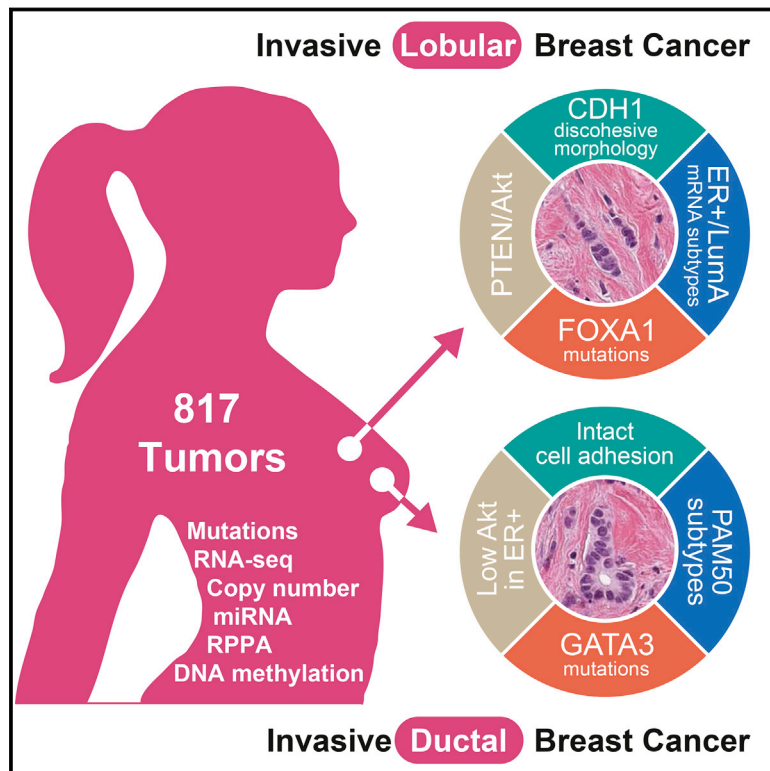


Comprehensive Molecular Portraits of Invasive Lobular Breast Cancer

Graphical Abstract



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In Brief

A comprehensive analysis of 817 breast tumor samples determines invasive lobular carcinoma as a molecularly distinct disease with characteristic genetic features, providing key information for patient stratification that may allow a more informed clinical follow-up.

Highlights

- Invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC) is a clinically and molecularly distinct disease
- ILCs show CDH1 and PTEN loss, AKT activation, and mutations in *TBX3* and *FOXA1*
- Proliferation and immune-related gene expression signatures define 3 ILC subtypes
- Genetic features classify mixed tumors into lobular-like and ductal-like subgroups



Comprehensive Molecular Portraits of Invasive Lobular Breast Cancer

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SUMMARY

Invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC) is the second most prevalent histologic subtype of invasive breast cancer. Here, we comprehensively profiled 817 breast tumors, including 127 ILC, 490 ductal (IDC), and 88 mixed IDC/ILC. Besides E-cadherin loss, the best known ILC genetic hallmark, we identified mutations targeting PTEN, TBX3, and FOXA1 as ILC enriched features. PTEN loss associated with increased AKT phosphorylation, which was highest in ILC among all breast cancer subtypes. Spatially clustered FOXA1 mutations correlated with increased FOXA1 expression and activity. Conversely, GATA3 mutations and high expression characterized luminal A IDC, suggesting differential modulation of ER activity in ILC and IDC. Proliferation and immune-related signatures determined three ILC transcriptional subtypes associated with survival differences. Mixed IDC/ILC cases were molecularly classified as ILC-like

and IDC-like revealing no true hybrid features. This multidimensional molecular atlas sheds new light on the genetic bases of ILC and provides potential clinical options.

INTRODUCTION

Invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC) is the second most frequently diagnosed histologic subtype of invasive breast cancer, constituting ~10%–15% of all cases. The classical form (Foote and Stewart, 1946) is characterized by small discohesive neoplastic cells invading the stroma in a single-file pattern. The discohesive phenotype is due to dysregulation of cell-cell adhesion, primarily driven by lack of E-cadherin (CDH1) protein expression observed in ~90% of ILCs (McCart Reed et al., 2015; Morrogh et al., 2012). This feature is the ILC hallmark, and immunohistochemistry (IHC) scoring for CDH1 expression is often used to discriminate between lesions with borderline ductal versus lobular histological features. ILC variants have also been described, yet all display loss of E-cadherin expression (Dabbs et al., 2013).

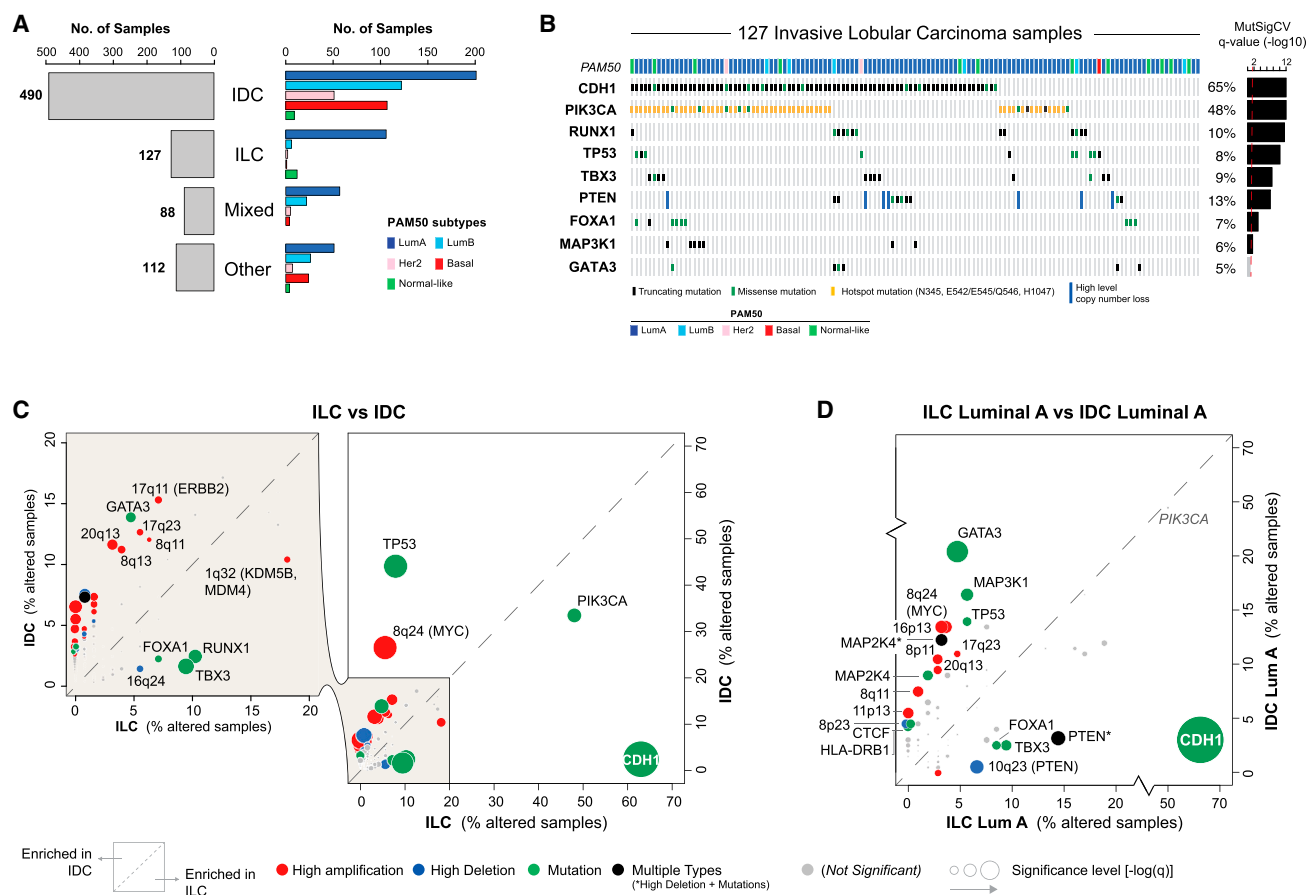


Figure 1. Molecular Determinants of Invasive Lobular Breast Cancer

- (A) Histopathological breast cancer subtypes: invasive ductal (IDC), invasive lobular (ILC), mixed ductal/lobular (Mixed), and other-type (Other) carcinoma. PAM50 intrinsic subtypes are not equally distributed across breast cancer subtypes.
- (B) Recurrently mutated genes (MutSigCV2) in ILC.
- (C) Comparison of the alteration frequency for 153 recurrent genomic alterations in ILC versus IDC.
- (D) Comparison of the alteration frequency for 153 recurrent genomic alterations in ILC LumA versus IDC LumA.

Classic ILCs are typically of low histologic grade and low to intermediate mitotic index. They express estrogen and progesterone receptors (ER and PR) and rarely show HER2 protein overexpression or amplification. These features are generally associated with a good prognosis, yet some studies suggest that long-term outcomes of ILC are inferior to stage-matched invasive ductal carcinoma (IDC) (Pestalozzi et al., 2008). Importantly, ILC infiltrative growth pattern complicates both physical exam and mammographic findings and its patterns of metastatic spread often differ from those of IDC (Arpino et al., 2004).

To date, genomic studies of ILC have provided limited insight into the biologic underpinnings of this disease, mostly focusing on mRNA expression and DNA copy-number analysis (McCart Reed et al., 2015). The first TCGA breast cancer study (Cancer Genome Atlas, 2012) reported on 466 breast tumors assayed on six different technology platforms. ILC was represented by only 36 samples, and no lobular-specific features were noted besides mutations and decreased mRNA and protein expression of CDH1. Here, we analyzed nearly twice as many breast tumors

from TCGA (n = 817), including 127 ILC. This study identified multiple genomic alterations that discriminate between ILC and IDC demonstrating at the molecular level that ILC is a distinct breast cancer subtype and providing new insight into ILC tumor biology and therapeutic options.

RESULTS

Genetic Determinants of Invasive Lobular Cancer

A total of 817 breast tumor samples were profiled with five different platforms as previously described (Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, 2014) and 633 cases were also profiled by reverse-phase protein array (RPPA). A pathology committee reviewed and classified all tumors into 490 IDC, 127 ILC, 88 cases with mixed IDC and ILC features, and 112 with other histologies (Table S1). As expected, lobular tumors were predominantly classified as luminal A (LumA) (Figure 1A) and being typically ER+ tumors characterized by low levels of proliferation markers (Table S1). ER status was clinically determined by

immunohistochemistry on 120 of 127 ILC cases, with 94% (n = 113) scoring positively.

Within 127 ILC, we identified 8,173 total coding mutations, integrating information from both DNA and RNA sequencing (Wilkerson et al., 2014). Recurrently mutated genes in ILC were identified by MutSigCV2 (Lawrence et al., 2013) and included many genes previously implicated in breast cancer (Figure 1B, Table 1) (Cancer Genome Atlas, 2012). Similarly, recurrent copy-number alterations in ILC estimated by GISTIC (Mermel et al., 2011) recapitulated known breast cancer gains and losses, in particular those observed in ER+/luminal tumors (Figure S1A). However, the frequency of these alterations (both mutations and copy-number changes) often differed significantly between IDC and ILC.

To investigate these differences, we identified recurrent alterations across all 817 samples and separately in ILC and IDC PAM50 subtypes (luminal A, n = 201, luminal B, n = 122, HER2-enriched, n = 51, and basal-like, n = 107). In total, we identified 178 events, including 68 mutated genes, 47 regions of gain, and 63 regions of loss (Table 1 and Table S2). Several of these had different incidence in ILC and in IDC (Figure 1C, Table S3). ILC cases were significantly enriched for *CDH1* mutations (63% in ILC versus 2% in IDC, $q = 3.94E-53$), most of them truncating, and mutations affecting *TBX3* (9% versus 2%, $q = 0.003$), *RUNX1* (10% versus 3%, $q = 0.008$), *PIK3CA* (48% versus 33%, $q = 0.02$), and *FOXA1* (7% versus 2%, $q = 0.08$). By contrast, alterations typically observed in ER-/basal-like tumors were less frequent in ILC, including *TP53* mutations (8% in ILC versus 44% in IDC, $q = 1.9E-14$) and focal amplification of *MYC* (6% versus 27%, $q = 7.42E-7$) and *CCNE1* (0% versus 7%, $q = 0.01$). These results partly reflect genetic differences between ER+/luminal and ER-/basal-like breast cancer, given that ILC tumors were predominantly LumA. Nonetheless, unexpected differences did emerge including a lower incidence of *GATA3* mutations in ILC compared to IDC (5% in ILC versus 13% in IDC, $q = 0.03$) (Figure 1C).

To better identify ILC discriminatory features, we limited our analyses to LumA samples, representing 41% of IDC (n = 201) and 83% of ILC (n = 106) (Figure 1D). This analysis confirmed a high incidence of *CDH1* ($q = 1.4E-30$), *TBX3* ($q = 0.05$), and *FOXA1* ($q = 0.065$) mutations in ILC, while the frequency of *RUNX1* and *PIK3CA* mutations was no longer significantly different. *GATA3* mutations (5% ILC versus 20% IDC, $q = 0.003$) were the second most discriminant event after *CDH1* mutations, mostly affecting IDC tumors. Interestingly, both *FOXA1* and *GATA3* are key regulators of ER activity (Liu et al., 2014), suggesting IDC and ILC may preferentially rely on different mechanisms to mediate the ER transcriptional program. Finally, homozygous losses of the *PTEN* locus (10q23) were more frequent in ILC ($q = 0.035$) as were *PTEN* mutations (8% versus 3%). Collectively, *PTEN* inactivating alterations were identified in 14% of LumA ILC versus 3% of LumA IDC ($p = 9E-4$), making this the third most discriminant feature between LumA IDC and LumA ILC (Figure 1D).

E-Cadherin Loss in Invasive Lobular Carcinoma

Loss of the epithelial specific cell-cell adhesion molecule E-cadherin (CDH1) is the key hallmark of ILC (Dabbs et al., 2013;

Moll et al., 1993). *CDH1* loss is believed to confer the highly discohesive morphology characteristic of this tumor subtype and is often associated with tumor invasion and metastasis in other tumor types, including diffuse gastric cancer (Brinck et al., 2004; Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, 2014; Richards et al., 1999). Loss-of-function mutations targeting *CDH1* are present in 50%–60% of ILC and are believed to be an early event often observed in matching lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS) (McCart Reed et al., 2015). *CDH1* mutations typically occur in combination with chromosome 16q loss, where *CDH1* is located, thus inducing complete loss of the protein.

We identified 108 mutations in the coding sequence of *CDH1* in 107/817 patients (63%); 80 of these occurred in ILC cases. These mutations were rather uniformly distributed along the coding sequence, and 83% of them were predicted to be truncating (Figure 2A). *CDH1* mutations almost invariably co-occurred with heterozygous loss of 16q (affecting 89% of ILC cases) and were associated with downregulation of both *CDH1* transcript and protein levels (Figures 2B and S2A). By combining somatic mutations, copy-number losses, and mRNA and low protein expression (the latter when available), we identified E-cadherin alterations in 120/127 (95%) cases with DNA and RNA data, and in all 79 cases with DNA, RNA, and protein data (Figures S2A–C).

Previous studies reported sporadic cases of multiple cancer types with high DNA methylation levels at the *CDH1* promoter, suggesting epigenetic silencing as an alternative mechanism for downregulation of *CDH1* (Graff et al., 1997; Richards et al., 1999; Sarrío et al., 2003; Zou et al., 2009). We analyzed the DNA methylation levels in breast tumors at CpG sites spanning from upstream of the *CDH1* promoter, across the promoter CpG island, and extending into the first intron (Figure S2D). Despite four of these probes matching DNA positions previously reported as methylated in ILC (Graff et al., 1997; Sarrío et al., 2003; Zou et al., 2009), we did not detect significant DNA hyper-methylation at these probes (Figure S2E), nor in any of the other *CDH1* associated probes analyzed (Figures 2B and S2F and S2G). Moderately increased methylation was observed in a few cases near exon 2; however, DNA methylation at this site correlated with lower tumor purity and increased leukocyte infiltration and indeed it mimicked methylation levels at this CpG site in normal leukocytes (Figures S2F and S2G). Infinium DNA methylation results were validated by whole-genome bisulfite sequencing in five samples (Figure S2H). Altogether, these data confirm that *CDH1* expression was substantially lower in ILC than in IDC and that this expression difference did not appear associated with DNA methylation at the *CDH1* promoter. Our results on 817 invasive breast tumors thus confirmed E-cadherin loss as ILC defining molecular feature but do not support the reported occurrence of *CDH1* epigenetic silencing in invasive breast cancer. The discrepancy with prior literature may be attributable in part to the reliance on highly sensitive, but non-quantitative, methylation-specific PCR assays in past studies (Herman et al., 1996) and will require further investigation.

FOXA1 Mutations in Breast Cancer

FOXA1 is a key ER transcriptional modulator (Carroll et al., 2005; Hurtado et al., 2011) coordinating ER DNA binding within a large

Table 1. Recurrently Mutated Genes in Breast Cancer

Gene	ILC (n = 127)		ILC Luminal A (106)		IDC (490)		IDC Luminal A (201)		IDC Luminal B (122)		IDC Her2-enriched (51)		IDC Basal-like (107)		ALL Breast Cancer (817)	
	n	q	n	q	n	q	n	q	n	q	n	q	n	q	n	q
PIK3CA	61	1.02E-12	54	9.18E-13	164	6.09E-13	93	6.79E-13	43	6.76E-13	19	9.14E-13	7	6.22E-02	282	2.54E-13
RUNX1	13	1.02E-12	9	9.18E-13	13	n.s.	9	1.32E-05	3	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	32	2.54E-13
CDH1	80	3.40E-12	68	6.12E-12	10	7.63E-03	7	5.33E-02	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	107	2.54E-13
TP53	10	8.26E-11	6	2.22E-04	215	6.09E-13	28	6.79E-13	52	6.76E-13	37	9.14E-13	92	1.83E-12	280	2.54E-13
TBX3	12	2.54E-08	10	4.01E-06	8	n.s.	5	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	26	1.11E-08
PTEN	9	8.43E-08	8	8.86E-09	27	5.61E-11	6	5.63E-03	11	9.64E-12	4	3.21E-02	6	4.65E-03	42	2.54E-13
FOXA1	9	5.52E-04	9	6.53E-04	11	n.s.	5	n.s.	3	n.s.	2	n.s.	1	n.s.	30	4.52E-13
MAP3K1	7	2.95E-02	6	7.54E-02	40	4.06E-12	33	1.25E-11	2	n.s.	1	n.s.	4	n.s.	69	2.54E-13
GATA3	6	n.s.	5	n.s.	66	6.09E-13	40	6.79E-13	22	6.76E-13	3	n.s.	0	n.s.	96	2.54E-13
AKT1	3	n.s.	3	n.s.	15	5.61E-11	11	1.25E-11	3	5.91E-02	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	20	2.54E-13
NBL1	3	n.s.	2	n.s.	10	1.08E-10	8	2.04E-12	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	16	5.24E-11
KMT2C	9	n.s.	8	n.s.	37	1.49E-08	17	2.94E-02	12	n.s.	3	n.s.	5	n.s.	64	4.89E-06
DCTD	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	6	1.02E-05	3	1.54E-02	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	6	7.61E-04
RB1	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	16	1.46E-04	4	n.s.	7	n.s.	1	n.s.	4	n.s.	18	n.s.
SF3B1	4	n.s.	4	n.s.	12	3.20E-04	6	1.12E-03	4	n.s.	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	16	3.68E-04
CBFB	2	n.s.	2	n.s.	15	1.51E-03	13	5.68E-06	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	24	8.14E-13
ARHGAP35	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	13	1.62E-03	5	n.s.	5	1.24E-02	0	n.s.	3	n.s.	18	7.74E-03
OR9A2	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	5	1.77E-03	2	n.s.	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	5	6.47E-03
NCOA3	6	n.s.	4	n.s.	24	1.77E-03	7	n.s.	7	n.s.	4	n.s.	6	n.s.	40	3.25E-07
RBMX	2	n.s.	2	n.s.	10	2.83E-03	3	n.s.	2	n.s.	1	n.s.	4	6.27E-02	12	4.01E-08
MAP2K4	2	n.s.	2	n.s.	24	2.83E-03	18	5.29E-12	5	n.s.	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	30	1.37E-05
TROVE2	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	6	4.51E-03	1	n.s.	2	n.s.	1	n.s.	2	n.s.	8	2.77E-03
NADK	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	4	4.51E-03	0	n.s.	4	5.85E-05	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	6	3.61E-03
CASP8	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	9	6.00E-03	2	n.s.	3	n.s.	0	n.s.	3	n.s.	11	1.81E-03
CTSS	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	5	6.00E-03	1	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	n.s.	5	8.91E-02
ACTL6B	2	n.s.	1	n.s.	5	7.63E-03	2	n.s.	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	n.s.	10	7.33E-05
LGALS1	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	4	9.78E-03	2	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	5	6.34E-03
KRAS	2	n.s.	1	n.s.	4	1.54E-02	3	7.32E-03	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	7	2.49E-04
KCNN3	2	n.s.	2	n.s.	8	1.81E-02	1	n.s.	2	n.s.	2	n.s.	3	2.45E-02	16	4.53E-02
FBXW7	2	n.s.	2	n.s.	6	2.19E-02	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	6	8.28E-04	11	n.s.
LRIG2	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	4	3.08E-02	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	6	n.s.
PIK3R1	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	9	3.08E-02	2	n.s.	3	n.s.	2	n.s.	2	n.s.	13	1.56E-03
PARP4	3	n.s.	3	n.s.	7	3.08E-02	3	n.s.	4	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	12	n.s.
ZNF28	3	n.s.	3	n.s.	7	3.25E-02	1	n.s.	5	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	11	1.72E-02
HLA-DRB1	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	13	3.52E-02	9	1.49E-02	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	n.s.	16	n.s.
ERBB2	5	n.s.	4	n.s.	7	6.42E-02	3	n.s.	1	n.s.	2	n.s.	1	n.s.	18	3.36E-06
ZMYM3	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	9	8.83E-02	3	n.s.	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	4	n.s.	11	n.s.
RAB42	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	6.27E-02	4	1.82E-03
CTCF	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	12	n.s.	9	7.05E-08	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	18	1.93E-03
ATAD2	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	9	n.s.	2	n.s.	4	7.32E-02	2	n.s.	1	n.s.	12	n.s.
CDKN1B	3	n.s.	2	n.s.	5	n.s.	4	9.59E-02	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	11	1.14E-03
GRIA2	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	6	n.s.	5	5.33E-02	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	6	n.s.
NCOR1	8	n.s.	8	n.s.	23	n.s.	12	4.81E-03	7	n.s.	1	n.s.	3	n.s.	39	3.61E-03
HRNR	4	n.s.	4	n.s.	13	n.s.	3	n.s.	3	n.s.	3	n.s.	4	n.s.	23	7.65E-02
GPRIN2	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	6	n.s.	3	n.s.	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	n.s.	11	1.16E-05
PAX2	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	4	4.80E-02

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Table 1. Continued

Gene	ILC (n = 127)		ILC Luminal A (106)		IDC (490)		IDC Luminal A (201)		IDC Luminal B (122)		IDC Her2-enriched (51)		IDC Basal-like (107)		ALL Breast Cancer (817)	
	n	q	n	q	n	q	n	q	n	q	n	q	n	q	n	q
ACTG1	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	4	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	n.s.	8	9.39E-02
AQP12A	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	3	n.s.	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	5	2.69E-02
PIK3C3	2	n.s.	2	n.s.	5	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	2	n.s.	11	3.23E-02
MYB	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	7	n.s.	3	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	n.s.	12	8.91E-02
IRS4	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	6	n.s.	3	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	3	n.s.	8	9.38E-02
TBL1XR1	3	n.s.	2	n.s.	3	n.s.	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	12	4.71E-04
RPGR	4	n.s.	3	n.s.	11	n.s.	3	n.s.	3	n.s.	2	n.s.	3	n.s.	19	1.26E-03
CCNI	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	3	6.93E-02
ARID1A	7	n.s.	5	n.s.	16	n.s.	7	n.s.	4	n.s.	3	n.s.	2	n.s.	33	7.91E-09
CD3EAP	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	n.s.	5	1.29E-02
ADAMTS6	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	3	n.s.	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	n.s.	8	1.81E-03
OR2D2	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	4	n.s.	0	n.s.	3	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	5	5.67E-02
TMEM199	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	3	n.s.	0	n.s.	2	n.s.	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	4	3.36E-02
MST1	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	5	n.s.	2	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	7	9.46E-02
RHBG	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	3	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	2	n.s.	4	7.91E-02
ZFP36L1	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	5	n.s.	2	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	8	3.37E-02
TCP11	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	3	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	6	4.80E-02
CASZ1	4	n.s.	4	n.s.	3	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	2	n.s.	11	2.03E-02
GAL3ST1	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	2	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	4	7.74E-03
FRMPD2	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	7	n.s.	2	n.s.	4	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	9	8.91E-02
GPS2	1	n.s.	1	n.s.	4	n.s.	3	n.s.	0	n.s.	1	n.s.	0	n.s.	8	8.91E-02
ZNF362	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	3	n.s.	3	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	0	n.s.	3	8.91E-02

n: number of mutations q: MutSigCV2 q value.

protein complex by modifying chromatin accessibility and mediating long-range DNA interactions (Liu et al., 2014). High FOXA1 expression has been previously reported in breast and prostate cancer (Habashy et al., 2008; Sahu et al., 2011) and somatic mutations in the FOXA1 gene have been reported in these tumor types in about 3%–4% of the cases (Barbieri et al., 2012; Cancer Genome Atlas, 2012; Robinson et al., 2015).

Here, we observed a total of 33 FOXA1 mutations in 30/817 (3.7%) tumors (Figure 3A), and the large sample set allowed us to identify regional hotspots in the FOXA1 mutation distribution. Mutations clustered in the fork-head DNA binding (FK) and C terminus transactivation domains (Figure 3A). A similar mutational pattern was observed by combining multiple prostate cancer sequencing studies (Baca et al., 2013; Barbieri et al., 2012; Grasso et al., 2012; Robinson et al., 2015) (Figure S3A), and confirmed by the TCGA prostate cancer project (Robinson et al., 2015). Thus, regional FOXA1 mutation hotspots are selectively altered in a tissue-independent fashion.

Eleven FOXA1 mutations were observed in 9/127 (7%) ILC cases. All FOXA1 mutations in ILC were in the FK domain, whereas mutations in IDC (n = 11) were observed both in FK (n = 6) and other structural elements (n = 5), without a specific preference. The FK domain includes three α helices (H1, H2, H3), three β strands (S1, S2, S3) and two loops, typically referred to as “wings” (W1, W2) (Figures 3B and S3B). FOXA1 mutations

in FK clustered prevalently in the W2 loop. Notable exceptions were recurrently mutated residues I176 (n = 4) and D226 (n = 3). These residues are far from W2 in sequence space and located in different secondary structure elements; however, they are close (within 5 to 10 Å) to residues in W2 in the 3D space (Figures 3C, 3D and S3C). In total, 22 out of 25 FK-mutations in our dataset fall into a restricted 3D space or “mutation structural hotspot” (MSH) (Figure 3D) indicating a selective pressure for targeting protein interactions and functions mediated by this region. Notably, 8/127 ILC cases have FOXA1 mutations within this MSH compared to 4/490 IDC cases (p = 6E-4), further supporting FOXA1 selected mutations as an ILC feature.

FOXA1 DNA binding occurs mostly through helix H3, that recognizes the binding motif and is stabilized by interactions mediated by its “wings” (Cirillo and Zaret, 2007; Gajwala and Burley, 2000; Kohler and Cirillo, 2010). Only a few residues predicted or experimentally shown to interact with the DNA were mutated (Figures 3B–3E) suggesting that these events are unlikely to affect FOXA1 DNA binding. FOXA1 is a pioneer factor that binds condensed chromatin and triggers DNA demethylation of its binding sites, making them accessible to transcription factors such as ER (Cirillo et al., 2002; Sérandour et al., 2011). FOXA1 activity can therefore be estimated by the methylation status of these sites where occupied FOXA1 DNA binding sites tend to be demethylated. We analyzed DNA methylation levels of the

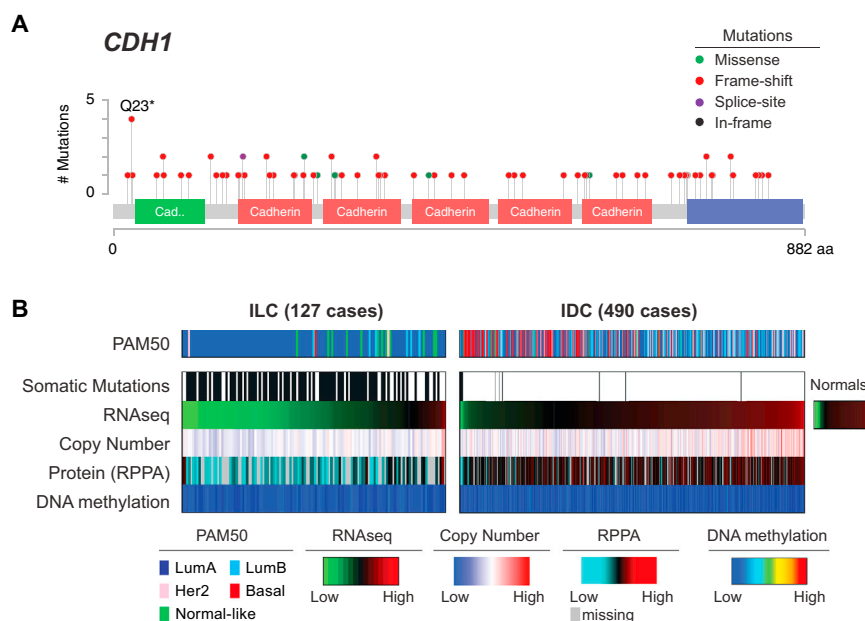


Figure 2. E-Cadherin Loss in ILC

(A) Mutations targeting the CDH1 gene target residues across the whole-sequence and are mostly predicted to be truncating (red).

(B) Comparison of E-cadherin status between ILC and IDC reveals frequent hemizygous copy-number losses at the CDH1 locus and downregulation of both mRNA [$\log_2(\text{RSEM})$] and protein levels. See also Figures S2A–S2C. Average DNA methylation level of 6 probes at the CDH1 promoter shows no change in DNA methylation in both ILC and IDC samples. See also Figures S2D–S2I.

3,976 most variable methylation probes mapping to FOXA1 binding sites (Table S3) and methylated in normal samples (Ross-Innes et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2012). DNA methylation of these sites was substantially lower when FOXA1 and ESR1 were highly expressed, while it remained high in FOXA1-negative cases and adjacent normal tissue (Figure 3F). Inverse correlation with FOXA1 expression (Pearson's coefficient $\rho = -0.54$) was specifically observed for DNA methylation at FOXA1 binding sites. Indeed, no correlation was found with methylation at 2,000 most variable probes with the same methylation level in normal samples as FOXA1 binding sites ($p = 0.07$) (Figure 3F). These data support the hypothesis that FOXA1 mRNA expression correlates with its activity. FOXA1 mutations were positively associated with its mRNA expression ($p = 0.002$) and maintained a similar anti-correlation with DNA methylation at FOXA1 binding sites (Figure 3F). Finally, by examining mRNA expression of FOXA1 targets, defined as genes with a FOXA1 binding motif in the promoter or matching the genomic loci covered by the 3,976 methylation probes we analyzed (Table S3), no significant differences were identified and only a few genes showed moderate expression changes (Table S4). These data collectively indicate that FOXA1 mutations do not abolish protein function and, in fact, they may activate alternative mechanisms to affect ER transcriptional programs.

Differential expression analyses between FOXA1 mutant and wild-type cases within distinct subsets of samples found consistent upregulation of neuroendocrine secretory proteins SCG1 (CHGB) and SCG2, chemokine-like factor CMTM8, neuroendocrine tumor associated transcription factor NKX2-2 and Kallikrein serine proteases KLK12, KLK13, and KLK14 (Figure S3D and Table S5). While the relatively low number of FOXA1 mutations and breast cancer heterogeneity prevented the identification of strong transcriptional signals associated with FOXA1 mutations, several upregulated targets in FOXA1 mutant cases with

part of them consistently found as significant suggests these lesions might drive novel binding events.

Interestingly, while ILC cases were enriched for FOXA1 mutations, and in particular for those targeting the FK domain, ILC showed significantly fewer GATA3 mutations, another key ER modulator. Mutations in GATA3 were more frequent in LumA IDC (Figure 1D) and mutually

exclusive with FOXA1 events. Moreover, LumA ILC tumors show lower GATA3 mRNA ($p = 0.007$) and protein ($p = 2E-4$) levels than LumA IDC (Figures S3E and S3F). Taken together, the differential expression patterns and enrichment for hotspot mutations of GATA3 in IDC and of FOXA1 in ILC, suggest a preferential requirement for distinct ER modulators in ILC and IDC.

Akt Signaling Is Strongly Activated in ILC

PTEN inactivation emerged as a discriminant feature between luminal A ILC and luminal A IDC. PTEN genetic alterations across all ILC cases included homozygous deletions (6%) and somatic mutations (7%), and were largely mutually exclusive with PIK3CA mutations (48%) (Figure S4A).

Unbiased differential protein expression analysis (Table S6) based on RPPA data revealed significant lower PTEN protein expression ($p = 4E-4$) in LumA ILC compared to LumA IDC (Figure 4A). Consistent with PTEN function as a negative regulator of Akt activity (Cantley and Neel, 1999; Song et al., 2012), ILC tumors also showed significantly increased Akt phosphorylation at both S473 ($p = 0.004$) and T308 ($p = 7E-5$) (Figure 4A). Upstream of the Akt pathway, we found significant upregulation of total EGFR ($p = 1E-4$) and phospho-EGFR at Y1068 ($p = 0.005$) and Y1173 ($p = 0.007$), as well as phospho-STAT3 at Y705 ($p = 7E-4$), supporting upregulation of signaling axes converging on Akt activation (Wu et al., 2013). We also identified increased phospho-p27 at T157 ($p = 0.002$), an Akt substrate, and phospho-p70S6 kinase at T389 ($p = 1E-4$), a direct mTOR target. Notably, ILC phospho-Akt levels were comparable with those typically observed in the more aggressive HER2+ and ER-/basal-like breast tumors (Figure S4B), which have uniformly high levels of PI3K/Akt signaling (Cancer Genome Atlas, 2012). Consistent with these results, we found significant upregulation of a PI3K/Akt pathway-specific protein and phospho-protein expression signature (Akbari et al., 2014) in LumA ILC compared

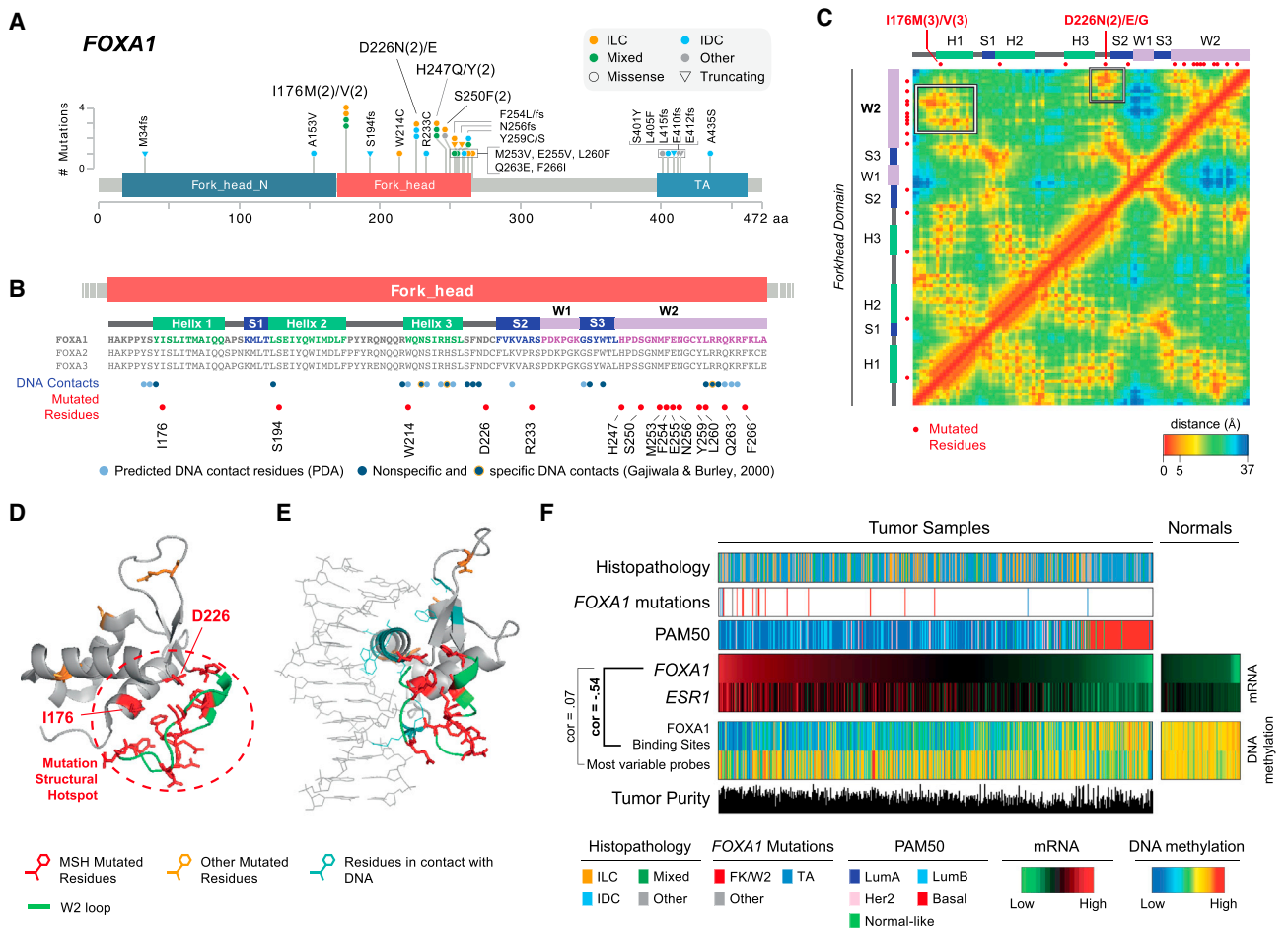


Figure 3. Recurrent FOXA1 Mutations Cluster in the 3D Space and Correlate with High FOXA1 Activity

(A) Recurrent FOXA1 mutations in 817 breast tumors cluster in the Fork-head DNA binding (FK) domain and in the C terminus trans-activation (TA) domain. (B) Secondary structure elements of the FK domain are not equally mutated. FOXA1 mutations cluster in the W2 loop and rarely target residues interacting with the DNA. (C) Residue-residue minimum distances for all residues in the FK domain using the 3D structure of FOXA3 FK domain (PDB ID: 1VTN). Frequently mutated residues I176 and D226 are close in the 3D space (but not in the sequence) to the residues in the W2 loop. See also Figure S3C. (D) 3D structure of the FK domain. Mutations in the W2 loop, in I176, and in D226 form a mutational structural hotspot (MSH). (E) 3D structure of FK domain bound to the DNA molecule shows mutated residues (red) are not those in contact with the DNA (light blue). (F) Across all breast cancer subtypes (histopathology and PAM50), FOXA1 mutations are associated with FOXA1 high mRNA expression. FOXA1 mRNA expression is highly correlated with ER mRNA expression [$\log_2(\text{RSEM})$] and anti-correlated with DNA methylation at FOXA1 binding sites consistent with FOXA1 activity. DNA methylation of randomly selected probes was used as control.

to LumA IDC (Figure 4B, Tables S1 and S6). Based on this signature, we found nearly equivalent levels of PI3K/Akt signaling in LumA ILC and basal-like and HER2+ IDC (Figure S4C). Finally, PARADIGM analyses (Vaske et al., 2010) showed increased activation of Akt signaling in LumA ILC relative to LumA IDC (Figure 4D).

PTEN protein loss and increased Akt phosphorylation were observed in association with PTEN genetic alterations, as well as in multiple ILC PTEN wild-type cases indicating that additional mechanisms contribute to the activation of the pathway. While PIK3CA mutations were frequent in LumA ILC tumors, these mutations were not associated with increased levels of phospho-Akt or pathway activity in our dataset. Using MEMO

(Ciriello et al., 2012), we highlighted multiple genetic alterations converging on Akt/mTOR signaling in 45% of the samples (Figure S4D, Table S7). Among these, alterations acting upstream of Akt were identified in 40% of ILC cases and were associated with increased Akt phosphorylation and PI3K/Akt score (Figure 4E), providing an apparent molecular explanation for Akt activation in these samples. Interestingly, these events included ERBB2 amplification and mutations (Figure 4E), both of which have been identified in relapsed ILC (Ross et al., 2013).

ILC mRNA Subtypes

Using mRNA-seq expression data from LumA ILC samples (n = 106), we identified three ILC subtypes termed *reactive-like*,

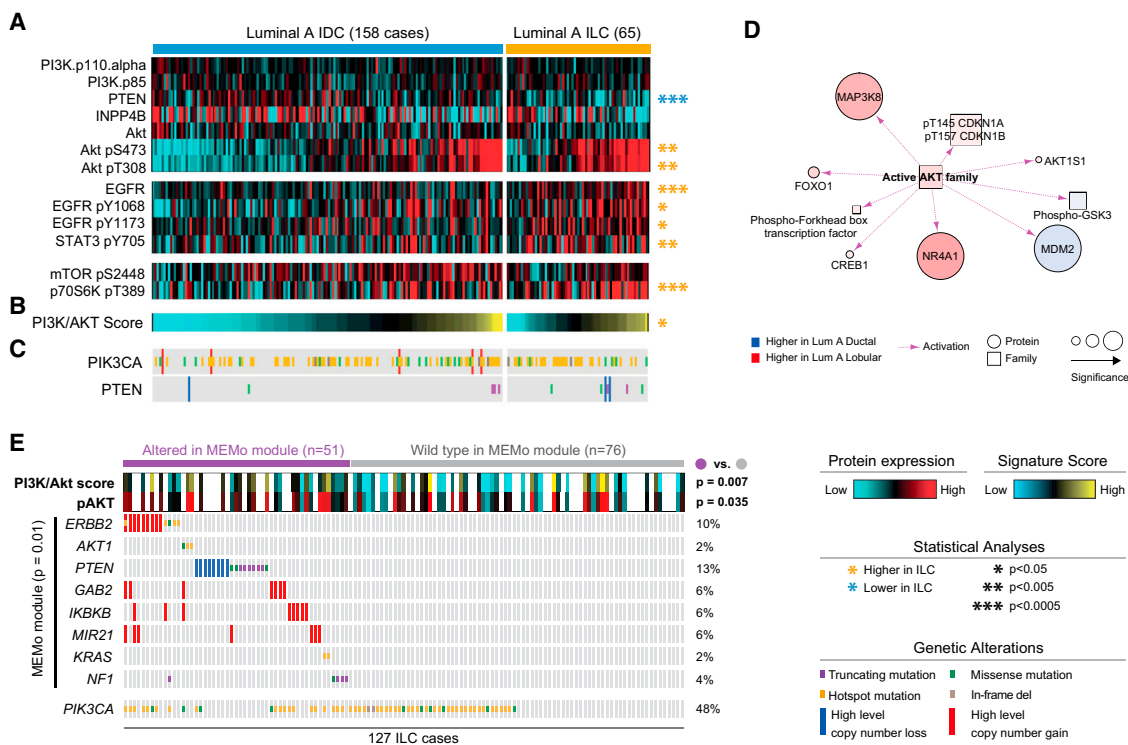


Figure 4. Akt Signaling Is Highest in ILC Tumors

(A) Differential protein and phospho-protein analysis between ILC LumA and IDC LumA reveals significant lower levels of PTEN, and higher levels of Akt, phospho-Akt, EGFR, phospho-EGFR, phospho-STAT3, and phospho-p70S6K in ILC LumA.

(B) A PI3K/Akt protein expression signature is significantly upregulated in ILC tumors. See also Figures S4B–S4C.

(C) Mutation and copy-number alterations in *PIK3CA* and *PTEN*

(D) PARADIGM identifies increased Akt activity in LumA ILC tumors.

(E) MEMo identified multiple mutually exclusive alterations in ILC converging on Akt signaling and associated with increased phospho-Akt and PI3K/Akt protein signature in these tumors. Hotspot are defined as follow: *PIK3CA* E542, E545, Q546, and H1047; *ERBB2* L755, I767, V777; *AKT1* E17; *KRAS* G12.

immune-related, and *proliferative* (Figures S5A–S5I, Table S8). We then used a 3-class ILC subtype classifier (60 genes, Table S13) to score all ILC samples in the TCGA (n = 127) (Figure 5A) and METABRIC (Curtis et al., 2012) datasets (Table S12). Our analyses identified many significant genomic features that distinguished each ILC subtype at the mRNA and protein/phospho-protein level; but no distinguishing somatic mutations or DNA copy-number alterations.

Significant analysis of microarray (SAM) analysis (Tusher et al., 2001) identified 1,277 genes differentially expressed between ILC subtypes (q = 0) (Figure 5A, Table S8). Of these, 1,005 were highly expressed in *reactive-like* tumors, which had lower tumor purity as determined by ABSOLUTE (Carter et al., 2012) (Figures 5A and S5P), and included genes consistent with epithelial and stromal-associated signaling including keratin, kallikrein, and claudin genes as well as the oncogenes *EGFR*, *MET*, *PDGFRA*, and *KIT* (Table S8). The remaining 272 genes were highly expressed in *immune-related* tumors and include modulators of immunogenic signaling such as interleukins (IL), chemokine receptors and ligands, major histocompatibility complex, and tumor necrosis factors, as well as *IDO1* and *IFNG* (Figure 5A and Table S8). Interestingly, immune activity in this subset of tumors appears to be predominantly associated with

macrophage-associated signaling as increased levels of CD68 (p < 0.05), macrophage-associated colony stimulating factor (MacCSF), macrophage-associated TH1 (MacTH1), and T cell receptor (TCR) gene expression signatures (Iglesia et al., 2014) were observed in both the TCGA (Figure 5A) and METABRIC (Figure S5J–S5K) datasets. Finally, *proliferative* tumors were defined by low expression of each of these 1,277 genes (Figure 5A). Intriguingly, in each dataset (Figures 5 and S5K) *proliferative* tumors had higher levels of proliferation relative to *reactive-like* tumors (TCGA: p = 3.3E-09; METABRIC: p = 0.018) and slightly higher or equivalent levels compared to *immune-related* ones (TCGA: p = 0.29; METABRIC: p = 0.008). Regardless of ILC subtype, ILC tumor proliferation was generally lower than all IDC subtypes (Figures S5L–S5M).

With respect to previously reported RPPA-based subtypes (reactive or non-reactive), *reactive-like* ILC largely, but not entirely, comprised tumors classified as reactive (Figure 5B; p < 1E-4), a subgroup characterized by strong microenvironment and/or cancer fibroblast signaling (Cancer Genome Atlas, 2012). Examining protein and phospho-protein expression differences between ILC subtypes identified many significant features (Figure 5B and Table S6). Reactive-like tumors had higher levels of c-Kit (p = 4E-4), consistent with mRNA expression, total

($p = 0.004$) and phosphorylated PKC alpha (S657, $p = 0.002$); beta catenin ($p = 0.012$) and E-cadherin ($p = 0.011$), although both beta-catenin and E-cadherin levels are significantly lower than in all IDC subtypes. Decreased levels were observed instead for p70S6 kinase ($p = 0.017$), Raptor ($p = 0.027$) and eIF4G ($p = 0.024$).

Immune-related tumors had higher levels of immune modulator STAT5 alpha ($p = 0.019$), PI3K/Akt targets phospho-PRAS40 (T246, $p = 0.016$) and mTOR (S2448, $p = 0.019$), and total ($p = 0.004$) and phospho-MEK1 (S217-S221, $p = 0.022$). Consistent with the mRNA proliferation signature, tumors in the *proliferative* subtype have increased expression of cell-cycle proteins cyclin E1 ($p = 0.036$), FoxM1 ($p = 0.019$), PCNA ($p = 0.019$), and phospho-Chk1 (S345, $p = 0.038$) as well as DNA repair components Rad50 ($p = 0.007$), Rad51 ($p = 0.007$), XRCC1 ($p = 0.028$), and BRCA2 ($p = 0.038$). Decreased expression was observed for total ($p = 0.014$) and phospho-MAPK (T202-Y204, $p = 0.038$), and phosphorylated MEK1 (S217-S221, $p = 0.019$), PKC alpha (S657, $p = 0.006$), PKC beta (S660, $p = 0.037$), and Src (Y527, $p = 0.026$). Protein pathway signatures (Akbari et al., 2014) recapitulated these findings with *proliferative* tumors having increased levels of the cell cycle ($p = 0.005$) and DNA damage response ($p = 0.014$) signatures and a lower RAS-MAPK signature ($p = 0.031$) score (Tables S1 and S6).

Using an integrative genomics approach, PARADIGM predicted increased activation of the TP53, TP63, TP73 TCF/beta-catenin PKC, and JUN/FOS pathways in *reactive-like* tumors; increased activation of immune-modulators IL12 and IL23, IL12R and IL23R, JAK2 and TYK2 in *immune-related* ILCs (Baay et al., 2011; Duvallet et al., 2011; Strobl et al., 2011), and decreased activation of each of these pathways along with lower levels of MAPK3, RB1, and ERK1 (Figure 5C) in *proliferative* ILC tumors.

Lastly, we determined that *reactive-like* ILC patients had a significantly better disease-specific (DSS) ($p = 0.038$, HR: 0.47) and overall survival (OS) ($p = 0.023$, HR: 0.50) compared to *proliferative* ILC patients in the METABRIC dataset, which has a median follow-up of 7.2 years (compared to the TCGA median follow-up of less than 2 years), (Figure 5D). Consistent with these results, patients with more proliferative lobular tumors (i.e., greater than the median PAM50 proliferation signature score) had worse DSS ($p = 0.025$, HR: 2.0) and a tendency toward worse OS ($p = 0.058$, HR: 0.63) compared to patients with a lower proliferation score (Figures S5N–S5O). No significant differences in DSS or OS were identified between the *immune-related* subgroup and either the *proliferative* or *reactive-like* subgroup. These results are consistent with previous studies reporting that the reactive stromal phenotype is associated with a good prognosis in breast cancer while proliferation is one of the strongest indicators of worse outcome in luminal/ER+ breast cancers (Ciriello et al., 2013b).

Tumors with Mixed ILC and IDC Histology

Histologically, ~3%–6% of breast tumors present both a ductal and a lobular component (Figure 6A). Pathologists currently classify these tumors as *mixed ductal/lobular breast carcinoma* or *invasive ductal cancers with lobular features* (Arps et al., 2013). There are, however, no defined criteria or uniform terminology

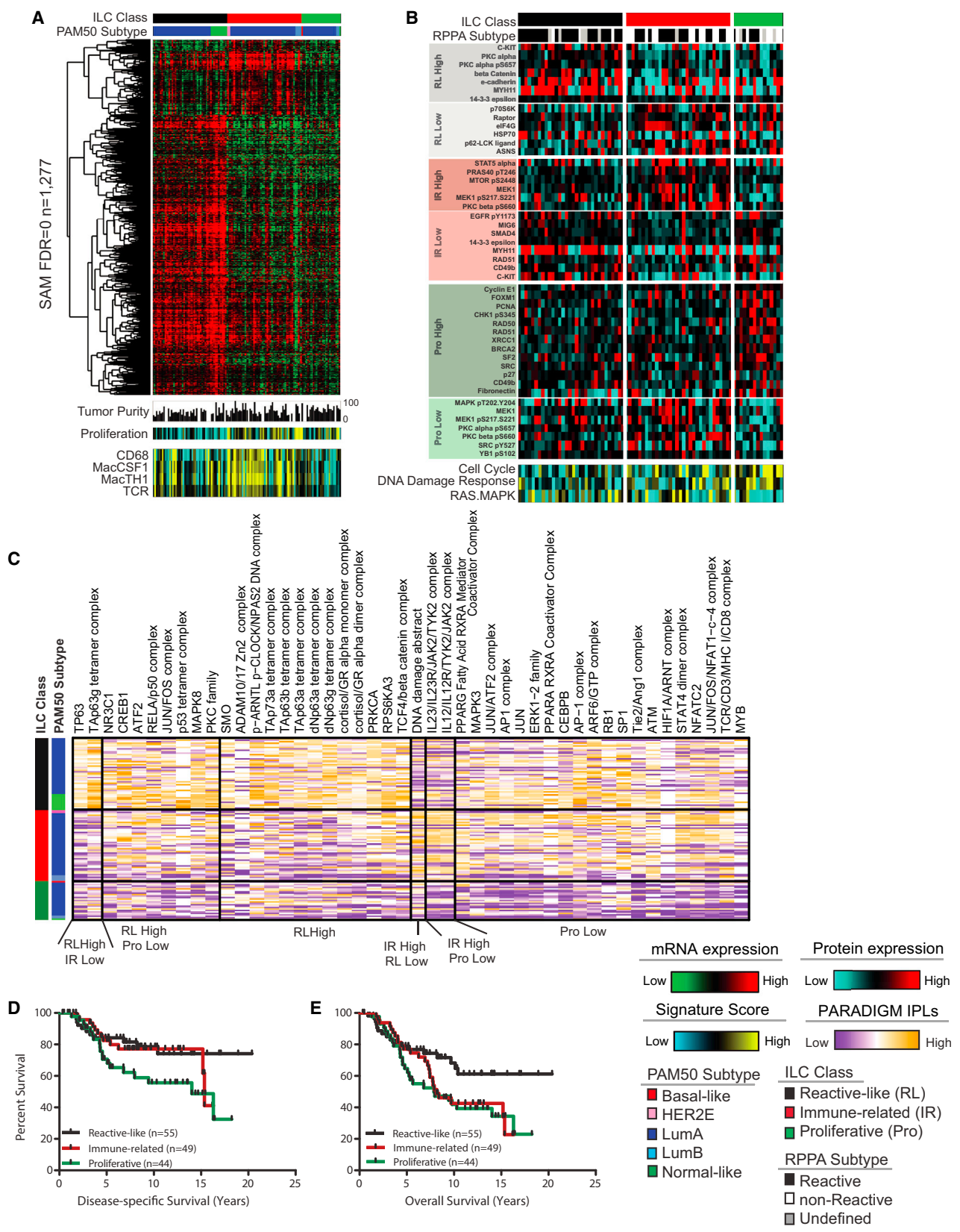
for the classification of *mixed* tumors and as a consequence discordant clinical and molecular features have been reported (Bharat et al., 2009). Molecular profiling has the power to provide quantitative endpoints to compare the genetics of mixed tumors with those of pure ILC and IDC. In our dataset, 88/817 tumors (11%) were classified by as mixed ductal/lobular breast carcinomas. We characterized these *mixed* tumors using multiple computational approaches integrating different data-types thus to determine whether they molecularly resembled IDC (IDC-like), ILC (ILC-like), or neither.

We first analyzed the transcriptional landscape of mixed tumors using the ISOpure algorithm (Quon et al., 2013), which deconvolves the transcriptional signal of each queried tumor to estimate how much of it can be explained by one or more reference populations and how much is unique. Interestingly, mRNA expression profiles of all *mixed* cases could almost completely be explained by either IDC or ILC reference populations, suggesting that these tumors separate into IDC-like and ILC-like cases and do not represent a molecularly distinct subtype (Figure S6A). Based on this analysis, 32/88 *mixed* cases received an ILC-score greater than the IDC-score, and were therefore classified as ILC-like (Figure 6B).

We next evaluated the resemblance of *mixed* tumors to IDC and ILC based on the previously determined selected set of copy-number alterations (CNAs) and mutations (Table S2). *Mixed* tumors were enriched for IDC recurrent CNAs and mutations when compared to ILC, and vice versa (Figure S6B), indicating ILC and IDC genetic alterations were both present in these tumors, either simultaneously or in separate IDC-like and ILC-like subgroups. We then compared each *mixed* tumor to ILC and IDC based on their genomic features, by adapting the OncoSign algorithm (Ciriello et al., 2013a). This approach identified 19 ILC-like mixed samples characterized by ILC genetic features (Figures 6B and S6D). All *CDH1*-mutated *mixed* cases were classified as ILC-like, indicating *CDH1* status as a dominant feature in this analysis. A few *CDH1* wild-type mixed cases were also classified as ILC-like and characterized by ILC-enriched events such as mutations in *RUNX1* (3/4 mutated cases), *TBX3* (2/4), and *FOXA1* (2/6). ILC-enriched alterations did not co-occur with IDC-enriched ones, further indicating that mixed tumors can be categorized into ILC-like or IDC-like subgroups and do not constitute a molecularly distinct subtype.

Finally, we combined 428 CNA, including focal and arm-level alterations, 409 gene expression modules (Fan et al., 2011; Gatz et al., 2014) and somatic mutations for 128 genes mutated in more than 3% of the cases into a single ElasticNet classifier (Zou and Hastie, 2005). This integrated ElasticNet predictor identified 27/88 mixed tumors as ILC-like. These were enriched for the LumA subtype, *CDH1* mutations and loss of E-cadherin mRNA expression (Figures 6B and S6E).

Overall, these approaches were highly concordant (Figures 6B and S6F) with 24/88 cases (18/57 LumA cases) being called ILC-like by at least two approaches, and 64 being called IDC-like (Table S1). ILC-like and IDC-like mixed tumors when compared to pure ILC and IDC, respectively, do not show significant enrichment for specific genomic alterations, being molecularly similar to either one or the other subtype. Our analyses demonstrate that mixed histology tumors overwhelmingly tend



(legend on next page)

to resemble either ILC or IDC as opposed to representing a third distinct group. Moreover, IDC and ILC discriminant molecular features, in particular *CDH1* status, could be used to stratify *mixed* tumors into ILC-like and IDC-like tumor subgroups.

DISCUSSION

In this study we provide the most comprehensive molecular portrait to date of ILC. E-cadherin loss was confirmed the ILC hallmark lesion, and we could identify *CDH1* loss at the DNA, mRNA, and protein level in almost all ILC cases. Moreover, 12/27 *CDH1* mutations in non-ILC cases occurred in *mixed* tumors strongly resembling ILC at the molecular level. Surprisingly, we did not identify DNA hyper-methylation of the *CDH1* promoter in any breast tumor, suggesting that E-cadherin loss is not epigenetically driven. In addition, ILC and IDC differed in the *FOXA1* and *GATA3* mutational spectra, *PTEN* loss, and Akt activation. The lower incidence of *GATA3* mutations in ILC and lower *GATA3* mRNA and protein expression suggest that in LumA ILC tumors there is a preferential occupancy of ER in *FOXA1* bounded sites (Theodorou et al., 2013). Differential ER activity is also observed at the protein level where both total ER ($p = 0.005$) and phospho-ER ($p = 2E-05$) levels are reduced in LumA ILC versus LumA IDC. These findings in the context of recent data suggesting an improved response to the aromatase inhibitor letrozole as compared to tamoxifen in ILC (Metzger et al., 2012; Sikora et al., 2014) warrants further investigation.

The chromatin remodeling factor EP300, also involved in ER modulation, is able to directly acetylate *FOXA1*, and EP300 driven acetylation prevents *FOXA1* DNA binding, but does not affect the protein when already bound (Kohler and Cirillo, 2010). Intriguingly, five acetylation sites have been identified in the wings of the fork-head domain; three of them in W2 (K264, K267, and K270), where most of our newly observed *FOXA1* mutations cluster. These observations lead to the hypothesis that *FOXA1* mutations could alter EP300 dependent acetylation of *FOXA1* without affecting EP300 modulation of ER. While a rigorous evaluation of the role of EP300 in breast cancer and how *FOXA1* mutations interfere with it goes beyond the scope of this study, *FOXA1* mutations, its correlation with *FOXA1* expression and lack of DNA methylation at its binding sites, and exclusivity with *GATA3* mutations support these as events activating *FOXA1* function and, thus, ER transcriptional program.

The PI3K/Akt pathway is among the most altered in cancer providing tumor cells with enhanced growth and survival capa-

bilities. Integrating protein and phospho-protein data with gene expression and pathway activity signatures, we consistently identified increased Akt signaling in ILC versus IDC. Notably, E-cadherin loss has been associated with Akt activation and EGFR overexpression (Lau et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2013). Lack of E-cadherin expression, which characterizes almost all ILC tumors, may thus provide a favorable cellular context for Akt activation. Recently, PI3K and Akt inhibitors entered clinical trials for several cancer types including breast cancer. Here we showed that ILC has on average the highest levels of Akt activation, measured by phospho-Akt and PI3K/Akt signaling among all breast cancer subtypes (comparable to IDC basal-like), making selective inhibition of this pathway in ILC a particularly attractive strategy.

Unbiased characterization of the ILC transcriptome showed a high degree of internal variability giving rise to three main subgroups: *reactive-like*, *immune-related*, and *proliferative*. While additional validation studies will clearly be required, we do observe increased expression of many druggable pathways/targets including increased levels of phospho-mTOR and phospho-MEK1 expression in the *immune-related* subgroup as well as increased SMO and ERK pathway activity in the *reactive-like* subgroup. These results, coupled with difference in clinical outcome, suggest that these subgroups will be important for future studies focused on both the clinical and biological aspects of ILC.

Finally, we showed that *mixed* ILC/IDC tumors could be separated into two major groups based on their molecular resemblance to either ILC (ILC-like) or IDC (IDC-like). The ability to classify cancers with *mixed* phenotypes based on the underlying biology has implications for clinical practice as well as furthering our understanding of the etiology of such lesions. Indeed, ILC carcinomas often metastasize to body sites not colonized by IDCs (e.g., gastrointestinal [GI] tract and peritoneal surfaces). ILC are also typically of low histologic grade and with low to intermediate mitotic index, thus limiting their response to primary chemotherapy (Cristofanilli et al., 2005) and their ability to be detected on PET scans. As such, clinicians must be aware of non-specific symptomatology and favor diagnostic approaches such as anatomical scanning (CT scan) for ILCs. Finally, the identification of ILC enriched molecular features may ultimately lead to the design of ILC-targeted therapies. A more refined classification of mixed cancers as IDC-like or ILC-like will improve our understanding, detection, and follow-up of the disease, and enable a more informed and targeted treatment selection.

Figure 5. ILC Molecular Subtypes

(A) Three molecular subtype of lobular breast cancer were identified based on differential gene expression and show unique patterns highly expressed genes ($n = 1277$, SAM FDR = 0, upper panel), minor difference in tumor purity measured by ABSOLUTE, and differences in gene expression signatures measuring proliferation, CD68, Macrophage-associated CSF1, Macrophage-associated TH1, and T Cell Receptor Signaling (lower panel). Proliferation is highest in the *proliferative* (Pro) and *immune-related* (IR) subgroups; macrophage associated signaling is highest in *immune-related* tumors.

(B) Differences in protein expression profiles as determined by RPPA analysis. The *reactive-like* (RL) subgroup shows a significant association ($p < 1E-4$, Fisher's Exact test) with the RPPA-defined reactive subgroup of breast cancer. Differences in subgroup-specific patterns of protein expression ($p < 0.05$, t test) for individual proteins (upper panel) as well as for protein expression signatures (lower panel) were identified. The proliferative subgroup shows higher expression of the cell-cycle and DNA damage response pathways and lower levels of Ras-MAPK signaling ($p < 0.05$).

(C) Subgroup-associated signaling features identified by PARADIGM.

(D and E) *Reactive-like* ($n = 55$) tumors have significantly better (D) disease specific ($p = 0.038$, HR: 0.47, log-rank) and (E) overall survival ($p = 0.022$, HR = 0.50) compared to *proliferative* ($n = 44$) tumors in the METABRIC cohort.

See also Figure S5.

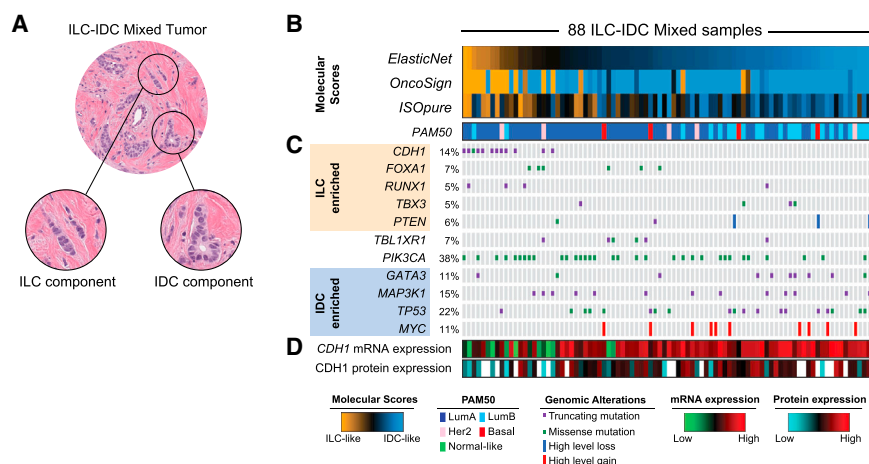


Figure 6. Molecular Classification of Mixed Ductal/Lobular Carcinoma

(A) Mixed ductal/lobular tumors present at the same time both a lobular and ductal component.

(B) We used three algorithmic approaches (ElasticNet, OncoSign, and ISOpure) to evaluate the resemblance of mixed tumors to either ILC (ILC-like) or IDC (IDC-like) based on molecular features. ILC-IDC scores are shown for all three approached at the top. See also Figures S6B–S6D.

(C) Genetic alterations enriched in ILC tumors are frequently found in ILC-like mixed cases (in particular CDH1 mutations), whereas those enriched in IDC are more frequent in IDC-like mixed cases.

(D) ILC-like mixed-cases are characterized by both low E-cadherin mRNA and protein level. See also Figure S6E.

This multi-platform study identified numerous molecular features discriminating between breast ILC and IDC, demonstrating different pathways underlying their pathogenesis, defining new ILC subtypes with different clinical outcomes, and pointing to previously unrecognized therapeutic possibilities. Importantly, we provided here a curated and integrated dataset for 817 breast tumors, including the largest collection to date of comprehensively profiled ILC. To facilitate the exploration of this dataset, we created a public web-service (http://cbio.mskcc.org/cancergenomics/tcga/brca_tcga) organizing all analyses and data used in this manuscript. We believe this resource will serve as a reference for many to further advance our understanding of human breast cancers.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Tumor and matched normal specimen were collected as previously described (Cancer Genome Atlas, 2012). In total 817 primary tumor samples were assayed by whole-exome DNA sequencing, RNA sequencing, miRNA sequencing, SNP arrays, and DNA methylation arrays. A subset of 633 samples was assayed by reverse phase protein array (RPPA). Histological subtypes have been determined based on consensus by a pathology committee. Intrinsic breast cancer subtyping was performed on all 817 cases, using the PAM50 classifier (Parker et al., 2009). Data generation and processing were performed as previously described (Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, 2014).

Enrichment analyses for selected events were performed using Fisher's exact tests and a binary representation of copy-number alterations and mutations (1 is altered, 0 is wild-type).

DNA methylation of the CDH1 promoter was assessed at probes within a window 1,500 bp upstream and downstream CDH1 transcription start site using both HM27 and HM450 data. Whole-genome bisulfite sequencing was performed to characterize DNA methylation levels at 157 CpGs.

Distances between of FOXA1 mutations have been determined from the tertiary structure of FOXA3 fork-head domain (PDB ID: 1VTN). Predicted DNA interactions were derived by WebPDA (<http://bioinfozen.unc.edu/webpda>). Differential expression analyses on RNA-seq data were performed using the limmvoom package (Law et al., 2014).

Replication Based Normalized (RBN) RPPA data containing expression levels for 187 protein and phosphorylated proteins for 633 samples were used for protein differential expression analysis. Differential pathway activity was assessed by t test.

ILC subtypes were determined using Consensus Cluster Plus Analysis (Wilkerson and Hayes, 2010) based on the 1,000 most differentially expressed genes and a classifier was built using ClaNC (Dabney, 2006).

Detailed description of each analysis presented in this study can be found within the Supplemental Experimental Procedures.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes Supplemental Experimental Procedures, six figures, and nine tables and can be found with this article online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2015.09.033>.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

G.C., M.L.G. and C.M.P. coordinated overall study design and analyses. A.H.B., S.C.L., G.M.K.T., R.E.F., L.C.C., K.H.A., Y.-Y.C., K.J., and N.B.J. coordinated pathology analyses. M.D.W., M.McL., and C.K. coordinated DNA sequencing analyses. M.L.G., K.A.H. and C.M.P. coordinated RNA-seq analyses. S.K.R., H.S., and P.W.L. coordinated DNA methylation analyses. H.Z. and A.D.C. coordinated copy-number analyses. R.B. and G.R. coordinated miRNA-seq analyses. G.B.M. coordinated RPPA analyses. A.P., C.Y., S.H., R.F. were involved in bioinformatics analyses. C.B. and C.S. supervised bioinformatics analyses. S.O. and T.A.K. coordinated clinical contributions. G.C. developed web-resource for breast cancer data. G.C., M.L.G. and C.M.P. wrote the manuscript, which all authors reviewed.

CONSORTIA

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