i>CTTNBP2</i> gain + <i>PTEN</i> loss, 4% Fusion + <i>CTTNBP2</i> gain + <i>PTEN</i> loss	11% 12212122111 11% 12212122101
	10	278	157	56.5	96.4	ND	ND	73.7	22% Fusion + CEP8 loss + <i>CTTNBP2</i> loss + <i>PTEN</i> loss, 3% No fusion + CEP8 loss + <i>CTTNBP2</i> loss + <i>PTEN</i> loss	44% 2222022111 16% Fusion
	11	287	161	56.1	94.8	Euploid	1.96	78.3	13% Fusion + <i>TBL1XR1</i> gain, 6% Fusion + <i>TBL1XR1</i> gain + <i>MEN1</i> gain	12% 2232222101
	12	365	87	23.8	99.5	Euploid	1.96	90.7	Average size of major imbalance clone = 24.6%	Average size of major signal pattern clone = 20.6%
	13	306	164	53.6	99.7	Euploid	1.96	71.0	Average size of major clone = 20.8%	Average size of major signal pattern clone = 17.5%
Average	325.4	147.9	46.6	96.0	NA	1.98	65.2			
Average for all cases	316.1	153.2	49	90.8	NA	NA	65.4			

NA, not applicable; ND, not determined.

signal number for each gene locus. The results for all 13 cases are displayed in [Figure 1](#).

The most frequent imbalance clone in each tumor comprised, on average, 20.8% of the cell population, with a

range of 11% to 44% ([Figure 1](#) and [Table 2](#)). Interestingly, the average size of the major imbalance clone in the progressers was 24.6% (average size for major signal pattern clone, 20.6%), whereas the average size in non-progressers

Table 3 Overview of Gains and Losses Observed in >30% of Tumor Cells of the Six Non-Progressers and Seven Progressers

Patient group	Case no.	CEP8	CEP10	<i>TBL1XR1</i>	<i>CTTNBP2</i>	<i>MYC</i> (alias <i>c-myc</i>)	<i>PTEN</i>	<i>MEN1</i>	<i>PDGFB</i>
Non-progressers	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	Gain	—
	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	Loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	Loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Progressers	7*	Gain	—	—	—	Gain	—	—	—
	8	Loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	9*	—	—	—	—	—	Loss	—	—
	10*	—	—	Gain	Gain	—	Loss	—	—
	11*	Loss	—	—	Loss	—	Loss	—	—
	12*	—	—	—	—	—	Loss	—	—
	13*	—	—	Gain	—	—	—	Gain	—

—, neither a gain nor a loss occurs.

*Cases were detected by a three-probe panel consisting of FISH probes for *PTEN*, *MYC*, and *TBL1XR1*.

was only 16.5% (14% for major signal pattern clone), suggesting that progressers have a higher degree of selection for a specific clone. However, there were only slight differences in the average instability index measured as the number of FISH signal patterns per 100 cells (46.6 versus 51.7) and the average percentage cells with fusion for *TMPRSS2-ERG* (65.2% versus 65.5%) between samples from patients with or without progression (Table 2). Wilcoxon tests of the instability index, Shannon index, and Simpson index comparing non-progressers with progressers showed no statistically significant differences in these measures of heterogeneity. Also, nuclear ploidy measurements could not discern between non-progressers and progressers.

The major clones of all lesions showed fusion events of *TMPRSS2-ERG*, except for one progresser, which was the only case that displayed gains of *MYC* and CEP8, indicating a gain of the entire chromosome 8 (case 7) (Figure 1). This was also the only case with gains of a normal *ERG* allele; therefore, it might follow a different pathway to progressive disease. Four progressers, cases 9, 10, 11, and 12 (Figure 1), revealed major clones with *PTEN* loss, which was not observed in any of the non-progressers. In addition, case 9 had a major clone with only a fusion event for *TMPRSS2-ERG*. The remaining two progressers had major clones with either only a fusion event (case 8) (Figure 1) or a fusion event with a *TBL1XR1* gain (case 13) (Figure 1), respectively. The aberrations in the major clones of non-progressing tumors were fusion events only (cases 1, 3, and 4) (Figure 1), a fusion event with a *MEN1* gain (case 2) (Figure 1), and *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion events with a CEP8 loss (cases 5 and 6) (Figure 1). Table 3 shows that overall more chromosomal gains and losses were found in carcinomas from the progresser group, whereas carcinomas of the non-progressing patients showed few changes, involving the loss of CEP8 and the gain of *MEN1*. Specifically, three gains/losses in the non-progresser group and 13 gains/losses in the progresser group are listed (Table 3). To evaluate whether the imbalance in the distribution is statistically significant, we permuted the entries in (a

copy of) each column 10,000 times (Table 3). One can obtain an empirical one-sided *P* value by asking what proportion of the 10,000 scrambled replicates has, at most, three gains/losses in the non-progresser group and correspondingly at least 13 gains/losses in the progresser group. By using this permutation test, we obtained *P* = 0.0143.

TMPRSS2-ERG Fusion

In 12 of 13 lesions, the break-apart probe indicates clonal patterns with a *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion. There was no significant difference in the average percentage of cells with fusion (65.2% versus 65.5%) between samples from patients with or without progression (Table 2). Most cases exhibited tumor cell populations that were heterogeneous for the *ERG* break-apart probe, often including a population with two normal alleles for *ERG* (pattern 200) (Figure 1). However, 6 of the 13 cases showed a specific fusion pattern in >60% of their tumor cell population, indicating that in those tumors either this was an early event in tumorigenesis or there was a strong selection for this particular pattern. There was no significant difference in the distribution of fusions by either insertion or translocation (pattern 111) and deletion (pattern 101) in the progressers and the non-progressers. Two non-progressers, but none of the progressers, revealed clonal cell populations with a double deletion of the sequences between *ERG* and *TMPRSS2* (cases 4 and 6) (Figure 1). However, the double deletion pattern 202 was observed in tetraploid cells, indicating a duplication of a diploid cell with the single deletion pattern 101. There was one progresser with a gain of a normal *ERG* allele (case 7). This case was also the only case with a gain of *MYC*.

Various studies have suggested that *ERG-TMPRSS2* fusions are early events in prostate cancer development.^{20,64,65} In our samples, there were five cases (cases 1, 5, 9, 10, and 13) (Figure 1) that revealed clones with the same *ERG* break-apart pattern but different gain and loss patterns for the other genes analyzed, indicating that the *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion

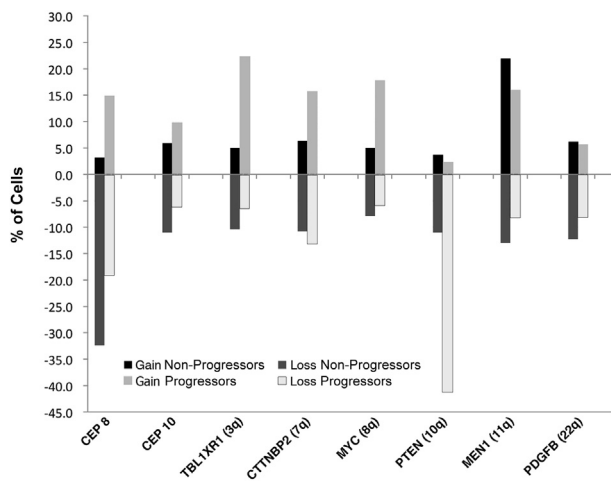


Figure 2 Average gain and loss frequencies for all of the gene markers and two centromere probes observed in prostate carcinoma cells of patients with and without progression. Percentages of cells with gains are shown above the 0% line and with losses below the 0% line.

happened as the first event, followed by specific chromosomal gains and losses. However, four cases (cases 2, 7, 8, and 11) (Figure 1) showed clones with the same gain and loss patterns, but different *ERG* break-apart patterns, which might indicate that the cells first acquired a specific chromosomal imbalance, and that the *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion happened as a later event. In the remaining four cases (cases 3, 4, 6, and 12) (Figure 1), there were different *ERG* break-apart patterns with different gain and loss patterns, most likely indicating a parallel development of different clones. This is surprising because it appeared more likely that within one tumor focus, fusion status should be clonal, although interfocal heterogeneity in the *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusions of multifocal prostate tumors had been reported.²⁵ The 202 pattern in case 6 can be explained with a tetraploidization of the genome that resulted in a duplication of the 101 pattern seen in the major clone of this case.

Correlation of aCGH and FISH

The correlation between gains and losses called by aCGH and FISH was 83.3%⁶¹ when using a threshold of >30% of the cells with gain or loss for FISH. Most of the discrepant calls are due to *CTTNBP2* gains called by aCGH but not seen by FISH, and *MEN1* gains seen by FISH but not called by aCGH.

DNA Ploidy Measurement Results

Image cytometry measuring the nuclear DNA content and determining the ploidy status did not reveal any aneuploid lesions among the six non-progresser and six of the seven progresser cases (one case did not have adequate material to be measured) (Table 2). All cases had diploid stem lines. A few cases showed small fractions of proliferating and/or tetraploid cells, which was in concordance with our FISH signal pattern observations (Table 2). In summary, all cases showed euploid DNA histograms indicating that DNA ploidy

measurements were not able to discern non-progressers from progressers in our study.

Performance of the FISH Probes as Progression Markers

Figures 2 and 3 and Table 3 give a summary of the overall performance of the six gene markers and the two centromere probes tested with regard to differential gain and loss patterns in progressive and non-progressive prostate carcinomas. Figure 2 shows the average gain and loss frequencies for all of the gene markers and two centromere probes observed in all prostate carcinoma cells analyzed, grouped by patients with or without progression. The most frequent change observed affects *PTEN* in the progressive disease group with a loss in >40% of the cells, compared with only 11% of the non-progresser group. The progresser group showed, on average, a 10% to 15% higher percentage of cells with *TBL1XR1*, *CTTNBP2*, or *MYC* gain compared with the non-progressers. However, *MEN1* and *PDGFB* showed similar percentages for progressers and non-progressers. In fact, *MEN1* gain was more frequently observed in the cells of non-progressing carcinomas.

When using a threshold of >30% of the cells showing the aberration, lesions from patients with progressive disease had an average of 1.9 gains/losses for the probes tested, compared with a substantially lower average of 0.5 for tumors from patients without progression (Figure 3). By using the same threshold, the loss of *PTEN* was the most frequent aberration in the progressers (4/7 = 57%), and was not observed in non-progressers, confirming its potential as a marker for aggressive disease. *TBL1XR1* was gained in two of the seven progressers (29%), whereas none of the non-progressers showed changes in the copy number of this gene. One progresser had a gain of *CTTNBP2* and another progresser had a loss of this gene, whereas none of the non-progressers showed

Marker	Chromosomal Location	No. of Lesions with >30% of Cells with Specific Marker Gain or Loss	
		Non-Progressors (n = 6)	Progressors (n = 7)
CEP8 gain	cen 8	0	1
CEP8 loss	cen 8	2	2
CEP10 gain	cen 10	0	0
<i>TBL1XR1</i> gain	3q26.3	0	2
<i>CTTNBP2</i> gain	7q31.2	0	1
<i>CTTNBP2</i> loss	7q31.2	0	1
<i>MYC</i> gain	8q24.2	0	1
<i>PTEN</i> loss	10q23.2	0	4
<i>MEN1</i> gain	11q13.1	1	1
<i>PDGFB</i> gain/loss	22q13.1	0	0
Average gain/loss per lesion		0.5	1.9

Figure 3 Specific gains and losses observed in non-progressive and progressive prostate cancer disease. CEP8 and *CTTNBP2* were gained and lost. The thicknesses of the arrows reflect the percentage of change from non-progressive to progressive disease. The increase of lesions with a loss of *PTEN* is the most pronounced.

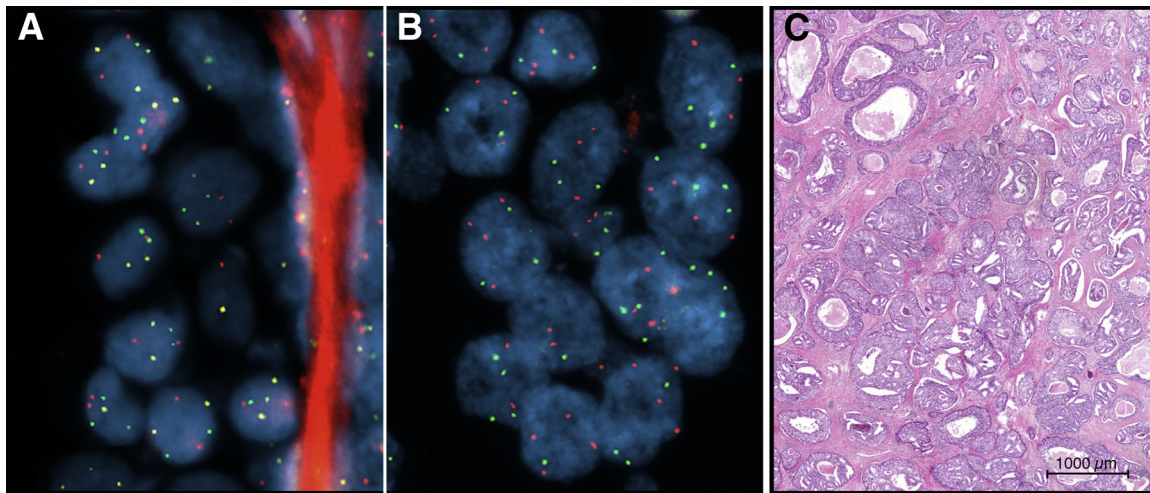


Figure 4 FISH on tissue sections with a prostate cancer–specific FISH probe panel. **A:** Normal prostate; most cells reveal two signals for the three probes [*MYC* (alias *c-myc*) in red, *TBL1XR1* in green, and *PTEN* in yellow]. Some cells are truncated because of sectioning. **B:** Prostate cancer; four copies for the probes *MYC* (red signals) and *TBL1XR1* (green signals) are present in most cells; again, cells are often truncated because of sectioning. We did not observe signals for the *PTEN*-specific probe, consistent with a biallelic deletion of this gene. **C:** Representative area of H&E-stained section of this cancer.

CTTNBP2 copy number changes. One progresser revealed *CEP8* and *MYC* gains, indicative of a chromosome 8 gain. The gain of *MYC* was not observed in non-progressers. *MEN1* was gained in one progresser and one non-progresser lesion, whereas *PDGFB* was not changed in any of the lesions, indicating that these two genes are not differentially gained or lost in progressers. A probe set consisting of *PTEN*, *MYC*, and *TBL1XR1* would have detected six of the seven progressers analyzed, which is equivalent to a test sensitivity of 86% (Table 3). The one progresser case that would not have been detected (case 8) had a major clone (30% of the cell population) with a *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion pattern of 111 and two minor clones, one comprising 12% of the cell population with an unusual *ERG* loss and a loss of *CEP8* indicating an 8p loss and another clone comprising approximately 10% of the cell population revealing a rare loss of *PDGFB* on a normal diploid background without a *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion (Figure 3). All non-progressers would have been negative for a test with a probe set of *PTEN*, *MYC*, and *TBL1XR1* (100% specificity), indicating that the combination of these three markers might have potential to predict progression in prostate carcinomas. By using the permutation test method described above, the combination of 86% sensitivity and 100% specificity has an empirical *P* value of 0.013.

Applying the *MYC-TBL1XR1-PTEN* Probe Panel to Tissue Sections of Prostate Cancers

We tested whether the three-color FISH probe panel that was determined to have the highest combined sensitivity and specificity (namely, *MYC-TBL1XR1-PTEN*) can be easily applied to routine tissue sections of FFPE material. We successfully hybridized three different prostate cancer specimens. The hybridization of one of the prostate cancer cases and the H&E stain for the tumor is shown in Figure 4. The tumor cells did not show any *PTEN* signal, indicative of a

biallelic loss of *PTEN* (Figure 4B), whereas normal ducts in the neighboring tissue revealed a normal signal pattern with mostly two signals per nucleus and probe. Signal counts of fewer than two are most likely due to the truncation of cells (Figure 4A). *TBL1XR1* and *MYC* revealed mostly four signals per tumor nucleus, indicating a possible gain for both markers in the tumor cells (Figure 4B). We also observed truncation artifacts due to sectioning.

Tree Models of Tumor Progression Show a Different Pattern of Changes in Non-Progressers versus Progressers

Although, in this study, the instability indexes of the prostate carcinomas with or without progression after RP are similar, the frequency of genomic imbalances is substantially higher in the progresser group, with 1.9 gains or losses per case versus 0.5 gains or losses in the non-progressers. To visualize the pattern of progression in each case, we constructed tree models of progression using FISHTrees software, which infers phylogenetic trees describing likely evolution of the set

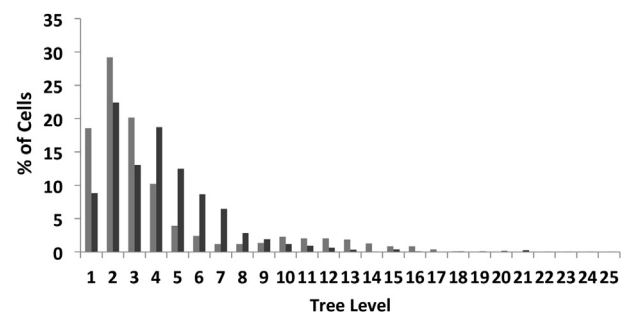


Figure 5 Distribution of cells across different levels of tumor progression trees for non-progresser (light gray bars) and progresser (dark gray bars) cases.

of observed signal counts within each tumor from an initially diploid root cell to heuristically minimize total copy number changes across the tree (Supplemental Figures S1–S13).⁵⁸ To evaluate whether there were statistically significant differences between the inferred phylogenetic trees of non-progressers versus progressers, the cell distribution across tree levels was calculated (Figure 5). The analysis showed that in the non-progressers, 70% of all cells were distributed within the first three tree levels, which was true for only 44% of the cells of the lesions that progressed. This observation indicates that cells of lesions that have a higher propensity to progress to advanced disease, on average, deviate more from the normal diploid status compared with cells from non-progressing lesions. This observation can be formalized statistically by computing weighted average depth of the nodes up to some level L for the six non-progressers and the seven progressers. The weighted average depths for $L = 5, \dots, 12$ for the two sets (non-progressers versus progressers) were compared by a Wilcoxon signed-rank test, which shows that the weighted average depth in the progressers is statistically significantly greater (Supplemental Table S1). For example, for $L = 10$, the P value of the test is 0.018. The node depth is the distance away from the normal signal count pattern (2, ..., 2) expressed in terms of the count of copy number changes. Thus, the cells in the progresser samples have in general a trend toward more total chromosomal changes. This trend is not captured by previously proposed measures of diversity (Shannon or Simpson index).⁶²

Discussion

Men with slowly progressing prostate cancers could be treated with active surveillance approaches instead of immediate, more aggressive treatment, including surgery, which can have considerable adverse effects.⁶⁶ This subset of patients will become larger as populations age and more tumors are detected early by screening efforts. Distinguishing patients with aggressive or indolent prostate carcinomas would help in designing risk-adapted neoadjuvant and adjuvant treatments.

Herein, we used single-cell genetic analysis of copy number changes and chromosomal translocations on the basis of interphase cytogenetics (FISH) to understand genome dynamics in prostate tumors from patients with or without progression after RP. This allowed us to evaluate a set of genetic markers for their usefulness to predict progression, identify pathways of carcinogenesis, and examine patterns of genomic imbalances and clonal evolution. We used three FISH probe panels targeting six genes identified by aCGH to be differentially gained and lost in tumors that progressed compared with tumors that did not progress. In addition, the *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion status was assessed in the same cells with a FISH *ERG* break-apart probe, and two centromere probes were hybridized as control probes. The sequential hybridization of

these panels to intact nuclei prepared from prostate carcinomas enabled us to enumerate all probe counts in multiple individual cells.

The non-progressing prostate carcinomas revealed a slightly higher average chromosomal instability index, calculated as the number of distinct signal patterns per 100 cells, with an average of 51.7 patterns (range, 41.7 to 59.2), compared with the progressing lesions, with an average of 46.6 patterns (range, 23.8 to 64.2). The range in the non-progressing lesions was narrower because two progresser lesions showed substantially lower indices (23.8 and 25.8) than the rest of the group (46.5 to 64.2), reflecting the fact that these two lesions had large populations of a major stable clone comprising 44% and 30% of the total tumor population. We have previously observed a higher average chromosomal instability index in a multicolor FISH study comparing breast ductal carcinoma *in situ* (DCIS) to synchronous invasive ductal carcinomas (IDCs). We observed 62.3 patterns (range, 14.5 to 93.3) in the DCIS and 70.6 patterns (range, 49.7 to 98.0) in the IDC.³¹ In the breast lesions, we never observed any signal pattern clone comprising >22% of the tumor cell population, with 7 of 26 cases showing no stable signal pattern clone (ie, <4% of the cells have the same signal pattern), whereas in the prostate carcinomas, 4 of 13 cases showed signal pattern clones comprising >22% of the cells, with a range from 7% to 44% cells (average size, 17.5%) for the major signal pattern clones in all cases.

Although the higher instability indices and smaller clone populations observed in the breast tumors could be due to the fact that a different set of genes was analyzed, there are indications of generally higher intratumor heterogeneity in breast tumors, especially because certain breast tumors showed major clones with aberrations in all eight breast cancer–specific genes assessed. None of the prostate cancers showed major clones with more than three aberrations in the six genes assessed for prostate cancer progression, which might be indicative of lower intratumor heterogeneity in prostate tumors. We are currently analyzing cervical cancers and high-grade cervical intraepithelial neoplasias with eight gene probes specific for cervical cancer and have observed much lower instability indices in these tumors compared with the breast tumors and prostate tumors (data not shown). Taken together, these observations might indicate that there are major differences in tumor heterogeneity and clonal development between different tumor entities.

Although the instability index values between the prostate carcinomas with or without progression are similar, the frequency of chromosomal gains and losses is substantially higher in the progresser group, with 1.9 gains or losses per case versus 0.5 gains or losses in the non-progressers. By using the same threshold of >30% of the tumor cell population exhibiting the aberration, breast tumors showed much higher gain and loss frequencies, with an average of 3.5 gains and losses per DCIS case and 4.6 gains and losses per IDC case.³¹ The increase of aberrations in the more

advanced disease stages shows that, in both tumor entities, additional aberrations are acquired during progression of the disease.

Of the 13 prostate cancers investigated, 12 had major clonal cell populations with a *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion and there was no significant difference in the average number of cells with a *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion between prostate carcinoma cases with or without progression after RP. *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion status could, therefore, not be used to discern progressers from non-progressers. This observation is in concordance with previous publications,^{16,18} and our results need to be interpreted with caution for *ERG*-negative cases. One progresser lesion (case 7) did not have any fusion event, but instead overexpressed *ERG* by acquiring extra copies of a normal *ERG* allele. This case was also the only case with *CEP8* and *MYC* gains, indicating that this cancer followed a different pathway. Interestingly, Toubaji et al⁶⁷ observed that increased gene copy number of *ERG*, but not *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion, predicts outcome in prostate cancers. They found that the presence of extra copies of the *ERG* gene is significantly associated with recurrence, which is consistent with the observation that our only case with *ERG* gain (case 7) was actually a lesion from a patient who progressed.

Two non-progressers, but none of the progressers, revealed clonal cell populations with a double deletion of the sequences between *ERG* and *TMPRSS2* (cases 4 and 6) (Figure 1), an *ERG* pattern that was reported to correlate with worse outcome.¹⁵ In our cases, the double-deletion pattern 202 happened in tetraploid cells, so the dosage effect in these cells is most likely similar to pattern 101 in diploid cells.

The most frequent aberration that we observed in prostate carcinomas that progressed was the loss of *PTEN* (Figure 3). Four of seven progressers had cell populations with >30% showing this loss, whereas none of the nonrecurrent cases reached this threshold. Loss of *PTEN* has been frequently shown to be associated with tumor progression, tumor aggressiveness, and disease recurrence^{68,69} and appears to be a promising marker to distinguish between progressing and non-progressing prostate carcinomas.^{32,70} Interestingly, Leinonen et al³⁸ observed that the loss of *PTEN* expression was associated with shorter progression-free survival in *ERG*-positive, but not in *ERG*-negative, cases. This is consistent with our findings, because all our cases with *PTEN* loss were *ERG* positive and progressers. Other gene markers that showed differential gain and loss patterns between progressers and non-progressers were *TBLIXR1* on 3q26, *CTTNBP2* on 7q31, and *MYC* on 8q24; however, this occurred to a much lesser degree than *PTEN* (Figure 3). Two of the markers, *MEN1* on 11q13 and *PDGFB* on 22q13, did not show any differential gain and loss between progressers and non-progressers in our FISH analysis. *MEN1* was gained in one non-progresser and one progresser, whereas none of the lesions showed *PDGFB* aberrations in >30% of the tumor cell population (Figure 3).

Herein, a probe set consisting of *PTEN*, *MYC*, and *TBLIXR1* detected six of the seven progressers (86% sensitivity). The only progresser case that would not have been detected had a major clone with a *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion pattern of 111 only, so additional markers might be needed to identify similar cases. However, none of these three genomic markers would have been positive for non-progressers, which is equivalent to a test specificity of 100%. Therefore, the combination of these three markers shows potential to predict progression in prostate carcinomas with high specificity and sensitivity. We successfully hybridized this probe panel on tissue sections of prostate cancers and detected, in one of the cancer specimens tested, a biallelic deletion of *PTEN* (ie, no signal for *PTEN*) and possible gains of the other two markers. This demonstration of the probe panel on prostate cancer tissue sections indicates that the proposed test is feasible and can be useful in a routine pathological setting. We plan to evaluate this probe panel in a larger study to further explore the prospect for a single-cell FISH test for the identification of patients with prostate cancer predicted to have a poor prognosis after RP and, thus, candidates for adjuvant therapy.

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Supplemental Data

Supplemental material for this article can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajpath.2014.06.030>.

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