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EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2023 MILAN Italy, 9-13 September

Identification of potential biomarkers for diagnosis of lung adenocarcinoma

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Background: Lung cancer is the deadliest cancer worldwide. Therapeutic options for lung adenocarcinoma (LUAD) have dramatically increased, but late diagnosis remains a challenge. Differentially expressed genes (DEG) may be employed as biomarkers for LUAD detection. **Aim:** To identify potential biomarkers for diagnosis of LUAD.

Materials and Methods: We evaluated fresh-frozen tumoral tissues from patients with LUAD (n=53). Gene expression analysis was performed using the nCounter® PanCancer Pathways panel (NanoString® Technologies). Upregulated and downregulated genes were selected according to fold-change ($FC \geq 2$) and p-value ($p \leq 0.01$) using the ROSALIND® software. DEG were in silico validated using The Cancer Genome Atlas Lung Adenocarcinoma dataset. Enrichment analysis was performed using STRING database. Median normalized counts were used as cut-offs for stratification of genes for survival analysis. **Results:** We identified a 78-gene signature comparing LUAD tissue and non-tumoral lung tissue. Seventy-seven out of the 78-gene signature were validated ($p < 0.05$), being considered biologically connected (PPI p -value = $1.0e-16$). Patients were stratified into groups based on gene expression levels into higher, intermediate and lower groups. An association with survival was noted ($p = 0.001$), whereas the intermediate group had a hazard ratio (HR) of 1.58 (95%CI: 0.4-5.9; $p = 0.48$) and the lower group had a HR of 4.29 (95%CI: 1.1-16.5; $p = 0.034$). Notably, the downregulation of CD19, IL1R2, and TLR4 showed HRs of 2.75 (95%CI: 1.27-5.91; $p = 0.10$), 2.34 (95%CI: 1.09-5.04; $p = 0.29$), and 2.15 (95%CI: 1.02-4.55; $p = 0.043$), respectively. **Conclusion:** We identified a 78-gene signature that might help define a more accurate diagnosis for lung adenocarcinoma.