

The Maternal Embryonic Leucine Zipper Kinase (MELK) is Upregulated in High-Grade Prostate Cancer

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Supplementary methods:

Tissue specimens and clinical data

Immediately after surgery, the prostate specimens were rapidly processed for histopathological analysis and stored in Tissue-Tek OCT (Sakura, Alphen, Netherlands), embedded cryo-blocks at -80°C or in paraffin-embedded formalin-fixed tissue blocks (FFPE) at room temperature, respectively. RNA samples were isolated from paired tumor and non-malignant (benign) tissue samples from a radical prostatectomy cohort with Gleason scores (GS) between 6 and 10 (Table 1).

All tumor and control areas were assigned by an experienced uropathologist (G.S.) who used a HE stained section for selecting appropriate tissue regions. Non-malignant, benign areas were chosen well separated from tumor areas. Several 10 µm cryo- or FFPE sections were prepared and the assigned tissue was collected by macrodissection using the HE stain as a template. Detailed clinical data are given in Supplementary Table 1.

To this day the Gleason score reflecting the histomorphological pattern and degree of dedifferentiation of prostate tumors is the gold standard of prostate cancer categorization and the best available single parameter for estimation of the risk for progression and worse prognosis [1, 2]. The Gleason system categorizes prostate tumors according to the histomorphological pattern such as loss of a differentiated glandular structure into Gleason patterns (GP) 1 (fully differentiated) to 5 (fully dedifferentiated). The Gleason Score is formed by the sum of the most (primary) and the second most (secondary) predominant Gleason patterns of a tumor and ranges from 2 to 10 [3, 4].

The criteria on PSA-density, biopsy Gleason Score and tumor extension defined by Epstein were used to assign tumor cases into clinically significant and insignificant groups [5-7]. Patients with an ERG gene rearrangement were assessed using a FISH break-apart assay [8]. Alternative approaches for tumor classification risk groups are based on genetic alterations, above all the TMPRSS2-ERG gene rearrangement that is found in about 50% of all prostate tumors [9, 10].

Western blotting

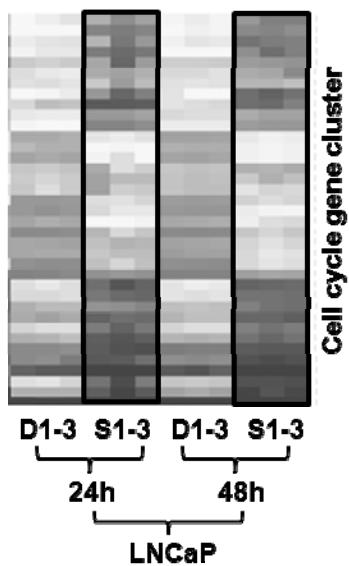
The following primary antibodies were used: Anti-MELK (HPA017214, Sigma), Anti-UBE2C (ab56861, Abcam, Cambridge, UK), Anti-FOXM1 (ab55006, Abcam), Anti-CDC20 (4823, Cell Signaling, Danvers, MA, USA) Anti-AURKA (HPA002636, Sigma), Anti-AR (sc-816, Santa Cruz), Anti-pAKT (9271, Cell Signaling), Anti-Tubulin, alpha (2144, Cell Signaling, Loading control).

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Supplementary Figure 1: Microarray analysis of Siomycin A treated LNCaP indicates specific pattern of responsive genes. Siomycin A treated cells (biological triplicates, S1-3) are compared to DMSO controls (C1-3) for two time points. Here, expression of 33 cell cycle genes coexpressed with MELK and upregulated in aggressive prostate cancer is visualized by hierarchical clustering. In LNCaP cells the majority of these genes (25 out of 33) were downregulated after 24h and 48h Siomycin A treatment.



Supplementary Tables:

Supplementary data is given for detailed lists of differentially expressed genes, ontology statistics and assay information. For Illumina data universal probe ID (Ref ID) is given in all gene lists including statistical analysis outcome (LIMMA software, p-value, linear fold change). Gene ontology statistics was done using GOstat software for down- and upregulated genes, respectively. Results were only documented if significant biological processes were associated with these genes.

Supplementary Table 2: Detailed information for gene specific Taqman and siRNA assays.

Gene Symbol	Taqman Assay ID	RefSeq	Exon Boundary	Median Cp Tissues Tumor / Benign	Median Cp Cell line PC3 /LNCaP	Dharmacon ON- TARGETplus SMARTpool
MELK	Hs00207681_m1	NM_014791	5-6	38.12 / 40.00	30.70 / 30.54	L-004029-00
UBE2C	Hs00964100_g1	NM_181799.1	5-6	34.01 / 34.58	24.70 / 26.36	L-004693-00
CDC20	Hs00415851_g1	NM_001255.2	1-2	36.26 / 36.71	29.75 / 29.75	N/A
CDCA8	Hs00983655_m1	NM_018101.2	3-4	35.05 / 35.65	28.99 / 28.71	N/A
PRC1	Hs00187740_m1	NM_199413.1	1-2	34.81 / 35.12	N/A	N/A
CCNB2	Hs00270424_m1	NM_004701.2	1-2	32.93 / 33.14	N/A	N/A
POLR2A	Hs00172187_m1	NM_000937.4	1-2	34.68 / 34.60	N/A	N/A
FOXM1	Hs01073586_m1	NM_001243088.1	4-5	N/A	27.51 / 28.01	N/A
B2M	Hs99999907_m1	NM_004048.2	2-3	23.74 / 23.84	23.04 / 24.89	N/A

Supplementary Table 5: Downstream processes assessed to the downregulated genes upon MELK and UBE2C RNAi-based knockdown in PC3 or overlapping genes between both experiments.

MELK knockdown deregulated genes

Gene regulation	GO ID	GO Name	Genes	Group count	Total count	p-value
Down	GO:0016568	chromatin modification	carm1; crebbp; setd2; ttrap; myst4; arid1a; chd8; smarcc2; smarca4	9	219	2.10E-05
Down	GO:0009790	embryonic development	lama5; slit2; foxc1; fbn2; vegfc; lrp5; lama3; chd8; smarca4	9	235	3.42E-05
Down	GO:0016573	histone acetylation;	myst4; ttrap; crebbp	3	13	0.000454
Down	GO:0016477	cell migration	lama5; lrp5; vegfc; lama3; nr2f1; slit2; foxc1	7	233	0.00104

UBE2C knockdown deregulated genes

Gene regulation	GO ID	GO Name	Genes	Group count	Total count	p-value
Down	GO:0016568	chromatin modification	carm1; ttrap; ep400; smarcc2; fbxl11; smarca4; setd2; setd1a	8	219	0.000969
Down	GO:0030029	actin filament-based process	abl1; myo5a; c14orf173; cdc42bpb; actn4; myo9b; cdc42bp; myh9; sptan1	9	260	0.000583
Down	GO:0007067	mitosis	aspm; clip1; shc1; cdc2l1; cenpe; numa1; ube2c; zzeff1	8	239	0.00149
Down	GO:0007155	cell adhesion	clstn1; itga3; lama5; abl1; col6a2; inpp1; zyx; itgb4; ptprrm; sirpa; lpp; ptprf; col6a1; cd99	14	960	0.00317
Down	GO:0022403	cell cycle phase	aspm; abl1; clip1; shc1; cdc2l1; cenpe; numa1; ube2c; zzeff1	9	369	0.00317

Overlapping genes upon MELK or UBE2C knockdown

Gene regulation	GO ID	GO Name	Genes	Group count	Total count	p-value
Down	GO:0016568	chromatin modification	carm1; ttrap; smarcc2; setd2; smarca4	5	219	0.00788
Down	GO:0009790	embryonic development	lrp5; lama5; slit2; smarca4; fbn2	5	235	0.00837

ILMN_1698404	8.8581	7.80E-008	2.3274	10.0461	12.3801	ERN1	2081
ILMN_1679041	7.9585	8.97E-008	2.4060	9.9601	12.2196	SLC3A2	6520
ILMN_1813100	9.6560	1.24E-007	2.0469	9.7525	11.8285	KIAA1244	57221
ILMN_3274596	10.1242	1.47E-007	2.4753	9.6482	11.6299	LCC286512	286512
ILMN_1753342	12.1394	1.64E-007	2.1760	9.5790	11.4973	1101/11	6303
ILMN_1796069	0.0496	1.73E-007	0.4002	9.5510	11.4434	CBLN2	147381
ILMN_1673769	8.2937	2.20E-007	2.0272	9.3975	11.1468	KCNQ1	3755
ILMN_2052208	8.8649	2.43E-007	2.0672	9.3349	11.0250	GADD45A	1647
ILMN_1695407	11.6204	4.46E-007	0.4506	-8.9675	10.2991	SPRS2	6427
ILMN_1740426	8.3846	4.49E-006	2.3401	7.6320	7.5094	RASD1	51655
ILMN_1881909	12.5125	1.52E-005	0.3338	-6.9841	6.0703	NA	
ILMN_1791123	11.3612	0.000137722	2.1707	5.8616	3.4558	TMPRSS2	7113
ILMN_2412336	7.6927	0.000141601	2.0704	5.8475	3.4223	AKR1C2	1646

Supplementary Table 7: Downstream processes assessed to the up- and downregulated genes upon siomycin A treatment.

Siomycin A deregulated genes in LNCaP

Gene regulation	GO ID	GO Name	Genes	Group count	Total count	p-value
Down	GO:0007049	cell cycle	ccnf; mcm6; prc1 ; kpna2; tpx2; kif11; aurka ; c11orf82; h2afx; chek1; kifc1; e2f2 ; mcm3; cdkn3; cdca3; fanci; suv39h1; cdc20 ; ndc80; cdca2; racgap1; cdc25a; cks2; cd45l ; cdk2; anln; bir5; cdc45; gmnn; spc24; zwint; cdc2; nusap1 ; uhrf1 ; cep55; kntc1 ; exo1; cdc7; bub1; smc4; stmn1 ; ccna2; mns1; cdca8 ; mcm2; pbk; ttk; tubg1; ccnb2 ; cdt1 ; aurkb ; ube2c ; fbxo5; mad2l1; cks1b; ncapg; ccne2; mcm7	58	839	1.45E-57
Down	GO:0006260	DNA replication	orc6l; mcm6; pole3; rfc4; tk1 ; tyms; exo1; mcm3; gins2; mcm4 ; pole2; rfc5; pcna; mcm2; mcm5; rnaseh2a; cdc45l; cdt1; cdk2; rrm2; top2a ; mcm10; fen1; gmnn; pola2; polq; mcm7; ccne2	28	355	5.30E-28
Down	GO:0007051	spindle organization and biogenesis	prc1; kif11; ndc80; aurka; ttk; tubg1; cks2; stmn1; ube2c; zwint	10	19	6.63E-19
Down	GO:0006281	DNA repair	pcna; fanci; rfc4; tyms; h2afx; chek1; exo1; nudt1; top2a; fen1; polq; pole2; rad51ap1; rfc5; uhrf1	15	392	1.85E-10
Down	GO:0000079	regulation of cyclin-dependent protein kinase activity;	cdkn3; ccna2; cks1b; cdc25a; chek1; ccne2; cks2	7	49	6.18E-09
Down	GO:0008283	cell proliferation	pcna; tpx2; racgap1; ttk; cdc25a; chek1; bub1; cdc7; cks2; cdk2; cdkn3; cks1b; cdca7 ; uhrf1	14	745	3.77E-06
Up	GO:0006915	apoptosis	trib3; nupr1; cbx4; ern1; ddit3; dnase2; gadd45a; ddit4; cebpg; cebpb	10	855	0.000327

Siomycin A deregulated genes in PC3

Gene regulation	GO ID	GO Name	Genes	Group count	Total count	p-value
Down	GO:0045859	regulation of protein kinase activity	spred1; c5; fabp4; spry1; cdkn2b	5	237	0.00323
Down	GO:0009611	response to wounding	il1b; c5; fabp4; hoxb13; f2rl1; thbs1	6	423	0.00323
Up	GO:0006915	apoptosis	il12a; angptl4; rhob; ddit3; ern1; sqstm1; tgm2; gadd45a; ddit4; blid; pim1; hmxo1	12	855	3.18E-05
Up	GO:0008283	cell proliferation	il12a; myc; insig1; adm; fth1; adamts1; tgm2; pim1; cyr61; hmxo1	10	745	0.000217
Up	GO:0007050	cell cycle arrest	ddit3; ern1; myc; gadd45a	4	101	0.00202
Up	GO:0008202	steroid metabolic process	akr1c4; hmgcs1; insig1; npc1; adm	5	223	0.00289
Up	GO:0048514	blood vessel morphogenesis	angptl4; tgm2; rhob; hmxo1	4	147	0.00492