

## Effets phénotypiques de deux mécanismes d'activation de la voie Wnt/beta caténine dans le carcinome hépatocellulaire

Romain Désert

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## THÈSE / UNIVERSITÉ DE RENNES 1

sous le sceau de l'Université Bretagne Loire

pour le grade de

## DOCTEUR DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE RENNES 1

Mention : Biologie et Santé

## Ecole doctorale Vie-Agro-Santé

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Préparée à l'unité de recherche INSERM UMR 991 Foie, Métabolismes et Cancer UFR Sciences de la vie et de l'environnement

Effets phénotypiques de deux mécanismes d'activation de la voie Wnt/β-caténine dans le carcinome hépatocellulaire Thèse soutenue à Rennes le 16/12/2016 devant le jury composé de :

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#### Liste des abreviations :

AFP : Alpha-fœtoprotéine AHC : Adénomes hépatocellulaires ASBT : Apical Sodium-dependent Bile acid Transporter BCLC : Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer  $\beta$ -TrCP : beta-Transducin repeat Containing Protein CCA : Cholangiocarcinomes CHC : Carcinome hépatocellulaire CK1 : Casein kinase 1 CLIP : Cancer of the Liver Italian Program CRB : Centre de Ressources Biologiques **CRP** : Protéine C réactive DKK1 : Dickkopf-1 ELF: Enhanced Liver Fibrosis Test EpCAM : Epithelial Cell Adhesion Molecule GPC3: Glypican-3 GP73 : Golgi protein 73 GSTA1 : Glutathion S-transférase A1 HB : Hépatoblastome HES / Hématoxiline Eosine Safran HFE : Human hemochromatosis protein HRE : HNF4A-responsive elements HSC : Hepatic Stellate cells IGF : Insulin-like growth factor IL6 : Interleukine 6 IMC : Indice de masse corporelle INR : International Normalised ratio IRM : Imagerie par Résonance Magnétique

- LEF : Lymphoid enhancing factor)
- LPS : Lipopolysaccharide
- MAITs : Mucosal-associated invariant T
- MELD : Model for end-stage liver disease
- MMPs : Métalloprotéines
- NASH : Stéatohépatite non-alcoolique
- NK : Natural killer
- NKT : Natural killer T
- OMS : Organisation mondiale de la Santé
- SIRS : Syndrome inflammatoire aigu
- TCF : T-cell factor
- TLR : Toll-like récepteurs
- TMA : Tissue microarray
- TNM : Tumor Node Metastasis
- VEGF : Vascular endothelial growth factor
- VHB : virus de l'hépatite B
- VHC : virus de l'hépatite C
- WRE : Wnt-responsive elements

## **AVANT PROPOS**

Ce projet de thèse a été réalisé au sein de l'unité de recherche INSERM U991 « Foie, Métabolismes et Cancer ». Cette unité étudie les mécanismes cellulaires et moléculaires impliqués dans les pathologies hépatiques liées, aux agressions exogènes ou endogènes ainsi qu'à la survenue et à la progression des cancers du foie. L'objectif global de ces études est d'améliorer la prise en charge des patients souffrant d'un dysfonctionnement hépatique par la mise au point d'outils innovants pour le diagnostic ou le pronostic et l'identification de cibles thérapeutiques.

Dans ce contexte, j'ai évolué au sein de l'équipe 4 de l'unité INSERM U991. Le projet global de cette équipe vise à mieux comprendre le rôle du microenvironnement dans la survenue et la progression des cancers hépatiques.

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# **INTRODUCTION**

## **Chapitre 1 : Le foie**

## I Anatomie

Le foie, situé au niveau de l'hypochondre droit et pèse entre 1200 et 1800 g, ce qui peut représenter entre 1.8% et 3.1% de la masse totale du corps. Les lobes droits et gauches sont les plus volumineux, le lobe droit représentant à lui seul plus de la moitié du volume total du foie (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Anatomie du foie

D'un point de vue fonctionnel, le foie peut être divisé en huit segments virtuels basés sur les ramifications des veines porte et sus-hépatique. Cette segmentation est basée sur les travaux de Couinaud (1957) et permet de faciliter l'hépatectomie. En effet, chaque segment est indépendant et relié à sa propre artère hépatique, veine porte, veine sus-hépatique et canal biliaire (Figure 2).

La veine porte hépatique, formée de la rencontre de la veine mésentérique supérieure et de la veine splénique véhicule le sang provenant de l'intestin grêle. Elle reçoit également le sang provenant de l'estomac, du pancréas, du duodénum, du côlon, et de la rate. Le sang du tractus digestif contient les métabolites de la digestion le sang provenant de la rate est riche en métabolites de l'hémoglobine. Ce sang arrivant au foie par la veine porte représente 75% du flux sanguin affèrent.

Le reste du sang afférent provient de l'artère hépatique, une des trois branches de division du tronc cœliaque, au niveau de la douzième vertèbre thoracique. Elle approvisionne en sang oxygéné le foie et les voies biliaires, ainsi qu'une partie du système digestif.

Les veines hépatiques drainent ensuite le sang désoxygéné du foie vers la veine cave inférieure.

Enfin, les canalicules biliaires traversent le foie et récoltent la bile sécrétée par les hépatocytes. Au niveau de la plaque ductale, la bile provenant des canalicules biliaires passe par les canaux de Herring, les voies biliaires intra-hépatiques et se verse dans les canaux hépatiques droit et gauche s'associant en dehors du foie pour former le canal hépatique commun, débouchant dans le duodénum.



Figure 2. Segmentation de Couinaud

## **II Microanatomie**

Au niveau microscopique, le foie est constitué d'unités structurales appelées lobules hépatiques, de forme polyédrique et d'une taille de l'ordre du millimètre (Figure 3). Au niveau de chacun des angles de ce polyèdre se trouve une structure appelée généralement triade porte, parfois espace porte ou espace de Kiernan. Elle se compose d'une branche de la veine porte, d'une branche de l'artère hépatique et de canaux biliaires. Le terme triade fait référence à la forme triangulaire observée sur les coupes au microscope de lobules hépatiques. Il doit être utilisé avec prudence car l'espace porte comporte généralement plus de trois éléments.

Suivons une goutte de sang provenant de l'intestin grêle. Elle arrive au niveau de l'espace porte par la veine porte et se mélange au sang riche en oxygène de l'artère hépatique. Le mélange de ces deux sangs traverse ensuite le lobule en suivant un canal appelé sinusoïde tapissé par un endothélium fenestré. Les hépatocyte jouxtant les capillaires sinusoïdes forment une lame cellulaire monocouche compacte, rayonnante à partir du centre du lobule, les travées de Remak. L'espace entre les hépatocytes et les sinusoïdes est appelé espace de Disse. C'est dans cet espace que se produisent les échanges entre le sang et les hépatocyte permettant notamment le métabolisme ou encore la détoxification. On trouve également dans cet espace des macrophages appelés cellules de Küpffer, les lymphocytes appelés "pit cells", ainsi que les cellules étoilées du foie, qui stockent de la Vitamine A, mais qui peuvent acquérir une phénotype myofibroblastique au cours de la fibrogenèse hépatique.

Arrivée au bout de sa traversée, la goutte de sang se jette dans une veine situé au centre du lobule, et que l'on appelle veine centrale ou centrolobulaire (Figure 3). Différents canaux et travées se disposent en étoile pour relier les différents espaces portes et la veine centrale.



Figure 3. Le lobule hépatique

Au sein du foie, les travées d'hépatocytes forment un véritable labyrinthe à la manière d'une éponge dont la partie solide serait représentée par les constituants du foie, la partie liquide par le sang et le tissu conjonctif des espaces portes servant de charpente à l'édifice. Ainsi, un foie de 2 kg peut contenir 800g de sang.

## **III Fonctions du Foie**

Le foie joue un rôle très important dans l'homéostasie de l'organisme de par ses fonctions métabolique, biliaire et immunitaire.

## **III.1 Fonction métabolique**

#### **III.1.1 Généralités**

La fonction métabolique hépatique comprend :

- la synthèse, la dégradation et le stockage des hydrates de carbones, essentiel dans la régulation de la glycémie;
- la synthèse, la dégradation et le stockage des lipides (cholestérol, triglycérides);
- la synthèse des protéines plasmatiques (fibrinogène, albumine);
- la détoxication (métabolisme des xénobiotiques).
- le stockage des vitamines liposolubles (A, D, K, E);

#### III.1.2 Zonation du métabolisme hépatique

En 1977, Kurt Jungermann et ses collègues du département de biochimie de l'Université de Freiburg, en Allemagne, travaillent à décortiquer les mécanismes du métabolisme hépatique. Ils réalisent des microdissections de foie de souris et mesurent la concentration et l'activité d'enzymes du métabolisme en fonction de la zone intra-lobulaire. Ils réalisent alors que la zone périportale est riche en fructose-1,6-bisphosphatase, une enzyme essentielle de la néoglucogénèse. Par opposition, la zone périveineuse est riche en glucokinase, impliquée dans la glycogenèse et la glycolyse (1). Cette compartimentation sera plus tard nommée "zonation du métabolisme hépatique". Dans les années qui suivent, Jungermann et son équipe vont investiguer cette zonation et mettre en évidence un effet très fort sur le métabolisme des carbohydrates, des acides aminés et des xénobiotiques (2).

#### III.1.2.1 Métabolisme des hydrates de carbone

Après un repas (phase adaptative), le glucose est principalement dégradé par les cellules périveineuses, et utilisé pour la synthèse de glycogène. Lorsque le stock de glycogène est

suffisant, ce glucose est dégradé en lactate. Puis le lactate est transporté jusqu'à la zone périportale où il est converti en glucose via la néoglucogenèse. Entre les repas (phase postadaptative), le glycogène est tout d'abord dégradé en glucose au niveau périportal et avant d'être dégradé en lactate au niveau périveineux. Ce lactate est ensuite libéré dans la circulation générale et utilisé par les cellules périportales pour la néoglucogenèse (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Zonation du métabolisme des hydrates de carbone. Métabolites: AA, amino acids; Ala, alanine; G6P, glucose-6-phosphate; Gg, glycogen; Glc, glucose; Lac, lactate; Pyr, pyruvate. FBPase, fructose-1.6-bisphosphatase; G6Pase, glucose-6-phosphatase; GK, glucokinase; PEPCK, phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase; PKL, pyruvate kinase type L; Circ, circulation. Les enzymes sont indiquées uniquement dans la zone où ells sont surexprimées.

Source : Jungermann et Kietzmann, Annu Rev. Nutr., 1996.

#### III.1.2.2 Métabolisme des acides aminés

On observe une forte activité de catabolisme des acides aminés au niveau périportal, principalement de l'histidine et de la sérine (3). Ce phénomène induit dans cette zone une forte activité du cycle de l'urée et donc une forte production de produits azotés. La synthèse de

glutamine, associée aux procédés d'élimination de ces produits azotés est quant à elle fortement zonée en périveineux. La glutamine synthase, enzyme clé de cette réaction est ainsi exclusivement exprimée par les hépatocytes directement adjacents aux cellules endothéliales tapissant la veine centrale (4–6).

#### III.1.2.3 Métabolisme des xénobiotiques

Le métabolisme des xénobiotiques est composé de deux phases (I et II). La réaction de phase I comprend trois réactions: oxydation (assurée par les cytochromes P450), réduction et hydrolyse. Elles ont pour but l'ajout de groupements fonctionnels, le plus souvent des hydroxyles (-OH), des amines (-NH2) ou des carboxyles (-COOH). La réaction de phase II, assurée par des transférases, consiste à conjuguer le xénobiotique avec un composé endogène. Ce composé peut être un sucre (on parle alors de glucuroconjugaison), un acétyl (acétylconjugaison), un sulfate (sulfconjugaison), un méthyl (méthylconjugaison), un acides aminés, ou encore le glutathion. Elles ont pour but la formation d'un métabolite conjugué polaire facilement excrétable hors de la cellule. Le métabolite est ensuite évacué par le sang ou la bile. Les différents travaux sur la zonation ont montré que les cytochromes P450 ainsi que les enzymes de la glucuroconjugaison étaient plus fortement exprimées dans le foie périveineux. Par opposition, le foie périportal est plus riche en glutathion peroxydase et en glutathion S-transférase A1 (GSTA1) (2,7).

#### III.1.2.4 Autres processus métaboliques

Les autres processus métaboliques ont une zonation moins marquée que ceux cités précédemment.

La synthèse des acides biliaires est jugée plus forte en zone périportale par Kurt Jungermann, en se basant sur les travaux Groothuis et Meijer (2,8). Au contraire, des travaux plus récentes estiment que le processus est plus marqué dans la zone périveineuse (7,9,10). Ces conclusions font écho aux travaux de Berkowitz et al., montrant que la transcription de la cholesterol-7alpha-hydroxylase, une enzyme clé de la synthèse d'acide biliaire, était limité aux hépatocytes périveineux (11).

Le métabolisme du cholestérol semble partiellement zoné. La synthèse serait plus marquée dans la zone périportale et la dégradation plus forte dans la zone périveineuse, où il pourrait être utilisé pour la synthèse d'acides biliaires. Ces conclusions se basent notamment sur un taux plus élevé de cytochrome P450 27A1 dans la zone périportale (3). Cependant, les mesures de cholestérol entre les deux zones n'ont pas montré de différences notables (12).

La zonation du métabolisme des triglycérides est également sujette à débat. Les résultats de Gougelet et al. suggèrent que la lipogenèse est plus forte en périportale, en se basant sur une diminution d'expression de l'adenosine triphosphate citrate lyase en zone périvéneuse (13). Au contraire, plusieurs auteurs estiment au contraire que la  $\beta$ -oxydation est plus marquée en zone périportale et la synthèse de novo plus forte en périveineuse (2,7,9). Cette hypothèse est fortement appuyée par les travaux de Behari et al. montrant clairement une zonation périveineuse de la stéatose hépatique chez des souris, sous régime riche en graisse (14). La synthèse de VLDL et de HDL en vue du transport lipidique serait à l'inverse plus fort dans la zone périportale, en particulier sous régime riche en graisse ou en cas de diabète (14,15).

La zonation de ces différents processus métaboliques est résumée dans la figure 5. Il est à noter que ces conclusions sont basées sur des modèles murins et que des différences métaboliques notables avec l'homme sont possibles.



	Zone périportale	Zone périveineuse
Hydrates de carbone	Néoglucogenèse	Glycolyse
Acides aminés	Catabolisme	Synthèse (glutamine)
Xénobiotiques	Phase II (glutathion)	Phase I
Acides biliaires		Synthèse
Cholestérol	Synthèse	Dégradation
Triglycérides	β-oxydation + synthèse de VLDL et HDL	Synthèse de novo

Figure 5. Résumé de la zonation des processus métaboliques du foie

#### III.1.3 Mécanismes moléculaires de la zonation du métabolisme hépatique

La découverte des mécanismes inhérents à la zonation hépatique est récente. Avant cela, plusieurs hypothèses avaient été avancées :

- Origine embryonnaire différente des hépatocytes périportaux et périveineux;
- Migration des hépatocytes périportaux le long de l'axe portocentral produisant des modifications des propriétés métaboliques;
- Changements métaboliques induits par les variations des concentrations en oxygène, en hormone, xénobiotiques ou métabolites le long de l'axe portocentral;

Ces différentes hypothèses ont été écartées (7). Cependant, l'hypothèse se basant sur les gradients de pression en oxygène (sang riche en oxygène dans la zone périportale et pauvre en oxygène dans la zone périveineuse) continue d'être étudiée. Même si on ne peut envisager un rôle majeur de ce gradient dans les phénomènes de zonation, il pourrait jouer un rôle secondaire.

Une dernière hypothèse a été avancée, celle d'un contrôle transcriptionnel ou posttranscriptionnel des enzymes clés du métabolisme. L'identification de la glutamine synthase au début des années 2000 comme cible directe de la béta-caténine (16) a ouvert la voie à de nombreuses études confirmant cette théorie. Il a depuis été clairement établi que les communications croisées entre la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine et le facteur de transcription hépatoenrichi HNF4 $\alpha$  contrôlent la zonation métabolique hépatique.

#### III.1.3.1 Voie Wnt/β-caténine

La transmission du signal Wnt joue un rôle crucial pour le développement embryonnaire et pour le maintien de l'homéostasie cellulaire de nombreuses espèces (17). La voie de signalisation Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine est très conservée et régule de nombreux processus cellulaires comme la polarisation, la différenciation, la balance prolifération/mort cellulaire et la transition épithéliomésenchymateuse (18). Bien que la voie Wnt "canonique", c'est-à-dire, régulée via la phosphorylation de la  $\beta$ -caténine, soit la plus étudiée, la signalisation Wnt est aussi constituée de deux autres sous voies indépendantes de la  $\beta$ -caténine: Wnt/PCP et Wnt/Ca2+ (19).



**Figure 6.** Vue d'ensemble de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenine A) En absence de Wnt, la  $\beta$ -caténine cytoplasmique forme un complexe avec Axin, APC, GSK3 et CK1, et est phosphorylées par CK1 (bleu) puis par GSK3 (jaune). La  $\beta$ -caténine phosphorylée est reconnue par l'E3 ubiquitine ligase  $\beta$ -Trcp, qui la dirige vers une dégradation par le protéasome. Les cibles de Wnt sont inhibées par TCF-TLE/Groucho et les histones désacétylases (HDAC). B) En présence de ligand Wnt, il forme un complexe avec Frizzled et LRP5/6. Le recrutement de Dvl par Frizzled induit la leads phosphorylation de LRP5/6 et le recrutement d'Axine. Cela inhibe la phosphorylation/dégradation of  $\beta$ -caténine induite par Axine et rend possible l'accumulation de la  $\beta$ -caténine dans le noyau, où il sers de co-activateur avec TCT pour la transcription des gènes cibles de Wnt.

Source : MacDonald et al., Dev Cell, 2009.

La voie de signalisation Wnt canonique passe par la fixation de facteurs Wnts aux récepteurs FZ pour enclencher une cascade de signalisation et la transcription de gènes cibles. En absence de ligands Wnts, ou en présence d'inhibiteurs à forte dose (SFRP, Dkk ou WIF), les cellules régulent le niveau de  $\beta$ -caténine via un complexe protéique qui phosphoryle la  $\beta$ -caténine, induisant ainsi son ubiquitination par la  $\beta$ -TrCP (*beta-Transducin repeat Containing Protein*) et sa dégradation par le protéasome. Ce complexe protéique responsable de la dégradation de la  $\beta$ -caténine est composé des protéines APC, Axine, GSK-3 $\beta$  et CK1 (*Casein kinase 1*). La liaison du ligand Wnt à son récepteur FZ entraîne une cascade de signalisation qui déstabilise ce complexe de dégradation, permettant ainsi l'accumulation et la translocation de la  $\beta$ -caténine non phosphorylé vers le noyau. Celle-ci fonctionne alors comme un cofacteur du facteur de transcription TCF/LEF (*T-cell factor/lymphoid enhancing factor*) induisant ainsi l'expression de gènes cibles (20) (Figure 6).

#### III.1.3.2 Voie Wnt/β-caténine et zonation hépatique

Si la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine a été décrite pour son rôle dans le développement embryonnaire, elle joue également un rôle essentiel dans de nombreux cancers, dont le carcinome hépatocellulaire. Comme nous le détaillerons plus tard dans ce manuscrit, cette voie est fortement activée dans une sous classe de carcinome hépatocellulaire portant une mutation au niveau de l'exon 3 du gène de la  $\beta$ -caténine (CTNNB1). De manière intéressante, ces tumeurs expriment fortement les gènes du métabolisme périveineux (21–23), confirmant un rôle clé de cette voie de signalisation dans la zonation hépatique.

Des modèles souris inactivées au niveau du foie pour le gène APC, une protéine de la voie Wnt inhibant la béta-caténine, ont montré un programme métabolique périveineux dans l'intégralité du lobule (24). A l'inverse, l'inhibition de la béta caténine hépatique ou la surexpression de DKK1, un inhibiteur extracellulaire de la voie Wnt, ont favorisé un programme hépatique périportal dans tout le lobule (24–26).

Les processus métaboliques fortement modulés par la béta-caténine incluent :

- Métabolisme de l'azote : augmentation de synthèse de glutamine, diminution du catabolisme des acides aminés et du cycle de l'urée (16,24);
- Métabolisme des xénobiotiques : stimulation de plusieurs cytochromes P450 (3,21,25);
- Métabolisme des hydrates de carbones : diminution de la neoglucogenèse et augmentation de la glycolyse induisant des hypoglycémies chez les souris activées pour Wnt (27);

A l'opposé, le facteur de transcription HNF4A, dont le rôle est connu dans la différenciation et le métabolisme hépatique (28–32), a été révélé comme un facteur clé du métabolisme périportal. Chez la souris inactivée pour HNF4A dans le foie, la glutamine synthase se trouvait exprimée de novo dans la zone périportale du lobule, sans modification de son expression dans la zone périveineuse (33).

Les récents travaux pibliés par l'équipe de Christine Perret à l'Institût Cochin ont permis de mieux comprendre les mécanismes moléculaires de cette balance HNF4A/béta caténine (13) (Figure 6). En se basant sur les modèles KO-APC et KO-béta caténine, ils ont révélé le rôle majeur du facteur de transcription TCF4. Dans le foie périveineux, la béta caténine favorise la fixation de TCF4 sur les domaines WRE (*Wnt-responsive elements*), induisant la transcription

des gènes du programme métabolique périveineux. La béta caténine fixe également HNF4A, empêchant sa fixation sur les domaines HRE (*HNF4A-responsive elements*). Dans le foie périportal, en absence de béta caténine, HNF4A se fixe grâce à TCF4 sur ses domaines HRE induisant les gènes du programme métabolique périportal. Le TCF4 n'est alors pas fixé aux domaines WRE, ce qui empêche l'expression des gènes du métabolisme périveineux.





Source : Berasain et Avila, Hepatology, 2014.

#### **III.2** Fonction biliaire

Le foie joue également un rôle essentiel dans la digestion des aliments par la synthèse de la bile, à raison de 800 à 1000 mL par jour. Transporté par les canaux biliaires puis sécrété au niveau de l'estomac, les sels biliaires facilitent la digestion et l'assimilation les lipides grâce à la formation de micelles. En effet, les micelles sont plus facilement dégradées par les différentes enzymes de l'intestin, dont la lipase pancréatique. Une fois dégradé, les acides gras forment des micelles microscopiques hydrosolubles, c'est-à-dire des micro-amas de lipides dégradés de 3-6 nm, toujours grâce aux acides biliaires (Figure 7). La formation de micelles est également essentielle à l'absorption des lipidique à travers la membrane de la muqueuse intestinale, vers le foie. Ainsi, la bile sécrétée au niveau de l'estomac est partiellement réabsorbée au niveau de l'intestin, produisant une circulation entéro-hépatique des sels biliaires : c'est le cycle biliaire de Schiff (34).

La bile assure également une fonction de détoxication en permettant l'excrétion de produits dégradés par le foie vers le tube digestif puis les fèces. C'est le cas des xénobiotique (médicaments, alcool, etc.) ou encore de déchets métaboliques (comme la bilirubine issue de la dégradation de l'hémoglobine).



Figure 8. Rôle des acides biliaires dans la digestion

#### **III.3** Fonction immunitaire

Enfin, le foie a un rôle important dans l'immunité innée et adaptative. En effet, les microorganismes et les pyrogènes capables de passer barrière intestinale arrive en premier lieu au niveau hépatique. L'espace porte est ainsi riche en cellules dendritiques, en cellules de Küpffer, en cellules NK et NKT (*Natural killer* et *natural killer* T), en cellules MAITs 24

(mucosal-associated invariant T) ou encore en lymphocytes T gamma/delta.

Les principales cellules de l'immunité innée sont les cellules de Küpffer, les macrophages hépatiques, ainsi que les cellules NK. Enfin, plusieurs types cellulaires ont un rôle de présentateur d'antigène et contribue ainsi à l'immunité adaptative. C'est le cas des cellules dendritiques, des cellules de Küpffer, des cellules endothéliales des sinusoïdes hépatiques et des cellules étoilées du foie (35).

## IV Les cellules hépatiques

#### **IV.1** Les hépatocytes

Les hépatocytes représentent environ deux tiers des cellules du foie et 80% du volume hépatique. Ils constituent ce qu'on appelle le parenchyme hépatique. Ce sont de grandes cellules polyédriques de 25 à 40 µm de diamètre. On considère que les hépatocytes ont deux types de pôles fonctionnels : les pôles vasculaires au niveau des espaces de Disse et les pôles biliaires au niveau desquels est excrétée la bile (Figure 3). A cet endroit, la membrane plasmique est particulièrement résistante aux sels biliaires grâce à une composition moléculaire particulière. Les deux pôles fonctionnels sont pourvus de nombreuses microvillosités augmentant la surface d'échanges.

Les hépatocytes possèdent un noyau rond de taille importante et un nucléole bien visible. La taille du noyau varie entre 5 à 10% du volume cellulaire. Aussi, près de 20-30% des hépatocytes sont naturellement binucléés (36). Le cytoplasme est riche en organites, ce qui témoigne d'une grande activité métabolique. Ainsi, les mitochondries sont abondantes et rendent le cytoplasme éosinophile. Au niveau du réticulum endoplasmique, les nombreux ribosomes libres sont visibles par de fines granulations basophiles. L'appareil de Golgi est également très développé.



Figure 9. Organisation cellulaire d'un hépatocyte

Les hépatocytes sont les principaux artisans des fonctions métaboliques et biliaires du foie. Sous l'influence d'hormone comme l'insuline, les hépatocytes participent à la régulation de la glycémie en stockant le glucose sous forme de glycogène. Les hépatocytes ont ainsi un rôle de réservoir énergétique. A l'inverse, les hépatocytes peuvent augmenter le taux sanguin de glucose via la néoglucogenèse. Ils assurent également la détoxication du sang mésentérique grâce à des enzymes spécialises dans les réactions de phase I et II impliquées dans la biotransformation des xénobiotiques.

#### **IV.2** Les cholangiocytes

Les cholangiocytes constituent l'épithélium qui tapisse les canaux biliaires, formant une barrière entre la bile et l'organisme. Les cholangiocytes sont caractérisés par un cytosquelette composé d'un réseau de cytokératine 7 et 19 (37). Les cholangiocytes ont également un rôle dans la composition de la bile hépatocytaire. Ils modifient sa concentration en plusieurs électrolytes via des canaux ioniques et transporteurs tels que l'échangeur chlore/bicarbonate AE2, ou encore des transporteurs d'acides biliaires de type iléal que sont INtcp (Ileal Na+/taurocholate cotransporting polypeptide) et ASBT (Apical Sodium-dependent Bile acid Transporter) (38).

#### IV.3 Les cellules endothéliales sinusoïdales

Les cellules endothéliales tapissent de manière discontinue le bord des capillaires sinusoïdes formant des pores d'environ 10 nm de diamètre. Les cellules endothéliales sinusoïdales reposent sur un couche discontinue de protéines de type lame basale (39). Les cellules endothéliales sinusoïdales sont aplaties, avec un cytoplasme mince et un noyau à la chromatine condensée. Sous l'influence d'hormones et de neurotransmetteurs, ces cellules régulent les échanges entre le sang et l'espace périsinusoïdal (40). Elles participent à des fonctions de régulation de la pression sanguine, d'angiogenèse, de coagulation, de modulation de la réponse inflammatoire ou encore de transport et de métabolisme des nutriments.

#### IV.4 Les cellules étoilées du foie

Les cellules étoilées du foie (HSC : Hepatic Stellate cells) se localisent dans l'espace de Disse où elles émettent de longs prolongements qu'elles appliquent contre les cellules endothéliales mais aussi entre les hépatocytes. Elles se caractérisent par de volumineuses vacuoles lipidiques intracytoplasmiques où elles stockent entre autres la vitamine A. Ces cellules jouent un rôle essentiel dans la modulation de la plasticité hépatique en sécrétant des médiateurs solubles et en synthétisant des macromolécules telles que les collagènes fibrillaires de type I, III, IV, V et VI, et non fibrillaires de type IV, XVIII, des glycoprotéines comme les laminines et des protéoglycanes à héparane sulfate. Leur rôle est donc central dans la constitution, le maintien et les modifications de la matrice extracellulaire hépatique. Elles sont impliquées dans tous les processus de fibrose, mais aussi les processus d'inflammation, en sécrétant des cytokines ou encore en aiguillant les lymphocytes T vers le parenchyme (41).

## IV.5 Les cellules de Küpffer

Les cellules de Küpffer sont des macrophages naturels résidants localisées à la surface des cellules endothéliales, le long des sinusoïdes. Elles ont un noyau aplati à la chromatine condensée et un cytoplasme volumineux comportant de nombreux phagosomes (42). Elles sont notamment impliquées dans l'immunité innée, mais également dans la dégradation de l'hémoglobine et l'élimination des globules rouges par phagocytose. Elles participent également à l'immunité adaptative par leur capacité à présenter les antigènes et à synthétiser et sécréter des cytokines et des espèces réactives de l'oxygène.

#### **IV.6 Celles NK et NKT hépatiques**

Les "Pit cells" sont de larges lymphocytes granulaires avec un rôle de "*natural killer*" (NK). Elles sont situées au niveau des sinusoïdes hépatiques et adhèrent aux cellules endothéliales et aux cellules de Küpffer. Leur morphologie est légèrement différentes des cellules NK sanguines, notamment en ce qui concerne le nombre et la taille des granules et des vésicules, suggérant une différentiation intrahépatique. Le foie contient également des cellules NKT (*natural killer T*), qui partagent certaines propriétés morphologiques avec les cellules NK. Les cellules NK hépatiques reconnaissent les cellules tumorales ou infectées par des microbes grâce à leur récepteur de surface et sont capables de les dégrader par l'exocytose de granules contenant de la perforine et de la granzyme, par la stimulation de récepteurs d'apoptose ou par la production de diverses cytokines activant les autres cellules immunitaires. Les cellules NKT jouent un rôle important dans l'initiation de la réponse inflammatoire et dans le soutient des cellules NK par la production d'interféron gamma (43).

## IV.7 Les cellules ovales ou cellules progénitrices du foie

Les cellules ovales sont aussi appelées cellules progénitrices du foie. Elles sont bipotentes, ce qui signifie qu'elles peuvent donner naissance aux deux populations cellulaires: hépatocytes et cellules biliaires (44). Ces cellules sont activées au cours de l'embryogenèse mais aussi lors de lésions hépatiques comme les hépatites virales ou encore lors de la régénération hépatique. Elles expriment des marqueurs dits progéniteur tels que KRT19 (Cytokeratine 19) et EpCAM (*Epithelial Cell Adhesion Molecule*) (45).

# Chapitre 2 : Inflammation, fibrose et cirrhose hépatique

Comme nous l'avons vu précédemment, le foie est la fois la porte d'entrée des microorganismes d'origine intestinale et le principal organe de détoxification de l'organisme. Il est donc le siège de nombreuses réactions inflammatoires pouvant être à l'origine d'une fibrose. En cas d'inflammation chronique, cette fibrose peut conduire jusqu'à la cirrhose et même jusqu'au cancer (46).

## I Inflammation aigue et sepsis

## I.1 Définitions

L'inflammation est un mécanisme de réponse à une lésion tissulaire visant à la circonscrire et à la réparer. Elle peut être d'origine exogène en cas de lésions chimiques ou microbiennes, ou endogène dans le cas de maladies auto-immune ou de cancer. Chez le patient, les signes d'une inflammation aigue principalement la fièvre, accompagnée de manifestations cardiovasculaires, notamment la tachycardie.

Lorsque deux signes parmi fièvre ou hypothermie, leucocytose ou leucopénie, tachycardie et tachypnée sont présents, on parle de Syndrome inflammatoire aigu (SIRS). On parle de sepsis lorsque le SIRS est d'origine infectieuse. Enfin, ce syndrome peut être accompagné d'une hypotension artérielle avec hypoperfusion périphérique. On parle alors de choc septique, le cas le plus grave d'inflammation aigue, pouvant provoquer une défaillance multi-viscérale qui peut conduire à la mort du patient. (47).

## I.2 Physiopathologie

Les pathogènes peuvent entraîner des réponses immunitaires innée ou adaptative. L'immunité innée est liée à la reconnaissance de motifs moléculaires propres aux micro-organismes par les cellules hôte, dans le foie les cellules de Küpffer et les "*Pit cells*". Ces motifs sont reconnus grâce aux toll-like récepteurs (TLR), spécialisés dans la reconnaissance des pathogènes extracellulaires, et grâce aux *NOD-like* récepteurs (NLR), identifiant les pathogènes

intracellulaires.

Le lipopolysaccharide (LPS) est une endotoxine retrouvée dans la membrane des bactéries à gram négatives (48). En cas de perturbation de la perméabilité de la barrière intestinale, ce LPS peut traverser la barrière et gagner la circulation porte jusqu'au foie. Il peut alors provoquer une hépatite aigue en activant le récepteur TLR4 présent à la surface des cellules de Küpffer, mais également des hépatocytes (49).

La stimulation du récepteur TLR4 entraîne l'activation de deux cascades : dépendante ou indépendante de MyD88. La cascade dépendante de MyD88 aboutit à la transcription de cytokines pro inflammatoire par l'activation de NF-kB et d'AP-1. La cascade indépendante de MyD88 aboutit à la transcription d'interféron de type I par l'activation de NF-kB et de IRF3 (Figure 9). On note donc que l'activation de TLR4 aboutit à la stimulation de NF-kB par deux moyens distinct mais aussi qu'il existe des réponses à TLR4 indépendamment de NF-kB.



**Figure 10.** Cascades d'activation TLR4 dépendante (gauche) ou indépendante (droite) de MyD88. Source : Lu et al., Cytokine, 2008.

L'activation des NLR conduit au recrutement d'un complexe multiprotéique appelé inflammasome, activant la maturation de la pro-interleukine-1b en IL-1 $\beta$  mature (50). Par conséquent, ces voies de signalisation initient une réponse inflammatoire non spécifique,

localisée et limitée. Une exagération de cette réponse initiale, provoquée par une activation excessive ou dérégulée des diverses cascades impliquées peut conduire à une défaillance multi-viscérale.

Au niveau hépatique, l'activation de la voie NF-kB stimule l'expression de nombreux marqueurs proinflammatoires, dont la protéine C réactive (CRP), qui passe dans le sang et peut être mesuré (51). La CRP est un marqueur de la phase aiguë de l'inflammation. Sa libération dans le sérum est également associée à une libération massive de cytokines. Les cytokines «précoces», produites en masse au cours des premières heures du déclenchement de la réaction inflammatoire aiguë comprennent le TNF $\alpha$ , l'IL-6 et l'IL-1 $\beta$  (52). Outre les cytokines, d'autres médiateurs sont mis en jeu dans la réponse inflammatoire initiale, comme le complément, certains médiateurs lipidiques ou molécules d'adhésion (53). Les cellules de Küpffer activées libèrent également des chémokines tels que (CXCL1, CXCL2, CXCL8 ou CCL2) favorisant la migration de neutrophiles, de cellules NKT et de monocytes au niveau du site de l'inflammation (54). Parallèlement, divers médiateurs anti-inflammatoires sont produits dans les heures suivant le développement du sepsis, notamment l'IL-10 et le récepteur soluble au TNF $\alpha$ . Ils favorisent une compartimentation de l'inflammation et atténuent ses effets systémiques, mais peuvent faciliter une dépression immune et des infections secondaires.

## II Inflammation chronique du foie et cirrhose

#### **II.1 Etiologies**

#### II.1.1 Hépatite C

Le virus de l'hépatite C (VHC) est un virus à ARN transmissible à l'homme par voie sanguine et sexuelle. En 2015, on estime qu'environ 180 millions de personnes dans le monde sont porteurs du virus, principalement en Asie et en Afrique du Nord, et que plus de 350 000 individus meurent chaque année de pathologies liées à la maladie (55).

Les lésions hépatiques chez les malades de l'hépatite C sont la résultante des réactions immunitaires locales, principalement de l'immunité innée stimulant la fibrogénèse en activant notamment les cellules étoilées (56). Récemment, de nouveaux traitements ciblant directement le virus de l'hépatite C sont apparus. Ils ont montré une très grande efficacité avec des taux de guérison supérieurs à 90% et une bonne tolérance des malades aux traitements (57). Ce

bouleversement annonce une grande diminution du nombre de malades infectés dans le monde dans les décennies à venir.

#### II.1.2 Hépatite B

Le virus de l'hépatite B (VHB) est un virus à ADN, également transmissible à l'homme par voie sanguine et sexuelle. On dénombre plus de 240 millions de porteurs chroniques dans le monde, principalement en Asie du sud-est et en Afrique Sub-saharienne. La maladie provoque le décès d'environ 700 000 personnes chaque année (58,59).

L'infection initiale à l'hépatite B est suivie d'une réaction inflammatoire aiguë, impliquant des lymphocytes T. Lorsque cette réaction aboutit au clearance du virus, les malades peuvent guérir de leur infection dans un délai d'une semaine à plusieurs mois. Cependant, lorsque la réaction aiguë n'aboutit pas au clearance du virus, le VHB persiste et provoque une infection chronique du foie responsable d'une inflammation chronique, de cycles lésion/réparation et de dommages à l'ADN. Ces lésions sont principalement causées par les lymphocytes T détruisant les cellules infectées (60).

Il n'existe actuellement pas de traitement capable de guérir les malades de l'hépatite B. Des traitements permettent cependant de limiter les conséquences hépatiques de l'infection, mais doivent être pris durant toute la vie du patient (61). Un vaccin efficace existe également et permet de limiter les nouvelles contaminations.

Plusieurs pistes sont étudiées actuellement pour l'élaboration de nouvelles thérapies. Elles incluent des molécules ciblant directement le virus, son ADN ou empêchant son entrée dans les cellules ou des modulateurs de la réponse inflammatoire (62). Ces recherches sont prometteuses est laissent espérer les même succès que pour l'hépatite C.

#### **II.1.3 Ethanol**

Malgré une forte diminution depuis 40 ans, la consommation d'alcool reste élevée dans le monde, en particulier en Europe. La France est passée de 26 litres d'alcool par personne en 1960 à environ 11.7 litres aujourd'hui. Et même si cette diminution semble se prolonger, ce chiffre reste élevé et fait de la France le huitième pays le plus consommateur d'alcool (63). Cette consommation peut être responsable de troubles aigus en cas d'ingestion ponctuelle mais

excessive, mais c'est surtout lorsque que la consommation est forte et prolongée qu'elle entraine des pathologies chroniques, notamment hépatique.

Les mécanismes de l'hépatotoxicité sont complexes et passent par différentes voies (64) :

- Par le NADH produit lors de l'oxydation de l'éthanol par l'alcool déshydrogénase, induisant dans changements d'oxydo-réduction, affectant le métabolisme des lipides, des glucides, des protéines et des purines.
- Par l'acétaldéhyde, produit de dégradation de l'éthanol, provoquant des lésions par la formation d'adduits protéiques. Ces adduits vont affecter la production d'anticorps, la réparation de l'ADN et altérer les microtubules, la membrane plasmique et les mitochondries. L'acétaldéhyde provoque également la peroxydation des lipides, un épuisement du glutathion et stimule la synthèse de collagène hépatique.

#### II.1.4 Syndrome métabolique

Le syndrome métabolique regroupe un certain nombre d'anomalies métaboliques prédisposant le sujet atteint à des maladies cardiovasculaires et/ou au diabète ainsi qu'à leurs complications. Décrit dans la première partie du XXème siècle, sa définition a évolué en fonction des connaissances, avec d'une part une caractérisation précise du « syndrome X » par Reaven, en 1988 (65), qui pointe l'insulinorésistance comme l'anomalie physiopathologique la plus souvent associée et, d'autre part, l'apparition récente de plusieurs définitions du syndrome métabolique en raison de l'augmentation de la prévalence de l'obésité. La résistance à l'insuline, longtemps considérée comme le dénominateur commun, a ainsi laissé progressivement place à l'obésité comme indicateur principal du syndrome métabolique. L'obésité est ainsi généralement mesurée par l'indice de masse corporelle (IMC) calculé par la formule : Poids (en kg) /taille (en mètre) au carré. Au-delà d'un IMC de 25, on parle de surpoids et au-delà d'un IMC de 30, on parle d'obésité.

Parmi les nombreuses définitions du syndrome métabolique, deux, assez différentes, font référence : celle de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) (66) (revue en 1999) et celle du National Cholesterol Education Program Adult Treatment Panel III (NCEP ATP III). Quelle que soit la définition retenue, elle comprend un critère de mesure de l'hypertension, un critère de mesure de la dyslipidémie, un critère de mesure de l'obésité auquels s'ajoutent d'autres facteurs de risque comme la glycémie (67).

A l'échelle de la planète, la prévalence du surpoids a augmenté d'environ 40 % entre 1980 et 2008 pour atteindre environ 35 % de la population et celle de l'obésité a augmenté d'environ 90 % pour atteindre les 12 % (68). Ainsi en 2008, plus d'un milliard d'individus adultes de plus de 20 ans se trouvaient en surpoids et 500 millions étaient obèses. De plus, en 2011, plus de 40 millions d'enfants de moins de 5 ans étaient estimés en surpoids (69). Aux Etats Unis, les derniers chiffres estiment que 70 % des adultes sont en surpoids ou obèses. L'obésité infantile a par ailleurs augmenté depuis 1974 où elle représentait 4 % des 6-11 ans et 6,1 % des 12-19 ans pour atteindre en 2010 18,8 % des 4-11 ans et 18,2 % des 12-19 ans (70). En France, les derniers chiffres estiment à près de 7 millions le nombre d'obèses et à presque 15 millions le nombre de personnes en surpoids, ce qui correspond en tout à environ 50 % de la population adulte (71). (67).

Au niveau hépatique, l'obésité et le syndrome métabolique sont responsables d'une stéatose, définie par un stockage d'acides gras dans les hépatocytes représentant au moins 5% de la masse totale du foie. Alors qu'une accumulation simple de triacylglycerols pourrait être hépatoprotectrice, une accumulation prolongée conduit à des dysfonctions métaboliques, à une inflammation et à un tableau clinique appelé stéatohépatite non-alcoolique (NASH). Différents mécanismes sont responsables de l'accumulation intrahépatique de d'acides gras : augmentation du flux d'entrée d'acides gras, augmentation de la synthèse de novo, diminution de la  $\beta$ -oxidation ou de la sécretion de VLDL (72).

#### II.1.5 Autres étiologies

Parmi les autres facteurs pouvant conduire à une fibrose hépatique et donc à une cirrhose, on trouve certaines maladies génétiques comme l'hémochromatose ou la déficience en  $\alpha$ 1-antitrypsine.

L'hémochromatose regroupe un ensemble de maladies génétiques liées à une surcharge en fer. En France, elle touche environ une personne sur 300 (73). Elle est présente chez des patients portant une mutation inactivatrice au niveau de gènes clés du métabolisme du fer, le plus souvent HFE (Human hemochromatosis protein). Ces mutations provoquent une diminution de la concentration plasmatique en hepcidine, ou rendent son action inefficace sur la ferroportine présente à la surface des macrophages (74). Dans tous les cas, la ferroportine sera moins stimulée par l'hepcidine et augmentera son action de libération du fer du cytoplasme des macrophages vers le plasma. Il en résultera une augmentation du fer plasmatique, pouvant induire des dommages cellulaires. Et comme pour les autres pathologies évoquées précédemment, ces dommages cellulaires vont induire au niveau hépatique une fibrose pouvant aller jusqu'à la cirrhose.

L'alpha-1 antitrypsine est un inhibiteur de sérine protéase produit par le foie. Elle protège les tissus contre l'élastase produites par les neutrophiles lors des réactions inflammatoires. La déficience en alpha-1 antitrypsine affecte un individu sur 1500 à 3500. Elle est responsable d'emphysème pulmonaire et, dans de rares cas, d'une fibrose hépatique pouvant aller jusqu'à la cirrhose (75).

## **II.2** Physiopathologie

Dans les processus de fibrose chronique du foie, deux types cellulaires jouent un rôle central : les cellules étoilées et les cellules de Küpffer. Après un dommage cellulaire causé par les différents pathogènes évoqués précédemment, les hépatocytes subissent une apoptose ou une nécrose. La libération du contenu cellulaire, en particulier les espèces réactives de l'oxygène, activent les cellules étoilées et attirent les macrophages, notamment par le CCL2. Les cellules endommagées sont phagocytées par les macrophages tandis que macrophages et cellules étoilées sécrètent des médiateurs proinflammatoires attirant les neutrophiles et les lymphocytes T. L'ensemble de ces phénomènes correspondent à la phase d'initiation.

Sous l'effet de ces différents médiateurs, les cellules étoilées subissent alors une transdifférenciation vers un phénotype de myofibroblaste. Le cytoplasme des cellules se vide de ses vacuoles lipidiques et des micro-filaments d'actine apparaissent. Les cellules étoilées activées sont donc contractiles et expriment notamment l'alpha SMA (ACTA2, alpha actine du muscle lisse) ainsi que les composants de la matrice extracellulaire (collagène de type I, type III, fibronectine, entre autres...). PDGF va favoriser leur prolifération, TGF $\beta$  va stimuler la fibrogenèse et différents chemoattractants dont MCP-1 (CCL2) vont attirer les lymphocytes et les neutrophiles, amplifiant le phénomène inflammatoire (Figure 10). La fibrose est le résultat de lésions chroniques du foie avec une accumulation de matrice extracellulaire, principalement constituée de collagènes de type I, II, III et IV, de laminines, fibronectines, acide hyaluronique et protéoglycanes (76).


**Figure 11.** Voies d'activation des cellules étoilées du foie dans les processus de fibrose. Après une lésion hépatique, les cellules étoilées sont activées par différentes voies de signalisation modifiant leur phénotype. PDGF favorise la prolifération cellulaire, ET-1 sa contractibilité, TGF $\beta$  stimule la synthèse de tissu fibreux, différentes metalloprotéinases (dont MMP2) activent la dégradation de ce tissu fibreux, PDGF et MCP-1 favorisent le chimiotactisme des autres cellules étoilées et des cellules immunitaires. Cette modification phénotypique est réversible, ou peut se sésoudre par apoptose. IL, interleukines ; ET-1, Endothéline 1 ; MMPs, metalloprotéinases ; MCP-1, Chemokine ligand 2 (CCL2) ; PDGF, Platelet-derived growth factor ; TGF $\beta$ , transforming growth factor- $\beta$  ; WBC, White blood cells.

Source : Fiedman, Physiol Rev., 2008.

Les communications croisées des cellules étoilées avec les hépatocytes sont importantes pour la sécrétion et l'activation d'enzymes de dégradation de la matrice extracellulaire, dont les métalloprotéines (MMPs). La dégradation de la MEC se déroule à la surface cellulaire, faisant intervenir des complexes moléculaires associant des MMPs, et des inhibiteurs tissulaires de métalloprotéines (TIMPs) qui ont un rôle modulateur (77–80). Des épisodes répétés de synthèse et dégradation de la MEC conduisent ainsi à la fibrogenèse. Dans ce contexte, le LPS ayant

traversé la membrane intestinale peut amplifier le phénomène inflammatoire par la stimulation de la voie NF-kB. Il stimule également le signaling TGF $\beta$  par la diminution de l'expression de son inhibiteur BAMBI (81). Tout ceci va au final augmenter le dépôt matriciel. L'ensemble de ce processus est résumé en Figure 11.



**Figure 12.** Physiopathologie de la fibrose hépatique. Les hépatocytes endommagés sont phagocytés par les macrophages hépatiques sécrétant des MMPs, des TIMPs et des cytokines proinflammatoires. Les cellules étoilées sont activées par ces médiateurs et se transdifférencient en myofibroblastes. La stimulation TGF $\beta$  et PDGF de ces cellules va stimuler respectivement le dépôt de collagène et leur prolifération. Le LPS va amplifier ce phénomène en stimulant les récepteurs TLR4 des macrophages et des myofibroblastes. IL, interleukines ; LPS, lipopolysaccharide ; MMPs, metalloprotéinases ; PDGF, Platelet-derived growth factor ; TIMPs, tissue inhibitors of metalloprotéinases; TGF $\beta$ , transforming growth factor- $\beta$  ; TNF, tumour necrosis factor.

Source : Pellicoro et al., Nature Reviews Immunology, 2014.

Outre l'activation des cellules étoilées, d'autres acteurs interviennent dans les processus de fibrose, comme les hépatocytes et les cellules endothéliales sinusoïdales ayant subi une transition vers un phénotype mésenchymateux et qui régulent le dépôt des composants de la matrice extracellulaire (82).

Lorsque la cause des perturbations est écartée, les macrophages vont subir un changement phénotypique favorisant la résorption de la fibrose. Ils vont augmenter l'expression de MMPs et diminuer celle de TIMPs et de cytokines. Cette diminution de facteurs de croissance va entrainer l'inactivation des cellules étoilées par apoptose, senescence ou quiescence (83).

En revanche, la fibrose hépatique est persistante lors de lésions chroniques, avec comme conséquence un remodelage intense de la matrice extracellulaire et de l'architecture hépatique (84). Le parenchyme hépatique se retrouve alors remplacé par des nodules de régénération, séparés par des cloisons fibreuses. Le stade ultime de cette nouvelle organisation architecturale est appelée cirrhose hépatique dont la conséquence majeur est une profonde altération des fonctions hépatiques.

### II.3 Bilan clinique et dépistage de la fibrose hépatique

Le bilan des patients atteints de maladies hépatiques est complexe. Chez les patients atteints d'hépatites virales, le dépistage de la fibrose hépatique intervient généralement au cours du suivi de la maladie. Pour les pathologies liées à l'alcool ou à l'obésité, le dépistage de la fibrose survient alors généralement au cours d'examens de routine, ou chez certains patients à un stade plus tardif, lorsqu'ils présentent des syndromes sévères comme un ictère, une ascite, une encéphalopathie ou des saignements gastriques (85).

Le dépistage de la fibrose hépatique combine la recherche de facteurs de risques avec des examens sanguins. On mesure les anticorps ciblant les différents virus causant les hépatites, ainsi que les marqueurs d'inflammation ou de lésion hépatique (ALAT, ASAT, phosphatase alcaline, INR, albumine et bilirubine). Cependant, certains patients avec une fibrose hépatique avancée peuvent présenter un bilan sanguin normal ou quasi-normal. Il peut donc être recommandé de réaliser une biopsie hépatique en vue de réaliser un examen histologique. Cet examen correspond au "gold standard" pour le diagnostic et l'évaluation de l'état d'avancement de la fibrose hépatique. Sa réalisation reste cependant discutable à cause des risques, faible mais bien réel, de complications parfois graves liées à la biopsie.

Dans ce contexte, plusieurs examens non-invasifs ont vu le jour :

- *The Enhanced Liver Fibrosis Test* (ELF) : ce test sanguin est basé sur un algorithme combinant l'expression de trois marqueurs (L'acide hyaluronique, TIMP-1 et le propeptide n terminal du procollagene de type III). Une forte expression de ces marqueurs conduit à un score ELF plus élevé et à un plus fort risque de fibrose (86).
- FibroTest et FibroMAX : ces deux tests sont également des algorithmes basés sur la mesure de marqueurs sanguins. Fibrotest combine un marqueur direct du remodelage de la matrice extracellulaire (l'alpha-2-macroglobuline) avec quatre marqueurs indirects (apolipoprotéine A1, haptoglobine, bilirubine totale and gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase). Il tient également compte de l'âge et du sexe des patients. FibroMAX combine les composantes de Fibrotest avec différents marqueurs de stéatose hépatique (aspartate aminotransferase, cholestérol, triglycérides, glucose). Il tient également compte de l'IMC du patient.
- FibroScan : Cet appareil produit par la société française EchoSens permet un test noninvasif basé sur la mesure de l'élasticité hépatique grâce à système d'ultrason. Un capteur est placé à même la peau du patient, au-dessus du lobe hépatique droit, et génère une série d'impulsions mécaniques qui propagent une onde à travers l'espace intercostal. La vitesse de déplacement de cette onde est mesurée par ultrason et permet de déterminer l'élasticité du foie, corrélée avec le degré de fibrose.

Ces tests sont utilisés en routine dans de nombreux pays et permettent un diagnostic plus facile de la fibrose hépatique. Cependant, ils restent limités pour l'estimation de l'état d'avancement de cette fibrose, notamment pour distinguer des différentes phases précoces. Pour une mesure précise du score de fibrose ou pour un diagnostic définitif de cirrhose, la biopsie est actuellement l'unique option (87).

Chez les patients atteints de cirrhose, l'histologie montre des nodules de régénération hépatocytaire entourés de bandes fibro-vasculaires, celles-ci comportant notamment de la matrice extracellulaire, des (myo-)fibroblastes des leucocytes. L'intensité de l'atteinte nécroinflammatoire du foie (quelle que soit son étiologie) déterminera le degré d'activation myofibroblastique, l'intensité de l'angiogenèse ou encore l'intensité et la qualité des inflitrats inflammatoires. A l'interface entre les nodules cirrhotiques et les cloisons fibreuses (nommées également septa fibreux), on observe fréquemment des images de métaplasie des hépatocytes qui acquièrent graduellement un phénotype biliaire. Les cellules biliaires peuvent également se disposer en canaux, avec lumière visible ou oblitérée, d'aspect linéaire ou ramifié, entourées d'une lame basale. Cette prolifération plus ou moins désordonnée de canaux biliaires est connue sous le nom de « réaction ductulaire ». Ces cellules expriment des marqueurs biliaires mais aussi de marqueurs de progéniteurs hépatiques bipotents, tels que KRT19, EPCAM, SOX9 ou encore CD44 (Figure 12). A l'intérieur des nodules de régénération, des infiltrats inflammatoires d'intensité variable peuvent être observés. Cependant, l'élément majeur est la « capillarisation sinusoïdale », avec un dépôt d'une lame basale continue, qui perturbe les échanges moléculaires entre les hépatocytes et le flux sinusoïdal. Cette diminution drastique des échanges efficaces entre le flux sinusoïdal et les hépatocytes a pour conséquence une dysfonction hépatique progressive.



**Figure 13.** Cirrhose hépatique. Des nodules de régénération hépatocytaires sont entourés d'une matrice extracellulaire fibreuse, avec un infiltrat inflammatoire à prédominance mononuclé, des vaisseaux dilatés, une microhémorragie. On peut également noter des images de réaction ductulaire. Image numérisée à partir d'une coupe colorée HES (NanoZoomer, Digital Slide Scanner, x10).

Source : Orlando Musso (communications personnelles)

#### II.4 Score de fibrose

#### II.4.1 Score de Child-Pugh

En 1964, les médecins C.G. Child et J.G. Turcotte de l'Université du Michigan proposent un

système de score pour évaluer le risque de mortalité des patients subissant un shunt intrahépatique pour saignement digestif causée par une cirrhose hépatique (88). En 1972, Pugh et al. modifient ce score en ajoutant le temps de prothrombine et en supprimant une variable de mesure de la nutrition. De plus, les auteurs combinent les différentes variables par un système de points allant de 0 à 3 (89). Chaque patient se trouve associé à un score allant de 0 à 15 et donc à une classe : A (entre 5 et 6 points), B (entre 7 et 9 points) ou C (entre 10 et 15 points). Dans la publication originale, le taux de mortalité passe de 29% pour les patients grade A à 88% pour les patients grade C.

#### II.4.2 Score MELD

Le score MELD (Model for end-stage liver disease) a initialement été imaginé pour prédire la survie des patients opérés pour un shunt intra-hépatique transjugulaire . La première version du score incluait l'étiologie, mais cette variable n'était pas utile (90). La version actuelle du score n'inclut que 3 variables : la bilirubine totale, la créatinine et l'INR. Ce score est actuellement utilisé pour définir le statut des patients en attente d'une transplantation hépatique (91). Dans une méta-analyse récente, les scores MELD et Child Pugh ont été comparé pour la prédiction de la mortalité des patients cirrhotiques. L'étude n'a pas mis en évidence de supériorité d'un des scores sur l'autre (92).

#### **II.4.3 Score Metavir**

Au début des années 1990, peu de temps après la découverte du VHC, des anatomopathologistes français créent le groupe Métavir visant à l'élaboration d'un outil permettant aux cliniciens d'estimer de façon claire, fiable et reproductible les lésions histologiques des patients atteints d'hépatite C chronique. Cette démarche aboutit à la création du score Métavir qui synthétise les résultats de la biopsie hépatique suivant deux paramètres : l'activité inflammatoire et la fibrose (93). L'activité inflammatoire, symbolisée par la lettre A, est divisée en quatre stades qui vont de 0 (pas d'activité) à 3 (activité sévère). La fibrose, symbolisée par la lettre F, comprend cinq stades qui vont de 0 (pas de fibrose) à 4 (cirrhose). Les critères permettant d'établir le score Métavir sont détaillés en tableau 1.

Tableau 1. Le score Métavir.

Activité inflammatoire	Fibrose				
A0 : Activité abscente	F0 : Pas de fibrose portale				
A1 : Activité minime	F1 : Elargissement des espaces portes sans septa fibreux				
A2 : Activité modérée	F2 : Elargissement des espaces portes avec septa peu				
	nombreux				
A3 : Activité marquée	F3 : Elargissement des espaces portes avec de nombreux septa				
	F4 : Cirrhose				

Source : Trabut, Hépato-Gastro, 2009.

#### **II.5** Complications de la cirrhose

Le premier risque pour ces patients est l'hémorragie digestive, par rupture de varices œsophagiennes, qui peut survenir à tout moment dans l'évolution de la maladie (94). Par ailleurs, lorsque la cirrhose atteint un stade très avancé, les mécanismes mis en place pour compenser les effets nuisibles de la cirrhose ne sont plus suffisamment efficace. On parle alors de cirrhose décompensée (par opposition à la cirrhose compensée). Chez ces patients, on peut alors observer une ascite, soit un épanchement de liquide dans la cavité abdominale lié à la fois à des anomalies du fonctionnement rénal et à l'augmentation de la pression hydrostatique dans le circuit portal. L'ascite est le plus souvent indolore, mais elle peut provoquer des douleurs abdominales et entraîner un inconfort abdominal et des difficultés respiratoires quand elle atteint un volume important. De plus, l'infection du liquide d'ascite est fréquente et est une des complications les plus graves de la cirrhose (95). A cause de l'insuffisance hépatique secondaire à la cirrhose et aux troubles métaboliques qui en découlent, le patient peut également ressentir des manifestations neuro-psychiques appelée encéphalopathie hépatique. Ces troubles se déclinent en trois stades de gravité croissante (le stade III étant le coma hépatique). La dernière complication de la cirrhose est le cancer primitif du foie, qui sera l'objet de notre troisième partie.

# **Chapitre 3 : Cancers du foie**

En 2012, l'organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) prévoyait une augmentation du nombre de décès liés au cancer de 7,6 millions par an à 13 millions en 2030. La même année, une étude recensait 3,45 millions de nouveaux cas de cancers en Europe et 1,75 millions de morts (96). Au niveau mondial, les cancers sont la deuxième cause de mortalité (21%) derrière les maladies cardiovasculaires (97). Des progrès dans la connaissance, le dépistage et le traitement du cancer restent très attendus notamment pour le cancer du foie. En effet, ce dernier montre un fort taux de mortalité à 5 ans, entre 85 et 90% en fonction l'âge (98). En outre, le cancer du foie présente seulement 8% d'amélioration du taux de survie depuis vingt ans, contrairement aux 84% pour le cancer du sein, 77% pour la prostate ou 54% pour le cancer colorectal (99). Il semble désormais primordial de concentrer les efforts sur la recherche de nouveaux traitements efficaces.

Le cancer primitif du foie survient le plus souvent sur un foie atteint par la fibrose à partir de cellules hépatiques transformées (hépatocytes, cholangiocytes, cellules associées aux sinusoïdes, etc.). Le cancer secondaire est quant à lui développé suite à l'implantation hépatique de métastases d'autres cancers, principalement digestifs. Parmi les cancers du foie, le plus fréquent est le carcinome hépatocellulaire (CHC), qui dérive de la transformation maligne des hépatocytes. Il correspond à 90% des cas de cancers primitifs du foie (100). Deux autres formes plus rares de cancers du foie sont l'hépatoblastome et les cholangiocarcinomes.

## I Hépatoblastome et cholangiocarcinomes

#### I.1 Hepatoblastome

L'hépatoblastome (HB) est le plus fréquent des cancers primitifs du foie chez l'enfant. Il survient spontanément, généralement dans les trois premières années de vie, et est associé à des malformations génétiques comme le syndrome de Beckwith-Wiedemann ou la Polypose rectocolique familiale. Au cours des dernières décennies, l'incidence annuelle d'HB a augmenté de façon croissante. Cela pourrait s'expliquer par l'amélioration de la prise en charge et donc de la survie des grands prématurés (poids de naissance inférieur à 1 kg), connus pour être à risque de développer ce type de cancers (101). Actuellement, l'HB est soigné par des traitements à base de cysplatine qui sont relativement efficaces, avec des taux de réponse compris entre 70% et 90% (102).

### I.2 Cholangiocarcinomes

Les cholangiocarcinomes (CCA) sont des cancers des voies biliaires. Ils sont classés en trois sous-types en fonction de leur localisation : intra-hépatique, péri-hilaires ou extra-hépatiques ; chaque sous-type étant associé à des caractéristiques biologique et à un tableau clinique différent. A cours des dernières années, l'incidence de cholangiocarcinomes intra-hépatique (i-CCA) a augmenté de façon significative en même temps que la prévalence de certains facteurs de risques comme l'obésité. Les cholangiocarcinomes restent cependant des cancers rares, avec une incidence annuelle de 2 pour 100 000 habitants dans les pays occidentaux (103).

Les CCA se développent dans un contexte d'inflammation hépatique et de cholestase. Ils sont souvent diagnostiqués de manière accidentelle après un examen d'imagerie hépatique comme la tomodensitométrie. La confirmation du diagnostic nécessite alors un examen histologique et donc une biopsie (104). Les CCA sont des cancers hautement agressifs et pour lesquels il n'existe pas à l'heure actuelle de traitement efficace. Certains CCA péri-hilaires peu avancés peuvent être candidats à une transplantation hépatique, offrant une absence de récidive à 5 ans chez environ 70% des patients (105). Les i-CCA peu avancés peuvent être traités par résection chirurgicale, mais dans tous les cas le taux de survie à 5 ans est faible (20 à 40%) (104).

# II Epidémiologie du CHC

En 2012, l'étude GLOBOCAN de l'OMS plaçait le CHC à la septième place des cancers les plus fréquents dans le monde avec environ 700 000 cas diagnostiqués chaque année. Par contre, il était la deuxième cause de mortalité par cancer avec environ autant de décès par an que d'incidence. Un ajustement par l'âge le faisait cependant descendre à la troisième place des cancers les plus mortels avec un taux de mortalité ASR (*Age-standardised-rate*) de 9,5 pour 100 000 habitants. En France, ces taux d'incidence et de mortalité étaient légèrement plus faibles ce qui n'empêchait pas la maladie d'être diagnostiquée chez environ 8000 patients chaque années, et de causer à peu près autant de décès (106).

Il existe une grande variabilité géographique dans l'incidence du CHC (Figure 13). La plupart

des cas surviennent dans les pays avec une forte incidence d'HBV et d'HCV comme l'Afrique sub-saharienne ou l'Asie orientale (107). Cependant, dans des pays présentant une forte présence d'autres facteurs de risque de la cirrhose comme l'alcoolisme ou l'obésité, l'incidence de CHC est également forte. C'est notamment le cas en Amérique du Nord et en Europe, où l'incidence est en augmentation (108). De plus, dans des pays où le taux d'obésité a fortement augmenté dans les dernières décennies, comme les Etats-Unis, le Brésil ou le Mexique, on peut craindre une forte augmentation d'incidence de CHC (68).



**Figure 14.** Incidence du carcinome hépatocellulaire dans le monde. Les régions les plus touchées par le carcinome hépatocellulaire sont l'Afrique sub-saharienne et l'Asie du Sud-Est. Les incidences sont données pour 100 000 habitants et standardisées par l'âge.

Source : GLOBOCAN 2012, Section of Cancer Surveillance.

# **III Etiologie du CHC**

Le cancer est une maladie génétique. Après des décennies passées dans l'incompréhension des mécanismes de la carcinogénèse, c'est à cette conclusion qu'est arrivée la communauté scientifique à l'issue d'une incroyable série de découvertes ayant débuté par les travaux de Howard Temin dans les années 1960 (109). Depuis, nous savons quel est le point commun entre l'alcool (un toxique), le VHC (un pathogène) et l'hémochromatose (un facteur parental) : ils induisent tous des mutations génétiques pouvant être à l'origine d'une carcinogénèse.

Dans le foie, organe central de détoxification, les agressions sont fréquentes. Mais l'organe est bien équipé pour se protéger, notamment grâce à des capacités de régénération assez spectaculaires (110). Le CHC survient donc logiquement dans un contexte d'inflammation et de fibrose, souvent de cirrhose, provoquant de nombreux cycles de régénération jusqu'à l'émergence de cellules portant des mutations pro-cancéreuses (Figure 14).



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Figure 15. Histoire naturelle des maladies chroniques du foie.

Source : Pellicoro et al., Nat. Rev. Immun., 2014.

#### **III.1 Facteurs de risque**

Le CHC touche principalement les hommes, deux à trois fois plus que les femmes (106,111). Il se développe généralement chez des patients âgées (diagnostiqué en moyenne à 65 ans aux Etats-Unis, Proc (112). Passé 55 ans, le risque de développer un CHC augmente ainsi d'environ deux fois (113). Et dans environ 80% des cas, le CHC survient dans un contexte de cirrhose compensée. La cirrhose est donc le facteur de risque le plus important de développement du CHC. Un patient cirrhotique a ainsi 10 à 100 fois plus de risque de développer un CHC qu'un patient non cirrhotique quel que soit la pathologie sous-jacente (113).

Tous les facteurs de risque de cirrhose évoqués précédemment sont également les facteurs de risque de CHCs. Par exemple, l'infection VHC augmente entre 15 et 20 fois le risque de CHC

(114). Chez ces patients, l'incidence de CHC est la plus forte, avec un risque de développer un CHC sur 5 ans de 30% en Asie et de 20% en Europe. Ce risque est environ dix fois plus faible chez les patients non cirrhotiques (113). Cependant, les récents traitements du VHC ont fait chuter la survenue du CHC chez ces malades. Ainsi, dans une cohorte française récente de 1080 malades du VHC avec une cirrhose compensée, les traitements antiviraux d'une partie des patients ont fait chuter le risque de développer un CHC, avec un risque quatre fois plus important de CHC chez les patients non traités (115). Enfin, la coinfection de patients porteur du VHC avec le VIH est associée à une augmentation supplémentaire de risque de développer un CHC (116,117).

Le VHB est un autre facteur de risque important, avec une augmentation de 15 à 100 fois du risque de développer un CHC chez les porteurs du virus, et un risque sur 5 ans de 15% en Asie et de 10% en Europe (107). Chez ces patients, la cirrhose augmente le risque de survenue d'environ 20 fois (113). Et la coïnfection VHC-VHB induit un risque supplémentaire (2 à 6 fois plus de risque que les porteur d'une seule infection) (118–120).

Une consommation d'alcool de plus de 80 grammes par jour (correspondant à huit verres standards) pendant plus de 10 ans augmente le risque de CHC d'environ 5 fois (121). L'alcool augmente également le risque de CHC chez les malades de l'hépatite C (122,123). Le risque de développer un CHC sur 5 ans passe ainsi de 10% chez les abstinents à 20% chez les buveurs, dans une large cohorte Belge de malades de l'hépatite C (124). De même, une consommation de plus de 60 grammes par jour augmente de deux fois le risque de CHC chez les porteurs du VHB (123). Dans une récente étude taiwanaise, le taux d'incidence du CHC sur 10 ans passait ainsi de 25% chez les patients alcooliques et 39% chez les porteurs du VHB à 52% chez patients souffrant d'infection VHB et d'alcoolisme (125).

Pour l'obésité, le risque de CHC est augmenté d'environ deux fois chez les obèses de grade I (IMC : 30-35) et d'environ quatre fois chez les obèses de grade II et plus (IMC>35). Le surpoids ne semble pas associé à une augmentation significative du risque (126). L'obésité peut également être responsable d'une augmentation supplémentaire du risque chez les patients souffrant déjà d'une cirrhose alcoolique (augmentation du risque de trois fois) (127). Elle n'est en revanche pas associée à une augmentation de risque chez les patients souffrant d'infections HBV ou HCV.

De la même façon que pour les causes externe de cirrhose, les maladies héréditaires causant la

cirrhose sont associées à un risque se développer un CHC. Ainsi, le patient hemochromatosique a 200 fois plus de risque de développer un CHC (128,129) et le patient avec une déficience en  $\alpha$ 1-antitripsine a 20 fois plus de risque (130).

En plus des facteurs de risque de cirrhose, certains cancérigènes connus sont des facteurs de risque de CHC. C'est notamment le cas de l'aflatoxin B1 (AFB1), produite par un champignon du genre Aspergilus. Les zones de forte exposition à ce champignon sont l'Asie ou l'Afrique sub-saharienne, où il contamine des aliments comme le riz ou le maïs. On note donc que les zones de forte exposition à l'AFB1 sont les même que les zones de forte exposition au VHB. Ainsi, une forte ingestion d'AFB1 chez un patient déjà contaminé par le VHB entraine une suraugmentation du risque de CHC, expliquant la très forte incidence du cancer dans ces zones du globe (131–133).

L'exposition aux pesticides fait également partie des facteurs de risque probables du CHC (Int J Hyg Environ Health. 2005;208:329–339), tout comme le tabac qui augmente de manière dose dépendante le risque de CHC. Les fumeurs ont ainsi 1.5 fois plus de risque de développer un CHC que les non-fumeurs (134). Enfin, la consommation de café est un facteur de risque négatif de la survenue de CHC (diminution de 30% du risque de CHC chez les buveurs quotidien) (135).

Plus récemment, des traces du génome du virus adeno-associated virus type 2 (AAV2) a été identifié au sein du génome de certain CHCs (136). Ces résultats suggèrent que le virus AAV2, habituellement non pathogène chez l'homme, pourrait être lié à l'apparition du CHC.

#### III.2 CHC en absence de cirrhose

L'émergence de CHC chez des patients en absence de cirrhose a fait naître l'idée qu'il pourrait exister des "CHC sur foie sain". Les études l'histologiques montrent en effet que dans de rares cas, le CHC peut survenir en absence de fibrose hépatique (METAVIR F0) (137). De ce cas, le CHC est causé par des facteurs de risque ne causant pas de fibrose, comme l'obésité ou certains génotoxiques (138). De plus, les CHC de type fibrolamellaire surviennent généralement en absence de facteur de risque. Le terme "CHC sur foie sain" doit cependant être manipulé avec précaution.

### **III.3 Adénomes hépatocellulaires**

Les adénomes hépatocellulaires (AHC) sont des tumeurs bénignes du foie relativement rare et apparaissant le plus souvent chez des femmes suivant une contraception orale (139). Par analyses génomique et transcriptomique, ils peuvent être divisés en plusieurs sous-types moléculaires: les AHC mutés HNF1A (H-HCA), les AHC mutés  $\beta$ -caténine dans l'exon 3 (bHCA ex3), ou dans l'exon 7-8 (bHCA ex7/8), les AHC inflammatoires (IHCA), parfois associés à des mutations de la  $\beta$ -caténine (bIHCA ex3 ou bIHCA ex7/8) et les AHC non classés (140). Récemment, une nouvelle sous-classe appelée PgHCA, en raison de la dérégulation de la voie des prostaglandines et de la voie sonic hedgehog, a été identifiée (141).

Si environ 5% des AHC évoluent en CHC, seules les AHC portant une mutation de la  $\beta$ -caténine ont cette capacité. Par ailleurs, cette transformation maligne nécessite d'autres évènements mutationnels, comme des mutations au niveau du promoteur du gène TERT (142).

# IV Histoire naturelle de la carcinogénèse hépatique

Au cours des vingt dernières années, les travaux accumulés ont mis en évidence une séquence d'évènement précédant l'émergence du CHC. Ces évènements passent par l'apparition de nodules dysplasique de bas grade, évoluant en nodules dysplasique de haut grade puis en CHC (143).

Ces nodules dysplasiques peuvent évoluer en CHC, des exemples de régression sont également connus. Les nodules dysplasique de bas grade sont caractérisés par un ratio noyau/cytoplasme normal ou quasi-normal, pas de mitose, un espace porte encore présent et une absence de signe de compression des tissus adjacents. Par opposition, les nodules dysplasique de haut grade montrent une augmentation du ratio noyau/cytoplasme, un noyau riche en chromatine aux bords irréguliers et localisé à la périphérie des cellules. On peut également observer des formations pseudoglandulaires et des mitoses occasionnelles (Figure 13) (144).



**Figure 16.** Nodules dysplasiques et CHC. (A) Les nodules dysplasique de bas grade montrent une légère augmentation de la densité cellulaire, avec un arrangement trabéculaire. (B) Nodules dysplasique de haut grade. Les cellules ont une forte densité mais ne montrent pas de signe de croissance. (C, D) Petit CHC bien différencié (CHC précoce). La croissance tumorale entraine une légère compression du tissue adjacent (flèches noires). Les cellules sont denses et montrent des formes irrégulières trabéculaires ou pseudoglandulaires. Coloration par hématoxyline et éosine.

Source : The International Consensus Group for Hepatocellular Neoplasia, Hepatology, 2009.

Ces formations ne doivent pas être confondues avec les adénomes hépatocellulaire évoquées précédemment, ni avec les nodules hyperplasiques comme les hyperplasies nodulaires focales. Ces derniers sont des tumeurs bénignes ne semblant pas pouvoir évoluer en CHC (145).

L'inflammation, certaines mutations génétiques ainsi que l'activation ou l'inactivation de certaines voies de signalisation sont impliquées dans la transition de la cirrhose vers le CHC (Figure 14). Parmi les voies les plus fréquemment inactivées, on trouve les voies P53 et P16. Les voies les plus fréquemment activées sont les voies c-myc, c-fos, IGF, TGF, TGF $\beta$ , mTOR et  $\beta$ -caténine (146–150).



**Figure 17.** Histoire naturelle de la carcinogénèse hépatique. La carcinogénèse hépatique est un processus multi-étape évoluant d'un foie normal à une hépatite chronique, une cirrhose puis la formation de nodules dysplasiques et enfin un CHC. Différents carcinogènes peuvent causer des dommages à l'ADN et induire une hyperprolifération ou une inflammation chronique. La persistance des dommages mène à l'activation ou l'inactivation de certaines voies de signalisation, dont les voies P53, P16, c-myc, c-fos, IGF, TGF, TGF $\beta$ , mTOR et  $\beta$ -caténine.

Source : Pivonello et al., Infectious Agents and Cancer, 2014.

# V Diagnostic du CHC

### V.1 Imagerie

Chez le patient cirrhotique, une surveillance échographique semestrielle est recommandée à cause du fort risque de CHC. Un diagnostic précoce peut en effet permettre au patient d'avoir accès à un traitement curatif.

Lorsqu'un nodule est diagnostiqué, la taille de ce nodule doit influencer la suite du suivi. En cas de nodules de taille inférieur à 1 cm, un suivi échographique tous les trois mois est recommandé pour évaluer si ce nodule augmente de taille. En cas d'augmentation de taille ou de nodule de taille supérieure à 1 cm, un second examen est conseillé : Tomodensitométrie (ou Scanner) ou Imagerie par Résonance Magnétique (IRM) (151).

Ces deux techniques permettent en effet d'évaluer précisément la vascularisation hépatique. Or, outre les modifications cellulaires et architecturales, le développement du CHC s'accompagne d'un accroissement progressif de la vascularisation artérielle au niveau du nodule, accompagnée d'une perte progressive de la vascularisation portale. Après injection de produit de contraste, le CHC est ainsi observé par une hypervascularisation localisée apparaissant au temps précoce artériel suivie d'un lavage (appelé "*wash out*") au temps portal (Figure 15).



**Figure 18.** Imagerie typique du carcinome hépatocellulaire (tomodensitométrie avec injection de produit de contraste) : hypervascularisation précoce au temps artériel (A) et lavage (« washout ») au temps portal (B) et/ou tardif (flèches)

Source : Trinchet et Ziol, Post'U, 2012.

En cas de diagnostic du CHC par une des deux méthodes, il est préconisé de réaliser un nouvel examen avec l'autre méthode. Scanner et IRM peuvent donner des résultats discordant, incitant les professionnels à pratiquer la biopsie pour le diagnostic des petits CHCs (152).

### V.2 Biopsie

La biopsie est effectuée par guidage échographique à l'aide d'une aiguille de 1,1 à 1,2 mm de diamètre. Il est également recommandé d'associer à la biopsie du nodule une biopsie du parenchyme hépatique non tumoral. Outre la confirmation du diagnostic de cirrhose, ce prélèvement améliore la rentabilité diagnostique en cas de CHC bien différencié, en permettant

la comparaison de l'histologie du nodule et celle du parenchyme non tumoral (143).

La biopsie des nodules découverts dans un foie de cirrhose a connu une relative désaffection au cours de la dernière décennie en raison de l'amélioration des techniques d'échographie, de scanner et d'IRM. On note cependant un regain d'intérêt pour celle-ci, en raison de la mise en évidence des limites du diagnostic probabiliste pour les petits CHCs. Il est en effet très compliqué de différencier un nodule dysplasique d'un CHC bien différencié. De plus, la connaissance de l'histologie tumorale peut permettre d'évaluer le pronostic pour le patient et, dans un futur probable, d'orienter le traitement (151).

### V.3 Marqueurs diagnostics

En plus des techniques d'imageries, il existe des marqueurs sériques pouvant servir au diagnostic du CHC. L'alpha-fœtoprotéine (AFP) est la plus ancienne et la plus reconnue (153). C'est également le cas de l'isoforme fusosilée de l'AFP (AFP-L3) et des gamma-carboxyprothrombines. Ces marqueurs ont beaucoup été étudiés mais montrent une performance diagnostique assez faible avec des sensibilités rarement supérieure à 60% (154). Plus récemment, une combinaison de ces trois marqueurs avec l'âge et le sexe a permis d'augmenter la sensibilité du diagnostic, avec une sensibilité de 86% chez les patients avec un CHC précoce et une sensibilité de 94% pour les tumeurs plus avancées (155).

D'autres marqueurs sont à l'étude pour le diagnostic du CHC : complexe M de l'immunoglobuline contre l'antigène des cellules cancéreuses squameuses (SCCA-IGM),  $\alpha$ -l-fucosidase, glypican-3 (GPC-3), *insulin-like growth factor* (IGF), *vascular endothelial growth factor* (VEGF), Dickkopf-1 (DKK1), interleukine 6 (IL-6), *Golgi protein 73* (GP73) ou encore ostéopontine (154). Parmi ces marqueurs, l'ostéopontine semble prometteuse. En effet, dans une méta-analyse récente de sept études, le marqueur montrait une sensibilité de 86% pour le diagnostic du CHC avec une spécificité de 86% (Aire sous la courbe ROC : 0.92) (156).

# **VI Histologie**

Un examen histologique réalisé sur une biopsie permet d'évaluer l'état de progression de la tumeur. Il permet également de distingues différents sous-types de CHCs (144).

## VI.1 CHCs "classique"

Les CHCs classiques sont des tumeurs bien vascularisées et peu fibreuses, pouvant adopter différentes architectures histologiques : trabéculaires, pseudoglandulaires, solides et à cellules géantes (Figure 16). L'apparence des CHCs varie fortement d'un patient à l'autre, et même chez un même patient, on peut observer une grande variabilité d'apparence et de niveau de différenciation.



**Figure 19.** Motifs histologiques de carcinomes hépatocellulaire. A: Motif trabéculaire [hématoxyline et éosine (HE), x300]; B: motif pseudoglandulaire (HE, x100); C: Motif solide (HE, x200); D: Formation de cellules géantes (HE, x200).

Source : Schlageter et al., World J Gastroenterol, 2014.

# VI.2 CHC fibrolamellaire

Le CHC fibrolamellaire est un sous-type rare de CHC comptant pour moins de 1% des cas (157). Il fut en premier lieu décrit par Edmondson et se distingues des autres CHCs par la présence de nombreux septa fibreux et d'une cicatrice centrale faisant penser à une hyperplasie nodulaire focale. Les cellules poussent en couches séparées par des fibres de collagène dessinant un motif typique en lamelles (158,159).

Ce sous-type particulier de CHC est observé le plus souvent chez des jeunes patients non-

cirrhotiques et ne présentant pas les facteurs de risques classiques du CHC. Ce type de tumeur est également associé à un meilleur pronostic (144).

### VI.3 Hépato/cholangio combinés

Moins de 1% des CHC sont des hépato/cholangio combinés. Des études récentes suggèrent que ce sous-type dériverait de progéniteurs hépatiques, capables de se différencier en hépatocytes et en cholangiocytes. Mais dans certains cas, ces sous-types combinés pourrait traduire une transdifférenciation de CHCs classiques en cholangiocytes ou une dédifférenciation en progéniteurs hépatiques (160,161).

Les hépato/cholangio combinés sont caractérisés par l'expression d'un marquage CK7 et CK19. Cependant, il est à noter que certains CHCs classiques expriment également ces marqueurs. Les hépato/cholangio combinés peuvent être subdivisés en plusieurs sous-types : un sous-type "classique" et différents sous-types "souches", eux même subdivisés en "typiques", "intermédiaires" ou "cholangiocellulaire" (162).

### VII Classifications du stade d'avancement des CHCs

Il existe plusieurs moyens de classer les CHC. Les méthodes les plus anciennes sont basées sur des critères histologiques et les plus récentes sur des technologies à haut débit. Dans tous les cas, l'objectif est de classer les tumeurs en fonction de l'agressivité tumorale ou en fonction des mécanismes moléculaires mis en jeu, dans le but d'orienter la réponse thérapeutique.

### **VII.1** Classifications histologiques

#### VII.1.1 Edmondson Steiner

La classification d'Edmondson et de Steiner date de 1954 (163). Elle se propose de diviser les CHCs en quatre groupes en fonction de l'état de la progression tumoral, et donc en fonction de l'état de différenciation des tumeurs.

Les tumeurs de grade I sont les plus différenciées, et ressemblent beaucoup à des hépatocytes. Les cellules sont arrangées en trabécules et correspondent à environ 3% des CHCs. Les tumeurs de grade II continue de montrer une ressemblance avec les hépatocytes. Le cytoplasme est toujours éosinophile mais le noyau est de grosse taille avec un nucléole proéminant. Des motifs glandulaires peuvent être observés. Les CHCs de grade III perdent peu à peu les motifs trabéculaires ou glandulaires. On observe d'avantage des blocs solides de cellules au noyau de grande taille. On observe également un certain nombre de cellules de grande taille au noyau hyperchromatique. Enfin, les tumeurs de grade IV sont constituées majoritairement de cellules de grande taille au noyau hyperchromatique et au cytoplasme basophile. Dans ces tumeurs, les formations trabéculaires ou glandulaires sont rares.

#### VII.1.2 Tumor differenciation system

En 1992, Sugihara et al. proposent un système de classification légèrement différent de la classification d'Edmondson (164). Les tumeurs bien différenciées ont un motif trabéculaire fin, d'une largeur de 2 à 3 cellules, correspondant au grade I d'Edmondson ou au grade intermédiaire entre les grades I et II. Les tumeurs moyennement différenciées ont un motif trabéculaire typique. Les tumeurs faiblement différenciées peuvent être divisées en trois sous-types : trabéculaire avec de nombreuses cellules géantes, solide ou d'apparence sarcomateuse.

#### **VII.2 Stades cliniques**

Les classifications histologiques sont des outils pour évaluer l'état d'avancement tumoral. Ils peuvent s'associer à des stades cliniques, qui sont des aides à la décision visant à orienter le traitement.

Parmi ces outils, le plus fréquemment utilisé en cancérologie est le système TNM (Pour *Tumor Node Metastasis*). Le système CLIP (*Cancer of the Liver Italian Program*) est également utilisé dans certaines études (165). Cependant, le système le plus utilisé pour l'orientation de la stratégie thérapeutique du CHC est le système BCLC (*Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer*), appelée généralement "Classification de Barcelone" (Figure 17) (166).

## **VIII Traitements du CHC**

Comme nous l'avons déjà évoqué, le CHC est un cancer très agressif et difficile à traiter. Actuellement, le seul traitement curatif montrant une efficacité convaincante est la transplantation hépatique. Le CHC peut également être traité par résection chirurgicale ou par ablation percutanée lorsque la tumeur est à un stade peu avancé (BCLC 0 ou A). A un stade 56 plus avancé, des traitements palliatifs sont généralement appliqués : la chemoembolisation pour les stades intermédiaires (BCLC B), le traitement par Sorafenib pour les stades avancés (BCLC C) et un accompagnement thérapeutique pour les stades terminaux (BCLC D) (Figure 17). La radiothérapie est une option alternative mais qui reste très peu utilisée (167).

De plus, grâce aux progrès récents dans la connaissance des bases moléculaires de la carcinogenèse, de nouvelles thérapies sont à l'étude. Ces nouveaux médicaments ciblent des protéines clés comme VEGFR ou mTOR ou encore certains miR (168). De grands espoirs sont également portés par les traitements par immunothérapies, sans qu'aucun résultat significatif n'ait encore été présenté (169).



**Figure 20.** Recommandations de traitement du CHC en fonction du stade du patient par la classification de Barcelone (BCLC). L'algorithme BCLC classe les patients en cinq stades, basés sur l'avancement de la maladie, le score de Child-Pugh et statut de performance ECOG représentant l'état général du patient. Ce stade informe sur le pronostic du patient et oriente sur le traitement de première ligne à adopter. BCLC, Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer (group); BSC, best supportive care; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; PS, performance status; TACE, transarterial chemoembolization.

Source : Llovet et al., Nat Rev Clin Oncol., 2014.

#### VIII.1 Ablation percutanée

L'ablation percutanée consiste en la destruction locale du CHC réalisée sous contrôle échographique soit par radiofréquence soit par injection d'éthanol absolu. Dans le premier cas,

une aiguille dont l'extrémité est composée d'électrodes est introduite au cœur de la tumeur et génère un courant électrique interne dans le but de provoquer une nécrose thermique. La destruction percutanée par radiofréquence est plus efficace que celle par injection d'éthanol et est donc majoritairement utilisée (170,171).

Ce traitement est restreint à des CHCs de moins de 2 cm et sur un foie à la fonction peu altérée (score de Child-Pugh A). Lorsqu'elle est possible, l'ablation percutanée est aussi efficace que la résection hépatique (172–174).

### VIII.2 Résection hépatique

La résection hépatique est le traitement curatif de référence pour le CHC de stade précoce. Cette opération chirurgicale consiste en l'ablation du tissu tumoral hépatique, pouvant aller jusqu'à éliminer 60% du volume total en cas de cirrhose et jusqu'à 75% du foie en absence de cirrhose.

Bien que les risques d'insuffisance hépatique post opératoire et de récidives ne sont pas négligeables, les taux de mortalité et de morbidité liés à ce traitement ont considérablement baissé ces dix dernières années, notamment grâce aux avancées et innovations techniques (175,176). Le taux de récidive après résection hépatique reste cependant élevé. En effet, plus de 70% des patients réséqués récidivent dans les 5 ans suivant l'opération (177).

### VIII.3 Transplantation hépatique

La transplantation hépatique consiste à remplacer le foie malade par un greffon sain : une partie du foie provenant d'un proche parent ou un foie entier provenant d'un donneur en état de mort cérébrale. En traitant à la fois la maladie hépatique et sa cause, ce traitement permet d'amener à plus de 70% le taux de survie observé 5 ans après la transplantation hépatique (175,178,179).

La principale limite à la transplantation est le manque de greffon. En France, le CHC représente 26% des 1200 transplantations réalisées chaque année, ce qui signifie que seuls 300 patients ont accès à la greffe chaque année, pour 8000 nouveaux cas et autant de décès (180). Pour une répartition équitable des greffons, les agences de bioéthique appliquent deux grands principes:

- Favoriser l'utilité : prioriser les patients les plus grave, pour limiter au maximum la mortalité sur liste d'attente.

- Limiter la futilité : éviter de greffer des patients n'ayant pas un besoin vital et immédiat d'une greffe. En effet, une greffe trop précoce est jugée non éthique car elle fait courir un risque immédiat au malade (l'intervention chirurgicale) ainsi qu'un risque à distance (le malade étant immunodéprimé par son traitement anti-rejet). Pour limiter la futilité, on évite également de greffer des patients trop graves, avec des défaillances multiorganes ou avec un cancer déjà potentiellement métastatique (par exemple, en présence d'emboles vasculaires tumoraux macroscopiques), chez qui le risque de mortalité post-greffe est trop important. Pour cela, la transplantation hépatique sur CHC est contre-indiquée en cas de métastases, d'adénopathies ou d'envahissement vasculaire (181).

En France, l'attribution des greffons utilise un "Score Foie" basé sur le score MELD évoqué précédemment (Ex : un MELD de 40 ou plus donne accès à 1000 points, un MELD de 20 donne accès à 500 points, etc.). Ce système offre l'avantage d'être simple à obtenir, d'être peu onéreux et d'être un évaluateur objectif de la mortalité à court terme. Ainsi, les patients les plus graves, avec le score MELD le plus élevé, seront greffés en priorité. Des patients avec un score MELD supérieur à 30 seront greffés en un mois alors que la médiane du temps d'attente pour un patient à MELD 11-14 sera de 15 mois. A noter que 70% des CHCs ont un MELD < 15 (182). Depuis 2002, le score MELD est utilisé aux Etats-Unis dans le système d'attribution des greffons hépatiques ce qui a permis d'améliorer sensiblement l'efficacité de la greffe (diminution de la durée d'attente et de la mortalité sur liste) (183,184).

Par ce système, les patients inscrits pour CHC sont généralement pénalisés car leur score MELD est généralement faible, 12 à 13 en moyenne. Les programmes de greffe ont donc mis en place des systèmes de compensation partielle, pour assurer une relative équité d'accès par rapport aux malades atteints de cirrhose décompensée. Mais les temps d'attente restent prolongés pour les malades de CHC, 15 mois en moyenne en France pour les patients avec MELD < 15 (185).

Les critères d'accès à la greffe pour les malades du CHC ont longtemps été ceux de Milan (178) : une tumeur unique de diamètre maximal 5 cm ou jusqu'à trois tumeurs d'un diamètre maximal de 3 cm. Néanmoins, les critères de Milan sont jugés trop restrictifs. L'Agence de la Biomédecine Française a donc adopté en janvier 2013 un score pronostique développé par le groupe français d'étude de la transplantation hépatique pour CHC (186). Ce score désigné sous le nom de "score AFP" intègre, la taille, le nombre de lésions tumorales et trois niveaux d'alfa-fœto protéine (Tableau 2). Les patients avec un score AFP > 2 sont considérés comme contre indiqués pour la transplantation hépatique.

Pour les patients avec un score  $AFP \le 2$  en attente de greffe, le « Score Foie » est appliqué, mais peut être modifié en fonction du type de traitement disponible. Par exemple, un CHC peu avancé et pouvant accéder à la résection ou à l'ablation sera traité de la sorte et verra son « Score Foie » basé sur son score MELD en absence de récidive. Mais en cas de récidive, son « Score Foie » sera pondéré en fonction du temps à partir de la date de récidive, ainsi il sera augmenté graduellement pour atteindre 650 points 6 mois après la récidive. De même, un CHC non traitable par ablation ou résection aura accès à un « Score Foie » pondéré par le temps, pour atteindre 650 points en 6 mois à partir de la date d'inscription sur liste.

	Score	
Diamètre max (cm)		
$\leq 3$	0	
3-6	1	
> 6	4	
Nombre de nodules		
1-3	0	
$\geq$ 4	2	
AFP (µg/l)		
$\leq 100$	0	
100-1000	2	
> 1000	3	
Score AFP	Somme des scores	

Tableau	2.	Le	score	AFP

Source : Duvoux, Post'U, 2016.

#### VIII.4 Chimioembolisation

La chimioembolisation consiste en l'injection, au moyen d'un cathéter dans l'artère hépatique, d'agents chimiothérapeutiques (cisplatine, doxorubicine, mitomycine C) associés au lipiodol (un produit contrastant hydrophobe fixant les cellules cancéreuses). L'efficacité du traitement peut être suivie par scanner, la quantité de lipiodol fixé au niveau des nodules étant proportionnelle à l'efficacité du traitement. Si l'état hépatique et rénal du patient le permet (fonction hépatique correcte CHILD A ou MELD<10), l'injection chimiothérapeutique peut être complétée par une embolisation de l'artère hépatique ou des vaisseaux sanguins nourrissant la tumeur. Cette obstruction réalisée par injection de microparticules (microsphères d'amidon, alcool polyvinylique, Gelfoam) est temporaire (4 à 5 jours) et permet aux agents chimiothérapeutiques d'agir plus longtemps sur le CHC, augmentant ainsi leur efficacité. La chimioembolisation est proposée en attente de transplantation à des patients atteints de CHCs de stade intermédiaire (nodule unique de taille > 3 cm et/ou plus de 3 nodules), ne présentant pas de métastase extrahépatique et d'anomalie du flux portal (168,175,187). Ce traitement permet d'augmenter significativement la survie des patients, en faisant passer le taux de survie à 2 ans de 30% à 40% (166,187).

### VIII.5 Sorafenif

Commercialisé sous l'appellation Nevaxar®, le Sorafénib est un inhibiteur de plusieurs kinases dont les sérine/thréonine RAF-kinases et les récepteurs tyrosine-kinases impliqués dans la croissance (CRAF, BRAF, c-KIT, et FLT-3) ou la vascularisation tumorales (CRAF, VEGFR-2, VEGFR-3, et PDGFR- $\beta$ ) (168). De ce fait, ce médicament permet d'inhiber le développement tumoral et l'angiogenèse (188,189). Il est prescrit pour des patients atteints de CHCs de stade avancé. En moyenne, il augmente la médiane de survie de 3 mois chez ces patients (189).

#### **VIII.6 Radioembolisation**

La radioembolisation consiste en l'injection au moyen d'un cathéter introduit dans l'artère hépatique d'éléments radioactifs comme de l'yttrium 90 qui vont se loger dans les capillaires de la tumeur et provoquer une irradiation ciblée. Il existe actuellement 3 traitements : les deux premiers sont à base de lipiodol (le lipiodol marqué à l'iode 131 commercialisé sous le nom de Lipiocis® et le lipiodol chargé au rhénium 188) et le troisième consiste en des microsphères de verre ou résine marquées à l'yttrium 90 (190–193).

Selon les dernières recommandations européennes montrées en Figure 17, la radioembolisation n'est pas considérée comme un traitement de référence du CHC. Cependant, c'est une méthode récente et prometteuse aussi bien sur le plan de l'efficacité que sur le plan de la tolérance. Des études de phase III sont en cours pour confirmer cela et déterminer la place de cette méthode par rapport à la chimioembolisation et au Sorafenib (194).

# IX Mécanismes moléculaires du CHC

Depuis que les techniques à haut débit ont émergé dans l'univers de la recherche, de nombreuses études ont cherché à classer les CHCs en fonction des profils d'expression génomique, transcriptomique, protéomique ou encore métabolomique. Ces études avaient pour but de mieux comprendre les mécanismes moléculaires du CHC, d'idoler de nouveaux marqueurs diagnostiques ou pronostiques, ou de découvrir de nouvelles cibles thérapeutiques.

### **IX.1 Marqueurs pronostiques**

L'hétérogénéité moléculaire du CHC induit une grande variabilité dans le pronostic des patients. Beaucoup de variables cliniques ont ainsi un impact sur la survie du patient, comme la taille et le nombre de tumeurs, l'invasion vasculaire, l'existence de métastase ou encore l'état général du patient et de ses fonctions hépatiques. Ces différentes variables sont résumées dans la classification de Barcelone déjà évoquée précédemment. Cependant, ces critères sont parfois insuffisants et c'est pour cette raison que différents marqueurs pronostiques ont été étudiés.

Parmi les biomarqueurs circulants pouvant servir au pronostic, on trouve les même marqueurs que ceux évoqués pour le diagnostic : l'AFP, AFP-L3, DCP, GPC-3, DKK1, Ostéopontine, etc. (154). Par exemple, une forte expression sanguine d'AFP est associée à une forte prolifération, une forte angiogenèse, une faible apoptose et un pronostic défavorable (195,196).

En plus des marqueurs sériques, l'expression de marqueurs peut être mesurée directement au niveau tumoral à partir de biopsie ou de tumeurs réséquées. Cela a donné lieu à des classifications moléculaires des CHCs développées dans la suite de ce manuscrit. De plus, un certain nombre de signature pronostique ont été développées, c'est-à-dire des listes de gènes parfois accompagnées d'un algorithme mathématique permettant de classer les patients.

Parmi ces signatures, certaines comprennent un grand nombre de gènes : 628 dans une étude de Woo en 2008 (197) ou 172 dans une étude de Yoshioka en 2009 (198). D'autres ont un nombre de gènes plus limité : 25 dans une étude de Lim en 2013 (199) et 20 dans une étude de Kurokawa en 2004 (200). La signature la plus robuste et la plus reconnue est une signature de 5 gènes publiée par Nault en 2013 (201).

### IX.2 Classification génomique

Fin en juin 2000, un immense programme de séquençage du génome humain pris fin. Il avait mobilisé des milliers de chercheurs, couté 3 milliards d'euros et duré 15 ans. Quinze ans plus tard, le séquençage d'un génome complet coute moins d'un millier d'euros et dure quelques heures. Et le prix de l'opération devrait continuer à chuter.

Parallèlement, comme nous l'avons évoqué précédemment, les scientifiques ont découverts que l'origine des cancers était génétique. C'est de ce contexte qu'ont été entrepris dans les années 2000 et 2010 de grands travaux de séquençage des génomes des différents cancers pour en identifier des mutations clé, pouvant servir de cibles thérapeutiques potentielles.

Il sort de ces travaux que chaque CHC résulte d'une combinaison spécifique d'altérations génétiques modifiant des voie de signalisation de façon pro-oncogénique. Ces changements sont quantitatifs (perte ou gain d'un gène ou même d'un segment chromosomique), qualitatifs (mutations ponctuelles) ou épigénétiques. Parmi ces altérations génétiques, certaines sont partagées par un grand nombre de cancers. C'est notamment le cas des mutations au niveau du gène de la  $\beta$ -caténine (CTNNB1) ou du gène TP53. A l'inverse, des mutations comme HNF1A ou IL6ST sont trouvées quasi exclusivement dans les cancers hépatiques (202).

Les mutations les plus fréquentes sont celles du promoteur TERT, les mutations CTNNB1 et TP53 (Figure 18) (203,204).



Figure 21. Taux de mutation des CHCs triés par gène.

Source : Schulze et al., Nat Genet., 2015.

#### **IX.2.1 Mutation CTNNB1**

Les mutations CTNNB1 se situent généralement au niveau l'exon 3 du gène de la  $\beta$ -caténine. Comme nous l'avons évoqué, la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine passe par la fixation des ligands Wnt sur le récepteurs FZD associés aux corécepteurs LRP5-6. Cette fixation séquestre au niveau sousmembranaire le complexe APC/Axin, empêchant ainsi la phosphorylation de sites spécifiques de l'exon 3 de la  $\beta$ -caténine par la GSK3B. Cette phosphorylation conduit à une ubiquitination de la  $\beta$ -caténine et à sa dégradation. En cas de mutation au niveau d'un des sites clé de la phosphorylation, la phosphorylation est impossible, entraînant une accumulation de la  $\beta$ caténine dans la cellule.

La mutation du gène CTNNB1 est présente dans environ 30% des CHCs. Elle définit une sousclasse de tumeurs relativement homogène par analyse transcriptomique. Cette sous-classe est associée à une plus grande différenciation et à un meilleur pronostic (205,206). De plus, de nombreuses analyses ont mesuré l'association de la mutation CTNNB1 avec des caractéristiques cliniques. On a pu observer une association fréquente avec un score Edmondson faible, et donc à des tumeurs bien différenciées ainsi qu'avec un faible niveau d'AFP (207–209). Ces tumeurs sont également plus fréquemment entourées d'une capsule. Enfin, il existe un lien assez fort entre ce type de tumeur et l'étiologie. Ces tumeurs sont en effet plus fréquentes dans les CHCs d'étiologie alcoolique ou VHC et moins fréquentes dans les CHCs d'étiologie VHB (203,204,207,210).

Ces résultats suggèrent que les CHCs mutés  $\beta$ -caténine sont de meilleur pronostic. Pour autant, les différentes études comparant la mortalité ou la récidive tumorale (après résection chirurgicale) entre les CHCs mutés pour la  $\beta$ -caténine et les CHCs non mutés pour ce gène n'ont pas montré de différence (voir : revue bibliographique en tableau suplémentaire 1 de la troisième publication présentée). La plus grosse étude réalisée sur le sujet montre même des courbes de survie parfaitement superposées entre les deux types de CHCs (207). Les travaux réalisés au cours de cette thèse ont permis d'expliquer ce paradoxe.

#### IX.2.2 Mutation P53

Parmi les nombreux gènes impliqués dans la tumorigenèse, le facteur de transcription P53 (encodé par le gène TP53) fait office de régulateur majeur de la progression tumorale, en régulant de façon importante de très nombreuses voies impliquées dans le processus. Les

nombreux rôles de P53 en tant que suppresseur de tumeur incluent la capacité à induire l'arrêt du cycle cellulaire, la réparation de l'ADN, la senescence ou encore l'apoptose (211). La mutation TP53 est responsable d'une perte de cette activité anti-tumorale de la protéine. De plus, les différentes études ont montré que la mutation pouvait être responsable de processus différents de ceux résultant d'une simple perte de fonction de P53. On a ainsi découvert que la protéine P53 mutée pouvait avoir une activité propre pro-oncogénique, avec notamment un rôle de facteur de transcription pour certains gènes favorisant la tumorigenèse (212).

C'est donc sans surprise qu'on retrouve des mutations TP53 dans pratiquement tous les types de cancers, à des taux variables, parfois faibles (10% pour les cancers hematopoietiques) (213) parfois proches de 100% (comme pour certains carcinomes ovarien de haut grade) (214). Dans le CHC, cette mutation est présente dans environ 20% des cas et est associée un mauvais pronostic (215). Ce type de mutation est également associé à une étiologie VHB et à l'aflatoxine B1 (204,216).

#### **IX.2.3 Mutation TERT**

Les télomères sont de courtes séquences répétées situées aux extrémités des chromosomes. Les télomères se raccourcissent à chaque division cellulaire, jusqu'à un point critique où les télomères sont dépassés, ce qui touche à l'ADN génomique et induit la senescence. Les complexes de télomérase ont pour fonction de maintenir la longueur des télomères en ajoutant des séquences répétées à la fin des chromosomes (217). Ce complexe de télomérase est composé d'une enzyme centrale appelée *télomérase reverse transcriptase* (TERT) et d'un ARN de guidage appelé TERC. En cas de maladies chronique comme la cirrhose, on observe fréquemment une diminution d'activité de ce complexe de télomérase. En revanche, dans le cancer, on a fréquemment une réactivation de la télomérase (218). Les mécanismes impliqués dans cette réactivation n'ont été compris que récemment. Ils passent par une mutation du promoteur de TERT (219).

Les mutations du promoteur de TERT sont les plus fréquentes des mutations du CHC, avec un taux de mutation supérieur à 60% (204). Ces mutations sont également retrouvées, mais à un taux moindre dans les adénomes hépatocellulaire, ce qui suggère une implication de cette mutation dans le processus de carcinogénèse de ce type de tumeurs (220). De plus, le taux de mutation TERT semble augmenter graduellement au cours de la carcinogénèse hépatique

depuis la cirrhose (0%), au nodule dysplasique de bas grade (6%) au nodule dysplasique de haut grade (19%) jusqu'au au CHC précoce (61%). En revanche, ce taux n'est pas plus élevé dans les tumeurs avancées que dans les tumeurs précoces (221). Ces résultats suggèrent que la mutation TERT serait un évènement précoce dans la carcinogénèse hépatique, avec un rôle potentiellement important dans l'induction du cancer mais un rôle plus modeste dans la progression tumorale.

Les tumeurs mutées TERT sont associées à la mutation CTNNB1, à des tumeurs de plus petites tailles et à une faible expression d'AFP. Elles sont positivement associées à une étiologie HCV et négativement à une étiologie HBV (219).

#### **IX.3** Classification transcriptomique

Tout comme le coût du séquençage de l'ADN, le coût d'utilisation des technologies de microarray, visant à quantifier à haut débit l'expression de tous les ARNs d'une cellule, a fortement diminué au cours des dernières années. Si cette baisse continue, on peut imaginer à l'avenir réaliser une analyse transcriptomique systématique sur toutes les biopsies de CHC. C'est dans ce contexte qu'ont émergé des travaux visant à identifier des signatures pronostiques à partir d'analyses transcriptomiques. Ces travaux ont été présentés dans une partie précédente. De plus, certaines études ciblant spécifiquement les miRNA dans des cohortes de CHCs ont mis en évidence des signatures de mauvais pronostic ou de métastases (222,223).

Parallèlement à cela, des analyses sur des cohortes relativement importantes ont utilisé la transcriptomique pour classer les CHCs en fonction du profil d'expression ARN. Ces travaux avaient avant tout un but cognitif. Ils cherchaient à mieux comprendre la biologie du CHC et à identifier des cibles thérapeutiques potentielles. Ils étaient généralement associés à des séquençages du génome des CHCs et espéraient ainsi associer un profil d'expression ARN à un ensemble de mutations génétiques.

L'étude princeps, publiée en 2004 par l'équipe de S. Thorgeirsson, identifie deux sous-types de CHCs (224). Le cluster A est associé à l'expression de gènes de prolifération cellulaire et d'inhibition de l'apoptose. Il est également associé à l'étiologie VHB, à des tumeurs peu différenciées par le score d'Edmondson et à un mauvais pronostic. Ce cluster est également associé à l'activation du facteur de transcription AP-1 ainsi qu'à un phénotype souche proche des hépatoblastes (225). Par opposition, le cluster B est moins prolifératif, de bon pronostic et

plus fréquemment associé à une étiologie VHC et alcool.

En 2007, une classification est réalisée par les équipes de J. Zucman-Rossi en combinant les données transcriptomiques et génomiques de 57 CHCs. Cette analyse met en lumière 6 sousclasses (G1-G6) associées à des mutations et à des données cliniques (205). La sous-classe G1 (n=6) comprend beaucoup de femmes jeunes et d'origine africaine. La sous-classe G2 (n=6) est associée à l'hémochromatose. Les sous classes G1 et G2 sont associées à une mutation d'AXIN1. La sous-classe G3 (n=8) est associée à l'activation du cycle cellulaire et à des mutations P53. La sous-classe G4 (n=17) est associée à des mutations TCF1. Les sous-classes G5 (n=11) et G6 (n=8) sont associées à une mutation CTNNB1 et à l'activation de la voie Wnt, G5 étant d'avantage associé à l'expression de marqueurs de stress et G6 au métabolisme des acides aminés.

Un an plus tard, l'équipe de J. Llovet propose une classification en cinq sous-classes à partir des données de 91 CHCs (206). La sous-classe "CTNNB1" est associée à une mutation de la  $\beta$ -caténine. La sous-classe "Prolifération" est associée à une activation de la voie Wnt sans mutation CTNNB1, ainsi qu'à une phosphorylation d'IGF1, de RPS6 (une cible de mTOR) et d'Akt. Ces tumeurs sont également associées à une invasion vasculaire. La sous-classe "Interferon" correspond à des petites tumeurs exprimant des gènes modulés par des traitements de l'époque contre l'héptite C : les interférons pégylés. La sous-classe "Poly7" exprime une polysomie du chromosome 7 et est de mauvais pronostic. Enfin, un groupe "Unannotated" n'est pas associé à un profil particulier.

Puis en 2009, les équipes de Yuijin Hoshida publient une nouvelle classification en trois sousclasses à partir des données d'une cohorte de 80 CHCs (226). Pour la première fois, les contours de ce qu'on appellera plus tard les CHCs "Prolifératifs" et "Non prolifératifs" vont se dessiner. D'un côté, on trouve deux sous-classes associées à un mauvais pronostic : les sous-classes S1 et S2. S1 est caractérisé par une activation de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine sans mutation CTNNB1 ainsi qu'à une activation de TGF- $\beta$ . La sous-classe S2 est d'avantage associée à un phénotype souche ainsi qu'à une activation de la voie Pi3k/Akt. En face, la sous-classe S3 est associée à un bon pronostic, à un phenotype hépatocytaire ainsi qu'à un plus fort taux de mutation CTNNB1 (sans que ce taux ne soit présenté dans la publication). Au niveau des caractéristiques cliniques, on observe une augmentation graduelle de la taille des tumeurs et le l'AFP dans le sens S3  $\rightarrow$  S1  $\rightarrow$  S2 associée à une diminution de la différenciation tumorale. Il est à noter qu'Hoshida ne présente pas de courbes de survie dans son étude. En revanche, une étude plus tardive réalisée par une autre équipe reproduira les sous-classes de Hoshida et mettra en évidence une augmentation de la mortalité dans les sous-classes S1 et S2 par rapport à S3. Ce travail mettra également en évidence de façon claire l'association de la sous-classe S3 avec les mutations TERT et CTNNB1 (Taux de mutation par sous-classe : S1 ; TERT, 10% ; CTNNB1, 10% ; S2 ; TERT, 11% ; CTNNB1, 16% ; S3 ; TERT, 40% ; CTNNB1, 28%) (227).

Dans des travaux de revue récents, les différentes sous-classes identifiées par les différentes études sont regroupées (228). Le cluster A de Thorgeirsson, le G3 de Zucman-Rossi, le Proliferation de Llovet et les S1-S2 d'Hoshida sont ainsi regroupés sous la bannière "Proliferation Class". Cette grande classe est associée à un mauvais pronostic, à des tumeurs peu différenciées, à un fort niveau d'AFP et à une étiologie VHB. Dans cette classe, on distingue deux sous-classes appelées "Hepatocyte-like" et "Progénitor-like" ou sont respectivement associés les groupes S1 et S2 d'Hoshida. Les hépatocytaires (S1) sont associés à une activation des voies Wnt et TGF $\beta$  et les progéniteurs (S2) à une activation de la voie NOTCH. Les deux sous-classes sont également associées à une activation des voies RAS, MAPK, MET, AKT, IGF et MTOR. L'association avec les mutations TP53, bien que probable, n'est pas établie.

L'autre grande classe est appelée "Non-proliferation Class" et intègre le cluster B de Thorgeirsson, les G5-G6 de Zucman-Rossi, le poly7 de Llovet et le S3 d'Hoshida. La classe Non proliférative est associée à un bon pronostic, à des tumeurs bien différenciées, à un faible niveau d'AFP et à une étiologie VHC et alcool. Elle est également associée à une activation de l'expression de gènes cibles hépato-enrichis de la  $\beta$ -caténine et à des mutations CTNNB1. L'association avec les mutations TERT, bien que probable, n'est pas établie. Les caractéristiques générales des deux classes sont résumées en Figure 19.



**Figure 22.** Caractérisation générales des classes de CHCs obtenues par transcriptomiques. Source : Llovet et al., Nat. Rev. Clin. Oncol., 2016.

### **IX.4 Etudes Protéomiques**

La protéomique comprend un ensemble de techniques pour la quantification des protéines. C'est une technologie qui peine encore à s'imposer face à la transcriptomique, à cause d'un coût encore très élevé et de la difficulté d'analyse des résultats, en comparaison avec l'apport d'information supplémentaire à la transcriptomique.

Cependant, certaines études ont été menées sur le CHC, pour rechercher des nouveaux marqueurs d'intérêt dans des lignées cellulaires, des échantillons de tumeurs ou des échantillons sanguins de patients (225,229). Ces travaux ont souvent été réalisés sur un faible nombre d'échantillons et doivent être interprétés avec précaution. Cependant, certains travaux ont également été réalisés sur de larges cohortes pour la recherches de signatures protéomiques associées à la dédifférenciation ou à la récidive tumorale (230–232). Chacune de ces études a mis en évidence une protéine d'intérêt, au rôle jusqu'alors peu connu dans le CHC (CAPN4, EB1, ou encore NDRG1). Malheureusement, ces travaux n'ont pas permis d'améliorer les connaissances sur les mécanismes de la cancérogénèse par rapport aux études transcriptomiques citées précédemment.

### **IX.5 Etudes Métabolomiques**

Le foie étant le principal organe de métabolisme de l'organisme, le CHC provoque probablement des changements notables du métabolome, rendant les analyses métabolomiques intéressantes pour la recherche de marqueurs d'intérêt. De manière intéressante, les analyses métabolomiques permettent d'étudier des échantillons sanguins ou urinaires de patients, pouvant être obtenus de manière non-invasive (233).

Différentes études ont ainsi comparé des échantillons sanguins ou urinaires de patients avec un CHC contre des échantillons contrôle (234,235), ou ont cherché à comparer des CHCs de différentes étiologies (VHC versus VHB) (236). De manière attendue, ces études révèlent que le CHC induit des perturbations de l'oxydation des acides gras et du métabolisme des acides aminés, des lipides ou des carbohydrates, traduisant une dédifférenciation des hépatocytes. Pour la comparaison entre les étiologies du CHCs, les auteurs observent une augmentation du métabolisme des acides gras et de la réponse anti-inflammatoire dans les CHCs d'origine VHC, reflétant probablement l'association du VHC avec la classe transcriptomique "Nonprolifération" et exprimant donc un phénotype hépatocytaire mieux préservé. Une autre étude a cherché à identifier des changements de métabolites urinaires avant et après résection sur CHC, en fonction de la récidive tumorale (237). Les métabolites augmentés après la résection étaient impliqués dans le métabolisme énergétique, le métabolisme des acides aminés ou encore dans la microflore intestinale. Les métabolites augmentés chez les patients faisant une récidive précoce étaient impliqués dans la production de lactate et de succinate, le turnover des acides aminés, le métabolisme des sérines et des thréonines ou encore le métabolisme du glyoxylate. Ces modifications reflètent une augmentation de la proliferation, une diminution de l'activité mitochondriale et une augmentation du stress oxydatif compatible avec un phénotype de tumeurs agressives.

D'autres études ont également cherché à analyser des échantillons tumoraux par métabolomique. L'une d'elles a d'une part comparé des paires d'échantillons tumoraux et nontumoraux et révélé des changements dans le métabolisme du glucose et des acides gras (238). D'autre part, cette étude a combiné métabolomique et transcriptomique sur un panel de 59 CHCs, tout en reproduisant la classification en 6 sous-classes de J. Zucman-Rossi. De manière assez décevante, on n'observait pas de modification importante du métabolisme entre les sousclasses, à l'exception d'une diminution de certains acides gras dans certaines sous-classes de CHC de mauvais pronostique. Ce résultat inattendu peu refléter une réalité biologique, il peut aussi être lié à un problème de classification des CHCs inhérent à la méthodologie utilisée.

Une étude a également cherché à combiner transcriptomique et métabolomique pour comparer CHCs et cholangiocarcinomes (239). L'étude a révélé une augmentation modérée de la glycolyse dans les deux types de cancer, traduisant un effet Warburg léger mais présent. L'effet Warburg est une diminution de la respiration mitochondriale au profit d'une glycolyse anaérobie, observée dans de nombreux cancers (240). L'étude a également observé une augmentation du métabolisme des glucides, des lipides et de la synthèse protéique dans les cholangiocarcinomes.

### IX.6 Etudes épigénétiques

Depuis les dernières décennies, des évidences montrant l'impact de l'épigénétique sur les différentes pathologies humaine ont émergé. C'est particulièrement le cas pour le cancer, où l'épigénétique joue un rôle essentiel dans la régulation de l'expression de gènes clés via des mécanismes de méthylation ou de modification de la structure des histones. Dans le cancer, on observe généralement une perte de la méthylation globale de l'ADN associée à l'hyperméthylation de promoteurs spécifiques (241). De récents développements ont permis d'étudier le méthylome du génome complet à haut débit.

Pour le CHC, les premières études ont mis en évidence des nouveaux marqueurs d'intérêt, mais il n'existait pas avant 2010 d'études épigénétiques sur de larges cohortes (242). En 2013, une première étude de grande envergure a été réalisée sur deux cohortes de respectivement 77 et 164 CHCs (243). Cette étude a permis de mettre en évidence un nouveau gène suppresseur de tumeur et réprimé par méthylation dans le CHC, le gène SMPD3. L'importance de la modulation de ce gène dans la progression tumorale a été attestée par des associations avec la récidive tumorale, ainsi que des effets antiprolifératifs in vitro. En 2015, une large étude de méthylome a été réalisée par les équipes de J. Zucman-Rossi sur deux cohortes de 221 et 83 CHCs (244). Ce travail a mis en avant une signature de 36 gènes hyper ou hypo méthylés dans un sous-type agressif de CHCs, associée à une dérégulation des voies IGF, PI3K, TGF-β et WNT.
## **RESUME DU TRAVAIL DE THESE**

Comme nous l'avons vu en Introduction, la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine est fréquemment activée dans le CHC. Elle est activée dans les tumeurs mutées pour l'exon 3 du gène CTNNB1, ce qui représente environ 30% des CHCs. Cette mutation est associée à une sous-classe homogène de CHCs de bon pronostic clinique, bien différenciés, correspondant aux sous-classes G5-G6 (205) et CTNNB1 (206). Cependant, les études cliniques n'ont pas montré de lien entre la mutation CTNNB1 et la récidive des patients réséqués, ce qui a suscité une controverse sur le lien entre mutation  $\beta$ -caténine et l'agressivité des CHCs.

Par ailleurs, la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine est activée sans mutation CTNNB1 dans la sous-classe S1 correspondant au sous-type "Hepatocyte-like" de la classe "Prolifération" (référence). Ces CHCs semblent exprimer un phénotype très différent des CHCs mutés  $\beta$ -caténine, ce qui suggère l'existence d'un mécanisme d'activation de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine dans le CHC spécifique aux mutations du gène CTNNB1. A l'opposé, l'activation de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine qui résulte d'une expression accrue de gènes cibles de la voie TGFb, ainsi que de certains composants extracellulaires de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine tels que FZD7 semble être responsable de la sousclasse S1 (226). Il n'existait pas, au moment du début de ce travail, d'explication claire de cette différence de profil d'activation.

L'objectif de mon travail de thèse était d'étudier ces deux modes d'activation de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ caténine dans le CHC. La première étape consistait à préparer des micro-array de tissu à partir de CHCs dont les blocs fixés au formol et inclus en paraffine avaient été prélevés en miroir visà-vis de blocs congelés, dans la mesure du possible en fonction des caractéristiques de la pièce opératoire. Au cours du contrôle de qualité de la correspondance paraffine/congelé, des zones intra-tumorales riches en dépôts fibreux ont retenu l'attention de notre équipe. Aussi, la fibrose intra-tumorale a-t-elle été quantifiée par deux observateurs de façon consensuelle par un score à quatre points (de 0 à 3). Les tumeurs à forte fibrose exprimaient fortement des marqueurs d'activation extracellulaire de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine mais aussi des marqueurs de cellules progenitrices/souches tumorales. L'association avec le phénotype souche nous a conduits à appeler ces formations "Nids fibreux". Puis, des analyses in silico sur des données publiques d'expression ARN ont montré que ce phénotype tumoral était associé à un mauvais pronostic dans le CHC (245).

Pour mieux comprendre les mécanismes impliqués dans l'activation extracellulaire de la voie  $Wnt/\beta$ -caténine responsable de la sousclasse des CHCs dite "S1" (206,226,246) et des "Nids fibreux", mon équipe avait mis en place un modèle in vitro d'activation Wnt de cellules

hépatiques progénitrices HepaRG. Ces cellules, incubées à confluence pendant quatre semaines, acquièrent un phénotype type hépatocytaire (247). Au contraire, lorsque ces cellules différenciées sont ensemencées à faible densité, elles passent par une phase transitoire de transition épithélio-mésenchymateuse durant approximativement 72 heures où le phénotype progéniteur au début, puis hépatoblaste, se manifestent dans toute leur splendeur. A ce momentlà, ces cellules sont en phase de "compétence mésenchymateuse" car elles activent l'expression de nombreux marqueurs d'engagement mésenchymateux (248). Dans cette phase, Wnt3a empêche ces progéniteurs de se différencier vers un phénotype hépatocytaire ou biliaire, consolidant les phénotypes progéniteur et mésenchymateux et différenciant ces cellules vers un phénotype de type myofibroblastique et fibrogénique après deux semaines de traitement (249). Nous ne savons pas le devenir de ces cellules au-delà de deux semaines, car le tapis cellulaire se contracte et se décolle de la boite de culture tel un gel de collagène. Mon équipe a déjà observé ce phénomène en co-cultivant des hépatocytes primaires de rat avec des cellules étoilées sur plastique. Il est le résultat d'un dépôt de matrice extracellulaire combiné avec l'acquisition des capacités contractiles du tapis cellulaire, reflet de la différentiation myofibroblastique (78).

Les analyses d'immunohistochimie et PCR quantitative effectuées en cinétique entre une heure et 13 jours post traitement Wnt3a, ainsi qu'une analyse transcriptomique après trois jours de traitement Wnt3a confirmaient les observations faites en microscopie de contraste de phase: l'activation de la voie Wnt/β-caténine induisait une transition épithélio-mésenchymateuse des cellules ainsi qu'une transdifférenciation en myofibrobaste comparable au phénomène observé au niveau des cellules étoilées lors de la fibrose hépatique. Une dizaine de gènes, représentatifs de plusieurs voies de signalisation et de l'activation de phénotypes mésenchymateux ectopiques a par la suite été analysée par PCR quantitative et immunohistochimie dans 82 CHCs, 66 foies non-tumoraux correspondants, 11 HNFs et 23 foies contrôles, histologiquement proches du foie sain. Mes analyses des annotations cliniques et des données d'expression et de données publiques de transcriptomique ont globalement mis en évidence l'expression de ces gènes était associée à un phénotype de CHC agressifs. Nous avons notamment observé que HAPLN1, une protéine de la matrice extracellulaire du cartilage, non exprimée dans le foie adulte normal, était fortement up-régulée par Wnt3a in vitro. Elle était associée à une évolution défavorable des CHCs. Cette protéine se trouvait notamment associée à la présence de "Nid fibreux" (249).

Parallèlement à cela, j'ai cherché à mieux comprendre le phénotype des CHCs contenant des

mutations de l'exon 3 du gène CTNNB1. Je voulais notamment étudier le lien controversé entre cette mutation et l'agressivité des tumeurs. Pour cela, j'ai analysé les données de notre cohorte ainsi que des données publiques de transcriptomique annotées pour la mutation  $\beta$ -caténine. J'ai réalisé que le paradoxe d'une absence de lien statistique pouvait être expliqué par l'existence d'une sous-classe de CHC non définie par les études précédentes. Seulement, pour identifier cette sous-classe, il fallait réaliser une nouvelle classification transcriptomique sur des données de grande dimension. C'est à dire raffiner les classifications précédentes en apportant de la puissance statistique.

J'ai donc combiné les données de plusieurs études transcriptomiques publiques et j'ai ainsi formé un "metadata set". Cette base de données comptabilisait au total 1133 CHCs provenant de 9 bases différentes avec près de 10 000 gènes en commun. Et comme les annotations de mutation CTNNB1 n'étaient pas disponibles dans ces bases, nous avons développé en parallèle une méthode de prédiction de la mutation CTNNB1 à partir de données transcriptomiques. Ce travail réalisé en collaboration avec deux statisticiens Australiens a permis d'identifier de nouveaux marqueurs de mutations CTNNB1 et a abouti à un score prédictif fiable, prédisant la mutation avec une sensibilité et une spécificité supérieure à 80%. Puis, les analyses de clustering réalisés sur le metadata set ont mis en évidence 4 sous-classes robustes de CHCs.

Sans surprise, une de ces sous-classes était caractérisée par un très fort taux de mutation CTNNB1 (prédite par notre score) et peut correspondre aux sous-classes G5-G6 de Zucman-Rossi (205) ou CTNNB1 de Llovet (206). Deux autres sous classes étaient associées à des signatures de mauvais pronostique correspondant aux sous-classes "Hepatocyte-like" et "Progénitor-like" de la classe "Proliferation". Enfin, une sous-classe était associée à la sous classe S3 de Hoshida (226) et à un taux de mutation β-caténine très faible. Il s'agissait de la nouvelle sous-classe que nous recherchions. Cette sous-classe était associée à un phénotype hépatocytaire bien préservé, ainsi qu'à l'expression de nombreux gènes du métabolisme hépatique périportal, comme des marqueurs de néoglucogenèse ou du catabolisme des acides aminés. Nous avons donc appelé cette sous-classe "PP", pour périportal. Par opposition, nous avons appelé la sous-classe mutée CTNNB1 "PV", périveineux. En effet, l'expression des gènes dans les sous-classes PP et PV mimaient les phénomènes de zonation du métabolisme hépatique normal : les gènes des signatures de métabolisme hépatique périportal et périveineux étaient fortement exprimés dans les CHC PP et PV respectivement. De même, les gènes fortement stimulés par HNF4 étaient fortement exprimés dans les CHCs PP.

La sous-classe PP regroupait 30% des CHC et était associée au phénotype de meilleur pronostic parmi les 4 sous-classes, aussi bien au niveau de la taille de la tumeur, de l'AFP ou de la classe (BCLC, TNM, etc.), et cela dans deux cohortes indépendantes de grande taille (247 CHCs et 210 CHCs). Les courbes de survie et de récidive montraient également que les sous-classes PP et PV étaient de meilleur pronostic par rapport aux deux autres sous-classes. Dans les deux cohortes, les courbes semblaient même être meilleures pour PP que pour PV malgré des tests non significatifs. Ainsi, l'association de la mutation CTNNB1 avec la survie du CHC a probablement été masquée dans les études précédentes par une sous-classe de CHCs à la CTNNB1 sauvage, dont l'agressivité est au moins similaire à celle des tumeurs portant une CTNNB1 mutées. Enfin, nous avons développé et validé une signature de 8-gènes prédictive de la sous-classe PP. Cette signature était fortement associée à la survie et à la récidive dans les deux cohortes (247 CHCs et 210 CHCs). La signature PP pourrait être utilisée dans des études prospectives pour cibler les patients les moins à risque de récidive et ainsi mieux orienter, par exemple, l'allocation des greffons en vue de transplantation hépatique Ce travail a fait l'objet d'une publication en cours de soumission dans la revue Hepatology. Un dépôt de brevet en cours auprès d'Inserm Transfert.

Enfin, j'ai cherché les mécanismes impliqués dans le lien entre mutation β-caténine et bon pronostic des CHCs. Des analyses sur les données publiques de transcriptomique disponibles ont rapidement mis en évidence une association négative très forte entre la mutation et des marqueurs d'inflammation et de remodelage de la matrice extracellulaire. En effet, la majorité des marqueurs d'inflammation (interleukines, chimiokines, protéine C réactive, TIMPs, etc) et des marqueurs de fibrose (collagènes, MMPs, ADAMs, protéoglycanes matricelles, etc.) étaient très fortement diminués dans les tumeurs mutées CTNNB1. Nous avons donc cherché à mesurer l'association entre la mutation CTNNB1 et notre score de fibrose tumorale dans notre cohorte de 82 CHC. Cette analyse a confirmé l'association négative très forte entre mutation β-caténine et fibrose tumorale dans le CHC. Nous avons construit un tissue micro-array contenant 20 CHCs mutées CTNNB1 et 20 CHCs dont la CTNNB1 était sauvage. Avec cet outil, la fibrose a également été détectée à l'Institut de Physique de Rennes (UMR UR1-CNRS 6251 et Inserm UMR 1085; F. Ezan, G. Baffet, F. Tihao) par microscopie biphotonique combinée à la génération de seconde harmonique (GSH) et par coloration histochimique au Rouge Sirius mesurant le dépôt de collagène. D'autre part, l'expression d'alpha actine de muscle lisse (ACTA2), reflétant l'activation myofibroblastique dans ces tumeurs, a été révélée par marquage immunohitochimique. L'étude quantitative par analyse d'images est en cours.

La force de l'association négative entre la mutation  $\beta$ -caténine et certains marqueurs d'inflammation laissait suggérer un lien direct. De plus, certaines publications ont démontré une action inhibitrice directe de la  $\beta$ -caténine sur NF- $\kappa$ B dans certaines conditions (250–252). Nous avons donc fait l'hypothèse qu'en cas de mutation CTNNB1 dans le CHC, les signaux proinflammatoires provenant du milieu extérieur étaient inhibés par la  $\beta$ -caténine, bloquant NF- $\kappa$ B. Ce blocage induirait une diminution du phénotype inflammatoire et in fine de la fibrose tumorale.

Pour étudier cette hypothèse, nous avons cultivé des cellules HepaRG transduites de façon stable avec un vecteur retroviral portant une  $\beta$ -caténine mutée au niveau de la threonine 41 de l'exon 3 (mutation T41), ou portant une  $\beta$ -caténine sauvage (WT pour Wild type). Ces deux lignées ont été obtenues grâce à une collaboration avec Damien Grégoire à Montpelier. Les lignées ont ensuite été amenées à différenciation en cultivant les cellules un mois dans du milieu adapté. Le but de cette étape était d'obtenir le phénotype hépatocytaire de tumeurs différenciées, exprimant le récepteur du LPS TLR4. Puis à J28, les cellules ont été incubées avec du LPS pendant 3h, 6h ou 24h. Les premiers résultats montrent une diminution de certaines interleukines, chimiokines et de la protéine C réactive (CRP) dans les lignées T41 par rapport aux lignées WT. Cet effet n'est en revanche pas observé lorsque l'activation de la  $\beta$ -caténine passe par une activation de la voie Wnt par Wnt3a. Pour terminer cette étude, nous devons mesurer l'activité NF- $\kappa$ B dans toutes ces conditions et confirmer nos premiers résultats par des expériences répétées et au niveau protéique dans le milieu conditionné. Nous souhaiterions également mesurer l'effet de la mutation de la CTNNB1 dans les cellules HepaRG traitées par LPS envers les macrophages (THP1).

# **MATERIELS et METHODES**

Dans le cadre de ce travail de thèse, j'ai principalement recouru à l'informatique pour l'analyse et la manipulation de bases de données, et en premier lieu le logiciel R. Ce logiciel m'a permis de réaliser de nombreux types d'analyses : corrélations, réseau, survie, clustering, etc. Le détail des analyses est présenté dans les publications en rubrique matériel et méthode ou en données supplémentaires.

Les données ont été extraites de bases de données publiques disponibles sur les sites Gene Expression Omnibus, ArrayExpress ou The Cancer Genome Atlas. Des données de PCR quantitative (qPCR) ou *Tissue microarray* (TMA) ont également été collectées à partir d'échantillons disponibles au laboratoire, provenant d'une cohorte de patients opérés au CHU de Rennes (Hôpital Ponchaillou) entre janvier 1992 et décembre 2007. Ces échantillons comprenant 82 CHCs, provenant de 70 patients, 11 hyperplasies nodulaires focales et 5 foies contrôle (histologiquement proches du foie sain) ont été obtenus dans le cadre du Centre de Ressources Biologiques (CRB) de Rennes. Le détail des patients inclus et des procédures mis en place sont exposés dans les publications. Les analyses qPCR sur ces échantillons ont été réalisées par Sihem Mebarki, Marie Sicard et Stéphanie Renaud. Les analyses TMA ont été réalisées par Pascale Bellaud à la plateforme d'histopathologie de l'Université Rennes 1 (H2P2), sous la direction d'Alain Fautrel et Orlando Musso. Le scoring des images TMA a été réalisé par Orlando Musso et moi-même. Des lames de tissu en paraffine ont également été analysées par GSH à l'institut de Physique de Rennes par Fredéric Ezan, Orlando Musso et moi-même.

# PUBLICATIONS

**<u>Résumé de la publication 1 :</u>** "Fibrous nests" in human hepatocellular carcinoma express aWnt-induced gene signature associated with poor clinical outcome

**Introduction :** Le carcinome hépatocellulaire (CHC) est la 3ème cause de mortalité par cancer dans le monde. In survient en général sur un fond d'inflammation chronique et de fibrose progressive. Le but de ce travail était d'étudier le rôle fonctionnel des foyers de fibrose dans le CHC. Plus particulièrement, nous avons exploré le lien entre les remaniements matriciels, l'expression de composants extracellulaires clés de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine et l'amplification de la population de cellules progénitrices dans le CHC.

**Patients et Méthodes :** Nous avons analysé 82 CHCs, 66 foies non-tumoraux (NT) correspondants (>90% avec fibrose sévère), 11 hyperplasies nodulaires focales (HNF) et 23 foies contrôles (prélevés à distance de métastases hépatiques). Les molécules cibles ont été analysées par PCR en temps réel et par immunohistochimie sur des tissue microarrays. Des cellules hépatiques progénitrices bipotentes HepaRG ont été incubées avec du WNT3A, suivi d'analyses d'invasion sur Matrigel, d'expression d'ARNm et d'immunocytochimie. Les résultats ont été confirmés sur des données transcriptomiques publiques provenant de 247 CHCs humains.

Résultats : Les CHCs contenant des foyers fibreux intratumoraux exprimaient des taux élevés de marqueurs de cellules tumorales progénitrices (CD44, LGR5, SOX9, LEF1) ou le marqueur d'engagement mésenchymateux SFRP2. Une analyse de réseau par WGCNA (Weigthed Correlation Network Analysis), intégrant les taux d'expression de 15 gènes, a suggéré une coordination entre les remaniements de la matrice extracellulaire et l'activation de la voie Wnt, avec des corrélations entre les SFRPs 1 ; 2 et 5 (Protéines Sécrétés Associées à Frizzled), les récepteurs Frizzled 1 et 7, le ligand WNT2 (mais pas WNT3), l'inhibiteur soluble DKK1 et les marqueurs de remaniement matriciel COL4A1, LAMC1 et ACTA2. Ces corrélations étaient retrouvées dans les foies NT, les HNF et les CHCs, et plus faiblement dans les foies contrôles. Parmi les 15 gènes étudiés, une analyse par regroupement hiérarchique de données transcriptomiques publiques de 247 CHCs, couplée à des courbes de Kaplan-Meier, a révélé que les patients dont les tumeurs exprimaient de hauts niveaux de SOX9, DKK1, LAMC1, EPCAM, KRT19 et GPC3 avaient une survie globale réduite. En effet, ces tumeurs réunissaient des moteurs majeurs de la progression tumorale : signal Wnt, marqueurs de progéniteurs tumoraux et remodelage matriciel. Ces données ont été confirmées in vitro, avec des cellules HepaRG progénitrices, sur lesquelles WNT3A induisait : (i) un phénotype myofibroblastique associé à l'expression de gènes fibrogéniques (TGFB1, COL4A1, ACTA2, SFRP1, etc.); (ii) des marqueurs de progéniteurs tumoraux (CD44, LGR5) et de résistance à la mort cellulaire (BIRC5, c-myc) ; (iii) une capacité d'invasion accrue sur Matrigel qui était inhibée par l'inhibiteur de Wnt FZD8 CRD.

**Conclusion :** Les carcinomes hépatocellulaires contenant des foyers de fibrose associent remaniements matriciels, signaux Wnt et marqueurs de cellules tumorales progénitrices, ce qui suggère que les foyers de fibrose pourraient jouer le rôle de niche d'amplification des cellules tumorales progénitrices dans ces tumeurs.

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# *"Fibrous nests"* in human hepatocellular carcinoma express a Wnt-induced gene signature associated with poor clinical outcome

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#### ABSTRACT

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the 3rd cause of cancer-related death worldwide. Most cases arise in a background of chronic inflammation, extracellular matrix (ECM) remodeling, severe fibrosis and stem/progenitor cell amplification. Although HCCs are soft cellular tumors, they may contain fibrous nests within the tumor mass. Thus, the aim of this study was to explore cancer cell phenotypes in fibrous nests. Combined anatomic pathology, tissue microarray and real-time PCR analyses revealed that HCCs (n = 82) containing fibrous nests were poorly differentiated, expressed Wnt pathway components and target genes, as well as markers of stem/progenitor cells, such as CD44, LGR5 and SOX9. Consistently, in severe liver fibroses (n = 66) and in HCCs containing fibrous nests, weighted correlation analysis revealed a gene network including the myofibroblast marker ACTA2, the basement membrane components COL4A1 and LAMC1, the Wnt pathway members FZD1; FZD7; WNT2; LEF1; DKK1 and the Secreted Frizzled Related Proteins (SFRPs) 1; 2 and 5. Moreover, unbiased random survival forest analysis of a transcriptomic dataset of 247 HCC patients revealed high DKK1, COL4A1, SFRP1 and LAMC1 to be associated with advanced tumor staging as well as with bad overall and disease-free survival. In vitro, these genes were upregulated in liver cancer stem/progenitor cells upon Wnt-induced mesenchymal commitment and myofibroblast differentiation. In conclusion, fibrous nests express Wnt target genes, as well as markers of cancer stem cells and mesenchymal commitment. Fibrous nests embody the specific microenvironment of the cancer stem cell niche and can be detected by routine anatomic pathology analyses.

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### 1. Introduction

Abbreviations:  $\alpha$ -SMA, alpha smooth muscle actin; DKK, Dickkopf; ECM, extracellular matrix; FNH, focal nodular hyperplasia; FZD, frizzled; GSE, gene expression series; GSK3B, glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; iPS cells, induced pluripotent stem cells LEF1 lymphoid enhancer-binding factor 1; NT, non-tumor; SFRPs, secreted frizzled-related proteins; TGFB, transforming growth factor beta; TNC, tenascin C.

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http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biocel.2016.08.017 1357-2725/© 2016 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. The incidence of human hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) has doubled over the past 20 years and projections anticipate a further increase despite recent breakthroughs leading to virological cure of chronic hepatitis (Singal and El-Serag, 2015). More than 80% of HCCs arise in fibrotic livers as a result of HCV or HBV infections, alcohol, hemochromatosis, metabolic syndrome or genotoxins (Bruix et al., 2014). Recurrent bouts of liver cell damage and chronic inflammation result in progressive fibrosis and amplification of the stem cell niche (Gouw et al., 2011). Severe liver fibrosis is thus a pre-neoplastic condition at high risk of developing HCC (Hoshida et al., 2013).

Molecular analysis of liver tissues in search for stem cells reveals a diversity of phenotypes (Gouw et al., 2011) because the cells com-

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monly observed under the microscope are "transit-amplifying stem cells" (Gouw et al., 2011). They are the progeny of stem cells that combine stem, hepatocyte and biliary cell markers. Some of the current molecular markers that help their identification are CD44, which is a hyaluronic acid receptor (Orian-Rousseau, 2010); LGR5, which is an R-spondin receptor that amplifies Wnt signaling (Huch et al., 2015); SOX9, which contributes to the Wnt-dependent maintenance of progenitor cells (Carpentier et al., 2011; Blache et al., 2004) and, like EPCAM and KRT19, is expressed by multipotent ductal stem cells in normal liver (Gouw et al., 2011). Except for KRT19, all of them are Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin target genes. This further highlights the importance of Wnt signaling in stem cell control (Clevers et al., 2014). EPCAM and KRT19 label bipotent progenitor cells with an intermediate phenotype between hepatocytes and bile duct cells and identify malignant bile duct cell components in combined hepatocellular-cholangiocarcinoma, which is a particularly aggressive form of liver cancer (Yamashita et al., 2009; Govaere et al., 2014). Other molecules highlight mesenchyme-committed progenitor cells, such as IGFBP5, which is a Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway target gene involved in mesenchymal commitment of stem cells (Renger et al., 2013). Along these lines, we recently showed that Wnt signals reprogram tumorigenic liver progenitor cells to replicating fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells displaying stem and invasive features and expressing the stem cell markers IGFBP5, LEF1, CD44 and LGR5 (Mebarki et al., 2016).

The activation of the Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway involves interaction of Wnt ligands with cell surface Frizzled (FZD) receptors and LRP5/6 co-receptors, followed by disruption of the Adenomatous polyposis coli (APC)-axin platform, which blocks GSK3B-dependent phosphorylation of  $\beta$ -catenin. Non-phosphorylated  $\beta$ -catenin is thus stabilized, accumulates in the cytoplasm and nucleus and interacts with the family of T-cell factor (TCF)/lymphoid enhancer factor (LEF) transcription factors of target gene expression. As LEF1 is a  $\beta$ -catenin target gene, it leads to cell autonomous pathway activation (Filali et al., 2002). At the opposite, in the absence of interaction of Wnt ligands with their cell surface receptors, phosphorylated  $\beta$ -catenin undergoes proteasomal degradation (Clevers and Nusse, 2012).

Wnt signaling is regulated at the cell surface by extracellular modulators, including the Secreted Frizzled Related Protein (SFRPs) and Dickkopf (DKK) families, Wnt Inhibitory Factor-1 (WIF-1) and the ZNRF3 and RNF43 transmembrane E3 ubiquitin ligases (Malinauskas and Jones, 2014). SFRPs are soluble molecules that possess a Frizzled Cysteine-Rich Domain (FZD\_CRD), structurally homologous to the Wnt-binding domain of the FZD receptors (Bovolenta et al., 2008). They also possess a netrin domain (Bovolenta et al., 2008). Through their FZD\_CRD, not only can SFRPs bind Wnts, but also they may directly signal by forming heterodimers with the CRD of the FZD receptors (Bovolenta et al., 2008). Through their netrin domain, they bind heparan sulfates (Bovolenta et al., 2008; Xavier et al., 2014). SFRPs and SFRP-like proteins are short-range modulators of Wnt signals, i.e., secreted at low levels at the cell surface, they exert their effects upon nearest-neighbor cells, as we previously showed by co-culture experiments (Hendaoui et al., 2012; Lavergne et al., 2011). At low concentrations, SFRPs mask the hydrophobic domains of Wnts, increasing their diffusion at the cell surface, thereby promoting Wnt signaling. At high concentration, they block Wnt-FZD receptor interactions (Xavier et al., 2014). Thus, SFRPs may either promote or inhibit Wnt signaling depending on concentration, FZD receptor context and the composition of the cell surface microenvironment (Xavier et al., 2014). DKKs bind the Wnt co-receptors LRP5/6, blocking the formation of ternary LRP-FZD-Wnt complexes to inhibit Wnt signaling (Malinauskas and Jones, 2014). Last, the transmembrane ubiquitin ligases ZNRF3 and RNF43 promote endocytosis and degradation of FZD receptors from the cell surface. In turn, these ubiquitin ligases are inhibited by R-spondin binding to LGR5 receptors (Malinauskas and Jones, 2014).

Among the ECM of components of HCCs, COL4A1 and LAMC1 are major basement membrane proteins upregulated in angiogenesis and cancer extracellular matrix remodeling (Mouw et al., 2014: Liétard et al., 1997; Musso et al., 2001). Of note, LAMC1 expression is modulated by Wnt signaling (Nagendran et al., 2015). Although HCCs are soft cellular tumors with scant intratumor fibrosis (Goodman, 2007), they may contain fibrous hotspots within the tumor mass, which we called *fibrous nests*. The aim of this work was to study the cancer cell phenotypes in fibrous nests in HCC. Tumors containing fibrous nests revealed a gene expression network composed of cancer stem cell markers, cell surface Wnt components and Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin target genes that correlated with myofibroblast and basement membrane markers. Unbiased validation of our data in an external 247 HCC patient cohort revealed a minimal bad outcome signature in HCCs. This minimal signature was in turn upregulated upon reprogramming of liver cancer stem/progenitor cells into fibrogenic, myofibroblast-like cells by soluble Wnt ligands in vitro. The findings suggest that a Wnt-enriched cancer cell microenvironment contributes to tumor dedifferentiation and aggressiveness.

#### 2. Materials and methods

#### 2.1. Real-time PCR primers and antibodies

See Supplementary Table 1 for real-time PCR primers and Taq-Man probes and Supplementary Table 2 for antibodies.

#### 2.2. Patients and tissue samples

Seventy HCC patients undergoing curative liver surgery at Rennes University Hospital between January 1992 and December 2007 were included. The microscopic features of tumors diagnosed as HCC by staff pathologists were reviewed by a senior pathologist (BT). Mixed hepatocellular-cholangiocarcinoma or fibrolamellar HCC were excluded. Demographic, clinical and biological data were retrieved from hospital charts by two experienced liver surgeons (LS & DB). Eighty-two frozen tumors from 70 patients were analyzed. Demographical and clinical data are described in Supplementary Table 3. We also included 66 matching non-tumor livers, 23 histologically normal livers and 11 focal nodular hyperplasias. Non-tumor and normal liver samples were obtained at >2 cm from the tumors to minimize non-specific events, as described (Musso et al., 1997). Frozen samples were from the Biological Resources Center (BRC) at Rennes University Hospital (BB-0033-00056). Fresh tissues were frozen at -80 °C in N<sub>2</sub>-cooled isopentane and stored at -80 °C under quality-controlled conditions. Formalinfixed, paraffin-embedded tissue blocks were obtained from the Anatomic Pathology laboratory. The study protocol complied with French laws and regulations and fulfilled the requirements of the local institutional ethics committee. Sample collection was reported to the Ministry of Education and Research (No. DC-2008-338).

#### 2.3. Functional genomics analyses

Gene networks were generated by Weighted Correlation Network Analysis (WGCNA, WGCNA package) (Langfelder and Horvath, 2008) using real-time PCR mRNA expression data from the indicated patient groups, after removing the experimental batch effect with the SVA package (Leek et al., 2012). Gene networks were visually integrated with Cytoscape, with a correlation coefficient threshold >0.30 (Shannon et al., 2003).

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Genomics analysis using microarray-based raw gene expression data downloaded from Gene Expression Omnibus were background corrected and  $\log_2$  intensity summary values for each probe set were calculated using Robust Multi Array Average (*Affy* package). Probes were further pre-filtered using a *p*-value detection threshold (p<0.05) in all samples. When multiple probe sets mapped a unique gene, we used the probe with a *p*-value detection <0.05 in most samples. Finally, data were quantile normalized (*preprocessCore* package) and hierarchical clustering was performed with the *hclust* function in R software, applying the Ward method to correlation-based distances. Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was performed with the web-based tool developed at the Broad Institute (Subramanian et al., 2005).

#### 2.4. Statistical analyses

Raw feature data from Gene Expression Omnibus were background corrected and log2 intensity expression summary values for each probe set were calculated using the Robust Multiarray Average package (RMA, Affymetrix). Probes were further prefiltered using P-value (<5% in all samples). When multiple probe sets mapped a unique gene, we used the probe with a *p*-value detection <0.05 in most samples. For survival analyses, non-tumor and normal tissue samples were excluded from the analysis. We then generated a transcriptomic signature associated with diseasefree survival measured by a Recurrence Index (RI). To this end, we applied the Random Survival Forest (RSF) method (Random-ForestSRC package). RSF is a method for prediction and variable selection for right-censored survival by growing a high number of decision trees after bootstrap subsampling (Ishwaran and Kogalur, 2010). A Cumulative hazard function (CHF) was calculated for each individual and used to estimate the RI. Input variables were the 17 genes analyzed throughout this study. Serum alpha-fetoprotein (with a cutoff over 300 ng/ml) was also integrated for variable selection. The events to predict by RSF were the disease-free survival status at each time. Variable importance (VIMP) scores were computed for all the variables used to grow the trees, and the most informative from this model were selected to fit a new RSF model. Once the model was built, we tested whether selected variables were redundant or "noisy" by generating incremental RSF models adding one more variable, ranked by the VIMP calculated in the previous model. The final model was used to generate a RI score for each individual. RI scores were computed as the sum of the CHF for each patient weighted by the number of individuals at risk at distinct time points. Survival analyses were performed using the Log Rank test and Kaplan-Meier curves. Correlation analyses between gene expression levels were performed with the Spearman rank order correlation test (continuous variables, non-parametric distribution). Association analyses between binary or ordinal variables (expression scores, clinical, biological or anatomic pathology data) were performed with Pearson's Chi2 or Fisher exact test. Group comparisons were done with non-parametric ANOVA and the Kruskal Wallis post hoc tests, unless otherwise indicated. Heatmaps showing associations between binary patient data were constructed with Excel (Microsoft Office 2010). Statistical calculations were performed with the R software (version 3.1.1) and the packages survival, colorspace, made4 and marray or with Statistica 10 (Statsoft, Maisons-Alfort, France).

For cell culture and clonogenesis assay, nucleic acid extraction, real-time PCR, tissue microarray (TMA) and immunohistochemistry scoring of human tissues, see Supplementary materials and methods.

#### 3. Results

# 3.1. Tumors containing fibrous nests are less differentiated, enriched in Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway components and stem/progenitor cell markers

To study the molecular features of HCCs containing fibrous nests, we reviewed archival hematoxylin-eosin-safran-stained tissue sections of 82 HCCs from 70 patients. We carried out systematic microscopic examination in search for fibrous hotspots and we drew a  $\sim$ 1 cm diameter circle around the most fibrotic area on each slide. Circled areas were blindly scored for intensity of fibrosis by two observers (BT, OM) on a four-point scale (Fig. 1 A). Tumor differentiation was assessed by the Edmondson's score on a four-point scale, where score 1 indicates well-differentiated tumors and score 4 corresponds to poorly differentiated ones (Edmondson and Steiner, 1954). High-grade intratumor fibrous hotspots (Fig. 1B) were associated with poor tumor differentiation and high expression of the tumor progenitor cell marker mRNAs CD44, IGFBP5, SOX9 and LEF1, the soluble modulators of Wnt signals SFRP2 and SFRP5, as well as the cell surface anchored heparan sulfate proteoglycan GPC3 (Fig. 1B). Tissue microarray-based immunohistochemistry in mirror-image formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded sections from the same tumors showed that high-grade intraturmor fibrous hotspots contained cancer cell clusters expressing GPC3, CD44, LGR5 and SOX9 (Figs. 1C and D). By contrast, KRT19 and EPCAM, which label liver progenitor cells having an intermediate phenotype between hepatocytes and biliary cells (Yamashita et al., 2009; Govaere et al., 2014), were not associated with intratumor fibrosis (Fig. 1B). Fibrous hotspots expressed alpha smooth muscle actin (ACTA2), indicating that fibrous nests were enriched in myofibroblasts (Fig. 1D).

We then studied the relationships between the liver progenitor cell markers KRT19, EPCAM, LGR5, SOX9 and GPC3. We chose GPC3 because it is a well-characterized tumor hepatocyte marker and a cell surface heparan sulfate proteoglycan (International Consensus Group for Hepatocellular Neoplasia The International Consensus Group for Hepatocellular Neoplasia, 2009; Capurro et al., 2014) that binds Wnts and FZD receptors, amplifying Wnt signals (Capurro et al., 2014). As expected (Carpentier et al., 2011; Yamashita et al., 2009), KRT19 was highly correlated with EPCAM (Fig. 2A), and both were weakly correlated with SOX9. CD44 was correlated with LGR5, as well as with SOX9 and GPC3. Associations between these markers were more easily pinpointed by in situ protein analysis of fibrous hotspots, rather than by solution-based mRNA analysis of whole frozen tissue blocks. These data are consistent with the notion that "fibrous nests" are localized entities, where tumor cells expressing stem/progenitor markers may be found at higher densities.

Then, we split the HCC population in two subsets: low and high tumor fibrosis, using a cutoff score  $\geq$ 2. HCCs with high tumor fibrosis showed higher mRNA and protein levels of CD44; GPC3 and SOX9 (Fig. 2B–D). LEF1 (analyzed at the mRNA level only) was also higher in HCCs with high fibrosis scores (Fig. 2E). By contrast, LGR5 was only associated with high fibrosis scores by immunohistochemistry (Fig. 2F). Taken together, these findings suggested that HCCs containing fibrous nests were enriched in Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway target genes and such as CD44, SOX9, LEF1, SFRP2 and LGR5 (Figs. 1 B,C and 2 B,D–F). Some of them are also stem/progenitor cell markers, such as CD44, IGFBP5, SOX9 and LGR5 (Figs. 1 B,C and 2 B,D–F).



**Fig. 1.** Tumors containing *fibrous nests* are less differentiated, enriched in Wnt/β-catenin pathway components and stem/progenitor cell markers: (A) Hematoxylineosin-safran staining of formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded HCCs showing different grades of tumor fibrosis (TFi). Grade 0, no fibrosis; 1, mild fibrosis (i.e., slender fibrous strands in an otherwise sinusoidal stroma, *arrows*); 2, moderate fibrosis (i.e., compact fibrous tissue forming incomplete septa, *arrows*); 3, severe fibrosis (tumor cell clusters completely trapped within dense bridging fibrous tissue). (B and C) Data from 82 human HCCs. Tissues were collected and processed to create mirror image frozen (*B, FROZEN*) and formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (*C, PARAFFIN*) blocks. Each column corresponds to a tumor. Rows: TFi in 82 human HCCs (Low, 0–1; n = 43; High, 2–3; n = 34), Edmondson-Steiner's score (Low, 1–2; High, 3–4), real-time PCR mRNA expression analysis (*qPCR*), immunochemistry scoring (*IHC*) on contiguous *FROZEN* 

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#### 3.2. Myofibroblast activation is associated with tumor fibrosis and with the expression of cell surface Wnt pathway and basement membrane components

We were surprised to find an association of SFRP2 and 5 with tumor fibrosis (Fig. 1B), because SFRPs are frequently downregulated in cancers (Surana et al., 2014). To confirm this finding, we searched for correlations between SFRPs and smooth muscle actin (ACTA2), which is a myofibroblast activation marker. High mRNA levels of ACTA2 were associated with high scores of fibrosis in 78 HCCs (Fig. 3A). In non-tumor livers, fibrosis was graded by the METAVIR score (TFMCS Group, 1994). Out of 66 available non-tumor samples, 62 (92%) showed severe fibrosis, i.e., scores  $\geq$  3 (Supplementary Table 3). In these samples, SFRP1; 2 and 5 and, in HCCs with high tumor fibrosis, SFRP1 and 2 correlated with ACTA2 (Fig. 3B). Consistently, Fig. 3C shows that SFRP1; 2 and 5 were higher in HCCs expressing high ACTA2 levels. We thus asked whether other Wnt pathway components were associated with myofibroblast activation in HCCs. High levels of the basement membrane components COL4A1 and LAMC1 were associated with ACTA2. In addition, DKK1; FZD1; FZD7; WNT2 and LEF1 were increased in HCCs expressing high ACTA2 levels. By contrast, WNT3; KRT19 and EPCAM were not associated with ACTA2. Taken together, these data suggest that myofibroblast activation is associated with the expression of cell surface Wnt pathway components.

### 3.3. SFRP1; 2 and 5 are expressed by mesenchyme-committed cancer stem/progenitor cells

Cancer-associated myofibroblast-like cells may either originate from stromal cell recruitment or from cancer cell dedifferentiation and epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) (Nieto, 2013; Dubois-Pot-Schneider et al., 2014). We thus asked whether SFRP expression was a general theme in mesenchymal lineage commitment. To achieve a general overview, we studied five cellular models involving mesenchymal commitment and/or myofibroblast differentiation. First, we analyzed the GSE49910 microarray dataset gathering 745 primary cell samples (Mabbott et al., 2013). To identify the cell lineages expressing the highest levels of SFRPs, we set the cutoff at >0.91 centile for SFRPs 1 and 2 and >0.5 centile for SFRP5 (Fig. 4A and Supplementary Fig. 1A). Consistently with our in vivo findings, SFRP1 was mainly expressed by smooth muscle cells, stem cell-derived neural precursors, stem cells, Schwann cells and fibroblasts (Fig. 4A). SFRP2 was mainly expressed by stem cells and NCAM(+)/EPCAM(+) mesodermal progenitors (Fig. 4A), which represent the first stages of mesoderm commitment of undifferentiated human embryonic stem cells (Evseenko et al., 2010). In turn, SFRP5 (Supplementary Fig. 1A) was predominantly expressed by cells of mesodermal origin, except for Schwann cells and keratinocytes (ectodermal origin). Particularly, the highest levels of SFRP5 were detected in mesenchymal stromal cells undergoing osteoblast differentiation.

Second, a convenient model to study cell plasticity is the generation of hepatocyte-like cells from fibroblast-derived undifferentiated iPS cells (Si-Tayeb et al., 2010) (Fig. 4B). In this model, SFRP1 and 2 were preferentially expressed by undifferentiated iPS cells, their expression dramatically decreasing upon hepatocyte differentiation (Fig. 4B). By contrast, SFRP5 was detected at low levels

in fibroblast-derived undifferentiated iPS cells (Supplementary Fig. 1B).

Third, we recently showed that soluble Wnt signals reprogram liver progenitor cells to replicating fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells with stem and invasive features (Mebarki et al., 2016). Consistently, we confirm here that reprogramming liver progenitors with 200 ng/ml Wnt3a induces a dramatic fall in albumin expression by hepatocyte-like cells, shifting the cell phenotype toward myofibroblast-like cells expressing ACTA2, COL4A1, LAMC1 (Fig. 4C), as well as SFRP1 and DKK1, with a considerable decrease in the epithelial cell marker E-cadherin (Fig. 4D).

Fourth, cancer cells can dedifferentiate to stem/progenitor cells through transient EMT, which fosters tissue invasion, cell proliferation and tumor aggressiveness (Dubois-Pot-Schneider et al., 2014). To study the involvement of SFRPs in this process, we used HepaRG progenitor cells (Dubois-Pot-Schneider et al., 2014; Cerec et al., 2007), which are derived from a human HCC (Gripon et al., 2002). Like 60% HCCs, they contain a TERT mutation (Nault et al., 2013a), can be tumorigenic in mice (Guichard et al., 2012), but have wildtype  $\beta$ -catenin pathway components (Cerec et al., 2007). HepaRG progenitor cells differentiate into hepatocyte-like and biliary-like cells when grown at confluency for 30 days (Cerec et al., 2007). When these differentiated HepaRG cells are split and seeded at low density, they express TWIST1 and SNAI1 transcription factors, undergo EMT, dedifferentiate to liver progenitors displaying mesenchymal features (fusiform morphology, expression of mesenchymal markers such as vimentin and ECM proteins) and express an mRNA signature of high tumor aggressiveness four days after seeding (Dubois-Pot-Schneider et al., 2014). Thus, four days after seeding differentiated HepaGR cells at low density, we observed high expression of SFRP1 and 2, which gradually decreased over 30 days, along mesenchymal to epithelial transition (MET) and hepatocyte differentiation (Fig. 5A). Of note, SFRP5 was expressed at very low levels in HepaRG cells (Supplementary Fig. 3B) and not modulated along hepatocyte differentiation (not shown). SFRP1 and 2 expression kinetics matched those of LGR5 (Huch et al., 2015) and the fibroblast marker COL1A1 (Fig. 5A). It was opposite to the kinetics of the hepatocyte differentiation marker ALDOB (Fig. 5A). These data indicate that SFRP1 and 2 are upregulated during EMT. Conversely, their expression falls during MET in liver cancer cells.

Fifth, to further explore cell plasticity, we used the 3P/3SP model of spontaneous EMT in human HCC (van Zijl et al., 2011). Both cell lines derive from the same HCC, 3SP resulting from 3P cells that underwent spontaneous EMT (van Zijl et al., 2011). Thus, using publically available transcriptomic data from 3P and 3SP cell lines, we found that the genes associated with fibrous nests and/or myofibroblast activation were expressed at higher levels in mesenchymal 3SP than in epithelial 3P cells (Fig. 5B). Of note, epithelial 3P cells expressed higher levels of the tumor hepatocyte marker GPC3 (International Consensus Group for Hepatocellular Neoplasia The International Consensus Group for Hepatocellular Neoplasia, 2009) and the epithelial stem cell marker LGR5 (Huch et al., 2015) than 3SP cells. In addition, although GPC3 and LGR5 were associated with fibrous nests in HCCs, they were not associated with high ACTA2 expression. This is explained by the topography of LGR5 and GPC3 expressing cells. As shown in Fig. 1D, LGR5 and GPC3 were expressed by nodules of epithelial tumor cells. Moreover, we have previously shown that LGR5-expressing cells are seen both in epithelial tumor nodules and as single rows of can-

sections and tissue microarray-based *IHC* on *PARAFFIN* sections. White cells, missing data. *P*, Fisher's exact test and Gamma correlation coefficient (R =) are shown on the right. (D) TMA-based immunohistochemistry in HCC tissues punched from fibrous hotspots. Peroxidase-labelled antibodies (*brown*); hematoxylin counter-staining (*blue*). Upper left corners, gene symbols. Lower left corners, TFi scores. Lower right corners, magnification. Tissue slides were scanned at  $20 \times . T$ , tumor; *TFi*, tumor fibrous, Red arrowheads indicate isolated CD44, GPC3 or SOX9-staining cells within the tumor stroma. SOX9 (+) tumor cords are interspersed within a loose fibrovascular stroma. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

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FIGURE 2, Désert et al.,

**Fig. 2.** High expression of cancer stem/progenitor markers in HCCs with tumor fibrosis: (A) Spearman's correlation coefficients between the indicated proteins (TMA, Tissue MicroArray-based immunohistochemistry detection) and mRNAs (QPCR). Asterisks denote statistical significance \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01; \*\*\*p < 0.001. The number of analyzed samples is indicated between parentheses. (B-E) Tumor fibrosis is associated with high CD44, GPC3, SOX9 (mRNA and protein), LGR5 (protein) and LEF1 (mRNA) levels. Mean ± confidence intervals. *P*, Mann-Whitney *U* test.

cer cells invading the tumor stroma, in an "Indian file" pattern, interspersed along the axis of ECM fibers (Mebarki et al., 2016). Further confirming our findings in HCCs, unbiased Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) revealed that the top 20% of mRNA signatures matching the transcriptome of mesenchymal 3SP cells included Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling, stem cells, extracellular matrix remodeling, TGFB signaling, bad outcome in cancer and resistance to anti-cancer treatments. Importantly, these stem cell signatures matched those of aggressive non-hepatic cancers, indicating that mesenchyme-committed liver cancer cells are highly undifferentiated (Fig. 5C and Supplementary Table 4).

# 3.4. Cell surface Wnt pathway components network with the myofibroblast activation marker alpha smooth muscle actin (ACTA2) and with the basement membrane components collagen type IV (COL4A1) and laminin $_{X1}$ (LAMC1) in severe liver fibrosis and in HCCs with high tumor fibrosis

SFRPs are soluble tissue morphogens that bind the cell surface matrix, thus creating short range concentration gradients spanning only a few cells (Surana et al., 2014). In normal liver, SFRPs 1-5 mRNAs were expressed at low levels (Supplementary Fig. 2). In eight HCC and two colorectal cancer cell lines, SFRP1 and 5 were dramatically lower than in normal liver (Supplementary Fig. 3A and B) and restoring SFRP1 and SFRP5 in the Huh-7 HCC cell line decreased clonogenesis (Supplementary Fig. 3C and D). The Huh-7 cell line carries wild-type Wnt/β-catenin pathway components (de La Coste et al., 1998), but shows active  $\beta$ -catenin as a result of an increase in Wnt ligands and SFRP promoter methylation (Shih et al., 2007; Takagi et al., 2008). Likewise, we (Hendaoui et al., 2012; Lavergne et al., 2011; Quelard et al., 2008) and others (Hu et al., 2009) have shown that SFRP1 blocks Wnt/β-catenin signaling and tumor growth in cells carrying  $\beta$ -catenin exon 3 mutations, including the hepatoblastoma cell line HepG2 (Quelard et al., 2008).

The increase in SFRPs 1; 2 and 5 in HCCs showing myofibroblast activation was difficult to reconcile with the dramatic downregulation of SFRPs in cancers (Surana et al., 2014). To understand this paradox, we analyzed 82 HCCs, 66 matching non-tumor livers, 23 histologically normal liver controls and 11 focal nodular hyperplasias (FNH). FNHs are benign liver tumors that display features of the stem cell niche, particularly rich in transit-amplifying liver cell progenitors and extracellular matrix remodeling, without the potential for tissue destruction of cancer (Gouw et al., 2011; Nault et al., 2013b).

Supplementary Fig. 4 shows mRNA expression analysis confirming downregulation of SFRP1 (Shih et al., 2007) and upregulation of WNT3 (Bengochea et al., 2008) in HCCs. SFRP5 was downregulated as well. As SFRPs 1 and 5 were lower by several folds in HCCs than in normal liver controls, matching non-tumor livers and FNHs, this downregulation appears to be cancer-specific and could help the diagnosis of HCCs. By contrast, WNT3, FZD1 and FZD7 were higher in HCCs, non-tumor livers and FNHs than in controls. COL4A1 was expressed at higher levels in HCCs, non-tumor livers and FNHs than in controls. Supplementary Fig. 5 shows that SFRP2, ACTA2, WNT2 and LAMC1 were not significantly different in HCCs from controls or non-tumor samples, but that DKK1 was expressed at higher levels in HCCs than in controls.

Ninety-two percent of non-tumor livers in this series showed high fibrosis (61 out of 66 with METAVIR score  $\geq$ 3; Supplementary Table 3). In these samples, COL4A1, LAMC1 and ACTA2, were correlated with all the Wnt pathway components tested but Wnt3 (Supplementary Table 5A). In 82 HCCs, COL4A1, LAMC1 and ACTA2 were correlated with SFRPs 1 and 2. The correlation of ACTA2 with SFRPs 1 and 2 and of COL4A1 with SFRP1 was only seen in HCCs with high tumor fibrosis. We then applied Weighted Correlation Network Analysis (Langfelder and Horvath, 2008; Shannon et al.,

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2003) that revealed associations of ECM remodeling and Wnt pathway components, particularly in liver fibrosis and in HCCs with high tumor fibrosis, but not in HCCs with low tumor fibrosis (Fig. 6). These data indicate that despite the dramatic decrease in SFRP1 and SFRP5 expression in HCCs, these SFRPs (within a low-level expression range), as well as other cell surface Wnt pathway components (i.e., WNT2, DKK1, FZD7 or FZD1) were associated with the basement membrane components COL4A1 and LAMC1 and with the myofibroblast activation marker ACTA2. We have previously shown that COL4A1 expression is correlated with the mRNA expression of the ECM remodeling enzymes MMP2 and MMP14 and with MMP2 enzymatic activity (Theret et al., 2001). Reanalysis of the available unpublished data from that report involving 47 human HCCs confirmed that this was also the case for LAMC1 (Supplementary Table 5B). Taken together, these findings suggest that the microenvironment of fibrous nests brings together myofibroblast activation, expression of basement membrane components and cell surface Wnt signals.

3.5. A minimal Wht & extracellular matrix signature is associated with tumor recurrence and ominous clinical features in patients with HCC

Using the 17 genes analyzed in this study, we applied the unbiased random survival forest (RSF) method to generate a minimal signature associated with patient outcome. To this end, we analyzed a public dataset including whole genome tumor tissue mRNA expression data (GSE14520) and clinical annotations (Supplementary Table 6) from 247 patients with HCC treated by surgical resection (Roessler et al., 2010). Serum alpha-fetoprotein >300 ng/ml was also included in variable selection. The events to predict were the disease-free survival status at each time point. The final model yielded four variables: DKK1; COL4A1; SFRP1 and LAMC1 and was used to generate a recurrence risk index (RI; range, 17–132) for each individual. Using the centile 0.75 of this index (RI > 62), we split the 247-patient



**Fig. 3.** Myofibroblast activation is associated with tumor fibrosis and with the expression of cell surface Wnt pathway and basement membrane components. (A) High ACTA2 mRNA levels in tumors with high fibrosis scoring. (B) Spearman's correlation analysis of SFRP1; 2 and 5 with ACTA2 mRNA levels in fibrotic non-tumor livers and in HCCs with *High* and *Low* Tumor Fibrosis (*High TFi; Low TFi*). Statistically significant correlations are highlighted in red. (C) ACTA2 mRNA levels in HCCs were split into *High* (n = 20) and *Low* (n = 58) groups (cutoff = median). SFRP1; 2 and 5; the extracellular matrix components COL4A1 and LAMC1; the Wnt inhibitor DKK1; the Wnt cell surface receptors FZD1 and FZD7; the WNT2 ligand, the mesenchymal cell marker IGFBP5 and the  $\beta$ -catenin pathway transcription factor LEF1 are associated with high levels of ACTA2 expression.

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Wnt medium (200 ng/ml Wnt3a): Myofibroblast-like differentiation of liver progenitor cells



Control medium (BSA): Hepatocyte-like differentiation of liver progenitor cells



**Fig. 4.** SFRP1 is expressed by mesenchyme-committed cancer stem/progenitor cells. (A) SFRP1 and SFRP2 mRNA expression data extracted from the GSE49910 microarray meta-analysis dataset consisting of 745 primary cell samples analyzed with Affymetrix Human Genome U133 Plus 2.0 expression arrays. Normalized background-corrected intensities (Mabbott et al., 2013) of mRNA expression were filtered to reveal the cell lines expressing the highest (>20× median; >centile 0.91) mRNA levels of SFRPs 1 and 2 in at least duplicate samples. Cell lines below the defined threshold but originally used as controls of at least one cell line showing >20× median mRNA levels, were included for comparative purposes. Threshold lines for each gene are indicated (----). (B) Generation of hepatocyte-like cells from fibroblast-derived undifferentiated iPS cells, as described (Si-Tayeb et al., 2010). SFRPs 1 and 2 are shown in human foreskin fibroblast; foreskin fibroblast-derived iPS cells; iPS cells undergoing hepatocyte differentiation; human fetal liver and primary human hepatocytes. (C) Immunodetection of albumin (ALB), alpha smooth muscle actin (ACTA2), collagen type IV (COL4A1) and laminin y1 (LAMC1). Red, FluoProbes 594; green, FITC; orange, TRITC; blue, DAPI (nuclei). Liver progenitors incubated with Wnt3a (200 ng/ml; for 13 days) show few cells containing albumin (*white arrow*). Instead, they differentiate into spindle ACTA2 (+) cells which develop stress fibers typical of myofibroblasts (*white arrows*). The extracellular matrix surrounding these cells contains COL4A1 and LAMC1 (*white arrows*). (D) Relative RNA expression of the indicated genes in HepaRG liver progenitor cells incubated with control medium (BSA) develop a hepatocyte-like, albumin (+) phenotype. Images versus 200 ng/ml Wnt3a. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

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**Fig. 5.** Bidirectional epithelial-mesenchymal cancer cell plasticity modulates the expression of Wnt pathway components, cancer stem cell and myofibroblast marker genes. (A) Kinetics of mRNA expression of the indicated genes along the differentiation of HepaRG progenitors into hepatocyte-like cells. HepaRG liver progenitors were plated at  $1 \times 10^4$  cells/cm<sup>2</sup> and incubated during 30 days, as described (Dubois-Pot-Schneider et al., 2014). Samples harvested at day 4 were used as calibrators. Histograms show mean  $\pm$  SD from triplicates. SFRP5 is not shown here because it is hardly detected in HepaRG cells (Ct > 33, Supplementary Fig. 3B). (B and C) 3P/3SP model of spontaneous epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT) in human HCC (van Zijl et al., 2011). Both cell lines are derived from the same HCC, mesenchymal 3SP arose from 3P cells through EMT. (B) Hierarchical clustering of publically available (GSE26391) whole genome mRNA data from 3P and 3SP cell lines (at early and late passages). Genes of interest are indicated. (C) Unsupervised Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) of the GSE26391 mRNA set shows that 3SP cells are enriched in Wnt pathway, stem cell and extracellular matrix remodeling signatures. The top 20% signatures matching the 3SP transcriptome are shown in Supplementary Table 4.

dataset in high and low risk groups. Fig. 7 shows that the high risk group had lower disease-free and overall survival rates over a 5-year follow-up. Clinical features of patients with high RI were: advanced tumor staging, HCCs arising at a younger age, high serum alpha fetoprotein levels and high incidence of the *Metastasis Signature* (Fig. 7C,D and Supplementary Table 7). The *Metastasis Signature* (Roessler et al., 2010) is a 161-gene risk classifier enabling prediction of tumor relapse in early-stage HCC patients. Clinical features not associated with high RI are shown in Supplementary Table 7. In addition, high mRNA levels of FZD7; COL4A1; LAMC1; DKK1; SOX9; GPC3 and LEF1 were associated with clinical features announcing bad HCC outcome (Supplementary Table 8).

#### 4. Discussion

We found that tumors containing fibrous nests were less differentiated and expressed Wnt pathway components and target genes as well as stem/progenitor cell markers. Tissue microarraybased immunohistochemistry analysis of tissue carrots directly punched from fibrous nests in formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded HCC tissues revealed GPC3 (+) HCC cells expressing the tumor stem/progenitor cell markers CD44, LGR5 and SOX9. By contrast, neither KRT19 nor EPCAM were associated with fibrous nests, probably because combined hepatocellular-cholangiocarcinomas were excluded from our study. Similarly, a previous work found that the association of KRT19 with fibrous stroma was cohort-dependent (Kim et al., 2011). GPC3 (Capurro et al., 2014) and LGR5 (Huch et al., 2013) are both cell surface enhancers of Wnt signaling. GPC3 is specific of tumor hepatocytes and is used in routine diagnosis of HCC, with a 77% sensitivity (International Consensus Group for Hepatocellular Neoplasia The International Consensus Group for Hepatocellular Neoplasia, 2009). LGR5 hallmarks Wnt-driven amplification of liver progenitors (Huch et al., 2013). In addition, we found other molecules associated with fibrous nests and/or myofi-

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**Fig. 6.** A network involving cell surface Wnt pathway components, basement membrane gene expression and myofibroblast activation in severe liver fibrosis and HCCs with high tumor fibrosis. Weighted Correlation Network Analysis (WGCNA) (Langfelder and Horvath, 2008) of mRNA expression data from the indicated patient groups. Networks with a correlation coefficient threshold >0.30 were visually integrated with Cytoscape (Shannon et al., 2003). Closeness between nodes is proportional to the number of connections. Thickness of links is proportional to the correlation coefficients between genes. Correlation coefficients are shown in Supplementary Table 5A.

broblast activation, such as LAMC1, COL4A1, SFRP1; DKK1; FZDs 1 and 7; WNT2, IGFBP5 and LEF1.

Downregulation of SFRP expression by promoter methylation is a common theme in most human cancers, including HCCs (Surana et al., 2014; Takagi et al., 2008; Wu et al., 2012). Conversely, ectopic expression of SFRP1 (Shih et al., 2007; Hu et al., 2009) and SFRP5 (this work) decreases tumor cell growth. By contrast, a recent methylome profiling of 304 HCCs did not confirm SFRP promoter methylation among the top-100-ranked probes, the frequency of SFRP5 methylation in HCCs being of only 3% (Villanueva et al., 2015). As SFRP1 and 5 were by several folds lower in HCCs than in non-tumor livers, other mechanisms of SFRP downregulation in HCC should be explored. Whatever the case, two lessons were drawn from our findings. First, in contrast with FZDs 1; 7 and WNT3, which were upregulated in both tumor and non-tumor samples, the fall in SFRPs 1 and 5 was HCC-specific. Second, in HCCs, SFRP1 was associated with myofibroblast activation. We confirmed these findings by five different cell biology approaches, including Wnt-induced differentiation of liver progenitor cells into fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells, which upregulated SFRP1 expression. Con-

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**Fig. 7.** A minimal signature is associated with lower survival rates and ominous clinical features in patients with HCC. A minimal signature (DKK1; COL4A1; SFRP1 and LAMC1) was generated by the random survival forest (RSF) method from a public mRNA expression dataset (GSE14520) with clinical annotations (Supplementary Table 6) from 247 patients with HCC treated by surgical resection (Roessler et al., 2010). This signature was used to generate a recurrence risk index (RI; range, 17–132) for each individual. Using the centile 0.75 of this index (RI=62), we split the 247-patient dataset in high (RI > 62) and low (RI < 62) risk groups. Kaplan-Meier curves and Log-Rank tests show significantly different (A) Disease-free and (B) overall survival rates. (C and D) Differential clinical features of patients with high and low RI. *Age* is only shown in *D*. NA, number of patients with missing data for the specified variable.

sistently, SFRP1 favors amplification of mesenchymal stem cells in muscular dystrophy (Sohn et al., 2015) and induces matrix metalloproteinase expression and pulmonary fibrosis (Foronjy et al., 2010). In addition, direct interaction of SFRP1 with the FZD2 receptor modulates axon growth, the final output depending on the fibronectin/laminin balance in the ECM (Bovolenta et al., 2008).

We recently showed that soluble Wnt signals reprogram liver cancer progenitor cells into myofibroblast-like cells (Mebarki et al., 2016). In this context, we confirmed that Wnt-induced myofibroblast-like cells upregulate the expression of DKK1, COL4A1, SFRP1 and LAMC1. In 247 HCC patients, these four genes were associated with bad disease-free and overall outcome as well as with advanced tumor staging, high alpha-fetoprotein levels and a 161-gene signature predicting tumor relapse. Furthermore, seven genes upregulated in fibrous nests and/or in HCCs with myofibroblast activation were associated with bad outcome predictors (Supplementary Table 8). These included FZD7 and DKK1, which are markers of Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin activation in HCCs (Merle et al., 2004; Lachenmayer et al., 2012; Yu et al., 2009). DKK1 is a Wnt pathway inhibitor, which expression is induced by active  $\beta$ -catenin. It is thus involved in a negative feedback loop that controls Wnt pathway activation in normal cells (Chamorro et al., 2005). However, in some cancer types, high DKK1 reflects active Wnt/β-catenin signaling (Yu et al., 2009; Niida et al., 2004). Particularly, DKK1 is a diagnostic biomarker of HCC (Shen et al., 2012). In turn, WNT2, which is secreted by fibroblasts, activates Wnt signaling and tumor progression in oesophageal cancer (Fu et al., 2011), and is associated with the differentiation of pancreatic stellate cells to myofibroblasts in chronic pancreatitis (Hu et al., 2014). In the liver, WNT2 is secreted by sinusoidal endothelial cells and, like LGR5, contributes to the stem cell niche for hepatocyte regeneration after injury (Huch et al., 2015; Huch et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2015; Ding et al., 2010). Altogether, these findings indicate that tumor fibrous hotspots are contingent with upregulated expression of cell surface Wnt components and target genes, myofibroblast activation and undifferentiated cancer stem cell markers. These elements come together within a specific, topographically defined tumor microenvironment that we called *fibrous nests*. This term conveys the notion of cell surface signals nurturing tumor growth and associates the cancer stem cell niche with tumor tissue structures detectable by routine anatomic pathology analyses.

#### Author contributions

Study design, OM, RD, SM, BC, CP; Real-time PCR, SM, MS, SR, EL; Functional genomics; RD, OM; Statistical analyses, meta-analyses from mRNA expression datasets, RD, OM; Tissue microarray design OM, MD; Tissue microarray scoring, OM, RD; Frozen tissue bank management, nucleic acid extraction, quality controls, BT, MD, OM, SM; Clinical, biological and follow-up data collection, LS, DB; Anatomic Pathology annotations, BT; Tumor fibrosis scoring: BT, OM; Manuscript preparation, OM, RD.

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This manuscript is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Ruth Chiquet-Ehrismann.

#### Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biocel.2016.08. 017.

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### **Supplementary Materials and Methods**

### Cell culture and clonogenesis assay

HepG2, Hep3B, Huh-6, Huh-7(1), BC1, BC2, B16A2(2), HCT116 and HT29 cell lines were cultured as described(3). HepaRG cells were expanded as liver progenitors and differentiated to hepatocytes as described(4). Clonogenesis assays were performed as described by transfection of SFRP1 or SFRP5 cDNA plasmids(1, 3) with Lipofectamine Plus (Invitrogen). Cells were plated in triplicates on 100-mm tissue culture dishes and incubated for 14 days with G418. After hematoxylin staining, colonies (seen as dark spots) were digitized using a video camera. Image analysis was performed using ImageJ (NIH).

### Nucleic acid extraction from human tissues and from in vitro cultures

RNA was extracted from 10  $\mu$ m cryosections obtained from frozen tissue blocks. Once tissues were placed on the specimen head of a Leica 3050S cryostat and trimmed to obtain a level and histologically controlled representative surface (hematoxylin or toluidine blue extemporaneous staining), the first two 5  $\mu$ m sections were set aside as permanent histological controls. Then, 10  $\mu$ m cryosections were obtained and immediately lysed in extraction buffer. Before removing the disk containing the specimen from the head, two 5  $\mu$ m cryosections were set aside again as permanent histological controls. Lead and rear permanent histological controls were formalin-fixed, HE-stained in a Leica ST5020 routine stainer and representativity was assessed by two independent observers (BT & OM). Non-representative samples were removed from the RNA and DNA extraction process. Representative samples were extracted with NucleoSpin® RNA II (Macherey-Nagel) kit, as recommended by the manufacturer. Quality control of the extracted nucleic acids was performed by dosing the eluents with a NanoDrop spectrophotometer and by checking 28S/18S ratios by gel electrophoresis. For in vitro cultured cell layers, total RNA was purified with an RNeasy kit (Qiagen). Extracted RNA quality control was done as for human tissues.

### **Real-time PCR**

Reverse-transcribed cDNA was obtained with the High Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (Applied Biosystems) according to manufacturer's instructions. Expression of relevant genes was measured by quantitative real-time PCR using the StepOnePlus<sup>TM</sup> System or the ABI prism 7900HT, power SYBR Green PCR master mix or Taqman probebased assays (Applied Biosystems), according to the experiments. See Supplementary Table 1 for real-time PCR primers and TaqMan probes. Quantitative analyses of PCR data were conducted by the  $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$  method using housekeeping gene Ct values for normalization.

### Tissue microarray (TMA) and immunohistochemistry scoring of human tissues

<u>Selection of tissue blocs for TMA construction</u>: The whole set of archival HE-stained sections from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue blocks from each one of the 67 available HCC patients and from five histologically normal livers were reviewed (Nikon 80i microscope) to ensure that the selected paraffin bloc was the mirror lesion of the frozen sample. A region of interest (ROI, 1 cm in diameter) was labeled with a permanent marker to precisely localize the punch zone.

TMA construction, immunohistochemistry and signal scoring: TMA design and construction were done with a MiniCore3 tissue arrayer equipped with a MiniCore control station and TMADesigner2 tissue array design software (Alphelys, Plaisir, France). ROIs were punched in triplicate from the 67 available paraffin blocs from HCCs and from five histologically normal liver controls. Punch size was set at 1000 µm in diameter. HCC samples were randomly assigned to either one of two 132-punch receiver paraffin tissue blocks. Randomization was performed with a "rand" function in Microsoft Excel. The five histologically normal liver controls were included in both array blocs #1 and #2 to control for signal and background intensities. Five-um microtome sections were processed for immunohistochemistry with a Discovery XT from Ventana Medical Systems (Roche) research slide staining system. See Supplementary Table 2 for antibodies used. Stained slides were converted into high-resolution digital data with a NanoZoomer digital slide scanner (Hamamatsu, Massy, France). Digital slides were viewed using NDP.view software (Hamamatsu) in a Dell S2415H 24-Inch Screen LED-Lit Monitor. The signal was independently read by two observers (RD and OM) who were blinded to any information. Discrepancies were resolved by consensus reading. A four-point scale (0-1-2-3-4) denoting increasing signal intensity was used.

### **Supplementary Figure legends:**

**Supplementary Fig. 1.** (A) SFRP5 mRNA expression data extracted from the GSE49910 microarray meta-analysis dataset consisting of 745 primary cell samples analyzed with Affymetrix Human Genome U133 Plus 2.0 expression arrays. Normalized background-corrected intensities(5) of mRNA expression were filtered to reveal the cell lines expressing the highest mRNA levels of SFRP5 in at least duplicate samples. As SFRP5 was expressed at low levels, filtering was done using the median as cutoff. Cell lines below the defined threshold but originally used as controls of at least one cell line above the cutoff value were included for comparative purposes. Threshold lines for each gene are indicated (-----). (B) Generation of hepatocyte-like cells from fibroblast-derived undifferentiated iPS cells, as described(6). SFRP5 is shown in human foreskin fibroblasts; foreskin fibroblast-derived iPS cells; iPS cells undergoing hepatocyte differentiation; human fetal liver and primary human hepatocytes



Supplementary Figure 1, Désert et al.,

Supplementary Fig. 2. (A) Expression of the five SFRP family members in normal liver (n=7) by real-time PCR. RNA expression values were calculated by the  $\Delta\Delta$ Ct method using the 18S housekeeping gene as an internal standard. (B) Raw threshold cycle (Ct) values from real-time PCR experiments for the indicated SFRPs in seven normal human liver samples. Real-time PCR assays were performed in duplicate. For each SFRP gene, the mean±SD of Cts are indicated, as well as the variation coefficient (*VC*). 18S expression values used for normalization are also shown. (C) Histogram showing relative Ct values from (*A*). Statistical significance of the Ct differences between the SFRP genes was calculated by Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA. (D) Kruskal-Wallis post-hoc test showing *P* values for inter-gene differences. Statistically significant values are indicated in red.



D					-	
Patient number	SFRP1	SFRP2	SFRP3	SFRP4	SFRP5	18S
	28.96	33.65	30.53	31.06	30.32	14.21
1	29.11	33.55	30.25	30.85	30.15	13.87
	25.04	29.88	28.76	27.72	26.38	11.58
2	25.29	30.13	29.2	27.52	26.67	11.4
	28.2	34.4	29.99	28.42	28.6	15.55
3	28.37	33.63	29.84	28.69	28.63	15.7
	29.07	31.96	31.29	32.99	30.7	13.32
4	29.15	31.78	30.89	31.9	30.34	13.36
	27.46	29.68	28.34	31.01	28.47	13.21
2	27.32	29.57	28.59	30.73	28.56	13.07
	27.67	33.28	26.89	32.71	27.07	11.57
6	27.52	33.4	27.02	32.26	27.24	11.63
7	28.62	33.46	30.01	31.07	28.21	11.73
'	28.74	33.78	29.75	30.4	28.18	12.24
Mean	27.89	32.30	29.38	30.52	28.54	13.03
SD	1.32	1.77	1.33	1.79	1.41	1.44
VC	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.11



D					
Kruskal-Wallis test	SFRP1	SFRP2	SFRP3	SFRP4	SFRP5
SFRP1		0.000005	0.506156	0.007494	1.000000
SFRP2	0.000005		0.022497	1.000000	0.000127
SFRP3	0.506156	0.022497		1.000000	1.000000
SFRP4	0.007494	1.000000	1.000000		0.064210
SFRP5	1.000000	0.000127	1.000000	0.064210	

Supplementary Figure 2, Désert et al.,

Supplementary Fig. 3. Restoring SFRP1 and SFRP5 expression decreases clonogenesis in liver cancer. (A and B) Real-time-PCR-assessed mRNA expression of SFRP1 (A) and SFRP5 (B) in the liver cancer cell lines HepaRG, Hep3B, BC1, BC2, Huh-6, B16A2, HepG2 and Huh-7 and the colon cancer cell lines HT29 and HCT116. SFRP1 and 5 mRNA expressions are dramatically lower in liver and colon cancer cell lines than in normal liver tissue. (C) Huh-7 human hepatocellular carcinoma cells (WT  $\beta$ -catenin) stably transfected with the indicated expression vectors were seeded at low density and selected for 14 d with G418. After paraformaldehyde fixation and hematoxylin staining, colonies (seen as dark spots) were digitized using a video camera. (D) Clonogenenesis was assessed with ImageJ (NIH). Histograms show colony size and number in cells transfected with SFRPs or empty vector.



Supplementary Fig. 4. Expression of the indicated genes in 82 *HCCs*; C, 23 histologically normal liver controls; *NT*, 66 matching non-tumor livers and *FNH*, 11 focal nodular hyperplasias. Charts show mean  $\pm$  confidence intervals. *P*= Non parametric ANOVA. Asterisks, Kruskal-Wallis post-hoc test: \*, *P*<0.05; \*\*, *P*<0.01 and \*\*\*, *P*<0.001, comparing SFRP1 and SFRP5 mRNA levels in *HCC* versus the other groups and FZD1, FZD7, COL1A1 and WNT3 mRNA levels in *C* versus the other groups.



Supplementary Figure 4, Désert et al.,

**Supplementary Fig. 5.** Relative mRNA levels for SFRP2 (A), DKK1 (B), ACTA2 (C), WNT2 (D) and LAMC1 (E) assessed by real-time PCR in 82 *HCCs*; C, 23 histological normal liver controls; *NT*, 66 matching non-tumor livers and *FNH*, 11 focal nodular hyperplasias. Charts show mean  $\pm$  confidence intervals. Non parametric ANOVA and posthoc tests denote the statistical inter-group differences. Significant differences are highlighted in red in the tables below each chart, when applied. For DKK1, there is no significant difference between the four groups taken together. However, HCCs are significantly higher than controls by Mann-Whitney U test, as shown in (*B*).



Supplementary Figure 5, Désert et al.,

### Supplementary Table legends:

### Supplementary Table 1: Sybr Green primers and TaqMan probes.

### Supplementary Table 1

SYBR GREEN PRIMERS (Eurogentec, Seraing, Belgium)				TAQMAN PRIMERS & PROBES		
GENE ID	STRAND	Primer sequences 5'- 3'	GENE ID	Life Technologies cat. #		
AOTA0	Forward	CATCCTCATCCTCCCTTGAG	HPRT1	Hs02800695-m1		
ACTAZ	Reverse	ATGAAGGATGGCTGGAACAG	IGFBP5	Hs00181213-m1		
	Forward	GCATCTGTCAGCAGAATGGA	LEF1	Hs01547250-m1		
ALDOB	Reverse	TAGACAGCAGCCAGGACCTT	LGR5	Hs00173664-m1		
0044	Forward	GGCTTTCAATAGCACCTTGC				
CD44	Reverse	CACGTGCCCTTCTATGAACC				
COI 141	Forward	CCGGCTCCTGCTCCTCTTAGCG				
COLIAI	Reverse	CGTTCTGTACGCAGGTGATTGGTGG				
COL 4A1	Forward	CCTGGCTTGAAAAACAGCTC				
COL4AT	Reverse	CCCTGCTGAGGTCTGTGAAC				
	Forward	CCGAGGAGAAATTGAGGAAAC				
DKKI	Reverse	TCTGGAATACCCATCCAAGG				
EZD1	Forward	GCCGAGAAAGTATGGCTGAG				
1201	Reverse	GGCACAAAGTTCCCAGCTC				
EZD7	Forward	GAGGTGCACCAGTTCTACCC				
1207	Reverse	GCGCATACATGGAGCATAAG				
GPC3	Forward	TGAAGATGAGTGCATTGGAGG				
0100	Reverse	TGCTTATCTCGTTGTCCTTCG				
HPRT1	Forward	TGACACTGGCAAAACAATGCA				
	Reverse	GGTCCTTTTCACCAGCAAGCT				
LAMC1	Forward	AGATGGAAGCTGAGAATCTGG				
	Reverse	CGGTCTGCTGTTCAGTCTTG				
RNA18S	Forward	CGCCGCTAGAGGTGAAATTC				
	Reverse	TTGGCAAATGCTTTCGCTC				
SOX9	Forward	TCTGGAGACTTCTGAACGAGAGCGA				
	Reverse	CGTTCTTCACCGACTTCCTCCGC				
SFRP1	Forward	AGCGAGTTTGCACTGAGGA				
	Reverse	GACAATCTTCTTGTCGCCATT				
SERP2	Forward	CGAGGAAGCTCCAAAGGTAT				
	Reverse	GCGTTTCCATTATGTCGTTG				
SERP3	Forward	GAAACTGTAGAGGGGCAAGC				
	Reverse	TCCGGAAATAGGTCTTCTGTG	_			
SERP4	Forward	CCGGAGGATGTTAAGTGGAT	_			
	Reverse	GGGCTTAGGCGTTTACAGTC				
SERP5	Forward	TGTGCTCCAGTGACTTTGTG				
	Reverse	CGGTCCCCATTCTCTATCTT	_			
ТВР	Forward	GAGCTGTGATGTGAAGTTTCC	4			
	Reverse	TCTGGGTTTGATCATTCTGTAG	4			
WNT2	Forward	GGTGATGTGCGATAATGTGC	4			
	Reverse	CTAATGGCACGCATCACATC	4			
WNT3	Forward	AGCTGCCAGGAGTGTATTCG	4			
WINIS	Reverse	CACACACTTCACCCCTTCC				

Supplementary Table 2: Primary antibodies.

### Supplementary Table 2

PRIMARY ANTIBODIES						
GENE ID	CAT. #	Supplier				
CD44	20282	ProMab				
COL4A1	M0785	Dako				
LAMC1	Z0097	Dako				
ACTA2	M0851	Dako				
EPCAM	14-9326-82	eBioscience				
ALB	A80229A3	Bethyl Laboratories				
GPC3	cmc26129021	Cell Marque				
KRT19	M0888	Dako				
LGR5	HPA012530	Sigma Aldrich				
SOX9	AB5535	Millipore				

**Supplementary Table 3**: Description of the HCC patient cohort from Rennes University Hospital.

### Supplementary Table 2

PRIMARY ANTIBODIES						
GENE ID	CAT. #	Supplier				
CD44	20282	ProMab				
COL4A1	M0785	Dako				
LAMC1	Z0097	Dako				
ACTA2	M0851	Dako				
EPCAM	14-9326-82	eBioscience				
ALB	A80229A3	Bethyl Laboratories				
GPC3	cmc26129021	Cell Marque				
KRT19	M0888	Dako				
LGR5	HPA012530	Sigma Aldrich				
SOX9	AB5535	Millipore				

**Supplementary Table 4:** Unsupervised Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) report showing the top 20% signatures from the Broad Institute Gene Set Database matching with the mesenchymal-lineage committed human hepatocellular carcinoma cell line 3SP(7) (GSE26391). MsigDB, Molecular signature Data Base; *SIZE*, number of genes included in each signature; NES, normalized enrichment score. Molecular signature family names are indicated on the *left*.

### Supplementary Table 4.

	MsigDB SIGNATURE NAME	SIZE	NES	<i>P</i> value
	ST_INTEGRIN_SIGNALING_PATHWAY	80	1.67	0.000
	ROZANOV_MMP14_TARGETS_SUBSET		1.61	0.000
	REACTOME_SIGNALING_BY_PDGF	118	1.58	0.000
	PID_INTEGRIN_CS_PATHWAY	25	1.57	0.000
	KEGG_FOCAL_ADHESION	197	1.55	0.000
	BIOCARTA_INTEGRIN_PATHWAY	37	1.54	0.045
EMC	PID_INTEGRIN5_PATHWAY	17	1.52	0.000
RIX R	SUNG_METASTASIS_STROMA_UP	106	1.51	0.000
MATF	NAKAMURA_TUMOR_ZONE_PERIPHERAL_VS_CENTRAL_UP	277	1.51	0.000
AR I	ASTIER_INTEGRIN_SIGNALING	57	1.50	0.000
	PID_AVB3_INTEGRIN_PATHWAY	75	1.48	0.000
ACE	REACTOME_COLLAGEN_FORMATION	58	1.48	0.000
EXTR	RODWELL_AGING_KIDNEY_UP	464	1.47	0.000
	CROONQUIST_STROMAL_STIMULATION_UP	59	1.46	0.000
	PID_A6B1_A6B4_INTEGRIN_PATHWAY	46	1.45	0.000
	DURAND_STROMA_S_UP	294	1.44	0.000
	KEGG_ECM_RECEPTOR_INTERACTION	83	1.41	0.000
z	ST_WNT_BETA_CATENIN_PATHWAY	34	1.69	0.000
TENIr ≜Y	BIOCARTA_PITX2_PATHWAY	15	1.61	0.000
3-CA THW	BIOCARTA_WNT_PATHWAY	26	1.50	0.000
/NT/	KEGG_WNT_SIGNALING_PATHWAY	150	1.49	0.000
\$	ONDER_CDH1_SIGNALING_VIA_CTNNB1	83	1.49	0.000

**Supplementary Table 5:** (A) Spearman rank-order correlation coefficients between the indicated genes in histologically normal liver samples, focal nodular hyperplasias (FNH), hepatocellular carcinomas (HCC) and matching non-tumor liver samples. The number of samples analyzed in each group is indicated. Cells show the correlation coefficient (R) between genes. Asterisks denote statistical significance: \*, <0.05; \*\*, <0.01; \*\*\*, <0.001. (B) Spearman rank-order correlation coefficients in 47 HCCs from an independent, previously described sample collection(8). Gene and protein expression as well as MMP2 enzymatic activity were assessed as described(8). Statistically significant values were highlighted in red. The false discovery rate was adjusted by the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure for multiple comparisons. *NS*, non-significant.

NORMAL LIVER CONTROLS (n=23)										
	COL4A1	LAMC1	ACTA2	SFRP1	SFRP2	SFRP5	DKK1	FZD1	FZD7	WNT2
LAMC1	0.51 NS									
ACTA2	0.58 *	0.53 NS								
SFRP1	0.12 NS	0.35 NS	-0.03 NS							
SFRP2	0.6 *	0.21 NS	0.33 NS	0.1 NS						
SFRP5	0.2 NS	0.51 NS	0.04 NS	0.59 NS	0.08 NS					
DKK1	0.25 NS	0.32 NS	-0.06 NS	0.13 NS	0.27 NS	0.1 NS				
FZD1	0.27 NS	0.43 NS	0 NS	0.36 NS	0.24 NS	0.24 NS	0.84 ***			
FZD7	0.05 NS	0.4 NS	0.02 NS	0.41 NS	0.2 NS	0.11 NS	0.44 NS	0.56 *		
WNT2	0.16 NS	0.44 NS	0.01 NS	0.38 NS	0.06 NS	0.3 NS	0.59 *	0.77 ***	0.25 NS	
WNT3	0.3 NS	0.7 NS	0.4 NS	1 ***	0.1 NS	-0.5 NS	0.2 NS	0.6 NS	0.3 NS	0.6 NS
			EO			DI ASIAS (n-	-11)			
	COL 444							E7D4	EZDZ	W/NT2
LANCA		LAIVICT	ACTAZ	SFRFI	JFRF2	SFRPD	DKKI	FZUI	FZDI	VVIN I Z
	0.09 NS	0.0 NC								
ACTAZ	0.19 NS	0.0 NS	0.00 NO							
SERPT	0.3 NS	0.04 NS	0.09 NS							
SFRF2	0.19 NS	0.41 NS	0.12 NS	0.55 NS	O GE NO					
	0.40 NS	0.00	0.01 NO	0.00	0.00 NS	0.6 NS				
	0.64 NO	0.07	0.55 NS	0.37 113	0.66 NG	0.0 NS	0.61 NO			
	0.04 NS	0.77	0.00 NG	0.03	0.00 NS	0.70 *	0.01 NO	O CO NO		
	0.45 NS		0.02 NS	0.03 NS	0.48 NS	0.16	0.07 NS	0.00 NS	0.110	
	0.02 NS	0.10 NS	-0.19 NS	-0.32 NS	0.2 NS	-0.15 NS	0.43 NS	0.15 NS		0.04 *
WINTS	0.03 NS	-0.10 NS	-0.14 NS	-0.41 NS	0.04 NS	-0.30 NS	0.15 NS	-0.09 NS	-0.00 NS	0.04
			١	ION-TUMOR	LIVER SAM	/IPLES (n=66	5)			
	COL4A1	LAMC1	ACTA2	SFRP1	SFRP2	SFRP5	DKK1	FZD1	FZD7	WNT2
LAMC1	0.71 ***									
ACTA2	0.62 ***	0.74 ***								
SFRP1	0.62 ***	0.75 ***	0.77 ***							
SFRP2	0.44 ***	0.5 ***	0.56 ***	0.62 ***						
SFRP5	0.65 ***	0.69 ***	0.7 ***	0.76 ***	0.51 ***					
DKK1	0.32 *	0.35 **	0.45 ***	0.32 *	0.56 ***	0.36 **				
FZD1	0.39 **	0.35 **	0.45 ***	0.43 ***	0.46 ***	0.43 ***	0.69 ***			
FZD7	0.55 ***	0.57 ***	0.65 ***	0.64 ***	0.47 ***	0.61 ***	0.5 ***	0.68 ***		
WNT2	0.33 **	0.47 ***	0.51 ***	0.47 ***	0.66 ***	0.43 ***	0.71 ***	0.61 ***	0.48 ***	

#### Supplementary Table 5A

0.09 NS

WNT3

0.09 NS

0.02 NS

-0.16 NS

0.11 NS

0.11 NS

0.16 NS

0.14 NS

0.15 NS

0.19 NS

**Supplementary Table 6:** Description of the publically available HCC patient cohort from Roessler et al.(9). *NA*, not available. Staging and scores are indicated in increasing order.

### Supplementary Table 6

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DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE POPULATION					
First author	Roessler S.				
Annotated patients in cohort (N)	247				
Available HCC samples (N)	247				
Included HCC samples (N)	247				
Samples excluded after quality analysis (N)	0				
Samples excluded because of unavailable mutational status	1				
Inclusion criteria	HCCs after surgical resection				
Country of origin	China				
Gender (Male)	214 (87%)				
Age					
Mean, SD	50.8 ± 10.8				
Median, range	NA				
>55 years	NA				
>60 years	NA				
HCV positive	5 (2%)				
HBV positive	241 (99%)				
HBV active viral replication	62 (26%)				
Alcool	NA				
Hemochromatosis	NA				
Cirrhosis	224 (91%)				
Intact capsule	129 (53%)				
Satellite nodule	NA				
CTNNB1 mutation	NA				
TP53 mutation	NA				
Tumor size					
cm, mean, SD	NA				
cm, median, range	NA				
Tumour volume (cm3) (mean, SD)	NA				
Less than 2.0 cm	NA				
Between 2.0 cm and 3.0 cm	NA				
Between 2.0 cm and 5.0 cm	NA				
Greater than 3.0 cm	NA				
Greater than 5.0 cm	89 (36%)				
Number of tumor nodules					
Mean, SD	NA				
Single	193 (78%)				
Multiple	52 (21%)				
Vascular invasion					
None	90 (46%)				
Microscopic	107 (54%)				

**Supplementary Table 7:** Clinical variables associated with high Recurrence Index (RI) in a public mRNA expression dataset including tumor tissue (GSE14520) and clinical annotations (Supplementary Table 6) from 247 patients with HCC treated by surgical resection(9). Using the centile 0.75 of this index (RI>62), the 247-patient dataset was split into high (RI>62) and low (RI<62) risk groups. The *Metastasis Signature*(9) is a 161-gene risk classifier enabling prediction of tumor relapse in early-stage HCC patients. *NA*, number of patients for whom data were not available for the specified variable. *P* values were corrected by the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure for multiple tests.

VARIABLE	NA	RI > 62; N (%)	RI < 62; N (%)	p value
Metastasis Signature (high)	0	44 (72.13%)	77 (42.54%)	5.00E-04
Age (Mean ± SD)	0	47.3 ± 11.59	52.04 ± 10.4	9.30E-03
AFP (>300ng/ml)	4	35 (58.33%)	75 (42.13%)	3.70E-02
TNM staging (II-III vs I)	17	39 (69.64%)	90 (53.25%)	4.22E-02
BCLC staging (B-C vs A-0)	17	19 (33.93%)	34 (20.12%)	4.52E-02
CGH_survival_group (G2 vs G1)*	0	16 (26.23%)	28 (15.47%)	1.34E-01
Multinodular (yes vs no)	0	17 (27.87%)	35 (19.34%)	2.09E-01
CLIP staging (1-5 vs 0)	17	21 (37.5%)	77 (45.56%)	3.51E-01
ALT (>50 U.L.)	0	27 (44.26%)	73 (40.33%)	6.60E-01
Main tumor size (>5 cm)	1	21 (34.43%)	67 (37.22%)	7.54E-01
Gender (Male)	0	54 (88.52%)	157 (86.74%)	8.31E-01
HBV status (AVR-CC vs CC)*	18	14 (25%)	44 (26.19%)	9.56E-01
Cirrhosis (yes vs no)	0	56 (91.8%)	167 (92.27%)	1.00E+00

### Supplementary Table 7
**Supplementary Table 8:** Clinical variables predicting bad patient outcome are associated with the indicated genes in a public mRNA expression dataset including tumor tissue (GSE14520) and clinical annotations (Supplementary Table 6) from 247 patients with HCC treated by surgical resection(9). Preprocessed mRNA expression values were split into high and low expression groups according to the 0.5 centile, as indicated. The numbers (and %) of patients falling within the  $\geq$ 0.5 centile and the <0.5 centile groups are indicated. *P* values were corrected by the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure for multiple tests.

GENE SYMBOL	VARIABLE	N (%) ≥ 0.5 centile	N (%) < 0.5 centile	p value
FZD7	Metastasis Signature (high)	81 (66.94%)	40 (33.06%)	8.86E-03
COL4A1	Age (Mean ± SD)	48.18 ± 11.14	53.5 ± 9.98	8.86E-03
LAMC1	Metastasis Signature (high)	83 (68.6%)	38 (31.4%)	8.86E-03
	AFP (>300ng/ml)	70 (58.82%)	40 (33.61%)	1.62E-02
	Metastasis Signature (high)	84 (70%)	37 (30.33%)	8.86E-03
DKK1	CLIP staging (1-5 vs 0)	83 (74.77%)	44 (38.6%)	1.06E-05
	AFP (>300ng/ml)	78 (65.55%)	32 (26.89%)	8.86E-03
SOX9	Metastasis Signature (high)	80 (66.12%)	41 (33.88%)	8.86E-03
	CLIP staging (1-5 vs 0)	77 (68.14%)	50 (44.64%)	8.86E-03
	AFP (>300ng/ml)	75 (62.5%)	35 (29.66%)	8.86E-03
CPC2	Main tumor size (>5 cm)	32 (26.45%)	56 (46.67%)	2.78E-02
GPC3	AFP (>300ng/ml)	72 (59.02%)	38 (32.76%)	8.86E-03
LEF1	Metastasis Signature (high)	79 (65.29%)	42 (34.71%)	8.86E-03
	AFP (>300ng/ml)	68 (56.2%)	42 (35.9%)	2.78E-02

#### **Supplementary Table 8**

#### References

1. Quelard D, Lavergne E, Hendaoui I, Elamaa H, Tiirola U, Heljasvaara R, Pihlajaniemi T, et al. A cryptic frizzled module in cell surface collagen 18 inhibits Wnt/beta-catenin signaling. PLoS ONE 2008;3:e1878.

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<u>Résumé de la publication 2 :</u> De novo HAPLN1 expression hallmarks Wnt-induced stem cell and fibrogenic networks leading to aggressive human hepatocellular carcinomas.

**Introduction :** La transition épithélio-mésenchymateuse (TEM) associe la trans-différenciation de cellules épithéliales en mésenchymateuses avec un phénotype de progéniteurs tumoraux. La voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine est activée dans 50% des carcinomes hépatocellulaires (CHCs), suite à des altérations génomiques de ses composants, notamment la  $\beta$ -caténine et plus rarement AXIN1 et APC. Cependant, certains CHCs ne comportant pas de mutations de la  $\beta$ -caténine présentent des signatures transcriptomiques d'activation des voies Wnt et TGF $\beta$ . L'objectif de ce travail est de modéliser l'activation de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine dans un contexte non mutationnel en utilisant un ligand Wnt soluble à des concentrations biologiquement pertinentes.

**Patients et Méthodes :** Des cellules HepaRG (ne comportant pas de mutations des composants de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine) ont été incubées avec du Wnt3a en présence de son inhibiteur soluble FZD8\_CRD ou de siRNAs ciblant la  $\beta$ -caténine, suivi d'analyses transcriptomiques pangénomiques des conditions respectives. Une série de 82 CHCs, séquencés pour l'exon 3 de la  $\beta$ -caténine a été utilisée pour valider les données. L'expression d'ARNm a été mesurée par qPCR et l'expression protéique par immunohistochimie sur des microarrays de tissus.

Résultats : Wnt3a reprogramme les cellules HepaRG en cellules mésenchymateuses avec un phénotype de myofibroblastes, tant par l'expression de gènes associées à la fibrogenèse (dont TGFB1) que par une migration et une prolifération accrues. La modulation de 83% des gènes associés à ce phénotype était inhibée par des siRNA ciblant la β-caténine ou par FZD8\_CRD, dans des expériences indépendantes. Parmi ces gènes, nous avons identifié HAPLN1 (Hyaluronan and Proteoglycan Link Protein 1), dont l'expression augmentait de > 30 fois au cours de l'EMT, et diminuait de > 20 fois au cours de la différenciation des progéniteurs HepaRG en hépatocytes. HAPLN1 lie l'acide hyaluronique aux protéoglycanes dans la matrice extracellulaire des cartilages. Dans le foie humain, HAPLN1 était à peine détectable dans 82 foies non cancéreux, mais était exprimé dans 82 CHCs, dans des cellules se trouvant dans les travées fibreuses. Aussi, HAPLN1 était associé à la survie globale et libre de maladie en analyse uni- et mutli-varié (odds ratio = 4.6 ; p=0.005). HAPLN1 était associé à l'expression de marqueurs de progéniteurs tumoraux CD44, LGR5, CD133 ; ainsi qu'à des taux élevés d'alphafoetoprotéine (AFP) sérique et de β-caténine nuclaire et cytoplasmique. Cependant, HAPLN1 n'était pas associé à des mutations activatrices de la β-caténine. Finalement, en utilisant une de nos signatures transcriptomiques sur une base publique de 225 CHCs, nous avons isolé un sous-groupe de patients exprimant fortement 8 gènes du remodelage de la matrice extracellulaire, associés à une survie réduite, à des scores TNM, BCLC et CLIP élevés, à des taux d'AFP > 300 ng/ml et à une incidence accrue de métastases. En conclusion, ces données indiquent qu'un microenvironnement d'activation Wnt favorise la progression tumorale et qu'il est possible de contrôler ce phénotype par une inhibition spécifique de cette voie de signalisation par des inhibiteurs extracellulaires solubles, ou bien en ciblant directement la βcaténine.

#### **Research Paper: Gerotarget (Focus on Aging)**

# *De novo* HAPLN1 expression hallmarks Wnt-induced stem cell and fibrogenic networks leading to aggressive human hepatocellular carcinomas

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#### ABSTRACT

About 20% hepatocellular carcinomas (HCCs) display wild-type  $\beta$ -catenin, enhanced Wnt signaling, hepatocyte dedifferentiation and bad outcome, suggesting a specific impact of Wnt signals on HCC stem/progenitor cells. To study Wnt-specific molecular pathways, cell fates and clinical outcome, we fine-tuned Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling in liver progenitor cells, using the prototypical Wnt ligand Wnt3a. Cell biology assays and transcriptomic profiling were performed in HepaRG hepatic progenitors exposed to Wnt3a after  $\beta$ -catenin knockdown or Wnt inhibition with FZD8\_CRD. Gene expression network, molecular pathology and survival analyses were performed on HCCs and matching non-tumor livers from 70 patients by real-time PCR and tissue micro-array-based immunohistochemistry. Wnt3a reprogrammed liver progenitors to replicating fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells displaying stem and invasive features. Invasion was inhibited by 30 nM FZD7 and FZD8 CRDs. Translation of these data to human HCCs revealed two tight gene networks associating cell surface Wnt signaling, stem/progenitor markers and mesenchymal commitment. Both networks were linked by Hyaluronan And Proteoglycan Link Protein 1 (HAPLN1), that appeared de novo in aggressive HCCs expressing cytoplasmic  $\beta$ -catenin and stem cell markers. HAPLN1 was independently associated with bad overall and disease-free outcome. In vitro, HAPLN1 was expressed de novo in EPCAM<sup>-</sup>/NCAM+ mesoderm-committed progenitors, upon spontaneous epithelial-mesenchymal transition and de-differentiation of hepatocytelike cells to liver progenitors. In these cells, HAPLN1 knockdown downregulated key markers of mesenchymal cells, such as Snail, LGR5, collagen IV and α-SMA. In conclusion, HAPLN1 reflects a signaling network leading to stemness, mesenchymal commitment and HCC progression.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Approximately 20% of HCCs show activation of Wnt/β-catenin and TGFβ pathways, carry wild-type  $\beta$ -catenin, lose the hepatocyte phenotype and overexpress Frizzled (FZD) receptors [1, 2]. Wnt/β-catenin pathway activation involves interaction of Wnt ligands with cell surface FZD receptors and LRP5/6 co-receptors, followed by disruption of the Adenomatous polyposis coli (APC)-axin platform, thus halting GSK3B-dependent phosphorylation of β-catenin at key residues in exon 3. Non-phosphorylated  $\beta$ -catenin is thus stabilized, accumulates in the cytoplasm and nucleus and interacts with T-cell factor (TCF) transcription factors of target gene expression. Conversely, in the absence of interaction of Wnt ligands with their cell surface receptors, phosphorylated β-catenin undergoes proteasomal degradation. β-catenin exon 3 mutations in tumors bypass the GSK3B gatekeeper, thus switching the pathway to the ON position constitutively [3].

It is widely accepted that Wnt pathway activation in HCCs may be driven by upregulation of TGFB and tyrosine-kinase receptor pathways [2, 4, 5], Wnt ligands, their cell surface frizzled receptors and/or epigenetic silencing of a family of endogenous Wnt inhibitors, i.e., the Secreted Frizzled-Related Proteins (SFRPs) [6]. SFRPs are soluble decoy receptors composed of a *cysteine-rich frizzled* ligand-binding *domain* (FZD\_CRD), thereby quenching Wnt activity at the cell surface [7]. Thus, increasing the ratio of SFRP-like Wnt inhibitors over Wnt ligands or receptors controls tumor growth [8-11].

Most cases of HCC arise in a background of chronic inflammation and tissue remodeling, leading to stem/progenitor cell amplification [12]. In the context of experimental liver regeneration in response to tissue damage, Wnt signals expand transit-amplifying liver progenitor cells but impair hepatocyte differentiation [13]. Thus, the aim of the present study was to investigate Wnt-specific molecular pathways, cell fates, phenotypes and clinical outcomes in HCC stem/progenitor cells. To this end, we fine-tuned Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling with the prototypical Wnt3a ligand [14, 15] and inhibited Wnt signaling using β-catenin siRNA knockdown or soluble FZD8\_CRD in HepaRG liver progenitor cells. These bipotent progenitors carry wild-type Wnt/β-catenin pathway components [16] and can differentiate into hepatocyte- or biliary-like cells [17, 18].

We report that Wnt3a reprograms liver progenitors to replicating and invasive fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells expressing stem cell markers. Analysis of HCCs from 70 patients revealed two tight gene networks associating stem/progenitor markers, cell surface Wnt signaling and fibrogenesis. Both networks were linked by *Hyaluronan And Proteoglycan Link Protein 1* (HAPLN1), a mesenchymal matrix protein, which is essential in development [19]. HAPLN1 links proteoglycans with hyaluronic acid, thereby building growth factor binding platforms [20]. Whereas HAPLN1 appeared *de novo* in aggressive tumors expressing stem cell markers and *in vitro* models of epithelial-mesenchymal transition; HAPLN1 knockdown downregulated key markers of mesenchymal cells. We hypothesize that HAPLN1 can be hijacked by tumor evolution as a selective advantage for cancer progression.

#### RESULTS

## Wnt signals lead to myofibroblastic differentiation of liver progenitor cells

As Wnt3a binds frizzled (FZD) receptors at the low nanomolar range [3], HepaRG hepatic progenitor cells were incubated with Wnt3a-conditioned medium, which contains <10 nM Wnt3a [9] or with 7 nM purified recombinant Wnt3a for 13 days (Figure 1A and Supplementary Figure 1A and 1B). Control media led differentiation to hepatocyte-like cells, as expected [18]. In contrast, Wnt3a-enriched media led to albumin<sup>-</sup> fibroblast-like cells, containing alpha-smoothmuscle-actin+ ( $\alpha$ -SMA<sup>+</sup>) stress fibers, thus indicating myofibroblast differentiation (Figure 1B). These cells expressed the basement membrane collagen type IV, the mesenchymal markers N-cadherin (Figure 1B), Vimentin and Fibronectin, as well as cytoplasmic β-catenin (Supplementary Figure 1C). Gene expression kinetics showed increased MYC, SNAI1, TWIST1 and TGFB1 after 12 h, with a peak in Collagen IV and α-SMA mRNAs after 5 days of incubation of progenitor cells with purified Wnt3a. After 13 days, myofibroblast-like cells showed an important increase in LGR5 and BIRC5 (Survivin) and decrease in Aldolase B, GGT1, NOTCH2, Keratin 19 and SOX9 (Figure 1C). Consistently, after Wnt3a treatment, SNAI1 showed a seven-fold increase within the 1st h and CD44 increased within the first 8 h (Supplementary Figure 1D). Wnt3a promoted Matrigel invasion, [inhibited by 30 nM FZD7\_CRD or FZD8\_CRD (Figure 1D and 1E)], and cell proliferation throughout the 13-day assay (Figure 1F).

#### Wnt signals promote commitment of transitamplifying liver progenitor cells to fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells

To look at the gene networks leading to myofibroblastic differentiation of hepatic progenitors, we treated cells with 7 nM Wnt3a for three days. To identify  $\beta$ -catenin-dependent or FZD8\_CRD sensitive gene networks, we transfected cells with  $\beta$ -catenin-targeting siRNA or treated them with the prototypical Wnt inhibitor FZD8\_CRD. This strategy was validated by real-time PCR



**Figure 1: Wnt signals differentiate liver progenitors to myofibroblast-like cells invading Matrigel.** A. and B. Incubation of progenitor HepaRG cells with control or Wnt3a-conditioned medium for 13 days. A. Controls are hepatocyte-like. Cells incubated with Wnt3a are fibroblast-like. B. Coimmunodetection of the indicated proteins. Alpha smooth muscle actin ( $\alpha$ -SMA), collagen IV and N-cadherin: green (FITC); albumin, red (FluoProbes 594); nuclei, blue (DAPI). Images were acquired with a Cellomics station at 20X. Wnt3a-incubated cells show bridging fascicules of spindle  $\alpha$ -SMA(+)/albumin(-) cells. Stress fibers typical of myofibroblasts (*white arrows*) embrace foci of transitional elongated  $\alpha$ -SMA(+)/albumin(+) cells (*white arrowheads*), with granular and filamentous compartments (*yellow arrowheads*). C. Gene expression kinetics of HepaRG cells incubated Matrigel invasion. Cells were incubated in Matrigel-coated Boyden chambers with FCS(-) medium plus BSA; 7 nM Wnt3a; Wnt3a plus 30 nM FZD7 or FZD8\_CRD. E. HepaRG cells invading Matrigel. F. Wnt3a enhances cell proliferation. Cells were incubated in 96-well plates with FCS(-) medium plus BSA or Wnt3a. BrdU(+) nuclei were counted with a Cellomics station.

gene expression analysis of the β-catenin target gene LGR5 in HepaRG and Huh7 cells (Supplementary Figure 2A-2D). A whole transcriptome analysis identified 358 genes differentially regulated by Wnt3a in progenitor HepaRG cells (Supplementary Figure 2E-2H and Supplementary Table 3A). After filtering out 169/358 genes affected by control (scrambled) siRNA (Supplementary Table 3B), we obtained 189 genes, 142 (75%) of them were sensitive to β-catenin siRNA knockdown and 47 (25%) were not (Supplementary Table 3, C and D). Among the 358 genes modulated by Wnt3a in HepaRG cells, 233 (65%) of them were inhibited by 30 nM FZD8 CRD and 125 (35%) were not (Supplementary Table 3, E and F). Finally, 77 genes were both sensitive to both  $\beta$ -catenin knockdown and FZD8 CRD in independent experiments (Supplementary Table 3G).

Ingenuity Pathway Analysis revealed fibrogenesis and myofibroblast activation pathways (Figure 2A). Consistently, gene ontology analysis by FuncAssociate 2.0 [21] confirmed that Wnt signals induced highly significant and reproducible fibrogenic gene sets (Supplementary Table 4). Also, gene ontology analysis confirmed that the gene set affected by scrambled siRNA was only associated with actin crosslink formation, reflecting cytoskeletal rearrangements following electroporation [22]. Importantly, genes specifically silenced by  $\beta$ -catenin targeting siRNA and by FZD8\_CRD were both associated with fibrogenesis.

To strengthen our observations, we compared the Wnt-induced signature in HepaRG cells with the whole genome mRNA expression profiles of epithelial 3P and fibroblast-like 3SP human HCC cell lines. These cells are derived from the same HCC, 3SP resulting from 3P cells that underwent spontaneous EMT [23]. Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) revealed that the transcriptome of 3SP cells was significantly enriched in genes induced by Wnt3a in HepaRG progenitor cells (Figure 2B). By hierarchical clustering, fibroblast-like 3SP cells were unambiguously distinguished from epithelial 3P cells on the basis of the gene expression of Wnt Homepage targets (Figure 2D) and associated functions



**Figure 2: Wnt signals activate a fibrogenic gene expression program in liver progenitors.** A. Gene networks applying Ingenuity pathway analysis on the 358 gene set differentially regulated by Wnt3a. **B.** Wnt-induced differentiation of hepatic progenitors into fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells matches the transcriptome signature of spontaneously emerging EMT in human HCC (GSE26391). 3P and 3SP human HCC cell lines derive from the same tumor, mesenchymal 3SP resulting from epithelial 3P cells that underwent spontaneous EMT in a human HCC [23]. By gene set enrichment analysis, 3SP cells are significantly enriched in transcripts induced by Wnt3a in HepaRG cells. **C.** and **D.** Hierarchical clustering: 3SP and 3P cells are distinguished by C *Wnt target genes* from the Wnt Homepage (Supplementary Table 6A) and D *Extracellular Wnt signaling* (Wnt pathway ligands and receptors). Raw gene expression data were normalized by the Robust Multi-array Average (RMA) log, algorithm and quantile filtered.

(Supplementary Table 5). Moreover, comparison of the mRNA signature of transiently mesenchymal-competent cells induced by dedifferentiation of hepatocyte-like HepaRG cells [18] with our Wnt3a-induced signature confirmed that Wnt signals specifically promote differentiation of transit-amplifying liver progenitor cells to fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells (Supplementary Table 6).

## *In vitro* Wnt-induced fibrogenesis activates signaling networks that are functional in HCCs

Close analysis of Wnt-induced genes sensitive to both  $\beta$ -catenin targeting siRNA and to FZD8\_CRD (Supplementary Table 3G) revealed crosstalks of Wnt with TGFB/BMP, Notch, Hedgehog and IGF signaling



**Figure 3:** *In vitro* **Wnt-induced fibrogenesis activates signaling networks that are functional in HCCs. A.** RNA levels of the indicated genes in progenitor HepaRG HCC cells treated with Wnt3a after transfection with two  $\beta$ -catenin targeting siRNAs. **B.** LGR5 mRNA expression in HepaRG and Huh-7 cells treated with BSA (control), the Hedgehog pathway inducer Purmorphamine, Wnt3a and the Hedgehog inhibitor KAAD-cyclopamine. Tomatidine is a cyclopamine structural analog which does not inhibit the Hedgehog pathway. **C.** Immunodetection of LGR5 in HepaRG cells after 13 days of incubation with Wnt3a or BSA. LGR5, red (FluoProbes 594); nuclei, blue (DAPI). **D.** RNA expression of the hepatocyte differentiation marker ALDOB in HepaRG cells transfected with LGR5 siRNA. **E.** Gene networks generated by Weighted Correlation Network Analysis (WGCNA) [44] using mRNA expression data for the indicated genes in 79 HCCs. Networks with a correlation coefficient threshold  $\geq 0.30$  plotted with Cytoscape [45]. Closeness between nodes is proportional to the number of connections. Thickness of links is proportional to the correlation coefficients. **F.** 3D scatterplots showing the relationships between mRNA expression of the indicated genes in 79 HCCs. ACTA2, smooth muscle actin; COL4A1, procollagen, type IV, alpha 1 chain. Multiple regression coefficients (*R*) are indicated.

pathways [5]. To validate these crosstalks,  $\beta$ -catenin dependency of representative genes of these four signaling pathways was confirmed by real-time PCR (Figure 3A). Among these, the induction of the stem cell marker LGR5 by Wnt3a in Huh-7 or HepaRG cells was partially inhibited by the Hedgehog inhibitor KAAD-cyclopamine, but not by the inactive structural analog tomatidine (Figure 3B). Whereas LGR5 expression by myofibroblast-like cells suggested that they retained stem cell features (Figure 3C); silencing of LGR5 by specific siRNA upregulated the hepatocyte differentiation marker aldolase B (Figure 3D), suggesting that Wnt-induced LGR5 impairs hepatocyte differentiation.

We then sought to validate these findings in 79 HCCs, by assessing the mRNA expression of the genes shown in Figure 3A-3C, together with genes involved in cell surface Wnt signaling (GPC3, SFRP1, SFRP2, DKK1, FZD1, FZD7, WNT2) and mesenchymal commitment (ACTA2, LAMC1; COL4A1). Of note, SFRPs 1 and 2 also reflect mesenchymal commitment of stem cells [24]. Weighted Gene Co-expression Network Analysis revealed two tight networks associating stem/progenitor markers to cell surface Wnt signaling and mesenchymal commitment (Figure 3E and Supplementary Table 7). Both networks were linked by HAPLN1 and collagen IV (COL4A1). Hyaluronan And Proteoglycan Link Protein 1 (HAPLN1) is a cartilage gene that links proteoglycans to hyaluronic acid, thereby playing a key role in extracellular matrix assembly [20]. While its absence leads to dwarfism [19], tumors de novo expresses HAPLN1 [25]. Multiple correlation analyses confirmed that both SFRP1 and HAPLN1 were associated with ACTA2 (a-SMA) and collagen type IV (Figure 3F).

## *De novo* expression of HAPLN1 hallmarks mesenchymal commitment

Wnt3a-induced upregulation of HAPLN1 was first detected at 12 h (~2.5 fold) reaching >30 folds at 13 days. At this time, HAPLN1 was deposited in the pericellular matrix of N-cadherin<sup>+</sup> cells (Figure 4A and 4B). Generation of EPCAM<sup>-</sup>/NCAM<sup>+</sup> cells is the earliest stage of mesoderm commitment from undifferentiated human embryonic stem cells [26]. Analysis of this dataset (GSE21668) revealed de novo HAPLN1 expression at the earliest stages of mesoderm commitment (Figure 5A). Consistently, by real-time PCR, fibroblast-like HCC 3SP cells showed higher HAPLN1 mRNA levels than epithelial 3P cells (Figure 5B). Moreover, kinetics analysis of gene expression, upon dedifferentiation of hepatocyte-like HepaRG cells to transient mesenchymecompetent progenitors, revealed that HAPLN1 became detectable at 24 h and increased by 8 folds at 48 h post plating. Conversely, upon differentiation of these progenitors to hepatocyte-like cells, HAPLN1 decreased by >35 folds from day 4 to day 15 and was no longer detectable thereafter. This expression kinetics was similar to those of COL4A1 and LGR5 (Figure 5C). Furthermore, transfection of HepaRG progenitor cells with HAPLN1 siRNA downregulated the mesenchymal markers Snail,  $\alpha$ -SMA, collagen type IV and the stem cell marker LGR5. Snail was also downregulated by  $\beta$ -catenin and LGR5-targeting siRNAs (Figure 6). Taken together, these findings indicate that HAPLN1 hallmarks mesenchymal commitment of hepatic progenitors.

## HAPLN1 is expressed at high levels in a subset of HCCs with bad outcome after curative resection.

HAPLN1 mRNA levels were measured by real-time PCR in 82 HCCs from 70 patients, 5 histologically normal liver controls, 11 FNHs and 66 matching non-tumor liver samples. HAPLN1 was detected at much higher levels in HCCs than in non-tumor livers in our cohort (Figure 7A), as well as in 80 HCCs with respect to 307 non-tumor hepatitis/cirrhosis livers in a public DASL microarray dataset (GSE10143) [12] (Figure 7B).

The clinical and biological features of the HCC patients in our cohort and the flowchart of inclusion criteria for survival analysis are detailed in Supplementary Table 8, A and B. A binary HAPLN1 expression score was generated from our real-time PCR and TMA immunohistochemistry data. HAPLN HIGH and LOW HCCs showed significantly different HAPLN1 mRNA levels and TMA immunohistochemistry scores (Figure 7C and 7D). HAPLN HIGH patients presented lower diseasefree and overall survival (Figure 7E and 7F). Univariate Cox's analysis (Supplementary Table 9) confirmed the association of HAPLN1 with poor survival after curative resection. Multivariate analysis after adjustment for alphafetoprotein, vascular invasion, number of resected liver segments and capsular infiltration by the HCC showed that HAPLN1 was independently associated with survival after curative resection, with a mean increase in relative risk of 4.6 folds (Figure 7G). Of note, HAPLN1 relationship with survival was not dependent on  $\beta$ -catenin exon 3 mutations (Figure 7H) assessed by Sanger sequencing (Supplementary Table 10). Indeed, HAPLN1 expression was not driven by β-catenin activating mutations (Supplementary Figure 3). This contrasts with LGR5 (Supplementary Figure 3), which expression may be governed by both  $\beta$ -catenin mutations [1, 2] and by Wntdriven stem cell amplification [13].

## HAPLN1 emerges in aggressive HCCs expressing markers of tumor stem/progenitor cells

HCCs showed co-expression of HAPLN1 with other genes found to be induced by Wnt3a in vitro. HAPLN1 and the tumor progenitor cell markers CD44



**Figure 4: HAPLN1 upregulation by Wnt3a over 13 days.** HepaRG progenitor cells were cultured with control FCS(-)/BSA(+) or FCS(-)/BSA(+)/Wnt3a. **A**. HAPLN1 mRNA levels 12 h and 13 days upon Wnt3a-induction. **B**. Immunodetection of HAPLN1, red (Cy5); N-cadherin, green (FITC). Nuclei, blue (DAPI). Images acquired at 20X. Control (BSA) shows very rare cells expressing HAPLN1 (*arrow*). HAPLN1 labels the pericellular matrix and colocalizes with N-cadherin.



Figure 5: HAPLN1 hallmarks early mesoderm commitment of pluripotent hES cells and spontaneous EMT. A. Normalized mRNA data from GSE21668 [26] showing *de novo* HAPLN1 expression in early EPCAM<sup>-</sup>/NCAM+ mesoderm-committed progenitors generated from undifferentiated human embryonic stem cells. B. HAPLN1 expression analyzed by real-time PCR in the  $3P \rightarrow 3SP$  human HCC cell lines derived from the same tumor. Mesenchymal 3SP result from epithelial 3P cells that underwent spontaneous EMT [23]. C. Kinetics of mRNA expression analyzed by real-time PCR in HepaRG cells along the retrodifferentiation of hepatocytes into liver progenitors and the differentiation of liver progenitors to hepatocytes. Time points 0 h and 30 days (COL4A1 and LGR5) or 15 days (HAPLN1) were used as calibrators. HAPLN1 was not detectable at 30 days in differentiated hepatocyte-like cells.



**Figure 6: HAPLN1 silencing leads to mesenchymal and stem cell marker loss.** Real-time-PCR-assessed mRNA expression of the indicated genes in HepaRG progenitor cells transfected with the indicated siRNAs. HAPLN1 silencing downregulates SNAI1; ACTA2; COL4A1 and LGR5 expression.



**Figure 7: High HAPLN1 expression indicates bad outcome after curative HCC resection.** A. Real-time PCR analysis of HAPLN1 mRNA expression in HCC, histologically normal liver controls C, focal nodular hyperplasias FNH and matching non-tumor livers NT. Controls were used as calibrator. Asterisks (\*\*\*) indicate P<0.001 for NT versus HCC. **B**. Comparison of HAPLN1 mRNA levels in HCC versus NT from a public DASL microarray dataset (GSE10143) [12] normalized by the cubic spline algorithm and filtered by fold change (up/down>3). **C**. and **D**. HAPLN1 LOW and HAPLN HIGH classes display different mRNA and protein levels by real-time PCR and by TMA-based immunohistochemistry scoring. **E**. and **F**. Disease-free and overall survival after curative HCC resection. The number of patients at risk at each time point is shown (*Upper row*, HAPLN LOW; *lower row*, HAPLN1 HIGH). **G**. Multivariate Cox's proportional hazards model after adjustment for alpha-fetoprotein, vascular invasion, number of resected liver segments and capsular infiltration. The model indicates that HAPLN1 is independently associated with survival. **H**. Cox's model integrating  $\beta$ -catenin (CTNNB1) exon 3 mutations shows that HAPLN1 is not dependent on  $\beta$ -catenin mutations.

and LGR5 were detected in tumor cells at the tumorstroma interface and in cells arranged in an "Indian file" pattern (Figure 8A). HAPLN1 correlated with laminin y1,  $\alpha$ -SMA, CD44, as well as with other genes induced by Wnt3a, such as LFNG, IGFBP5, LEF1 and PI15 (Figure 8B). HCCs with microscopic vascular invasion had high mRNA levels of HAPLN1, LGR5, LEF1, SOX9, CD44, Glypican 3 and larger tumor size (Figure 8C). Serum AFP levels were higher in HAPLN1 HIGH class patients and, similarly, patients with high AFP levels displayed high immunohistochemistry scores for HAPLN1. Likewise, high HAPLN1 expression correlated with the stem cell marker PROM1 and with cytoplasmic  $\beta$ -catenin (Figure 8D). Consistently, cytoplasmic β-catenin staining is increased in HCCs showing enhanced Wnt signaling without β-catenin gene mutations [1, 2]. Moreover, a cluster of biomarkers induced by Wnt3a in HepaRG cells reflecting progenitor cells with mesenchymal commitment was associated with high Edmondson-Steiner's score in HCCs, indicating poor tumor differentiation (Supplementary Figure 4). Taken together, these findings indicate that HAPLN1 emerges in mesenchymal-committed tumor progenitor cells driving tumor aggressiveness and poor outcome in HCC.

#### **DISCUSSION**

We show here that Wnt-specific signals foster fibrogenic, myofibroblast-like populations with stem cell features and impair hepatocyte and biliary lineage commitment of liver progenitors. The pathway crosstalks elicited by Wnt-specific signals form a tight network in HCCs. Among the genes switched on within this network, HAPLN1 is associated with bad outcome and with the expression of markers of stemness and of tumor aggressiveness (Figure 9).

We showed that Wnt3a upregulates TGFB1, TGFB2 and BMP1 expression. In turn, TGFB activates Wnt signaling and plays a key role in mesenchymal commitment [4, 27]. Thus, Wnt/TGFB pathways may set up a positive feedback loop leading to tumor aggressiveness. In addition, R-spondin binding of LGR5 receptors enhances Wnt signaling and leads to long-term expansion of bipotent hepatic progenitor cells [13]. In this context, excess of TGFB/BMP signaling is inhibited by Noggin, thus avoiding growth arrest and epithelialmesenchymal transition [13, 28]. Our data suggest that Wnt3a triggers finely-tuned signaling pathway crosstalks, driving progenitor cell reprogramming to replicative, invasive and fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells. Probably because Wnt3a upregulates Noggin (Figure 3A and 3F), as well as MYC and BIRC5 (Figure 1C), TGFB/BMP signaling is counterbalanced, thus avoiding growth arrest and achieving high proliferation rates throughout a twoweek assay (Figure 1F). Despite their fibrogenic activity, these myofibroblast-like progenitors kept high levels of the stem cells markers CD44 and LGR5. Thus, the rates of proliferation and the expression of stem cell markers suggest that these cells are not terminally differentiated. This phenotype is compatible with the dynamics of cancer progression.

Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin lies at the crossroads of a growing list of signaling pathways, including Hedgehog and Notch [5, 29]. High LGR5 expression was achieved through Wnt3a induction of Indian Hedgehog. As both Wnt [13] and Hedgehog [30] pathways upregulate LGR5 expression, Wnt/Hedgehog cross-talks probably amplified the LGR5<sup>+</sup> stem cell population. Along these lines, Notch signaling leads to biliary lineage commitment [28], but Wnt3a reduced Notch2 expression (Figure 1C) and upregulated the Notch inhibitor LFNG (Figure 3, A), thus impairing biliary lineage commitment. The Wnt-triggered signaling network also included insulin growth factor pathway members, namely IGFL1; 2 and 3, IGF2BP3 and FHL2. IGF2BP3 is an oncofetal IGF-mRNA-binding protein *de novo* expressed and promoting aggressiveness in HCC [31]. FHL2 enhances  $\beta$ -catenin-dependent transcription of IGFBP5 [32]. IGFBP5, in turn, increases the bioavailability of IGF1 and IGF2 [33] and induces fibrogenesis [34].

Activation of Wnt signaling was reported in hepatic stem cell-like HCCs expressing the epithelial cell adhesion molecule EPCAM [35]. We found that the cancer epithelial cell markers EPCAM and cytokeratin 19 (KRT19) were highly correlated in 79 HCCs (R=0.87, Supplementary Table 7). However, neither EPCAM nor KRT19 did integrate the coexpression network of mesenchymalcommitted hepatic progenitors. Consistently, the earliest mesoderm-committed progenitor cells derived from human embryonic stem cells and mesenchymal-competent HepaRG progenitors are EPCAM<sup>-</sup> [18, 26]. As EPCAM<sup>+</sup> HCC cells are epithelial [35], and our work is based on mesenchyme-competent EPCAM hepatic progenitors [16, 18], we hypothesize that Wnt signals may direct transit-amplifying progenitor cells toward a mesenchymal phenotype. Importantly, through activation of different gene networks, both works show that the final output is enhanced tumor aggressiveness.

Wnt signals led cells to ectopically express mesenchymal progenitor genes like HAPLN1, which regulates cell growth in developing cartilage [19] and heart valves [36]. Similarly, IGFBP5 and PI15 are involved in branching morphogenesis of epithelial organs [37]. In addition, HAPLN1 was expressed *de novo* upon mesenchymal commitment of embryonic stem cells and in two models of liver EMT. Conversely, HAPLN1 knockdown in hepatic progenitor cells downregulated LGR5,  $\alpha$ -SMA, collagen IV and Snail. In HCCs, in consistency with *in vitro* data, high HAPLN1 levels were associated with basement membrane remodeling, myofibroblast activation and expression of the stem/ progenitor markers CD44, LGR5 and CD133/PROM1;



**Figure 8: HAPLN1 is detected in HCCs featuring stem cell markers, high alpha-fetoprotein levels, vascular invasion and β-catenin activation.** A. Immunodetection of HAPLN1, CD44 and LGR5 in formalin-fixed, paraffin embedded HCCs. Brown color, specific signal; blue, hematoxylin counterstaining. The three proteins are detected in tumor cells at the tumor-stroma interface *(black arrows)* and in cells arranged in "Indian files" *(red arrowheads).* B. Heatmap showing associations of HAPLN1 mRNA expression with the indicated genes. White bars indicate missing data (n=8/729 spots). Pearson's X<sup>2</sup> and Gamma correlation coefficients are shown on the right. C. Vascular tumor invasion *(black squares)* is associated with the indicated variables. D. Serum AFP levels are higher in *HAPLN1 HIGH* patients. High HAPLN1 protein correlates with high AFP serum levels. High PROM1/CD133 protein is detected in *HAPLN1 HIGH* HCCs. High HAPLN1 mRNA correlates with high cytoplasmic β-catenin.

the Notch pathway inhibitor LFNG, the Wnt target gene LEF1 and the IGF pathway agonist IGFBP5 (Figure 8). Supporting our data, a bioinformatics study predicted HAPLN1 expression to lie downstream upregulated Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling in colorectal cancer [38] and proteomics analysis of tumor stroma reported HAPLN1 in highly metastatic melanomas [25]. Also, HAPLN1 has been associated with bad outcome in pleural mesothelioma [39].

In conclusion, Wnt-specific signals led hepatic progenitors to specialize into invasive, proliferating myofibroblast-like fibrogenic cells with stem cell features through a subtle equilibrium of signaling pathway crosstalks. Through the ectopic induction of mesenchymal progenitor genes in liver cancer cells, Wnt signals confer a high degree of biodiversity and, ultimately, selective advantages for cancer progression.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

## Patients, clinical data management and tissue banking

Seventy HCC patients undergoing liver surgery with curative intention at Rennes University Hospital

between January 1992 and December 2007 were included. Fifty-one were treated by partial hepatectomy and 19 by orthotopic liver transplantation (OLT). The microscopic features of tumors diagnosed as HCC were reviewed and annotated by a senior pathologist (BT). Combined hepatocellular-cholangiocarcinoma or fibrolamellar HCCs were not included. Demographic, clinical and biological data were retrieved from hospital charts by two experienced liver surgeons (LS & DB) and are described in Supplementary Table 8A. After resection, patients were followed up every 3 months for the first 2 years, and every 6 months thereafter. Follow-up, which was available for 65 patients, included clinical examination, serum AFP (alphafetoprotein), ultrasonography and computed tomography. Mean and median follow-up times were 60 and 53 months, respectively (95% CI= 50-70 months; range= 3-150 months). The end of follow-up was set between June and September 2012 or at the time of death. Only patients undergoing partial hepatectomy, with a follow $up \ge 3$  months and with complete tumor resection were included in the survival analyses. Early deaths, unrelated to the HCC, and patients without microscopically tumorfree resection margins, as well as patients treated by OLT, were excluded from survival analyses. Survival analysis flowchart is shown in Supplementary Table 8B. Eightytwo frozen tumors from 70 patients were analyzed. As controls, we included 66 matching non-tumor livers, 5



- Downregulation + Upregulation

Figure 9: Upon low density plating, hepatocyte-like cells acquire transient mesenchymal competence within 48 h and dedifferentiate to bipotent progenitors that normally re-differentiate into hepatocyte-like cells. A cell microenvironment enriched in Wnt signals reprograms liver progenitor cells into invasive fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells within two weeks. These cells *de novo* express the cartilage gene HAPLN1 among other gene modulations. In HCCs, HAPLN1 is expressed *de novo* in a subset of patients presenting with HCCs that feature bad outcome, vascular invasion, high AFP serum levels and CD133+ tumor cells.

(R&D Systems, 7nM) and/or mouse FZD8\_CRD (30 nM, R&D Systems) were added to serum-free HepaRG medium containing 0.1% BSA for the indicated periods of time according to the experiment. Independent culture experiments were performed in triplicate.
 Tissue-microarray (TMA) and immunohistochemistry and immunohistochemistry

**Cell culture** 

## scoring of human tissues

histologically normal livers from patients undergoing

resection of liver metastases of extrahepatic primary

cancers and 11 focal nodular hyperplasias. Non-tumor

and normal liver samples were obtained at >2 cm from

the tumors. Frozen human tissue samples were obtained

after processing by the Biological Resource Center (BRC)

at Rennes University Hospital (BB-0033-00056). Briefly,

fresh tissues were frozen at -80°C in N2-cooled isopentane

and stored at -80°C under quality-controlled conditions.

Formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue blocks were

obtained from the Anatomic Pathology laboratory. The

study protocol complied with French laws and regulations and fulfilled the requirements of the local institutional

ethics committee. Sample collection was reported to the

Ministry of Education and Research (No. DC-2008-338).

and Wnt3a-enriched conditioned medium was collected

as described [9, 10]. HepaRG cells were expanded as

liver progenitors, differentiated to hepatocytes and

retrodifferentiated to liver progenitors [18]. To induce EMT in HepaRG cells, progenitor HepaRG cells were

detached by trypsinization, seeded at low density  $(2x10^4 \text{ cells/cm}^2)$ , detached three days later and seeded at the same density in complete HepaRG medium containing

50% Wnt3a-conditioned or 50% control L cell medium.

In other experiments, purified mouse recombinant Wnt3a

Huh-7 [8] and 3P/3SP [23] cells were cultured [10]

For selection of tissue blocs for TMA construction, the whole set of archival HE-stained sections from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue blocks from each one of the 67 available HCC patients and from five histologically normal livers were reviewed (Nikon 80i microscope) to ensure that the selected paraffin bloc was the mirror lesion of the frozen sample. A region of interest (ROI, 0.5 to 1 cm in diameter) was labeled with a permanent marker to precisely localize the punch zone. TMA construction was done with a MiniCore3 tissue arrayer (Alphelys, Plaisir, France). ROIs were punched in triplicate. Punch size was set at 1000 µm in diameter. HCC samples were randomly assigned to either one of two 132-punch receiver paraffin blocks. Randomization was performed with a "rand" function in Microsoft Excel. The five histologically normal liver controls were included in both array blocs #1 and #2 to control for

signal and background intensities. Five-µm microtome sections were processed for immunohistochemistry with a Discovery XT from Ventana Medical Systems (Roche) slide staining system. See Supporting Table 2 for antibodies used. Stained slides were converted into high-resolution digital data with a NanoZoomer digital slide scanner (Hamamatsu, Massy, France). Digital slides were viewed using NDP.view software (Hamamatsu) in a Dell S2415H 24-Inch Screen LED-Lit Monitor. The signal was independently read by two observers (RD and OM) who were blinded to any information. Discrepancies were resolved by consensus reading. A 4-point scale (0-1-2-3-4) denoting increasing signal intensity was used. The relative importance of focal versus general expression of the proteins under study was weighted using the following formulas, where GS stands for general score and FS stands for focal score:

If general signal predominated, score = 2xGS + FS + 1; (where +1 was used to weight the relative importance of general signal with respect to focal signal).

If focal signal predominated, score = 2xFS + GS.

When applied, these formulas yielded scores varying from 3 to 13.

#### Cell growth assays

Cells were seeded at low density  $(5 \times 10^3 \text{ cells per well in 96-well plates})$ . HepaRG culture medium was supplemented with 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine (BrdU, GE Healthcare Lifesciences) for 1h30 and cells were fixed with 4% PFA. BrdU was detected with mouse anti-BrdU antibody (1:200, ab8152; Abcam) followed by anti-mouse IgG-DyLight 488 (1:500, 072-03-18-18, Eurobio, Les Ulis, France). Image acquisition and quantitation of BrdU-incorporating cells were performed with a Cellomics ArrayScan VTI HCS Reader (Thermo Scientific).

#### **Cell invasion**

Cell invasion was assessed in Matrigel-coated Boyden chambers (Transwell inserts, 8.0 µm pore size, Corning). After five days of culture following a routine passage, cells were detached, washed with PBS and suspended in serum-free medium supplemented with 0.1 % BSA. Then, 1x10<sup>5</sup> cells were seeded in the upper chamber of the Transwell insert. The lower chamber was filled with 800 µl of serum-free medium with or without recombinant mouse Wnt3a (R&D Systems). After 24 hr of incubation at 37°C, cells were fixed with 4% PFA and stained with 2.3% crystal violet. Non-invading cells were gently removed from the upper surface of the insert and images from five fields per membrane were randomly acquired (Axio observer, Carl Zeiss microscopy). Quantitation of invading cells was done with ImageJ (NIH).  $\beta$ -catenin exon 3 sequencing and search for  $\beta$ -catenin exon 3 deletions

For mutation analysis, exon 3 and the flanking intronic sequences of the CTNNB1 gene were amplified by PCR using Kappa HiFi DNA polymerase (Kapa Biosystems, Wilmington, MA). Briefly, 50 ng of genomic DNA were used as template with βCATEX2F (5'-GAA-AAT-CCA-GCG-TGG-ACA-ATG-3') and BCATEX4R (5'-TCG-AGT-CAT-TGC-ATA-CTG-TCC-3') as oligonucleotide primers. The reaction included a 95°C denaturation step for 3 min followed by 35 cycles consisting of: 98°C denaturation for 15 sec, 60°C annealing for 15 sec, and elongation 72°C for 30 sec. Both strands of the amplified products were directly sequenced on an automated sequencer (ABI 3700; Perkin-Elmer, Boston, MA). Negative results on exon 3 mutations may overlook large exon 3 deletions in CTNNB1. Indeed, as somatic deletions are heterozygous, the wild-type allele may mask the deletion upon Sanger sequencing [40]. To avoid this pitfall, cases showing no exon 3 mutation were screened for  $\beta$ -catenin deletion by PCR on reversetranscribed tumor cDNA. For PCR amplification of the exon 3 of CTNNB1, oligonucleotide primers (F1: 5'- GCG-TGG-ACA-ATG-GCT-ACT-CAA-G-3'; R1: 5'- TAT-TAA-CCA-CCA-CCT-GGT-CCT-C-3'; and R2: 5'- TTC-AGC-ACT-CTG-CTT-GTG-GTC-3') were used. The primer pairs F1-R1 and F1-R2 yielded 517 bp (169 aa) and 1043 bp (344 aa) amplicons, respectively. As positive control, HepG2-derived cDNA was used, as these cells harbor a large CTNNB1 deletion (amino-acids 25-140) [40]. PCR was performed using the GoTaq Green Master Mix (Promega) and amplicons migrated in 1.5% Nusieve agarose (LifeTechnologies) gels.

#### **DNA microarrays**

In vitro transcription and labeling of 150 ng total RNA was carried out using an Agilent Low-Input QuickAmp Labeling kit (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) in the presence of Cy3-CTP following the manufacturer's protocol. After purification using an RNeasy mini kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany), cRNA yield and specific activity were determined using a NanoDrop spectrophotometer, as previously described [10]. Equal amount of Cy3-labeled cRNA was subjected to fragmentation followed by 18-hr hybridization onto Agilent human 4x44K v2 pangenomic microarrays. Washing and scanning were performed according to the manufacturer's instructions (Agilent Technologies). Gene expression data were further processed using Feature Extraction (version 10.7) and GeneSpring (version 11.0) softwares (Agilent Technologies). Filtration of array data resulted in the selection of nonflag-positive and significant gene features. Inter-array normalization was performed by using the 75th percentile signal value. Transcriptomic data have been deposited in NCBI's Gene Expression Omnibus and are accessible through GEO Series accession number GSE68633.

#### Functional genomics analyses

Hierarchical clustering was performed with the *hclust* function in R software, applying the Ward method to correlation-based distances. Gene annotations based on gene ontology and enrichment for biological functions were done with the FuncAssociate 2.1 program [21]. Gene ontology functions were summarized by removing redundant terms using REVIGO [41]. Ingenuity pathway analysis was used to identify top biological functions, upstream regulators and transcription regulators (Ingenuity Systems, Redwood City, CA, USA). Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was performed with the web-based tool developed at the Broad Institute [42].

#### Statistical analyses

After removing experimental batch effect with the SVA package [43], gene networks were generated by Weighted Correlation Network Analysis (WGCNA, WGCNA package) [44] using expression data. Gene networks were visually integrated with Cytoscape, with a correlation coefficient threshold  $\geq 0.30$  [45]. To analyze patient data, the Recommendations for Tumor Marker Prognostic Studies (REMARK) were applied [46]. Briefly, to screen our transcriptomic dataset for biologically relevant genes warranting further studies, we focused on those meeting two criteria: (i) response to both β-catenin targeting siRNA and FZD8 CRD in independent experiments and (ii) involvement in key signaling pathways. Eight genes meeting these criteria were analyzed by real-time PCR and TMA-based immunohistochemistry in human HCCs. Complying with the REMARK guidelines [46], the inclusion criteria for survival analysis are shown by a flowchart in Supplementary Table 8B. Survival analyses were performed using the Log Rank test and Kaplan-Meier curves and the Cox's proportional hazards method for univariate or multivariate analyses, as indicated. To this end, real-time PCR results were calculated by the  $\Delta\Delta$ Ct method and calibrated with respect to the median of a standard range curve run in every experiment. Real-time PCR results were further normalized by the following equation:  $[(LNi-mean_{LNi\rightarrow n})/SD_{LNi\rightarrow n}]$ , where LN, natural logarithm;  $i \rightarrow n$ , from the first to the last value. To obtain binary values for Kaplan-Meier curves, normalized realtime PCR results were binarized using the median as the cut-off value. TMA-based immunohistochemistry scores (0-1-2-3-4) were binarized by a  $\geq$ 3 cut-off score for focal expression of specific proteins.

Correlation analyses between gene expression levels were performed with the Spearman rank order test (continuous variables, non-parametric distribution). Association analyses between binary or ordinal variables (expression scores, clinical, biological or anatomic pathology data) were performed with Pearson's Chi2 or Fisher exact test. Group comparisons were done with non-parametric ANOVA and the Kruskal Wallis post hoc tests, unless otherwise indicated. Heatmaps showing associations between binary patient data were constructed with Excel (Microsoft Office 2010). Statistical calculations were performed with the R software (version 3.1.1) and the packages *survival, FactoMineR, gplots, colorspace* and *marray* or with Statistica 10 (Statsoft, Maisons-Alfort, France).

See Supplementary Materials and Methods for: RNA interference, nucleic acid extraction from human tissues and cells, real-time PCR and immunocytochemistry. See Supplementary Table 1 for real-time PCR primers and TaqMan probes and Supplementary Table 2 for antibodies.

#### Abbreviations

α-SMA, alpha smooth muscle actin; AFP, alphafetoprotein; APC, adenomatous polyposis coli; BRC, biological resource center; CTNNB1, DASL, cDNAmediated Annealing, Selection, extension, and Ligation Assay ; EMT, epithelial-mesenchymal transition; FNH, focal nodular hyperplasia; FZD, frizzled; GGT1, gammaglutamyltransferase 1; GSE, gene expression series; GSK3B, glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta; HAPLN1, hyaluronan and proteoglycan link protein 1; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; IGFBP5, insulin growth factor binding protein 5; LEF1, lymphoid enhancer-binding factor 1; LFNG, lunatic fringe homolog; MMP2, matrix metallopeptidase 2; NT, non-tumor; OLT, orthotopic liver transplantation; PI15, peptidase inhibitor 15; PROM1, prominin 1 (CD133); SFRPs, secreted frizzled-related proteins; siRNA, small interfering RNA; T, Tumor ; TGFB, transforming growth factor beta.

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#### Author contributions

Study design, OM, SM, RD, BC, CP; SM, MS, EL; Hepatocyte-EMT reprograming, like differentiation and retrodifferentiation, AC, HDPS, MS, SM; Real-time PCR, SM, MS, HDPS; Immunocytochemistry, MS, EL, RLG, OM; DNA microarray hybridization, slide scanning, normalization, clustering and expression ratios, CC; Functional genomics; RD, SM, OM; Statistical analyses, meta-analyses from mRNA expression datasets, RD, OM; Tissue microarray design, construction and immunohistochemistry, OM, PB, MD; Tissue microarray scoring, OM, RD; Frozen tissue bank management, nucleic acid extraction, quality controls, BT, MD, OM, SM; CTNNB1 exon 3 sequencing, CP, FC; Clinical, biological and follow-up data collection, LS, DB; Anatomic Pathology annotations, BT; Manuscript preparation, OM, SM, RD; Manuscript editing, all authors.

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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# *De novo* HAPLN1 expression hallmarks Wnt-induced stem cell and fibrogenic networks leading to aggressive human hepatocellular carcinomas

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#### **Supplementary Materials and Methods**

#### **RNA interference and cDNA vector transfection**

Routinely expanded HepaRG progenitor cells were detached by trypsinization, seeded at low density (2x10<sup>4</sup> cells/cm<sup>2</sup>), detached three days later and transfected in suspension with small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) by a MP100 Microporator (LabTech) and Neon<sup>TM</sup> Transfection System 100  $\mu$ L Kit (Invitrogen) under optimized conditions (80 pmoles siRNA, 1500V, 20ms, 1 pulse). Silencer negative control (D-001810-10-05, Thermo Fisher) and  $\beta$ -catenin (HSS102460, Invitrogen) siRNAs were used.

#### Nucleic acid extraction from human tissues and from in vitro cultures

RNA and DNA were extracted from 10 μm cryosections obtained from frozen tissue blocks. Once tissues were placed on the specimen head of a Leica 3050S cryostat and trimmed to obtain a level and histologically controlled representative surface (hematoxylin or toluidine blue extemporaneous staining), the first two 5 μm sections were set aside as permanent histological controls. Then, 10 μm cryosections were obtained and immediately lysed in RNA or DNA extraction buffers. Before removing the disk containing the specimen from the head, two 5 μm cryosections were set aside again as permanent histological controls. Lead and rear permanent histological controls were formalin-fixed, HE-stained in a Leica ST5020 routine stainer and representative samples were removed from the RNA and DNA extraction process. Representative samples were extracted with NucleoSpin® RNA II (Macherey-Nagel) and with the DNeasy Blood & Tissue (Qiagen) kits, as recommended by the manufacturers. Quality control of the extracted nucleic acids

was performed by dosing the eluents with a NanoDrop spectrophotometer and by checking 28S/18S ratios by gel electrophoresis. For in vitro cultured cell layers, total RNA was purified with an RNAeasy kit (Qiagen). Extracted RNA quality control was done as for human tissues.

#### **Real-time PCR**

Reverse-transcribed cDNA was obtained with the High Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (Applied Biosystems) according to manufacturer's instructions. Expression of relevant genes was measured by quantitative real-time PCR using the StepOnePlus<sup>™</sup> System or the ABI prism 7900HT, power SYBR Green PCR master mix or Taqman probe-based assays (Applied Biosystems), according to the experiments. See Supporting Table 1 for real-time PCR primers and TaqMan probes. Quantitative analyses of PCR data were conducted by the 2<sup>-ΔΔCt</sup> method.

#### Immunocytochemistry

Cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) for 15 minutes at room temperature (RT) and permeated in 0.1 % Triton-X-100 (Sigma) for 15 min at RT. Primary antibodies used are listed in Supporting Table 2. Nuclei were stained with DAPI. Secondary antibodies were: anti-mouse FITC-labeled (F8521, Sigma Aldrich), anti-rabbit Cy5-labeled (A10523, Life Technologies) and anti-goat FluoProbes<sup>®</sup> 594 (FP-SD2110, Interchim). Images were acquired using a Cellomics ArrayScan VTI HCS Reader (Thermo Scientific).

### Supplementary Figures:



Supplementary Figure 1: Wnt3a induces fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells from liver cell progenitors. A. Ten-day kinetics of incubation of progenitor HepaRG cells with control versus Wnt3a conditioned medium containing 10% FCS or with B.

FCS-free control medium versus FCS-free medium plus 7 nM purified recombinant Wnt3a (R&D Systems). Both purified recombinant Wnt3a and in-house produced conditioned medium from Wnt3a-secreting cells (CRL-2647, ATCC) induce similar morphological changes in progenitor HepaRG cells over 10 days. Cells receiving control media gradually develop the features of a hepatocyte culture (see insets for cytological details). Wnt3a treatment leads to the progressive growth of fascicles of spindle cells with elongated nuclei. Transition from a hepatocyte-like to a fibroblastlike morphology is particularly evident at day 3, when polygonal, elongated hepatocyte-like cells with granular cytoplasm and round nuclei coexist with fusiform cells arranged in parallel fascicles (green arrows). At day 7, closely packed spindle cells are arranged in parallel (green arrows) or intersecting (red arrows) fascicules. At day 10, densely packed whorls of spindled fibroblast-like cells show a storiform-like pattern (green arrows). At high power (insets) these cells show clear elongated nuclei, parallel to the cell axis. C. Coimmunodetection of the indicated proteins in HepaRG cells after 13 days of incubation with Wnt3a-conditioned or control media. βcatenin, Vimentin and fibronectin: green (FITC), Albumin: red (FluoProbes 594 and Cy5, respectively), nuclei: blue (DAPI). Control cells show large foci of Albumin (+) hepatocytes with membranous β-catenin. Wnt3a-incubated cells are arranged in bridging fascicules of spindle  $\beta$ -catenin (+)/Vimentin(+)/fibronectin(+)/Albumin(-) cells surrounding and overlaying membranous  $\beta$ -catenin(+)/Albumin(+) (arrow) foci. Colormerged images were acquired with a Cellomics cellular imaging station at 20X. D. Kinetics of mRNA expression of CD44 and SNAI1 analyzed by real-time PCR in progenitor HepaRG cells upon Wnt3a-induced EMT. Cells were cultured with control FCS(-)/BSA(+) or FCS(-)/BSA(+)/Wnt3a(+) media as indicated.





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Supplementary Figure 2: Modulation of the transcriptome profile of Wnt3ainduced fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells by  $\beta$ -catenin targeting siRNA and by the Wnt inhibitor FZD8\_CRD.

A. Experimental design. HepaRG cells were plated three days before transfection of β-catenin-targeting siRNA and treated with 7 nM Wnt3a alone and/or 30 nM FZD8 CRD from day one through day three after transfection, as indicated. B. Immunoblot showing  $\beta$ -catenin stabilization with soluble Wnt3a and silencing with  $\beta$ catenin targeting siRNA. HSC70 is used as a loading standard. C and D. Application of the experimental protocol described in A to real-time PCR analysis of LGR5 mRNA expression in HepaRG *C* and Huh-7 *D* cells treated with Wnt3a after transfection with β-catenin targeting or control (scrambled) siRNA or no transfection (left) or after treatment with Wnt3a alone and/or FZD8 CRD (right). E. Volcano plot of 358 genes differentially expressed in HepaRG cells cultured with (+) or without (-) recombinant Wnt3a for 72 h (n=3 independent experiments). Gene filtering is based on the significance of the differential gene expression following Wnt3a treatment (horizontal red line; p<0.01) and fold change (vertical red lines; >1.5 or <0.7). F. Expression profiles of genes differentially regulated by Wnt3a in cells that were not transfected (No transfection) (left panel), transfected with a control scrambled siRNA (scr. siRNA, middle panel) or with a β-catenin-targeting siRNA (right panel). To obtain β-catenindependent genes, 169/358 Wnt3a-modulated genes affected by control scrambled siRNA transfection were filtered out. Two gene clusters are shown: 1 (upper panel), 142 genes whose responses to Wnt3a were inhibited by β-catenin siRNA (β-catenindependent Wnt3a signature) and 2 (lower panel), 47 genes whose responses to Wnt3a were not affected by β-catenin siRNA (β-catenin-independent Wnt3a signature). G. Expression profiles of 358 genes differentially modulated by Wnt3a alone and/or FZD8\_CRD, as indicated. Two gene clusters are shown: *1* (upper panel), 233 whose responses to Wnt3a were inhibited by FZ8\_CRD (FZD8\_CRD-sensitive signature) and *2* (lower panel), 125 genes whose responses to Wnt3a were not affected by FZ8\_CRD (FZD8\_CRD-refractory signature). **H.** Heatmap color key.



Supplementary Figure 3: Real-time PCR expression of the indicated genes' mRNA levels in HCCs carrying wild-type or mutant  $\beta$ -catenin as assessed by Sanger sequencing of CTNNB1 exon 3.



Supplementary Figure 4: Biomarkers induced by Wnt signals in vitro are associated with low tumor differentiation in HCCs.

**A.** Gene expression was assessed by real-time PCR.  $R_{=}$ , Spearman's rank order correlation coefficients;  $n_{=}$ , number of HCCs. **B.** High serum alpha-fetoprotein levels (cut-off > median value of 6.3 IU/ml) are associated with GPC3 mRNA levels analyzed by real-time PCR, **C.** with GPC3 protein levels analyzed by TMA

immunohistochemistry scoring and **D**. with low platelet counts. **E**. The heatmap plot shows that poor cytoarchitectural differentiation of HCCs (high Edmondson-Steiner's scoring, cut-off,  $\geq$ 3) is associated with the mRNA expression levels of the indicated genes. Pearson's X<sup>2</sup> and Gamma correlation coefficients are shown on the right.

Supplementary Table 1: (A) Sybr Green primers and (B) TaqMan probes.

### Supplementary Table 1A

SYBR GREEN PRIMERS			
(Eurogentec, Seraing, Belgium)			
GENE ID	STRAND	Primer sequences 5'- 3'	
	Forward	CATCCTCATCCTCCCTTGAG	
AGTA2	Reverse	ATGAAGGATGGCTGGAACAG	
	Forward	GCATCTGTCAGCAGAATGGA	
ALDOB	Reverse	TAGACAGCAGCCAGGACCTT	
PIPCE	Forward	TCCGGTTGCGCTTTCCT	
DINUS	Reverse	TCTTCTTATTGTTGGTTTCCTTTGC	
	Forward	ACACTACCAAGGACAAGGCG	
PROMI	Reverse	TGATGTTGGGTCTCAGTCGG	
0044	Forward	GGCTTTCAATAGCACCTTGC	
GD44	Reverse		
	Forward	CCTGGCTTGAAAAACAGCTC	
COL4A1	Reverse	CCCTGCTGAGGTCTGTGAAC	
0074	Forward	GTGTTCTGCCGGGATAGAAA	
GGTT	Reverse	CAGGTCCTCAGCTGTCACAA	
0.000	Forward	TGAAGATGAGTGCATTGGAGG	
GPC3	Reverse	TGCTTATCTCGTTGTCCTTCG	
	Forward	TGACACTGGCAAAACAATGCA	
HPRII	Reverse	GGTCCTTTTCACCAGCAAGCT	
KDT40	Forward	CTCCGGGCACCGATCTCGC	
KRII9	Reverse	AATTCTTCAGTCCGGCTGGTGAACC	
	Forward	AGATGGAAGCTGAGAATCTGG	
LAMCT	Reverse	CGGTCTGCTGTTCAGTCTTG	
	Forward	GAAGCTCTGCAGAATTTGCGAAGCC	
LGRO	Reverse	CAGGTGCCTCAGGGAATGCAGG	
MVC	Forward	CTGGTGCTCCATGAGGAGA	
	Reverse	CTCTGACCTTTTGCCAGGAG	
	Forward	CGCCGCTAGAGGTGAAATTC	
RINAT85	Reverse	TTGGCAAATGCTTTCGCTC	
CNAH	Forward	CCGACCCCAATCGGAAGCCTAAC	
SNAT	Reverse	GGGGTTGAGGATCTCCGGAGGT	
6070	Forward	TCTGGAGACTTCTGAACGAGAGCGA	
2079	Reverse	CGTTCTTCACCGACTTCCTCCGC	
	Forward	AGTTGTGCGGCAGTGGTTGAGC	
ТСГБТ	Reverse	ACAGGAGCAGTGGGCGCTAAGG	
TWIST	Forward	CATGTCCGCGTCCCACTAGCAG	
	Reverse	CCCCACGCCCTGTTTCTTTGAATTTGG	
NOTOUR	Forward	CAGTGTGCCACAGGTTTCACTG	
NOTCH2	Reverse	GCATATACAGCGGAAACCATTCAC	
	Forward	CACTGGACTTACAAGGTGTGG	
HAPLN1	Reverse	TGCGCCTCGTGAAAATTGAG	
TDD	Forward	GAGCTGTGATGTGAAGTTTCC	
IBP	Reverse	TCTGGGTTTGATCATTCTGTAG	

### Supplementary Table 1B:

<b>TAQMAN PRIMERS &amp; PROBES</b>			
GENE ID	Life Technologies cat. #		
RNA18S	Hs03003631-g1		
HPRT1	Hs02800695-m1		
LEF1	Hs01547250-m1		
LGR5	Hs00173664-m1		
NOG	Hs00271352-s1		
IGFBP5	Hs00181213-m1		
LFNG	Hs00385436-m1		
HAPLN1	Hs00157103-m1		
PI15	Hs00210658-m1		

### Supplementary Table 2: Primary antibodies.

PRIMARY ANTIBODIES				
GENE ID	CAT. #	Supplier		
ACTA2	180106	Life Technologies		
ALB	A80-229A	Bethyl Laboratories		
PROM1	CD133/1 (AC133)	Miltenyi Biotech		
CD44	20282	ProMab		
CDH2	C3865	Sigma Aldrich		
COL4A1	M0785	Dako		
CTNNB1	610154	BD Biosciences		
EPCAM	14-9326-82	eBioscience		
FN1	F0916	Sigma Aldrich		
GLUL	610518	BD Biosciences		
GPC3	cmc26129021	Cell Marque		
HAPLN1	HPA019105	Sigma Aldrich		
HSC70	sc-7298	Santa Cruz		
IGFBP5	17660	Sigma Aldrich		
KRT19	M0888	Dako		
LFNG	AV44923	Sigma Aldrich		
LGR5	HPA012530	Sigma Aldrich		
SOX9	AB5535	Millipore		
VIM	V6389	Sigma Aldrich		

# Supplementary Table 4: Wnt3a induces a fibrogenesis program in progenitor HepaRG cells.

Gene ontology (GO) terms overrepresented in each one of the gene sets were assessed by FuncAssociate 2.0 [1] software using *hgnc\_symbol* as namespace and p<0.05 as significance cutoff. *LOD* is the log<sub>10</sub> of the odds value indicating overrepresentation. *Table* refers to Supplementary Table 3, A-G were the gene sets can be found.

Signature	Table	LOD	Adjusted P	Attribute ID	Overrepresented GO terms
		1.77	<0.001	GO:0005583	fibrillar collagen
		1.18	<0.001	GO:0030199	collagen fibril organization
		0.93	0.003	GO:0005604	basement membrane
	3A	0.89	<0.001	GO:0001649	osteoblast differentiation
		0.80	<0.001	GO:0044420	extracellular matrix part
Gene set modulated by		0.79	0.007	GO:0022617	extracellular matrix disassembly
Wnt3a in progenitor		0.75	<0.001	GO:0031012	extracellular matrix
HepaRG cells (358		0.74	<0.001	GO:0030198	extracellular matrix organization
genes)		0.74	<0.001	GO:0043062	extracellular structure organization
		0.70	0.001	GO:0005539	glycosaminoglycan binding
		0.61	0.013	GO:0005578	proteinaceous extracellular matrix
		0.40	0.004	GO:0022610	biological adhesion
		0.39	0.019	GO:0007155	cell adhesion
		0.38	<0.001	GO:0005576	extracellular region
Control siRNA transfection (169 gene set)	3B	2.17	0.023	GO:0051764	actin crosslink formation
		2.04	<0.001	GO:0005583	fibrillar collagen
		1.39	0.004	GO:0030199	collagen fibril organization
		1.26	0.039	GO:0071230	cellular response to amino acid stimulus
		1.11	0.005	GO:0001649	osteoblast differentiation
β-catenin-dependent	3C	1.08	0.014	GO:0005581	collagen
signature (142-gene set)		1.01	<0.001	GO:0044420	extracellular matrix part
		0.95	<0.001	GO:0031012	extracellular matrix
		0.85	<0.001	GO:0030198	extracellular matrix organization
		0.85	<0.001	GO:0043062	extracellular structure organization
		0.79	0.034	GO:0005578	proteinaceous extracellular matrix

Gene ontology terms overrepresented in each signature.
		0.49	0.025	GO:0005615	extracellular space
		0.47	0.036	GO:0009653	anatomical structure morphogenesis
		1.54	0.002	GO:0005604	basement membrane
		1.51	0.026	GO:0005518	collagen binding
β-catenin-independent	20	1.08	0.015	GO:0031012	extracellular matrix
signature (47-gene set)	30	1.03	0.005	GO:0030198	extracellular matrix organization
		1.03	0.006	GO:0043062	extracellular structure organization
		0.75	0.003	GO:0005576	extracellular region
		1.16	0.038	GO:0030199	collagen fibril organization
		0.92	0.047	GO:0001726	ruffle
FZD8_CRD-sensitive	3E	0.68	0.012	GO:0031012	extracellular matrix
Signature (200 gene set)		0.64	0.005	GO:0030198	extracellular matrix organization
		0.64	0.005	GO:0043062	extracellular structure organization
		1.24	0.005	GO:0005604	basement membrane
		1.22	0.007	GO:0030574	collagen catabolic process
		1.18	0.009	GO:0044243	multicellular organismal catabolic process
		1.16	0.009	GO:0032963	collagen metabolic process
		1.13	0.009	GO:0044259	multicellular organismal macromolecule metabolic process
		1.11	0.012	GO:0044236	multicellular organismal metabolic process
		1.06	0.02	GO:0004222	metalloendopeptidase activity
FZD8 CBD-refractory		1.03	<0.001	GO:0044420	extracellular matrix part
signature (125-gene set)	3F	1.02	0.035	GO:0022617	extracellular matrix disassembly
		0.85	<0.001	GO:0030198	extracellular matrix organization
		0.85	<0.001	GO:0043062	extracellular structure organization
		0.85	0.013	GO:0005578	proteinaceous extracellular matrix
		0.82	0.011	GO:0031012	extracellular matrix
		0.62	0.007	GO:0022610	biological adhesion
		0.60	0.009	GO:0007155	cell adhesion
		0.58	0.05	GO:0048870	cell motility
		0.58	0.024	GO:0040011	locomotion
		0.55	<0.001	GO:0005576	extracellular region
		1.99	0.018	GO:0005583	fibrillar collagen
β-catenin-dependent &	20	1.01	<0.001	GO:0031012	extracellular matrix
signature (77-gene set)	30	0.84	0.049	GO:0030198	extracellular matrix organization
		0.84	0.049	GO:0043062	extracellular structure organization

Supplementary Table 5: Wnt signaling in spontaneously arising EMT cells in human HCC: *Wnt target genes* (extracted from the <u>Wnt Homepage</u>) associated with EMT in 3SP cells. Human mesenchymal 3SP HCC cells are derived from epithelial 3P HCC cells through EMT in vivo [2]. From the 153 rows in the table listing Wnt target genes, we selected 114 non-redundant genes from different species with available human orthologues. Normalized and filtered entities from the GSE26391 dataset were further filtered by gene symbol, retaining only those matching the 114 non-redundant Wnt target genes from the <u>Wnt Homepage</u>. We then calculated the fold changes in expression for these 114 genes between 3SP (mesenchymal) and 3P (epithelial) cells, obtaining 54 genes with statistically significant differences (p<0.05, Mann-Whitney's U test). Differentially expressed genes are listed by decreasing order of fold change. 3SP/3P fold-changes were also calculated for the available *Wnt ligands, receptors & coreceptors* genes and significant fold changes are shown in decreasing order.

Wnt target genes	Fold Change	
POSTN	166.58	
MMP2	93.19	
GJA1	41.46	
EMP1	40.90	
LEF1	19.84	
EPHB2	13.79	
WISP1	10.48	
VCAN	10.10	
RUNX2	9.08	
CD44	8.78	
L1CAM	6.59	
PLAUR	6.33	
VEGFC	5.96	
EDN1	5.91	
PTGS2	5.36	

Supp	lementary	Table	5A
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Wnt ligands, receptors & coreceptors	Fold Change
DKK2	7.43
WNT5A	5.61
FZD6	5.37
ROR2	5.17
FZD7	5.11
FZD2	4.02
ROR1	3.28
WNT7B	3.11
FZD1	2.01
WNT5B	1.79
FZD8	1.71
FZD10	1.32
LRP6	0.60
LRP5	0.40
FZD4	0.26

TNFRSF11B	5.33
FZD7	5.11
TNFRSF19	4.33
MITF	3.54
TIAM1	3.51
STRA6	3.07
NKX2-2	2.86
ISL1	2.62
CDKN2A	2.61
FOSL1	2.36
BMP4	2.34
JUN	2.34
TWIST1	2.30
RARG	2.08
PITX2	2.01
EPHB3	1.90
GREM2	1.61
CACNA1G	1.59
SOX17	1.54
FGF20	1.49
TNFSF9	1.38
KLF5	1.38
FOXN1	1.38
FGF18	1.37
TCF7	1.33
SOX9	1.30
MMP3	1.28
AXIN2	1.22
IGF1	1.14
MSL1	0.70
NANOG	0.67
VEGFA	0.40
ID2	0.40
FST	0.36
NRCAM	0.22
RHOU	0.15
CLDN1	0.14
ENPP2	0.07
CDH1	0.03

	FZD5	0.07
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#### Supplementary Table 5B

List of 129 genes common to the Wnt3a(+) signature in HepaRG cells (this work) and to the EMT signature of 3SP HCC cells (GSE26391). Raw gene expression data were normalized by the Robust Multi-array Average (RMA) log<sub>2</sub> algorithm and quantile filtered. Normalized and filtered entities were further filtered by gene symbol, retaining only those matching the 358-gene Wnt3a-induced signature in HepaRG cells. Matching entities are listed by increasing order of fold change.

		FOLD C	HANGE
Gene Symbol	Gene Description	3SP/3P	Wnt3a HepaRG
APOB	Homo sapiens apolipoprotein B (including Ag(x) antigen), mRNA (cDNA clone IMAGE:6270815), complete cds. [BC051278]	0.00	0.65
GHR	Homo sapiens growth hormone receptor (GHR), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_000163]	0.03	0.63
STOX1	Homo sapiens storkhead box 1 (STOX1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_152709]	0.09	0.64
OCLN	Homo sapiens occludin (OCLN), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_002538]	0.14	0.57
GCH1	Homo sapiens GTP cyclohydrolase 1 (GCH1), transcript variant 4, mRNA [NM_001024071]	0.21	0.58
S100P	Homo sapiens S100 calcium binding protein P (S100P), mRNA [NM_005980]	0.22	0.44
FRAT1	Homo sapiens frequently rearranged in advanced T-cell lymphomas (FRAT1), mRNA [NM_005479]	0.31	0.6
ACACB	Homo sapiens acetyl-CoA carboxylase beta (ACACB), mRNA [NM_001093]	0.34	0.54
AGR2	Homo sapiens anterior gradient homolog 2 (Xenopus laevis) (AGR2), mRNA [NM_006408]	0.36	0.49
MPV17L	Homo sapiens MPV17 mitochondrial membrane protein-like (MPV17L), nuclear gene encoding mitochondrial protein, transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_173803]	0.42	0.61
PARD6B	Homo sapiens par-6 partitioning defective 6 homolog beta (C. elegans) (PARD6B), mRNA [NM_032521]	0.42	0.53
TMEM116	Homo sapiens transmembrane protein 116 (TMEM116), transcript variant 3, mRNA [NM_138341]	0.43	0.58
PAIP2B	Homo sapiens poly(A) binding protein interacting protein 2B (PAIP2B), mRNA [NM_020459]	0.64	0.61
GPR116	Homo sapiens G protein-coupled receptor 116 (GPR116), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM 001098518]	0.68	0.59

VSIG1	Homo sapiens V-set and immunoglobulin domain containing 1 (VSIG1), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_182607]	0.71	0.65
FIBCD1	Homo sapiens fibrinogen C domain containing 1 (FIBCD1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_032843]	1.53	1.56
DCN	Homo sapiens decorin (DCN), transcript variant A1, mRNA [NM_001920]	1.54	1.72
FBLIM1	Homo sapiens filamin binding LIM protein 1 (FBLIM1), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_001024215]	1.54	1.75
CHPF2	Homo sapiens chondroitin polymerizing factor 2 (CHPF2), mRNA [NM_019015]	1.55	1.56
DCAF15	Homo sapiens DDB1 and CUL4 associated factor 15 (DCAF15), mRNA [NM_138353]	1.57	1.56
EVI2A	Homo sapiens ecotropic viral integration site 2A (EVI2A), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_001003927]	1.61	3.03
NDRG4	Homo sapiens NDRG family member 4 (NDRG4), transcript variant 3, mRNA [NM_022910]	1.63	2
TMEM158	Homo sapiens transmembrane protein 158 (gene/pseudogene) (TMEM158), mRNA [NM_015444]	1.64	1.54
FLNA	Homo sapiens filamin A, alpha (FLNA), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_001110556]	1.68	2.04
NOG	Homo sapiens noggin (NOG), mRNA [NM_005450]	1.70	2.04
MEX3B	Homo sapiens mex-3 homolog B (C. elegans) (MEX3B), mRNA [NM_032246]	1.74	1.49
RASSF9	Homo sapiens Ras association (RalGDS/AF-6) domain family (N-terminal) member 9 (RASSF9), mRNA [NM_005447]	1.76	1.64
RSU1	Homo sapiens Ras suppressor protein 1 (RSU1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_012425]	1.81	1.54
C5orf13	Homo sapiens chromosome 5 open reading frame 13 (C5orf13), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_004772]	1.83	1.85
TGFBI	Homo sapiens transforming growth factor, beta-induced, 68kDa (TGFBI), mRNA [NM_000358]	1.83	2.17
SLC12A8	Homo sapiens solute carrier family 12 (potassium/chloride transporters), member 8 (SLC12A8), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_024628]	1.85	2.38
LAYN	Homo sapiens layilin (LAYN), mRNA [NM_178834]	1.86	2.33
BMP1	Homo sapiens bone morphogenetic protein 1 (BMP1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_001199]	1.89	1.75
P4HA2	Homo sapiens prolyl 4-hydroxylase, alpha polypeptide II (P4HA2), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_004199]	1.94	1.72
PHLDB1	Homo sapiens pleckstrin homology-like domain, family B, member 1 (PHLDB1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_015157]	1.95	1.79
SCG5	Homo sapiens secretogranin V (7B2 protein) (SCG5), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_003020]	1.95	4.55
ACTN1	Homo sapiens actinin, alpha 1 (ACTN1), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_001102]	1.97	1.75
LZTS1	Homo sapiens leucine zipper, putative tumor suppressor 1 (LZTS1), mRNA [NM_021020]	1.98	2.27
PITX2	Homo sapiens paired-like homeodomain 2 (PITX2), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_153426]	2.01	2.38

ALPK2	Homo sapiens alpha-kinase 2 (ALPK2), mRNA [NM_052947]	2.03	1.92
MDFI	Homo sapiens MyoD family inhibitor (MDFI), mRNA [NM_005586]	2.03	2.78
ZNF474	Homo sapiens zinc finger protein 474 (ZNF474), mRNA [NM_207317]	2.04	1.69
RARG	Homo sapiens retinoic acid receptor, gamma (RARG), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_000966]	2.08	1.52
C13orf15	Homo sapiens chromosome 13 open reading frame 15 (C13orf15), mRNA [NM_014059]	2.14	2.27
PDLIM7	Homo sapiens PDZ and LIM domain 7 (enigma) (PDLIM7), transcript variant 4, mRNA [NM_213636]	2.16	1.82
RDH10	Homo sapiens retinol dehydrogenase 10 (all-trans) (RDH10), mRNA [NM_172037]	2.20	1.59
PDGFRL	Homo sapiens platelet-derived growth factor receptor-like (PDGFRL), mRNA [NM_006207]	2.24	2.33
MKL1	Homo sapiens megakaryoblastic leukemia (translocation) 1 (MKL1), mRNA [NM_020831]	2.25	1.61
PRICKLE2	Homo sapiens prickle homolog 2 (Drosophila) (PRICKLE2), mRNA [NM_198859]	2.28	1.75
CARD11	Homo sapiens caspase recruitment domain family, member 11 (CARD11), mRNA [NM_032415]	2.29	1.72
PI15	Homo sapiens peptidase inhibitor 15 (PI15), mRNA [NM_015886]	2.33	8.33
ENO2	Homo sapiens enolase 2 (gamma, neuronal) (ENO2), mRNA	2.34	3.23
SDC3	Homo sapiens syndecan 3 (SDC3), mRNA [NM_014654]	2.36	1.59
SDC3 EXT1	Homo sapiens syndecan 3 (SDC3), mRNA [NM_014654] Homo sapiens exostosin 1 (EXT1), mRNA [NM_000127]	2.36 2.45	1.59 1.67
SDC3 EXT1 MYH9	Homo sapiens syndecan 3 (SDC3), mRNA [NM_014654] Homo sapiens exostosin 1 (EXT1), mRNA [NM_000127] Homo sapiens myosin, heavy chain 9, non-muscle (MYH9), mRNA [NM_002473]	2.36 2.45 2.50	1.59 1.67 1.67
SDC3 EXT1 MYH9 NXN	Homo sapiens syndecan 3 (SDC3), mRNA [NM_014654] Homo sapiens exostosin 1 (EXT1), mRNA [NM_000127] Homo sapiens myosin, heavy chain 9, non-muscle (MYH9), mRNA [NM_002473] Homo sapiens nucleoredoxin (NXN), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_022463]	2.36 2.45 2.50 2.51	1.59 1.67 1.67 1.79
SDC3 EXT1 MYH9 NXN KLF7	Homo sapiens syndecan 3 (SDC3), mRNA [NM_014654]   Homo sapiens exostosin 1 (EXT1), mRNA [NM_000127]   Homo sapiens myosin, heavy chain 9, non-muscle (MYH9), mRNA [NM_002473]   Homo sapiens nucleoredoxin (NXN), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_022463]   Homo sapiens Kruppel-like factor 7 (ubiquitous) (KLF7), mRNA [NM_003709]	2.36 2.45 2.50 2.51 2.73	1.59 1.67 1.67 1.79 1.61
SDC3 EXT1 MYH9 NXN KLF7 PCDH9	Homo sapiens syndecan 3 (SDC3), mRNA [NM_014654]   Homo sapiens exostosin 1 (EXT1), mRNA [NM_000127]   Homo sapiens myosin, heavy chain 9, non-muscle (MYH9), mRNA [NM_002473]   Homo sapiens nucleoredoxin (NXN), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_022463]   Homo sapiens Kruppel-like factor 7 (ubiquitous) (KLF7), mRNA [NM_003709]   Homo sapiens protocadherin 9 (PCDH9), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_203487]	2.36 2.45 2.50 2.51 2.73 2.83	1.59   1.67   1.67   1.79   1.61   1.79
SDC3 EXT1 MYH9 NXN KLF7 PCDH9 CDCP1	Homo sapiens syndecan 3 (SDC3), mRNA [NM_014654]   Homo sapiens exostosin 1 (EXT1), mRNA [NM_000127]   Homo sapiens myosin, heavy chain 9, non-muscle (MYH9), mRNA [NM_002473]   Homo sapiens nucleoredoxin (NXN), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_022463]   Homo sapiens Kruppel-like factor 7 (ubiquitous) (KLF7), mRNA [NM_003709]   Homo sapiens protocadherin 9 (PCDH9), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_203487]   Homo sapiens CUB domain containing protein 1 (CDCP1), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_178181]	2.36 2.45 2.50 2.51 2.73 2.83 2.84	1.59   1.67   1.67   1.79   1.61   1.79
SDC3 EXT1 MYH9 NXN KLF7 PCDH9 CDCP1 ST6GAL2	Homo sapiens syndecan 3 (SDC3), mRNA [NM_014654]   Homo sapiens exostosin 1 (EXT1), mRNA [NM_000127]   Homo sapiens myosin, heavy chain 9, non-muscle (MYH9), mRNA [NM_002473]   Homo sapiens nucleoredoxin (NXN), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_022463]   Homo sapiens Kruppel-like factor 7 (ubiquitous) (KLF7), mRNA [NM_003709]   Homo sapiens protocadherin 9 (PCDH9), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_203487]   Homo sapiens CUB domain containing protein 1 (CDCP1), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_178181]   Homo sapiens ST6 beta-galactosamide alpha-2,6-sialyltranferase 2 (ST6GAL2), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_032528]	2.36 2.45 2.50 2.51 2.73 2.83 2.83 2.84 2.88	1.59   1.67   1.67   1.79   1.61   1.79   1.61   3.57
SDC3 EXT1 MYH9 NXN KLF7 PCDH9 CDCP1 ST6GAL2 DCBLD2	Homo sapiens syndecan 3 (SDC3), mRNA [NM_014654]   Homo sapiens exostosin 1 (EXT1), mRNA [NM_000127]   Homo sapiens myosin, heavy chain 9, non-muscle (MYH9), mRNA [NM_002473]   Homo sapiens nucleoredoxin (NXN), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_022463]   Homo sapiens Kruppel-like factor 7 (ubiquitous) (KLF7), mRNA [NM_003709]   Homo sapiens protocadherin 9 (PCDH9), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_203487]   Homo sapiens CUB domain containing protein 1 (CDCP1), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_178181]   Homo sapiens ST6 beta-galactosamide alpha-2,6-sialyltranferase 2 (ST6GAL2), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_032528]   Homo sapiens discoidin, CUB and LCCL domain containing 2 (DCBLD2), mRNA [NM_080927]	2.36 2.45 2.50 2.51 2.73 2.83 2.84 2.84 2.88 3.05	1.59   1.67   1.67   1.79   1.61   1.79   1.61   1.79   1.61   1.75
SDC3 EXT1 MYH9 NXN KLF7 PCDH9 CDCP1 ST6GAL2 DCBLD2 F3	Homo sapiens syndecan 3 (SDC3), mRNA [NM_014654]   Homo sapiens exostosin 1 (EXT1), mRNA [NM_000127]   Homo sapiens myosin, heavy chain 9, non-muscle (MYH9), mRNA [NM_002473]   Homo sapiens nucleoredoxin (NXN), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_022463]   Homo sapiens Kruppel-like factor 7 (ubiquitous) (KLF7), mRNA [NM_003709]   Homo sapiens protocadherin 9 (PCDH9), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_203487]   Homo sapiens CUB domain containing protein 1 (CDCP1), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_178181]   Homo sapiens ST6 beta-galactosamide alpha-2,6-sialyltranferase 2 (ST6GAL2), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_032528]   Homo sapiens discoidin, CUB and LCCL domain containing 2 (DCBLD2), mRNA [NM_080927]   Homo sapiens coagulation factor III (thromboplastin, tissue factor) (F3), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_001993]	2.36 2.45 2.50 2.51 2.73 2.83 2.83 2.84 2.88 3.05 3.08	1.59   1.67   1.67   1.79   1.61   1.79   1.61   3.57   1.75   2.17
SDC3 EXT1 MYH9 NXN KLF7 PCDH9 CDCP1 ST6GAL2 DCBLD2 F3 PRSS23	Homo sapiens syndecan 3 (SDC3), mRNA [NM_014654]   Homo sapiens exostosin 1 (EXT1), mRNA [NM_000127]   Homo sapiens myosin, heavy chain 9, non-muscle (MYH9), mRNA [NM_002473]   Homo sapiens nucleoredoxin (NXN), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_022463]   Homo sapiens Kruppel-like factor 7 (ubiquitous) (KLF7), mRNA [NM_003709]   Homo sapiens protocadherin 9 (PCDH9), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_203487]   Homo sapiens CUB domain containing protein 1 (CDCP1), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_178181]   Homo sapiens ST6 beta-galactosamide alpha-2,6-sialyltranferase 2 (ST6GAL2), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_032528]   Homo sapiens coagulation factor III (thromboplastin, tissue factor) (F3), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_001993]   Homo sapiens protease, serine, 23 (PRSS23), mRNA [NM_007173]	2.36 2.45 2.50 2.51 2.73 2.83 2.84 2.84 2.88 3.05 3.08 3.12	1.59   1.67   1.67   1.79   1.61   1.79   1.61   2.17   1.85
SDC3 EXT1 MYH9 NXN KLF7 PCDH9 CDCP1 ST6GAL2 DCBLD2 F3 PRSS23 DLX5	Homo sapiens syndecan 3 (SDC3), mRNA [NM_014654]   Homo sapiens exostosin 1 (EXT1), mRNA [NM_000127]   Homo sapiens myosin, heavy chain 9, non-muscle (MYH9), mRNA [NM_002473]   Homo sapiens nucleoredoxin (NXN), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_022463]   Homo sapiens Kruppel-like factor 7 (ubiquitous) (KLF7), mRNA [NM_003709]   Homo sapiens protocadherin 9 (PCDH9), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_203487]   Homo sapiens CUB domain containing protein 1 (CDCP1), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_178181]   Homo sapiens ST6 beta-galactosamide alpha-2,6- sialyltranferase 2 (ST6GAL2), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_032528]   Homo sapiens discoidin, CUB and LCCL domain containing 2 (DCBLD2), mRNA [NM_080927]   Homo sapiens coagulation factor III (thromboplastin, tissue factor) (F3), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_001993]   Homo sapiens protease, serine, 23 (PRSS23), mRNA [NM_007173]   Homo sapiens distal-less homeobox 5 (DLX5), mRNA [NM_005221]	2.36 2.45 2.50 2.51 2.73 2.83 2.84 2.88 3.05 3.05 3.08 3.12 3.13	1.59   1.67   1.67   1.79   1.61   1.79   1.61   3.57   1.75   2.17   1.85   2.38

EYA2	Homo sapiens eyes absent homolog 2 (Drosophila) (EYA2), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_005244]	3.37	1.72
CLSTN2	Homo sapiens calsyntenin 2 (CLSTN2), mRNA [NM_022131]	3.38	1.96
KIF26B	Homo sapiens kinesin family member 26B (KIF26B), mRNA [NM_018012]	3.39	2.27
ARHGDIB	Homo sapiens Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) beta (ARHGDIB), mRNA [NM_001175]	3.41	1.72
RSPO3	Homo sapiens R-spondin 3 (RSPO3), mRNA [NM_032784]	3.43	2.08
CPEB1	Homo sapiens cytoplasmic polyadenylation element binding protein 1 (CPEB1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_030594]	3.60	3.03
SLC7A5	Homo sapiens solute carrier family 7 (amino acid transporter light chain, L system), member 5 (SLC7A5), mRNA [NM_003486]	3.67	1.96
ZNF827	Homo sapiens zinc finger protein 827 (ZNF827), mRNA [NM_178835]	3.71	1.89
ENDOD1	Homo sapiens endonuclease domain containing 1 (ENDOD1), mRNA [NM_015036]	3.79	1.64
GLIPR1	Homo sapiens GLI pathogenesis-related 1 (GLIPR1), mRNA [NM_006851]	3.84	2.56
TYRP1	Homo sapiens tyrosinase-related protein 1 (TYRP1), mRNA [NM_000550]	3.87	1.56
CRISPLD2	Homo sapiens cysteine-rich secretory protein LCCL domain containing 2 (CRISPLD2), mRNA [NM_031476]	3.88	2.08
JAM2	Homo sapiens junctional adhesion molecule 2 (JAM2), mRNA [NM_021219]	4.00	1.59
ADAM19	Homo sapiens ADAM metallopeptidase domain 19 (ADAM19), mRNA [NM_033274]	4.02	2.38
PRR5L	Homo sapiens proline rich 5 like (PRR5L), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_024841]	4.13	2.86
SPOCD1	Homo sapiens SPOC domain containing 1 (SPOCD1), mRNA [NM_144569]	4.64	2.78
MYADM	Homo sapiens myeloid-associated differentiation marker (MYADM), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_001020818]	4.81	1.52
ROS1	Homo sapiens c-ros oncogene 1 , receptor tyrosine kinase (ROS1), mRNA [NM_002944]	4.86	1.61
CCDC3	Homo sapiens coiled-coil domain containing 3 (CCDC3), mRNA [NM_031455]	5.30	1.75
PSTPIP2	Homo sapiens proline-serine-threonine phosphatase interacting protein 2 (PSTPIP2), mRNA [NM_024430]	5.36	1.61
DACT1	Homo sapiens dapper, antagonist of beta-catenin, homolog 1 (Xenopus laevis) (DACT1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_016651]	5.79	2.04
PLAUR	Homo sapiens plasminogen activator, urokinase receptor (PLAUR), transcript variant 3, mRNA [NM_001005377]	6.33	1.64
FHL2	Homo sapiens four and a half LIM domains 2 (FHL2), transcript variant 5, mRNA [NM_001039492]	6.56	1.56
SH3BP4	Homo sapiens SH3-domain binding protein 4 (SH3BP4), mRNA [NM_014521]	6.87	1.56
COL5A2	Homo sapiens collagen, type V, alpha 2 (COL5A2), mRNA [NM_000393]	6.93	1.54

MOXD1	Homo sapiens monooxygenase, DBH-like 1 (MOXD1), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_015529]	7.11	1.85
ARL4C	Homo sapiens ADP-ribosylation factor-like 4C (ARL4C), mRNA [NM_005737]	8.02	2.44
GCNT1	Homo sapiens glucosaminyl (N-acetyl) transferase 1, core 2 (GCNT1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_001097634]	8.05	2.56
SRPX2	Homo sapiens sushi-repeat containing protein, X-linked 2 (SRPX2), mRNA [NM_014467]	8.20	1.69
STK32B	Homo sapiens serine/threonine kinase 32B (STK32B), mRNA [NM_018401]	8.52	1.89
TNFAIP6	Homo sapiens tumor necrosis factor, alpha-induced protein 6 (TNFAIP6), mRNA [NM_007115]	9.07	2.86
CYR61	Homo sapiens cysteine-rich, angiogenic inducer, 61 (CYR61), mRNA [NM_001554]	9.32	1.82
NAV1	Homo sapiens neuron navigator 1 (NAV1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_020443]	9.57	2.44
VCAN	Homo sapiens versican (VCAN), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_004385]	10.10	2.7
ADAM12	Homo sapiens ADAM metallopeptidase domain 12 (ADAM12), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_021641]	10.78	2.7
TGFB2	Homo sapiens transforming growth factor, beta 2 (TGFB2), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_003238]	10.92	1.92
KLHL4	Homo sapiens kelch-like 4 (Drosophila) (KLHL4), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_057162]	11.12	1.67
MRC2	Homo sapiens mannose receptor, C type 2 (MRC2), mRNA [NM_006039]	11.24	3.45
SLC1A3	Homo sapiens solute carrier family 1 (glial high affinity glutamate transporter), member 3 (SLC1A3), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_004172]	11.60	1.89
COL5A1	Homo sapiens collagen, type V, alpha 1 (COL5A1), mRNA [NM_000093]	12.53	1.96
LYPD1	Homo sapiens LY6/PLAUR domain containing 1 (LYPD1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_144586]	12.58	2
EPHB2	Homo sapiens EPH receptor B2 (EPHB2), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_004442]	13.79	1.75
CTHRC1	Homo sapiens collagen triple helix repeat containing 1 (CTHRC1), mRNA [NM_138455]	16.18	3.57
BNC2	Homo sapiens basonuclin 2 (BNC2), mRNA [NM_017637]	18.74	1.64
LEF1	Homo sapiens lymphoid enhancer-binding factor 1 (LEF1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_016269]	19.84	2.17
SERPINE1	Homo sapiens serpin peptidase inhibitor, clade E (nexin, plasminogen activator inhibitor type 1), member 1 (SERPINE1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_000602]	20.51	1.72
THBS2	Homo sapiens thrombospondin 2 (THBS2), mRNA [NM_003247]	27.08	1.64
DPYSL3	Homo sapiens dihydropyrimidinase-like 3 (DPYSL3), transcript variant 2, mRNA [NM_001387]	27.90	1.59
CYP1B1	Homo sapiens cytochrome P450, family 1, subfamily B, polypeptide 1 (CYP1B1), mRNA [NM_000104]	30.38	1.92
COL3A1	Homo sapiens collagen, type III, alpha 1 (COL3A1), mRNA [NM_000090]	30.77	1.92

PAMR1	Homo sapiens peptidase domain containing associated with muscle regeneration 1 (PAMR1), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_015430]	31.25	3.23
LUM	Homo sapiens lumican (LUM), mRNA [NM_002345]	32.66	2.08
CCDC80	Homo sapiens coiled-coil domain containing 80 (CCDC80), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_199511]	36.35	2.86
SPOCK1	Homo sapiens sparc/osteonectin, cwcv and kazal-like domains proteoglycan (testican) 1 (SPOCK1), mRNA [NM_004598]	37.87	2.08
HMCN1	Homo sapiens hemicentin 1 (HMCN1), mRNA [NM_031935]	41.93	2.94
FAP	Homo sapiens fibroblast activation protein, alpha (FAP), mRNA [NM_004460]	50.92	3.57
SEMA3C	Homo sapiens sema domain, immunoglobulin domain (Ig), short basic domain, secreted, (semaphorin) 3C (SEMA3C), mRNA [NM_006379]	56.94	1.59
IGFBP5	Homo sapiens insulin-like growth factor binding protein 5 (IGFBP5), mRNA [NM_000599]	58.25	2.33
FBN1	Homo sapiens fibrillin 1 (FBN1), mRNA [NM_000138]	60.46	2.27
TNC	Homo sapiens tenascin C (TNC), mRNA [NM_002160]	69.50	2.86
MMP2	Homo sapiens matrix metallopeptidase 2 (gelatinase A, 72kDa gelatinase, 72kDa type IV collagenase) (MMP2), transcript variant 1, mRNA [NM_004530]	93.19	2.56
COL1A1	Homo sapiens collagen, type I, alpha 1 (COL1A1), mRNA [NM_000088]	94.91	3.7
COL1A2	Homo sapiens collagen, type I, alpha 2 (COL1A2), mRNA [NM_000089]	106.16	2.13
SPARC	Homo sapiens secreted protein, acidic, cysteine-rich (osteonectin) (SPARC), mRNA [NM_003118]	121.37	1.79

#### Supplementary Table 5C

Overrepressented gene ontology attributes in the 129 gene set presented in *B* are grouped into four families (*GO term Class*). Gene ontology enrichment analysis was performed with FuncAssociate 2.0 [1] using *hgnc\_symbol* as namespace and p<0.05 as significance cutoff. *LOD* is the  $log_{10}$  of the odds value indicating overrepresentation. Gene ontology synthesis by removal of redundant terms yielding four GO term classes was carried out with REVIGO [3].

LOD	Adjusted P	Attribute ID	Overrepresented GO terms	GO term Class
1.06	<0.001	GO:0030198	extracellular matrix organization	Extracellular Matrix
1.06	<0.001	GO:0043062	extracellular structure organization	Extracellular Matrix
1.20	<0.001	GO:0044420	extracellular matrix part	Extracellular Matrix
1.05	<0.001	GO:0031012	extracellular matrix	Extracellular Matrix
0.66	<0.001	GO:0005576	extracellular region	Extracellular Matrix
2.23	<0.001	GO:0005583	fibrillar collagen	Extracellular Matrix
1.58	<0.001	GO:0030199	collagen fibril organization	Extracellular Matrix
1.27	<0.001	GO:0001649	osteoblast differentiation	Extracellular Matrix
1.03	<0.001	GO:0005539	glycosaminoglycan binding	Extracellular Matrix
0.63	<0.001	GO:0005615	extracellular space	Extracellular Matrix
1.29	<0.001	GO:0005604	basement membrane	Extracellular Matrix
1.12	<0.001	GO:0022617	extracellular matrix disassembly	Extracellular Matrix
1.19	<0.001	GO:0005581	collagen	Extracellular Matrix
1.26	0.001	GO:0005201	extracellular matrix structural constituent	Extracellular Matrix

1.93	0.001	GO:0048407	platelet-derived growth factor binding	Extracellular Matrix	
0.88	0.001	GO:0005578	proteinaceous extracellular matrix	Extracellular Matrix	
1.20	0.001	GO:0030574	collagen catabolic process	Extracellular Matrix	
1.09	0.001	GO:0001503	ossification	Extracellular Matrix	
1.07	0.003	GO:0019838	growth factor binding	Extracellular Matrix	
1.15	0.004	GO:0032963	collagen metabolic process	Extracellular Matrix	
2.29	0.013	GO:0051764	actin crosslink formation	Extracellular Matrix	
0.38	0.017	GO:0044421	extracellular region part	Extracellular Matrix	
0.56	<0.001	GO:0044767	single-organism developmental process	Development	
0.53	<0.001	GO:0032502	developmental process	Development	
0.66	<0.001	GO:0009653	anatomical structure morphogenesis	Development	
1.56	<0.001	GO:0060325	face morphogenesis	Development	
0.46	<0.001	GO:0048856	anatomical structure development	Development	
0.77	0.001	GO:0009887	organ morphogenesis	Development	
0.65	0.001	GO:0048646	anatomical structure formation involved in morphogenesis	Development	
0.46	0.001	GO:0048869	cellular developmental process	Development	
0.41	0.001	GO:0032501	multicellular organismal process	Development	
0.97	0.003	GO:0001501	skeletal system development	Development	
0.59	0.014	GO:0051094	positive regulation of developmental process	Development	
0.74	0.022	GO:0007411	axon guidance	Development	
0.74	0.022	GO:0097485	neuron projection guidance	Development	
0.46	0.028	GO:0030154	cell differentiation	Development	

0.43	0.041	GO:0050793	regulation of developmental process	Development
0.66	<0.001	GO:0006928	cellular component movement	Motility, migration, adhesion
1.20	<0.001	GO:0007162	negative regulation of cell adhesion	Motility, migration, adhesion
0.87	<0.001	GO:0030155	regulation of cell adhesion	Motility, migration, adhesion
0.66	<0.001	GO:0007155	cell adhesion	Motility, migration, adhesion
0.65	<0.001	GO:0022610	biological adhesion	Motility, migration, adhesion
0.68	<0.001	GO:0048870	cell motility	Motility, migration, adhesion
0.69	<0.001	GO:0016477	cell migration	Motility, migration, adhesion
0.64	<0.001	GO:0040011	locomotion	Motility, migration, adhesion
0.73	<0.001	GO:0030334	regulation of cell migration	Motility, migration, adhesion
0.70	<0.001	GO:0051270	regulation of cellular component movement	Motility, migration, adhesion
0.71	0.001	GO:2000145	regulation of cell motility	Motility, migration, adhesion
0.67	0.005	GO:0040012	regulation of locomotion	Motility, migration, adhesion
1.17	0.023	GO:0042060	wound healing	Motility, migration, adhesion
0.70	0.039	GO:0016337	cell-cell adhesion	Motility, migration, adhesion
1.47	<0.001	GO:0071230	cellular response to amino acid stimulus	Metabolism
1.09	<0.001	GO:0071229	cellular response to acid	Metabolism
1.15	<0.001	GO:0044236	multicellular organismal metabolic process	Metabolism
0.42	0.001	GO:0044707	single-multicellular organism process	Metabolism
1.17	0.003	GO:0044243	multicellular organismal catabolic process	Metabolism
1.14	0.005	GO:0043200	response to amino acid	Metabolism
1.12	0.013	GO:0044259	multicellular organismal macromolecule metabolic process	Metabolism

0.82	0.013	GO:0001101	response to acid	Metabolism
0.90	0.019	GO:1901681	sulfur compound binding	Metabolism
0.61	0.027	GO:0043233	organelle lumen	Metabolism
0.33	0.041	GO:0044763	single-organism cellular process	Metabolism

Supplementary Table 6: Wnt signals promote the differentiation of transitamplifying liver progenitor cells to fibrogenic myofibroblast-like cells. As shown in the cartoon below, we compared two mRNA expression signatures:

(*a*) low density plating leading hepatocyte-like HepaRG cells to dedifferentiate to transit amplifying liver progenitor cells acquiring transient mesenchymal competence (GSE52989) [4] and

(b) Wnt3a leading transient mesenchymal competent cells to differentiate into myofibroblast-like cells.



**Supplementary Table 6A:** Comparison of overlapping and non-overlapping genes between Wnt3a-induced transcriptome (signature *b*), as described in Supplementary Table 3A, and the transient mesenchymal competent cell transcriptome (signature *a*). Signature *a*, obtained at 8; 12 and 16 hours after low-density plating of hepatocyte-like cells [4], was reanalyzed from the public dataset GSE52989, as follows:

Fold change = 
$$\frac{\left[\left(\frac{8h}{0h} + \frac{12h}{0h} + \frac{16h}{0h}\right)\right]}{3}$$

Eight, 12 and 16 hours (h) denote time after low-density plating (0 h).

Raw data were normalized by global scaling. The trimmed mean target intensity of each array was arbitrarily set to 500. Normalized and filtered entities were further filtered by gene symbol, retaining only those matching the 358-gene Wnt3a-induced signature in HepaRG cells. Then, fold changes were calculated as the means of the 8 versus 0 h; 12 versus 0 h and 16 versus 0 h ratios as shown above.

The cells in the table below are colored according to the color code indicated at the bottom [red, >1.5 fold; orange, <1.5 and >0.7 fold (i.e. no change); green, <0.7 fold]. One hundred and seven genes which expression was differently modulated in both signatures are listed in the "b" column, with their corresponding fold changes. Ninety-three genes which were similarly regulated in both signatures are listed in the "b" column, with their corresponding fold changes. Ninety-three genes which were similarly regulated in both signatures are listed in the "b" column, with their corresponding fold changes.

Signature b	Fold change in <i>b</i>	Fold change in <i>a</i>	Common to <i>a</i> and <i>b</i>	Fold change in <i>b</i>	Fold change in <i>a</i>
LRRC15	9.09	0.52	ACTN1	1.75	6.56
PI15	8.33	0.59	ADAM12	2.70	2.13
EPYC	4.17	0.50	ADRBK2	2.08	1.64
MMP13	3.85	1.40	ARHGDIB	1.72	48.39
COL1A1	3.70	0.57	ARL4C	2.44	1.73
KIAA1751	3.57	0.40	CCR1	1.52	1.58
FAP	3.57	1.28	CDCP1	1.61	17.53
MRC2	3.45	0.69	COL5A1	1.96	1.54
TCF7	3.33	0.83	CORO1C	1.49	9.10
PAMR1	3.23	0.40	CRISPLD2	2.08	1.55
ENO2	3.23	1.33	CYR61	1.82	1.64
CPEB1	3.03	1.08	DACT1	2.04	6.78
LHB	3.03	1.00	DCBLD2	1.75	3.40
CSF1R	2.94	0.33	DCN	1.72	3.60
LFNG	2.86	0.36	DPYSL3	1.59	2.69
PRR5L	2.86	0.56	ENDOD1	1.64	3.07
CSRP3	2.86	1.18	EPHB2	1.75	1.61
MMP7	2.86	1.01	EVI2A	3.03	3.53
MDFI	2.78	0.77	EXT1	1.67	1.84
SLC26A2	2.78	1.37	F3	2.17	28.90
VCAN	2.70	1.17	FHL2	1.56	10.95
CLIC3	2.63	0.40	FLNA	2.04	2.48
GNG4	2.56	1.12	GBP1	1.54	4.48
MMP2	2.56	0.76	GCNT1	2.56	3.45
PTPN22	2.50	1.13	GLIPR1	2.56	29.92
ІНН	2.44	1.16	IGF2BP3	1.67	6.12

DLX5	2.38	0.25	ITGA5	1.61	3.09
PITX2	2.38	0.61	ITGB4	2.44	2.55
ADAM19	2.38	0.89	KLF7	1.61	2.36
SLC12A8	2.38	1.42	KLHL4	1.67	2.29
PDGFRL	2.33	0.66	LUM	2.08	3.29
IGFBP5	2.33	0.75	MKL1	1.61	2.59
KIF26B	2.27	0.29	MMD	1.89	3.21
FBN1	2.27	1.36	MYH9	1.67	2.91
LZTS1	2.27	0.80	MYL2	1.56	1.93
PKP3	2.27	1.24	PCSK5	5.26	3.40
SH3GL3	2.22	0.53	PDLIM3	1.96	1.51
OLFML3	2.22	0.75	PDLIM7	1.82	1.86
LEF1	2.17	1.39	PHLDB1	1.79	2.23
COL1A2	2.13	0.86	PLAUR	1.64	6.51
ARID3A	2.04	0.97	POTEKP	1.61	1.66
TEX15	2.04	0.72	PRSS23	1.85	5.76
NDRG4	2.00	0.59	PSTPIP2	1.61	3.08
LYPD1	2.00	1.28	RSU1	1.54	2.06
SLC7A5	1.96	0.61	SCG5	4.55	2.33
CLSTN2	1.96	0.73	SEMA3C	1.59	1.62
COL3A1	1.92	1.14	SERPINE1	1.72	18.51
CYP1B1	1.92	0.88	SH3BP4	1.56	2.17
CXCL3	1.89	0.63	SPOCK1	2.08	3.94
SLC38A3	1.89	0.49	SRPX2	1.69	3.88
SLC1A3	1.89	0.95	STK32B	1.89	1.59
MOXD1	1.85	0.94	TCOF1	1.56	1.81
ТСНН	1.85	0.74	TGFB2	1.92	35.41
DNM3	1.82	0.35	TGFBI	2.17	2.09
FN1	1.82	0.51	THBS2	1.64	3.56
PCDH9	1.79	0.49	TMEM158	1.54	8.58
DPT	1.79	0.92	TNC	2.86	26.37
NXN	1.79	0.86	TNFAIP6	2.86	3.36
SPARC	1.79	1.38	TPM4	2.00	25.33
BMP1	1.75	0.99	ABCD2	0.41	0.26
EYA2	1.72	0.31	ACACB	0.54	0.16
P4HA2	1.72	0.87	ADARB2	0.45	0.36
RNF43	1.69	0.38	APOB	0.65	0.12
LCP1	1.69	0.89	BEST2	0.42	0.45
IL1R1	1.67	1.13	CYP4B1	0.24	0.19
ALDH7A1	1.64	0.56	CYP7B1	0.56	0.67
CSPG5	1.64	0.69	FA2H	0.41	0.33
RASSF9	1.64	0.56	FRAT1	0.60	0.30
BNC2	1.64	1.03	GCH1	0.58	0.62
ROS1	1.61	0.64	GHR	0.63	0.18
ARHGEF3	1.61	1.48	GPR116	0.59	0.50
NINJ2	1.61	0.79	HCG9	0.50	0.58
CCNG2	1.59	0.49	ITGA8	0.34	0.60

DISC1	1.59	0.42	KCNK5	0.53	0.18
JAM2	1.59	0.52	LAIR1	0.62	0.34
SDC3	1.59	1.30	LGALS2	0.44	0.17
STXBP6	1.59	0.71	LOC440792	0.50	0.68
CHPF2	1.56	1.26	LY6D	0.40	0.21
DCAF15	1.56	0.88	MB	0.60	0.63
FPR1	1.56	1.21	MCF2	0.40	0.35
TYRP1	1.56	1.22	NR3C2	0.55	0.20
COL5A2	1.54	0.37	NRG2	0.60	0.34
ALDH3A1	1.54	0.81	PAIP2B	0.61	0.10
CFL1	1.54	1.18	PDE8B	0.45	0.27
JAG2	1.52	0.54	PRKAR2B	0.33	0.31
RARG	1.52	0.68	PSCA	0.29	0.58
MDM1	1.52	0.76	RAB26	0.59	0.44
ZFP2	0.67	0.90	RALGPS1	0.61	0.38
DENND3	0.66	0.98	RASGRP2	0.50	0.61
GRK4	0.65	0.92	RASSF4	0.64	0.53
PDHA1	0.65	0.91	SLC6A16	0.64	0.56
TACC2	0.63	1.55	SLIT2	0.53	0.41
GPR98	0.62	0.81	SPTB	0.63	0.35
DIO2	0.62	0.73			
KRT4	0.62	0.87			> 1.5 fold
RPGRIP1	0.61	1.13			< 1.5; > 0.7 folds
DHRS9	0.60	16.77			< 0.7 fold
MBP	0.59	1.15			
HRASLS2	0.58	0.79			
OCLN	0.57	0.82			
FCGBP	0.56	0.70			
JAKMIP2	0.54	2.59			
PARD6B	0.53	7.59			
SPINK5	0.52	1.19			
AGR2	0.49	9.95			
MARCO	0.48	1.81			
S100P	0.44	0.76			

#### Supplementary Table 6B

Overrepresented gene ontology (GO) attributes in the 107 gene set induced by Wnt signals in HepaRG cells. Gene ontology enrichment analysis was performed with FuncAssociate 2.0 [1] using *hgnc\_symbol* as namespace and p<0.05 as significance cutoff. *LOD* is the log<sub>10</sub> of the odds value indicating overrepresentation.

LOD	Adjusted <i>P</i>	Attribute ID	Overrepresented GO terms						
2.02	0.002	GO:0005583	fibrillar collagen						
1.52	<0.001	GO:0030199	collagen fibril organization						
1.48	<0.001	GO:0071230	cellular response to amino acid stimulus						
1.36	<0.001	GO:0030574	collagen catabolic process						
1.32	<0.001	GO:0044243	multicellular organismal catabolic process						
1.30	<0.001	GO:0032963	collagen metabolic process						
1.27	<0.001	GO:0044259	multicellular organismal macromolecule metabolic process						
1.26	<0.001	GO:0022617	extracellular matrix disassembly						
1.24	<0.001	GO:0044236	multicellular organismal metabolic process						
1.23	0.002	GO:0043200	response to amino acid						
1.19	0.003	GO:0001649	osteoblast differentiation						
1.07	0.002	GO:0001501	skeletal system development						
1.03	<0.001	GO:0030198	extracellular matrix organization						
1.03	<0.001	GO:0043062	extracellular structure organization						
1.02	0.034	GO:0071229	cellular response to acid						
1.01	0.002	GO:0044420	extracellular matrix part						
0.99	<0.001	GO:0031012	extracellular matrix						
0.88	0.022	GO:0005578	proteinaceous extracellular matrix						
0.84	0.002	GO:0022411	cellular component disassembly						
0.74	0.037	GO:0009887	organ morphogenesis						
0.71	0.002	GO:0048731	system development						
0.67	0.011	GO:0016477	cell migration						
0.63	0.029	GO:0048870	cell motility						
0.60	0.036	GO:0040011	locomotion						
0.58	<0.001	GO:0032502	developmental process						
0.58	<0.001	GO:0044767	single-organism developmental process						
0.56	<0.001	GO:0048856	anatomical structure development						
0.55	0.013	GO:0009653	anatomical structure morphogenesis						
0.55	0.003	GO:0005576	extracellular region						
0.54	0.036	GO:0005615	extracellular space						
0.53	0.008	GO:0030154	cell differentiation						
0.52	0.04	GO:0006928	cellular component movement						

Signature (b): Wnt-specific fibrogenic program

0.48	0.002	GO:0044699	single-organism process
0.46	0.018	GO:0048869	cellular developmental process
0.43	0.011	GO:0032501	multicellular organismal process
0.42	0.02	GO:0044707	single-multicellular organism process
0.40	0.011	GO:0044763	single-organism cellular process

### Supplementary Table 6C

**Common to signatures** *(a)* and *(b)*: cell-extracellular matrix adhesion. (C) Overrepresented gene ontology attributes in the 93 gene set common to our Wnt3a and the Retrodifferentiation experiment by Dubois-Pot Scheneider *et al.* [4].

LOD	Adjusted <i>P</i>	Attribute ID	Overrepresented GO terms
2.43	0.002	GO:0051764	actin crosslink formation
1.04	0.001	GO:0005539	glycosaminoglycan binding
0.98	0.011	GO:1901681	sulfur compound binding
0.92	<0.001	GO:0030198	extracellular matrix organization
0.92	<0.001	GO:0043062	extracellular structure organization
0.86	0.025	GO:0031012	extracellular matrix
0.84	0.004	GO:0007411	axon guidance
0.84	0.004	GO:0097485	neuron projection guidance
0.74	<0.001	GO:0007155	cell adhesion
0.74	<0.001	GO:0022610	biological adhesion
0.65	0.031	GO:0005856	cytoskeleton
0.61	0.001	GO:0006928	cellular component movement
0.58	0.007	GO:0009653	anatomical structure morphogenesis
0.54	0.016	GO:0005576	extracellular region
0.49	<0.001	GO:0032502	developmental process
0.48	<0.001	GO:0044767	single-organism developmental process

**Supplementary Table 7:** Gene expression correlations between the indicated genes in 79 human HCCs. Pearson's correlation coefficients ≥0.30 were integrated in expression networks with Cytoscape and are shown in Fig. 3E.

	LGR5	PI15	HAPLN1	IHH	LFNG	NOG	IGFBP5	LEF1	COL4A1	LAMC1	ACTA2	SFRP1	SFRP2	DKK1	FZD7	FZD1	WNT2	WNT3	SOX9	GPC3	CD44	KRT19
PI15	0.39																					
HAPLN1	0.23	0.26																				
IHH	0.25	0.26	0.21																			
LFNG	0.04	0.28	0.27	0.18																		
NOG	-0.14	0.08	0.04	0.64	0.15																	
IGFBP5	0.22	0.37	0.34	0.15	0.73	0.14																
LEF1	0.51	0.50	0.32	0.23	0.58	0.07	0.57															
COL4A1	0.00	0.04	0.37	0.00	0.29	0.08	0.28	0.17														
LAMC1	0.10	0.28	0.35	0.18	0.20	0.04	0.22	0.34	0.46													
ACTA2	-0.06	0.21	0.06	0.06	0.27	0.08	0.25	0.20	0.50	0.56												
SFRP1	-0.11	0.09	0.02	-0.19	0.34	-0.10	0.24	0.07	0.46	0.35	0.36											
SFRP2	-0.14	0.02	0.08	0.07	0.22	0.26	0.23	0.16	0.41	0.30	0.40	0.47										
DKK1	-0.03	0.01	-0.03	0.07	-0.19	0.04	-0.09	-0.02	0.17	0.34	0.21	0.13	0.43									
FZD7	-0.10	0.09	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.14	0.20	0.00	0.23	0.39	0.17	0.37	0.31	0.30								
FZD1	0.08	-0.03	0.13	0.37	-0.05	0.34	-0.06	0.06	0.07	0.11	0.00	-0.06	0.38	0.40	0.16							
WNT2	-0.04	0.10	0.15	0.18	-0.10	0.22	-0.07	-0.02	0.34	0.35	0.37	0.22	0.47	0.49	0.40	0.39						
WNT3	0.09	-0.16	-0.12	-0.10	-0.29	-0.09	-0.16	-0.11	-0.20	-0.11	-0.14	-0.02	0.13	0.07	-0.02	0.14	-0.07					
SOX9	-0.08	0.03	0.07	-0.04	0.42	0.13	0.45	0.16	0.17	-0.08	0.08	0.22	0.29	-0.01	0.23	0.03	-0.04	-0.16				
GPC3	0.35	0.29	0.14	0.32	0.23	0.04	0.28	0.46	-0.12	-0.05	-0.02	-0.11	-0.11	-0.06	-0.09	0.01	-0.20	-0.05	0.11			
CD44	0.23	0.37	0.18	-0.06	0.57	-0.14	0.44	0.53	0.05	0.05	0.14	0.25	0.13	-0.20	0.01	-0.23	-0.14	-0.03	0.36	0.39		
KRT19	-0.16	0.15	0.17	0.08	0.30	0.15	0.31	0.15	0.13	0.00	0.18	-0.03	0.22	-0.16	-0.02	0.13	0.09	-0.02	0.23	-0.11	0.14	
EPCAM	-0.16	0.14	0.08	0.10	0.29	0.18	0.26	0.13	0.05	-0.02	0.18	0.00	0.24	-0.07	-0.01	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.22	-0.21	0.11	0.87

### Supplementary Table 8:

Supplementary Table 8A:	Description of	the sample population	of HCC patients.
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DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE POPULATION (N= 70)			
Variables	N of Missing Values	Mean±SD <i>or</i> N(%)	
Age (Years)	2	63.63 ± 9.31	
Gender (Male)	2	64 (94.12%)	
BMI*	13	27.43 ± 3.72	
Tobacco consumption	6	31 (48.44%)	
Type 2 diabetes	10	26 (43.33%)	
Arterial hypertension	10	25 (41.67%)	
Dyslipidemia	10	20 (33.33%)	
Hemoglobin (g/dl)	6	13.52 ± 1.74	
Leucocytes (N/µI)	7	6437 ± 5256	
Platelets (N/µl)	5	147x10 <sup>3</sup> ± 71x10 <sup>3</sup>	
Prothrombin ratio	5	72.54 ± 14.47	
International Normalized Ratio	38	32.8 ± 178.32	
Blood sugar (mmol/l)	7	7.35 ± 3.07	
Albumin (g/l)	22	35.95 ± 7.87	
Urea (mmol/l)	18	4.34 ± 1.49	
Creatinin (µmol/l)	16	72.88 ± 18.94	
Total bilirubin (μmol/l)	10	23.27 ± 23.16	
Alkaline phosphatase (IU/I)‡	8	147.27 ± 76.61	
Gamma-glutamyl transferase (IU/I)‡	7	189.07 ± 143.07	
Aspartate aminotransferase (IU/I)‡	5	49.42 ± 21.77	
Alanine aminotransferase (IU/I)‡	5	44.67 ± 24.66	
Alpha-fetoprotein (IU/mI) <b>‡</b>	10	38.91 ± 91.51	
Etiology	8		
Alcohol		48 (68.57%)	
Alcohol + Haemochromatosis		3 (4.29%)	
Alcohol + HBV		2 (2.86%)	
Alcohol + HCV		3 (4.29%)	
Haemochromatosis		4 (5.71%)	

HBV		1 (1.43%)
HCV		1 (1.43%)
Unknown		8 (11.43%)
Child-Pugh score	16	
А		43 (61.43%)
В		6 (8.57%)
С		5 (7.14%)
Unknown		16 (22.86%)
METAVIR Score (Fibrosis)	0	
F0		3 (4.29%)
F1		2 (2.86%)
F2		1 (1.43%)
F3		1 (1.43%)
F4		63 (90%)
METAVIR Score (Activity)	5	
0		25 (35.71%)
1		27 (38.57%)
2		12 (17.14%)
3		1 (1.43%)
Not reported		5 (7.14%)
Median tumor size (cm); 1st-3rd quartiles	0	3.75; 3.75-4.7
Liver transplantation	0	21 (30%)
Partial Hepatectomy	0	49 (70%)
Neoadjuvant/adjuvant treatement	0	36 (51.43%)
Tumor free margin	1	44 (89.79%)¶
Tumor embolism	0	27 (38.57%)
Tumor necrosis	0	29 (41.43%)
Tumor steatosis	32	22 (57.89%)
Tumor cholestasis	18	24 (46.15%)
Kupffer cell iron overload in NT liver	15	11 (20%)
Hepatocyte iron overload in NT liver	15	28 (50.91%)
Edmondson-Steiner's grading	0	
1		4 (5.71%)
2		34 (48.57%)
3		32 (45.71%)

4		0 (0%)
Tumor Capsule	0	
Tumor-free capsule		30 (42.86%)
Capsular invasion		19 (27.14%)
No capsule		21 (30%)
Mutations in exon 3 of CTNNB1¶¶	0	23 (32.86%)

\* Body Mass Index

**‡** IU, International Units

¶ Out of 49 patients undergoing partial hepatectomy

¶¶ As determined by Sanger sequencing (number of patients carrying at least an HCC with CTNNB1 exon 3 mutation).

Supplementary Table 8B: Flow chart of the HCC population considered for disease-

free and overall survival analyses.

## Flowchart of the HCC population

- HCC Patients on the data base
  - Patients with available follow-up
- Survival ≥ 3 months

N= 36

- Curative resection of HCC
  - Tumor free resection margins
  - Available material for analysis

Supplementary Table 9: Univariate Cox proportional hazards regression analysis. Thirty-four patients were included for HAPLN1 and 36 for the other variables.

UNIVARIATE COX PROPORTIONAL HAZARDS MODEL				
Variables	Hazard Ratio	Lower- 95%	Upper- 95%	<i>p</i> value
HAPLN1 (TMA score≥3 + TaqMan>1st quartile)	3.71	1.72	8.03	< 0.001
Age (Years)	1.01	0.98	1.05	0.48
BMI*	1.14	1.01	1.30	0.03
Hemoglobin (g/dl)	1.09	0.90	1.32	0.39
Leucocytes (N/µI)	1.00	0.94	1.07	0.97
Platelets (N/µl) !	0.50	0.27	0.97	0.04
Prothrombin ratio	1.02	0.99	1.05	0.28
International Normalized Ratio	1.0007	0.9986	1.0028	0.51
Blood sugar (mmol/l)	0.93	0.793	1.085	0.35
Albumin (g/l)	1.022	0.960	1.088	0.49
Urea (mmol/l)	0.93	0.70	1.24	0.61
Creatinin (µmol/l)	1.00	0.98	1.02	0.99
Total bilirubin (μmol/l)	1.00	0.98	1.03	0.85
Alkaline phosphatase (IU/I)‡	0.999	0.994	1.004	0.81
Gamma-glutamyl transferase (IU/I)‡	1.001	0.999	1.004	0.36
Aspartate aminotransferase (IU/I)‡	1.003	0.987	1.020	0.7
Alanine aminotransferase (IU/I)‡	0.995	0.982	1.008	0.43
Alpha-fetoprotein (IU/mI) <b>‡ !!</b>	1.006	1.002	1.010	0.002
Median Diameter of largest nodule (cm)	1.015	0.813	1.268	0.89
Mutations in exon 3 of CTNNB1 ¶¶	1.76	0.84	3.69	0.14
Gender (Male)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Type 2 diabetes	1.06	0.52	2.2	0.87
High blood pressure	0.8	0.39	1.63	0.53
Dyslipidemia	0.39	0.18	0.85	0.018
Tobacco consumption	1.22	0.6	2.46	0.59
Tumor embolism	1.13	0.56	2.29	0.73

Tumor necrosis	0.95	0.47	1.9	0.88
Tumor steatosis	1.08	0.38	3.07	0.88
Tumor cholestasis	1.11	0.47	2.6	0.82
Kupffer cell iron overload in NT liver	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hepatocyte iron overload in NT liver	1.03	0.48	2.23	0.94
Neoadjuvant/adjuvant treatement	1.17	0.55	2.46	0.68
Edmondson-Steiner's grading				
1	NA	NA	NA	NA
1 2	NA 1	NA	NA	NA
1 2 3	NA 1 0.84	NA 0.42	NA 1.69	NA 0.62
1 2 3 Capsule	NA 1 0.84	NA 0.42	NA 1.69	NA 0.62
1 2 3 Capsule Tumor-free capsule	NA 1 0.84 1	NA 0.42	NA 1.69	NA 0.62
1 2 3 Capsule Tumor-free capsule Capsular invasion	NA 1 0.84 1 1.84	NA 0.42 0.76	NA 1.69 4.49	NA 0.62 0.18

NA, not applied. The number of deaths per category does not allow reliable estimates.

\* Body Mass Index

**‡** IU, International Units

 $\P\P$  As determined by Sanger sequencing

! 10<sup>5</sup> platelets over the mean platelet count of the cohort (147x10<sup>3</sup>)

!! Hazard ratio per IU over 6.3 IU/ml

#### Supplementary clinical observations:

AFP levels above the median (6.3 IU/ml) are associated with bad outcome. Platelet counts above the median  $(147 \times 10^3 / \mu l)$  protected from early death. As thrombocytopenia is a common complication in cirrhosis [5] and 90% of HCCs in this cohort arose in cirrhotic livers (Supplementary Table 8), this finding seems related to the underlying liver disease. Consistently with a recent study [6], dyslipidemia protected from early death.

**Supplementary Table 10**: Search for CTNNB1 exon 3 mutations in 82 samples of human HCC by Sanger sequencing.

Sample ID	CTNNB1 Exon3
1	WT
2	WT
3	c.A121C/p.T41P
4	c.C134T/p.S45F
5	c.A121C/p.T41P
6	WT
7	c.del107-109 p.H36- S37>P
8	c.A121C/p.T41P
9	WT
10	WT
11	c.A95T/p.D32V
12	WT
13	c.C134T/p.S45F
14	c.A107C/p.H36P
15	c.C134T/p.S45F
16	WT
17	WT
18	WT
19	WT
20	WT
21	WT
22	WT
23	c.G94T/p.D32Y
24	c.A107C/p.H36P
25	WT
26	WT
27	WT
28	WT
29	WT
30	WT
31	c.G94T/p.D32Y
32	WT
33	WT
34	WT
35	WT
36	WT
37	c.A107C/p.H36P
38	WT .
39	c.C122T/p.T41I
40	WT
41	WT

42	WT
43	c.A121C/p.T41P
44	WT
45	WT
46	WT
47	c.C122T/p.T41I
48	WT
49	WT
50	WT
51	WT
52	WT
53	c.G101T/p.G34V
54	WT
55	WT
56	WT
57	WT
58	WT
59	WT
60	WT
61	WT
62	WT
63	WT
64	c.C134A/p.S45Y
65	WT
66	WT
67	c.A95T/p.D32V
68	c.A95G/p.D32G
69	WT
70	c.G101T/p.G34V
71	c.A121G/p.T41A
72	WT
73	WT
74	WT
75	c.A95G/p.D32G
76	WT
77	WT
78	c.C110G/p.S37C
79	WT
80	WT
81	WT
82	c.G94T/p.D32Y

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**Résumé de la publication 3 :** A new subclass of well-differentiated human hepatocellular carcinomas with wild-type  $\beta$ -catenin, periportal phenotype and good clinical outcome

**Introduction :** Les carcinomes hépatocellulaires (CHCs) portant des mutations activatrices de la  $\beta$ -caténine ont des caractéristiques morphologiques et moléculaires indiquant un bon pronostic. Cependant, il n'existe pas de relation statistique formelle entre les mutations de la  $\beta$ -caténine et la récurrence de la tumeur ou la survie des patients. Ainsi, le but de ce travail était de rechercher un sous-groupe de tumeurs pouvant interférer avec les études de suivi clinique des patients porteurs de CHCs avec une  $\beta$ -caténine mutée versus sauvage.

**Matériels et Méthodes :** Premièrement, nous avons développé et validé un score de 5 gènes prédicteurs de mutations activatrices de la  $\beta$ -caténine sur 225 CHCs ( $\beta$ -caténine séquencée, méthode Sanger). Nous avons reparti ces CHCs en 3 bases : enseignement (n=87), validation (n=56) et indépendante (n=82). Puis, nous avons prédit les mutations de la  $\beta$ -caténine dans une méta-base transcriptomique de 1133 CHCs, où nous avons classé les tumeurs par regroupement hiérarchique pas à pas et analysé les taux de récurrence et de survie chez 247 patients. Le rôle de la  $\beta$ -caténine dans la régulation de l'expression des 5 prédicteurs a été confirmé in vitro après induction ou inhibition de son activité avec 6-Bromoindirubin-3'-oxime ou des siRNA spécifiques, respectivement. Les 5 prédicteurs ont également été confirmés par immunohistochimie sur des tissue microarrays regroupant 20 CHCs avec  $\beta$ -caténine sauvage et 20 avec  $\beta$ -caténine mutée.

**Résultats :** Le score prédictif de mutations activatrices de la  $\beta$ -caténine était robuste dans les 3 bases (AUROC=0.87-0.90; sensibilité=0.86-0.91; spécificité=0.83-1). Les marqueurs constituant ce score répondaient à une modulation ON/OFF de la β-caténine in vitro. De plus, leur expression protéique était modulée par le statut mutationnel de la β-caténine dans les CHCs. Nous avons regroupé 1133 CHCs en 4 sous-classes robustes. Deux sous-classes de tumeurs bien différenciées appartenaient à la classe récemment décrite de CHCs nonprolifératifs. Nous les avons nommées Péri-portale (β-caténine sauvage) et Péri-veineuse (βcaténine mutée) car elles mimaient la zonation hépatique. En effet, des analyses de réseau de gènes avec des signatures transcriptomiques de modèles murins ON/OFF d'HNF4α et de la βcaténine ont révélé l'impact de la zonation hépatique dans le phénotype des CHCs. Avec des taux de récurrence et de survie similaires, les CHCs Péri-portaux et Péri-veineux avaient le pronostic le plus favorable parmi tous les CHCs. Au contraire, les deux sous-classes appartenant à la classe de CHCs de type prolifératif exhibaient des profils de remodelage de la matrice extracellulaire (ECM) et de cellules souches cancéreuses (STEM). Leurs taux de récurrence et de survie globale étaient les plus péjoratifs. Enfin, nous avons exploité la signature « Metastasis », qui est un prédicteur de fort risque de récurrence de «Early HCC ».[1] Ainsi, sur 247 CHCs, un très faible pourcentage de tumeurs Péri-portales (6%) avait un phénotype « Metastasis ». A l'opposé, des nombres croissants de CHCs des autres sous-classes étaient « Metastasis (+) » : Péri-veineux= 26%; ECM= 64% et STEM= 96% (p=5x10-4).

**Conclusion :** Les CHCs Péri-portaux ( $\beta$ -caténine sauvage) sont bien différenciés et miment la zonation hépatique péri-portale. Ils ont des taux de récurrence et de survie totale favorables et similaires aux CHCs Péri-veineux ( $\beta$ -caténine mutée).

#### A new subclass of well-differentiated human hepatocellular carcinomas with wild-type $\beta$ catenin, periportal phenotype and good clinical outcome

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**Keywords:** Wnt; β-catenin mutations; cancer stem cells; liver progenitor cells; liver metabolism; extracellular matrix; tumor microenvironment; hepatocyte; cell plasticity; differentiation; liver fibrosis; tumor invasion; functional genomics; Sparse multivariate discriminant analysis; bootstrap subsampling; VNN1; HAL; ODAM; LGR5; GLUL; gene ratio.

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List of abbreviations: APC, adenomatous polyposis coli; AUROC, area under the receiver operating curve; BIO, 6-bromoindirubin-3'-oxime; DF, disease-free survival; ECM, extracellular matrix; GSEA, gene set enrichment analysis; HAL, histidine ammonia lyase; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; ODAM, odontogenic ameloblast-associated protein; PCA, principal component analysis; PP, periportal; PV, perivenous; sPLS-DA, sparse partial least squares discriminant analysis; TCF, T-cell factor; VNN1, vanin 1.

#### ABSTRACT

**Objective** Hepatocellular carcinomas (HCCs) carrying activating  $\beta$ -catenin mutations are generally well-differentiated. Despite this favorable prognostic feature, no clear-cut difference in patient survival exists between HCCs carrying wild-type and mutant  $\beta$ -catenin. Thus, we refined existing HCC classifications to clarify the effect of  $\beta$ -catenin mutations on patient survival.

**Design** We first developed a 5-gene score predicting  $\beta$ -catenin mutations in 225  $\beta$ -catenin-Sanger-sequenced HCCs, which was then validated on both validation and independent cohorts.  $\beta$ -catenin-dependent regulation of the newly discovered biomarkers was studied *in vitro* with ON/OFF experiments. We then predicted  $\beta$ -catenin mutations in an 1133-HCC transcriptomic metadata set and identified four robust HCC subclasses. Tumor classification and subclassspecific survival analyses were validated in independent 247-HCC transcriptomic and 210-HCC RNAseq datasets.

**Results** We identified three novel markers of  $\beta$ -catenin mutations, namely HAL, VNN1 and ODAM that, when combined with GLUL and LGR5 into a score, achieved reliable prediction (AUROC=0.87-0.90; Sensitivity=0.86-0.91; Specificity=0.83-1). Analysis of 1133 HCCs discriminated four subclasses and revealed the influence of metabolic liver zonation on HCC phenotypes under the antagonistic control of HNF4 $\square$  and  $\beta$ -catenin. Two well-differentiated, low-proliferation subclasses, *PERIPORTAL* (wild-type  $\beta$ -catenin) and *PERIVENOUS* (mutant  $\beta$ -catenin), showed preserved zonation program and favorable patient survival. Conversely, two high-proliferation subclasses, *EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX* and *STEM*, showed poor differentiation and patient survival. Finally, we developed and clinically validated an 8-gene *PERIPORTAL signature*, which predicted favorable patient outcome independently of tumor size.

**Conclusion** Liver zonation impacts the phenotypes of well-differentiated HCCs. We identified the *PERIPORTAL HCC* subclass, which improves prediction of aggressiveness of early-stage HCCs.

#### Significance of this study

#### What is already known on this subject?

- Hepatocellular carcinomas (HCCs) are generally difficult to classify, as their highly heterogeneous natural history results in a diversity of molecular phenotypes.
- > However, HCCs carrying activating  $\beta$ -catenin mutations are a uniquely homogeneous subclass of non-proliferating, well-differentiated tumors.
- Despite pathological features indicating good prognosis for HCCs with β-catenin mutations, it is not currently known why this does not result in a clear-cut advantage in patient survival over HCCs without β-catenin mutations.

#### What are the new findings?

- > Liver zonation, which is governed by the antagonistic control of HNF4  $\Box$  and  $\beta$ -catenin, impacts on the molecular phenotypes of well-differentiated HCCs.
- → We identified two well-differentiated HCC subclasses, *PERIPORTAL* (wild-type β-catenin) and *PERIVENOUS* (mutant β-catenin). Both showed favorable clinical outcome, with overlapping disease-free and overall survival curves.
- We developed and clinically validated an 8-gene *PERIPORTAL signature* predicting favorable patient outcome independently of tumor size.

#### How might it impact on clinical practice in the foreseeable future?

Combined assessment of the *PERIPORTAL signature* with clinical, pathological and radiological features, could refine the management of HCCs by improving prediction of aggressiveness in early-stage Barcelona stage A cases.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of cancer-related death worldwide. HCC is endemic in Asia and Africa, and its incidence has doubled over the past 20 years in Western countries. Projections anticipate a further increase in incidence, despite recent breakthroughs with a virological cure for chronic hepatitis.[1] More than 80% of HCCs arise in a field of chronic viral hepatitis, alcohol, hemochromatosis, metabolic syndrome or genotoxins.[2] This diversity in etiology and natural history results in high HCC heterogeneity, raising major challenges in clinical management.[1]

Transcriptome-based HCC classifications can facilitate clinical management by identifying homogeneous tumor subclasses with predictable outcomes.[3] One such subclass, corresponding to 20%-40% of HCCs, consists of activating  $\beta$ -catenin (*CTNNB1*) exon 3 mutations.[3, 4, 5, 6] CTNNB1 mutations at key residues in exon 3 abrogate GSK3 $\Box$ -dependent phosphorylation, which is important because phosphorylation earmarks  $\beta$ -catenin for proteasomal degradation. Thus, non-phosphorylated  $\beta$ -catenin accumulates in the cytoplasm and nucleus and affects target gene expression. In short,  $\beta$ -catenin exon 3 mutations switch the pathway to the *ON* position constitutively.[7]

HCCs carrying CTNNB1 mutations are well-differentiated and express liver-enriched  $\beta$ -catenin target genes.[3, 4, 5, 6] Although analysis of their mRNA signatures by functional genomics methods suggests a favorable outcome,[5, 8] formal survival studies show no differences in clinical outcome between HCCs carrying wild-type and those carrying mutant *CTNNB1* (see online supplementary table 1). We thus hypothesized that an uncharacterized HCC subclass could be hindering survival studies, which led us to refine existing HCC classifications in a large, statistically powerful population.

We found two subclasses of well-differentiated HCCs with overlapping survival curves and favorable clinical outcomes: on one hand, *PERIPORTAL HCCs* carried wild-type *CTNNB1* and expressed a periportal metabolic program; on the other hand, *PERIVENOUS HCCs* carried

mutant *CTNNB1* and expressed a perivenous metabolic program. Our results demonstrate that HCCs expressing the *PERIPORTAL* signature relate to more favorable patient survival than all other HCC subtypes taken together.

In normal liver, antagonistic cross-talks between  $HNF4\alpha$  and  $\beta$ -catenin regulate periportal *versus* perivenous zonation of metabolic functions.[9, 10, 11, 12] Our study reveals that the mechanisms governing metabolic liver zonation have a profound impact in the phenotypes of well-differentiated HCCs and provides a minimal signature to identify *PERIPORTAL* HCCs.

#### **Patients and Methods**

#### Patients, study design and data management

Figure 1 presents the study design, including the development of two tools: (A) a robust computational method predicting CTNNB1 mutations and (B) an 1133-HCC metadata set combining nine quality-controlled public transcriptomic datasets (see online supplementary tables 2 and 3). Complying with REMARK guidelines,[13] CTNNB1 mutation marker identification in a training set (n=87) was confirmed in a validation set (n=56) and in our recently described in-house independent cohort (n=82).[14] The three datasets, described in supplementary table 2, were annotated for Sanger-sequenced CTNNB1 exon 3 mutations (see supplementary table 4). We thus predicted CTNNB1 mutational status in the 1133-HCC transcriptomic metadata set. Independently, hierarchical cluster analysis was used in this metadata set to identify robust HCC subclasses. Then, the resulting tumor classification was validated in a 210-HCC patient dataset from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) consortium;[15] (normalized RNAseq genome-wide mRNA expression, whole-genome sequencing and clinical data downloaded in June 2016 from the TCGA website). Out of 294 HCCs with available RNAseq and clinical annotations, 84 met our exclusion criteria, detailed in supplementary figure 1A. Quality control of clinical annotations was performed by studying the relationship between tumor staging and overall/disease-free survival by Kaplan-Meier plots and Log Rank tests (see online supplementary figure 1B).

Raw data from publically available transcriptome profiling experiments were extracted from Gene Expression Omnibus, normalized and log<sub>2</sub> intensity expression values for each probe set were calculated by Robust Multi-array Average. Outliers were removed and batch effects corrected using COMBAT (R package sva).[16] Probes detected over background in at least one HCC were quantile normalized (R package preprocessCore). Nine batch-corrected public transcriptomic datasets passing the quality control analyses were thus combined into a metadata set totalizing 1133 HCCs and the expression levels of 9542 common genes.

#### **Statistical analyses**

To identify reliable gene predictors of *CTNNB1* activating mutations, we applied Sparse Partial Least Squares Discriminant Analysis (sPLS-DA) with bootstrap subsampling to optimize the identification of stable predictors (see supplementary figure 2).[17] After further marker

validation in the in-house cohort by real-time PCR, we established a score to predict *CTNNB1* mutations. Independently, robust HCC subclasses were identified using hierarchical cluster analysis defined by a stepwise algorithm (see supplementary materials and methods for details). Survival analyses were performed using the Log Rank test, Kaplan-Meier curves and Cox models. Statistical analyses were performed with R (version 3.3.0).

See online supplementary materials and methods for: tissue banking, fully detailed statistics, functional genomics,  $\beta$ -catenin exon 3 mutations/deletions, tissue micro-array-based immunohistochemistry, antibodies, cell culture, nucleic acid extraction, real-time PCR, primers, and RNA interference.

#### RESULTS

#### A robust 5-gene score predicts CTNNB1 mutations in large datasets

To predict CTNNB1 mutations in an 1133-HCC transcriptomic dataset, we set up a robust pipeline detailed in the Patients and Methods section (figure 1). We searched for predictive markers of CTNNB1 activating mutations using bootstrap sPLS-DA. The model achieved a prediction accuracy of 87% in the training set and 93% in the independent validation sets (see online supplementary figure 2). The analysis identified Histidine Ammonia-Lyase (HAL) and Vanin 1 (VNN1) (selected in >85% of the models after 300 bootstrap runs), which were both downregulated in HCCs carrying mutant CTNNB1. Our search for top upregulated genes in HCCs carrying CTNNB1 mutations revealed ODontogenic AMeloblast-associated protein (ODAM). To build the score predicting CTNNB1 mutations, we also added two well-known markers of CTNNB1 activating mutations in HCCs: GLUL and LGR5.[18] Expression of the five biomarkers was significantly associated with mutant CTNNB1 in the three datasets (figure 2A, B). AXIN2, which reflects Wnt/β-catenin pathway activation, [19] was positively correlated with GLUL, LGR5 and ODAM, but negatively correlated with HAL and VNN1 (figure 2A, B. See also online supplementary figure 3A). In addition, unsupervised hierarchical clustering confirmed association of the five markers with CTNNB1 mutation in the three datasets (figure 2B1, B2, B3). In the independent cohort, CTNNB1 mutation was negatively associated with invasive (Gamma= -0.83, p<10-3) and multinodular (Gamma= -0.56, p=0.02) tumors (figure 2B3). In turn, nuclear β-catenin immunostaining was positively correlated with CTNNB1 mutations, GLUL, ODAM and LGR5 and negatively with VNN1 and HAL and (see online supplementary figure 3B). We then combined the five markers into an arithmetic score, which was found to be highly predictive of the mutation in the three datasets (AUROC=0.87-0.90; Sensitivity=0.86-0.91; Specificity=0.83-1; figure 2C-E).

Tissue microarray-based immunohistochemistry in 20 HCCs carrying mutant *versus* 20 HCCs carrying wild-type *CTNNB1* revealed that GLUL showed a clear-cut difference between HCCs showing mutant *versus* wild-type *CTNNB1* at low power microscopic examination, whereas HAL and VNN1 were globally higher in wild-type samples (figure 2F). ODAM protein expression was low in all samples (not shown), but detected in HCCs carrying mutant *CTNNB1* and expressing high GLUL (figure 2G).

Analysis of matching non-tumor samples in the in-house independent cohort showed that tumor/non-tumor ratios were highly predictive of *CTNNB1* mutations (AUROC=0.90, Se 0.87; Sp 0.88) (see online supplementary figure 3, C-F). As data from non-tumor tissues were not available in the transcriptomic datasets, further predictions of *CTNNB1* mutations were performed with tumor samples. Thus, we predicted CTNNB1 mutational status in the 1133 HCCs of the metadata set (see online supplementary table 5). Predicted mutation rates between 20-40% matched the described CTNNB1 mutation rates in HCC.[20, 21]

#### *HAL*, *VNN1* and *ODAM* are regulated by $\beta$ -catenin signaling

To better understand the association between our newly discovered biomarkers (*HAL*, *VNN1* and *ODAM*) and *CTNNB1* activating mutations, we analyzed human HCC cell lines (see online supplementary figure 4). *HAL* was expressed at higher levels in HCC cell lines carrying wild-type *CTNNB1*, such as Huh7 or HepaRG, than in those carrying activating *CTNNB1* mutations, such as B16, BC2, HepG2 or Huh-6. *VNN1* was expressed at much higher levels in HepaRG cells than in the cell lines carrying mutant *CTNNB1*. By contrast, Huh7 expressed *VNN1* at low levels. Last, *ODAM* was clearly expressed at higher levels in cell lines carrying mutant than in those carrying wild-type *CTNNB1*.

The GSK3 inhibitor 6-bromoindirubin-3'-oxime (BIO), which activates  $\beta$ -catenin signaling,[22] strongly upregulated  $\beta$ -catenin-dependent transcriptional activity (figure 3A). BIO upregulated *GLUL*, *LGR5* and *ODAM* (figure 3B) and downregulated *HNF4A*, *ALDOB*, *HAL* and *VNN1* mRNA expression over the 30 days required for differentiation of HepaRG progenitors to hepatocyte-like cells (figure 3, C-F). Conversely, HepaRG cells transfected with  $\beta$ -catenin targeting siRNA, downregulated *AXIN2* and *ODAM* and upregulated *HAL* and *VNN1* mRNA expression (figure 3G). In addition, *in silico* analysis of the 5000 base pairs upstream the transcription start site of *ODAM* DNA (NM\_017855; PROMO program,[23] TRANSFAC dataset,[24]) revealed three putative TCF-4/LEF-1 consensus transcription factor binding sites in the *ODAM* 5'UTR region at positions -99; -1262 and -3956. Taken together, these data suggest that  $\beta$ -catenin signaling regulates *HAL*, *VNN1* and *ODAM* mRNA expression.

# Combining *CTNNB1* mutation prediction with cluster analysis reveals an HCC subclass enriched in *CTNNB1* activating mutations

We first merged the nine datasets into an 1133 HCC metadata set with 9542 common genes, then removed dataset-related batch effect using COMBAT algorithm,[16] (see online supplementary figure 5). Hierarchical cluster analysis identified four subgroups (see online supplementary figures 6-8). One of these subgroups had a predicted *CTNNB1* mutation rate of 84%, expressing the highest levels of GLUL, LGR5 and ODAM and the lowest levels of HAL and VNN1 (see online supplementary figure 8B). Whatever the dataset of origin, the predicted *CTNNB1* mutation rates in this subgroup were high (65% to 100%, see online supplementary table 6). These findings are consistent with previous evidence that HCCs carrying *CTNNB1* mutation are a homogeneous subclass.[4, 6]

Functional genomics studies by gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) (figure 4A-B and online supplementary table 7) revealed that the HCC subgroup containing the highest rate of predicted CTNNB1 mutations (84%) was enriched in signatures of HCCs carrying mutant CTNNB1, such as the G6[6] and the CTNNB1 subclasses,[4] as well as perivenous hepatocyte signatures, such as fatty acid and bile salt metabolism.[9] We thus called this subgroup "Perivenous-type HCCs" (PV). The HCC subgroup enriched in signatures of differentiated periportal hepatocytes (gluconeogenesis, amino acid catabolism, HNF4 -induced genes[9]), good prognosis, (hepatocyte-like (S3) subclass HCCs)[5] and low recurrence[5, 25] was called "Periportal-type HCCs" (PP). Both PP and PV subgroups were enriched in signatures of good survival[26] and low proliferation in HCCs.[4] The HCC subgroup featuring signatures of cancer extracellular matrix (ECM) remodeling and epithelial mesenchymal transition[27] was called "ECM-type HCCs". It was characterized by integrin cell surface interactions, KRAS, TGFB, [28] IL6, [29] EGF, [30] and the MMP14 network typical of invasive tumors. [31, 32] The last HCC subgroup was associated with high grade metastasis signatures, [33] tumor aggressiveness with decreased patient survival, [26] the cancer stem cell program predicting metastasis and death [34] and upregulation of p53 mutation markers (see online supplementary figure 9). It was also enriched in signatures of cell cycle progression (MYC, RAC, AURKA, RB1 and PDGFRB pathways), hepatoblastoma, HCCs displaying stem cell features [18, 35, 36] and undifferentiated cancers of various origins (melanoma, colorectal cancer, glioblastoma, lymphoma, anaplastic Wilms tumors), as well as cancer cell resistance to doxorubicin and vincristine. Thus, we called this subgroup "STEM-type HCCs". Both ECM- and STEM-type HCCs shared signatures of high tumor cell proliferation[4] and were associated with the Wnt/TGF- $\beta$  (S1) HCC subclass,[5] indicating bad prognosis(ref 48: genome res). Also, they were both associated with early recurrence[37] and metastasis in HCC.[33] Genes representative of each of the HCC subgroups are shown in figure 4B and online supplementary figure 10.

Hierarchical clustering of the HCC metadata set using the top 550 genes identified by sPLS-DA (see online supplementary figure 11) confirmed that 82% of the HCCs were correctly classified, revealing four tumor subclasses and three gene sets. The first geneset was upregulated in PP, the second in PV and the third in ECM and STEM. Online supplementary table 9 shows expression levels of the 550 genes in the HCC subclasses. The value of the 550-geneset as a classifier was confirmed in the external validation 210-HCC dataset (see below).

We observed differences in the percentage of samples in each subclass according to the dataset of origin (see online supplementary table 10). The sampling technique (1060 resections *versus* 73 biopsy specimens) had no impact on tumor classification (see online supplementary table 11). By contrast, cohorts containing >95% HCV (+) HCCs showed a higher rate of PV samples than cohorts with >95% HBV (+) ( $p=10^{-3}$ ), in agreement with the well-known positive association of *CTNNB1* mutation with HCV and its negative association with HBV.[3]

#### Periportal (PP) HCCs mimic metabolic zonation under the control of HNF4a.

The interplay between TCF4,  $\beta$ -catenin and HNF4 $\square$ [9] governs the differential distribution of metabolic liver functions along the porto-central axis of the liver, which is known as "liver zonation".[10] Using the ortholog genes of the mouse liver periportal and perivenous signatures,[9] we clustered the 326 PP-type and the 210 PV-type HCCs from the 1133 HCC metadata set (see online supplementary figure 12A). We observed a remarkable matching of ortholog perivenous genes with PV-type HCCs and periportal genes with PP-type HCCs, thus confirming the identity of both HCC subclasses described above. Subsequently, network analysis in the 1133 patient metadata set revealed that periportal and perivenous genes were negatively correlated and respectively upregulated in PP-type and PV-type HCCs (figure 5A). Predictive markers of *CTNNB1* mutation showed high connectivity within this network. *GLUL*, *HAL* and *LGR5* were connected respectively with 60 (42%), 54 (38%) and 54 (38%) of genes in the network. Although *ODAM* and *VNN1* were not present in the original periportal and periportal and perivenous signatures,[9] they were connected respectively with 47 (33%) and 28 (20%) of the genes.

Suppression of HNF4 $\alpha$  in mouse liver has profound effects on zonated metabolic functions, [11, 38] cell proliferation[38] and oncogenesis.[39, 40] Consistent with this, HNF4A-KO and HNF4A-WT[11] mouse livers were perfectly discriminated by the mouse orthologs of the top 550 genes representative of the four HCC subclasses (figure 5B). Among the 550 genes, a first cluster was strongly upregulated in HNF4A-KO mice and clearly enriched in genes upregulated in ECM/STEM HCCs. A second cluster was downregulated in HNF4A-KO mice and enriched in genes upregulated in PP-type HCCs. The rest of the genes (20%) were poorly affected by HNF4 ... Finally, we extracted from the HNF4A-KO dataset the genes showing the highest modulation (fold change >2 or <0.5 and Bonferroni adjusted P value <0.01) to look at the expression of their orthologs in the 1133 HCC metadata set (see online supplementary figure 12B). Hierarchical clustering showed a good discrimination of the four subgroups (80% of samples correctly classified), with a strong enrichment of genes highly downregulated by HNF4A-KO in PP-type HCCs. Conversely, genes highly upregulated by HNF4A-KO were remarkably enriched in the STEM subgroup. These findings are in line with the notion that HNF4α induces hepatocyte differentiation of cancer stem cells, suppressing hepatocyte proliferation and oncogenesis.[38, 39, 40, 41]

GLUL is a marker of perivenous hepatocytes.[42] As expected, by immunohistochemistry in human liver (figure 5C), GLUL showed a clear perivenous localization.[43] HAL showed a clear-cut periportal distribution, consistently with its presence in the periportal signature in mice.[9] VNN1 was panlobular and was abundantly detected in the cytoplasm and in bile canaliculi in normal liver and in well-differentiated HCCs (figure 5C,D). Anti-VNN1 staining of bile canaliculi was totally suppressed by the immunogen polypeptide (figure 5D).

# Periportal and Perivenous HCCs are two well-differentiated subclasses showing the best clinical outcomes.
Comparative analysis of the clinical outcome of the four HCC subclasses in a 247-HCC transcriptomic dataset[44] (dataset C, see online supplementary table 2) revealed increasingly aggressive tumor phenotypes from PP through PV  $\rightarrow$  ECM  $\rightarrow$  STEM HCCs (figure 6A). These subclasses showed a progressive increase in metastatic signature[44] rates, CLIP and BCLC scores as well as serum AFP concentrations. Survival curves (figure 6B) showed a progressive decrease in overall and disease free survival (DF) rates from PP through PV  $\rightarrow$  ECM  $\rightarrow$  STEM HCCs. Thus, PP-type is a well-differentiated, favorable-outcome HCC subclass carrying wild-type *CTNNB1*, displaying a periportal liver phenotype and expressing HNF4 $\square$  target genes. In turn, PV-type is also a well-differentiated, favorable-outcome HCC subclass carrying mutant *CTNNB1*, displaying a perivenous liver phenotype and expressing *CTNNB1* target genes. As these two HCC subclasses are well-differentiated and show similar survival curves (figure 6B), the PP-type is likely to be the confounding tumor subgroup that, in previous studies (see online supplementary table 1), obscured the differences in outcome between HCCs carrying mutant *versus* those carrying wild-type *CTNNB1*.

Classification of HCCs into four subclasses with the 550-geneset was further validated using a 210-HCC RNAseq dataset. Tumor aggressiveness was inferred by AFP serum levels, tumor grade, TNM staging, vascular invasion, TP53 mutation rates, tumor onset in younger patients, as well as survival (see online supplementary figure 13, A-C). This analysis confirmed the existence of increasingly aggressive tumor phenotypes from PP through PV  $\rightarrow$  ECM  $\rightarrow$  STEM HCCs.

# A minimal 8-gene *Periportal signature* indicates favorable pathological features and clinical outcome.

We identified eight top genes from the mouse liver periportal signature[9]. These genes complied with the following criteria: >2 fold change between PP *versus* other HCC subclasses; high connectivity in the periportal gene network in HCCs (>0.30 correlation coefficient with >50% of the genes) and association with survival (p<0.05 in  $\geq$ 7/8 tests; see online supplementary materials and methods). Thus, the 8-gene *Periportal signature* (figure 6C) was associated with favorable overall and disease-free outcome in the 247-HCC transcriptomic dataset)[44] (figure 6D).

Validation of this *Periportal* gene signature in the 210-HCC RNAseq dataset from the TCGA consortium (figure 6E and F) confirmed its association with overall and disease-free survival as well as with clinical and pathological features indicating good prognosis. Compared with the other HCC subclasses, Periportal HCCs showed lower tumor grades, TNM staging, tumor weight, vascular invasion rates, serum AFP, *TP53* mutation rates as well as better liver function (Child-Pugh score) and ECOG performance status. Moreover, the *Periportal signature* predicted disease-free survival independently of tumor size after multivariate Cox analysis and identified a favorable outcome subgroup in BCLC stage A patients (see online supplementary figure 14). The *Periportal signature* genes were highly correlated in the RNAseq dataset (see online supplementary table 12). In addition, the GSE1133 microarray dataset from 84 tissues, [45][46] showed that these genes were expressed in normal liver at high levels, and six of them were liver-enriched (see online supplementary figure 15).

## DISCUSSION

Our study reveals that liver zonation impacts the molecular diversity of HCCs. In particular, we show that *Periportal* and *Perivenous* are two well-differentiated HCC subclasses that mimic normal liver zonation under the antagonistic control of HNF4 $\square$  and  $\beta$ -catenin. Both subclasses show favorable survival and meet the criteria for non-proliferation class HCCs.[3] By contrast, the ECM and STEM HCC subclasses show poor survival and meet the criteria for high-proliferation-class HCCs[3] (figures 6B; 7 and supplementary figure 13C). Analysis of two independent cohorts consisting of 457 HCC patients revealed that *Periportal* HCCs subclasses taken together (figure 6D-F).

We discovered the minimal genetic signature that characterizes *Periportal* HCCs. These HCCs are well-differentiated, carry wild-type *CTNNB1* and express HNF4 target genes. Consequently, most (6/8) of the genes in this signature were liver-enriched and, in particular, involved in periportal liver functions, such as amino-acid catabolism (GLS2, AGXT and GNMT), biliary acid transport (SLC10A1 and SCL22A7), lipid metabolism (SLC27A5) or the urea cycle (OTC). In addition, FETUB is expressed by steatotic hepatocytes.[47] The expression level of each one of these genes was higher in *Periportal* HCCs than in the other subclasses (see supplementary figure 10B), but lower in HCCs than in non-tumor livers (see online supplementary figure 16). These data suggest that *Periportal* HCCs are the first step in hepatocyte dedifferentiation and tumor progression.

*Perivenous* HCCs are well-differentiated and associated with favorable outcome. They carry mutant *CTNNB1* and express  $\beta$ -catenin target genes. Although *Perivenous* HCCs match the G6[6] and *CTNNB1*[4] subclasses that carry CTNNB1 mutations, they do not match the S3[5] subclass. HCCs in the S3 subclass are well-differentiated and approximately 50% of them carry CTNNB1 mutations,[5] Patients with S3 HCCs have a more favorable survival than those with other HCC subclasses.[48] However, S3 HCCs show lower rates of  $\beta$ -catenin immunostaining than S1 and S2 HCCs,[5] whereas HCCs carrying exon 3 *CTNNB1* mutations show the highest rates of  $\beta$ -catenin staining, as revealed in this and other studies.[8, 18, 49] Therefore, the S3 subclass may include both *Periportal* and *Perivenous* HCCs. Importantly, the identification of HCCs expressing the *Periportal* signature will pinpoint tumors with a potentially more favorable outcome than all other HCCs carrying wild-type CTNNB1.

Reciprocal antagonistic cross-talks between HNF4  $\Box$  and  $\beta$ -catenin control the transcription of genes involved in periportal and perivenous zonation in normal liver.[10] Consistent with this, the 5-gene score predicting *CTNNB1* mutational status was composed of genes which were either upregulated by  $\beta$ -catenin (*LGR5*, *GLUL* and *ODAM*) or by HNF4 $\Box$  (*VNN1* and *HAL*).[9, 50] Specifically,  $\beta$ -catenin activation enhanced *GLUL*, *LGR5* and *ODAM*, but inhibited *HAL* and *VNN1* expression. Moreover, during hepatocyte differentiation, the upregulation in the expression of HNF4A and of the HNF4A target genes ALDOB, HAL and VNN1, was suppressed by  $\beta$ -catenin activation (figure 3C-F). Conversely,  $\beta$ -catenin knockdown silenced *AXIN2 and ODAM*, but enhanced *HAL* and *VNN1* expression (figure 3G). Therefore, the score

predicting CTNNB1 mutations reflects the reciprocal antagonism between HNF4  $\square$  and  $\beta$  -catenin.

Except for ODAM, the markers predicting CTNNB1 mutations are involved in zonated liver functions. HAL is an enzyme that degrades the amino acid histidine[51] and was restricted to periportal hepatocytes in normal liver (figure 5C). Likewise, *Periportal HCCs* expressed a host of amino acid degrading enzymes, such as *ARG1* (arginase 1) and *GLS2* (glutaminase 2), which were major hubs in the periportal gene network in HCCs (figure 5A). Some of these amino acid degrading enzymes, such as *SDS* (serine dehydratase) and *GLDC* (glycine decarboxylase), yield the end-product oxaloacetate, which is used for gluconeogenesis, a periportal metabolic pathway.[9, 12]

*VNN1* is a key activator of hepatic gluconeogenesis transcriptionally activated by HNF4 $\Box$ .[50] VNN1 is involved in the synthesis of vitamin B<sub>5</sub> and the antioxidant cysteamine.[50] In addition, VNN1 modulates lipogenesis[52] and hepatic lipid homeostasis upon fasting.[53, 54] Although these liver functions are zonated,[9, 12] VNN1 had a panlobular distribution (figure 5C) and was abundantly detected in bile canaliculi in normal liver and in well-differentiated HCCs (figure 5D). Along these lines, VNN1 is one of the 59 major proteins in human bile.[55] In contrast with our findings in normal human liver, a predominantly perivenous localization of VNN1 was suggested in mice.[54] However, unsupervised approaches did not reveal *VNN1* to be specifically expressed in periportal or perivenous compartments.[9, 12] Therefore, *VNN1* probably responds to dynamic zonation,[10] depending upon dietary conditions.[53]

ODAM is a basement membrane component of the periodontal junctional epithelium secreted by ameloblasts,[56] but repressed in most adult tissues.[57] In our study, *ODAM* was expressed *de novo* in HCCs and cancer cell lines carrying activating *CTNNB1* mutations (see supplementary figure 4). It is also expressed *de novo* in other cancers and associated with favorable outcome.[58] In addition, we recently showed that, in human HCCs, increased Wnt/βcatenin signaling induces *de novo* expression of stem/progenitor cell genes, such as HAPLN1 or IGFBP5, related to mesenchymal-epithelial transition.[59, 60] Thus, the presence of ODAM in the CTNNB1 mutation score confirms that these HCCs, albeit well-differentiated, display cancer cell features, such as ectopic expression of oncofetal proteins.

In conclusion, we demonstrated that liver zonation impacts the molecular phenotype of welldifferentiated HCC. In particular, we discovered a new well-differentiated HCC subclass, *Periportal HCCs*, which has the most favorable clinical outcome among all HCC subclasses. Moreover, we provide a minimal signature for identification of this subclass. New tools facilitating the identification of HCCs with relatively lower or higher malignant potential will improve clinical management of these heterogeneous tumors.

#### FIGURES

**Figure 1** Flowchart of the study. (A) Search for biomarkers for CTNNB1 mutation prediction and (B) HCC classification in an 1133-HCC transcriptomic metadata set. Major endpoints are indicated by bold arrows. External validation sets are represented by black boxes. (*A*) CTNNB1 mutation prediction. Training and validation sets were used to select the most stable markers by sPLS-DA modeling. New biomarkers and a mutation prediction score were tested in our external validation in-house HCC collection.[14] (*B*) Construction of a metadata set for transcriptome meta-analysis. Nine public transcriptomic datasets (*A to I*) were merged into a metadata set. After batch correction and hierarchical clustering, survival analyses of HCC subclasses were performed in a microarray dataset (Dataset C, n= 247 HCCs)[44] and validated in an external RNAseq dataset (LIHC-US; TCGA consortium, n= 210 HCCs).[15] (C) Description of the public transcriptomic datasets used: 0, yes or present. 1, no or absent. References: A[61], B[62], C[44], D[63], E[64], F[65], G[66], H[66], I[37].



Figure 2 A robust 5-gene scoring method to predict *CTNNB1* mutation. (A) Gene expression of the five biomarkers in the training (n=87), validation (n=56) and the external validation (n=82) sets, according to CTNNB1 mutational status. AXIN2 was included as a Wnt pathway activation marker (missing in the validation set). (B) Heatmaps showing mRNA expression of the five biomarkers plus AXIN2 and CTNNB1 mutational status (B1, training set; B2, validation set; B3 in-house qPCR independent cohort). Low and high gene expressions (using the median as a cut-off value) are represented in green and red, respectively. In the independent cohort, gross tumor features are integrated. (C) Predictive score formula. (D) Performances of the scores for CTNNB1 mutation prediction. (E) ROC curves representing the predictive score for CTNNB1 mutation in the three datasets. (F) Tissue micro array-based immunohistochemical detection of GLUL, HAL and VNN1 in 20 HCCs carrying mutant CTNNB1 and 20 carrying wild-type *CTNNB1* from the independent cohort. Insets on the right show  $\beta$ -catenin in an HCC carrying wild-type CTNNB1 with cell membrane staining (arrowheads, upper right), or mutant CTNNB1 with cytoplasmic and nuclear staining, (arrowheads, lower right). (G) Immunostaining for ODAM and GLUL in serial sections of an HCC carrying mutant CTNNB1. Images were acquired with a tissue slide scanner at 20X original magnification. \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001 (Wilcoxon tests). AUROC, Area under the receiver operating curve; qPCR, real-time PCR (a pool of five normal liver samples was used as calibrator); CI, Confidence interval; Se, Sensitivity; Sp, Specificity.



Désert et al., Figure 2

**Figure 3** Functional analyses of the five mutation biomarkers by real-time PCR in HepaRG cells. (A) The GSK3 $\beta$  inhibitor BIO (2.5  $\mu$ M) strongly upregulates  $\beta$ -catenin transcriptional activity, as shown in a  $\beta$ -catenin gene reporter assay, where 8xtandem TCF sites control the expression of the *Firefly luciferase* gene. (B) BIO upregulates *GLUL, LGR5* and *ODAM* mRNA expression, assessed by real-time PCR. (C-F) Expression of *HNF4A*, *ALDOB*, *HAL* and *VNN1* upon differentiation of HepaRG liver progenitors into hepatocyte-like cells over a 30-day time course with or without BIO. (G) HepaRG cells transfected with  $\beta$ -catenin targeting siRNA downregulate *AXIN2* and *ODAM* and upregulate *HAL* and *VNN1* mRNA expression (real-time PCR). Data are relative to scrambled siRNA-transfected cells. Mean±SD. Experiments were done in triplicate.



Désert et al., Figure 3

**Figure 4** Liver zonation impacts HCC phenotypes. (A) Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) in the four HCC subclasses. (B) Expression of relevant genes in the 1133-HCC metadata set. Color code keys are shown at the bottom of the heatmap. Samples (columns) are ordered by HCC subclass. Green, low; red, high expression. PP, Periportal; PV, Perivenous; ECM, Extracellular matrix; STEM, Stem cell.



Désert et al., Figure 4

**Figure 5** Periportal (PP) HCCs mimic metabolic zonation under the control of *HNF4A* in 1133 HCCs. (A) *Green* and *red node borders* denote mouse periportal and perivenous genes, respectively.[9] *Node core* colors are proportional to the PV/PP fold-change in the HCC metadata set (*Color key: lower right; Green: PP; Red: PV*). Link thickness is proportional to correlation coefficients (>0.30 in all networks; *blue*, positive; *red*, negative correlation). (B) The 550 genes representative of the four HCC subclasses discriminate between *HNF4A*-KO and *HNF4A*-WT mice.[11]. Three gene clusters (*black nodes on the left*) denote: *1*, upregulation in *HNF4A*-WT's and enrichment in human HCC STEM/ECM signatures; 2, upregulation in *HNF4A*-WT's and enrichment in HCC PP genes; *3*, genes poorly affected by *HNF4A* status. *Red*, high expression, *green*, low expression. (C) Immunoperoxidase detection (*brown*) of  $\beta$ -catenin, GLUL, VNN1 and HAL in serial sections of normal human liver illustrates clear-cut perivenous and periportal zonation of GLUL and HAL, respectively.  $\beta$ -catenin is predominantly membranous and highlights bile ducts (*BD*). Arrows show portal tracts (*PT*) and central veins (*CV*). VNN1 is panlobular. (D) VNN1 is detected in bile canaliculi in normal liver and in a well-differentiated HCC. VNN1 signal is totally suppressed by the immunogen polypeptide.



Désert et al., Figure 5

**Figure 6** Periportal (*PP*) and Perivenous (*PV*) HCCs are two well-differentiated subclasses showing the best clinical outcomes. (A) Clinical features of HCC subclasses in a 247-patient dataset[44]. (B) Kaplan-Meier plots of overall and disease-free survival of individuals according to HCC subclass; \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001, after log-rank tests. (C) Eight-gene Periportal signature (see Supplementary figure 10B for PP signature in HCC subclasses). (D) Kaplan-Meier plots of overall and disease-free survival of HCC patients with and without the periportal signature. (E) Clinical features of patients with and without the periportal signature in an external validation 210-HCC RNAseq dataset (TGCA-LIHC-US). (F) Kaplan-Meier plots of overall and disease-free survival in HCC patients with and without the periportal signature in the external validation 210-HCC dataset. *P* values: Fisher exact test (categorical variables); Student's *t* test (continuous variables) and Log-rank test (survival analyses). AFP, serum alpha-fetoprotein; NA, not available; BCLC, Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer.





**Figure 7** General features of the four HCC subclasses. *High mutation rate*, based on wholegenome sequencing data from the 210 HCCs validation dataset (see online supplementary figure 13). *Published subclasses*, unsupervised GSEA results (see online supplementary table 7) showing enrichment of PP, PV, ECM or STEM HCC subgroups in major published HCC subclasses, such as non-proliferation/proliferation,[3] S3/S1 Hoshida's,[5] Boyault's G1-G6,[6] Chiang's Proliferation and *CTNNB1*,[4] Lee's poor/good survival[26] and Liao's metastatic HCC.[33] *Clinical phenotype*, correlations of clinical data with the HCC subclasses, as shown in figure 6A. *Biomarkers*, major biomarkers characterizing the HCC subclasses. *Red arrows*, strong and *orange arrow*, moderate modulations of gene expression.



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#### **Supplementary Data to:**

# A new subclass of well-differentiated human hepatocellular carcinomas with wild-type $\beta$ catenin, periportal phenotype and good clinical outcome

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## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS AND METHODS

## Tissue banking of the external validation in-house HCC collection

The external validation in-house HCC collection (figure 1A) was recently described.[1] It included 70 HCC patients undergoing liver surgery with curative intention at Rennes University Hospital between January 1992 and December 2007. Fifty-one were treated by partial hepatectomy and 19 by orthotopic liver transplantation. Anatomic pathology features of HCCs were reviewed and annotated by a senior pathologist (BT). Demographic, clinical and biological data were retrieved from hospital charts by two experienced liver surgeons (LS & DB) and are described in online supplementary table 2. Eighty-two frozen tumors from 70 patients were analyzed. As controls, we included 66 matching non-tumor livers and 5 histologically normal livers from patients undergoing resection of liver metastases of extrahepatic primary cancers. Non-tumor and normal liver samples were obtained at >2 cm from the tumors. Frozen human tissue samples were processed by the Biological Resource Center, Rennes University Hospital (BB-0033-00056). Fresh tissues were frozen at -80°C in N<sub>2</sub>-cooled isopentane and stored at -80°C under quality-controlled conditions. The study protocol complied with French laws and regulations and was approved by INSERM's Institutional Review Board (number 01-036) in the context of the National Network of Liver Biological Resource Centers. Sample collection was reported to the Ministry of Education and Research (No. DC-2008-338).

#### **Statistical analysis**

## Transcriptomic data preprocessing

Raw feature data from Gene Expression Omnibus were normalized and log<sub>2</sub> intensity expression summary values for each probe set were calculated using Robust Multiarray Average (RMA, packages Affy or Limma). Each dataset was assessed for the detection of outliers and inter-array, experiment-related batch effects by principal component analysis (PCA) and density plots. The outliers removed were: one sample from GSE17856, one sample from GSE15765 and two samples from GSE54236. When clear-cut inter-array experiment-related batch effects were observed within a dataset, this effect was corrected by the COMBAT method (package sva). GSE25097 was corrected for 2-batch effect and GSE14520 for 3-batch effect. Then, probes being detected over the background noise in at least one HCC were retained

and quantile normalized (package preprocessCore). When raw data were not available, normalized data were directly used (GSE20140, GSE20140 and TCGA-LIHC-US).

## Development of a score predicting CTNNB1 mutational status

To search for the best *CTNNB1* mutation predictors and to assess their predictive power (figure 1A, C), we used a training set of 87 HCCs annotated for Sanger-sequenced *CTNNB1* exon 3 mutational status (including 27 *CTNNB1*-mutant and 60 wild-type tumors) and a validation set of 56 HCCs annotated for Sanger-sequenced *CTNNB1* exon 3 mutational status (including 17 *CTNNB1*-mutant and 39 wild-type tumors). *CTNNB1* mutation markers were further validated in an 82-HCC in-house independent cohort (including 23 *CTNNB1*-mutant and 59 wild-type tumors) (see figure 1A and supplementary table 2). Training (GSE9843) and validation (E-TABM-36) sets were obtained from publically available HCC mRNA expression profiling datasets. The external validation in-house HCC collection was analyzed by real-time PCR to validate the *CTNNB1* mutation predictors in an independent population.

To search for predictors of *CTNNB1* mutational status, we performed bootstrap over three PLS-DA principal components, whereby 300 rounds of bootstrap subsampling optimized the stability of predictors. Prediction was then validated on statistical tools based on one-tailed *t*tests to objectively choose the number of optimal components and to identify the most robust set of predictors[2] (see supplementary figure 2). The analysis identified Histidine Ammonia-Lyase (*HAL*) and Vanin 1 (*VNN1*) (selected in >85% of the models after 300 bootstrap runs). Histidine ammonia-lyase (HAL) was downregulated in *CTNNB1*-mutant HCCs by 17 folds in the training set [95% CI: (0.04-0.1), p= $2.8 \times 10^{-12}$ ] and by 8 folds in the validation set [95% CI: (0.06-0.23), p= $3.3 \times 10^{-6}$ ]. In turn, *Vanin 1* (VNN1) was downregulated in CTNNB1-mutant HCCs by 16 folds in the training set [95% CI: (0.04-0.11), p= $1.6 \times 10^{-12}$ ] and by 7 folds in the validation set [95% CI: (0.07-0.27), p= $1.4 \times 10^{-5}$ ] (Figure 2A-B).

*Odontogenic Ameloblast-Associated Protein* (ODAM) was identified by exploratory analysis searching for the highest fold change between HCCs carrying mutant *versus* wild-type *CTNNB1*. *ODAM* was upregulated by about 7 folds in the training set (95% CI: [4-13],  $p=3.8x10^{-6}$ ) and by 10 folds in the validation set [95% CI: (4-24),  $p=2.8x10^{-5}$ ].

To develop a robust scoring method of prediction, we also included two well-known *CTNNB1* mutation markers, namely *GLUL* and *LGR5*.[3, 4, 5, 6] *GLUL* was upregulated by about 2 folds in the training set [95% CI: (2-3); p= $6.4 \times 10^{-12}$ ] and by 6 folds in the validation set [95% CI: (4-10); p= $7.7 \times 10^{-7}$ ]; *LGR5* was upregulated by about 7 folds in the training set [CI: (4-11); p= $6.3 \times 10^{-8}$ ] and by 9 folds in the validation set [95% CI: (5-17); p= $8.3 \times 10^{-7}$ ]. After further validation of these markers in the external validation in-house HCC collection by real-time PCR (figure 2A,B), we built an arithmetic score as shown in figure 2C.

After extraction of gene expression values for *GLUL*, *LGR5*, *ODAM*, *HAL* and *VNN1* from the training and validation sets and from the nine datasets used for transcriptome meta-analysis, we compared:

- 1) Three normalization techniques (Autoscaling, Median Centering and Total-Sum Normalization).[7]
- 2) Several combinations of the five *CTNNB1* mutation markers: alternative scores with <5 genes were compared with the 5-gene score.

For each normalization technique and gene combination, the predictive score was calculated and the common threshold maximizing sensitivity and specificity in both training and validation sets was evaluated. Then, in each of the nine datasets, samples with a score higher than the threshold were predicted as mutated. To find the best method, we evaluated the performance of the score in the training and validation sets and the predicted mutation rate in each of the nine datasets, in comparison with the expected mutation rates in HCCs (20% to 40%).[3, 4, 5, 8, 9] This optimization process led us to choose the median centering technique and the 5-gene score. The performance of this method and the predicted mutation rate in the nine datasets is presented in supplementary table 5.

## Dataset quality control and combination for transcriptome meta-analysis

To assess the quality of each dataset, Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated for gene sets expected to be correlated: *KRT19-EPCAM*,[10] *GLUL-LGR5*[5] and *ODAM-HAL-VNN1* (supplementary table 3). Datasets were discarded from the meta-classification analysis if Pearson correlations were <0.25 for at least one of the gene couples tested. Thus, nine datasets passing the quality control analysis were combined into a transcriptomic metadata set intended for meta-classification (figure 1B and supplementary table 2), that totalized 1133 HCCs. Genes included in this metadata set were matched by ENTREZ ID (package org.Hs.eg.db). When multiple probe sets mapped a unique gene, we used the probe with a p-value detection <0.05 in most samples. The nine datasets had 9542 common genes. Probes were merged to the gene level and all nine datasets were normalized with the COMBAT algorithm to eliminate platform-related batch effect[11] (see supplementary figure 5). Thus, the metadata set consisted of 1133 HCCs with 9542 common genes.

## Discriminating robust HCC subclasses by hierarchical cluster analysis

Hierarchical cluster analysis on the metadata set was performed with the Ward's method using 1-Pearson correlation as a distance metric. To highlight robust HCC subclasses, we applied the following four steps which are outlined below.

- 1) Identifying HCC samples highly associated with a subclass by individual reproducibility analysis.
- 2) Isolating the most highly associated gene sets within each HCC cluster by PLS-DA modeling.
- 3) Refining the HCC classification with the most highly associated gene sets within each HCC cluster.
- 4) Evaluating the robustness of the generated subclasses by several techniques, namely global reproducibility analysis, PCA, measure of inter-cluster and intra-cluster inertia and PLS-DA modeling.

# Detailed description of the four steps applied to highlight robust HCC subclasses

1) <u>Identifying HCC samples highly associated with a subclass by individual</u> <u>reproducibility analysis.</u>

To isolate HCCs robustly linked to each cluster, we calculated an individual reproducibility score applying the following steps, modified from Boyault et al.,[12]:

- A. Unsupervised gene selection based on the two following criteria:
  - i. Variance test p<0.01. For each gene (*G*) we tested whether its variance across samples was different from the median of the variances of the 9542 genes. The statistic used was  $[(n-1)\timesVar(G)/Var_{med}]$ , where *n* refers to the number of samples. This statistic was compared to a percentile of the Chi-square distribution with (n-1) degrees of freedom and yielded a p-value for each gene; and
  - ii. "robust" coefficient of variation (rCV) less than 10 and superior to a given rCV percentile threshold. Six rCV percentile thresholds were used: 60%; 70%; 80%; 90%; 95%; 97%, yielding six gene lists. The rCV for each gene was calculated by dividing the standard deviation by the mean. It was called "robust" because the highest and the lowest expression values across the samples for each gene were deleted.
- B. Hierarchical clustering of the 1133 samples using the whole metadata set or data restricted to each of the six gene sets defined by the rCV percentile thresholds (see *ii* above) produced seven dendrograms. As the

"elbow" method in the whole metadata set suggested a 4-cluster classification (not shown), the seven dendrograms were cut into four clusters.

C. Individual reproducibility score: For each dendrogram, a sample was noted 1 for a given cluster (1-4) if it was classified in this cluster and 0 if it was not. The individual reproducibility score of clusters 1-4 was calculated with the mean of the scores of the seven dendrograms. Then, samples with a reproducibility score over 0.85 for a given cluster (which means that an HCC was classified in this cluster in at least six dendrograms out of seven) were considered to belong to this cluster in a robust way. Thus, 158 samples (14% of the metadata set) were robustly associated with cluster 1 (red); 123 (11% of the metadata set) were robustly associated with cluster 2 (purple); 228 (20% of the samples were robustly associated with cluster 3 (green) and none of the samples were robustly associated with cluster 4 (blue).

# 2) <u>Isolating the most highly associated gene sets within each HCC cluster by PLS-DA</u> <u>modeling</u>

Cluster-specific gene sets were determined by Partial Least Square Discriminant Analysis (PLS-DA, package pls), following these steps:

A. Gene sets that were significantly different by a Tumor *versus* non-tumor t test, showing a fold difference either <0.5 or >2.0, were considered to be tumor specific. For this test, the dataset GSE14520 was used and 2881 genes were selected.

B. Three PLS-DA models were obtained on the metadata set with 2881 differentially expressed genes for the prediction of the three subclasses defined by individual reproducibility analysis (red, purple and green). The best number of principal components k were evaluated after a cross-validation by the PRESS criteria (k(red)=8, k(purple)=5 and k(green)=7). Then, *variable importance in the projection* (VIP) was calculated for each gene and each principal component. To refine the HCC classification, the mean of k VIPs in at least one PLS-DA model was set to >1, yielding 1618 genes. For gene ontology analysis, the mean of k VIPs in at least one PLS-DA model was set to >1.5, yielding 550 genes.

# 3) <u>Refining the HCC classification with the most highly associated gene sets within each HCC cluster</u>

The HCC classification was refined by a new hierarchical cluster analysis on the metadata set using the 1618 gene set (VIP>1). The dendrogram was cut into four clusters, as suggested by the "elbow" method (see supplementary figure 8).

 Evaluating the robustness of the generated subclasses from the 1618 gene set (VIP>1) by global reproducibility analysis, PCA, measure of inter-cluster and intra-cluster inertia and PLS-DA modeling.

A. Global reproducibility analysis included the following steps, modified from Boyault et al.,[12]:

- i. Unsupervised gene selection was based on the two following criteria :
  - a. Variance test with a p-value <0.01.
  - b. Robust coefficient of variation (rCV) less than 10 and superior to a given rCV percentile from the following threshold list: 60%; 70%; 80%; 90%; 95%; 97%, 99%, 99.5%, yielding eight gene lists.
- ii. Hierarchical clustering of the 1133 samples using the entire metadata set or data restricted to each of eight gene set lists produced nine dendrograms. Each dendrogram was cut into four clusters.
- iii. For each dendrogram, the global reproducibility score was assessed by calculating the % of samples well classified.
- iv. The same score was calculated for each dendrogram restraining the data to a subclass of samples (red, purple, green and blue). These analyses showed that the red, green and purple subclasses were robust, with a global reproducibility higher than 70% in most of the cases. By contrast, the blue subclass was less robust, consistently with individual reproducibility analysis. The results of these analyses are presented in supplementary figure 6.

B. PCA analysis was performed with the FactoMineR package. Individual score plot in the first two principal components according to individual classification show noticeable discrimination (see supplementary figure 7A).

C. The intra-cluster and the inter-cluster inertia were measured by Euclidean distances. The most homogenous cluster (with the weakest intra-cluster inertia) was the green one (I=55.76), then the red one (I=58.18), the blue one (I=59.77) and the purple one (I=69.14). The mean intra-cluster inertia, that can reflect dispersion, was weaker than the mean inter-cluster inertia, than can reflect distance between clusters. The green cluster was closest to the red cluster and both green and red clusters were distant from the purple one, the

blue cluster occupying an intermediate position between them (see supplementary figure 7B).

D. Multivariate PLS-DA analysis (package pls) was performed to measure the association between gene expression and the four subclasses. The model was validated by a 10-9 double cross-validation and the significance by a 1000-permutation test, as described.[13] The model was able to significantly discriminate the four subclasses, with a double cross-validated correct classification rate of 89% (SD: 0.03), (p=10<sup>-3</sup>). In addition, the score plots in the first two or three principal components (2D-3D plot) according to the individual classification showed noticeable discrimination of the clusters. It also illustrated the distance between them, with intermediate position of the blue cluster as described in the inertia analysis (see supplementary figure 7C-D).

# Functional genomics analyses

Gene annotations based on gene ontology and enrichment for biological functions were done with the FuncAssociate 2.1 program.[14] Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was performed with the web-based tool developed at the Broad Institute.[15]

## Periportal gene signature

After functional genomics analysis, the green cluster was defined as representative of a HCC subclass associated with periportal metabolism, thus called *Periportal*. Then, we searched the 9542 genes within the 1133 HCC metadata set for top *Periportal HCC* genes as good outcome predictors. Selected genes complied with the following four stringent criteria:

- 1) Fold change >2 between *Periportal* samples and the rest of the samples in the 1133 HCCs metadata set.
- 2) *Periportal* gene, as defined by the periportal signature of normal mouse liver.[16]
- 3) Connectivity (*i.e.*, Pearson's correlation coefficient >0.30) with >50% of 226 periportal or perivenous genes, as assessed by network analysis. Periportal and perivenous genes were defined according to normal mouse liver periportal and perivenous signatures.[16]
- 4) Association with overall and disease-free survival analyses in 183 HCCs predicted as carrying wild-type CTNNB1 from dataset C (n=247 patients).[17] To this end, a gene was retained when at least 7 out of the 8 univariate survival analyses detailed below were statistically significant (p<0.05):</p>
  - a. Two Cox analyses (overall and disease-free survival analyses);
  - b. Six log rank tests using three different gene-expression-level cutoffs: percentile 25, median and percentile 75 (overall and disease-free survival analyses).

Only eight genes complied with the above criteria and were retained to define the *Periportal signature*. The 247-HCC patients in dataset C and the 210-HCC patients in the external validation RNAseq cohort were then studied by PCA analysis of the 8-gene signature. HCCs with a score >median in the first principal component were defined as *Periportal HCCs*.

#### CTNNB1 exon 3 sequencing and search for CTNNB1 exon 3 deletions

CTNNB1 exon 3 sequencing was performed as described.[18] For mutation analysis, exon 3 and the flanking intronic sequences of the CTNNB1 gene were amplified by PCR using Kappa HiFi DNA polymerase (Kapa Biosystems, Wilmington, MA). Briefly, 50 ng of genomic DNA were used as template with BCATEX2F (5'-GAA-AAT-CCA-GCG-TGG-ACA-ATG-3') and βCATEX4R (5'-TCG-AGT-CAT-TGC-ATA-CTG-TCC-3') as oligonucleotide primers. The reaction included a 95°C denaturation step for 3 min followed by 35 cycles consisting of: 98°C denaturation for 15 sec, 60°C annealing for 15 sec, and elongation 72°C for 30 sec. Both strands of the amplified products were directly sequenced on an automated sequencer (ABI 3700; Perkin-Elmer, Boston, MA). Negative results on exon 3 mutations may overlook large exon 3 deletions in *CTNNB1*. Indeed, as somatic deletions are heterozygous, the wild-type allele may mask the deletion upon Sanger sequencing.[40] To avoid this pitfall, HCCs showing no exon 3 mutation were screened for β-catenin deletion by PCR on reverse-transcribed tumor cDNA. For PCR amplification of the exon 3 of CTNNB1, oligonucleotide primers (F1: 5'-GCG-TGG-ACA-ATG-GCT-ACT-CAA-G-3'; R1: 5'-TAT-TAA-CCA-CCA-CCT-GGT-CCT-C-3'; and R2: 5'-TTC-AGC-ACT-CTG-CTT-GTG-GTC-3') were used. The primer pairs F1-R1 and F1-R2 yielded 517 bp (169 aa) and 1043 bp (344 aa) amplicons, respectively. As positive control, HepG2-derived cDNA was used, as these cells harbor a large CTNNB1 deletion (amino-acids 25-140).[40] PCR was performed using the GoTaq Green Master Mix (Promega) and amplicons migrated in 1.5% Nusieve agarose (LifeTechnologies) gels.

#### **Tissue microarray**

Tissue microarrays were set up and analyzed as previously described.[18, 19] For selection of tissue blocs for TMA construction, the whole set of archival HE-stained sections from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue blocks from each one of the 67 available HCC patients and from five histologically normal livers were reviewed (Nikon 80i microscope) to ensure that the selected paraffin bloc was the mirror lesion of the frozen sample. A region of interest (ROI, 0.5 to 1 cm in diameter) was labeled with a permanent marker to precisely localize the punch zone. TMA construction was done with a MiniCore3 tissue arrayer (Alphelys, Plaisir, France). ROIs were punched in triplicate. Punch size was set at 1000 µm in diameter. HCC samples were randomly assigned to either one of two 132-punch receiver paraffin blocks. Randomization was performed with a "*rand*" function in Microsoft Excel. The five histologically normal liver controls were included in both array blocs #1 and #2 to control for signal and background intensities. Five-µm microtome sections were processed for immunohistochemistry with a Discovery XT from Ventana Medical Systems (Roche) slide staining system. See the table

below for antibodies. Stained slides were converted into high-resolution digital data with a NanoZoomer digital slide scanner (Hamamatsu, Massy, France). Digital slides were viewed using NDP.view software (Hamamatsu) in a Dell S2415H 24-Inch Screen LED-Lit Monitor.

PRIMARY ANTIBODIES				
GENE ID	CAT. #	Supplier		
$\beta$ -catenin	610154	BD Biosciences		
GLUL	610518	BD Biosciences		
HAL	HPA038547	Sigma Aldrich		
ODAM	16509-1-AP	Proteintech		
VNN1	sc-16776	Santa Cruz Biotechnology		

# **Primary antibodies**

# **Cell culture**

297T, BC2, B16, Hep-G2, Huh-6 and Huh-7 cells were cultured in DMEM.[20] HepaRG cells were cultured as previously described.[1, 21, 22] For BIO assay, cells were treated with BIO (Merck Millipore) 2.5  $\mu$ M during 72 h, applying a previously optimized protocol.[23]

# Nucleic acid extraction from human tissues and from in vitro cultures

RNA and DNA were extracted from 10  $\mu$ m cryosections obtained from frozen tissue blocks, as previously described[18, 19]. Once tissues were placed on the specimen head of a Leica 3050S cryostat and trimmed to obtain a level and histologically controlled representative surface (hematoxylin or toluidine blue extemporaneous staining), the first two 5 µm sections were set aside as permanent histological controls. Then, 10 µm cryosections were obtained and immediately lysed in RNA or DNA extraction buffers. Before removing the disk containing the specimen from the head, two 5 µm cryosections were set aside again as permanent histological controls. Lead and rear permanent histological controls were formalin-fixed, HE-stained in a Leica ST5020 routine stainer and representativity was assessed by two independent observers (BT & OM). Non-representative samples were removed from the RNA and DNA extraction process. Representative samples were extracted with NucleoSpin® RNA II (Macherey-Nagel) and with the DNeasy Blood & Tissue (Qiagen) kits, as recommended by the manufacturers. Quality control of the extracted nucleic acids was performed by dosing the eluents with a NanoDrop spectrophotometer and by checking 28S/18S ratios by gel electrophoresis. For in vitro cultured cell layers, total RNA was purified with an RNAeasy kit (Qiagen). Extracted RNA quality control was done as for human tissues.

Real-time PCR was performed as described.[18, 19] Reverse-transcribed cDNA was obtained with the High Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (Applied Biosystems) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Expression of relevant genes was measured by quantitative real-time PCR using the StepOnePlus<sup>TM</sup> System or the ABI prism 7900HT, power SYBR Green PCR master mix or Taqman probe-based assays (Applied Biosystems), according to the experiments. Quantitative analyses of PCR data were conducted by the  $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$  method. See below for Sybr Green and TaqMan probes used.

SYBR GREEN PRIMERS				
(Eurogentec, Seraing, Belgium)				
GENE ID	STRAND	Primer sequences 5'- 3'		
ALDOB	Forward	GCATCTGTCAGCAGAATGGA		
	Reverse	TAGACAGCAGCCAGGACCTT		
	Forward	TCAGCAGAGGGACAGGAATC		
AAIIN2	Reverse	TCTTTGGCTCTTTGTGATCTTCTG		
GLUL	Forward	AAGTGTGTGGAAGAGTTGCC		
	Reverse	TGCTCACCATGTCCATTATC		
HAL	Forward	CAACAAGCTCTCCACCAGTT		
	Reverse	CTCCTTGTTGGTTTTAATCACCTC		
HNF4A	Forward	ACATGGACATGGCCGACTAC		
	Reverse	TCTGATGGGGGACGTGTCATTG		
HPRT1	Forward	TGACACTGGCAAAACAATGCA		
	Reverse	GGTCCTTTTCACCAGCAAGCT		
LGR5	Forward	GAAGCTCTGCAGAATTTGCGAAGCC		
	Reverse	CAGGTGCCTCAGGGAATGCAGG		
TBP	Forward	GAGCTGTGATGTGAAGTTTCC		
	Reverse	TCTGGGTTTGATCATTCTGTAG		
VNN1	Forward	GCACGCTACCATAAGCAAAAC		
V ININ I	Reverse	ACAATCTCAGGCTCCTTGGG		

# Sybr Green primers and TaqMan probes

TAQMAN PRIMERS & PROBE			
GENE	Life Technologies cat. #		
ID			
ODAM	Hs002152928m1		

# **RNA interference and cDNA vector transfection**

Routinely expanded HepaRG progenitor cells were detached by trypsinization, seeded at low density  $(2x10^4 \text{ cells/cm}^2)$ , detached three days later and transfected in suspension with small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) by a MP100 Microporator (LabTech) and Neon<sup>TM</sup> Transfection System 100 µL Kit (Invitrogen) under optimized conditions (80 pmoles siRNA, 1500V, 20ms, 1 pulse), as we previously reported.[18] Silencer negative control (D-001810-10-05, Thermo Fisher) and  $\beta$ -catenin (HSS102460, Invitrogen) siRNAs were used.

## SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS

Supplementary Figure 1 Quality analysis of the external validation cohort (TCGA-LIHC-US).(A) Patient selection. (B) Assessment of the quality of extraction of clinical annotations by Kaplan-Meier plots of overall and disease-free survival as a function of TNM staging.



Désert et al., Supplementary Figure 1

**Supplementary Figure 2** Choosing predictive and stable gene signatures by sPLS-DA (A) Bootstrap subsampling evaluation of the stability of each gene predictor across three sPLS-DA components, where frequency of selection over 300 bootstrap sub-samplings (Y-axis) is shown per gene (ENSEMBL ID, X-axis). Labels are provided for the 3 genes contributing to the signature across one component. Component 1 (blue rectangles), Component 2 (orange triangles), Component 3 (grey inverted triangles). (B) Evaluation of the contribution of each gene set to the informativeness of the first component. Each dot is a gene set ordered along the X-axis by decreasing stability (frequency of selection). The Y-axis represents the  $-log_{10}(P-value)$  of a one tailed *t*-test indicating improvement in classification accuracy. (C) Classification accuracy of the 3-gene signature on both training and validation sets.

#### Comments to Supplementary Figure 2:

One PLS-DA component allowed the identification of three markers associated with CTNNB1 mutations in HCCs, namely HAL, VNN1 and CCDC170. Together, these three markers accurately classified more than 87% of the samples in both the training and the validation sets (see C). However, because of the low frequency of selection of CCDC170 (see A), the analysis focused on both HAL and VNN1 (frequency of selection >85%, see A).



Classification accuracy (%)	wild type	mutated	Total
Training set	85.00	92.60	87.36
Validation set	97.44	82.35	92.86

Désert et al., supplementary figure 2

Supplementary Figure 3 Accuracy of tumor/non-tumor gene expression ratios of the 5-gene score to predict CTNNB1 mutational status in the external validation in-house HCC collection analyzed by qPCR. (A) Correlations between GLUL, LGR5, ODAM, HAL and VNN1 in the training and validation sets and in the external validation HCC collection analyzed in HCCs (T); non-tumor samples (NT) and in tumor/non-tumor ratios. AXIN2 is used as an indicator of high  $\beta$ -catenin pathway signaling.[24] (B) Heatmap showing the correlations of nuclear  $\beta$ catenin ( $Nu_\beta$ -cat), assessed by immunohistochemistry scoring as described,[1] with the mRNA expression of the five biomarkers and CTNNB1 mutational status (Mut\_ $\beta$ -cat) in 82 HCCs. Each blue cell in the top row represents one HCC. Low and high gene expressions (using the median as the cut-off value) are represented in green and red, respectively. y, Gamma correlation coefficient. (C) Log<sub>2</sub> of the Tumor/non-tumor ratios of mRNA expression levels for the indicated genes, according to CTNNB1 mutational status. (D) Evaluation of the performance of the tumor/non-tumor ratios of GLUL, LGR5, ODAM, HAL and VNN1 gene expression and of the combined score to predict CTNNB1 mutation. The combined score was calculated as follows, using tumor/non-tumor ratios: Score =  $(GLUL \times LGR5 \times ODAM) \div$ (HAL x VNN1). (E) Receiver operating curve (ROC) showing predictive ability of the combined score on CTNNB1 mutation. (F) Relative gene expression of the biomarkers in HCCs (blue) and non-tumor (red) samples according to CTNNB1 mutational status ("mutated" and "wild-type" patients). \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001, after Wilcoxon tests. CI, Confidence interval; Se, Sensitivity; Sp, Specificity. AUROC, area under the ROC curve.

#### Α

#### Training set

HCCs, GLUL LGR5 ODAM HAL VNN1 n=87 LGR5 0.71 ODAM 0.65 0.71 HAL -0.76 -0.71 -0.68 VNN1 -0.67 -0.61 -0.67 0.79 AXIN2 0.78 0.83 0.74 -0.81 -0.73

## Validation set

В

С

HCCs,	61111	L C P5	ODAM	нлі
n=56	GLUL	LONG	ODAM	IIAL
LGR5	0.80			
ODAM	0.77	0.75		
HAL	-0.68	-0.65	-0.72	
VNN1	-0.43	-0.50	-0.64	0.58

Nu\_β-cat VNN1

HAL

GLUL

ODAM

LGR5

Mut\_β-cat

24

20

16

4 Log2 Ratio T/NT

8 4

4.

9

GLUL

WT MUT, \*\*\*

AUROC

0.86

0.81

0.69

0.65

0.86

0.90

LGR5

\* : JA 88. · · J

WT MUT) \*\*\*

\*\*\*

HCCs,	GLUL	LGR5	ODAM	HAL	VN
n=82					
LGR5	0.83				
ODAM	0.79	0.75			
HAL	-0.51	-0.49	-0.54		
VNN1	-0.35	-0.31	-0.33	0.48	
AXIN2	0.9	0.88	0.82	-0.5	-0.
NT,		1.005	0.0.4.14		]
n=66	GLUL	LGKO	ODAM	HAL	
LGR5	0.49				]
ODAM	0.44	0.4			]
HAL	0.07	-0.12	0.17		]
VNN1	0.48	0.21	0.01	0.15	]
Ratios,		1.005			]
n=66	GLUL	LGKO	ODAM	HAL	
LGR5	0.78				1
ODAM	0.71	0.65			]
HAL	-0.41	-0.41	-0.41		]
VNN1	-0.19	-0.20	-0.12	0.41	]

P=

4.E-03

1.E-05

1.E-05

1.E-05

3.E-05

2.E-03

VNN1

\*\*\*

WT MUT)

p value

6.81E-05

3.12E-04

3.34E-02

9.29E-02

4.92E-05

1.05E-06

HAL

٠<u>+</u>•

WT MUT

Fold change MUT/WT

(95%CI)

[1.65 - 23.81]

[ 1.45 - 5.93 ]

[0.11-0.7]

[0.09-0.7]

[2.07 - 26.16]

[ 2.04 - 3.08 ]

**γ=** 

-0.63

-0.86

0.86

0.91

0.81

0.74

ODAM

: ş

WT MUT, \*\*\*

Se

0.80

0.80

0.82

0.91

0.80

0.87

Sp

0.88

0.82

0.60

0.47

0.76

0.88

ative RNA expression

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- 5 9 -

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F



**ODAM** in mutated patients

Non-Tumor
 Tumor



D

GS (ratio T/NT)

LGR5 (ratio T/NT)

HAL (ratio T/NT)

VNN1 (ratio T/NT)

ODAM (ratio T/NT)

Score (ratio T/NT)







44

**Supplementary Figure 4** Real-time PCR-based gene expression of HAL, VNN1 and ODAM in HCC cell lines carrying mutant (B16, BC2, HepG2, Huh6) or wild-type (Huh7, HepaRG) CTNNB1,[8, 21] measured by real-time PCR. Results are expressed as relative to the 293T cell line (WT CTNNB1). Data are displayed as mean values ± SD. Experiments were done in triplicate.



Désert et al., supplementary figure 4
**Supplementary Figure 5** Combat performance. The COMBAT algorithm effectively removes batch effect after merging nine transcriptomic datasets into a metadata set. (A) Score plot of the individuals in the first two principal components of a principal component analysis (PCA). The 9542 common genes in the nine datasets are shown after preprocessing. PCA reveals batch-dependent correlations. (B) Score plot of the individuals in the first two principal components of PCA after removal of the batch effect using the COMBAT algorithm.[25]



Désert et al., supplementary figure 5

**Supplementary Figure 6** Reproducibility analysis of robustness performed on the four subclasses arising from the metadata set. The numbers of HCCs in the whole metadata set and in each one of the subclasses are as follows: whole metadata set (n=1133), black curve; subclasses: green (n=326); red (n=210); blue (n=420); purple (n=177). The % of well-classified samples after hierarchical clustering using Ward's linkage and 1-Pearson correlation coefficient is shown as a function of gene sets containing different proportions of the most variable genes included in each analysis.

<u>Comments to Supplementary Figure 6</u> The robustness of the four subclasses was measured by a global reproducibility score plotting the % of well-classified samples as a function of the gene sets containing variable percentages of the most variable gene subsets. Thus, this analysis was performed on 100% of the genes (i.e., 9542-gene set) in the metadata set or on gene sets containing the most variable proportions of genes according to different thresholds (40%, 30%, 20%, 10%, 5%, 3%, 1%, 0.5%). The red, green and purple subclasses are homogenous, with a global reproducibility higher than 70% at different thresholds. By contrast, the blue subclass is less homogenous, consistently with individual reproducibility analysis.



Désert et al., supplementary figure 6

**Supplementary Figure 7** Robustness analysis and distance measures between the four subclasses in the metadata set (A) Principal component analysis (PCA) showing the individual score plot according to HCC subclasses. The four subclasses are noticeably discriminated. (B) Intra-cluster and inter-cluster inertia. Mean intra-cluster inertia (*orange cells*), that can reflect dispersion, is weaker than the mean of inter-cluster inertia (*yellow cells*), than can reflect distance between subclasses. (C-D) 2-D and 3-D representations of the score plot of a multivariate PLS-DA analysis in the two (2D) and three (3D) first principal components. The model is able to significantly discriminate the four subclasses, with 89% of samples correctly classified after a 10-9 double cross-validation (SD: 0.03, *p*-value=  $10^{-3}$  after 1000 permutations). Consistently with the above results, the blue group occupies an intermediate position.



Désert et al., supplementary figure 7

**Supplementary Figure 8** Unsupervised hierarchical cluster analysis reveals strong enrichment of HCCs with predicted CTNNB1 mutations in one HCC subclass. (A) The dendrogram was obtained with Ward's linkage and 1-Pearson correlation coefficient on the basis of the expression profile of the 1618 genes which were the most tightly associated with the four subclasses (VIP>1 after PLS-DA analysis) in the metadata set. *Top*, the four HCC subclasses (purple, blue, red and green nodes) are shown, as well as the predicted CTNNB1 mutational status of each tumor (*red:* mutant; *blue:* wild-type). The % of predicted CTNNB1 mutations in each HCC subclass is indicated in boxes. *Left,* for each gene, the lowest and highest intensity values are represented in *green* and *red,* respectively. (B) Gene expression of the five markers used to predict CTNNB1 mutations in the metadata set. Results are relative to the green subclass, arbitrarily set to  $1 \pm 95\%$  CI. Green, n=326; Red, n=210; Blue, n=420; Purple, n=177. NS, non-significant. \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001, after Student's *t* tests.



Désert et al., supplementary figure 8

**Supplementary Figure 9** TP53 gene expression and P53 mutation biomarkers in the transcriptomic subclasses from the metadata set. Results are expressed as relative to the PP subclass. (A) Three markers of *TP53* mutation in cancer[26, 27] are overexpressed in the STEM subclass. (B) *TP53* gene expression in the individual datasets composing the metadata set. As *TP53* was missing in dataset D, its expression was explored separately in each of the remaining datasets composing the metadata set. *TP53* was significantly upregulated in the STEM group in some of the datasets and particularly in the dataset with the largest number of samples (Dataset C, n=247). Green, PP (n=326); Red, PV (n=210); Blue, ECM (n=420); Purple, STEM (n=177). NS, non-significant. \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001 after Student's *t* tests.



Désert et al., supplementary figure 9

**Supplementary Figure 10** Expression of hallmark genes representing HCC subclasses. Gene expression results are shown as relative to PP (*Periportal*) *HCCs*. Green, PP (n=326); red, PV (perivenous, n=210); blue, ECM (extracellular matrix, n=420); purple, STEM (stem cell type, n=177). (A) Wnt pathway and pericentral zonation genes overexpressed in the PV group. (B) 8-gene Periportal signature. (C) Tumor stem/progenitor cell (AFP, EPCAM, PROM1, KRT19, SOX9, CD44, DKK1) and extracellular matrix remodeling (TGFB1, VCAN, TNC, LAMC1, VIM) genes are overexpressed in the STEM and ECM groups. NS, non-significant. \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001 after Student's *t* tests.



Désert et al., supplementary figure 10

**Supplementary Figure 11** Hierarchical cluster analysis of the HCC metadata set using the top 550 genes most significantly associated with the four HCC subclasses (*STEM, PV, ECM & PP*) reveals three gene sets. (A) The first geneset (*first*) is upregulated in PP, the second (*second*) in PV and the third (*third*) in ECM and STEM. The top 550 genes were identified by PLS-DA analysis (VIP>1.5, see supplementary materials and methods). The % of predicted CTNNB1 mutations in each subclass is shown in boxes. For each gene, lowest and highest intensity values are represented in *green* and *red*, respectively. *On the right*, relevant genomic functions associated with HCC subclasses obtained by ontology analysis (see Supplementary table 8). (B) Comparison of the 4-clusters obtained by two hierarchical clustering approaches: (i) 1618 genes (VIP>1); and (ii) 550 genes (VIP>1.5). Using either of the two approaches (VIP>1 & VIP>1.5), 81.6% of the samples fall within the same cluster.



		PV	STEM	PP	ECM
_	PV	182	0	14	8
gene ering	STEM	6	176	0	77
550-ç clust	PP	11	0	291	59
	ECM	11	1	21	276
		10-15-20 1		00-02-0	

**Sum :** 182 + 176 + 291 + 276 = 925 = 81.6%



**Supplementary Figure 12** Liver zonation and HNF4A target genes discriminate HCC subclasses. (A) Unsupervised hierarchical clustering of 210 PV-type and 326 PP-type HCCs from the metadata set based on 93 periportal (*PP*) and 79 perivenous (*PV*) mouse ortholog periportal and pericentral signatures.[16] Green indicates lower expression; red higher expression. PP and PV HCC subclasses are remarkably discriminated. (B) Unsupervised hierarchical clustering of 1133 human HCCs from the metadata set based on the expression profile of the genes most tightly modulated by HNF4A in HNF4A-KO mice[28] (fold change >2 or <0.5; Bonferroni adjusted *P* value<0.01). Over the 1868 genes identified in HFN4A-KO mice, 603 orthologs were available in the metadata set. On the left panel, relative gene expression between HNF4A-KO and HNF4A-WT is indicated in color (*Green:* WT; *Red:* KO). On the top panel, the four HCC subclasses are indicated with the color keys under "Tumor subclass". Hierarchical clustering discriminates the four subclasses, with 80% of samples correctly classified. The PP group is strongly enriched in genes upregulated in HNF4A WT mice.



Désert et al., supplementary figure 12

**Supplementary Figure 13** Validation of the top 550-geneset as an HCC classifier by unsupervised hierarchical clustering of the external validation cohort (210-HCC RNAseq dataset; TCGA, LIHC, US) using the top 550 genes most representative of the four HCC subclasses. (A) The 550 genes most representative of the four subclasses (VIP>1.5 after PLS-DA analysis, see supplementary materials and methods) were used. HCC subclasses are indicated in color. For each gene, lowest and highest intensity values are represented in green and red, respectively. (B) Clinical features of HCC patients according to the transcriptomic subclasses show associations with serum alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), HCC staging, vascular invasion, as well as CTNNB1 and TP53 mutations. *P* values, Fisher exact test (categorical variables) or Student's *t* test (continuous variables). (C) Kaplan-Meier plot of overall survival of individuals according to HCC subclass. NA, not available. \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001, after log-rank tests.



В

	sum of NA	PP (N=58)	PV (N=42)	ECM (N=84)	STEM (N=26)	pval
CTNNB1 exon3 mutation (yes/no)	80	3 (7.7%)	17 (81%)	5 (9.6%)	0 (0%)	1.51E-11
AFP (laboratory procedure outcome value>Median)	57	14 (35%)	6 (17.6%)	48 (75%)	9 (60%)	5.65E-08
Tumor grade (G3-G4/G1-G2)	2	12 (21.1%)	14 (33.3%)	37 (44.6%)	19 (73.1%)	5.98E-05
Gender (Male)	0	43 (74.1%)	38 (90.5%)	47 (56%)	16 (61.5%)	3.84E-04
TNM staging (T2-T3-T4/T1)	0	22 (38.6%)	22 (52.4%)	44 (52.4%)	21 (80.8%)	4.48E-03
TNM staging (II-III-IV/I)	15	19 (37.3%)	21 (53.8%)	41 (51.2%)	20 (80%)	5.45E-03
Vascular invasion	31					0.01
None		42 (33.9%)	24 (19.4%)	49 (39.5%)	9 (7.3%)	5. 5.
Micro		11 (23.9%)	13 (28.3%)	18 (39.1%)	4 (8.7%)	
Macro		0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (55.6%)	4 (44.4%)	
Age (Mean +/- SD)	0	62.4 +/- 12.86	61 +/- 10.63	56.33 +/- 13.43	55.54 +/- 13.32	0.02
TP53 mutation (yes/no)	80	8 (20.5%)	5 (23.8%)	20 (38.5%)	10 (55.6%)	0.04



Désert et al., supplementary figure 13

**Supplementary Figure 14** The *Periportal signature* predicts disease-free survival after curative resection independently of tumor size and identifies a favorable outcome subgroup in Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer (BCLC) stage A patients. (A and B) Multivariate disease-free survival analyses in two independent HCC patient cohorts consisting of 247 and 210 HCC patients, respectively. The *Periportal signature* independently predicts disease-free survival after adjustment for alpha-fetoprotein, tumor size (or weight) and vascular invasion. The choice of variables for adjustment was based upon relevant clinical annotations. After univariate disease-free Cox survival analysis, significant variables underwent log-linearity and hazards proportion checking. Retained variables were included by stepwise selection in the Cox models shown in *A* and *B*. (C) Kaplan-Meier curve and log-rank test identify a favorable outcome subgroup in 152 BCLC stage A HCC patients.

A				
247-HCC microarray dataset C	Hazards ratio	Lower 95	Upper 95	Wald p value
Periportal signature	0.68	0.48	0.97	0.03
AFP (>300 ng/ml)	1.16	0.82	1.65	0.4
Main tumor size (>5cm)	1.35	0.95	1.93	0.09

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	2	3

External validation 210-HCC RNAseq dataset (TCGA-LIHC-US)	Hazards ratio	Lower 95	Upper 95	Wald p value
Periportal signature	0.60	0.37	0.96	0.03
Tumor weight (>Q1)	1.62	0.96	2.7	0.07
Vasular invasion	1.47	0.91	2.4	0.11



Désert et al., supplementary figure 14

**Supplementary Figure 15** The periportal signature is composed of liver-enriched genes. (A) AGXT, (B) FETUB, (C) GLS2, (D) GNMT, (E) OTC, (F) SLC10A1, (G) SLC22A7 and (H) SLC27A5 mRNA expression data were extracted from the GSE1133 microarray dataset consisting of a panel of 158 samples including 84 different human tissues. Normalized background-corrected intensities of mRNA expression[29] were filtered to reveal the tissues expressing the highest (>3xmedian, >10xmedian or >30xmedian) mRNA levels for each gene. Histograms show mean±SEM for each tissue type. AGXT, FETUB, GLS2, SLC10A1, SLC22A7 and SLC27A5 are expressed over the threshold of 30x median only in liver samples. GNMT is expressed over this threshold in liver and pancreatic islets. OTC is expressed over the threshold of 3x median in liver, small intestine, fetal liver and ganglion samples.



Désert et al., supplementary figure 15, A & B



Désert et al., supplementary figure 15, C & D



Désert et al., supplementary figure 15, E & F



Désert et al., supplementary figure 15, G & H

**Supplementary Figure 16** Gene expression of the components of the periportal signature in normal, non-tumor livers and in HCCs (tumor) extracted from the GSE14520 microarray dataset. Each individual dot corresponds to a tissue sample. The statistical differences between means (horizontal bars) were calculated by ANOVA.



Désert et al., supplementary figure 16

## SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Supplementary Table 1 Bibliographic review of studies including HCC patients carrying sequence-verified exon 3 CTNNB1 (β-catenin) mutations versus HCC patients carrying sequence-verified wild-type CTNNB1 and performing survival analyses: CTNNB1 exon 3 mutations were reported to be associated with survival in one cohort.[30] However, in this cohort,[30] patients with HCCs carrying wild-type CTNNB1 were more frequently HBVinfected: [(HBV in liver tissues: mutant CTNNB1, 9%; wild-type CTNNB1, 24% (p<10<sup>-6</sup>); HBsAg in serum: mutant CTNNB1, 46.8%; wild-type CTNNB1, 71.5% (p=1.3x10<sup>-3</sup>)].[30] Thus, HBV infection may constitute a confounding factor because HCCs carrying wild-type CTNNB1 and arising in a background of HBV infection meet the criteria for the highproliferation class of HCCs with bad outcome.[9] In other publications, the association between CTNNB1 mutation and overall, disease-free survival or disease-specific survival was not significant, even in large cohorts (two large studies with 307[31] and 362[32] annotated patients, respectively). In three publications, CTNNB1 exon 3 sequencing and patient survival data were available, but no survival analysis comparing HCC patients carrying CTNNB1 mutations versus those carrying wild-type CTNNB1 were reported.[33, 34, 35] NA, information Not Available (gray cells); NS, non-significant (light blue cells); statistically significant (p<0.05, green cells); HR, Hazards ratio (Cox's Hazards regression); OR, Odds ratio (logistic regression).

Bibliographic reference	Hepatology, 10.1002/hep.28638	J Gastroenterol, 51:473	Nat Genet, 47:505	Oncology, 87:159
Geographical origin of patients and etiology	HCCs from France, mainly alcoolics (36%)	HCCs from Japan, mainly HCV positive	HCCs from France, mainly alcoolics (41%)	HCCs from Taiwan, mainly HBV positive (68%)
Number of HCCs carrying mutant CTNNB1	137	28	82	21
Number of HCCs carrying wild- type CTNNB1	225	54	154	94
% of CTNNB1 mutations	38%	34%	35%	18%
Total number of HCCs studied	362	104	236	115
HR	NA	NS	NA	NS

Overall survival	<b>P</b> =	NA	0,15	NA	0,81
Disease-	HR	NA	NS	NA	NA
survival	<b>P</b> =	NA	0,68	NA	NA
Disease-	HR	NS	NA	NS	NA
specific survival	P=	0,85	NA	0,61	NA
	Other clinical or pathological asssociations of CTNNB1 mutations	Positively associated with male gender, alcohol, low AFP, low Edmondson score, larger nodule size, capsular invasion and cholestasis. Negatively associated with HBV and cirrhosis.	Negatively associated with HBV. No association with tumor size, tumor differenciation, number of tumors, vascular invasion or AFP.		No association with tumor stage nor with metastasis
	Different patient survival between HCCs carrying mutant versus wild-type CTNNB1?	No	No	No	No
	Comments				

Bibliographic reference	PLoS One, 9:e95307	Genome Res, 23:1422	Hepatology, 58:1693	Gastroenterology, 145:176
Geographical origin of patients and etiology	HCCs from China, mainly HBV positive	HCCs from China, mainly HBV positive	HCCs from USA - 40% HBV, 20% HCV	HCCs from France, mainly alcoolics (39%)
Number of HCCs carrying mutant CTNNB1	13	14	20	100
Number of HCCs carrying wild-type CTNNB1	123	74	60	207
% of CTNNB1 mutations	10%	16%	25%	33%

	1		I	1	
	Total number of HCCs studied	136	88	80	307
Overall	HR	NS	NA	NA	NA
survival	P=	0,23	NA	NA	NA
Disease-	HR	NA	NA	NS	NA
tree survival	<b>P</b> =	NA	NA	0,51	NA
Disease-	HR	NA	NA	NA	NS
specific survival	<b>P</b> =	NA	NA	NA	0,06
	Other clinical or pathological asssociations of CTNNB1 mutations			Association with HCV. No association with microvascular invasion, tumor size ou tumor differenciation	
	Different patient survival between HCCs carrying mutant versus wild-type CTNNB1?	No	NA	No	No
	Comments		S3 HCCs show more favorable survival than S2 and S1 HCCs. S3 HCCs have a relatively higher proportion of CTNNB1 mutations.		

Bibliographic reference	Nat Genet, 44:694	J Gastrointest Surg, 15:321	Int. J. Cancer, 112:44	Am J Pathol, 157:763
Geographical origin of patients and etiology	HCCs from France, mainly alcoolics (34%)	HCCs from Taiwan, mainly HBV positive	HCCs from Taiwan, mainly HBV positive	HCCs from Taiwan, mainly HBV positive

	I	I	I	I	I
	Number of HCCs carrying mutant CTNNB1	41	26	44	47
	Number of HCCs carrying wild-type CTNNB1	84	145	281	319
	% of CTNNB1 mutations	33%	15%	14%	13%
	Total number of HCCs studied	125	171	325	366
Overall	HR	NA	NA	NS	NA
survival	P=	NA	NA	0,06	<0.001
Disease-	HR	NA	NA	NA	NA
survival	<i>P</i> =	NA	NA	NA	NA
Disease-	HR	NA	NA	NA	NA
specific survival	<b>P</b> =	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Other clinical or pathological asssociations of CTNNB1 mutations	Negatively associated with AFP and HBV. No association with tumor size or tumor differenciation.	Early tumor recurrence is negatively associated with mutant CTNNB1 by logistic regression (OR=0.25, p=0.03)	Negatively associated with AFP.	Negatively associated with tumor grade, tumor stage, AFP and HBV. HBV in liver tissues: mutant CTNNB1, 9%; wild-type CTNNB1, 24% (p<10^- 6). HBsAg in serum: mutant CTNNB1, 46.8%; wild- type CTNNB1, 71.5% (p=0.0013).
	Different patient survival between HCCs carrying mutant versus wild-type CTNNB1?	NA	NA	No	Yes

Comments		Same cohort as Hsu et al.	Same cohort as Hsu et al.	Lack of multivariate survival analysis. Potential confusion bias: differences in etiology between patients carrying wild- type and mutant CTNNB1 (more HBV- infected patients in wild-type CTNNB1 tumors).
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**Supplementary Table 2:** Clinical features of HCCs from public datasets and external validation in-house HCC collection used for biomarker search and transcriptome meta-analysis. NA, information Not Available (*gray cells*).

Dataset Name	Training set	Validation set	External Validation in-house HCC collection	Dataset A
First author or consortium & project names	Chiang D.	Boyault S.	Mebarki S.	Kim SM.
Patients in cohort (n=)	91	57	70	100
Available HCC samples (n=)	91	57	82	100
Samples excluded after quality analysis (n=)	0	0	0	0

	I	I	I	
Samples excluded because of unavailable mutational status (n=)	4	1	0	1
Included HCC samples (n=)	87	56	82	100
Inclusion criteria	HCCs after surgical resection			
Country of origin	Europe-USA	France	France	South Korea
Gender (Male)	54 (66.7%)	45 (82%)	64 (94%)	83 (83%)
Age				
Mean, SD	65.1 ± 68.9	62.0 ± 13.8	63.6 ± 9.3	NA
Median, range	NA	NA	64 (56.5-71)	55 (25-70)
>55 years	NA	NA	54 (80%)	NA
>60 years	NA	NA	39 (58%)	NA
HCV positive	81 (100%)	11 (19%)	4 (6%)	NA
HBV positive	NA	17 (30%)	3 (4%)	58 (58%)
HBV active viral replication	NA	NA	NA	NA
Alcohol	NA	18(32%)	56 (80%)	NA
Hemochromatosis	NA	3 (5%)	4 (6%)	NA
Cirrhosis	NA	36 (63%)	59 (89%)	64 (64%)
Intact capsule	NA	13 (23%)	30 (42.86%)	NA
Satellite nodule	NA	23 (40%)	NA	NA
CTNNB1 mutation	27 (31%)	17 (30%)	23 (33%)	NA
TP53 mutation	11 (13%)	14 (24%)	NA	NA
Tumor size				
cm, mean, SD	NA	7.9 ± 5.1	4.4 ± 2.8	NA
cm, median, range	3.5 (2.5-6.0)	NA	3.5 (3.0-4.5)	NA
Tumour volume (cm3) (mean, SD)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Less than 2.0 cm	8 (9.9%)	NA	7 (10%)	NA
Between 2.0 cm and 3.0 cm	NA	NA	5 (7%)	NA
Between 2.0 cm and 5.0 cm	48 (59.2%)	NA	45 (65%)	NA

Greater than 3.0 cm	NA	NA	45 (65%)	NA
Greater than 5.0 cm	25 (30.9%)	NA	11 (16%)	NA
Number of tumor nodules				
Mean, SD	NA	NA	3.2 ± 1.7	NA
Single	68 (84.0%)	68 (84.0%)	39 (43%)	NA
Multiple	13 (16.0%)	13 (16.0%)	30 (56%)	NA
Vascular invasion				
None	34 (42.0%)	33 (58%)	42 (61%)	52 (52%)
Microscopic	38 (46.9%)	17 (30%)	NA	NA
Macroscopic	8 (9.9%)	7 (12%)	NA	NA
TNM staging				
	NA	NA	NA	85 (44%)
-	NA	NA	NA	161 (84%)
-	NA	NA	NA	107 (56%)
III-IV	NA	NA	NA	31 (16%)
IV	NA	NA	NA	0 (0%)
CLIP Staging				
0	NA	NA	NA	NA
1-5	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tumor				
differenciation				
Well differentiated	20 (24.7%)	NA	NA	NA
Moderately differentiated	43 (53.1%)	NA	NA	NA
Poorly differentiated	17 (21.0%)	NA	NA	NA
Edmondson				
grade	NIA	4 (70/)	4 (00/)	10 (100()
	NA NA	4 (7%)	4 (6%)	10 (10%)
-   	NA NA	33 (59%)	37 (53%)	61 (61%) 51 (519/)
	NA NA	29 (31%)	33 (40%)	31 (31%) 33 (339/)
		20 (35%)	32 (40%)	33 (33%) 30 (30%)
		24 (43%)	32 (40%)	<u> </u>
	INA	4 (7 %)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	ΝΔ	ΝΔ	42 (700/)	02 (029/)
A D		NA NA	42 (19%) 6 (11%)	92 (92%)
<u>с</u>			5 (0%)	4 (4 /0) A (A 0/_)
⊂ Fibrosis score			5 (5 /0)	+ (+ /0)
FO	NΙΛ	ΝΛ	3 (1%)	NΛ
F1		ΝΔ	2 (4 /0) 2 (2%)	
F2	ΝΔ	ΝΔ	1 (2%)	ΝΔ
F3	NΔ	ΝΔ	1 (2%)	ΝΔ
		1 11/7	I (∠ /0)	11/7

F4	NA	NA	62 (90%)	NA
Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer stage				
0	9 (11.1%)	NA	NA	0 (0%)
0-A	NA	NA	NA	53 (53%)
A	56 (69.1%)	NA	NA	53 (53%)
В	7 (8.6%)	NA	NA	37 (37%)
B-C	NA	NA	NA	43 (43%)
С	8 (9.9%)	NA	NA	6 (6%)
D	0 (0%)	NA	NA	4 (4%)
Serum AFP levels (ng/ml)				
Mean, SD	NA	NA	39.4 ± 92.2	NA
Less than 10	24 (29.6%)	NA	41 (69%)	NA
Between 10 and 100	25 (30.9%)	NA	12 (20%)	NA
Less than 100	NA	38 (67%)	54 (91%)	NA
Between 100 and 1000	11 (13.6%)	NA	5 (8%)	NA
Greater than 100	NA	NA	5 (8%)	NA
Greater than 300	NA	NA	4 (6%)	32 (32%)
Greater than 400	NA	NA	1 (2%)	NA
Greater than 1000	10 (12.3%)	NA	0	NA
Laboratory procedure outcome value (Mean, SD)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Albumin (g/dl)				
Mean, SD	NA	NA	3.6 ± 0.8	NA
Median, range	NA	NA	3.7 (3.2-4.0)	NA
Less than 3,5	NA	NA	20 (42%)	NA
Laboratory procedure outcome value (Mean, SD)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Platelets (x1000/ml)				
Mean, SD	NA	NA	146 ± 71.5	NA
Median, range	NA	NA	136.5 (86.0-189.5)	NA
Less than 100	NA	NA	19 (30%)	NA
Greater than 150	NA	NA	26 (41%)	NA
Laboratory procedure outcome value (Mean, SD)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bilirubin			4.04 4.04	
mg/dl, mean, SD	NA	NA	$1.34 \pm 1.34$	NA
ring/di, median, range	NA	NA	0.88 (0.60-1.52)	NA

Greater than 1 mg/dl	NA	NA	26 (44%)	NA
ALT (U/L)				
Mean, SD	NA	NA	44.3 ± 24.6	NA
Greater than 50	NA	NA	21 (33%)	NA
ASAT (U/L), mean, SD	NA	NA	48.6 ± 21.0	NA

Dataset Name	Dataset B	Dataset C	Dataset D	Dataset E
First author or consortium & project names	Minguez B.	Roessler S.	Sung WK.	Tsuchiya M.
Patients in cohort (n=)	135	247	268	43
Available HCC samples (n=)	135	247	268	43
Samples excluded after quality analysis (n=)	0	0	0	1
Samples excluded because of unavailable mutational status (n=)	1	1	1	/
Included HCC samples (n=)	135	247	268	42
Inclusion criteria	HCCs after surgical resection	HCCs after surgical resection	HCCs after surgical resection	HCV-associated HCCs after surgical resection
Country of origin	Europe-USA	China	China	Japan
Gender (Male)	102 (75.6%)	214 (87%)	80%	32 (74.4%)
Age				

Mean, SD	NA	50.8 ± 10.8	56.0 ± 12.0	66.5 ± 7.9
Median, range	67 (36-83)	NA	NA	NA
>55 years	NA	NA	NA	NA
>60 years	NA	NA	NA	NA
HCV positive	54 (40.0%)	5 (2%)	NA	43 (100%)
HBV positive	45 (33.3%)	241 (99%)	NA	0 (0%)
HBV active viral replication	NA	62 (26%)	NA	0 (0%)
Alcohol	9 (6.7%)	NA	40%	NA
Hemochromatosis	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cirrhosis	NA	224 (91%)	57%	NA
Intact capsule	NA	129 (53%)	NA	NA
Satellite nodule	NA	NA	NA	NA
CTNNB1 mutation	NA	NA	NA	NA
TP53 mutation	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tumor size				
cm, mean, SD	NA	NA	7.6 ± 4.1	2.95 ± 1.37
cm, median, range	3.5 (2.3-5)	NA	NA	NA
Tumour volume (cm3) (mean, SD)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Less than 2.0 cm	NA	NA	NA	NA
Between 2.0 cm and 3.0 cm	NA	NA	NA	NA
Between 2.0 cm and 5.0 cm	NA	NA	NA	NA
Greater than 3.0 cm	75 (55.6%)	NA	NA	NA
Greater than 5.0 cm	NA	89 (36%)	NA	NA
Number of tumor nodules				
Mean, SD	NA	NA	NA	1.30 ± 0.51
Single	50 (37.0%)	193 (78%)	76%	NA
Multiple	18 (13.3%)	52 (21%)	24%	NA
Vascular invasion				
None	95 (70.4%)	90 (46%)	51%	38 (88.4%)
Microscopic	40 (29.6%)	107 (54%)	NA	NA
Macroscopic	0 (0.0%)	0 (0%)	NA	NA

TNM staging				
1	NA	97 (43%)	44%	8 (18.6%)
-	NA	NA	NA	NA
-	NA	130 (57%)	56%	34 (89.1%)
III-IV	NA	NA	NA	NA
IV	NA	0 (0%)	0%	1 (2.3%)
CLIP Staging				
0	NA	99 (44%)	NA	NA
1-5	NA	128 (56%)	NA	NA
Tumor differenciation				
Well differentiated	NA	NA	NA	6 (14.0%)
Moderately differentiated	NA	NA	NA	29 (67.4%)
Poorly differentiated	NA	NA	NA	8 (18.6%)
Edmondson grade				
1	NA	NA	21.3%	NA
-	NA	NA	80.5%	NA
	NA	NA	59.2%	NA
III	NA	NA	18.3%	NA
III-IV	NA	NA	19.6%	NA
IV	NA	NA	1.3%	NA
Child-Pugh class				
A	NA	NA	97.3%	NA
В	NA	NA	2.7%	NA
С	NA	NA	0%	NA
Fibrosis score				
F0	NA	NA	NA	0 (0%)
F1	NA	NA	NA	3 (7.0%)
F2	NA	NA	NA	6 (14.0%)
F3	NA	NA	NA	12 (27.9%)
F4	NA	NA	NA	22 (51.2%)
Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer stage				
0	NA	0 (0%)	NA	NA
0-A	NA	174 (77%)	NA	NA
A	NA	NA	NA	NA
В	NA	NA	NA	NA
B-C	NA	53 (23%)	NA	NA

C	NA	NA	NA	NA
D	NA	0 (0%)	NA	NA
Serum AFP levels (ng/ml)				
Mean, SD	NA	NA	151.3 ± 107.1	345 ± 962
Less than 10	53 (41.4%)	NA	NA	NA
Between 10 and 100	41 (32%)	NA	NA	NA
Less than 100	NA	NA	NA	NA
Between 100 and 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Greater than 100	21 (16.4%)	NA	NA	NA
Greater than 300		111 (46%)	NA	NA
Greater than 400	NA	NA	NA	NA
Greater than 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Laboratory procedure outcome value (Mean, SD)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Albumin (g/di)	NIA	NIA	4 . 0 4	NIA
Median, SD		NA NA	4 ± 0,4	
Less than 3.5	4 (3.0-4.4) ΝΔ	NA	NA NA	NA
Laboratory procedure outcome value (Mean, SD)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Platelets (x1000/ml)				
Mean, SD	NA	NA	NA	128 ± 42
Median, range	160 (120-209)	NA	NA	NA
Less than 100	NA	NA	NA	NA
Greater than 150	NA	NA	NA	NA
Laboratory procedure outcome value (Mean, SD)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bilirubin				
mg/dl, mean, SD	NA	NA	0.85 ± 0.65	0.80 ± 0.35
mg/dl, median, range	0.8 (0.6-1.1)	NA	NA	NA

Greater than 1 mg/dl	NA	NA	NA	NA
ALT (U/L)				
Mean, SD	NA	NA	61.0 ± 51.4	51.7 ± 33.1
Greater than 50	NA	101 (41%)	NA	NA
ASAT (U/L), mean, SD	NA	NA	64.3 ± 53.9	NA

Dataset Name	Dataset F	Datasets G-H	Dataset I	External validation RNAseq dataset
First author or consortium & project names	Villa E.	Villanueva A.	Woo HG.	TCGA-LIHC
Patients in cohort (n=)	78	244	70	380
Available HCC samples (n=)	81	164+35=199	70	294
Samples excluded after quality analysis (n=)	8	0	1	84
Samples excluded because of unavailable mutational status (n=)	1	1	1	1
Included HCC samples (n=)	73	164+35=199	69	210
Inclusion criteria	Child–Pugh class A liver cirrhosis diagnosed as HCC based on histological criteria. Samples are liver biopsies.	HCCs after surgical resection	HCCs after surgical resection	HCCs after surgical resection

Country of origin	Italy	Europe-USA	South Korea	USA-Asia- Russia Canada-UK
Gender (Male)	61 (78.2%)	179 (73.3%)	57 (81.4%)	144 (69%)
Age				
Mean, SD	NA	NA	NA	58.8 +- 13
Median, range	66 (44-88)	NA	NA	60 (51-68)
>55 years	NA	NA	41 (58.6%)	134 (64%)
>60 years	NA	150 (62.4%)		104 (49%)
HCV positive	44 (56.4%)	150 (61.9)	1 (1.4%)	52 (56%)
HBV positive	10 (12.8%)	56 (23.1)	69 (98%)	87 (93%)
HBV active viral replication	NA	NA	NA	9 (10%)
Alcohol	12 (15.4%)	8 (3.3)	NA	62 (29%)
Hemochromatosis	NA	NA	NA	3 (1%)
Cirrhosis	NA	NA	NA	NA
Intact capsule	NA	NA	NA	NA
Satellite nodule	NA	36 (14.9%)	NA	NA
CTNNB1 mutation	NA	NA	NA	25 (19%)
TP53 mutation	NA	NA	NA	43 (33%)
Tumor size				
cm, mean, SD	NA	NA	NA	NA
cm, median, range	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tumour volume (cm3) (mean, SD)	12.1 ± 19.7		NA	NA
Less than 2.0 cm	NA	61 (25%)	NA	NA
Between 2.0 cm and 3.0 cm	NA	68 (27.9%)	NA	NA
Between 2.0 cm and 5.0 cm	NA	NA	NA	NA
Greater than 3.0 cm	NA	115 (47.1%)	NA	NA
Greater than 5.0 cm	NA	NA	31 (44.2%)	NA
Number of tumor nodules				
Mean, SD	NA	NA	NA	NA
Single	66 (84.6%)	NA	32 (45.7%)	NA
_				

Vascular invasion				
None	NA	154 (64.4%)	34 (51.4%)	124 (69%)
Microscopic	NA	85 (35.5%)	NA	46 (26%)
Macroscopic	9 (11.5%)	0 (0%)	NA	9 (5%)
TNM staging				
1	NA	NA	NA	94 (48%)
I-II	NA	NA	16 (23.9%)	139 (71%)
-	NA	NA	NA	98 (50%)
III-IV	NA	NA	51 (76.1%)	56 (29%)
IV	NA	NA	NA	3 (1%)
CLIP Staging				
0	NA	NA	NA	NA
1-5	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tumor differenciation				
Well differentiated	NA	60 (24.9%)	NA	NA
Moderately differentiated	NA	140 (58.1%)	NA	NA
Poorly differentiated	NA	41 (17%)	NA	NA
Edmondson grade				
	24 (30.8%)	NA	NA	NA
-	54 (69.2%)	NA	37 (52.8%)	NA
	30 (38.4%)	NA	NA	NA
	24 (30.8%)	NA	NA	NA
III-IV	24 (30.8%)	NA	33 (47.1%)	NA
IV	0 (0%)	NA	NA	NA
Child-Pugh class				
Α	78 (100%)	NA	NA	127 (89%)
В	0 (0%)	NA	NA	15 (11%)
С	0 (0%)	NA	NA	0 (0%)
Fibrosis score				
F0	NA	NA	NA	NA
F1	NA	NA	NA	NA
F2	NA	NA	NA	NA
F3	NA	NA	NA	NA
F4	NA	NA	NA	NA
Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer stage				

0	0 (0%)	39 (16%)	NA	NA
0-A	56 (71.8%)	244 (100%)	NA	NA
A	56 (71.8%)	205 (84%)	NA	NA
В	13 (16.6%)	0 (0%)	NA	NA
B-C	22 (28.1%)	0 (0%)	NA	NA
С	9 (11.5%)	0 (0%)	NA	NA
D	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	NA	NA
Serum AFP levels (ng/ml)				
Mean, SD	NA	NA	NA	NA
Less than 10	NA	NA	NA	NA
Between 10 and 100	NA	NA	NA	NA
Less than 100	NA	NA	NA	NA
Between 100 and 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Greater than 100	NA	63 (26.7%)	NA	NA
Greater than 300	NA	NA	22 (31,4%)	NA
Greater than 400	7 (9.6%)	NA	NA	NA
Greater than 1000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Laboratory procedure outcome value (Mean, SD)	NA	NA	NA	17125 ± 164991
Albumin (g/dl)				
Mean, SD	3.8 ± 0.5	NA	NA	NA
Median, range	NA	NA	NA	NA
Less than 3,5	NA	29 (12.2%)	NA	NA
Laboratory procedure outcome value (Mean, SD)	NA	NA	NA	35 ± 400
Platelets (x1000/ml)				
Mean, SD	111 ± 64	NA	NA	NA
Median, range	NA	NA	NA	NA
Less than 100	NA	49 (20.4)	NA	NA
Greater than 150	NA	NA	37 (57%)	NA
Laboratory procedure outcome value (Mean, SD) Bilirubin	NA	NA	NA	22656 ± 79098
				1

mg/dl, mean, SD	1.1 ± 0.9	NA	NA	0.94 ± 1.61
mg/dl, median, range	NA	NA	NA	0.70 (0.50-1.0)
Greater than 1 mg/dl	NA	85 (35.4%)	NA	32 (18%)
ALT (U/L)				
Mean, SD	66 ± 61	NA	NA	NA
Greater than 50	NA	NA	NA	NA
ASAT (U/L), mean, SD	87 ± 72	NA	NA	NA

**Supplementary Table 3:** Quality analysis of the nine datasets used for transcriptome metaanalysis. When available, raw data from Gene Expression Omnibus or Array-express were normalized and log<sub>2</sub> intensity expression summary values for each probe set were calculated using robust multiarray average (RMA). When raw data were not available, normalized data were directly used. Then, the probes expressed over the background in at least one of the HCCs were selected and genes were matched by ENTREZ ID. To assess the quality of each dataset, Pearson's correlation coefficients were measured for gene pairs expected to be correlated, as indicated in the table headings.

	Data source	А	В	С	D
	Number of probes in the array	48701	24526	22277	37582
	Number of genes expressed over background	18758	18277	12509	18918
	EPCAM-KRT19	0,67	0,27	0,51	0,46
	GS-HAL	-0,52	-0,51	-0,46	-0,66
	GS-LGR5	0,58	0,42	0,58	0,54
	GS-ODAM	0,67	0,71	0,55	0,68
Deerseule	GS-VNN1	-0,43	-0,42	-0,20	-0,38
Pearson s	LGR5-HAL	-0,49	-0,48	-0,29	-0,55
Conclations	LGR5-ODAM	0,56	0,33	0,43	0,58
	LGR5-VNN1	-0,54	-0,36	-0,34	-0,42
	HAL-ODAM	-0,57	-0,50	-0,51	-0,68
	HAL-VNN1	0,38	0,28	0,33	0,56
	ODAM-VNN1	-0,51	-0,43	-0,30	-0,53

	Data source	E	F	G	Н	I
	Number of probes in the array	43376	43376	24526	48781	22277
	Number of genes expressed over background	18883	18962	18344	24919	12138
	EPCAM-KRT19	0,57	0,84	0,42	0,78	0,49
	GS-HAL	-0,81	-0,50	-0,58	-0,56	-0,62
	GS-LGR5	0,74	0,41	0,61	0,82	0,74
Deerseule	GS-ODAM	0,78	0,42	0,79	0,68	0,51
Pearson s Correlations	GS-VNN1	-0,68	-0,51	-0,49	-0,72	-0,49
Conclations	LGR5-HAL	-0,63	-0,64	-0,51	-0,54	-0,64
	LGR5-ODAM	0,62	0,62	0,56	0,51	0,58
	LGR5-VNN1	-0,63	-0,53	-0,47	-0,57	-0,47
	HAL-ODAM	-0,63	-0,45	-0,60	-0,55	-0,72

HAL-VNN1	0,59	0,50	0,33	0,63	0,47
ODAM-VNN1	-0,59	-0,46	-0,54	-0,73	-0,48

**Supplementary Table 4:** Sanger sequencing of CTNNB1 exon 3 mutations in HCCs from the Training Set (n=87), Validation Set (n=56) and the external validation in-house HCC collection (n=82; Rennes Hospital, France).

	Training set
ID	CTNNB1 exon3 mutationnal status
GSM248688	WT
GSM248689	WT
GSM248690	WT
GSM248691	233A>AG,p.D32D/G
GSM248692	239G>GA,p.G34G/E
GSM248693	239G>GT,p.G34G/V
GSM248694	WT
GSM248695	259A>AG,p.T41T/A
GSM248696	WT
GSM248697	WT
GSM248698	WT
GSM248699	233A>AG,p.D32D/G
GSM248700	WT
GSM248701	WT
GSM248702	236C>CT   S33S/F
GSM248703	WT
GSM248704	271T>TG,p.S45S/A
GSM248705	WT
GSM248706	232G>GA   D32D/N
GSM248707	247T>TG   S37S/A
GSM248708	272C>T   S45F
GSM248709	WT
GSM248710	248C>CG   S37S/C
GSM248711	WT
GSM248712	WT
GSM248713	WT
GSM248714	WT
GSM248715	WT
GSM248716	WT
GSM248717	236C>CG   S33S/C
GSM248718	WT
GSM248719	WT
GSM248720	247T>TG   S37S/A
GSM248721	WT
GSM248722	WT
GSM248723	WT

GSM248724	WT	
GSM248725	WT	
GSM248726	248C>CT   S37S/F	
GSM248727	WT	
GSM248728	WT	
GSM248729	WT	
GSM248731	271T>TG.p.S45S/A	
GSM248732	WT	
GSM248733	233A>AT   D32D/V	
GSM248734	233A>AG.p.D32D/G	
GSM248735	0	
GSM248736	236C>CT n S33S/F	
GSM248737	WT	
GSM248738	WT	
GSM248739	WT	
GSM248740	WT	
GSM248741	WT	
GSM248742	260C>CT   T41T/I	
GSM248743	232G>GA.p.D32D/N	
GSM248744	235T>TC   \$33\$/P	
GSM248745	WT	
GSM248746	WT	
GSM248747	232G>GT   D32D/Y	
GSM248748	WT	
GSM248749	248C>CT   S37S/F	
GSM248750	WT	
GSM248751	WT	
GSM248753	WT	
GSM248754	WT	
GSM248755	WT	
GSM248756	WT	
GSM248757	WT	
GSM248758	WT	
GSM248759	234_245het_delCTCTGGAATCCA	
GSM248760	WT	
GSM248761	WT	
GSM248762	WT	
GSM248763	WT	
GSM248764	232G>GA   D32D/N	
GSM248765	WT	
GSM248766	WT	
GSM248767	248C>CG   S37S/C	
GSM248769	WT	
GSM248771	WT	
GSM248772	WT	
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GSM248773	WT	
GSM248774	239G>GT   G34G/V	
GSM248775	WT	
GSM248776	WT	
GSM248777	WT	
GSM248778	WT	

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Validation set			
ID	CTNNB1 exon3 mutationnal status		
HCC253	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC399	beta-catenine_mutated		
HCC373	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC189	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC210	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC313	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC198	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC320	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC437	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC060	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC218	beta-catenine_mutated		
HCC121	beta-catenine_mutated		
HCC204	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC231	beta-catenine_mutated		
PoolL	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC441	beta-catenine_mutated		
PoolJ	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC237	beta-catenine_mutated		
HCC206	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC229	beta-catenine_mutated		
HCC013	beta-catenine_mutated		
HCC137	beta-catenine_mutated		
HCC205	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC335	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
PoolH	beta-catenine_mutated		
HCC438	beta-catenine_mutated		
HCC322	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC107	beta-catenine_mutated		
HCC242	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC333	beta-catenine_not_mutated		
HCC304	beta-catenine_not_mutated		

HCC433	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC081	beta-catenine_mutated
HCC168	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC230	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC405	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC197	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC314	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC208	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC301	beta-catenine_mutated
HCC016	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC164	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC010	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC252	beta-catenine_mutated
HCC170	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC358	beta-catenine_mutated
HCC195	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC402	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC305	beta-catenine_not_mutated
Pooll	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC018	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC429	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC432	beta-catenine_not_mutated
PoolK	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC309	beta-catenine_not_mutated
HCC191	beta-catenine_mutated

External Validation: in-house HCC collection			
ID	CTNNB1 exon3 mutationnal status		
1	WT		
2	WT		
3	c.A121C/p.T41P		
4	c.C134T/p.S45F		
5	c.A121C/p.T41P		
6	WT		
7	c.del107-109 p.H36-S37>P		
8	c.A121C/p.T41P		
9	WT		
10	WT		
11	c.A95T/p.D32V		
12	WT		
13	c.C134T/p.S45F		

14	c.A107C/p.H36P
15	c.C134T/p.S45F
16	WT
17	WT
18	WT
19	WT
20	WT
21	WT
22	WT
23	c.G94T/p.D32Y
24	c.A107C/p.H36P
25	WT
26	WT
27	WT
28	WT
29	WT
30	WT
31	c.G94T/p.D32Y
32	ŴŤ
33	WT
34	WT
35	WT
36	WT
37	c.A107C/p.H36P
38	WT
39	c.C122T/p.T41I
40	WT
41	WT
42	WT
43	c.A121C/p.T41P
44	WT
45	WT
46	WT
47	c.C122T/p.T41I
48	WT
49	WT
50	WT
51	WT
52	WT
53	c.G101T/p.G34V
54	ŴŤ
55	WT
56	WT
57	WT

58	WT
59	WT
60	WT
61	WT
62	WT
63	WT
64	c.C134A/p.S45Y
65	WT
66	WT
67	c.A95T/p.D32V
68	c.A95G/p.D32G
69	WT
70	c.G101T/p.G34V
71	c.A121G/p.T41A
72	WT
73	WT
74	WT
75	c.A95G/p.D32G
76	WT
77	WT
78	c.C110G/p.S37C
79	WT
80	WT
81	WT
82	c.G94T/p.D32Y

**Supplementary Table 5:** Predicted CTNNB1 mutation rates in the nine datasets used for transcriptome meta-analysis. Gene expression data for GLUL, LGR5, ODAM, HAL and VNN1 were extracted from the training and validation sets and from the nine datasets (A to I) and normalized with a median centering in each dataset. Then, the predictive scores were calculated (as shown in figure 2C) and the *"best common threshold"* maximizing sensitivity and specificity in both the training and the validation sets was optimized. In each of the nine datasets, samples with a score higher than the fixed threshold were predicted as carrying mutant CTNNB1. AUROC, area under the receiver operating curve. NA, not available.



Data source	AUROC (Score)	Best common threshold	Sensitivity	Specificity	% of predicted CTNNB1 mutations	% of CTNNB1 mutations
Training set	0,90	8	0,82	0,83	38%	31%
Validation set	0,92	8	0,88	0,89	28%	30%
А					24%	NA
В					30%	NA
С					25%	NA
D					25%	NA
E					40%	NA
F					20%	NA
G					31%	NA
Н					34%	NA
I					28%	NA

Detect		Number of			
Dalasel	GREEN	RED	BLUE	PURPLE	HCCs
Α	3%	79%	0%	19%	100
В	10%	78%	3%	0%	135
С	10%	89%	6%	50%	247
D	4%	98%	12%	28%	268
E	9%	100%	17%	20%	42
F	7%	89%	12%	18%	73
G	3%	65%	6%	0%	164
Н	17%	67%	0%	0%	35
I	5%	93%	0%	29%	69
Total	6%	84%	7%	28%	1133

**Supplementary Table 6:** Number and % of HCCs predicted to carry CTNNB1 exon 3 mutations in each one of the transcriptomic subclasses (*green, red, blue* or *purple*) according to the individual datasets (A to I).

**Supplementary Table 7:** Gene set expression analysis (GSEA) after classification of 1133 HCCs into four subclasses was performed with the web-based tool developed at the Broad Institute.[15]

#### PP cluster

NAME	SIZE	NES	NOM p- val
HOSHIDA_LIVER_CANCER_SURVIVAL_DN	90	2,19	0
ACEVEDO_LIVER_CANCER_DN	334	2,10	0
HOSHIDA_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_S3	217	2,10	0
CAIRO_LIVER_DEVELOPMENT_DN	178	2,03	0
BURTON_ADIPOGENESIS_6	136	2,02	0
REACTOME_METABOLISM_OF_ AMINO_ACIDS_AND_DERIVATIVES	137	2,00	0
HALLMARK_XENOBIOTIC_METABOLISM	157	1,99	0
REACTOME_LIPID_DIGESTION_MOBILIZATION_ AND_TRANSPORT	34	1,99	0
BOCHKIS_FOXA2_TARGETS	265	1,96	0
ACEVEDO_LIVER_TUMOR_VS_NORMAL_ ADJACENT_TISSUE_DN	180	1,95	0
REACTOME_GLUCOSE_METABOLISM	45	1,95	0
HALLMARK_ADIPOGENESIS	145	1,94	0,0041
CAIRO_HEPATOBLASTOMA_DN	203	1,94	0
HALLMARK_OXIDATIVE_PHOSPHORYLATION	142	1,92	0,030
HALLMARK_FATTY_ACID_METABOLISM	108	1,92	0
CHIANG_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_POLYSOMY7_UP	43	1,91	0
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G1_DN	35	1,91	0
REACTOME_GLUCONEOGENESIS	21	1,91	0
HSIAO_LIVER_SPECIFIC_GENES	193	1,90	0
LUCAS_HNF4A_TARGETS_UP	44	1,89	0,0060
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G3_DN	39	1,87	0
LEE_LIVER_CANCER_MYC_TGFA_DN	54	1,87	0
KEGG_CYSTEINE_AND_METHIONINE_METABOLISM	24	1,86	0,0021
HALLMARK_BILE_ACID_METABOLISM	85	1,86	0
CHIANG_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_ UNANNOTATED_UP	51	1,86	0
HALLMARK_PEROXISOME	80	1,81	0,0043
LEE_LIVER_CANCER_SURVIVAL_UP	112	1,79	0
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G123_DN	40	1,78	0
KEGG_COMPLEMENT_AND_COAGULATION_CASCADES	59	1,78	0,0020
KEGG_PYRUVATE_METABOLISM	30	1,77	0,0060

CHIANG_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_ PROLIFERATION_DN	121	1,75	0
LEE_LIVER_CANCER_MYC_E2F1_DN	51	1,73	0
LEE_LIVER_CANCER_MYC_DN	44	1,72	0,0041
LEE_LIVER_CANCER_E2F1_DN	47	1,70	0
YAMASHITA_LIVER_CANCER_STEM_CELL_DN	59	1,70	0,0020
REACTOME_PHASE_II_CONJUGATION	36	1,70	0,0021
REACTOME_FATTY_ACID_TRIACYLGLYCEROL_ AND_KETONE_BODY_METABOLISM	108	1,69	0,0079
REACTOME_COMPLEMENT_CASCADE	24	1,69	0,0059
KEGG_DRUG_METABOLISM_OTHER_ENZYMES	24	1,69	0,0020
PID_HNF3B_PATHWAY	31	1,69	0,012
HOSHIDA_LIVER_CANCER_LATE_RECURRENCE_DN	51	1,69	0,0020
LEE_LIVER_CANCER_DENA_DN	58	1,67	0,0060
CAIRO_HEPATOBLASTOMA_CLASSES_DN	166	1,65	0,012
KEGG_HISTIDINE_METABOLISM	20	1,64	0,011
MOOTHA_GLUCONEOGENESIS	25	1,63	0,014
TANG_SENESCENCE_TP53_TARGETS_UP	27	1,63	0,0040
WANG_CLASSIC_ADIPOGENIC_TARGETS_OF_PPARG	17	1,63	0,017
REACTOME_HDL_MEDIATED_LIPID_TRANSPORT	15	1,62	0,029
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G6_DN	16	1,60	0,033
HALLMARK_COAGULATION	119	1,57	0,024
REACTOME_BILE_ACID_AND_BILE_SALT_ METABOLISM	22	1,51	0,031

### Supervised GSEA

GOUGELET_PERIPORTAL_METABOLISM 142 1,95 0				
	GOUGELET_PERIPORTAL_METABOLISM	142	1,95	0

#### **PV cluster**

NAME	SIZE	NES	NOM p- val
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G6_UP	51	2,06	0
CHIANG_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_CTNNB1_UP	110	1,97	0
SMITH_LIVER_CANCER	31	1,86	0,002
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G1_DN	35	1,86	0,008
CHIANG_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_ INTERFERON_DN	26	1,84	0
BIOCARTA_WNT_PATHWAY	24	1,79	0,0095
WOO_LIVER_CANCER_RECURRENCE_DN	61	1,78	0
LEE_LIVER_CANCER_DENA_DN	58	1,74	0,0020

LEE_LIVER_CANCER_MYC_UP	37	1,73	0
KANG_DOXORUBICIN_RESISTANCE_DN	17	1,72	0,016
WANG_CLASSIC_ADIPOGENIC_TARGETS_OF_ PPARG	17	1,71	0,0020
LEE_LIVER_CANCER_SURVIVAL_UP	112	1,70	0,0040
KEGG_ADHERENS_JUNCTION	60	1,68	0,0061
KEGG_FATTY_ACID_METABOLISM	29	1,67	0,0081
REACTOME_METABOLISM_OF_VITAMINS_AND_ COFACTORS	34	1,65	0,014
BIOCARTA_MTOR_PATHWAY	18	1,63	0,047
CHIANG_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_ PROLIFERATION_DN	121	1,61	0,010
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G123_DN	40	1,61	0,016
REACTOME_BILE_ACID_AND_BILE_SALT_ METABOLISM	22	1,61	0,014
PID_HDAC_CLASSII_PATHWAY	24	1,61	0,041
PID_MYC_PATHWAY	21	1,60	0,056
LIU_LIVER_CANCER	21	1,58	0,040
CAIRO_HEPATOBLASTOMA_CLASSES_DN	166	1,56	0,042
KEGG_PPAR_SIGNALING_PATHWAY	52	1,51	0,048
PARENT_MTOR_SIGNALING_UP	408	1,38	0,033

## Supervised GSEA

<u>Oupervised OOLA</u>			
GOUGELET_PERIVEINOUS_METABOLISM	379	1,57	0,002

## ECM cluster

NAME	SIZE	NES	NOM p- val
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G1_UP	77	2,06	0,0020
ZHONG_SECRETOME_OF_LUNG_CANCER_AND_ FIBROBLAST	96	2,01	0
REACTOME_INTEGRIN_CELL_SURFACE_INTERACTIONS	65	1,88	0,0019
BIOCARTA_MYOSIN_PATHWAY	25	1,87	0,0019
LIAO_METASTASIS	300	1,84	0
BORLAK_LIVER_CANCER_EGF_UP	39	1,84	0
LANDIS_BREAST_CANCER_PROGRESSION_UP	30	1,82	0,0039
GOTZMANN_EPITHELIAL_TO_MESENCHYMAL_ TRANSITION_UP	59	1,82	0
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G12_UP	32	1,82	0,0062
CHIANG_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_CTNNB1_DN	118	1,81	0
HOSHIDA_LIVER_CANCER_SURVIVAL_UP	61	1,81	0

REACTOME_DEGRADATION_OF_THE_ EXTRACELLULAR_MATRIX	19	1,78	0
NABA_ECM_REGULATORS	138	1,78	0,0019802
HUMMERICH_SKIN_CANCER_PROGRESSION_UP	66	1,78	0
HOSHIDA_LIVER_CANCER_LATE_RECURRENCE_UP	43	1,78	0,0019
ROZANOV_MMP14_TARGETS_SUBSET	26	1,77	0,0040
REACTOME_HEPARAN_SULFATE_HEPARIN_HS_GAG_ METABOLISM	30	1,77	0
WOO_LIVER_CANCER_RECURRENCE_UP	83	1,76	0
REACTOME_GLYCOSAMINOGLYCAN_METABOLISM	67	1,75	0,0019
PID_RHOA_REG_PATHWAY	33	1,75	0,0078
LI_WILMS_TUMOR_VS_FETAL_KIDNEY_2_DN	43	1,75	0,0039
JECHLINGER_EPITHELIAL_TO_MESENCHYMAL_ TRANSITION_UP	60	1,75	0
LEE_TARGETS_OF_PTCH1_AND_SUFU_DN	57	1,74	0
NABA_CORE_MATRISOME	143	1,72	0,0038
RAMASWAMY_METASTASIS_UP	43	1,72	0,011
PID_INTEGRIN3_PATHWAY	34	1,71	0,0078
RUIZ_TNC_TARGETS_UP	121	1,71	0,011
NABA_ECM_GLYCOPROTEINS	101	1,71	0,0038
COULOUARN_TEMPORAL_TGFB1_SIGNATURE_UP	71	1,70	0,0078
LEE_LIVER_CANCER_DENA_UP	52	1,70	0,0020
REACTOME_EXTRACELLULAR_MATRIX_ORGANIZATION	56	1,70	0,0078
PID_SYNDECAN_1_PATHWAY	36	1,69	0,0039
TURASHVILI_BREAST_LOBULAR_CARCINOMA_VS_ DUCTAL_NORMAL_UP	45	1,69	0,0019
GERHOLD_ADIPOGENESIS_DN	52	1,68	0,013
CHARAFE_BREAST_CANCER_BASAL_VS_ MESENCHYMAL_UP	70	1,68	0,0040
ROESSLER_LIVER_CANCER_METASTASIS_DN	30	1,68	0,0020
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G2	21	1,68	0,012
LIEN_BREAST_CARCINOMA_METAPLASTIC	22	1,67	0,0019
VERHAAK_GLIOBLASTOMA_MESENCHYMAL	170	1,67	0,015
CROONQUIST_STROMAL_STIMULATION_UP	42	1,67	0,004
HARRIS_BRAIN_CANCER_PROGENITORS	26	1,67	0,0040
LEE_LIVER_CANCER_MYC_TGFA_UP	45	1,67	0,0061
NGUYEN_NOTCH1_TARGETS_DN	61	1,67	0,0020
REACTOME_NCAM1_INTERACTIONS	25	1,66	0,0039
NABA_MATRISOME_ASSOCIATED	394	1,66	0
KEGG_ECM_RECEPTOR_INTERACTION	65	1,65	0,0059
HOSHIDA_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_S1	192	1,65	0,017
KEGG_FOCAL_ADHESION	151	1,65	0,010
REACTOME_AXON_GUIDANCE	177	1,65	0,0039
VERRECCHIA_EARLY_RESPONSE_TO_TGFB1	43	1,64	0,025

BOQUEST_STEM_CELL_UP	197	1,64	0,008
PID_INTEGRIN1_PATHWAY	52	1,64	0,023
ASTIER_INTEGRIN_SIGNALING	37	1,63	0,018
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G6_DN	16	1,63	0,028
LEE_LIVER_CANCER_E2F1_UP	50	1,63	0,010
VERRECCHIA_DELAYED_RESPONSE_TO_TGFB1	29	1,62	0,0077
ALONSO_METASTASIS_EMT_UP	27	1,62	0,038
PID_IL6_7_PATHWAY	40	1,62	0,010
GENTLES_LEUKEMIC_STEM_CELL_UP	15	1,62	0,0079
DASU_IL6_SIGNALING_UP	47	1,61	0,010
PID_INTEGRIN2_PATHWAY	21	1,61	0,029
PID_AVB3_INTEGRIN_PATHWAY	55	1,61	0,021
TONKS_TARGETS_OF_RUNX1_RUNX1T1_FUSION_ ERYTHROCYTE_UP	126	1,61	0,010
ROZANOV_MMP14_TARGETS_UP	151	1,61	0,0093
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G123_UP	32	1,61	0,045
ANASTASSIOU_CANCER_MESENCHYMAL_ TRANSITION_SIGNATURE	53	1,61	0,0077
BYSTRYKH_HEMATOPOIESIS_STEM_CELL_SCP2_ QTL_TRANS	15	1,60	0,012
REACTOME_NCAM_SIGNALING_FOR_NEURITE_ OUT_GROWTH	45	1,60	0,014
LEE_AGING_MUSCLE_DN	33	1,57	0,032
CHIANG_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_ PROLIFERATION_UP	118	1,57	0,046
NABA_COLLAGENS	25	1,56	0,029
HALLMARK_IL2_STAT5_SIGNALING	144	1,54	0,028
HALLMARK_EPITHELIAL_MESENCHYMAL_TRANSITION	160	1,53	0,030
HALLMARK_KRAS_SIGNALING_UP	159	1,51	0,017

### STEM cluster

NAME	SIZE	NES	NOM p-val
REACTOME_INFLUENZA_LIFE_CYCLE	79	2,16	0,0065
LEE_LIVER_CANCER_SURVIVAL_DN	112	2,08	0
LE_EGR2_TARGETS_UP	74	2,07	0
BENPORATH_ES_CORE_NINE_CORRELATED	81	2,05	0
REACTOME_TRANSLATION	77	2,04	0,0085
CHIANG_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_ PROLIFERATION_UP	118	2,00	0
LIAO_METASTASIS	300	2,00	0
REACTOME_MITOTIC_M_M_G1_PHASES	122	1,97	0,0083
CAIRO_HEPATOBLASTOMA_CLASSES_UP	428	1,97	0,0063

RHODES_UNDIFFERENTIATED_CANCER	53	1,95	0,0063
HALLMARK_MYC_TARGETS_V1	127	1,95	0,016
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G3_UP	134	1,94	0,010
SARRIO_EPITHELIAL_MESENCHYMAL_TRANSITION_UP	106	1,92	0,0062
WONG_EMBRYONIC_STEM_CELL_CORE	229	1,92	0,0084
HALLMARK_G2M_CHECKPOINT	149	1,91	0
REACTOME_CELL_CYCLE_MITOTIC	209	1,91	0,0063
SHIPP_DLBCL_VS_FOLLICULAR_LYMPHOMA_UP	27	1,90	0,0082
BHATTACHARYA_EMBRYONIC_STEM_CELL	55	1,87	0
WHITFIELD_CELL_CYCLE_G2	90	1,86	0,0020
COULOUARN_TEMPORAL_TGFB1_SIGNATURE_UP	71	1,85	0
HOLLEMAN_VINCRISTINE_RESISTANCE_B_ALL_UP	28	1,85	0,0021
KOBAYASHI_EGFR_SIGNALING_24HR_DN	186	1,85	0,0063
REACTOME_METABOLISM_OF_MRNA	132	1,85	0,039
REACTOME_CELL_CYCLE	261	1,85	0,0063
BASSO_B_LYMPHOCYTE_NETWORK	96	1,85	0,0020
PID_MYC_ACTIV_PATHWAY	55	1,83	0,0083
REACTOME_MITOTIC_G1_G1_S_PHASES	92	1,83	0,013
CHEMNITZ_RESPONSE_TO_PROSTAGLANDIN_E2_UP	90	1,82	0,011
ZAMORA_NOS2_TARGETS_UP	45	1,82	0,011
BENPORATH_PROLIFERATION	98	1,81	0,0062
REACTOME_SIGNALLING_TO_RAS	18	1,81	0,0082
HALLMARK_MITOTIC_SPINDLE	134	1,81	0,0040
TARTE_PLASMA_CELL_VS_PLASMABLAST_DN	213	1,80	0,020
HALLMARK_MYC_TARGETS_V2	36	1,80	0,010
BILD_MYC_ONCOGENIC_SIGNATURE	107	1,79	0
KEGG_SPLICEOSOME	72	1,79	0,026
SCHLOSSER_MYC_TARGETS_AND_SERUM_ RESPONSE_UP	34	1,79	0,010
GRADE_COLON_AND_RECTAL_CANCER_UP	182	1,78	0,012
WHITFIELD_CELL_CYCLE_G2_M	144	1,78	0,010
BIOCARTA_CASPASE_PATHWAY	21	1,77	0,004
BENPORATH_CYCLING_GENES	412	1,77	0,0062
LEE_EARLY_T_LYMPHOCYTE_UP	69	1,77	0,0041
BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G23_UP	40	1,77	0,010
ROSTY_CERVICAL_CANCER_ PROLIFERATION_CLUSTER	110	1,76	0,0062
BIOCARTA_FAS_PATHWAY	26	1,76	0,0082
BIDUS_METASTASIS_UP	128	1,76	0,015
MORI_IMMATURE_B_LYMPHOCYTE_DN	61	1,76	0,010
REACTOME_G1_S_TRANSITION	78	1,75	0,027
SENGUPTA_NASOPHARYNGEAL_CARCINOMA_UP	181	1,75	0,013
BORCZUK_MALIGNANT_MESOTHELIOMA_UP	233	1,75	0,031
KEGG_CELL_CYCLE	91	1,74	0,0085

BOYAULT_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_G123_UP	32	1,74	0,010
ZHANG_BREAST_CANCER_PROGENITORS_UP	241	1,73	0,014
PATIL_LIVER_CANCER	458	1,73	0,026
HALLMARK_E2F_TARGETS	140	1,72	0,016
RODRIGUES_THYROID_CARCINOMA_POORLY_ DIFFERENTIATED_UP	384	1,71	0,015
WOO_LIVER_CANCER_RECURRENCE_UP	83	1,71	0
HOSHIDA_LIVER_CANCER_SUBCLASS_S1	192	1,71	0,021
ZHENG_GLIOBLASTOMA_PLASTICITY_UP	168	1,70	0,0083
PARK_HSC_MARKERS	27	1,70	0,022
WINNEPENNINCKX_MELANOMA_METASTASIS_UP	94	1,70	0,033
KANG_DOXORUBICIN_RESISTANCE_UP	42	1,70	0,0062
RAMASWAMY_METASTASIS_UP	43	1,70	0,012
EGUCHI_CELL_CYCLE_RB1_TARGETS	19	1,69	0,0020
CHIARADONNA_NEOPLASTIC_TRANSFORMATION_ KRAS_UP	93	1,69	0,0044
VANTVEER_BREAST_CANCER_POOR_PROGNOSIS	34	1,69	0,0061
CAIRO_PML_TARGETS_BOUND_BY_MYC_UP	16	1,69	0,024
CHICAS_RB1_TARGETS_GROWING	165	1,68	0,011
YU_MYC_TARGETS_UP	28	1,68	0,0043
REACTOME_SYNTHESIS_OF_DNA	68	1,67	0,073
PID_P38_MK2_PATHWAY	15	1,67	0,019
CHNG_MULTIPLE_MYELOMA_HYPERPLOID_UP	29	1,67	0,045
LU_TUMOR_ANGIOGENESIS_UP	21	1,66	0,011
STONER_ESOPHAGEAL_CARCINOGENESIS_UP	23	1,64	0,025
ZHAN_MULTIPLE_MYELOMA_PR_UP	26	1,64	0,0062
LI_WILMS_TUMOR_ANAPLASTIC_UP	15	1,64	0,017
PRAMOONJAGO_SOX4_TARGETS_UP	39	1,64	0,044
PID_AURORA_A_PATHWAY	21	1,64	0,038
CAIRO_HEPATOBLASTOMA_UP	146	1,63	0,034
LINDGREN_BLADDER_CANCER_CLUSTER_3_UP	211	1,63	0,043
PID_PDGFRB_PATHWAY	100	1,63	0,029
DANG_MYC_TARGETS_UP	90	1,62	0,048
PID_RAC1_PATHWAY	40	1,62	0,026
HOLLEMAN_VINCRISTINE_RESISTANCE_ALL_UP	16	1,62	0,029
BIOCARTA_CELLCYCLE_PATHWAY	18	1,62	0,011
WINTER_HYPOXIA_UP	47	1,62	0,027
YAMASHITA_LIVER_CANCER_WITH_EPCAM_UP	37	1,61	0,049
FEVR_CTNNB1_TARGETS_DN	336	1,61	0,040
KAUFFMANN_MELANOMA_RELAPSE_UP	44	1,61	0,043
WANG_TUMOR_INVASIVENESS_UP	233	1,60	0,022
HALLMARK_MTORC1_SIGNALING	160	1,51	0,048

**Supplementary Table 8:** Search for Gene Ontology (GO) terms overrepresented in each one of the gene clusters performed with the FuncAssociate 2.0[14] software using *hgnc\_symbol* as namespace and p<0.05 as significance cutoff. *LOD* is the log<sub>10</sub> of the odds value indicating overrepresentation. Gene clusters were obtained after hierarchical clustering on the basis of the expression profile of the 550 genes most highly associated with the HCC subclasses (VIP>1.5 after PLS-DA analysis) in the metadata set (see supplementary figure 11).

#### **PV** genes

LOD	P_adj	attrib ID	Overrepresented GO terms
2,16	0,017	GO:0016098	monoterpenoid metabolic process
1,96	0,049	GO:0061045	negative regulation of wound healing
1,55	0,041	GO:0008299	isoprenoid biosynthetic process
1,52	0,001	GO:0006695	cholesterol biosynthetic process
1,45	0,001	GO:0016126	sterol biosynthetic process
1,40	0,012	GO:0016709	oxidoreductase activity, acting on paired donors, with incorporation or reduction of molecular oxygen, NAD(P)H as one donor, and incorporation of one atom of oxygen
1,13	0,001	GO:0046165	alcohol biosynthetic process
1,11	0,002	GO:0008203	cholesterol metabolic process
1,10	0,002	GO:0006694	steroid biosynthetic process
1,06	0,005	GO:0016125	sterol metabolic process
1,04	0,031	GO:0061041	regulation of wound healing
1,01	0,043	GO:0006720	isoprenoid metabolic process
1,01	0,043	GO:0042579	microbody
1,00	0,012	GO:0046906	tetrapyrrole binding
0,97	0,019	GO:1901617	organic hydroxy compound biosynthetic process
0,97	<0.001	GO:0008202	steroid metabolic process
0,81	0,001	GO:0044283	small molecule biosynthetic process
0,76	0,04	GO:0006066	alcohol metabolic process
0,69	0,014	GO:0008610	lipid biosynthetic process
0,60	0,001	GO:0044711	single-organism biosynthetic process
0,56	0,04	GO:0044255	cellular lipid metabolic process
0,54	0,011	GO:0006629	lipid metabolic process
0,49	0,001	GO:0044281	small molecule metabolic process
0,37	0,005	GO:0044444	cytoplasmic part
0,37	0,005	GO:0044237	cellular metabolic process
0,37	0,01	GO:0044710	single-organism metabolic process
0,37	0,04	GO:0044699	single-organism process
0,34	0,044	GO:0008152	metabolic process

#### **OVERREPRESENTED ATTRIBUTES IN PV GENES**

0,04

# PP genes

### **OVERREPRESENTED ATTRIBUTES IN PP GENES**

LOD	P_adj	attrib ID	Overrepresented GO terms
3,06	<0.001	GO:0006572	tyrosine catabolic process
2,86	0,001	GO:0006116	NADH oxidation
2,38	0,004	GO:0008391	arachidonic acid monooxygenase activity
2,38	0,004	GO:0008392	arachidonic acid epoxygenase activity
2,16	0,018	GO:0016841	ammonia-lyase activity
2,13	0,001	GO:0005579	membrane attack complex
2,11	<0.001	GO:0006558	L-phenylalanine metabolic process
2,11	<0.001	GO:0006559	L-phenylalanine catabolic process
2,11	<0.001	GO:0006570	tyrosine metabolic process
2,11	<0.001	GO:1902221	erythrose 4-phosphate/phosphoenolpyruvate family amino acid metabolic process
2,11	<0.001	GO:1902222	erythrose 4-phosphate/phosphoenolpyruvate family amino acid catabolic process
2,09	<0.001	GO:0019373	epoxygenase P450 pathway
1,93	0,001	GO:0097267	omega-hydroxylase P450 pathway
1,89	<0.001	GO:0019627	urea metabolic process
1,83	<0.001	GO:0071941	nitrogen cycle metabolic process
1,80	<0.001	GO:0009074	aromatic amino acid family catabolic process
1,80	0,003	GO:000050	urea cycle
1,67	<0.001	GO:0009072	aromatic amino acid family metabolic process
1,65	0,013	GO:0006525	arginine metabolic process
1,65	0,013	GO:0034185	apolipoprotein binding
1,63	<0.001	GO:0034364	high-density lipoprotein particle
1,60	0,001	GO:0034308	primary alcohol metabolic process
1,55	<0.001	GO:0017144	drug metabolic process
1,54	0,041	GO:000097	sulfur amino acid biosynthetic process
1,49	<0.001	GO:0034358	plasma lipoprotein particle
1,46	<0.001	GO:0032994	protein-lipid complex
1,45	<0.001	GO:1901606	alpha-amino acid catabolic process
1,42	<0.001	GO:0009063	cellular amino acid catabolic process
1,42	<0.001	GO:000096	sulfur amino acid metabolic process
1,39	< 0.001	GO:0016054	organic acid catabolic process
1,39	<0.001	GO:0046395	carboxylic acid catabolic process
1,38	<0.001	GO:0006094	gluconeogenesis

1,34	<0.001	GO:0046364	monosaccharide biosynthetic process
1,34	<0.001	GO:0019319	hexose biosynthetic process
1,34	0,024	GO:0006730	one-carbon metabolic process
1,31	0,001	GO:0008206	bile acid metabolic process
1,31	0,001	GO:0009066	aspartate family amino acid metabolic process
1,31	<0.001	GO:0051289	protein homotetramerization
1,30	0,029	GO:0009069	serine family amino acid metabolic process
1,29	<0.001	GO:0072329	monocarboxylic acid catabolic process
1,28	<0.001	GO:0044282	small molecule catabolic process
1,26	<0.001	GO:0009064	glutamine family amino acid metabolic process
1,26	0,047	GO:0016709	oxidoreductase activity, acting on paired donors, with incorporation or reduction of molecular oxygen, NAD(P)H as one donor, and incorporation of one atom of oxygen
1,25	<0.001	GO:1901605	alpha-amino acid metabolic process
1,23	0,001	GO:0030170	pyridoxal phosphate binding
1,22	<0.001	GO:0019395	fatty acid oxidation
1,21	<0.001	GO:0009062	fatty acid catabolic process
1,21	<0.001	GO:0034440	lipid oxidation
1,21	<0.001	GO:0006805	xenobiotic metabolic process
1,21	<0.001	GO:0043648	dicarboxylic acid metabolic process
1,20	<0.001	GO:1901607	alpha-amino acid biosynthetic process
1,17	<0.001	GO:0016597	amino acid binding
1,15	<0.001	GO:0008652	cellular amino acid biosynthetic process
1,15	0,026	GO:0016627	oxidoreductase activity, acting on the CH-CH group of donors
1,15	0,026	GO:0019369	arachidonic acid metabolic process
1,13	0,03	GO:0042632	cholesterol homeostasis
1,12	<0.001	GO:0001676	long-chain fatty acid metabolic process
1,12	0,038	GO:0055092	sterol homeostasis
1,12	<0.001	GO:0019752	carboxylic acid metabolic process
1,11	0,041	GO:1901616	organic hydroxy compound catabolic process
1,11	<0.001	GO:0051262	protein tetramerization
1,11	<0.001	GO:0032787	monocarboxylic acid metabolic process
1,10	<0.001	GO:0016614	oxidoreductase activity, acting on CH-OH group of donors
1,09	0,001	GO:0004497	monooxygenase activity
1,09	<0.001	GO:0072562	blood microparticle
1,08	0,011	GO:0072376	protein activation cascade
1,07	0,013	GO:0005319	lipid transporter activity
1,05	< 0.001	GO:0006082	organic acid metabolic process
1,05	<0.001	GO:0043436	oxoacid metabolic process

1,05	<0.001	GO:0006732	coenzyme metabolic process
1,03	<0.001	GO:0016051	carbohydrate biosynthetic process
1,03	<0.001	GO:0016616	oxidoreductase activity, acting on the CH-OH group of donors, NAD or NADP as acceptor
1,02	<0.001	GO:0006520	cellular amino acid metabolic process
1,02	<0.001	GO:0048037	cofactor binding
1,02	<0.001	GO:0006631	fatty acid metabolic process
1,02	0,004	GO:0033559	unsaturated fatty acid metabolic process
1,02	<0.001	GO:0006575	cellular modified amino acid metabolic process
1,00	0,041	GO:0006641	triglyceride metabolic process
1,00	<0.001	GO:0016053	organic acid biosynthetic process
1,00	<0.001	GO:0046394	carboxylic acid biosynthetic process
0,99	0,007	GO:0009108	coenzyme biosynthetic process
0,99	<0.001	GO:0031406	carboxylic acid binding
0,99	<0.001	GO:0043177	organic acid binding
0,99	0,001	GO:0030258	lipid modification
0,98	<0.001	GO:0050662	coenzyme binding
0,98	<0.001	GO:0051186	cofactor metabolic process
0,98	0,05	GO:0006639	acylglycerol metabolic process
0,97	0,05	GO:0006638	neutral lipid metabolic process
0,97	0,05	GO:0055088	lipid homeostasis
0,96	<0.001	GO:0006006	glucose metabolic process
0,95	0,001	GO:0043603	cellular amide metabolic process
0,94	<0.001	GO:0044283	small molecule biosynthetic process
0,94	0,005	GO:0020037	heme binding
0,93	0,007	GO:0044242	cellular lipid catabolic process
0,93	0,007	GO:0051188	cofactor biosynthetic process
0,93	0,029	GO:0042579	microbody
0,92	0,001	GO:0016829	lyase activity
0,91	0,011	GO:0046906	tetrapyrrole binding
0,91	<0.001	GO:0005759	mitochondrial matrix
0,89	<0.001	GO:0016491	oxidoreductase activity
0,89	0,003	GO:0016705	oxidoreductase activity, acting on paired donors, with incorporation or reduction of molecular oxygen
0,86	<0.001	GO:0051260	protein homooligomerization
0,86	0,001	GO:0019318	hexose metabolic process
0,85	<0.001	GO:0008202	steroid metabolic process
0,84	<0.001	GO:0055114	oxidation-reduction process
0,84	<0.001	GO:0044281	small molecule metabolic process
0,82	0,019	GO:0006869	lipid transport
0,82	0,001	GO:0005996	monosaccharide metabolic process
0,80	0,001	GO:0006790	sulfur compound metabolic process

0,76	0,025	GO:0016042	lipid catabolic process
0,75	<0.001	GO:0006629	lipid metabolic process
0,75	<0.001	GO:0044255	cellular lipid metabolic process
0,75	<0.001	GO:0044710	single-organism metabolic process
0,73	<0.001	GO:0044712	single-organism catabolic process
0,72	0,001	GO:0051259	protein oligomerization
0,70	<0.001	GO:0043233	organelle lumen
0,69	0,001	GO:1901615	organic hydroxy compound metabolic process
0,69	0,025	GO:0015711	organic anion transport
0,69	<0.001	GO:0044711	single-organism biosynthetic process
0,67	<0.001	GO:1901565	organonitrogen compound catabolic process
0,67	<0.001	GO:0070013	intracellular organelle lumen
0,66	<0.001	GO:0031974	membrane-enclosed lumen
0,66	<0.001	GO:1901564	organonitrogen compound metabolic process
0,65	<0.001	GO:1901566	organonitrogen compound biosynthetic process
0,65	0,005	GO:0006820	anion transport
0,61	<0.001	GO:0048878	chemical homeostasis
0,61	<0.001	GO:0044248	cellular catabolic process
0,57	<0.001	GO:0009056	catabolic process
0,57	<0.001	GO:1901575	organic substance catabolic process
0,56	<0.001	GO:0044699	single-organism process
0,55	0,009	GO:0014070	response to organic cyclic compound
0,55	<0.001	GO:0003824	catalytic activity
0,52	<0.001	GO:0043230	extracellular organelle
0,52	<0.001	GO:0065010	extracellular membrane-bounded organelle
0,52	<0.001	GO:0070062	extracellular vesicular exosome
0,51	0,018	GO:0044429	mitochondrial part
0,51	0,001	GO:0042592	homeostatic process
0,50	<0.001	GO:0008152	metabolic process
0,48	0,024	GO:1901361	organic cyclic compound catabolic process
0,48	<0.001	GO:0044421	extracellular region part
0,45	<0.001	GO:0031988	membrane-bounded vesicle
0,45	<0.001	GO:0031982	vesicle
0,43	<0.001	GO:0071704	organic substance metabolic process
0,43	<0.001	GO:0043168	anion binding
0,40	<0.001	GO:0044238	primary metabolic process
0,39	<0.001	GO:0044444	cytoplasmic part
0,39	0,001	GO:0036094	small molecule binding
0,38	0,001	GO:0065008	regulation of biological quality
0,37	<0.001	GO:0044237	cellular metabolic process
0,33	0,001	GO:0044763	single-organism cellular process

## STEM genes

### **OVERREPRESENTED ATTRIBUTES IN STEM GENES**

LOD	P_adj	attrib ID	Overrepresented GO terms
2,22	0,036	GO:0000778	condensed nuclear chromosome kinetochore
1,69	0,025	GO:0000779	condensed chromosome, centromeric region
1,63	0,042	GO:0005583	fibrillar collagen
1,17	0,042	GO:0030834	regulation of actin filament depolymerization
1,05	0,004	GO:1901879	regulation of protein depolymerization
0,96	0,027	GO:0043244	regulation of protein complex disassembly
0,86	0,044	GO:0008064	regulation of actin polymerization or depolymerization
0,85	0,05	GO:0030832	regulation of actin filament length
0,82	0,01	GO:0005819	spindle
0,76	<0.001	GO:0030335	positive regulation of cell migration
0,75	<0.001	GO:2000147	positive regulation of cell motility
0,74	<0.001	GO:0051272	positive regulation of cellular component movement
0,72	<0.001	GO:0040017	positive regulation of locomotion
0,71	<0.001	GO:0051493	regulation of cytoskeleton organization
0,70	<0.001	GO:0030198	extracellular matrix organization
0,70	<0.001	GO:0043062	extracellular structure organization
0,69	0,029	GO:0050900	leukocyte migration
0,68	<0.001	GO:0022411	cellular component disassembly
0,66	<0.001	GO:0007599	hemostasis
0,65	<0.001	GO:0007017	microtubule-based process
0,65	<0.001	GO:0007596	blood coagulation
0,65	<0.001	GO:0050817	coagulation
0,61	<0.001	GO:0050878	regulation of body fluid levels
0,59	0,002	GO:0000278	mitotic cell cycle
0,59	<0.001	GO:0030334	regulation of cell migration
0,56	<0.001	GO:2000145	regulation of cell motility
0,56	<0.001	GO:0033043	regulation of organelle organization
0,56	<0.001	GO:0016477	cell migration
0,55	0,036	GO:0051129	negative regulation of cellular component organization
0,54	0,001	GO:0040012	regulation of locomotion
0,53	<0.001	GO:0008092	cytoskeletal protein binding
0,53	0,008	GO:0051270	regulation of cellular component movement
0,52	<0.001	GO:0005856	cytoskeleton
0,52	< 0.001	GO:0006928	cellular component movement

0,52	<0.001	GO:0048870	cell motility
0,50	<0.001	GO:0044699	single-organism process
0,50	0,003	GO:0032403	protein complex binding
0,50	0,001	GO:0022603	regulation of anatomical structure morphogenesis
0,49	<0.001	GO:0043230	extracellular organelle
0,49	<0.001	GO:0065010	extracellular membrane-bounded organelle
0,49	<0.001	GO:0070062	extracellular vesicular exosome
0,48	<0.001	GO:0031988	membrane-bounded vesicle
0,47	<0.001	GO:0031982	vesicle
0,46	<0.001	GO:0022402	cell cycle process
0,46	<0.001	GO:0051128	regulation of cellular component organization
0,46	<0.001	GO:0044430	cytoskeletal part
0,45	<0.001	GO:0005829	cytosol
0,45	0,044	GO:0008284	positive regulation of cell proliferation
0,45	0,02	GO:0040011	locomotion
0,45	<0.001	GO:0016043	cellular component organization
0,44	<0.001	GO:0044421	extracellular region part
0,44	<0.001	GO:0071840	cellular component organization or biogenesis
0,44	<0.001	GO:0044763	single-organism cellular process
0,43	<0.001	GO:0043228	non-membrane-bounded organelle
0,43	<0.001	GO:0043232	intracellular non-membrane-bounded organelle
0,43	<0.001	GO:0042981	regulation of apoptotic process
0,43	<0.001	GO:0043067	regulation of programmed cell death
0,42	<0.001	GO:0010941	regulation of cell death
0,41	0,008	GO:0005615	extracellular space
0,41	<0.001	GO:0065008	regulation of biological quality
0,41	<0.001	GO:0042127	regulation of cell proliferation
0,40	<0.001	GO:0048522	positive regulation of cellular process
0,39	<0.001	GO:0048518	positive regulation of biological process
0,38	<0.001	GO:0005515	protein binding
0,38	<0.001	GO:0044424	intracellular part
0,38	0,044	GO:0071822	protein complex subunit organization
0,36	<0.001	GO:0048523	negative regulation of cellular process
0,35	<0.001	GO:0048519	negative regulation of biological process
0,35	0,025	GO:0002376	immune system process
0,34	<0.001	GO:0005737	cytoplasm
0,33	0,042	GO:0032879	regulation of localization
0,32	0,014	GO:0010033	response to organic substance
0,32	0,014	GO:0009987	cellular process
0,31	<0.001	GO:0043226	organelle
0,31	<0.001	GO:0065007	biological regulation

0,30	<0.001	GO:0044444	cytoplasmic part
0,28	<0.001	GO:0043227	membrane-bounded organelle
0,27	0,001	GO:0050794	regulation of cellular process
0,25	0,014	GO:0050789	regulation of biological process

**Supplementary Table 9:** RNA expression levels of the 550 genes in the four transcriptomic subclasses of the metadata set (see supplementary figure 11). *P* values were obtained by ANOVA. CI: Confidence interval.

		[Low 95% Cl - Mean - High 95% Cl]				
Gene symbol	Gene clustering	Cluster PP	Cluster PV	Cluster ECM	Cluster STEM	P =
CYP2E1	PERIVENOUS	[ 12.31 - 12.53 - 12.75 ]	[ 14.52 - 14.62 - 14.73 ]	[ 12.9 - 13.1 - 13.29 ]	[ 11.43 - 11.73 - 12.04 ]	6,33E-23
AOX1	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.75 - 11.91 - 12.06 ]	[ 13.21 - 13.28 - 13.35 ]	[ 11.7 - 11.86 - 12.01 ]	[ 10.58 - 10.78 - 10.99 ]	7,43E-92
SPCS1	PERIVENOUS	[ 12.69 - 12.72 - 12.76 ]	[ 12.93 - 12.98 - 13.03 ]	[ 12.63 - 12.68 - 12.73 ]	[ 12.69 - 12.74 - 12.79 ]	2,62E-58
GLUL	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.59 - 9.7 - 9.81 ]	[ 12.71 - 12.83 - 12.96 ]	[ 9.59 - 9.7 - 9.81 ]	[ 9.47 - 9.58 - 9.7 ]	8,39E-15
GGH	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.96 - 12.02 - 12.09 ]	[ 12.72 - 12.82 - 12.92 ]	[ 11.9 - 12 - 12.09 ]	[ 11.53 - 11.65 - 11.77 ]	5,72E-21
ATOX1	PERIVENOUS	[ 12.34 - 12.39 - 12.44 ]	[ 12.61 - 12.69 - 12.76 ]	[ 12.19 - 12.26 - 12.32 ]	[ 11.75 - 11.81 - 11.88 ]	4,06E-43
CERS2	PERIVENOUS	[ 12.08 - 12.12 - 12.16 ]	[ 12.22 - 12.28 - 12.34 ]	[ 12.07 - 12.12 - 12.17 ]	[ 11.82 - 11.9 - 11.98 ]	5,68E-07
TAX1BP1	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.97 - 12 - 12.04 ]	[ 12.19 - 12.24 - 12.3 ]	[ 11.92 - 11.97 - 12.01 ]	[ 11.93 - 11.99 - 12.04 ]	1,05E-14
EFR3A	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.68 - 11.73 - 11.78 ]	[ 12.12 - 12.18 - 12.25 ]	[ 11.8 - 11.86 - 11.92 ]	[ 11.58 - 11.65 - 11.71 ]	6,13E-74
HMGCS1	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.8 - 11.89 - 11.99 ]	[ 11.93 - 12.02 - 12.12 ]	[ 11.91 - 11.99 - 12.08 ]	[ 11.72 - 11.85 - 11.97 ]	9,29E-65
CEBPA	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.89 - 11.97 - 12.05 ]	[ 11.84 - 11.94 - 12.04 ]	[ 12.16 - 12.24 - 12.31 ]	[ 11.84 - 11.99 - 12.14 ]	1,52E-58
PPAP2A	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.29 - 11.34 - 11.4 ]	[ 11.75 - 11.84 - 11.93 ]	[ 11.33 - 11.4 - 11.47 ]	[ 10.81 - 10.9 - 10.99 ]	6,25E- 101
DSP	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.26 - 11.31 - 11.36 ]	[ 11.77 - 11.84 - 11.9 ]	[ 11.37 - 11.42 - 11.48 ]	[ 11.49 - 11.58 - 11.67 ]	4,41E-63
AP3S1	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.45 - 11.49 - 11.53 ]	[ 11.75 - 11.81 - 11.88 ]	[ 11.57 - 11.61 - 11.65 ]	[ 11.53 - 11.59 - 11.65 ]	6,13E-03
GNPAT	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.11 - 11.15 - 11.2 ]	[ 11.71 - 11.77 - 11.83 ]	[ 11.38 - 11.43 - 11.48 ]	[ 11.48 - 11.55 - 11.62 ]	1,02E-33
MPC2	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.67 - 11.72 - 11.78 ]	[ 11.62 - 11.68 - 11.75 ]	[ 11.66 - 11.73 - 11.8 ]	[ 11.43 - 11.53 - 11.62 ]	1,03E-39
CADM1	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.22 - 11.3 - 11.38 ]	[ 11.56 - 11.66 - 11.76 ]	[ 11.04 - 11.14 - 11.24 ]	[ 10.24 - 10.38 - 10.52 ]	5,59E-18
IARS2	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.28 - 11.33 - 11.38 ]	[ 11.59 - 11.65 - 11.72 ]	[ 11.37 - 11.42 - 11.48 ]	[ 11.38 - 11.45 - 11.52 ]	1,17E-20
CYP3A4	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.2 - 10.35 - 10.51 ]	[ 11.47 - 11.64 - 11.81 ]	[ 9.25 - 9.4 - 9.56 ]	[ 8 - 8.17 - 8.34 ]	1,40E- 101
SMYD2	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.41 - 10.47 - 10.54 ]	[ 11.48 - 11.56 - 11.65 ]	[ 10.54 - 10.6 - 10.67 ]	[ 10.7 - 10.77 - 10.84 ]	4,22E-43
LBR	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.04 - 11.1 - 11.17 ]	[ 11.39 - 11.47 - 11.54 ]	[ 11.48 - 11.55 - 11.61 ]	[ 11.74 - 11.82 - 11.91 ]	1,31E-25
MRPL24	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.01 - 11.07 - 11.12 ]	[ 11.3 - 11.37 - 11.45 ]	[ 11.04 - 11.11 - 11.17 ]	[ 10.86 - 10.94 - 11.03 ]	2,19E-01

FAT1	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.9 - 10.97 - 11.04 ]	[ 11.2 - 11.3 - 11.4 ]	[ 10.7 - 10.78 - 10.87 ]	[ 10.61 - 10.7 - 10.79 ]	1,82E-01
PRPSAP1	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.1 - 11.15 - 11.2 ]	[ 11.18 - 11.25 - 11.31 ]	[ 11.05 - 11.11 - 11.17 ]	[ 10.92 - 10.98 - 11.04 ]	1,46E-13
OAT	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.63 - 9.77 - 9.91 ]	[ 10.97 - 11.18 - 11.39 ]	[ 10.1 - 10.25 - 10.41 ]	[ 10.33 - 10.5 - 10.67 ]	3,16E-01
CYP51A1	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.1 - 11.16 - 11.23 ]	[ 11.1 - 11.18 - 11.25 ]	[ 11.07 - 11.14 - 11.2 ]	[ 10.87 - 10.96 - 11.05 ]	9,97E-78
SCCPDH	PERIVENOUS	[ 11.38 - 11.45 - 11.52 ]	[ 11.05 - 11.16 - 11.26 ]	[ 11.3 - 11.38 - 11.47 ]	[ 10.76 - 10.87 - 10.98 ]	2,16E-42
SAMM50	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.5 - 10.56 - 10.62 ]	[ 11.02 - 11.1 - 11.17 ]	[ 10.58 - 10.64 - 10.7 ]	[ 10.56 - 10.63 - 10.7 ]	2,84E-30
REG3A	PERIVENOUS	[ 6.93 - 7.17 - 7.4 ]	[ 10.64 - 11.03 - 11.42 ]	[ 7.18 - 7.43 - 7.69 ]	[ 7.56 - 7.89 - 8.21 ]	6,38E-36
HIST1H2AC	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.36 - 10.46 - 10.56 ]	[ 10.91 - 11.03 - 11.14 ]	[ 10.27 - 10.38 - 10.48 ]	[ 10.5 - 10.62 - 10.74 ]	2,79E-51
RAB4A	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.47 - 10.52 - 10.57 ]	[ 10.96 - 11.02 - 11.09 ]	[ 10.47 - 10.53 - 10.6 ]	[ 10.35 - 10.43 - 10.51 ]	4,42E-25
IDI1	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.81 - 10.88 - 10.96 ]	[ 10.89 - 10.98 - 11.06 ]	[ 10.86 - 10.94 - 11.02 ]	[ 10.73 - 10.83 - 10.93 ]	5,72E-30
ATP6V0A1	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.59 - 10.64 - 10.69 ]	[ 10.89 - 10.95 - 11.01 ]	[ 10.69 - 10.74 - 10.79 ]	[ 10.54 - 10.6 - 10.67 ]	4,46E-50
ROCK2	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.21 - 10.26 - 10.31 ]	[ 10.88 - 10.95 - 11.01 ]	[ 10.35 - 10.4 - 10.46 ]	[ 10.43 - 10.5 - 10.56 ]	5,20E-28
DUT	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.21 - 10.27 - 10.33 ]	[ 10.84 - 10.93 - 11.02 ]	[ 10.12 - 10.19 - 10.25 ]	[ 10.1 - 10.19 - 10.28 ]	2,18E-51
PREB	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.1 - 10.14 - 10.19 ]	[ 10.8 - 10.88 - 10.96 ]	[ 10.1 - 10.15 - 10.2 ]	[ 10.04 - 10.1 - 10.16 ]	9,99E-23
LPPR1	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.03 - 9.12 - 9.21 ]	[ 10.76 - 10.87 - 10.99 ]	[ 9.21 - 9.32 - 9.44 ]	[ 9.15 - 9.34 - 9.53 ]	3,09E-24
TBCE	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.19 - 10.25 - 10.3 ]	[ 10.76 - 10.82 - 10.88 ]	[ 10.48 - 10.54 - 10.61 ]	[ 10.39 - 10.47 - 10.55 ]	4,12E-17
CD36	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.7 - 9.78 - 9.87 ]	[ 10.62 - 10.75 - 10.89 ]	[ 9.29 - 9.4 - 9.52 ]	[ 9.29 - 9.44 - 9.6 ]	1,71E-06
PIR	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.97 - 10.05 - 10.13 ]	[ 10.61 - 10.71 - 10.81 ]	[ 9.87 - 9.98 - 10.08 ]	[ 9.62 - 9.76 - 9.9 ]	7,57E-45
SLCO1B3	PERIVENOUS	[ 7.55 - 7.79 - 8.03 ]	[ 10.37 - 10.7 - 11.02 ]	[ 8.07 - 8.33 - 8.58 ]	[ 7.89 - 8.15 - 8.41 ]	1,54E-30
ткт	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.87 - 9.97 - 10.06 ]	[ 10.53 - 10.67 - 10.8 ]	[ 10.26 - 10.37 - 10.47 ]	[ 10.64 - 10.75 - 10.86 ]	7,76E-30
SYF2	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.28 - 10.33 - 10.37 ]	[ 10.61 - 10.66 - 10.71 ]	[ 10.27 - 10.32 - 10.38 ]	[ 10.28 - 10.34 - 10.4 ]	2,43E-21
PEX19	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.42 - 10.47 - 10.52 ]	[ 10.58 - 10.64 - 10.71 ]	[ 10.22 - 10.29 - 10.35 ]	[ 9.9 - 9.98 - 10.06 ]	9,67E-31
MCUR1	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.23 - 10.28 - 10.33 ]	[ 10.54 - 10.63 - 10.72 ]	[ 10.03 - 10.1 - 10.16 ]	[ 9.97 - 10.05 - 10.12 ]	5,84E-30
PMVK	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.34 - 10.39 - 10.45 ]	[ 10.51 - 10.58 - 10.66 ]	[ 10.26 - 10.32 - 10.38 ]	[ 10.02 - 10.1 - 10.17 ]	2,96E-20
ELOVL2	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.17 - 10.25 - 10.33 ]	[ 10.4 - 10.54 - 10.68 ]	[ 10.23 - 10.32 - 10.42 ]	[ 9.89 - 10.04 - 10.19 ]	2,16E-26
PBXIP1	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.05 - 10.11 - 10.16 ]	[ 10.43 - 10.5 - 10.58 ]	[ 10.11 - 10.17 - 10.23 ]	[ 10.12 - 10.19 - 10.27 ]	1,37E-17

LGALS8	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.84 - 9.9 - 9.96 ]	[ 10.43 - 10.5 - 10.57 ]	[ 10.01 - 10.08 - 10.15 ]	- 9.83 - 9.91 - 10 ]	5,49E-23
TTC1	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.27 - 10.31 - 10.35 ]	[ 10.44 - 10.5 - 10.55 ]	[ 10.28 - 10.32 - 10.36 ]	[ 10.1 - 10.15 - 10.2 ]	1,89E-16
CUL1	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.13 - 10.18 - 10.23 ]	[ 10.4 - 10.48 - 10.55 ]	[ 10.07 - 10.13 - 10.2 ]	[ 9.99 - 10.06 - 10.13 ]	9,99E-15
LANCL1	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.3 - 10.35 - 10.41 ]	[ 10.4 - 10.48 - 10.55 ]	[ 10.39 - 10.45 - 10.52 ]	[ 10.23 - 10.31 - 10.38 ]	8,13E-14
KLHL21	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.83 - 9.9 - 9.97 ]	[ 10.38 - 10.47 - 10.55 ]	[ 9.81 - 9.89 - 9.97 ]	- 9.89 - 9.89 - 9.98 ]	3,84E-46
HMGCR	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.35 - 10.42 - 10.5 ]	[ 10.37 - 10.46 - 10.55 ]	[ 10.43 - 10.51 - 10.59 ]	[ 10.39 - 10.5 - 10.6 ]	2,95E-15
RNPEP	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.04 - 10.09 - 10.14 ]	[ 10.39 - 10.46 - 10.53 ]	[ 10.05 - 10.12 - 10.18 ]	[ 9.9 - 9.97 - 10.04 ]	1,74E-14
EIF2B4	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.68 - 9.74 - 9.8 ]	[ 10.36 - 10.44 - 10.53 ]	[ 9.76 - 9.83 - 9.91 ]	[ 9.87 - 9.96 - 10.05 ]	2,97E-25
ATRN	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.58 - 10.64 - 10.71 ]	[ 10.35 - 10.44 - 10.53 ]	[ 10.41 - 10.49 - 10.57 ]	[ 10 - 10.11 - 10.21 ]	7,96E-92
CYP1A2	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.17 - 9.32 - 9.47 ]	[ 10.19 - 10.4 - 10.61 ]	[ 8.6 - 8.75 - 8.9 ]	[ 8.02 - 8.14 - 8.26 ]	8,21E-16
TIMM17A	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.64 - 9.7 - 9.77 ]	[ 10.31 - 10.4 - 10.48 ]	[ 9.6 - 9.66 - 9.73 ]	[ 9.35 - 9.43 - 9.51 ]	1,03E-40
CYB5B	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.61 - 9.66 - 9.71 ]	[ 10.26 - 10.35 - 10.43 ]	[ 9.65 - 9.72 - 9.78 ]	[ 9.72 - 9.8 - 9.88 ]	1,35E-45
LGTN	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.86 - 9.92 - 9.97 ]	[ 10.27 - 10.34 - 10.42 ]	[ 10.06 - 10.12 - 10.18 ]	[ 10.01 - 10.08 - 10.16 ]	7,23E-43
CAP2	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.4 - 9.5 - 9.59 ]	[ 10.23 - 10.34 - 10.45 ]	[ 9.54 - 9.64 - 9.74 ]	[ 9.4 - 9.52 - 9.65 ]	1,34E-16
TGIF1	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.51 - 9.6 - 9.69 ]	[ 10.21 - 10.31 - 10.41 ]	[ 9.67 - 9.76 - 9.84 ]	[ 9.72 - 9.82 - 9.93 ]	2,97E-33
ZNF238	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.51 - 9.58 - 9.65 ]	[ 10.19 - 10.3 - 10.4 ]	[ 9.59 - 9.67 - 9.75 ]	[ 9.25 - 9.37 - 9.49 ]	1,46E-63
HNRNPH2	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.03 - 10.07 - 10.11 ]	[ 10.21 - 10.27 - 10.33 ]	[ 9.96 - 10.01 - 10.05 ]	[ 9.93 - 9.98 - 10.03 ]	1,74E-20
PDHX	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.95 - 9.99 - 10.03 ]	[ 10.16 - 10.23 - 10.3 ]	[ 9.85 - 9.9 - 9.95 ]	[ 9.8 - 9.86 - 9.92 ]	1,16E-51
NEDD4	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.51 - 9.59 - 9.67 ]	[ 10.11 - 10.21 - 10.3 ]	[ 9.3 - 9.39 - 9.48 ]	[ 8.8 - 8.92 - 9.04 ]	4,91E-46
PFDN6	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.77 - 9.82 - 9.88 ]	[ 10.11 - 10.19 - 10.27 ]	[ 9.7 - 9.76 - 9.83 ]	[ 9.87 - 9.95 - 10.03 ]	5,65E-10
SMAD3	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.4 - 9.45 - 9.5 ]	[ 10.07 - 10.12 - 10.18 ]	[ 9.55 - 9.61 - 9.67 ]	[ 9.74 - 9.81 - 9.89 ]	3,15E-38
HEXA	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.58 - 9.63 - 9.68 ]	[ 10.01 - 10.09 - 10.17 ]	[ 9.47 - 9.53 - 9.59 ]	[ 9.58 - 9.66 - 9.74 ]	2,93E-31
CYP7A1	PERIVENOUS	[ 10.05 - 10.24 - 10.44 ]	[ 9.84 - 10.07 - 10.31 ]	[ 9.06 - 9.27 - 9.49 ]	[ 7.07 - 7.31 - 7.55 ]	1,46E-24
LGR5	PERIVENOUS	[ 6.24 - 6.36 - 6.49 ]	[ 9.86 - 10.04 - 10.22 ]	[ 6.81 - 6.99 - 7.16 ]	[ 7.64 - 7.89 - 8.13 ]	2,12E-18
ABLIM1	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.36 - 9.42 - 9.48 ]	[ 9.95 - 10.03 - 10.11 ]	[ 9.31 - 9.37 - 9.43 ]	[ 9.5 - 9.57 - 9.64 ]	4,13E-54
		10.10 0.01	100 000	10.00 0.15	1001 002	

TNFAIP3	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.24 - 9.31 - 9.38 ]	[ 9.83 - 9.95 - 10.06 ]	[ 9.63 - 9.7 - 9.77 ]	[ 9.55 - 9.65 - 9.74 ]	4,77E-20
WIPI2	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.65 - 9.69 - 9.73 ]	[ 9.88 - 9.94 - 10 ]	[ 9.59 - 9.64 - 9.69 ]	[ 9.64 - 9.7 - 9.75 ]	5,04E-04
OSER1	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.51 - 9.57 - 9.63 ]	[ 9.87 - 9.93 - 9.98 ]	[ 9.42 - 9.47 - 9.53 ]	[ 9.33 - 9.4 - 9.46 ]	1,27E-35
CBFB	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.65 - 9.71 - 9.77 ]	[ 9.84 - 9.91 - 9.97 ]	[ 9.82 - 9.88 - 9.94 ]	[ 10.12 - 10.19 - 10.27 ]	3,13E-49
NARS2	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.37 - 9.42 - 9.48 ]	[ 9.82 - 9.88 - 9.94 ]	[ 9.4 - 9.46 - 9.52 ]	[ 9.37 - 9.44 - 9.51 ]	2,84E-14
ICK	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.41 - 8.48 - 8.55 ]	[ 9.73 - 9.87 - 10.01 ]	[ 8.37 - 8.46 - 8.55 ]	[ 8.51 - 8.61 - 8.7 ]	1,62E-32
LAMA3	PERIVENOUS	[ 7.91 - 8 - 8.09 ]	[ 9.71 - 9.86 - 10.02 ]	[ 7.92 - 8.01 - 8.11 ]	[ 7.61 - 7.74 - 7.87 ]	9,73E-25
YAP1	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.11 - 9.17 - 9.23 ]	[ 9.77 - 9.86 - 9.94 ]	[ 9.25 - 9.32 - 9.4 ]	[ 9.47 - 9.55 - 9.64 ]	3,67E-22
DNAJC12	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.6 - 8.73 - 8.86 ]	[ 9.66 - 9.85 - 10.05 ]	[ 8.34 - 8.48 - 8.63 ]	[ 8.3 - 8.48 - 8.67 ]	4,58E-16
TMCC1	PERIVENOUS	[ 9 - 9.09 - 9.18 ]	[ 9.72 - 9.85 - 9.98 ]	[ 9.12 - 9.22 - 9.32 ]	[ 9.25 - 9.36 - 9.46 ]	6,55E-27
ANKRA2	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.36 - 9.41 - 9.47 ]	[ 9.76 - 9.84 - 9.92 ]	[ 9.24 - 9.3 - 9.36 ]	[ 9.04 - 9.12 - 9.19 ]	4,93E-38
THEM6	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.43 - 9.5 - 9.56 ]	[ 9.73 - 9.81 - 9.9 ]	[ 9.42 - 9.5 - 9.57 ]	[ 9.14 - 9.23 - 9.32 ]	3,81E-58
MTR	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.04 - 9.1 - 9.16 ]	[ 9.69 - 9.78 - 9.86 ]	[ 9.32 - 9.39 - 9.47 ]	[ 9.23 - 9.31 - 9.39 ]	8,16E-23
AIMP1	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.21 - 9.26 - 9.32 ]	[ 9.67 - 9.75 - 9.84 ]	[ 9.18 - 9.26 - 9.33 ]	[ 9.31 - 9.39 - 9.47 ]	1,17E-28
ARHGAP12	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.84 - 8.9 - 8.97 ]	[ 9.64 - 9.73 - 9.82 ]	[ 9.13 - 9.21 - 9.28 ]	[ 9.16 - 9.24 - 9.33 ]	3,69E-22
THAP11	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.26 - 9.31 - 9.35 ]	[ 9.62 - 9.67 - 9.72 ]	[ 9.26 - 9.31 - 9.36 ]	[ 9.43 - 9.49 - 9.55 ]	1,97E-41
PARN	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.35 - 9.4 - 9.44 ]	[ 9.61 - 9.66 - 9.71 ]	[ 9.27 - 9.32 - 9.38 ]	[ 9.15 - 9.22 - 9.29 ]	1,29E-24
ASAP2	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.56 - 8.64 - 8.72 ]	[ 9.53 - 9.63 - 9.73 ]	[ 8.84 - 8.91 - 8.98 ]	[ 8.99 - 9.09 - 9.2 ]	9,05E-03
GNAI1	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.6 - 8.67 - 8.74 ]	[ 9.48 - 9.6 - 9.71 ]	[ 8.6 - 8.69 - 8.78 ]	[ 8.61 - 8.7 - 8.79 ]	5,70E-22
PPP1R2	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.01 - 9.05 - 9.1 ]	[ 9.47 - 9.54 - 9.61 ]	[ 9.06 - 9.12 - 9.17 ]	[ 9.21 - 9.28 - 9.35 ]	1,60E-11
NCOA2	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.83 - 8.9 - 8.96 ]	[ 9.38 - 9.48 - 9.58 ]	[ 8.88 - 8.97 - 9.05 ]	[ 8.71 - 8.81 - 8.9 ]	4,13E-12
PRKCA	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.95 - 9.01 - 9.07 ]	[ 9.36 - 9.44 - 9.52 ]	[ 8.95 - 9.02 - 9.09 ]	[ 8.86 - 8.95 - 9.04 ]	1,63E-39
SOX13	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.2 - 9.26 - 9.31 ]	[ 9.36 - 9.42 - 9.49 ]	[ 9.46 - 9.52 - 9.58 ]	[ 9.43 - 9.52 - 9.61 ]	4,73E-17
TLE1	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.9 - 8.95 - 9 ]	[ 9.34 - 9.42 - 9.49 ]	[ 8.95 - 9.02 - 9.09 ]	[ 8.93 - 9.02 - 9.11 ]	1,01E-27
MTMR11	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.41 - 8.5 - 8.6 ]	[ 9.29 - 9.41 - 9.53 ]	[ 8.65 - 8.76 - 8.86 ]	[ 8.51 - 8.64 - 8.77 ]	6,69E-09
SLC30A10	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.61 - 8.69 - 8.76 ]	[ 9.2 <mark>6 - 9.38 -</mark> 9.5 ]	[ 8.57 - 8.67 - 8.77 ]	[ 8.2 <mark>2 - 8.36 -</mark> 8.51 ]	2,43E-23

RRNAD1	PERIVENOUS	[ 9.09 - 9.14 - 9.19 ]	[ 9.3 - 9.37 - 9.43 ]	[ 8.92 - 8.98 - 9.04 ]	[ 8.81 - 8.88 - 8.95 ]	3,97E-18
HEATR1	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.66 - 8.72 - 8.78 ]	[ 9.24 - 9.33 - 9.41 ]	[ 9.14 - 9.2 - 9.27 ]	[ 9.34 - 9.42 - 9.5 ]	5,01E-16
TERF2	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.88 - 8.92 - 8.96 ]	[ 9.23 - 9.28 - 9.34 ]	[ 8.85 - 8.9 - 8.95 ]	[ 8.81 - 8.86 - 8.92 ]	6,92E-32
NBAS	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.87 - 8.91 - 8.96 ]	[ 9.18 - 9.25 - 9.32 ]	[ 8.89 - 8.93 - 8.97 ]	[ 8.9 - 8.95 - 9 ]	6,65E-17
PARVB	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.25 - 8.32 - 8.4 ]	[ 9.08 - 9.22 - 9.37 ]	[ 8.61 - 8.7 - 8.79 ]	[ 8.66 - 8.76 - 8.86 ]	1,40E-30
RCBTB1	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.51 - 8.57 - 8.63 ]	[ 9.13 - 9.21 - 9.29 ]	[ 8.5 - 8.57 - 8.63 ]	[ 8.63 - 8.7 - 8.78 ]	1,47E-19
PTPRG	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.29 - 8.35 - 8.4 ]	[ 9.08 - 9.16 - 9.25 ]	[ 8.35 - 8.42 - 8.5 ]	[ 8.67 - 8.75 - 8.84 ]	1,31E-67
NAGPA	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.73 - 8.79 - 8.85 ]	[ 9.05 - 9.14 - 9.22 ]	[ 8.63 - 8.69 - 8.76 ]	[ 8.61 - 8.69 - 8.76 ]	9,66E-06
TRAPPC6A	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.95 - 9.01 - 9.08 ]	[ 9.01 - 9.09 - 9.17 ]	[ 8.75 - 8.82 - 8.89 ]	[ 8.59 - 8.67 - 8.76 ]	2,16E-27
RAB11FIP2	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.2 - 8.26 - 8.32 ]	[ 8.92 - 8.99 - 9.07 ]	[ 8.38 - 8.45 - 8.51 ]	[ 8.43 - 8.5 - 8.58 ]	2,15E-44
HS1BP3	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.54 - 8.6 - 8.66 ]	[ 8.89 - 8.97 - 9.05 ]	[ 8.53 - 8.59 - 8.66 ]	[ 8.38 - 8.45 - 8.52 ]	3,44E-34
THADA	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.16 - 8.22 - 8.28 ]	[ 8.83 - 8.92 - 9 ]	[ 8.41 - 8.47 - 8.53 ]	[ 8.6 - 8.66 - 8.73 ]	3,53E-26
AP2B1	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.34 - 8.4 - 8.46 ]	[ 8.8 - 8.88 - 8.96 ]	[ 8.34 - 8.41 - 8.47 ]	[ 8.62 - 8.71 - 8.79 ]	1,11E-13
CASK	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.39 - 8.44 - 8.5 ]	[ 8.8 - 8.88 - 8.96 ]	[ 8.45 - 8.51 - 8.57 ]	[ 8.49 - 8.57 - 8.65 ]	1,60E-27
NUP93	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.48 - 8.54 - 8.6 ]	[ 8.79 - 8.87 - 8.96 ]	[ 8.71 - 8.78 - 8.85 ]	[ 9.13 - 9.22 - 9.3 ]	4,22E-64
STAM2	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.43 - 8.49 - 8.55 ]	[ 8.8 - 8.87 - 8.94 ]	[ 8.35 - 8.41 - 8.48 ]	[ 8.43 - 8.5 - 8.57 ]	1,21E-25
DIEXF	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.39 - 8.45 - 8.51 ]	[ 8.77 - 8.85 - 8.93 ]	[ 8.42 - 8.49 - 8.57 ]	[ 8.45 - 8.54 - 8.62 ]	1,36E-13
CYP1A1	PERIVENOUS	[ 6.64 - 6.77 - 6.9 ]	[ 8.53 - 8.77 - 9.01 ]	[ 6.23 - 6.36 - 6.5 ]	[ 5.89 - 6.02 - 6.16 ]	6,72E-35
IMPAD1	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.03 - 8.09 - 8.14 ]	[ 8.51 - 8.58 - 8.66 ]	[ 7.98 - 8.04 - 8.1 ]	[ 8.04 - 8.11 - 8.18 ]	3,61E-43
KATNB1	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.01 - 8.07 - 8.12 ]	[ 8.42 - 8.49 - 8.56 ]	[ 8.05 - 8.11 - 8.17 ]	[ 8.11 - 8.18 - 8.25 ]	8,02E-22
SLC7A6	PERIVENOUS	[ 7.51 - 7.57 - 7.62 ]	[ 8.37 - 8.45 - 8.53 ]	[ 7.92 - 7.99 - 8.05 ]	[ 8.16 - 8.24 - 8.32 ]	5,35E-18
CEP68	PERIVENOUS	[ 7.82 - 7.89 - 7.97 ]	[ 8.36 - 8.44 - 8.51 ]	[ 7.96 - 8.03 - 8.11 ]	[ 8.12 - 8.2 - 8.28 ]	2,55E-14
RAD50	PERIVENOUS	[ 8.09 - 8.16 - 8.22 ]	[ 8.31 - 8.4 - 8.5 ]	[ 7.91 - 7.98 - 8.04 ]	[ 7.81 - 7.9 - 7.98 ]	2,40E-12
MID1	PERIVENOUS	[ 7.47 - 7.54 - 7.6 ]	[ 8.11 - 8.21 - 8.3 ]	[ 7.62 - 7.71 - 7.8 ]	[ 7.69 - 7.78 - 7.88 ]	4,67E-25
GREB1	PERIVENOUS	[ 6.87 - 6.95 - 7.03 ]	[ 7.97 - 8.11 - 8.25 ]	[ 6.88 - 6.98 - 7.07 ]	[ 7.08 - 7.22 - 7.36 ]	5,19E-35
LEF1	PERIVENOUS	[ 6.37 - 6.45 - 6.52 ]	[ 7.28 - 7.42 - 7.55 ]	[ 6.8 - 6.89 - 6.98 ]	[ 6.82 - 6.92 - 7.03 ]	1,29E-40

RPL8	STEM	[ 12.99 - 13.05 - 13.1 ]	[ 13.24 - 13.33 - 13.41 ]	[ 13.37 - 13.43 - 13.49 ]	[ 13.66 - 13.72 - 13.78 ]	8,23E-13
RPS3	STEM	[ 12.62 - 12.67 - 12.72 ]	[ 12.79 - 12.86 - 12.93 ]	[ 12.91 - 12.97 - 13.02 ]	[ 13.41 - 13.47 - 13.52 ]	6,53E-24
PABPC1	STEM	[ 12.7 - 12.75 - 12.8 ]	[ 13.07 - 13.15 - 13.22 ]	[ 13.11 - 13.17 - 13.22 ]	[ 13.39 - 13.45 - 13.51 ]	3,67E-56
TUBA1C	STEM	[ 12.34 - 12.39 - 12.44 ]	[ 12.37 - 12.44 - 12.5 ]	[ 12.65 - 12.69 - 12.74 ]	[ 12.99 - 13.05 - 13.1 ]	7,80E-54
EIF3H	STEM	[ 12.36 - 12.4 - 12.45 ]	[ 12.72 - 12.79 - 12.86 ]	[ 12.59 - 12.65 - 12.71 ]	[ 12.91 - 12.97 - 13.04 ]	1,07E-60
ENO1	STEM	[ 12.33 - 12.38 - 12.43 ]	[ 12.41 - 12.49 - 12.57 ]	[ 12.37 - 12.45 - 12.53 ]	[ 12.87 - 12.96 - 13.05 ]	1,40E-54
HSPA5	STEM	[ 12.55 - 12.6 - 12.65 ]	[ 12.27 - 12.33 - 12.39 ]	[ 12.66 - 12.71 - 12.76 ]	[ 12.67 - 12.72 - 12.77 ]	6,14E-43
DYNLL1	STEM	[ 12.31 - 12.35 - 12.38 ]	[ 12.37 - 12.42 - 12.47 ]	[ 12.52 - 12.55 - 12.58 ]	[ 12.64 - 12.68 - 12.72 ]	2,57E-53
ARPC2	STEM	[ 11.94 - 11.97 - 12.01 ]	[ 11.95 - 12 - 12.06 ]	[ 12.23 - 12.28 - 12.33 ]	[ 12.5 - 12.56 - 12.61 ]	3,73E-48
CFL1	STEM	[ 12.15 - 12.19 - 12.23 ]	[ 12.16 - 12.21 - 12.26 ]	[ 12.31 - 12.35 - 12.39 ]	[ 12.5 - 12.54 - 12.59 ]	2,21E-44
GPI	STEM	[ 12.26 - 12.32 - 12.37 ]	[ 12.01 - 12.09 - 12.16 ]	[ 12.41 - 12.46 - 12.51 ]	[ 12.44 - 12.51 - 12.57 ]	8,89E-41
YWHAZ	STEM	[ 11.72 - 11.78 - 11.83 ]	[ 11.82 - 11.9 - 11.98 ]	[ 12.1 - 12.17 - 12.23 ]	[ 12.42 - 12.49 - 12.56 ]	8,79E-55
PPA1	STEM	[ 12.08 - 12.13 - 12.18 ]	[ 12.21 - 12.28 - 12.35 ]	[ 12.37 - 12.43 - 12.48 ]	[ 12.42 - 12.49 - 12.56 ]	3,30E-12
SPP1	STEM	[ 10.14 - 10.34 - 10.55 ]	[ 11.19 - 11.5 - 11.81 ]	[ 11.64 - 11.85 - 12.06 ]	[ 12.13 - 12.34 - 12.55 ]	8,59E-57
SPINK1	STEM	[ 10.68 - 10.96 - 11.25 ]	[ 9.32 - 9.71 - 10.11 ]	[ 12.45 - 12.68 - 12.91 ]	[ 11.94 - 12.23 - 12.51 ]	5,54E-30
IF130	STEM	[ 11.61 - 11.68 - 11.75 ]	[ 11.44 - 11.54 - 11.65 ]	[ 11.91 - 11.99 - 12.08 ]	[ 12.11 - 12.22 - 12.33 ]	2,40E-60
CLIC1	STEM	[ 11.17 - 11.23 - 11.29 ]	[ 11.4 - 11.47 - 11.53 ]	[ 11.55 - 11.6 - 11.65 ]	[ 12.14 - 12.19 - 12.25 ]	7,00E-41
MAT2A	STEM	[ 11.72 - 11.77 - 11.82 ]	[ 11.48 - 11.56 - 11.63 ]	[ 11.92 - 11.97 - 12.02 ]	[ 12.13 - 12.19 - 12.26 ]	3,86E-40
CAP1	STEM	[ 11.62 - 11.66 - 11.7 ]	[ 11.69 - 11.73 - 11.77 ]	[ 11.71 - 11.76 - 11.8 ]	[ 11.93 - 11.99 - 12.05 ]	5,81E-28
SPATS2L	STEM	[ 11.32 - 11.37 - 11.43 ]	[ 11.13 - 11.2 - 11.27 ]	[ 11.5 - 11.56 - 11.62 ]	[ 11.84 - 11.91 - 11.99 ]	2,48E-35
ANXA5	STEM	[ 11 - 11.07 - 11.15 ]	[ 10.67 - 10.8 - 10.93 ]	[ 11.35 - 11.45 - 11.55 ]	[ 11.83 - 11.91 - 11.99 ]	1,30E-46
EIF3E	STEM	[ 11.25 - 11.31 - 11.37 ]	[ 11.86 - 11.95 - 12.04 ]	[ 11.58 - 11.64 - 11.7 ]	[ 11.82 - 11.9 - 11.99 ]	2,96E-86
NDRG1	STEM	[ 10.73 - 10.82 - 10.91 ]	[ 10.96 - 11.07 - 11.17 ]	[ 11.33 - 11.43 - 11.53 ]	[ 11.78 - 11.9 - 12.02 ]	5,17E-22
BCAP31	STEM	[ 11.45 - 11.5 - 11.54 ]	[ 11.95 - 12.02 - 12.08 ]	[ 11.67 - 11.72 - 11.78 ]	[ 11.77 - 11.83 - 11.88 ]	2,41E-33
ATIC	STEM	[ 11.01 - 11.06 - 11.1 ]	[ 11.28 - 11.34 - 11.41 ]	[ 11.28 - 11.33 - 11.39 ]	[ 11.69 - 11.76 - 11.82 ]	1,09E-30
H2AFZ	STEM	[ 11.03 - 11.11 - 11.18 ]	[ 11.05 - 11.13 - 11.22 ]	[ 11.18 - 11.27 - 11.35 ]	[ 11.67 - 11.75 - 11.83 ]	6,60E-32

TM4SF1	STEM	[ 10.69 - 10.78 - 10.86 ]	[ 10.88 - 11 - 11.13 ]	[ 11 - 11.11 - 11.22 ]	[ 11.59 - 11.73 - 11.87 ]	2,10E-44
CBX3	STEM	[ 11.06 - 11.11 - 11.15 ]	[ 11.28 - 11.34 - 11.4 ]	[ 11.26 - 11.31 - 11.36 ]	[ 11.63 - 11.69 - 11.75 ]	5,85E-36
TFRC	STEM	[ 10.93 - 11 - 11.08 ]	[ 10.61 - 10.72 - 10.82 ]	[ 11.26 - 11.34 - 11.42 ]	[ 11.59 - 11.68 - 11.77 ]	1,17E-24
BAMBI	STEM	[ 10.04 - 10.18 - 10.32 ]	[ 11.35 - 11.48 - 11.61 ]	[ 10.81 - 10.92 - 11.03 ]	[ 11.54 - 11.65 - 11.77 ]	1,00E-40
KPNB1	STEM	[ 11.05 - 11.1 - 11.15 ]	[ 11.21 - 11.27 - 11.33 ]	[ 11.21 - 11.26 - 11.31 ]	[ 11.57 - 11.63 - 11.69 ]	9,91E-52
WDR1	STEM	[ 11.1 - 11.14 - 11.17 ]	[ 11.28 - 11.33 - 11.39 ]	[ 11.36 - 11.41 - 11.46 ]	[ 11.55 - 11.61 - 11.67 ]	1,36E-66
GRN	STEM	[ 11.32 - 11.37 - 11.42 ]	[ 11.21 - 11.27 - 11.34 ]	[ 11.34 - 11.4 - 11.46 ]	[ 11.51 - 11.59 - 11.68 ]	8,10E-32
HIF1A	STEM	[ 10.86 - 10.91 - 10.96 ]	[ 10.73 - 10.8 - 10.86 ]	[ 11.2 - 11.26 - 11.31 ]	[ 11.51 - 11.59 - 11.66 ]	8,89E-32
ACTR3	STEM	[ 11.13 - 11.17 - 11.2 ]	[ 11.16 - 11.21 - 11.26 ]	[ 11.3 - 11.34 - 11.38 ]	[ 11.54 - 11.58 - 11.63 ]	1,11E-41
ALDOA	STEM	[ 10.81 - 10.87 - 10.94 ]	[ 10.85 - 10.94 - 11.03 ]	[ 11.01 - 11.09 - 11.18 ]	[ 11.44 - 11.55 - 11.67 ]	6,64E-25
MSN	STEM	[ 11.06 - 11.12 - 11.19 ]	[ 11.14 - 11.24 - 11.34 ]	[ 11.3 - 11.39 - 11.48 ]	[ 11.45 - 11.55 - 11.65 ]	1,32E-41
CLNS1A	STEM	[ 11.14 - 11.18 - 11.23 ]	[ 11.41 - 11.46 - 11.52 ]	[ 11.3 - 11.35 - 11.4 ]	[ 11.47 - 11.54 - 11.6 ]	3,43E-53
DHRS7	STEM	[ 11.33 - 11.4 - 11.47 ]	[ 10.93 - 11.04 - 11.16 ]	[ 11.54 - 11.62 - 11.71 ]	[ 11.4 - 11.48 - 11.57 ]	6,16E-28
SCD	STEM	[ 10.58 - 10.71 - 10.84 ]	[ 11.5 - 11.64 - 11.78 ]	[ 11.4 - 11.51 - 11.62 ]	[ 11.33 - 11.46 - 11.58 ]	1,16E-50
NREP	STEM	[ 10.48 - 10.57 - 10.65 ]	[ 10.2 - 10.32 - 10.44 ]	[ 10.98 - 11.07 - 11.16 ]	[ 11.33 - 11.45 - 11.57 ]	1,18E-49
LGALS3	STEM	[ 10.78 - 10.89 - 11 ]	[ 10.11 - 10.24 - 10.37 ]	[ 11.18 - 11.29 - 11.41 ]	[ 11.31 - 11.45 - 11.58 ]	1,78E-48
ACSL4	STEM	[ 9.93 - 10.09 - 10.25 ]	[ 9.8 - 9.99 - 10.19 ]	[ 11.29 - 11.43 - 11.56 ]	[ 11.3 - 11.44 - 11.59 ]	1,07E-29
MARCKSL1	STEM	[ 10.14 - 10.21 - 10.27 ]	[ 10.26 - 10.37 - 10.48 ]	[ 10.62 - 10.69 - 10.76 ]	[ 11.34 - 11.44 - 11.54 ]	3,03E-18
IARS	STEM	[ 10.62 - 10.66 - 10.71 ]	[ 10.86 - 10.92 - 10.99 ]	[ 10.92 - 10.98 - 11.03 ]	[ 11.34 - 11.39 - 11.45 ]	1,53E-34
MARCKS	STEM	[ 10.05 - 10.13 - 10.2 ]	[ 9.94 - 10.05 - 10.17 ]	[ 10.6 - 10.69 - 10.77 ]	[ 11.31 - 11.39 - 11.46 ]	5,66E-07
CALU	STEM	[ 10.88 - 10.92 - 10.96 ]	[ 10.81 - 10.87 - 10.93 ]	[ 11.02 - 11.07 - 11.11 ]	[ 11.32 - 11.37 - 11.43 ]	4,27E-31
SPON2	STEM	[ 10.58 - 10.68 - 10.77 ]	[ 11.27 - 11.38 - 11.48 ]	[ 11.22 - 11.32 - 11.42 ]	[ 11.23 - 11.34 - 11.46 ]	3,47E-56
BZW2	STEM	[ 10.49 - 10.53 - 10.57 ]	[ 10.81 - 10.87 - 10.94 ]	[ 10.7 - 10.76 - 10.82 ]	[ 11.27 - 11.34 - 11.41 ]	6,49E-60
HIST1H4C	STEM	[ 10.71 - 10.78 - 10.85 ]	[ 10.35 - 10.44 - 10.54 ]	[ 10.77 - 10.85 - 10.93 ]	[ 11.25 - 11.34 - 11.43 ]	1,57E-48
DYNC112	STEM	[ 10.81 - 10.85 - 10.89 ]	[ 11.04 - 11.09 - 11.14 ]	[ 11.01 - 11.06 - 11.1 ]	[ 11.28 - 11.34 - 11.39 ]	2,16E-22
CDK4	STEM	[ 10.55 - 10.59 - 10.64 ]	[ 10.6 - 10.67 - 10.74 ]	[ 10.78 - 10.83 - 10.89 ]	[ 11.26 - 11.32 - 11.39 ]	3,05E-61

EPRS	STEM	[ 10.64 - 10.7 - 10.75 ]	[ 10.94 - 11.02 - 11.09 ]	[ 11.07 - 11.12 - 11.18 ]	[ 11.24 - 11.31 - 11.38 ]	3,30E-61
HDAC2	STEM	[ 10.52 - 10.56 - 10.6 ]	[ 10.66 - 10.73 - 10.8 ]	[ 10.74 - 10.8 - 10.86 ]	[ 11.22 - 11.28 - 11.35 ]	3,02E-42
PPT1	STEM	[ 10.63 - 10.69 - 10.74 ]	[ 10.54 - 10.62 - 10.71 ]	[ 10.78 - 10.85 - 10.93 ]	[ 11.16 - 11.24 - 11.32 ]	7,27E-37
SERPINE2	STEM	[ 9.95 - 10.08 - 10.2 ]	[ 9.59 - 9.82 - 10.04 ]	[ 10.71 - 10.85 - 10.98 ]	[ 11.09 - 11.24 - 11.39 ]	2,45E-66
TNFRSF21	STEM	[ 9.84 - 9.92 - 10 ]	[ 9.72 - 9.9 - 10.08 ]	[ 10.38 - 10.47 - 10.56 ]	[ 11.14 - 11.24 - 11.34 ]	4,31E-18
COL1A2	STEM	[ 10.43 - 10.54 - 10.65 ]	[ 9.61 - 9.8 - 9.99 ]	[ 10.83 - 10.98 - 11.13 ]	[ 11.04 - 11.21 - 11.38 ]	3,13E-49
SH3BGRL3	STEM	[ 10.7 - 10.76 - 10.82 ]	[ 10.53 - 10.61 - 10.69 ]	[ 10.88 - 10.95 - 11.02 ]	[ 11.09 - 11.19 - 11.29 ]	6,94E-40
ZMIZ1	STEM	[ 10.53 - 10.58 - 10.62 ]	[ 10.4 - 10.46 - 10.52 ]	[ 10.85 - 10.91 - 10.96 ]	[ 11.05 - 11.12 - 11.19 ]	3,14E-57
TSPAN3	STEM	[ 10.65 - 10.71 - 10.78 ]	[ 10.08 - 10.16 - 10.25 ]	[ 10.75 - 10.82 - 10.89 ]	[ 11.02 - 11.1 - 11.18 ]	1,91E-57
SSB	STEM	[ 10.41 - 10.46 - 10.5 ]	[ 10.69 - 10.75 - 10.81 ]	[ 10.68 - 10.73 - 10.77 ]	[ 11 - 11.06 - 11.13 ]	5,57E-29
TUBA4A	STEM	[ 10.49 - 10.57 - 10.65 ]	[ 10.22 - 10.32 - 10.42 ]	[ 10.85 - 10.93 - 11.01 ]	[ 10.93 - 11.03 - 11.13 ]	3,47E-35
CKS2	STEM	[ 9.97 - 10.06 - 10.14 ]	[ 10.12 - 10.21 - 10.31 ]	[ 10.22 - 10.32 - 10.42 ]	[ 10.93 - 11.03 - 11.13 ]	2,21E-32
PKM2	STEM	[ 9.56 - 9.63 - 9.7 ]	[ 9.42 - 9.52 - 9.63 ]	[ 10.09 - 10.18 - 10.27 ]	[ 10.91 - 11.03 - 11.15 ]	5,65E-24
ITGA5	STEM	[ 10.4 - 10.46 - 10.51 ]	[ 9.95 - 10.02 - 10.08 ]	[ 10.74 - 10.8 - 10.85 ]	[ 10.89 - 10.97 - 11.06 ]	8,95E-14
CCL20	STEM	[ 8.81 - 8.97 - 9.14 ]	[ 8.16 - 8.4 - 8.64 ]	[ 10.29 - 10.44 - 10.59 ]	[ 10.8 - 10.97 - 11.15 ]	6,59E-31
MMD	STEM	[ 9.88 - 9.94 - 10.01 ]	[ 9.56 - 9.68 - 9.81 ]	[ 10.26 - 10.34 - 10.42 ]	[ 10.88 - 10.97 - 11.05 ]	5,99E-88
PTK2	STEM	[ 10.51 - 10.56 - 10.61 ]	[ 10.91 - 10.98 - 11.05 ]	[ 10.79 - 10.86 - 10.92 ]	[ 10.9 - 10.96 - 11.03 ]	7,22E-38
IFNGR2	STEM	[ 10.08 - 10.14 - 10.19 ]	[ 10.27 - 10.36 - 10.44 ]	[ 10.48 - 10.53 - 10.59 ]	[ 10.88 - 10.95 - 11.02 ]	2,04E-28
ITGAV	STEM	[ 10.37 - 10.44 - 10.51 ]	[ 10.26 - 10.35 - 10.44 ]	[ 10.57 - 10.66 - 10.75 ]	[ 10.84 - 10.95 - 11.06 ]	9,29E-40
LAMC1	STEM	[ 9.68 - 9.77 - 9.85 ]	[ 10.3 - 10.41 - 10.52 ]	[ 10.38 - 10.47 - 10.56 ]	[ 10.83 - 10.93 - 11.03 ]	1,28E-58
CDC25B	STEM	[ 10.4 - 10.46 - 10.53 ]	[ 10.11 - 10.19 - 10.28 ]	[ 10.58 - 10.65 - 10.72 ]	[ 10.83 - 10.92 - 11 ]	3,45E-58
SOX4	STEM	[ 8.81 - 8.92 - 9.02 ]	[ 8.69 - 8.87 - 9.04 ]	[ 9.91 - 10.03 - 10.16 ]	[ 10.76 - 10.91 - 11.06 ]	1,46E-13
ROBO1	STEM	[ 9.35 - 9.48 - 9.62 ]	[ 10.4 - 10.57 - 10.75 ]	[ 10.24 - 10.38 - 10.53 ]	[ 10.77 - 10.91 - 11.04 ]	1,20E-26
MAPRE1	STEM	[ 10.04 - 10.08 - 10.13 ]	[ 10.15 - 10.21 - 10.27 ]	[ 10.29 - 10.35 - 10.4 ]	[ 10.83 - 10.89 - 10.95 ]	2,49E-43
CKAP4	STEM	[ 9.79 - 9.86 - 9.93 ]	[ 9.91 - 10.01 - 10.12 ]	[ 10.33 - 10.41 - 10.49 ]	[ 10.8 - 10.89 - 10.98 ]	3,80E-64
	STEM	[ 10.21 - 10.25	[ 10.36 - 10.43	[ 10.49 - 10.55	[ 10.78 - 10.84	1,45E-29

SERPINB1	STEM	[ 10.08 - 10.16 - 10.23 ]	[ 10.38 - 10.46 - 10.54 ]	[ 10.49 - 10.54 - 10.6 ]	[ 10.72 - 10.8 - 10.88 ]	4,05E-38
COL1A1	STEM	[ 9.73 - 9.87 - 10 ]	[ 8.92 - 9.11 - 9.3 ]	[ 10.38 - 10.56 - 10.74 ]	[ 10.6 - 10.8 - 11 ]	7,65E-77
ARPC5L	STEM	[ 10.25 - 10.3 - 10.35 ]	[ 10.21 - 10.27 - 10.33 ]	[ 10.37 - 10.43 - 10.48 ]	[ 10.7 - 10.77 - 10.83 ]	5,58E-20
INTS8	STEM	[ 10.01 - 10.06 - 10.11 ]	[ 10.24 - 10.31 - 10.38 ]	[ 10.46 - 10.52 - 10.57 ]	[ 10.7 - 10.76 - 10.83 ]	1,04E-30
ATP1B3	STEM	[ 9.7 - 9.77 - 9.85 ]	[ 9.9 - 10.03 - 10.16 ]	[ 10.17 - 10.25 - 10.34 ]	[ 10.65 - 10.75 - 10.86 ]	4,15E-89
MDK	STEM	[ 9.36 - 9.49 - 9.63 ]	[ 10.08 - 10.26 - 10.44 ]	[ 10.05 - 10.18 - 10.32 ]	[ 10.59 - 10.75 - 10.9 ]	7,09E-30
CDC42EP4	STEM	[ 10.57 - 10.62 - 10.67 ]	[ 10.86 - 10.93 - 11.01 ]	[ 10.47 - 10.53 - 10.59 ]	[ 10.62 - 10.71 - 10.79 ]	3,59E-47
UBE2I	STEM	[ 10.11 - 10.17 - 10.22 ]	[ 10.2 - 10.27 - 10.34 ]	[ 10.23 - 10.3 - 10.37 ]	[ 10.61 - 10.69 - 10.77 ]	3,10E-23
PVRL2	STEM	[ 10.56 - 10.62 - 10.68 ]	[ 10.14 - 10.21 - 10.28 ]	[ 10.68 - 10.75 - 10.82 ]	[ 10.6 - 10.68 - 10.77 ]	7,84E-11
AMD1	STEM	[ 9.96 - 10.01 - 10.06 ]	[ 9.99 - 10.06 - 10.13 ]	[ 10.29 - 10.35 - 10.4 ]	[ 10.61 - 10.68 - 10.75 ]	4,77E-21
MID1IP1	STEM	[ 9.71 - 9.79 - 9.88 ]	[ 10.18 - 10.27 - 10.36 ]	[ 10.41 - 10.48 - 10.55 ]	[ 10.59 - 10.68 - 10.77 ]	3,67E-43
TMED3	STEM	[ 9.26 - 9.37 - 9.48 ]	[ 8.78 - 8.95 - 9.11 ]	[ 10.03 - 10.14 - 10.26 ]	[ 10.53 - 10.65 - 10.78 ]	5,02E-48
S100A11	STEM	[ 9.63 - 9.7 - 9.78 ]	[ 9.52 - 9.64 - 9.77 ]	[ 10.08 - 10.19 - 10.29 ]	[ 10.5 - 10.64 - 10.78 ]	5,38E-72
TOP2A	STEM	[ 8.96 - 9.1 - 9.25 ]	[ 9.14 - 9.3 - 9.46 ]	[ 9.64 - 9.76 - 9.88 ]	[ 10.46 - 10.59 - 10.73 ]	9,81E-52
CAPZA1	STEM	[ 10.04 - 10.11 - 10.18 ]	[ 10.07 - 10.17 - 10.28 ]	[ 10.15 - 10.23 - 10.31 ]	[ 10.49 - 10.58 - 10.68 ]	4,00E-23
IGF2BP2	STEM	[ 8.91 - 9.03 - 9.16 ]	[ 8.39 - 8.58 - 8.76 ]	[ 10.06 - 10.17 - 10.29 ]	[ 10.43 - 10.57 - 10.72 ]	1,54E-31
GPNMB	STEM	[ 9.77 - 9.87 - 9.97 ]	[ 9.52 - 9.65 - 9.78 ]	[ 10 - 10.14 - 10.27 ]	[ 10.43 - 10.57 - 10.71 ]	5,78E-33
XPNPEP1	STEM	[ 10.12 - 10.16 - 10.2 ]	[ 10.28 - 10.34 - 10.39 ]	[ 10.39 - 10.43 - 10.48 ]	[ 10.51 - 10.56 - 10.62 ]	1,35E-59
ELF3	STEM	[ 9.86 - 9.95 - 10.03 ]	[ 9.43 - 9.54 - 9.65 ]	[ 10.35 - 10.45 - 10.54 ]	[ 10.42 - 10.54 - 10.66 ]	5,69E-25
S100P	STEM	[ 8.75 - 8.99 - 9.24 ]	[ 8.07 - 8.32 - 8.56 ]	[ 10.15 - 10.41 - 10.68 ]	[ 10.25 - 10.54 - 10.84 ]	9,63E-76
ADM	STEM	[ 9.88 - 9.97 - 10.07 ]	[ 10.33 - 10.45 - 10.57 ]	[ 9.93 - 10.05 - 10.17 ]	[ 10.38 - 10.53 - 10.68 ]	1,61E-62
SLC38A1	STEM	[ 9.1 - 9.24 - 9.37 ]	[ 8.83 - 9 - 9.18 ]	[ 9.77 - 9.91 - 10.05 ]	[ 10.37 - 10.53 - 10.69 ]	8,70E-88
S100A6	STEM	[ 9.22 - 9.32 - 9.41 ]	[ 8.89 - 9.02 - 9.14 ]	[ 9.97 - 10.1 - 10.23 ]	[ 10.35 - 10.52 - 10.69 ]	1,71E-43
RHOQ	STEM	[ 10.1 - 10.15 - 10.21 ]	[ 9.9 <mark>9 - 1</mark> 0.07 - 10.15 ]	[ 10.32 - 10.39 - 10.46 ]	[ 10.43 - 10.51 - 10.6 ]	2,03E-38
UBE2Z	STEM	[ 9.81 - 9.86 - 9.91 ]	[ 9.96 - 10.02 - 10.09 ]	[ 10.01 - 10.07 - 10.12 ]	[ 10.39 - 10.47 - 10.54 ]	2,34E-33
VNN1	STEM	[ 11.01 - 11.15 - 11.3 ]	[ 8.34 - 8.58 - 8.82 ]	[ 11.1 - 11.25 - 11.4 ]	[ 10.24 - 10.46 - 10.69 ]	3,46E-45

SERPINH1	STEM	[ 9.58 - 9.64 - 9.7 ]	[ 9.25 - 9.33 - 9.41 ]	[ 9.82 - 9.9 - 9.98 ]	[ 10.36 - 10.46 - 10.56 ]	3,52E-44
GNPDA1	STEM	[ 9.74 - 9.79 - 9.85 ]	[ 9.87 - 9.95 - 10.03 ]	[ 10.11 - 10.18 - 10.25 ]	[ 10.37 - 10.45 - 10.52 ]	1,97E-43
DNMT1	STEM	[ 9.54 - 9.61 - 9.68 ]	[ 9.3 - 9.38 - 9.47 ]	[ 9.86 - 9.94 - 10.01 ]	[ 10.28 - 10.36 - 10.44 ]	1,79E-47
PELI1	STEM	[ 9.58 - 9.65 - 9.71 ]	[ 9.07 - 9.15 - 9.23 ]	[ 9.88 - 9.94 - 10.01 ]	[ 10.27 - 10.34 - 10.42 ]	4,14E-30
UBE2C	STEM	[ 9.13 - 9.24 - 9.35 ]	[ 9.02 - 9.16 - 9.3 ]	[ 9.58 - 9.68 - 9.78 ]	[ 10.21 - 10.34 - 10.46 ]	1,08E-34
DAB2	STEM	[ 9.54 - 9.62 - 9.7 ]	[ 9.08 - 9.21 - 9.33 ]	[ 9.8 - 9.9 - 10 ]	[ 10.2 - 10.31 - 10.43 ]	1,29E-57
VPS37C	STEM	[ 9.68 - 9.72 - 9.76 ]	[ 9.65 - 9.71 - 9.78 ]	[ 9.97 - 10.02 - 10.07 ]	[ 10.23 - 10.29 - 10.35 ]	1,75E-28
CAMSAP2	STEM	[ 9.53 - 9.59 - 9.65 ]	[ 9.99 - 10.07 - 10.15 ]	[ 10.02 - 10.08 - 10.15 ]	[ 10.2 - 10.27 - 10.35 ]	4,59E-23
GLS	STEM	[ 9.49 - 9.57 - 9.66 ]	[ 8.93 - 9.07 - 9.21 ]	[ 10.1 - 10.19 - 10.28 ]	[ 10.12 - 10.22 - 10.33 ]	8,30E-29
KIAA0196	STEM	[ 9.74 - 9.8 - 9.86 ]	[ 10.15 - 10.23 - 10.32 ]	[ 10.09 - 10.16 - 10.24 ]	[ 10.11 - 10.19 - 10.27 ]	2,26E-21
CHD7	STEM	[ 9.31 - 9.36 - 9.42 ]	[ 9.79 - 9.87 - 9.95 ]	[ 9.57 - 9.64 - 9.72 ]	[ 10.09 - 10.19 - 10.29 ]	1,54E-37
PNMA1	STEM	[ 8.95 - 9.03 - 9.1 ]	[ 8.92 - 9.02 - 9.12 ]	[ 9.55 - 9.62 - 9.7 ]	[ 10.09 - 10.18 - 10.27 ]	1,34E-32
CTSC	STEM	[ 9.11 - 9.2 - 9.29 ]	[ 9.14 - 9.28 - 9.41 ]	[ 9.4 - 9.49 - 9.58 ]	[ 10.05 - 10.17 - 10.28 ]	7,29E-15
LGALS4	STEM	[ 11.39 - 11.56 - 11.72 ]	[ 9.43 - 9.71 - 9.98 ]	[ 11.25 - 11.46 - 11.68 ]	[ 9.86 - 10.16 - 10.45 ]	2,00E-34
CORO1C	STEM	[ 9.4 - 9.45 - 9.5 ]	[ 9.54 - 9.63 - 9.71 ]	[ 9.64 - 9.7 - 9.77 ]	[ 10.08 - 10.15 - 10.22 ]	5,65E-54
MMP9	STEM	[ 8.19 - 8.32 - 8.44 ]	[ 8.17 - 8.32 - 8.48 ]	[ 9.2 - 9.36 - 9.52 ]	[ 9.94 - 10.13 - 10.31 ]	7,23E-43
MMP9 HN1	STEM STEM	[ 8.19 - 8.32 - 8.44 ] [ 9.27 - 9.33 - 9.39 ]	[ 8.17 - 8.32 - 8.48 ] [ 9.31 - 9.4 - 9.48 ]	[ 9.2 - 9.36 - 9.52 ] [ 9.47 - 9.53 - 9.6 ]	[ 9.94 - 10.13 - 10.31 ] [ 10.04 - 10.12 - 10.2 ]	7,23E-43 1,65E-32
MMP9 HN1 SUCO	STEM STEM STEM	[8.19 - 8.32 - 8.44] [9.27 - 9.33 - 9.39] [9.43 - 9.51 - 9.58]	[8.17 - 8.32 - 8.48] [9.31 - 9.4 - 9.48] [9.83 - 9.92 - 10.01]	[ 9.2 - 9.36 - 9.52 ] [ 9.47 - 9.53 - 9.6 ] [ 9.86 - 9.94 - 10.01 ]	[9.94 - 10.13 - 10.31] [10.04 - 10.12 - 10.2] [10.02 - 10.1 - 10.17]	7,23E-43 1,65E-32 3,54E-34
MMP9 HN1 SUCO LRRC1	STEM STEM STEM STEM	[8.19 - 8.32 - 8.44] [9.27 - 9.33 - 9.39] [9.43 - 9.51 - 9.58] [8.53 - 8.66 - 8.79]	[8.17 - 8.32 - 8.48] [9.31 - 9.4 - 9.48] [9.83 - 9.92 - 10.01] [8.11 - 8.3 - 8.49]	[ 9.2 - 9.36 - 9.52 ] [ 9.47 - 9.53 - 9.6 ] [ 9.86 - 9.94 - 10.01 ] [ 9.52 - 9.62 - 9.72 ]	[9.94 - 10.13 - 10.31] [10.04 - 10.12 - 10.2] [10.02 - 10.1 - 10.17] [9.96 - 10.08 - 10.21]	7,23E-43 1,65E-32 3,54E-34 2,13E-53
MMP9 HN1 SUCO LRRC1 COL5A2	STEM STEM STEM STEM	[8.19 - 8.32 - 8.44] [9.27 - 9.33 - 9.39] [9.43 - 9.51 - 9.58] [8.53 - 8.66 - 8.79] [9.11 - 9.22 - 9.32]	[8.17 - 8.32 - 8.48] [9.31 - 9.4 - 9.48] [9.83 - 9.92 - 10.01] [8.11 - 8.3 - 8.49] [8.75 - 8.87 - 8.99]	[ 9.2 - 9.36 - 9.52 ] [ 9.47 - 9.53 - 9.6 ] [ 9.86 - 9.94 - 10.01 ] [ 9.52 - 9.62 - 9.72 ] [ 9.51 - 9.63 - 9.75 ]	[9.94 - 10.13 - 10.31] [10.04 - 10.12 - 10.2] [10.02 - 10.1 - 10.17] [9.96 - 10.08 - 10.21] [9.91 - 10.06 - 10.22]	7,23E-43 1,65E-32 3,54E-34 2,13E-53 1,52E-35
MMP9 HN1 SUCO LRRC1 COL5A2 VCAN	STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM	[8.19 - 8.32 - 8.44] [9.27 - 9.33 - 9.39] [9.43 - 9.51 - 9.58] [8.53 - 8.66 - 8.79] [9.11 - 9.22 - 9.32] [8.51 - 8.65 - 8.79]	[8.17 - 8.32 - 8.48] [9.31 - 9.4 - 9.48] [9.83 - 9.92 - 10.01] [8.11 - 8.3 - 8.49] [8.75 - 8.87 - 8.99] [7.77 - 7.96 - 8.15]	[ 9.2 - 9.36 - 9.52 ] [ 9.47 - 9.53 - 9.6 ] [ 9.86 - 9.94 - 10.01 ] [ 9.52 - 9.62 - 9.72 ] [ 9.51 - 9.63 - 9.75 ] [ 9.3 - 9.49 - 9.68 ]	[9.94 - 10.13 - 10.31] [10.04 - 10.12 - 10.2] [10.02 - 10.1 - 10.17] [9.96 - 10.08 - 10.21] [9.91 - 10.06 - 10.22] [9.83 - 10.04 - 10.24]	7,23E-43 1,65E-32 3,54E-34 2,13E-53 1,52E-35 7,34E-42
MMP9 HN1 SUCO LRRC1 COL5A2 VCAN SOX9	STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM	[8.19 - 8.32 - 8.44] [9.27 - 9.33 - 9.39] [9.43 - 9.51 - 9.58] [8.53 - 8.66 - 8.79] [9.11 - 9.22 - 9.32] [8.51 - 8.65 - 8.79] [8.32 - 8.46 - 8.6]	[8.17 - 8.32 - 8.48] [9.31 - 9.4 - 9.48] [9.83 - 9.92 - 10.01] [8.11 - 8.3 - 8.49] [8.75 - 8.87 - 8.99] [7.77 - 7.96 - 8.15] [8.51 - 8.72 - 8.93]	[9.2 - 9.36 - 9.52] [9.47 - 9.53 - 9.6] [9.86 - 9.94 - 10.01] [9.52 - 9.62 - 9.72] [9.51 - 9.63 - 9.75] [9.3 - 9.49 - 9.68] [9.37 - 9.5 - 9.64]	[9.94 - 10.13 - 10.31] [10.04 - 10.12 - 10.2] [10.02 - 10.1 - 10.17] [9.96 - 10.08 - 10.21] [9.91 - 10.06 - 10.22] [9.83 - 10.04 - 10.24] [9.84 - 10.04 - 10.23]	7,23E-43 1,65E-32 3,54E-34 2,13E-53 1,52E-35 7,34E-42 4,08E-38
MMP9 HN1 SUCO LRRC1 COL5A2 VCAN SOX9 DRAM1	STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM	[8.19 - 8.32 - 8.44] [9.27 - 9.33 - 9.39] [9.43 - 9.51 - 9.58] [8.53 - 8.66 - 8.79] [9.11 - 9.22 - 9.32] [8.51 - 8.65 - 8.79] [8.32 - 8.46 - 8.6] [9.25 - 9.31 - 9.37]	[8.17 - 8.32 - 8.48] [9.31 - 9.4 - 9.48] [9.83 - 9.92 - 10.01] [8.11 - 8.3 - 8.49] [8.75 - 8.87 - 8.99] [7.77 - 7.96 - 8.15] [8.51 - 8.72 - 8.93] [9.34 - 9.41 - 9.49]	[9.2 - 9.36 - 9.52] [9.47 - 9.53 - 9.6] [9.86 - 9.94 - 10.01] [9.52 - 9.62 - 9.72] [9.51 - 9.63 - 9.75] [9.3 - 9.49 - 9.68] [9.37 - 9.5 - 9.64] [9.56 - 9.62 - 9.68]	[9.94 - 10.13 - 10.31] [10.04 - 10.12 - 10.2] [10.02 - 10.1 - 10.17] [9.96 - 10.08 - 10.21] [9.91 - 10.06 - 10.22] [9.83 - 10.04 - 10.24] [9.84 - 10.04 - 10.23] [9.95 - 10.04 - 10.12]	7,23E-43 1,65E-32 3,54E-34 2,13E-53 1,52E-35 7,34E-42 4,08E-38 5,33E-37
MMP9 HN1 SUCO LRRC1 COL5A2 VCAN SOX9 DRAM1 PLBD1	STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM	[8.19 - 8.32 - 8.44] [9.27 - 9.33 - 9.39] [9.43 - 9.51 - 9.58] [8.53 - 8.66 - 8.79] [9.11 - 9.22 - 9.32] [8.51 - 8.65 - 8.79] [8.32 - 8.46 - 8.6] [9.25 - 9.31 - 9.37] [8.78 - 8.87 - 8.96]	[8.17 - 8.32 - 8.48] [9.31 - 9.4 - 9.48] [9.83 - 9.92 - 10.01] [8.11 - 8.3 - 8.49] [8.75 - 8.87 - 8.99] [7.77 - 7.96 - 8.15] [8.51 - 8.72 - 8.93] [9.34 - 9.41 - 9.49] [8.2 - 8.33 - 8.45]	[9.2 - 9.36 - 9.52] [9.47 - 9.53 - 9.6] [9.86 - 9.94 - 10.01] [9.52 - 9.62 - 9.72] [9.51 - 9.63 - 9.75] [9.3 - 9.49 - 9.68] [9.37 - 9.5 - 9.64] [9.56 - 9.62 - 9.68] [9.09 - 9.21 - 9.32]	[9.94 - 10.13 - 10.31] [10.04 - 10.12 - 10.2] [10.02 - 10.1 - 10.17] [9.96 - 10.08 - 10.21] [9.91 - 10.06 - 10.22] [9.83 - 10.04 - 10.24] [9.84 - 10.04 - 10.23] [9.95 - 10.04 - 10.12] [9.87 - 10.03 - 10.18]	7,23E-43 1,65E-32 3,54E-34 2,13E-53 1,52E-35 7,34E-42 4,08E-38 5,33E-37 2,70E-44
MMP9 HN1 SUCO LRRC1 COL5A2 VCAN SOX9 DRAM1 PLBD1 TPX2	STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM STEM	[8.19 - 8.32 - 8.44] [9.27 - 9.33 - 9.39] [9.43 - 9.51 - 9.58] [8.53 - 8.66 - 8.79] [9.11 - 9.22 - 9.32] [8.51 - 8.65 - 8.79] [8.32 - 8.46 - 8.6] [9.25 - 9.31 - 9.37] [8.78 - 8.87 - 8.96] [8.94 - 9.03 - 9.12]	[8.17 - 8.32 - 8.48] [9.31 - 9.4 - 9.48] [9.83 - 9.92 - 10.01] [8.11 - 8.3 - 8.49] [8.75 - 8.87 - 8.99] [7.77 - 7.96 - 8.15] [8.51 - 8.72 - 8.93] [9.34 - 9.41 - 9.49] [8.2 - 8.33 - 8.45] [8.92 - 9.04 - 9.15]	[9.2 - 9.36 - 9.52] [9.47 - 9.53 - 9.6] [9.86 - 9.94 - 10.01] [9.52 - 9.62 - 9.72] [9.51 - 9.63 - 9.75] [9.3 - 9.49 - 9.68] [9.37 - 9.5 - 9.64] [9.56 - 9.62 - 9.68] [9.09 - 9.21 - 9.32] [9.18 - 9.27 - 9.37]	[9.94 - 10.13 - 10.31] [10.04 - 10.12 - 10.2] [10.02 - 10.1 - 10.17] [9.96 - 10.08 - 10.21] [9.91 - 10.06 - 10.22] [9.83 - 10.04 - 10.23] [9.95 - 10.04 - 10.12] [9.97 - 10.03 - 10.18] [9.91 - 10.02 - 10.13]	7,23E-43 1,65E-32 3,54E-34 2,13E-53 1,52E-35 7,34E-42 4,08E-38 5,33E-37 2,70E-44 3,64E-59

PAFAH1B3	STEM	[ 8.89 - 8.97 - 9.05 ]	[ 8.8 - 8.9 - 9 ]	[ 9.41 - 9.48 - 9.56 ]	[ 9.91 - 10 - 10.09 ]	1,15E-51
CTNNAL1	STEM	[ 9.43 - 9.5 - 9.56 ]	[ 10.18 - 10.26 - 10.34 ]	[ 9.59 - 9.67 - 9.76 ]	[ 9.91 - 10 - 10.09 ]	3,11E-12
UBR5	STEM	[ 9.25 - 9.31 - 9.37 ]	[ 9.62 - 9.71 - 9.79 ]	[ 9.62 - 9.69 - 9.76 ]	[ 9.87 - 9.94 - 10.01 ]	4,67E-18
ZNF189	STEM	[ 9.19 - 9.26 - 9.32 ]	[ 9.9 - 9.98 - 10.06 ]	[ 9.58 - 9.66 - 9.73 ]	[ 9.84 - 9.92 - 10.01 ]	2,15E-77
IL8	STEM	[ 8.28 - 8.45 - 8.62 ]	[ 7.69 - 7.86 - 8.03 ]	[ 9.24 - 9.43 - 9.63 ]	[ 9.67 - 9.9 - 10.12 ]	3,32E-49
WARS	STEM	[ 9.33 - 9.39 - 9.45 ]	[ 9.41 - 9.49 - 9.56 ]	[ 9.57 - 9.64 - 9.71 ]	[ 9.78 - 9.89 - 9.99 ]	9,56E-76
VIL1	STEM	[ 8.25 - 8.42 - 8.59 ]	[ 7.76 - 7.98 - 8.2 ]	[ 9.24 - 9.42 - 9.6 ]	[ 9.66 - 9.88 - 10.11 ]	8,27E-36
SPAG5	STEM	[ 9.51 - 9.58 - 9.66 ]	[ 8.96 - 9.07 - 9.18 ]	[ 9.45 - 9.54 - 9.62 ]	[ 9.78 - 9.88 - 9.98 ]	5,44E-43
VAT1	STEM	[ 9.26 - 9.32 - 9.38 ]	[ 9.55 - 9.65 - 9.75 ]	[ 9.58 - 9.65 - 9.72 ]	[ 9.78 - 9.86 - 9.94 ]	1,20E-42
ETV5	STEM	[ 8.88 - 8.95 - 9.02 ]	[ 8.69 - 8.79 - 8.88 ]	[ 9.27 - 9.36 - 9.45 ]	[ 9.74 - 9.84 - 9.94 ]	1,72E-34
AGO2	STEM	[ 9 - 9.06 - 9.12 ]	[ 9.34 - 9.43 - 9.51 ]	[ 9.45 - 9.52 - 9.58 ]	[ 9.73 - 9.81 - 9.9 ]	6,42E-52
LHFPL2	STEM	[ 8.62 - 8.7 - 8.78 ]	[ 8.76 - 8.89 - 9.02 ]	[ 9.23 - 9.33 - 9.43 ]	[ 9.67 - 9.79 - 9.91 ]	6,40E-31
LAMB1	STEM	[ 8.65 - 8.73 - 8.81 ]	[ 8.24 - 8.35 - 8.46 ]	[ 9.08 - 9.19 - 9.3 ]	[ 9.65 - 9.78 - 9.9 ]	1,58E-25
NCAPG	STEM	[ 8.39 - 8.5 - 8.61 ]	[ 8.6 - 8.72 - 8.84 ]	[ 8.87 - 8.97 - 9.08 ]	[ 9.61 - 9.72 - 9.83 ]	1,65E-47
LPCAT1	STEM	[ 8.55 - 8.62 - 8.7 ]	[ 8.65 - 8.77 - 8.89 ]	[ 9.08 - 9.17 - 9.25 ]	[ 9.61 - 9.7 - 9.8 ]	1,49E-41
ARID5B	STEM	[ 8.84 - 8.9 - 8.97 ]	[ 8.79 - 8.87 - 8.96 ]	[ 9.25 - 9.31 - 9.38 ]	[ 9.6 - 9.69 - 9.78 ]	6,84E-21
YEATS2	STEM	[ 8.69 - 8.75 - 8.8 ]	[ 8.72 - 8.79 - 8.86 ]	[ 9.1 - 9.15 - 9.2 ]	[ 9.59 - 9.66 - 9.73 ]	8,61E-36
LCN2	STEM	[ 8.66 - 8.87 - 9.08 ]	[ 10.6 - 10.84 - 11.09 ]	[ 9.98 - 10.19 - 10.41 ]	[ 9.39 - 9.64 - 9.89 ]	5,34E-38
LUM	STEM	[ 9.18 - 9.37 - 9.57 ]	[ 7.45 - 7.72 - 7.99 ]	[ 9.37 - 9.65 - 9.92 ]	[ 9.37 - 9.64 - 9.91 ]	9,72E-44
SLC52A2	STEM	[ 8.92 - 8.98 - 9.04 ]	[ 9.02 - 9.1 - 9.18 ]	[ 9.26 - 9.34 - 9.42 ]	[ 9.54 - 9.63 - 9.72 ]	5,86E-46
GPD1L	STEM	[ 8.66 - 8.75 - 8.84 ]	[ 8.41 - 8.52 - 8.63 ]	[ 9.23 - 9.32 - 9.41 ]	[ 9.5 - 9.61 - 9.71 ]	7,01E-65
MTHFD2	STEM	[ 8.6 - 8.68 - 8.75 ]	[ 8.38 - 8.49 - 8.6 ]	[ 8.79 - 8.89 - 9 ]	[ 9.45 - 9.6 - 9.74 ]	1,73E-36
TIMELESS	STEM	[ 9.3 - 9.36 - 9.43 ]	[ 9.1 - 9.17 - 9.25 ]	[ 9.18 - 9.25 - 9.32 ]	[ 9.48 - 9.56 - 9.64 ]	4,79E-38
TESC	STEM	[ 8.22 - 8.32 - 8.42 ]	[ 8.08 - 8.22 - 8.37 ]	[ 8.89 - 9.03 - 9.17 ]	[ 9.38 - 9.55 - 9.72 ]	1,37E-46
PLEKHB2	STEM	[ 8.85 - 8.91 - 8.97 ]	[ 8.92 - 9 - 9.08 ]	[ 9.11 - 9.17 - 9.24 ]	[ 9.43 - 9.51 - 9.59 ]	2,70E-40
RFC5	STEM	[ 9.3 - 9.37 - 9.45 ]	[ 9.11 - 9.17 - 9.24 ]	[ 9.13 - 9.2 - 9.27 ]	[ 9.4 - 9.48 - 9.56 ]	5,91E-47

ARHGEF2	STEM	[ 8.35 - 8.42 - 8.48 ]	[ 8.32 - 8.4 - 8.49 ]	[ 8.88 - 8.95 - 9.03 ]	[ 9.4 - 9.48 - 9.56 ]	3,44E-27
TUBB3	STEM	[ 8.54 - 8.61 - 8.68 ]	[ 8.48 - 8.56 - 8.65 ]	[ 8.98 - 9.07 - 9.16 ]	[ 9.35 - 9.48 - 9.6 ]	9,81E-22
COLGALT1	STEM	[ 9.22 - 9.27 - 9.32 ]	[ 9.1 - 9.17 - 9.23 ]	[ 9.19 - 9.25 - 9.31 ]	[ 9.4 - 9.48 - 9.55 ]	7,94E-21
ASNS	STEM	[ 7.67 - 7.79 - 7.9 ]	[ 7.67 - 7.85 - 8.02 ]	[ 8.75 - 8.89 - 9.04 ]	[ 9.31 - 9.47 - 9.64 ]	1,32E-49
CLSTN1	STEM	[ 8.75 - 8.82 - 8.89 ]	[ 8.73 - 8.83 - 8.92 ]	[ 9.03 - 9.1 - 9.17 ]	[ 9.36 - 9.45 - 9.54 ]	2,40E-21
MST4	STEM	[ 8.91 - 9 - 9.09 ]	[ 8.33 - 8.49 - 8.65 ]	[ 9.28 - 9.38 - 9.48 ]	[ 9.34 - 9.45 - 9.56 ]	6,88E-25
CAPG	STEM	[ 8.17 - 8.28 - 8.38 ]	[ 7.78 - 7.92 - 8.06 ]	[ 8.9 - 9.02 - 9.15 ]	[ 9.3 - 9.44 - 9.57 ]	5,54E-26
KRT23	STEM	[ 7.85 - 8.04 - 8.23 ]	[ 7.85 - 8.11 - 8.36 ]	[ 9.2 - 9.43 - 9.65 ]	[ 9.16 - 9.43 - 9.7 ]	1,14E-29
MAPK13	STEM	[ 7.55 - 7.65 - 7.75 ]	[ 7.14 - 7.25 - 7.36 ]	[ 8.44 - 8.57 - 8.7 ]	[ 9.26 - 9.41 - 9.55 ]	5,09E-76
UGCG	STEM	[ 9.13 - 9.2 - 9.28 ]	[ 8.59 - 8.7 - 8.8 ]	[ 9.15 - 9.23 - 9.31 ]	[ 9.3 - 9.39 - 9.48 ]	3,20E-30
PHF21A	STEM	[ 8.62 - 8.67 - 8.73 ]	[ 8.69 - 8.76 - 8.84 ]	[ 9.02 - 9.07 - 9.13 ]	[ 9.32 - 9.39 - 9.45 ]	4,63E-62
SOBP	STEM	[ 8.05 - 8.17 - 8.29 ]	[ 7.51 - 7.69 - 7.87 ]	[ 8.69 - 8.84 - 8.98 ]	[ 9.17 - 9.36 - 9.55 ]	9,15E-45
MTMR2	STEM	[ 8.45 - 8.52 - 8.59 ]	[ 8.17 - 8.28 - 8.4 ]	[ 8.77 - 8.85 - 8.93 ]	[ 9.28 - 9.36 - 9.44 ]	3,23E-28
G6PC3	STEM	[ 8.97 - 9.01 - 9.06 ]	[ 9.07 - 9.12 - 9.17 ]	[ 8.99 - 9.06 - 9.12 ]	[ 9.26 - 9.35 - 9.44 ]	1,17E-42
P2RX4	STEM	[ 8.65 - 8.72 - 8.79 ]	[ 8.46 - 8.55 - 8.64 ]	[ 8.98 - 9.05 - 9.12 ]	[ 9.25 - 9.33 - 9.42 ]	8,07E-34
RNF44	STEM	[ 8.67 - 8.72 - 8.76 ]	[ 9.09 - 9.17 - 9.24 ]	[ 9.02 - 9.07 - 9.13 ]	[ 9.24 - 9.31 - 9.39 ]	6,16E-30
STX3	STEM	[ 8.27 - 8.34 - 8.41 ]	[ 8.22 - 8.34 - 8.45 ]	[ 8.69 - 8.79 - 8.88 ]	[ 9.19 - 9.3 - 9.4 ]	5,37E-43
H2AFY2	STEM	[ 7.72 - 7.82 - 7.92 ]	[ 8.19 - 8.34 - 8.5 ]	[ 8.73 - 8.86 - 8.99 ]	[ 9.14 - 9.3 - 9.46 ]	8,42E-43
ARID3A	STEM	[ 7.74 - 7.81 - 7.88 ]	[ 7.79 - 7.89 - 7.99 ]	[ 8.55 - 8.67 - 8.78 ]	[ 9.13 - 9.29 - 9.45 ]	4,17E-27
CDC42EP1	STEM	[ 8.68 - 8.74 - 8.8 ]	[ 8.46 - 8.54 - 8.62 ]	[ 8.99 - 9.06 - 9.13 ]	[ 9.16 - 9.26 - 9.35 ]	1,15E-69
VNN2	STEM	[ 8.37 - 8.51 - 8.65 ]	[ 7.31 - 7.47 - 7.63 ]	[ 9.02 - 9.18 - 9.35 ]	[ 9.05 - 9.23 - 9.42 ]	1,59E-62
TRAF5	STEM	[ 7.97 - 8.06 - 8.15 ]	[ 8.05 - 8.17 - 8.29 ]	[ 8.77 - 8.87 - 8.97 ]	[ 9.11 - 9.23 - 9.34 ]	3,95E-42
POSTN	STEM	[ 7.81 - 7.98 - 8.15 ]	[ 7.21 - 7.41 - 7.61 ]	[ 8.58 - 8.78 - 8.98 ]	[ 9 - 9.22 - 9.45 ]	1,68E-49
TP53BP1	STEM	[ 8.71 - 8.75 - 8.8 ]	[ 8.8 - 8.86 - 8.92 ]	[ 8.9 <mark>2 - 8</mark> .96 - 9.01 ]	[ 9.15 - 9.21 - 9.28 ]	2,09E-38
KDELR3	STEM	[ 8.61 - 8.73 - 8.85 ]	[ 7.88 - 8.03 - 8.19 ]	[ 8.97 - 9.08 - 9.2 ]	[ 9.07 - 9.21 - 9.35 ]	1,98E-41
TACC3	STEM	[ 8.23 - 8.3 - 8.37 ]	[ 8.21 - 8.3 - 8.4 ]	[ 8.55 - 8.62 - 8.69 ]	[ 9.11 - 9.2 - 9.3 ]	5,84E-68

S100A9	STEM	[ 8.03 - 8.15 - 8.28 ]	[ 7.6 - 7.76 - 7.92 ]	[ 8.42 - 8.56 - 8.7 ]	[ 8.96 - 9.2 - 9.44 ]	1,66E-19
DKK1	STEM	[ 5.73 - 5.86 - 5.99 ]	[ 7.28 - 7.64 - 8.01 ]	[ 6.89 - 7.1 - 7.31 ]	[ 8.86 - 9.18 - 9.49 ]	1,70E-35
RAB15	STEM	[ 8.66 - 8.74 - 8.81 ]	[ 9.25 - 9.34 - 9.44 ]	[ 9.09 - 9.16 - 9.23 ]	[ 9.08 - 9.17 - 9.26 ]	1,94E-71
UCHL1	STEM	[ 7.8 - 7.92 - 8.03 ]	[ 7.43 - 7.58 - 7.73 ]	[ 8.2 - 8.35 - 8.5 ]	[ 8.92 - 9.17 - 9.42 ]	2,77E-14
LYN	STEM	[ 8.62 - 8.69 - 8.77 ]	[ 8.92 - 9.01 - 9.11 ]	[ 8.93 - 9.01 - 9.08 ]	[ 9.06 - 9.16 - 9.26 ]	1,18E-45
DLG5	STEM	[ 8.24 - 8.32 - 8.4 ]	[ 9.07 - 9.16 - 9.26 ]	[ 8.68 - 8.75 - 8.82 ]	[ 9.04 - 9.13 - 9.22 ]	2,90E-29
GPX7	STEM	[ 8.21 - 8.32 - 8.44 ]	[ 7.76 - 7.89 - 8.03 ]	[ 8.55 - 8.66 - 8.77 ]	[ 8.99 - 9.13 - 9.27 ]	9,60E-57
NSMAF	STEM	[ 8.26 - 8.32 - 8.39 ]	[ 8.57 - 8.66 - 8.75 ]	[ 8.86 - 8.93 - 8.99 ]	[ 9.05 - 9.13 - 9.2 ]	4,83E-25
ZNF532	STEM	[ 8.07 - 8.13 - 8.2 ]	[ 7.89 - 7.97 - 8.05 ]	[ 8.55 - 8.64 - 8.72 ]	[ 9.03 - 9.13 - 9.22 ]	1,12E-43
STK17A	STEM	[ 8.32 - 8.39 - 8.46 ]	[ 8.61 - 8.7 - 8.79 ]	[ 8.79 - 8.87 - 8.94 ]	[ 9.03 - 9.12 - 9.2 ]	9,31E-10
ADAM9	STEM	[ 8.18 - 8.25 - 8.33 ]	[ 8.49 - 8.58 - 8.68 ]	[ 8.34 - 8.42 - 8.5 ]	[ 8.98 - 9.09 - 9.19 ]	2,32E-53
GTF2IRD1	STEM	[ 8.6 - 8.68 - 8.76 ]	[ 9.15 - 9.24 - 9.33 ]	[ 8.68 - 8.75 - 8.82 ]	[ 9 - 9.08 - 9.15 ]	3,24E-42
C1orf106	STEM	[ 7.7 - 7.85 - 8.01 ]	[ 6.96 - 7.16 - 7.35 ]	[ 8.62 - 8.79 - 8.95 ]	[ 8.89 - 9.07 - 9.25 ]	7,52E-66
VRK1	STEM	[ 8.5 - 8.56 - 8.63 ]	[ 8.28 - 8.36 - 8.43 ]	[ 8.62 - 8.68 - 8.74 ]	[ 8.98 - 9.06 - 9.14 ]	1,19E-45
BICC1	STEM	[ 7.38 - 7.5 - 7.63 ]	[ 7.06 - 7.25 - 7.45 ]	[ 8.26 - 8.4 - 8.55 ]	[ 8.83 - 9.01 - 9.18 ]	5,05E-64
TPM4	STEM	[ 8.1 - 8.17 - 8.23 ]	[ 7.94 - 8.04 - 8.15 ]	[ 8.43 - 8.51 - 8.6 ]	[ 8.85 - 8.97 - 9.09 ]	5,02E-34
MMP12	STEM	[ 5.95 - 6.1 - 6.25 ]	[ 6.59 - 6.82 - 7.04 ]	[ 7.34 - 7.56 - 7.78 ]	[ 8.66 - 8.95 - 9.24 ]	5,79E-18
CEP55	STEM	[ 7.44 - 7.52 - 7.61 ]	[ 7.48 - 7.59 - 7.71 ]	[ 8.06 - 8.15 - 8.24 ]	[ 8.83 - 8.95 - 9.07 ]	2,24E-34
PDGFRA	STEM	[ 8.24 - 8.37 - 8.5 ]	[ 7.15 - 7.32 - 7.49 ]	[ 8.44 - 8.62 - 8.8 ]	[ 8.72 - 8.92 - 9.12 ]	1,11E-48
DSG2	STEM	[ 8.33 - 8.42 - 8.52 ]	[ 7.53 - 7.69 - 7.84 ]	[ 8.43 - 8.53 - 8.64 ]	[ 8.78 - 8.91 - 9.05 ]	8,79E-22
TCF7L1	STEM	[ 8.98 - 9.05 - 9.11 ]	[ 8.14 - 8.23 - 8.33 ]	[ 8.74 - 8.82 - 8.9 ]	[ 8.81 - 8.91 - 9.01 ]	1,13E-47
SPHK1	STEM	[ 7.41 - 7.5 - 7.6 ]	[ 7.22 - 7.37 - 7.52 ]	[ 7.94 - 8.07 - 8.19 ]	[ 8.73 - 8.89 - 9.05 ]	8,91E-59
HK2	STEM	[ 7.3 - 7.39 - 7.48 ]	[ 7.22 - 7.34 - 7.46 ]	[ 7.96 - 8.1 - 8.24 ]	[ 8.68 - 8.85 - 9.03 ]	3,30E-37
RIT1	STEM	[ 8.28 - 8.34 - 8.39 ]	[ 8.28 - 8.34 - 8.41 ]	[ 8.46 - 8.53 - 8.6 ]	[ 8.76 - 8.85 - 8.95 ]	4,85E-25
			0.00 0.00	20 20 20 21	[97 995 0	
NDUFA4L2	STEM	[ 8.06 - 8.13 - 8.21 ]	8.18 <u>8</u> .18	[ 0.20 - 0.30 - 8.46 ]	[0.7 - 0.05 - 9	1,11E-15

ARHGEF3	STEM	[ 8.16 - 8.24 - 8.31 ]	[ 8.09 - 8.21 - 8.34 ]	[ 8.69 - 8.78 - 8.88 ]	[ 8.75 - 8.84 - 8.93 ]	3,12E-54
SULF1	STEM	[ 7.54 - 7.68 - 7.82 ]	[ 6.89 - 7.05 - 7.22 ]	[ 8.51 - 8.72 - 8.92 ]	[ 8.62 - 8.84 - 9.06 ]	2,65E-39
STEAP1	STEM	[ 8.08 - 8.23 - 8.38 ]	[ 8.79 - 8.99 - 9.19 ]	[ 8.39 - 8.55 - 8.71 ]	[ 8.67 - 8.84 - 9.01 ]	1,31E-30
CENPA	STEM	[ 7.77 - 7.87 - 7.97 ]	[ 7.74 - 7.85 - 7.97 ]	[ 8.08 - 8.17 - 8.27 ]	[ 8.73 - 8.83 - 8.93 ]	1,57E-55
SLC25A24	STEM	[ 8.13 - 8.22 - 8.31 ]	[ 7.81 - 7.95 - 8.08 ]	[ 8.33 - 8.44 - 8.55 ]	[ 8.68 - 8.82 - 8.96 ]	4,98E-39
G6PD	STEM	[ 7.35 - 7.43 - 7.52 ]	[ 7.75 - 7.89 - 8.02 ]	[ 7.95 - 8.05 - 8.15 ]	[ 8.66 - 8.8 - 8.95 ]	4,50E-71
SLC12A8	STEM	[ 8.15 - 8.24 - 8.33 ]	[ 7.5 - 7.63 - 7.75 ]	[ 8.53 - 8.63 - 8.73 ]	[ 8.69 - 8.8 - 8.91 ]	2,79E-67
C12orf49	STEM	[ 7.91 - 7.97 - 8.03 ]	[ 7.79 - 7.88 - 7.98 ]	[ 8.3 - 8.37 - 8.44 ]	[ 8.67 - 8.76 - 8.85 ]	3,18E-69
HILPDA	STEM	[ 7.83 - 7.9 - 7.97 ]	[ 7.82 - 7.91 - 8 ]	[ 7.96 - 8.03 - 8.11 ]	[ 8.6 - 8.72 - 8.84 ]	4,33E-15
TRIP13	STEM	[ 7.54 - 7.63 - 7.73 ]	[ 7.66 - 7.79 - 7.91 ]	[ 7.88 - 7.96 - 8.05 ]	[ 8.6 - 8.72 - 8.84 ]	7,44E-38
PSRC1	STEM	[ 7.93 - 7.99 - 8.05 ]	[ 8.05 - 8.13 - 8.21 ]	[ 8.15 - 8.23 - 8.3 ]	[ 8.62 - 8.71 - 8.81 ]	6,52E-51
AGPAT5	STEM	[ 8.72 - 8.83 - 8.93 ]	[ 8.05 - 8.17 - 8.29 ]	[ 8.49 - 8.58 - 8.67 ]	[ 8.58 - 8.7 - 8.81 ]	5,26E-47
MUC13	STEM	[ 8.61 - 8.79 - 8.96 ]	[ 7.02 - 7.21 - 7.4 ]	[ 8.97 - 9.19 - 9.41 ]	[ 8.42 - 8.68 - 8.95 ]	2,42E-52
SMOX	STEM	[ 7.66 - 7.72 - 7.78 ]	[ 7.68 - 7.78 - 7.87 ]	[ 8.07 - 8.15 - 8.23 ]	[ 8.57 - 8.67 - 8.77 ]	1,09E-81
DLGAP5	STEM	[ 7.24 - 7.34 - 7.45 ]	[ 7.33 - 7.47 - 7.6 ]	[ 7.76 - 7.87 - 7.98 ]	[ 8.54 - 8.67 - 8.81 ]	2,31E-48
BLM	STEM	[ 7.57 - 7.66 - 7.76 ]	[ 7.29 - 7.4 - 7.51 ]	[ 8.04 - 8.14 - 8.23 ]	[ 8.55 - 8.66 - 8.77 ]	2,69E-40
ASAP1	STEM	[ 7.52 - 7.59 - 7.67 ]	[ 7.9 - 8.02 - 8.14 ]	[ 8.18 - 8.27 - 8.35 ]	[ 8.54 - 8.66 - 8.77 ]	3,12E-30
CDC7	STEM	[ 7.94 - 8.03 - 8.12 ]	[ 7.62 - 7.71 - 7.81 ]	[ 8.18 - 8.27 - 8.36 ]	[ 8.54 - 8.64 - 8.74 ]	1,37E-15
SLC4A7	STEM	[ 7.9 - 7.97 - 8.04 ]	[ 7.6 - 7.7 - 7.8 ]	[ 8.12 - 8.21 - 8.29 ]	[ 8.46 - 8.56 - 8.66 ]	7,83E-72
BUB1B	STEM	[ 7.33 - 7.42 - 7.52 ]	[ 7.37 - 7.48 - 7.59 ]	[ 7.69 - 7.78 - 7.87 ]	[ 8.38 - 8.49 - 8.61 ]	4,78E-54
KIF2C	STEM	[ 7.37 - 7.45 - 7.54 ]	[ 7.42 - 7.53 - 7.63 ]	[ 7.79 - 7.88 - 7.97 ]	[ 8.37 - 8.47 - 8.58 ]	3,01E-46
KIF11	STEM	[ 7.16 - 7.25 - 7.35 ]	[ 7.32 - 7.43 - 7.54 ]	[ 7.58 - 7.68 - 7.79 ]	[ 8.34 - 8.46 - 8.57 ]	1,84E-45
F2RL1	STEM	[ 8.51 - 8.66 - 8.8 ]	[ 7.25 - 7.43 - 7.61 ]	[ 8.67 - 8.83 - 8.98 ]	[ 8.28 - 8.45 - 8.63 ]	1,25E-75
SHCBP1	STEM	[ 7.56 - 7.65 - 7.73 ]	[ 7.71 - 7.81 - 7.91 ]	[ 7.9 <mark>3 - 8</mark> .02 - 8.1 ]	[ 8.32 - 8.43 - 8.54 ]	8,28E-35
KIF4A	STEM	[ 7.34 - 7.43 - 7.53 ]	[ 7.3 - 7.44 - 7.58 ]	[ 7.7 - 7.81 - 7.93 ]	[ 8.28 - 8.42 - 8.56 ]	4,19E-45
GNAZ	STEM	[ 7.78 - 7.89 - 7.99 ]	[ 7.38 - 7.49 - 7.6 ]	[ 8.24 - 8.35 - 8.46 ]	[ 8.3 - 8.42 - 8.54 ]	3,61E-31

STK39	STEM	[ 7.25 - 7.35 - 7.45 ]	[ 7.42 - 7.57 - 7.71 ]	[ 8.19 - 8.29 - 8.39 ]	[ 8.27 - 8.41 - 8.55 ]	2,34E-08
MGAT4A	STEM	[ 7.85 - 7.92 - 8 ]	[ 7.58 - 7.69 - 7.79 ]	[ 8.21 - 8.28 - 8.34 ]	[ 8.31 - 8.4 - 8.5 ]	3,22E-51
SFI1	STEM	[ 7.64 - 7.69 - 7.74 ]	[ 7.51 - 7.58 - 7.66 ]	[ 7.93 - 8 - 8.07 ]	[ 8.3 - 8.4 - 8.5 ]	1,77E-27
BUB1	STEM	[ 6.92 - 7.02 - 7.13 ]	[ 7.14 - 7.28 - 7.42 ]	[ 7.44 - 7.55 - 7.67 ]	[ 8.26 - 8.39 - 8.51 ]	7,51E-50
EPS8L3	STEM	[ 6.77 - 6.89 - 7 ]	[ 7.92 - 8.12 - 8.32 ]	[ 7.84 - 7.98 - 8.13 ]	[ 8.2 - 8.37 - 8.54 ]	9,11E-55
KIF23	STEM	[ 6.99 - 7.09 - 7.19 ]	[ 6.91 - 7.02 - 7.13 ]	[ 7.31 - 7.41 - 7.5 ]	[ 8.19 - 8.31 - 8.43 ]	2,50E-51
SSUH2	STEM	[ 7.07 - 7.21 - 7.35 ]	[ 7.68 - 7.9 - 8.12 ]	[ 8.1 - 8.28 - 8.47 ]	[ 8.04 - 8.25 - 8.46 ]	8,93E-25
CENPE	STEM	[ 7.02 - 7.12 - 7.22 ]	[ 7.07 - 7.19 - 7.31 ]	[ 7.43 - 7.53 - 7.64 ]	[ 8.11 - 8.24 - 8.37 ]	2,71E-43
ASRGL1	STEM	[ 7.58 - 7.69 - 7.8 ]	[ 6.95 - 7.06 - 7.16 ]	[ 7.64 - 7.76 - 7.88 ]	[ 7.99 - 8.14 - 8.28 ]	3,10E-32
MEP1A	STEM	[ 6.32 - 6.53 - 6.74 ]	[ 5.52 - 5.68 - 5.84 ]	[ 7.17 - 7.41 - 7.64 ]	[ 7.79 - 8.09 - 8.39 ]	3,09E-31
SLC7A1	STEM	[ 6.65 - 6.73 - 6.82 ]	[ 6.84 - 6.96 - 7.09 ]	[ 7.43 - 7.52 - 7.61 ]	[ 7.9 - 8.01 - 8.12 ]	3,59E-20
SYNGR1	STEM	[ 7.25 - 7.36 - 7.47 ]	[ 7.92 - 8.08 - 8.23 ]	[ 7.83 - 7.95 - 8.07 ]	[ 7.76 - 7.9 - 8.03 ]	1,42E-49
HOMER1	STEM	[ 6.9 - 7.04 - 7.17 ]	[ 6.26 - 6.43 - 6.6 ]	[ 7.47 - 7.6 - 7.72 ]	[ 7.65 - 7.78 - 7.92 ]	2,55E-44
СОСН	STEM	[ 7.28 - 7.47 - 7.65 ]	[ 6.11 - 6.29 - 6.48 ]	[ 7.59 - 7.78 - 7.96 ]	[ 7.57 - 7.78 - 7.99 ]	2,94E-33
PLXNC1	STEM	[ 7.44 - 7.54 - 7.64 ]	[ 6.58 - 6.69 - 6.81 ]	[ 7.66 - 7.75 - 7.85 ]	[ 7.6 - 7.71 - 7.83 ]	2,31E-62
NRCAM	STEM	[ 6.12 - 6.27 - 6.43 ]	[ 7.12 - 7.44 - 7.75 ]	[ 7.29 - 7.48 - 7.66 ]	[ 7.36 - 7.57 - 7.78 ]	1,42E-08
LRRC8B	STEM	[ 6.8 - 6.88 - 6.95 ]	[ 6.37 - 6.47 - 6.58 ]	[ 7.13 - 7.22 - 7.31 ]	[ 7.33 - 7.45 - 7.57 ]	7,62E-23
APOA1	PERIPORTAL	[ 14.26 - 14.31 - 14.37 ]	[ 13.27 - 13.42 - 13.58 ]	[ 13.66 - 13.77 - 13.89 ]	[ 12.64 - 12.87 - 13.11 ]	4,32E-89
HRG	PERIPORTAL	[ 14.23 - 14.28 - 14.34 ]	[ 12.72 - 12.94 - 13.17 ]	[ 13.34 - 13.46 - 13.58 ]	[ 11.28 - 11.52 - 11.77 ]	6,81E- 113
ALDOB	PERIPORTAL	[ 14.15 - 14.2 - 14.25 ]	[ 12.76 - 12.93 - 13.1 ]	[ 13.61 - 13.68 - 13.75 ]	[ 11.58 - 11.82 - 12.06 ]	7,62E-55
HPX	PERIPORTAL	[ 13.95 - 14 - 14.06 ]	[ 13.19 - 13.32 - 13.45 ]	[ 13.33 - 13.43 - 13.52 ]	[ 11.85 - 12.04 - 12.23 ]	2,20E-76
PLG	PERIPORTAL	[ 13.44 - 13.51 - 13.57 ]	[ 13.26 - 13.38 - 13.49 ]	[ 12.66 - 12.76 - 12.87 ]	[ 11.12 - 11.35 - 11.59 ]	3,79E-95
CPS1	PERIPORTAL	[ 13.33 - 13.42 - 13.51 ]	[ 12.93 - 13.11 - 13.28 ]	[ 12.6 - 12.75 - 12.9 ]	[ 10.84 - 11.1 - 11.36 ]	2,87E-48
ARG1	PERIPORTAL	[ 13.33 - 13.41 - 13.48 ]	[ 11.88 - 12.07 - 12.25 ]	[ 12.75 - 12.85 - 12.96 ]	[ 10.92 - 11.15 - 11.37 ]	3,81E-47
AGXT	PERIPORTAL	[ 13.28 - 13.34 - 13.41 ]	[ 12.18 - 12.34 - 12.5 ]	[ 12.59 - 12.69 - 12.79 ]	[ 10.77 - 11.01 - 11.24 ]	3,09E-90
F9	PERIPORTAL	[ 13.19 - 13.27 - 13.36 ]	[ 11.67 - 11.88 - 12.09 ]	[ 12.24 - 12.36 - 12.48 ]	[ 9.77 - 10.04 - 10.32 ]	8,12E-65
ADH1A	PERIPORTAL	[ 13.15 - 13.25 - 13.35 ]	[ 13.08 - 13.25 - 13.42 ]	[ 12.96 - 13.07 - 13.17 ]	[ 11.26 - 11.51 - 11.75 ]	6,34E-76
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DCXR	PERIPORTAL	[ 13.14 - 13.2 - 13.26 ]	[ 13.49 - 13.57 - 13.65 ]	[ 12.2 - 12.28 - 12.35 ]	[ 11.21 - 11.32 - 11.44 ]	8,45E-86
ASS1	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.97 - 13.04 - 13.12 ]	[ 12.56 - 12.64 - 12.71 ]	[ 12.43 - 12.5 - 12.56 ]	[ 11.76 - 11.87 - 11.98 ]	2,56E-73
BHMT	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.9 - 13 - 13.11 ]	[ 12.41 - 12.55 - 12.69 ]	[ 11.74 - 11.88 - 12.01 ]	[ 9.97 - 10.18 - 10.4 ]	5,33E- 108
SLC10A1	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.65 - 12.73 - 12.82 ]	[ 11.49 - 11.68 - 11.86 ]	[ 11.2 - 11.34 - 11.48 ]	[ 8.17 - 8.4 - 8.63 ]	6,82E-23
C6	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.64 - 12.73 - 12.82 ]	[ 12.07 - 12.24 - 12.4 ]	[ 11.92 - 12.03 - 12.14 ]	[ 10.15 - 10.34 - 10.53 ]	8,37E-97
APCS	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.62 - 12.72 - 12.82 ]	[ 12.69 - 12.85 - 13.02 ]	[ 12.34 - 12.49 - 12.64 ]	[ 10.71 - 10.97 - 11.23 ]	1,03E-37
HGD	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.64 - 12.71 - 12.77 ]	[ 12.61 - 12.71 - 12.81 ]	[ 11.91 - 11.99 - 12.08 ]	[ 10.83 - 10.97 - 11.11 ]	3,10E-47
FBP1	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.58 - 12.66 - 12.74 ]	[ 11.11 - 11.26 - 11.42 ]	[ 11.92 - 12.01 - 12.1 ]	[ 10.67 - 10.81 - 10.94 ]	3,31E- 130
AZGP1	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.59 - 12.65 - 12.71 ]	[ 12.38 - 12.47 - 12.55 ]	[ 11.7 - 11.79 - 11.87 ]	[ 10.55 - 10.72 - 10.9 ]	2,53E- 141
ECHDC2	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.59 - 12.65 - 12.7 ]	[ 12.5 - 12.58 - 12.65 ]	[ 12.12 - 12.18 - 12.23 ]	[ 11.39 - 11.47 - 11.55 ]	3,60E-41
C8A	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.57 - 12.63 - 12.7 ]	[ 12.26 - 12.37 - 12.49 ]	[ 11.79 - 11.88 - 11.97 ]	[ 10.4 - 10.57 - 10.73 ]	2,91E-91
HRSP12	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.53 - 12.59 - 12.65 ]	[ 11.88 - 11.99 - 12 1 1	[ 11.76 - 11.85	[ 10.71 - 10.83	1,96E-62
	1	1	]	- 11.35 ]	- 10.35 ]	
HSD11B1	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.44 - 12.58 - 12.73 ]	[ 12.92 - 13.1 - 13.28 ]	[ 10.51 - 10.72 - 10.93 ]	[ 8.8 - 9.04 - 9.27 ]	2,94E- 104
HSD11B1 APOC4	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[ 12.44 - 12.58 - 12.73 ] [ 12.48 - 12.57 - 12.66 ]	[ 12.92 - 13.1 - 13.28 ] [ 12.94 - 13.05 - 13.15 ]	[ 10.51 - 10.72 - 10.93 ] [ 11.59 - 11.72 - 11.85 ]	[ 8.8 - 9.04 - 9.27 ] [ 9.4 - 9.6 - 9.8 ]	2,94E- 104 9,87E- 101
HSD11B1 APOC4 TDO2	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[ 12.44 - 12.58 - 12.73 ] [ 12.48 - 12.57 - 12.66 ] [ 12.45 - 12.55 - 12.66 ]	[12.92 - 13.1 - 13.28] [12.94 - 13.05 - 13.15] [10.52 - 10.75 - 10.98]	[ 10.51 - 10.72 - 10.93 ] [ 11.59 - 11.72 - 11.85 ] [ 11.89 - 12.03 - 12.17 ]	[ 8.8 - 9.04 - 9.27 ] [ 9.4 - 9.6 - 9.8 ] [ 10.63 - 10.85 - 11.06 ]	2,94E- 104 9,87E- 101 7,29E-90
HSD11B1 APOC4 TDO2 SAA4	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[ 12.44 - 12.58 - 12.73 ] [ 12.48 - 12.57 - 12.66 ] [ 12.45 - 12.55 - 12.66 ] [ 12.38 - 12.47 - 12.55 ]	[ 12.92 - 13.1 - 13.28 ] [ 12.94 - 13.05 - 13.15 ] [ 10.52 - 10.75 - 10.98 ] [ 10.87 - 11.08 - 11.28 ]	[ 10.51 - 10.72 - 10.93 ] [ 11.59 - 11.72 - 11.85 ] [ 11.89 - 12.03 - 12.17 ] [ 11.87 - 11.99 - 12.12 ]	[ 8.8 - 9.04 - 9.27 ] [ 9.4 - 9.6 - 9.8 ] [ 10.63 - 10.85 - 11.06 ] [ 9.79 - 10.01 - 10.23 ]	2,94E- 104 9,87E- 101 7,29E-90 2,16E- 108
HSD11B1 APOC4 TDO2 SAA4 SDS	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[ 12.44 - 12.58 - 12.73 ] [ 12.48 - 12.57 - 12.66 ] [ 12.45 - 12.55 - 12.66 ] [ 12.38 - 12.47 - 12.55 ] [ 12.26 - 12.4 - 12.54 ]	[ 12.92 - 13.1 - 13.28 ] [ 12.94 - 13.05 - 13.15 ] [ 10.52 - 10.75 - 10.98 ] [ 10.87 - 11.08 - 11.28 ] [ 9.03 - 9.26 - 9.49 ]	[ 10.51 - 10.72 - 10.93 ] [ 11.59 - 11.72 - 11.85 ] [ 11.89 - 12.03 - 12.17 ] [ 11.87 - 11.99 - 12.12 ] [ 10.96 - 11.14 - 11.31 ]	[ 8.8 - 9.04 - 9.27 ] [ 9.4 - 9.6 - 9.8 ] [ 10.63 - 10.85 - 11.06 ] [ 9.79 - 10.01 - 10.23 ] [ 8.98 - 9.18 - 9.37 ]	2,94E- 104 9,87E- 101 7,29E-90 2,16E- 108 2,19E-96
HSD11B1 APOC4 TDO2 SAA4 SDS HPD	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[ 12.44 - 12.58 - 12.73 ] [ 12.48 - 12.57 - 12.66 ] [ 12.45 - 12.55 - 12.66 ] [ 12.38 - 12.47 - 12.55 ] [ 12.26 - 12.4 - 12.54 ] [ 12.25 - 12.37 - 12.5 ]	[12.92 - 13.1 - 13.28] [12.94 - 13.05 - 13.15] [10.52 - 10.75 - 10.98] [10.87 - 11.08 - 11.28] [9.03 - 9.26 - 9.49] [12.92 - 13.06 - 13.21]	[ 10.51 - 10.72 - 10.93 ] [ 11.59 - 11.72 - 11.85 ] [ 11.89 - 12.03 - 12.17 ] [ 11.87 - 11.99 - 12.12 ] [ 10.96 - 11.14 - 11.31 ] [ 10.85 - 11.09 - 11.32 ]	[ 8.8 - 9.04 - 9.27 ] [ 9.4 - 9.6 - 9.8 ] [ 10.63 - 10.85 - 11.06 ] [ 9.79 - 10.01 - 10.23 ] [ 8.98 - 9.18 - 9.37 ] [ 8.5 - 8.74 - 8.98 ]	2,94E- 104 9,87E- 101 7,29E-90 2,16E- 108 2,19E-96 1,01E-49
HSD11B1 APOC4 TDO2 SAA4 SDS HPD G6PC	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[ 12.44 - 12.58 - 12.73 ] [ 12.48 - 12.57 - 12.66 ] [ 12.45 - 12.55 - 12.66 ] [ 12.38 - 12.47 - 12.55 ] [ 12.26 - 12.4 - 12.54 ] [ 12.25 - 12.37 - 12.5 ] [ 12.29 - 12.37 - 12.45 ]	[12.92 - 13.1 - 13.28] [12.94 - 13.05 - 13.15] [10.52 - 10.75 - 10.98] [10.87 - 11.08 - 11.28] [9.03 - 9.26 - 9.49] [12.92 - 13.06 - 13.21] [11.77 - 11.94 - 12.1]	[ 10.51 - 10.72 - 10.93 ] [ 11.59 - 11.72 - 11.85 ] [ 11.89 - 12.03 - 12.17 ] [ 11.87 - 11.99 - 12.12 ] [ 10.96 - 11.14 - 11.31 ] [ 10.85 - 11.09 - 11.32 ] [ 11.8 - 11.92 - 12.03 ]	[ 8.8 - 9.04 - 9.27 ] [ 9.4 - 9.6 - 9.8 ] [ 10.63 - 10.85 - 11.06 ] [ 9.79 - 10.01 - 10.23 ] [ 8.98 - 9.18 - 9.37 ] [ 8.5 - 8.74 - 8.98 ] [ 10.16 - 10.38 - 10.6 ]	2,94E- 104 9,87E- 101 7,29E-90 2,16E- 108 2,19E-96 1,01E-49 2,44E-70
HSD11B1 APOC4 TDO2 SAA4 SDS HPD G6PC FMO3	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[ 12.44 - 12.58 - 12.73 ] [ 12.48 - 12.57 - 12.66 ] [ 12.45 - 12.55 - 12.66 ] [ 12.38 - 12.47 - 12.55 ] [ 12.26 - 12.4 - 12.54 ] [ 12.25 - 12.37 - 12.5 ] [ 12.29 - 12.37 - 12.45 ] [ 12.27 - 12.36 - 12.45 ]	[12.92 - 13.1 - 13.28] [12.94 - 13.05 - 13.15] [10.52 - 10.75 - 10.98] [10.87 - 11.08 - 11.28] [9.03 - 9.26 - 9.49] [12.92 - 13.06 - 13.21] [11.77 - 11.94 - 12.1] [12.89 - 12.96 - 13.04]	[ 10.51 - 10.72 - 10.93 ] [ 11.59 - 11.72 - 11.85 ] [ 11.89 - 12.03 - 12.17 ] [ 11.87 - 11.99 - 12.12 ] [ 10.96 - 11.14 - 11.31 ] [ 10.85 - 11.09 - 11.32 ] [ 11.8 - 11.92 - 12.03 ] [ 11.77 - 11.89 - 12 ]	[ 10.33 ] [ 8.8 - 9.04 - 9.27 ] [ 9.4 - 9.6 - 9.8 ] [ 10.63 - 10.85 - 11.06 ] [ 9.79 - 10.01 - 10.23 ] [ 8.98 - 9.18 - 9.37 ] [ 8.5 - 8.74 - 8.98 ] [ 10.16 - 10.38 - 10.6 ] [ 9.94 - 10.16 - 10.38 ]	2,94E- 104 9,87E- 101 7,29E-90 2,16E- 108 2,19E-96 1,01E-49 2,44E-70 3,36E-55
HSD11B1 APOC4 TDO2 SAA4 SDS HPD G6PC FMO3 C8B	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[ 12.44 - 12.58 - 12.73 ] [ 12.48 - 12.57 - 12.66 ] [ 12.45 - 12.55 - 12.66 ] [ 12.38 - 12.47 - 12.55 ] [ 12.26 - 12.4 - 12.54 ] [ 12.25 - 12.37 - 12.5 ] [ 12.29 - 12.37 - 12.45 ] [ 12.29 - 12.36 - 12.42 ]	[12.92 - 13.1 - 13.28] [12.94 - 13.05 - 13.15] [10.52 - 10.75 - 10.98] [10.87 - 11.08 - 11.28] [9.03 - 9.26 - 9.49] [12.92 - 13.06 - 13.21] [11.77 - 11.94 - 12.1] [12.89 - 12.96 - 13.04] [11.39 - 11.52 - 11.65]	[ 10.51 - 10.72 - 10.93 ] [ 11.59 - 11.72 - 11.85 ] [ 11.89 - 12.03 - 12.17 ] [ 11.87 - 11.99 - 12.12 ] [ 10.96 - 11.14 - 11.31 ] [ 10.85 - 11.09 - 11.32 ] [ 11.8 - 11.92 - 12.03 ] [ 11.77 - 11.89 - 12 ] [ 11.62 - 11.7 - 11.79 ]	[ 8.8 - 9.04 - 9.27 ] [ 9.4 - 9.6 - 9.8 ] [ 10.63 - 10.85 - 11.06 ] [ 9.79 - 10.01 - 10.23 ] [ 8.98 - 9.18 - 9.37 ] [ 8.5 - 8.74 - 8.98 ] [ 10.16 - 10.38 - 10.6 ] [ 9.94 - 10.16 - 10.38 ] [ 10.05 - 10.23 - 10.41 ]	2,94E- 104 9,87E- 101 7,29E-90 2,16E- 108 2,19E-96 1,01E-49 2,44E-70 3,36E-55 8,18E-60
HSD11B1 APOC4 TDO2 SAA4 SDS HPD G6PC FMO3 C8B LECT2	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[ 12.44 - 12.58 - 12.73 ] [ 12.48 - 12.57 - 12.66 ] [ 12.45 - 12.55 - 12.66 ] [ 12.38 - 12.47 - 12.55 ] [ 12.26 - 12.4 - 12.54 ] [ 12.25 - 12.37 - 12.5 ] [ 12.29 - 12.37 - 12.45 ] [ 12.27 - 12.36 - 12.45 ] [ 12.29 - 12.36 - 12.42 ] [ 12.22 - 12.35 - 12.49 ]	[12.92 - 13.1 - 13.28] [12.94 - 13.05 - 13.15] [10.52 - 10.75 - 10.98] [10.87 - 11.08 - 11.28] [9.03 - 9.26 - 9.49] [12.92 - 13.06 - 13.21] [11.77 - 11.94 - 12.1] [12.89 - 12.96 - 13.04] [11.39 - 11.52 - 11.65] [12.51 - 12.68 - 12.85]	[ 10.51 - 10.72 - 10.93 ] [ 11.59 - 11.72 - 11.85 ] [ 11.89 - 12.03 - 12.17 ] [ 11.87 - 11.99 - 12.12 ] [ 10.96 - 11.14 - 11.31 ] [ 10.85 - 11.09 - 11.32 ] [ 11.8 - 11.92 - 12.03 ] [ 11.77 - 11.89 - 12 ] [ 11.62 - 11.7 - 11.79 ] [ 11.76 - 11.95 - 12.14 ]	[ 10.33 ] [ 8.8 - 9.04 - 9.27 ] [ 9.4 - 9.6 - 9.8 ] [ 10.63 - 10.85 - 11.06 ] [ 9.79 - 10.01 - 10.23 ] [ 8.98 - 9.18 - 9.37 ] [ 8.5 - 8.74 - 8.98 ] [ 10.16 - 10.38 - 10.6 ] [ 9.94 - 10.16 - 10.38 ] [ 10.05 - 10.23 - 10.41 ] [ 9.8 - 10.1 - 10.39 ]	2,94E- 104 9,87E- 101 7,29E-90 2,16E- 108 2,19E-96 1,01E-49 2,44E-70 3,36E-55 8,18E-60 2,68E-35
HSD11B1 APOC4 TDO2 SAA4 SDS HPD G6PC FMO3 C8B LECT2 DPYS	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[12.44 - 12.58 -12.73] [12.48 - 12.57 -12.66] [12.45 - 12.55 -12.66] [12.38 - 12.47 -12.55] [12.26 - 12.4 -12.54] [12.25 - 12.37 -12.5] [12.29 - 12.37 -12.45] [12.29 - 12.36 -12.45] [12.29 - 12.36 -12.42] [12.22 - 12.35 -12.49] [12.28 - 12.35 -12.42]	[12.92 - 13.1 - 13.28] [12.94 - 13.05 - 13.15] [10.52 - 10.75 - 10.98] [10.87 - 11.08 - 11.28] [9.03 - 9.26 - 9.49] [12.92 - 13.06 - 13.21] [11.77 - 11.94 - 12.1] [12.89 - 12.96 - 13.04] [12.89 - 12.96 - 13.04] [11.39 - 11.52 - 11.65] [12.51 - 12.68 - 12.85] [12 - 12.15 - 12.29]	[ 10.51 - 10.72 - 10.93 ] [ 11.59 - 11.72 - 11.85 ] [ 11.89 - 12.03 - 12.17 ] [ 11.87 - 11.99 - 12.12 ] [ 10.96 - 11.14 - 11.31 ] [ 10.85 - 11.09 - 11.32 ] [ 11.8 - 11.92 - 12.03 ] [ 11.77 - 11.89 - 12 ] [ 11.62 - 11.7 - 11.79 ] [ 11.76 - 11.95 - 12.14 ] [ 11.62 - 11.74 - 11.86 ]	[ 10.33 ] [ 8.8 - 9.04 - 9.27 ] [ 9.4 - 9.6 - 9.8 ] [ 10.63 - 10.85 - 11.06 ] [ 9.79 - 10.01 - 10.23 ] [ 8.98 - 9.18 - 9.37 ] [ 8.5 - 8.74 - 8.98 ] [ 10.16 - 10.38 - 10.6 ] [ 9.94 - 10.16 - 10.38 ] [ 10.05 - 10.23 - 10.41 ] [ 9.8 - 10.1 - 10.39 ] [ 10 - 10.2 - 10.41 ]	2,94E- 104 9,87E- 101 7,29E-90 2,16E- 108 2,19E-96 1,01E-49 2,44E-70 3,36E-55 8,18E-60 2,68E-35 1,90E-95
HSD11B1 APOC4 TDO2 SAA4 SDS HPD G6PC FMO3 C8B LECT2 DPYS CYP2C9	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[12.44 - 12.58 -12.73] [12.48 - 12.57 -12.66] [12.45 - 12.55 -12.66] [12.38 - 12.47 -12.55] [12.26 - 12.4 -12.54] [12.25 - 12.37 -12.5] [12.29 - 12.37 -12.45] [12.29 - 12.36 -12.45] [12.29 - 12.36 -12.42] [12.22 - 12.35 -12.49] [12.28 - 12.35 -12.42] [12.2 - 12.32 -12.43]	[12.92 - 13.1 - 13.28] [12.94 - 13.05 - 13.15] [10.52 - 10.75 - 10.98] [10.87 - 11.08 - 11.28] [9.03 - 9.26 - 9.49] [12.92 - 13.06 - 13.21] [12.72 - 13.06 - 13.21] [12.89 - 12.96 - 13.04] [11.39 - 11.52 - 11.65] [12.51 - 12.68 - 12.85] [12 - 12.15 - 12.29] [12.24 - 12.41 - 12.57]	[ 10.51 - 10.72 - 10.93 ] [ 11.59 - 11.72 - 11.85 ] [ 11.89 - 12.03 - 12.17 ] [ 11.87 - 11.99 - 12.12 ] [ 10.96 - 11.14 - 11.31 ] [ 10.85 - 11.09 - 11.32 ] [ 11.8 - 11.92 - 12.03 ] [ 11.77 - 11.89 - 12 ] [ 11.62 - 11.7 - 11.79 ] [ 11.76 - 11.95 - 12.14 ] [ 11.62 - 11.74 - 11.86 ] [ 11.51 - 11.64 - 11.78 ]	[ 10.33 ] [ 8.8 - 9.04 - 9.27 ] [ 9.4 - 9.6 - 9.8 ] [ 10.63 - 10.85 - 11.06 ] [ 9.79 - 10.01 - 10.23 ] [ 8.98 - 9.18 - 9.37 ] [ 8.5 - 8.74 - 8.98 ] [ 10.16 - 10.38 - 10.6 ] [ 9.94 - 10.16 - 10.38 ] [ 10.05 - 10.23 - 10.41 ] [ 9.54 - 9.77 - 10 ]	2,94E- 104 9,87E- 101 7,29E-90 2,16E- 108 2,19E-96 1,01E-49 2,44E-70 3,36E-55 8,18E-60 2,68E-35 1,90E-95 1,33E-65

MAT1A	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.21 - 12.28 - 12.34 ]	[ 12.39 - 12.47 - 12.55 ]	[ 11.9 - 11.98 - 12.06 ]	[ 10.73 - 10.89 - 11.04 ]	5,31E-21
AQP9	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.17 - 12.26 - 12.35 ]	[ 13.29 - 13.37 - 13.45 ]	[ 11.45 - 11.55 - 11.66 ]	[ 9.55 - 9.76 - 9.97 ]	3,89E-99
ABAT	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.15 - 12.21 - 12.26 ]	[ 11.82 - 11.92 - 12.02 ]	[ 11.43 - 11.51 - 11.58 ]	[ 10.27 - 10.4 - 10.53 ]	1,22E-95
SULT2A1	PERIPORTAL	[ 12 - 12.12 - 12.23 ]	[ 12.4 - 12.51 - 12.63 ]	[ 11.64 - 11.75 - 11.87 ]	[ 9.86 - 10.09 - 10.31 ]	1,85E-95
MTHFD1	PERIPORTAL	[ 12.05 - 12.11 - 12.17 ]	[ 12.35 - 12.43 - 12.51 ]	[ 11.29 - 11.35 - 11.41 ]	[ 10.72 - 10.8 - 10.87 ]	3,71E-79
RDH16	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.98 - 12.07 - 12.17 ]	[ 10.59 - 10.77 - 10.94 ]	[ 10.54 - 10.66 - 10.79 ]	[ 8.64 - 8.82 - 9 ]	4,75E-67
CYP4A11	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.93 - 12.02 - 12.12 ]	[ 11.1 - 11.29 - 11.49 ]	[ 10.95 - 11.1 - 11.26 ]	[ 9.18 - 9.38 - 9.59 ]	1,44E- 102
OTC	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.87 - 11.98 - 12.09 ]	[ 11.69 - 11.82 - 11.96 ]	[ 11.38 - 11.5 - 11.61 ]	[ 8.85 - 9.1 - 9.34 ]	4,83E-83
ANPEP	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.9 - 11.97 - 12.04 ]	[ 11.12 - 11.24 - 11.35 ]	[ 11.74 - 11.81 - 11.89 ]	[ 11.47 - 11.59 - 11.72 ]	9,35E-85
CBS	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.89 - 11.95 - 12.02 ]	[ 11.08 - 11.22 - 11.35 ]	[ 11.23 - 11.31 - 11.39 ]	[ 10.34 - 10.49 - 10.64 ]	2,19E-49
HPR	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.83 - 11.95 - 12.07 ]	[ 12.31 - 12.44 - 12.58 ]	[ 10.96 - 11.1 - 11.24 ]	[ 9.39 - 9.6 - 9.8 ]	3,13E-79
SLC27A5	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.86 - 11.94 - 12.02 ]	[ 11.77 - 11.88 - 11.99 ]	[ 10.67 - 10.77 - 10.86 ]	[ 8.92 - 9.03 - 9.14 ]	2,20E- 113
ACAA1	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.83 - 11.89 - 11.96 ]	[ 11.96 - 12.04 - 12.11 ]	[ 11.35 - 11.42 - 11.5 ]	[ 11.04 - 11.13 - 11.21 ]	7,39E-94
HAO1	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.79 - 11.86 - 11.92 ]	[ 11.63 - 11.74 - 11.85 ]	[ 11.01 - 11.11 - 11.21 ]	[ 9.53 - 9.71 - 9.89 ]	1,22E-80
FTCD	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.77 - 11.86 - 11.95 ]	[ 11.18 - 11.35 - 11.51 ]	[ 11.22 - 11.33 - 11.45 ]	[ 10.01 - 10.21 - 10.41 ]	1,91E-81
PCK2	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.79 - 11.86 - 11.92 ]	[ 11.36 - 11.49 - 11.62 ]	[ 10.83 - 10.91 - 11 ]	[ 9.8 - 9.89 - 9.99 ]	2,99E- 110
AFM	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.72 - 11.82 - 11.91 ]	[ 10.94 - 11.12 - 11.3 ]	[ 11.08 - 11.22 - 11.35 ]	[ 8.91 - 9.14 - 9.37 ]	2,70E-59
SLC22A1	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.66 - 11.81 - 11.97 ]	[ 9.32 - 9.61 - 9.9 ]	[ 9.38 - 9.56 - 9.75 ]	[ 7.62 - 7.79 - 7.95 ]	2,71E-76
DHRS1	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.74 - 11.81 - 11.87 ]	[ 11.08 - 11.18 - 11.28 ]	[ 11.02 - 11.09 - 11.16 ]	[ 10.19 - 10.28 - 10.37 ]	1,31E-98
TAT	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.66 - 11.75 - 11.84 ]	[ 10.8 - 10.99 - 11.19 ]	[ 10.48 - 10.61 - 10.75 ]	[ 8.45 - 8.62 - 8.8 ]	1,02E- 100
SPP2	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.61 - 11.73 - 11.86 ]	[ 10.48 - 10.67 - 10.87 ]	[ 10.84 - 11.04 - 11.23 ]	[ 8.72 - 8.98 - 9.23 ]	4,20E-54
TM4SF5	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.65 - 11.73 - 11.82 ]	[ 11.01 - 11.12 - 11.23 ]	[ 11.87 - 11.98 - 12.1 ]	[ 10.9 - 11.07 - 11.24 ]	4,49E-41
CD14	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.64 - 11.73 - 11.83 ]	[ 10.67 - 10.82 - 10.98 ]	[ 11.04 - 11.15 - 11.26 ]	[ 10.13 - 10.27 - 10.41 ]	6,85E-88
CYP2C8	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.63 - 11.73 - 11.84 ]	[ 10.56 - 10.79 - 11.02 ]	[ 10.15 - 10.33 - 10.51 ]	[ 8.02 - 8.26 - 8.5 ]	7,36E-51
CPN2	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.65 - 11.71 - 11.78 ]	[ 11.84 - 11.92 - 12 ]	[ 11.05 - 11.14 - 11.23 ]	[ 9.94 - 10.11 - 10.28 ]	4,66E-79
FAH	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.6 - 11.65 - 11.71 ]	[ 10.96 - 11.05 - 11.14 ]	[ 11.13 - 11.2 - 11.27 ]	[ 10.37 - 10.46 - 10.56 ]	2,88E-73

NDRG2	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.57 - 11.65 - 11.73 ]	[ 11.35 - 11.44 - 11.54 ]	[ 11.1 - 11.17 - 11.23 ]	[ 10.68 - 10.77 - 10.85 ]	2,10E-39
MTTP	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.57 - 11.64 - 11.71 ]	[ 11.62 - 11.71 - 11.81 ]	[ 10.76 - 10.86 - 10.96 ]	[ 9.8 - 10.02 - 10.24 ]	5,23E-70
GADD45A	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.56 - 11.63 - 11.69 ]	[ 11.45 - 11.53 - 11.61 ]	[ 10.97 - 11.03 - 11.09 ]	[ 10.45 - 10.53 - 10.6 ]	2,42E- 134
SLC22A7	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.51 - 11.61 - 11.71 ]	[ 9.45 - 9.67 - 9.9 ]	[ 10.86 - 10.98 - 11.11 ]	[ 8.93 - 9.15 - 9.38 ]	2,54E-92
ALDH8A1	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.5 - 11.58 - 11.67 ]	[ 10.34 - 10.53 - 10.72 ]	[ 10.89 - 10.99 - 11.08 ]	[ 9.34 - 9.52 - 9.7 ]	3,01E-99
CYP2J2	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.52 - 11.58 - 11.64 ]	[ 11.36 - 11.45 - 11.54 ]	[ 10.78 - 10.85 - 10.93 ]	[ 9.56 - 9.72 - 9.88 ]	2,60E-33
UPB1	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.49 - 11.58 - 11.66 ]	[ 11.13 - 11.26 - 11.39 ]	[ 11.01 - 11.12 - 11.23 ]	[ 9.17 - 9.4 - 9.62 ]	1,30E- 114
СТН	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.45 - 11.56 - 11.67 ]	[ 11.23 - 11.39 - 11.54 ]	[ 10.29 - 10.43 - 10.56 ]	[ 8.94 - 9.09 - 9.25 ]	1,14E-98
AGXT2L1	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.43 - 11.55 - 11.67 ]	[ 10.32 - 10.47 - 10.61 ]	[ 10.03 - 10.18 - 10.32 ]	[ 8.16 - 8.35 - 8.55 ]	4,92E-90
HAL	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.4 - 11.51 - 11.63 ]	[ 7.74 - 7.93 - 8.13 ]	[ 11.07 - 11.21 - 11.34 ]	[ 10.29 - 10.5 - 10.71 ]	4,32E- 101
EPHX2	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.44 - 11.51 - 11.59 ]	[ 11.04 - 11.15 - 11.26 ]	[ 10.62 - 10.7 - 10.78 ]	[ 9.75 - 9.87 - 9.98 ]	1,65E- 119
SLC37A4	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.43 - 11.49 - 11.55 ]	[ 10.9 - 10.98 - 11.07 ]	[ 11.04 - 11.11 - 11.18 ]	[ 10.55 - 10.66 - 10.76 ]	1,62E-51
ABCB4	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.37 - 11.46 - 11.56 ]	[ 11.33 - 11.44 - 11.55 ]	[ 10.27 - 10.38 - 10.5 ]	[ 8.92 - 9.07 - 9.22 ]	1,93E-39
FETUB	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.35 - 11.44 - 11.53 ]	[ 9.51 - 9.78 - 10.04 ]	[ 10.04 - 10.18 - 10.33 ]	[ 7.98 - 8.15 - 8.33 ]	3,49E-64
C9	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.23 - 11.44 - 11.64 ]	[ 8.85 - 9.19 - 9.54 ]	[ 10.59 - 10.82 - 11.05 ]	[ 8.79 - 9.07 - 9.34 ]	3,32E-18
PON1	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.33 - 11.43 - 11.53 ]	[ 10.63 - 10.82 - 11 ]	[ 10.42 - 10.54 - 10.67 ]	[ 8.63 - 8.84 - 9.05 ]	1,75E-78
RGN	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.35 - 11.41 - 11.48 ]	[ 11.35 - 11.45 - 11.54 ]	[ 10.81 - 10.91 - 11 ]	[ 9.67 - 9.82 - 9.96 ]	1,49E-47
ACSL1	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.26 - 11.33 - 11.41 ]	[ 10.76 - 10.87 - 10.98 ]	[ 10.72 - 10.81 - 10.91 ]	[ 9.75 - 9.9 - 10.04 ]	2,28E-45
HAO2	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.19 - 11.32 - 11.46 ]	[ 8.79 - 9.02 - 9.25 ]	[ 9.51 - 9.68 - 9.84 ]	[ 7.53 - 7.71 - 7.88 ]	4,97E-45
CYP2C18	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.2 - 11.3 - 11.4 ]	[ 9.66 - 9.85 - 10.05 ]	[ 10.71 - 10.83 - 10.94 ]	[ 9.4 - 9.6 - 9.8 ]	1,32E-79
GNMT	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.1 - 11.25 - 11.4 ]	[ 9.69 - 9.95 - 10.2 ]	[ 9.72 - 9.88 - 10.03 ]	[ 8.09 - 8.26 - 8.44 ]	4,03E- 131
ITIH4	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.1 - 11.18 - 11.25 ]	[ 10.74 - 10.85 - 10.97 ]	[ 10.66 - 10.76 - 10.86 ]	[ 9.55 - 9.69 - 9.83 ]	8,67E-74
KLKB1	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.08 - 11.16 - 11.24 ]	[ 10.3 - 10.43 - 10.55 ]	[ 10.32 - 10.41 - 10.51 ]	[ 9.25 - 9.4 - 9.55 ]	7,72E-92
GLS2	PERIPORTAL	[ 11 - 11.15 - 11.3 ]	[ 6.86 - 7.07 - 7.28 ]	[ 9.25 - 9.4 - 9.54 ]	[ 7.37 - 7.53 - 7.69 ]	3,19E- 100
MASP2	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.05 - 11.14 - 11.23 ]	[ 10.93 - 11.05 - 11.16 ]	[ 10.11 - 10.25 - 10.4 ]	[ 8.49 - 8.66 - 8.83 ]	5,15E- 123
GBA3	PERIPORTAL	[ 11 - 11.11 - 11.23 ]	[ 8.84 - 9.05 - 9.25 ]	[ 9.24 - 9.41 - 9.58 ]	[ 7.85 - 8.06 - 8.26 ]	4,67E- 119

AKR7A3	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.98 - 11.1 - 11.22 ]	[ 10.42 - 10.59 - 10.75 ]	[ 9.81 - 9.98 - 10.16 ]	[ 8.33 - 8.51 - 8.68 ]	1,77E-92
PPP2R1B	PERIPORTAL	[ 11.04 - 11.1 - 11.15 ]	[ 10.58 - 10.69 - 10.79 ]	[ 10.96 - 11.05 - 11.14 ]	[ 10.39 - 10.49 - 10.6 ]	1,02E-79
CYP4F2	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.98 - 11.07 - 11.17 ]	[ 10.63 - 10.76 - 10.88 ]	[ 10.16 - 10.27 - 10.38 ]	[ 8.59 - 8.76 - 8.92 ]	1,21E-89
EHHADH	PERIPORTAL	[ 11 - 11.07 - 11.14 ]	[ 11.08 - 11.18 - 11.29 ]	[ 10.14 - 10.23 - 10.32 ]	[ 9.01 - 9.14 - 9.28 ]	2,47E-24
NR113	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.92 - 11.03 - 11.13 ]	[ 10.58 - 10.75 - 10.92 ]	[ 9.48 - 9.64 - 9.8 ]	[ 7.98 - 8.17 - 8.36 ]	1,21E-85
PCK1	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.88 - 11 - 11.13 ]	[ 10.27 - 10.43 - 10.59 ]	[ 9.67 - 9.82 - 9.97 ]	[ 7.88 - 8.05 - 8.22 ]	1,27E-84
ETFDH	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.9 - 10.97 - 11.04 ]	[ 10.67 - 10.76 - 10.85 ]	[ 10.31 - 10.37 - 10.43 ]	[ 9.61 - 9.71 - 9.81 ]	1,69E-65
ACACB	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.89 - 10.96 - 11.04 ]	[ 9.98 - 10.07 - 10.17 ]	[ 10.43 - 10.51 - 10.59 ]	[ 9.53 - 9.66 - 9.78 ]	3,14E- 137
GABARAPL1	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.85 - 10.93 - 11.01 ]	[ 11.17 - 11.27 - 11.36 ]	[ 10.4 - 10.48 - 10.55 ]	[ 9.93 - 10.02 - 10.12 ]	6,26E- 114
FXYD1	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.81 - 10.92 - 11.02 ]	[ 8.74 - 8.98 - 9.21 ]	[ 9.64 - 9.78 - 9.91 ]	[ 8.54 - 8.72 - 8.89 ]	1,80E-62
GNE	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.85 - 10.92 - 10.98 ]	[ 10.56 - 10.66 - 10.75 ]	[ 10 - 10.1 - 10.19 ]	[ 9.52 - 9.61 - 9.7 ]	5,54E-90
OGDHL	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.79 - 10.89 - 10.98 ]	[ 9.9 - 10.08 - 10.26 ]	[ 9.94 - 10.05 - 10.16 ]	[ 8.48 - 8.62 - 8.77 ]	7,85E-43
ADH6	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.79 - 10.88 - 10.97 ]	[ 11.53 - 11.63 - 11.73 ]	[ 10.28 - 10.39 - 10.51 ]	[ 9.18 - 9.34 - 9.51 ]	1,50E-85
ALDH1L1	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.75 - 10.86 - 10.98 ]	[ 11.81 - 11.94 - 12.08 ]	[ 9.84 - 9.99 - 10.14 ]	[ 8.67 - 8.85 - 9.04 ]	5,84E- 115
ABCA6	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.78 - 10.86 - 10.94 ]	[ 10.74 - 10.85 - 10.96 ]	[ 9.89 - 9.99 - 10.09 ]	[ 8.62 - 8.79 - 8.95 ]	6,31E-62
AKR1D1	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.68 - 10.82 - 10.97 ]	[ 9.35 - 9.56 - 9.78 ]	[ 9.83 - 9.98 - 10.13 ]	[ 8.77 - 8.97 - 9.17 ]	1,79E-40
GLYAT	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.7 - 10.82 - 10.94 ]	[ 10.67 - 10.84 - 11.01 ]	[ 8.65 - 8.81 - 8.97 ]	[ 6.52 - 6.7 - 6.89 ]	7,23E-95
ALDH2	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.75 - 10.8 - 10.85 ]	[ 10.76 - 10.83 - 10.91 ]	[ 10.37 - 10.43 - 10.5 ]	[ 9.86 - 9.93 - 10 ]	2,59E-73
PEMT	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.63 - 10.74 - 10.85 ]	[ 10.36 - 10.48 - 10.6 ]	[ 10.1 - 10.2 - 10.29 ]	[ 9.48 - 9.6 - 9.72 ]	1,36E- 125
SLC17A2	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.61 - 10.72 - 10.83 ]	[ 10.86 - 11.01 - 11.17 ]	[ 10.22 - 10.35 - 10.49 ]	[ 9.22 - 9.43 - 9.64 ]	2,06E-55
APOF	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.45 - 10.59 - 10.73 ]	[ 8.52 - 8.73 - 8.94 ]	[ 8.88 - 9.05 - 9.23 ]	[ 7.24 - 7.42 - 7.61 ]	7,25E-56
ACADSB	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.46 - 10.55 - 10.63 ]	[ 10.59 - 10.69 - 10.8 ]	[ 10.01 - 10.1 - 10.2 ]	[ 9.28 - 9.42 - 9.56 ]	3,22E- 109
PBLD	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.42 - 10.51 - 10.61 ]	[ 10.04 - 10.21 - 10.38 ]	[ 9.64 - 9.76 - 9.88 ]	[ 8.64 - 8.8 - 8.97 ]	2,44E-29
SLCO1B1	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.39 - 10.49 - 10.58 ]	[ 10.17 - 10.33 - 10.49 ]	[ 9.95 - 10.08 - 10.2 ]	[ 8.27 - 8.5 - 8.73 ]	2,69E-78
ANXA10	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.33 - 10.46 - 10.58 ]	[ 8.88 - 9.09 - 9.3 ]	[ 8.79 - 8.91 - 9.04 ]	[ 7.63 - 7.81 - 7.98 ]	3,04E- 111
ACSM5	ACSM5 <b>PERIPORTAL</b> [10.26 10.46		[ 10.48 - 10.62 - 10.76 ]	[ 9.1 <mark>2 - 9.25 -</mark> 9.38 1	[ 7.83 - 7.98 - 8.14 ]	1,30E- 101

ABCA8	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.16 - 10.28 - 10.4 ]	[ 9.97 - 10.15 - 10.34 ]	[ 9.14 - 9.3 - 9.47 ]	[ 7.95 - 8.17 - 8.39 ]	1,30E-86
ABCC6	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.17 - 10.25 - 10.32 ]	[ 10.24 - 10.32 - 10.4 ]	[ 9.8 - 9.89 - 9.98 ]	[ 9.23 - 9.35 - 9.47 ]	2,60E-12
CPE	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.13 - 10.24 - 10.36 ]	[ 9.07 - 9.19 - 9.32 ]	[ 10.27 - 10.39 - 10.51 ]	[ 9.89 - 10.04 - 10.2 ]	2,16E- 105
GCDH	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.16 - 10.24 - 10.31 ]	[ 10.09 - 10.18 - 10.28 ]	[ 9.47 - 9.55 - 9.62 ]	[ 8.9 - 8.99 - 9.07 ]	9,78E-21
GHR	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.1 - 10.21 - 10.31 ]	[ 8.91 - 9.05 - 9.2 ]	[ 9.23 - 9.35 - 9.46 ]	[ 8.09 - 8.23 - 8.38 ]	2,05E-32
SLC46A3	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.07 - 10.19 - 10.3 ]	[ 9.46 - 9.64 - 9.83 ]	[ 8.89 - 9.02 - 9.16 ]	[ 7.89 - 8.02 - 8.16 ]	9,41E- 102
ANO1	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.02 - 10.15 - 10.27 ]	[ 8.66 - 8.89 - 9.12 ]	[ 8.83 - 8.99 - 9.16 ]	[ 8.02 - 8.17 - 8.32 ]	6,60E- 151
SEC14L2	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.04 - 10.13 - 10.22 ]	[ 10.26 - 10.37 - 10.49 ]	[ 8.76 - 8.85 - 8.94 ]	[ 7.59 - 7.7 - 7.8 ]	3,53E-59
SLC1A1	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.99 - 10.12 - 10.25 ]	[ 8.78 - 8.98 - 9.19 ]	[ 8.71 - 8.9 - 9.08 ]	[ 7.49 - 7.7 - 7.91 ]	5,54E-43
DNASE1L3	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.97 - 10.1 - 10.24 ]	[ 9.6 - 9.75 - 9.91 ]	[ 9.07 - 9.21 - 9.35 ]	[ 8.3 - 8.45 - 8.61 ]	2,78E-24
GPR37	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.96 - 10.09 - 10.22 ]	[ 8.47 - 8.7 - 8.94 ]	[ 8.85 - 9.03 - 9.21 ]	[ 8.23 - 8.44 - 8.65 ]	5,54E-54
LRRC20	PERIPORTAL	[ 10.02 - 10.08 - 10.15 ]	[ 9.89 - 9.97 - 10.05 ]	[ 9.99 - 10.07 - 10.15 ]	[ 9.3 - 9.4 - 9.5 ]	4,81E-36
GCH1	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.99 - 10.06 - 10.14 ]	[ 8.98 - 9.09 - 9.2 ]	[ 9.53 - 9.62 - 9.71 ]	[ 9.03 - 9.14 - 9.25 ]	1,19E- 101
	-					
CYP2B7P1	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.89 - 10.05 - 10.2 ]	[ 7.32 - 7.51 - 7.69 ]	[ 8.34 - 8.51 - 8.69 ]	[ 7.22 - 7.38 - 7.53 ]	7,44E- 104
CYP2B7P1 GYS2	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[ 9.89 - 10.05 - 10.2 ] [ 9.92 - 10.03 - 10.15 ]	[ 7.32 - 7.51 - 7.69 ] [ 8.92 - 9.11 - 9.3 ]	[ 8.34 - 8.51 - 8.69 ] [ 8.07 - 8.2 - 8.34 ]	[7.22 - 7.38 - 7.53 ] [6.33 - 6.5 - 6.66 ]	7,44E- 104 5,49E-49
CYP2B7P1 GYS2 CLDN15	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[9.89 - 10.05 - 10.2] [9.92 - 10.03 - 10.15] [9.93 - 10.03 - 10.12]	[7.32 - 7.51 - 7.69] [8.92 - 9.11 - 9.3] [9.82 - 9.94 - 10.06]	[8.34 - 8.51 - 8.69] [8.07 - 8.2 - 8.34] [9.67 - 9.77 - 9.87]	[7.22 - 7.38 - 7.53 ] [6.33 - 6.5 - 6.66 ] [8.91 - 9.03 - 9.14 ]	7,44E- 104 5,49E-49 5,28E-82
CYP2B7P1 GYS2 CLDN15 KMO	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[9.89 - 10.05 - 10.2] [9.92 - 10.03 - 10.15] [9.93 - 10.03 - 10.12] [9.81 - 9.92 - 10.02]	[7.32 - 7.51 - 7.69] [8.92 - 9.11 - 9.3] [9.82 - 9.94 - 10.06] [8.29 - 8.44 - 8.6]	[8.34 - 8.51 - 8.69] [8.07 - 8.2 - 8.34] [9.67 - 9.77 - 9.87] [9.19 - 9.31 - 9.42]	[7.22 - 7.38 - 7.53] [6.33 - 6.5 - 6.66] [8.91 - 9.03 - 9.14] [8.17 - 8.3 - 8.42]	7,44E- 104 5,49E-49 5,28E-82 4,38E-23
CYP2B7P1 GYS2 CLDN15 KMO FEM1B	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[9.89 - 10.05 - 10.2] [9.92 - 10.03 - 10.15] [9.93 - 10.03 - 10.12] [9.81 - 9.92 - 10.02] [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95]	[7.32 - 7.51 - 7.69] [8.92 - 9.11 - 9.3] [9.82 - 9.94 - 10.06] [8.29 - 8.44 - 8.6] [9.55 - 9.62 - 9.68]	[8.34 - 8.51 - 8.69] [8.07 - 8.2 - 8.34] [9.67 - 9.77 - 9.87] [9.19 - 9.31 - 9.42] [9.76 - 9.81 - 9.85]	[7.22 - 7.38 - 7.53] [6.33 - 6.5 - 6.66] [8.91 - 9.03 - 9.14] [8.17 - 8.3 - 8.42] [9.67 - 9.73 - 9.78]	7,44E- 104 5,49E-49 5,28E-82 4,38E-23 4,58E- 111
CYP2B7P1 GYS2 CLDN15 KMO FEM1B ZGPAT	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[9.89 - 10.05 - 10.2] [9.92 - 10.03 - 10.15] [9.93 - 10.03 - 10.12] [9.81 - 9.92 - 10.02] [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95] [9.68 - 9.8 - 9.91]	[7.32 - 7.51 - 7.69] [8.92 - 9.11 - 9.3] [9.82 - 9.94 - 10.06] [8.29 - 8.44 - 8.6] [9.55 - 9.62 - 9.68] [9.2 - 9.32 - 9.43]	[8.34 - 8.51 - 8.69] [8.07 - 8.2 - 8.34] [9.67 - 9.77 - 9.87] [9.19 - 9.31 - 9.42] [9.76 - 9.81 - 9.85] [9.03 - 9.12 - 9.21]	[7.22 - 7.38 - 7.53] [6.33 - 6.5 - 6.66] [8.91 - 9.03 - 9.14] [8.17 - 8.3 - 8.42] [9.67 - 9.73 - 9.78] [8.81 - 8.89 - 8.98]	7,44E- 104 5,49E-49 5,28E-82 4,38E-23 4,58E- 111 6,52E- 158
CYP2B7P1 GYS2 CLDN15 KMO FEM1B ZGPAT CSTA	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[9.89 - 10.05 - 10.2] [9.92 - 10.03 - 10.15] [9.93 - 10.03 - 10.12] [9.81 - 9.92 - 10.02] [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95] [9.68 - 9.8 - 9.91] [9.65 - 9.77 - 9.89]	[7.32 - 7.51 - 7.69] [8.92 - 9.11 - 9.3] [9.82 - 9.94 - 10.06] [8.29 - 8.44 - 8.6] [9.55 - 9.62 - 9.68] [9.2 - 9.32 - 9.43] [8.5 - 8.69 - 8.87]	[8.34 - 8.51 - 8.69] [8.07 - 8.2 - 8.34] [9.67 - 9.77 - 9.87] [9.19 - 9.31 - 9.42] [9.76 - 9.81 - 9.85] [9.03 - 9.12 - 9.21] [9.39 - 9.53 - 9.67]	[7.22 - 7.38 - 7.53] [6.33 - 6.5 - 6.66] [8.91 - 9.03 - 9.14] [8.17 - 8.3 - 8.42] [9.67 - 9.73 - 9.78] [8.81 - 8.89 - 8.98] [9.58 - 9.74 - 9.89]	7,44E- 104 5,49E-49 5,28E-82 4,38E-23 4,58E- 111 6,52E- 158 1,66E-90
CYP2B7P1 GYS2 CLDN15 KMO FEM1B ZGPAT CSTA NR1I2	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	[9.89 - 10.05 - 10.2] [9.92 - 10.03 - 10.15] [9.93 - 10.03 - 10.12] [9.81 - 9.92 - 10.02] [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95] [9.68 - 9.8 - 9.91] [9.65 - 9.77 - 9.89] [9.67 - 9.76 - 9.85]	[7.32 - 7.51 - 7.69] [8.92 - 9.11 - 9.3] [9.82 - 9.94 - 10.06] [8.29 - 8.44 - 8.6] [9.55 - 9.62 - 9.68] [9.2 - 9.32 - 9.43] [8.5 - 8.69 - 8.87] [8.91 - 9.06 - 9.21]	[8.34 - 8.51 - 8.69] [8.07 - 8.2 - 8.34] [9.67 - 9.77 - 9.87] [9.19 - 9.31 - 9.42] [9.76 - 9.81 - 9.85] [9.03 - 9.12 - 9.21] [9.39 - 9.53 - 9.67] [8.29 - 8.43 - 8.57]	[7.22 - 7.38 - 7.53] [6.33 - 6.5 - 6.66] [8.91 - 9.03 - 9.14] [8.17 - 8.3 - 8.42] [9.67 - 9.73 - 9.78] [8.81 - 8.89 - 8.98] [9.58 - 9.74 - 9.89] [7.14 - 7.29 - 7.44]	7,44E- 104 5,49E-49 5,28E-82 4,38E-23 4,58E- 111 6,52E- 158 1,66E-90 1,88E-22
CYP2B7P1 GYS2 CLDN15 KMO FEM1B ZGPAT CSTA NR1I2 CDA	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	$\begin{array}{c} [9.89 - 10.05 \\ - 10.2 ] \\ \\ [9.92 - 10.03 \\ - 10.15 ] \\ \\ [9.93 - 10.03 \\ - 10.12 ] \\ \\ [9.81 - 9.92 - 10.02 ] \\ \\ [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95 ] \\ \\ [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95 ] \\ \\ [9.68 - 9.8 - 9.91 ] \\ \\ [9.65 - 9.77 - 9.89 ] \\ \\ [9.67 - 9.76 - 9.85 ] \\ \\ [9.65 - 9.74 - 9.84 ] \end{array}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 7.32 - 7.51 - 7.69 \\ 7.69 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.92 - 9.11 - 9.3 \\ 9.82 - 9.94 - 10.06 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.82 - 8.44 - 8.6 \\ 8.6 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.55 - 9.62 - 9.68 \\ 9.68 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.2 - 9.32 - 9.43 \\ 9.43 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.5 - 8.69 - 8.87 \\ 8.87 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.91 - 9.06 - 9.21 \\ 9.21 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.32 - 8.45 - 8.58 \end{bmatrix}$	[8.34 - 8.51 - 8.69] [8.07 - 8.2 - 8.34] [9.67 - 9.77 - 9.87] [9.19 - 9.31 - 9.42] [9.76 - 9.81 - 9.85] [9.03 - 9.12 - 9.21] [9.39 - 9.53 - 9.67] [8.29 - 8.43 - 8.57] [8.99 - 9.1 - 9.21]	[7.22 - 7.38 - 7.53] [6.33 - 6.5 - 6.66] [8.91 - 9.03 - 9.14] [8.17 - 8.3 - 8.42] [9.67 - 9.73 - 9.78] [8.81 - 8.89 - 8.98] [9.58 - 9.74 - 9.89] [7.14 - 7.29 - 7.44] [8.35 - 8.5 - 8.65]	7,44E- 104 5,49E-49 5,28E-82 4,38E-23 4,58E- 111 6,52E- 158 1,66E-90 1,88E-22 3,70E-72
CYP2B7P1 GYS2 CLDN15 KMO FEM1B ZGPAT CSTA NR1I2 CDA LCAT	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	$\begin{array}{c} [9.89 - 10.05 \\ - 10.2 ] \\ \\ [9.92 - 10.03 \\ - 10.15 ] \\ \\ [9.93 - 10.03 \\ - 10.12 ] \\ \\ [9.81 - 9.92 - 10.02 ] \\ \\ [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95 ] \\ \\ [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95 ] \\ \\ [9.68 - 9.8 - 9.9 - 9.95 ] \\ \\ [9.65 - 9.77 - 9.89 ] \\ \\ [9.65 - 9.77 - 9.89 ] \\ \\ [9.65 - 9.74 - 9.85 ] \\ \\ [9.63 - 9.74 - 9.85 ] \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 7.32 - 7.51 - 7.69 \\ 7.69 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.92 - 9.11 - 9.3 \\ 9.3 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.82 - 9.94 - 10.06 \\ 10.06 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.29 - 8.44 - 8.6 \\ 8.6 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.55 - 9.62 - 9.68 \\ 9.68 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.2 - 9.32 - 9.43 \\ 9.43 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.5 - 8.69 - 8.87 \\ 8.87 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.91 - 9.06 - 9.21 \\ 9.21 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.32 - 8.45 - 8.58 \\ 8.58 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.97 - 9.1 - 9.23 \end{bmatrix}$	[8.34 - 8.51 - 8.69] [8.07 - 8.2 - 8.34] [9.67 - 9.77 - 9.87] [9.19 - 9.31 - 9.42] [9.76 - 9.81 - 9.85] [9.03 - 9.12 - 9.21] [9.39 - 9.53 - 9.67] [8.29 - 8.43 - 8.57] [8.99 - 9.1 - 9.21] [8.95 - 9.05 - 9.15]	[7.22 - 7.38 - 7.53] [6.33 - 6.5 - 6.66] [8.91 - 9.03 - 9.14] [8.17 - 8.3 - 8.42] [9.67 - 9.73 - 9.78] [8.81 - 8.89 - 8.98] [9.58 - 9.74 - 9.89] [7.14 - 7.29 - 7.44] [8.35 - 8.5 - 8.65] [8.34 - 8.44 - 8.54]	7,44E- 104 5,49E-49 5,28E-82 4,38E-23 4,58E- 111 6,52E- 158 1,66E-90 1,88E-22 3,70E-72 4,92E-83
CYP2B7P1 GYS2 CLDN15 KMO FEM1B ZGPAT CSTA NR1I2 CDA LCAT GPR88	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	$\begin{array}{c} [9.89 - 10.05 \\ - 10.2] \\ \hline \\ [9.92 - 10.03 \\ - 10.15] \\ \hline \\ [9.93 - 10.03 \\ - 10.12] \\ \hline \\ [9.81 - 9.92 - 10.02] \\ \hline \\ [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95] \\ \hline \\ [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95] \\ \hline \\ [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95] \\ \hline \\ [9.86 - 9.7 - 9.95] \\ \hline \\ [9.65 - 9.77 - 9.89] \\ \hline \\ [9.65 - 9.74 - 9.85] \\ \hline \\ [9.63 - 9.74 - 9.85] \\ \hline \\ [9.47 - 9.7 - 9.93] \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 7.32 - 7.51 - 7.69 \\ 7.69 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.92 - 9.11 - 9.3 \\ 9.82 - 9.94 - 10.06 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.82 - 9.94 - 8.44 - 8.6 \\ 9.55 - 9.62 - 9.68 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.55 - 9.62 - 9.68 \\ 9.43 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.2 - 9.32 - 9.43 \\ 9.43 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.5 - 8.69 - 8.87 \\ 8.87 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.91 - 9.06 - 9.21 \\ 9.21 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.32 - 8.45 - 8.58 \\ 8.58 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.97 - 9.1 - 9.23 \\ 9.23 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 7.01 - 7.24 - 7.48 \\ 7.48 \end{bmatrix}$	[8.34 - 8.51 - 8.69] [8.07 - 8.2 - 8.34] [9.67 - 9.77 - 9.87] [9.19 - 9.31 - 9.42] [9.76 - 9.81 - 9.85] [9.03 - 9.12 - 9.21] [9.39 - 9.53 - 9.67] [8.29 - 8.43 - 8.57] [8.29 - 8.43 - 8.57] [8.99 - 9.1 - 9.21] [8.95 - 9.05 - 9.15] [8.58 - 8.84 - 9.09]	[7.22 - 7.38 - 7.53] [6.33 - 6.5 - 6.66] [8.91 - 9.03 - 9.14] [8.17 - 8.3 - 8.42] [9.67 - 9.73 - 9.78] [8.81 - 8.89 - 8.98] [9.58 - 9.74 - 9.89] [7.14 - 7.29 - 7.44] [8.35 - 8.5 - 8.65] [8.34 - 8.44 - 8.54] [7.31 - 7.55 - 7.78]	7,44E- 104 5,49E-49 5,28E-82 4,38E-23 4,58E- 111 6,52E- 158 1,66E-90 1,88E-22 3,70E-72 4,92E-83 4,31E-18
CYP2B7P1 GYS2 CLDN15 KMO FEM1B ZGPAT CSTA NR112 CDA LCAT GPR88 CRY1	PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL PERIPORTAL	$\begin{array}{c} [9.89 - 10.05 \\ - 10.2] \\ \hline \\ [9.92 - 10.03 \\ - 10.15] \\ \hline \\ [9.93 - 10.03 \\ - 10.12] \\ \hline \\ [9.81 - 9.92 - 10.02] \\ \hline \\ [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95] \\ \hline \\ [9.86 - 9.9 - 9.95] \\ \hline \\ [9.68 - 9.8 - 9.9 - 9.95] \\ \hline \\ [9.65 - 9.74 - 9.85] \\ \hline \\ [9.65 - 9.74 - 9.85] \\ \hline \\ [9.63 - 9.74 - 9.85] \\ \hline \\ [9.63 - 9.74 - 9.85] \\ \hline \\ [9.67 - 9.76 - 9.85] \\ \hline \\ [9.63 - 9.74 - 9.85] \\ \hline \\ [9.67 - 9.76 - 9.85] \\ \hline \\ [9.63 - 9.74 - 9.85] \\ \hline \\ [9.67 - 9.76 - 9.85] \\ \hline \\ [9.63 - 9.74 - 9.85] \\ \hline \\ [9.67 - 9.73] \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 7.32 - 7.51 - 7.69 \\ 7.69 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.92 - 9.11 - 9.3 \\ 9.3 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.82 - 9.94 - 10.06 \\ 10.06 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.29 - 8.44 - 8.6 \\ 8.6 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.55 - 9.62 - 9.68 \\ 9.68 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.2 - 9.32 - 9.43 \\ 9.43 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.5 - 8.69 - 8.87 \\ 8.87 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.91 - 9.06 - 9.21 \\ 9.21 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.32 - 8.45 - 8.58 \\ 8.58 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.97 - 9.1 - 9.23 \\ 9.23 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 7.01 - 7.24 - 7.48 \\ 7.48 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.18 - 9.27 - 9.35 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 8.34 - 8.51 - \\ 8.69 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.07 - 8.2 - \\ 8.34 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.67 - 9.77 - \\ 9.87 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.19 - 9.31 - \\ 9.42 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.76 - 9.81 - \\ 9.85 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.03 - 9.12 - \\ 9.21 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.39 - 9.53 - \\ 9.67 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.29 - 8.43 - \\ 8.57 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.99 - 9.1 - \\ 9.21 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.99 - 9.1 - \\ 9.21 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.95 - 9.05 - \\ 9.15 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 8.58 - 8.84 - \\ 9.09 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 9.53 - 9.6 - \\ 9.67 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 7.22 - 7.38 - \\ 7.53 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 6.33 - 6.5 - \\ 6.66 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 8.91 - 9.03 - \\ 9.14 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 8.17 - 8.3 - \\ 8.42 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 9.67 - 9.73 - \\ 9.78 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 9.67 - 9.73 - \\ 9.78 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 8.81 - 8.89 - \\ 8.98 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 9.58 - 9.74 - \\ 9.89 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 7.14 - 7.29 - \\ 7.44 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 7.14 - 7.29 - \\ 7.44 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 8.35 - 8.5 - \\ 8.65 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 8.34 - 8.44 - \\ 8.54 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 7.31 - 7.55 - \\ 7.78 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 9.51 - 9.58 - \\ 9.65 \end{bmatrix} \\ \end{bmatrix}$	7,44E- 104 5,49E-49 5,28E-82 4,38E-23 4,58E- 111 6,52E- 158 1,66E-90 1,88E-22 3,70E-72 4,92E-83 4,31E-18 3,75E- 103

SOCS2	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.51 - 9.62 - 9.72 ]	[ 8.63 - 8.78 - 8.92 ]	[ 8.72 - 8.84 - 8.96 ]	[ 7.94 - 8.07 - 8.2 ]	8,94E-67
HMGB3	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.5 - 9.59 - 9.69 ]	[ 8.38 - 8.5 - 8.62 ]	[ 9.1 - 9.23 - 9.35 ]	[ 9.01 - 9.16 - 9.31 ]	2,52E-33
GSTZ1	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.4 - 9.5 - 9.59 ]	[ 9.21 - 9.33 - 9.45 ]	[ 8.52 - 8.6 - 8.68 ]	[ 8.23 - 8.32 - 8.4 ]	7,16E-54
ACSM3	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.34 - 9.44 - 9.54 ]	[ 9.5 - 9.6 - 9.71 ]	[ 8.29 - 8.4 - 8.51 ]	[ 7.93 - 8.04 - 8.16 ]	2,03E- 112
PXMP4	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.36 - 9.43 - 9.5 ]	[ 9.22 - 9.3 - 9.39 ]	[ 9.17 - 9.24 - 9.32 ]	[ 8.8 - 8.88 - 8.96 ]	6,23E-29
GPN3	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.36 - 9.41 - 9.47 ]	[ 9.09 - 9.15 - 9.22 ]	[ 9.07 - 9.15 - 9.22 ]	[ 9.01 - 9.08 - 9.15 ]	2,82E- 147
MLLT11	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.26 - 9.4 - 9.54 ]	[ 8.07 - 8.21 - 8.36 ]	[ 8.82 - 8.96 - 9.11 ]	[ 8.95 - 9.11 - 9.26 ]	1,28E-87
GPD1	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.26 - 9.38 - 9.49 ]	[ 8.45 - 8.59 - 8.72 ]	[ 8.47 - 8.57 - 8.67 ]	[ 7.59 - 7.7 - 7.82 ]	5,23E- 117
BDH2	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.23 - 9.33 - 9.43 ]	[ 8.39 - 8.5 - 8.62 ]	[ 8.65 - 8.76 - 8.86 ]	[ 8.24 - 8.34 - 8.45 ]	5,61E- 151
NAT2	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.13 - 9.3 - 9.46 ]	[ 8.96 - 9.14 - 9.31 ]	[ 7.66 - 7.81 - 7.97 ]	[ 6.69 - 6.83 - 6.96 ]	1,50E-13
SCGN	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.09 - 9.27 - 9.45 ]	[ 7.56 - 7.73 - 7.9 ]	[ 8.47 - 8.65 - 8.83 ]	[ 8.38 - 8.57 - 8.77 ]	4,59E-61
CYP3A43	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.06 - 9.21 - 9.36 ]	[ 9.35 - 9.51 - 9.67 ]	[ 8.29 - 8.43 - 8.57 ]	[ 7.11 - 7.25 - 7.38 ]	1,82E-45
ATP11B	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.08 - 9.14 - 9.2 ]	[ 8.61 - 8.69 - 8.77 ]	[ 9.01 - 9.09 - 9.16 ]	[ 9.11 - 9.19 - 9.27 ]	1,51E- 109
CYFIP2	PERIPORTAL	[ 9.02 - 9.14 - 9.26 ]	[ 7.91 - 8.07 - 8.22 ]	[ 8.63 - 8.75 - 8.86 ]	[ 8.19 - 8.31 - 8.43 ]	8,09E-41
SRD5A2	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.94 - 9.09 - 9.23 ]	[ 8.86 - 9.04 - 9.22 ]	[ 7.65 - 7.77 - 7.89 ]	[ 6.78 - 6.92 - 7.06 ]	2,91E-69
GRAMD1C	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.94 - 9.04 - 9.14 ]	[ 7.71 - 7.85 - 7.99 ]	[ 8.11 - 8.21 - 8.31 ]	[ 7.4 - 7.52 - 7.64 ]	7,58E- 111
ACADL	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.83 - 8.95 - 9.07 ]	[ 8.38 - 8.57 - 8.76 ]	[ 7.33 - 7.48 - 7.62 ]	[ 6.27 - 6.42 - 6.57 ]	8,19E-62
ESR1	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.72 - 8.84 - 8.97 ]	[ 8.41 - 8.61 - 8.81 ]	[ 7.37 - 7.49 - 7.6 ]	[ 6.95 - 7.05 - 7.16 ]	1,33E-29
CPEB3	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.69 - 8.77 - 8.85 ]	[ 8.51 - 8.61 - 8.72 ]	[ 8.08 - 8.15 - 8.23 ]	[ 7.61 - 7.68 - 7.75 ]	1,60E-99
IGFALS	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.64 - 8.77 - 8.91 ]	[ 7.51 - 7.62 - 7.73 ]	[ 7.89 - 7.99 - 8.09 ]	[ 7.65 - 7.76 - 7.88 ]	3,81E-31
MNS1	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.59 - 8.74 - 8.89 ]	[ 7.6 - 7.72 - 7.84 ]	[ 7.86 - 7.99 - 8.11 ]	[ 7.56 - 7.66 - 7.75 ]	4,23E-95
FAM149A	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.58 - 8.68 - 8.77 ]	[ 7.63 - 7.77 - 7.92 ]	[ 7.96 - 8.06 - 8.15 ]	[ 7.29 - 7.41 - 7.54 ]	1,56E-36
GNB5	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.52 - 8.61 - 8.7 ]	[ 7.61 - 7.71 - 7.81 ]	[ 8.31 - 8.41 - 8.51 ]	[ 7.87 - 7.97 - 8.07 ]	1,60E-52
VIPR1	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.41 - 8.53 - 8.65 ]	[ 7.85 - 7.99 - 8.13 ]	[ 7.73 - 7.84 - 7.95 ]	[ 7.26 - 7.37 - 7.47 ]	8,44E- 105
KDM8	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.38 - 8.5 - 8.62 ]	[ 7.76 - 7.87 - 7.98 ]	[ 7.78 - 7.87 - 7.96 ]	[ 7.34 - 7.42 - 7.51 ]	1,24E-57
LRRC31	LRRC31 PERIPORTAL		[ 7.02 - 7.21 - 7.4 ]	[ 8.08 - 8.22 - 8.37 ]	[ 7.54 - 7.71 - 7.87 ]	2,97E-78

LPA	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.25 - 8.38 - 8.51 ]	[ 7.19 - 7.34 - 7.48 ]	[ 7.43 - 7.55 - 7.67 ]	[ 6.81 - 6.96 - 7.11 ]	7,86E-81
SLC4A4	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.1 - 8.21 - 8.32 ]	[ 8.73 - 8.88 - 9.02 ]	[ 7.22 - 7.34 - 7.47 ]	[ 7.15 - 7.32 - 7.49 ]	2,64E- 112
FAM134B	PERIPORTAL	[ 8.06 - 8.2 - 8.34 ]	[ 7.31 - 7.5 - 7.68 ]	[ 7.13 - 7.28 - 7.42 ]	[ 6.62 - 6.76 - 6.9 ]	3,25E-26
ADRA1A	PERIPORTAL	[ 7.99 - 8.13 - 8.27 ]	[ 7.55 - 7.73 - 7.91 ]	[ 6.95 - 7.07 - 7.2 ]	[ 6.22 - 6.34 - 6.46 ]	1,73E-37
AASS	PERIPORTAL	[ 8 - 8.1 - 8.2 ]	[ 8.13 - 8.27 - 8.41 ]	[ 6.97 - 7.07 - 7.17 ]	[ 6.38 - 6.46 - 6.54 ]	1,36E-30
KCNN2	PERIPORTAL	[ 7.7 - 7.86 - 8.02 ]	[ 6.85 - 6.96 - 7.08 ]	[ 7.04 - 7.14 - 7.24 ]	[ 6.91 - 6.99 - 7.07 ]	4,02E- 100
FOLH1B	PERIPORTAL	[ 7.61 - 7.76 - 7.9 ]	[ 7 - 7.22 - 7.44 ]	[ 6.41 - 6.52 - 6.64 ]	[ 6.11 - 6.22 - 6.33 ]	4,55E-50
TENM1	PERIPORTAL	[ 7.41 - 7.59 - 7.76 ]	[ 6.38 - 6.6 - 6.82 ]	[ 6.37 - 6.52 - 6.67 ]	[ 6.46 - 6.64 - 6.83 ]	3,04E-84

Detecto		HCC subclasses							
Datasets	PP	PV	ECM	STEM	Totals				
Α	32 (32%)	19 (19%)	28 (28%)	21 (21%)	100 (100%)				
В	30 (22%)	27 (20%)	69 (51%)	9 (7%)	135 (100%)				
С	72 (29%)	27 (11%)	94 (38%)	54 (22%)	247 (100%)				
D	94 (35%)	50 (19%)	85 (32%)	39 (15%)	268 (100%)				
E	11 (26%)	14 (33%)	12 (29%)	5 (12%)	42 (100%)				
F	28 (38%)	9 (12%)	25 (34%)	11 (15%)	73 (100%)				
G	34 (21%)	37 (23%)	82 (50%)	11 (7%)	164 (100%)				
Н	6 (17%)	12 (34%)	4 (11%)	13 (37%)	35 (100%)				
I	19 (28%)	15 (22%)	21 (30%)	14 (20%)	69 (100%)				
Totals	326 (29%)	210 (19%)	420 (37%)	177 (16%)	1133 (100%)				

**Supplementary Table 10:** Numbers and (%) of HCCs in each one of the transcriptomic subclasses according to the individual datasets. *PP*, periportal; *PV*, perivenous; *ECM*, extracellular matrix; *STEM*, stem cell.

**Supplementary Table 11:** Number and (%) of HCCs in each one of the transcriptomic subclasses according to the sampling technique (tumor resection or biopsy) and etiology. Significantly predominant subclasses are highlighted in color.

Sampling technique: metadata set, n= 1133 HCCs						
	PP	PV	ECM	STEM	Total	
Tumor resection	298 (28%)	201 (19%)	395 (37%)	166 (15%)	1060 (100%)	
Tumor biopsy	28 (38%)	9 (12%)	25 (34%)	11 (15%)	73 (100%)	

Pearson's Chi-square test p value=

0,23

### Etiology: metadata set, n= 1133 HCCs

	PP	PV	ECM	STEM	Total
HBV (>95% in original	01 (20%)	42	115	68 (21%)	316 (100%)
base)	91 (2978)	(13%)	(36%)	00 (2170)	310 (100 %)
HCV (>95% in original	11 (26%)	14	12 (28%)	5 (12%)	12 (100%)
base)	11 (2078)	(33%)	12 (2070)	J (1270)	42 (100 %)
Mixed eticleav	224 (200/)	154	293	104	775 (1000/)
	224 (29 %)	(20%)	(37%)	(13%)	775(100%)

Pearson's Chi-square test p value=

0,001

**Supplementary Table 12:** Quality analysis of RNAseq-based dataset extraction from in the 210-HCC (TCGA-LICH-US) external validation set. Normalized data were extracted from the TCGA website. To assess the quality of dataset extraction, Pearson's correlation coefficients were measured for gene pairs expected to be correlated, as indicated in the table headings. Correlations are highlighted by a heatmap showing shades of *red*, indicating positive correlations and shades of *blue*, *indicating* negative correlations. The periportal gene signature is highlighted in *green*, stem cell markers in *purple*, positive CTNNB1 mutation markers in *red* and negative CTNNB1 mutation markers in *grey*.

	N=210 HCCs	AGXT	FETUB	GLS2	GNMT	отс	SLC10 A1	SLC22 A7	SLC27 A5	KRT19	EPCAM	PROM1	LGR5	GLUL	ODAM	НА
1	FETUB	0,66														
1	GLS2	0,47	0,53													
1	GNMT	0,58	0,56	0,52												
1	OTC	0,58	0,52	0,26	0,38											
1	SLC10A1	0,66	0,70	0,41	0,54	0,61										
1	SLC22A7	0,60	0,59	0,32	0,24	0,44	0,53									
1	SLC27A5	0,49	0,56	0,26	0,42	0,66	0,77	0,36								
2	KRT19	-0,25	-0,26	-0,02	-0,14	-0,32	-0,29	-0,15	-0,42							
2	EPCAM	-0,18	-0,24	0,08	-0,06	-0,20	-0,29	-0,10	-0,44	0,57						
2	PROM1	-0,36	-0,38	-0,12	-0,25	-0,32	-0,38	-0,24	-0,52	0,67	0,54					
3	LGR5	-0,17	-0,25	-0,46	-0,09	0,15	-0,15	-0,23	0,04	0,01	0,10	0,11				
3	GLUL	-0,04	-0,05	-0,54	-0,02	0,29	0,20	-0,04	0,34	-0,25	-0,19	-0,15	0,65			
3	ODAM	-0,22	-0,26	-0,57	-0,21	0,16	-0,03	-0,24	0,18	-0,13	-0,23	-0,02	0,61	0,71		
4	HAL	0,43	0,35	0,71	0,32	0,08	0,16	0,35	-0,11	0,15	0,27	0,07	-0,48	-0,66	-0,67	
4	VNN1	0,16	0,16	0,40	-0,04	0,04	0,00	0,27	-0,25	0,22	0,25	0,18	-0,42	-0,56	-0,51	0,6

1	PERIPORTAL GENE SIGNATURE
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2	STEM CELL MARKERS

3	POSITIVE CTNNB1 MUTATION
	MARKERS

4	NEGATIVE CTNNB1 MUTATION
	MARKERS

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### 1) La mutation β-caténine est associée à une faible fibrose tumorale du CHC

#### Matériels et méthodes

La cohorte de 82 CHCs a été décrite dans deux publications(1,2). Dans cette cohorte, la fibrose tumorale a été mesurée après un examen histopathologique par un score de 1 à 4 comme décrit dans (1). L'exon 3 de la  $\beta$ -caténine a été séquencé pour tous les échantillons par la méthode Sanger par Frédéric Canal et Christine Perret (Institut Cochin). La mesure de l'expression de marqueurs d'intérêt a été faite sur les échantillons tumoraux par immunohistochimie sur microarray de tissue (TMA).

### **Résultats**

Nos analyses ont confirmé une association négative entre le score de fibrose et la mutation CTNNB1 (Figure 1). De plus, une analyse en composante principale basée sur l'expression protéique de marqueurs de mutation CTNNB1 (marquage  $\beta$ -caténine nucléaire et glutamine synthase), de marqueurs de remodelage matriciel (CD44 et glypican 3) et de marqueurs souche (SOX9 et P53) a mis en évidence trois groupes de CHCs avec des profils d'expression et des phénotypes spécifiques (Figure 2). Le premier groupe (Rouge) avait un fort taux de mutation CTNNB1 (75%), un faible taux de fibrose tumorale (8%). Le deuxième groupe (Noir) avait un faible taux de mutation (21%) et un fort taux de fibrose (56%). Le troisième groupe (Vert) avait un faible taux de mutation (36%) et de fibrose (18%). Ce résultat confirme l'association négative entre mutation et fibrose et montre que ces phénotypes sont associés à des profils d'expression particuliers.



**Figure 1.** Association négative entre le score de fibrose et la mutation CTNNB1. P value  $< 10^{-3}$  par test du Chi2.



**Figure 2.** Association entre score de fibrose, mutation CTNNB1 et profils d'expression protéique dans une cohorte de 70 CHCs. Une analyse en composante principale basée sur l'expression protéique de marqueurs de mutation CTNNB1, de marqueurs de remodelage matriciel ou de marqueurs souche a mis en évidence 3 groupes de CHCs associés avec des phénotypes de mutation (A) ou de fibrose (B). Les trois groupes isolés par classification ascendante hiérarchique sur composante principale (HCPC) (Noir, Vert et Rouge, C) ont des taux de mutation et de fibrose différents entre eux (D). P value exprimée par test de Chi2.

### 2) <u>Analyse in silico du profil transcriptomique de la mutation β-caténine</u>

### Matériels et méthodes

Les données brutes de deux bases de données transcriptomiques issues de *Gene Expression Omnibus* (3,4) ont été prétraitées par correction du bruit de fond et log2 transformation. Les données d'expression ont été calculées par la méthode RMA (*robust multiarray average*, package affy). Elles comprenaient deux bases, respectivement de 56 et 87 CHCs séquencés pour l'exon 3 de la  $\beta$ -caténine. Les deux bases ont ensuite été fusionnées pour former un metadata set de 143 CHCs (44 mutés CTNNB1 et 99 non mutés) et 12 677 gènes en commun. L'effet batch a été corrigé par l'algorithme COMBAT (package sva) (5). Puis, après normalisation des données par les quantiles, une analyse par GSEA (*Gene Set Expression Analysis*) a été réalisée en utilisant l'outil en ligne du Broad Institute (6).

Pour étudier l'association de la mutation  $\beta$ -caténine avec la fibrose tumorale, cette dernière a été prédite par analyse en composante principale de l'expression de 3 gènes, très corrélés entre eux dans le metadata set, et connus comme marqueurs de fibrose hépatique : COL1A1, COL3A1 et VCAN (7–9). Le score sur la première composante principale de cette analyse a été utilisé avec un *cuttoff* à la médiane. Puis, les gènes associés avec la mutation ou avec la fibrose prédite ont été sélectionnés par des tests de Student avec ajustement par la méthode de Bonferroni (au seuil 5%). 597 gènes ont ainsi été sélectionnés. Puis une classification

ascendante hiérarchique des CHCs du metadata set a été réalisée en utilisant les gènes sélectionnés et la méthode de Ward, avec une distance basée sur les corrélations de Pearson.

Une analyse exploratoire des expressions de marqueurs d'activation Wnt, de marqueurs de cellules souches/progenitrices et de marqueurs d'inflammation ou de fibrose en fonction du statut mutationnel  $\beta$ -caténine a également été réalisée.

### <u>Résultats</u>

# Forte association du génotype « β-caténine sauvage » avec des signatures d'inflammation et de fibrose.

Les analyses par GSEA sur le metadata set de 143 CHCs ont montré une forte association du génotype «  $\beta$ -caténine sauvage » avec des signatures d'inflammation et de fibrose. On comptait ainsi 35 signatures pro-inflammatoires dont des signatures de réponse au Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) (10–12), des signatures de cibles de NF- $\kappa$ B (13,14) ou de cibles de l'interféron gamma (15) ou de stimulation IL-2 (16), IL-4 (17) ou encre IL-6 (18).

De plus, la prédiction de la fibrose dans le metadata set par analyse en composante principale a mis en évidence une corrélation négative forte entre la fibrose tumorale (prédite) et la mutation  $\beta$ -caténine (Tableau 1, Taux de fibrose :  $\beta$ -caténine sauvage, 58% ;  $\beta$ -caténine mutée, 18%).

	Mutation		
Fibrose	Non	Oui	
Non	41	36	
Oui	58	8	

**Tableau 1.** Association négative entre la mutation  $\beta$ -caténine et la fibrose prédite dans un metadata set de 143 CHCs. P value < 10<sup>-3</sup> par test du Chi2.

La classification ascendante hiérarchique basée sur l'expression des 597 gènes associés à la mutation ou à la fibrose a également montré une séparation des CHCs en trois groupes: les mutés sans fibrose, les non mutés avec fibrose et les non mutés sans fibrose (Figure 3). L'analyse a également révélé de fortes corrélations négatives entre l'expression des marqueurs de mutation et celle des marqueurs de fibrose. Cette analyse adopte une démarche similaire à celle appliquée dans notre cohorte de 70 CHCs et obtient des résultats comparables : trois groupes de CHCs associés à des profils d'expression et des phénotypes de mutation et de fibrose particuliers.



**Figure 3.** Classification ascendante hiérarchique du metadata set basée sur l'expression des gènes associés à la mutation CTNNB1 ou à la fibrose prédite. L'analyse révèle trois groupes d'individus fortement enrichis en mutation ou en fibrose. Rouge : CHC mutés avec une fibrose (n=8) ; Orange : CHC mutés sans fibrose (n=36) ; Vert : CHC non mutés avec une fibrose (n=58) ; Bleu : CHC non mutés sans fibrose (n=41) ; L'analyse révèle également deux groupes de gènes (1 et 2). Le groupe 1 est enrichi en marqueurs de mutation (GLUL, LGR5, ODAM, CYP3A3, etc.) et le groupe 2 est enrichi en marqueurs de la fibrose (COL1A1, VCAN, LUM, TIMP1, MMP2, etc.).

Les analyses exploratoires de marqueurs d'intérêt dans le metadata set en fonction du statut mutationnel ont confirmé ces observations. Tout d'abord, les tumeurs mutées CTNNB1 exprimaient plus fortement certains marqueurs d'activation de la voie Wnt, comme LGR5 ou AXIN2 (Figure 4A). Les tumeurs portant une  $\beta$ -caténine sauvage exprimaient quant à elles plus fortement des marqueurs inflammatoires comme certaines interleukines ou la CRP (Figure 4B), des chimiokines (Figure 4C) ou des marqueurs de fibrose (Figure 4D) comme des collagènes (Figure 4E). Ces tumeurs exprimaient également plus fortement un certain nombre de marqueurs souches (Figure 4F).



**Figure 4.** Expression de marqueurs d'intérêt dans le metadata set de 143 CHCs en fonction du statut mutationnel  $\beta$ -caténine (mutés : N=44 ; sauvage : N=99). A- Marqueurs d'activation Wnt. B- Marqueurs d'inflammation. C- Chimiokines. D- Marqueurs de remodelage matriciel ou de fibrose. E- Collagènes. F- Marqueurs de transition épithélio-mésenchymateuse ou marqueurs souches.

### 3) <u>La mutation β-caténine diminue la réponse inflammatoire au LPS dans le</u> <u>modèle HepaRG</u>

### Matériels et méthodes

En collaboration avec Damien Grégoire à Montpelier, des cellules HepaRG ont été transduites par un rétrovirus contenant soit un vecteur vide, soit une  $\beta$ -caténine portant une mutation au niveau de la thréonine 41 de l'exon 3 (mutation T41), ou d'une  $\beta$ -caténine sauvage (WT). Les cellules ont ensuite été cultivées dans du milieu William's E (Gibco, Invitrogen) complété par 2 mM de L-Glutamine (Gibco, Invitrogen), 5 µg/µl d'insuline (Sigma Aldrich), 10<sup>-5</sup> M d'hemisuccinate d'hydrocortisone (Pharmacia Upjohn) et 10% de sérum de veau fœtal (SVF) (Lonza). A noter que le lot de sérum utilisé a été optimisé afin de favoriser la différenciation hépatocytaire des progéniteurs HepaRG (Denise Glaise, Isabelle Cannie, observations non publiées). Le même lot de SVF a été utilisé tout le long des expériences de ce projet. Les cellules ont été cultivées dans une étuve à 37°C, en atmosphère humide avec 5% de CO<sub>2</sub> et les milieux changés trois fois par semaine.

Après 30 jours de culture, les deux lignées ont été traitées par du LPS à 100 ng/ml (Sigma Aldrich) durant 3h, 6h ou 24h. L'expression des ARN a été mesurée par PCR quantitative (qPCR).

### <u>Résultats</u>

Les deux lignées ont tout d'abord été caractérisées par la mesure de l'expression de marqueurs de la mutation CTNNB1 (tels que décrits dans la publication 3). Comme attendu, la lignée T41 a montré une plus forte expression de GLUL, LGR5 et ODAM et la lignée WT une plus forte expression HAL et VNN1 (Figure 5). Ce résultat confirme que de la lignée HepaRG transduite avec un rétrovirus exprimant le gène CTNNB1 muté T41 est un modèle pertinent de la mutation activatrice de l'exon 3 de la CTNNB1 dans le CHC.



**Figure 5.** Expression de marqueurs positifs (GLUL, LGR5 et ODAM) ou négatifs (HAL et VNN1) de mutations CTNNB1 dans les lignées d'HepaRG T41 et WT.

La mesure de marqueurs d'inflammation a ensuite mis en évidence une diminution de la réponse au LPS dans la lignée T41. On observe notamment une forte diminution de la CRP (protéine C réactive) à 24h (Figure 5A), une diminution de IL1 $\beta$  et TNF $\alpha$  à 3h (Figure 5B-C), une diminution de TIMP1 à 6h (Figure 5D) et une diminution de CXCL8 à 3h et 6h (Figure 5E). En revanche, d'autres marqueurs d'inflammation comme IL6, CCL20, CXCL1 ou CCL2 n'ont pas vu leur expression affectée par le statut mutationnel des lignées lors des traitements par LPS (données non montrées).



**Figure 6.** Expression de marqueurs d'inflammation dans les lignées d'HepaRG T41 et WT après 3h, 6h ou 24 de traitement par LPS à 100 ng/ml.

LPS 3H

■ WT ■ T41

LPS 6H

LPS 24H

СТ

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## DISCUSSION

Le travail effectué durant cette thèse a donc permis de mieux comprendre les effets phénotypiques des activations résultant, d'une part de la mutation de la CTNNB1 et, d'autre part, d'une activation Wnt extracellulaire de la voie  $Wnt/\beta$ -caténine dans le carcinome hépatocellulaire (CHC).

Ces deux modes d'activation correspondent à des sous-classes de tumeurs différents, comme initialement mise en évidence dans les travaux de Y Hoshida (226). D'une part, un groupe de CHCs appartenant à la classe prolifération et correspondant à environ 20% des tumeurs montrent des signes d'activation extracellulaire des voies Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine et TGF $\beta$  ainsi qu'un phénotype agressif. D'autre part, environ 30% des CHCs ont une mutation au niveau de l'exon 3 de la  $\beta$ -caténine et définissant une sous-classe de tumeur homogène (CTNNB1 ou G5-G6) associée à un bon pronostic (205,206).

Dans une première partie, nos travaux ont permis de faire le lien entre l'activation Wnt extracellulaire, un phénotype de cellules cancéreuses souches ou progénitrices et la présence de foyers de fibrose discrète intra-tumorale, observable par l'examen histopathologique, que nous avons appelés "nids fibreux". La valeur sémantique du mot "nid" dans cette phrase nominale indique l'association de ces foyers fibreux avec un phénotype souche des cellules tumorales. Ceci reste à confirmer par une étude associant la transcriptomique à la protéomique avec une modélisation in vitro. Cette modélisation devrait tenir compte des effets des paramètres biophysiques de la matrice extracellulaire sur le matrisome (253), l'intéractome (254) et le phénotype des cellules tumorales.

La fibrose est un processus présent dans de nombreux cancers dont le cancer du rectum (255), du sein (256,257) ou du poumon (258). Cette fibrose est activée par plusieurs types cellulaires, dont les myofibroblastes et est fortement modulée par la voie TGF $\beta$ . En effet, TGF $\beta$  induit la translocation du complexe SMAD2/3 dans le noyau des cellules et stimule directement l'expression de plus de 60 gènes de la matrice extracellulaire des collagènes, des glycoprotéines non-collagéniques et des protéoglycanes (259,260). Ces trois grandes familles ont non seulement un rôle structural, mais également un rôle modulateur. Elles vont va contribuer au développement et au renforcement de la rigidité matricielle, à constituer une barrière contre les chimiothérapies (261), mais aussi à constituer un réservoir pour les facteurs de croissance (262). La forte activité protéolytique au niveau de la niche tumorale va également favoriser la libération de domaines cryptiques dans les protéines matricielles, qui jouent des rôles régulateurs des fonctions cellulaires, mais qui pourraient être détournés à des fins thérapeutiques (263–266). De plus, les interactions matrice-tumeur via les récepteurs à tyrosine kinase vont favoriser l'émergence d'un phénotype souche et de la transition épithélio-mésenchymateuse (267). Cela va également favoriser le recrutement du système immunitaire (268) et la migration des cellules tumorales. La matrice va alors jouer le rôle de rail pour les cellules tumorales et favoriser la métastase (269). Les interactions tumeurs/matrice en vue de créer des métastases sont alors appelées "Invadosomes" par certains auteurs (270). Par ailleurs, il a été montré qu'un remodelage précoce de la matrice au niveau du site métastase (271). Lorsque le terrain est bien préparé, avec l'expression de marqueurs matriciels spécifiques, les métastases se développent d'avantage.

Ces associations entre TGF $\beta$ , fibrose et agressivité tumorale ont été démontrées dans plusieurs types de cancers (260). Dans le CHC, une activation de la voie TGF $\beta$  est associée à un phénotype agressif chez la souris (272), ainsi que chez l'homme dans la sous-classe S1 de Hoshida (226). Par ailleurs, des lignées d'hépatocarcinomes cultivées en présence de myofibroblastes ont montré une activation de la voie TGF $\beta$  et une augmentation de l'invasion tumorale (273). L'association d'une fibrose tumorale modulée par TGF $\beta$  et d'un phénotype souche de mauvais pronostic était donc fortement suspectée.

Pour autant, le CHC a toujours été considéré comme une tumeur "molle", ne présentant pas de fibrose. Cette appréciation est faite en comparaison avec la cirrhose et le cholangiocarcinome intrahépatique, deux pathologies caractérisées par un dépôt fibreux très important. Durant cette thèse, nous avons décrit la fibrose intra-tumorale du CHC *in vivo* et relié cette morphologie avec un phénotype souche et un mauvais pronostic pour les patients. Cette fibrose correspond à des dépôts localisés probablement associée à l'expression de la voie TGF $\beta$ . Notre étude montre également des signes d'activation extracellulaire de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine, ce qui peut être lié aux fortes interactions entre TGF $\beta$  et Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine (274). En effet, chacune de ces deux voies régulent les ligands de l'autre voie, induisant un gradient de concentration des deux types de ligands à l'extérieur des cellules, essentiel au développement embryonnaire. De plus, SMAD et LEF forment un complexe et agissent de façon synergique sur la transcription de gènes cible (275). Enfin, de récentes études ont mis en évidence de nombreuses interactions cytoplasmiques entre les composants des deux voies de signalisation (274).

L'association entre activation  $Wnt/\beta$ -caténine et fibrose présentée chez les patients a également été observée *in vitro* chez des progéniteurs hépatiques HepaRG. Dans ce modèle, l'activation par Wnt3a conduit à une transition épithélio-mésenchymateuse et à une transdifférenciation en myofibroblaste. Le rôle de la voie Wnt dans ce processus peut être sujet à discussion, du fait des interactions avec TGF<sup>β</sup> et de la possible contamination de lots de Wnt3a avec du TGF<sup>β</sup> (276). Pour autant, notre expérience a été répétée avec du Wnt3a provenant de plusieurs lots, ainsi qu'avec du milieu conditionné des fibroblastes de souris sur-exprimant Wnt3a versus du milieu conditionné provenant de fibroblastes non transfectés, avec des résultats similaires. De plus, le silencing de la  $\beta$ -caténine via un siRNA a diminué l'expression de la majorité (75%) des gènes cibles de Wnt3a, dont COL1A1 et COL3A1. Cela conforte l'évidence d'un phénotype fibrogénique induit par la voie Wnt. Cependant, l'induction par Wnt3a de TGFβ et de MMP2, ainsi que 31 autres gènes n'était pas bloquée par le siRNA contre la CTNNB1 ni par l'inhibiteur extracellulaire de Wnt3a, FZD8\_CRD (249). Ces résultats suggèrent des effets de Wnt3a pouvant passer par des voies indépendantes de la β-caténine, puisque l'effet canonique ou non canonique des ligands Wnts dépend non pas du ligand lui-même, mais du contexte des récepteurs Wnt exprimés à la surface cellulaire (277). La possibilité d'une contamination des protéines Wnt recombinantes avec des inducteurs de TGFB n'est pas non plus à exclure totalement, car les Wnts ne sont produits de façon efficace que par des cellules de mammifères en raison des importantes modifications post-traductionnelles subies par ces molécules et le besoin de sérum de veau fœtal dans le milieu de culture pour que les Wnts soient solubilisés grâce à leur association avec des particules lipoprotéiques (glycosylation, palmitoylation) (278).

Notre modèle a également permis d'étudier les interactions de la voie  $Wnt/\beta$ -caténine avec d'autres voies de signalisation. De manière attendue, Wnt3a induit TGF $\beta$ . Il induit également l'expression du marqueur souche LGR5 via l'induction de la voie Hedgehog, contribuant ainsi au phénotype souche. Parallèlement à cela, il inhibe la voie Notch, diminuant ainsi le phénotype biliaire.

Il apparait donc que l'activation Wnt induit un phénotype progéniteur mésenchymateux de mauvais pronostic, passant partiellement par des interactions avec d'autres voies de signalisation, et formant au sein des tumeurs des "nids de fibrose" pouvant aider à l'invasion tumorale. Nos résultats suggèrent également qu'une partie des myofibroblastes présents dans ces nids soient d'origine tumorale, par transition épithélio-mésenchymateuse induite par Wnt. Par ailleurs, il est intéressant de noter que ce phénotype est différent de celui des progéniteurs cholangiocytaire, associé à l'expression de marqueurs comme KRT19 ou EPCAM, typique de la sous-classe de CHCs "Progenitor-like".

Pour aller plus loin dans ce travail, il serait intéressant de mieux caractériser les "nids fibreux" du CHC. Pour cela, des analyses combinant protéomique et transcriptomiques sont actuellement envisagées dans le cadre d'un Post-doctorat à Chicago, dans l'équipe de Natalia Nieto à l'Université of Illinois, en collaboration avec l'UMR991 INSERM de Rennes. L'idée du projet est de caractériser la matrice extracellulaire tumorale en suivant la démarche de Alexandra Naba et Richard Hynes, qui a défini a le "Matrisome" (279).

Notre étude de l'activation Wnt dans le CHC a par ailleurs permis de mettre en évidence de nouveaux marqueurs d'agressivité. HAPLN1 est associée avec l'expression de marqueurs souche, avec l'AFP, l'invasion vasculaire, ainsi qu'avec une augmentation de la mortalité et de la récidive tumorale. Ici, il est intéressant de noter qu'HAPLN1 est une protéine de la matrice extracellulaire du cartilage liant l'acide hyaluronique et des protéoglycanes à chondroïtine sulfate (280). Cette protéine est ainsi retrouvée dans les "nids fibreux" et, plus particulièrement, dans des cellules à allure tumorale orientées en file indienne parmi les bandes fibreuses, ce qui constitue un signe d'agressivité tumorale (281). Ainsi, HAPLN1 et pourrait faire office de marqueur d'intérêt, puisqu'elle n'est pas exprimée dans le foie normal. Elle n'est exprimée que de manière localisée dans un nombre restreint de CHC. Cependant, nos études de survie n'ont été réalisées que sur un nombre limité de patients (N=36) et il serait intéressant de valider nos résultats dans une cohorte plus importante. D'autre part, son expression médiane dans l'ensemble des foies cirrhotiques, bien que beaucoup plus faible que le taux d'expression médian dans les CHCs, reste à explorer de façon détaillée et, notamment, par immunohistochimie, afin de préciser si une expression localisée de HAPLN1 dans le foie cirrhotique est associé à des foyers de dysplasie ou de CHC.

HAPLN1 contribue à former des assemblages supra-moléculaires où interviennent l'acide hyaluronique, les protéoglycanes à chondroïtine sulfate et la tenascine C (TNC). De par sa structure en hexamère, la TNC amplifie cette structure supra-moléculaire (280). D'autre part, un des domaines protéiques d'HAPLN1 a un rôle pro-tumorigénique indépendant (282). Ainsi, favorisant la formation de gels d'acide hyaluronique, HAPLN1 pourrait promouvoir la formation de gradients de facteurs de croissance et constituer des centres de fibrogenèse. Cette hypothèse est soutenue par l'expression d'HAPLN1 au cours de l'embryogenèse au niveau des tissus mésenchymateux ou encore au cours de la transition épithélio-mésenchymateuse de l'endocarde aboutissant à la formation des cellules interstitielles des valves cardiaques (283).

Nos travaux ont également montré qu'une inhibition de l'expression d'HAPLN1 avec un siRNA spécifique était associée avec une diminution de marqueurs fibrogéniques (ACTA2,

COL4A1) et souche (SNAI1, LGR5), ce qui peut suggérer un rôle plus complexe de cette protéine. Sa capacité à augmenter l'agressivité tumorale dans le CHC n'a également pas été démontrée. En conséquence, il serait intéressant de sur-exprimer HAPLN1 dans des lignées de cellules de CHC à xénogreffer chez des souris immunodéprimées.

Dans une deuxième partie du travail de thèse, nous avons cherché à mieux comprendre les caractéristiques cliniques et le phénotype moléculaire des CHCs portant une mutation au niveau de l'exon 3 de la  $\beta$ -caténine.

La méta-analyse transcriptomique que j'ai réalisée sur plus 1000 CHCs, combinée à un travail de prédiction de la mutation CTNNB1, a confirmé que ces tumeurs formaient un groupe homogène (PV). Nous avons également mis en évidence une nouvelle sous-classe tumorale (PP) exprimant un programme métabolique périportal, portant une  $\beta$ -caténine sauvage et associée à des caractéristiques cliniques de bon pronostic. Les deux autres sous-classes révélées par notre classification correspondaient d'une part à un remodelage de la matrice extracellulaire et à une transition épithélio-mésenchymateuse (ECM), faisant penser aux sous-classes "Hepatocyte-like" de la classe "Proliferation" et, d'autre part, à un phénotype souche (STEM), faisant penser à la sous-classe "Progenitor-like" de la classe "Proliferation".

Notre classification a donc confirmé des sous-classes déjà décrites (S1 et S2) et a permis de mieux comprendre la diversité de la classe "Non-prolifération", correspondant au groupe S3 de Hoshida (ref), en séparant les patients en PP et en PV. Nous avons également montré que la survie des CHC mutés β-caténine (PV) était meilleure que celle des sous-classes ECM et STEM. Cela explique le paradoxe du lien entre mutation β-caténine et l'agressivité des tumeurs. Les tumeurs mutées CTNNB1 sont en effet associées à des caractéristiques cliniques et à des signatures de bon pronostic. Nos résultats montrent que leur pronostic est plus favorable que celui des sous-classes STEM et ECM. Aussi, l'ensemble des données que nous avons obtenues (AFP, signatures de métastase, classe tumorale) indiquent que les ont une agressivité intermédiaire entre les PP, d'une part et les ECM/STEM, d'autre part. Cela explique pourquoi la mutation CTNNB1 n'est pas associée à la survie lorsque l'analyse compare les tumeurs portant une CTNNB1 sauvage versus les tumeurs portant une CTNNB1 mutée.

Notre travail indique donc que les CHCs se divisent en quatre sous-classes dont une seulement est enrichie à plus de 80% en une mutation génétique particulière (la sous-classe PV). Les trois autres sous-classes se caractérisent par un état de différenciation respectivement élevé, moyen

et faible. Entre les sous-classes PP, ECM et STEM, on observe en effet une diminution croissante des marqueurs de différenciation hépatocytaire (ALDOB, ALB, CDH1, ect.) et une augmentation croissante des marqueurs souches (AFP, PRM1, CD133). Nous avons évoqué précédemment une hypothèse selon laquelle le phénotype souche fibreux exprimant HAPLN1 serait différent du phénotype souche cholangiocytaire exprimant KRT19 et EPCAM. Si cette hypothèse était vraie, on pourrait faire le rapprochement entre ces deux types de CHCs avancés et les sous-classes ECM et STEM. Dans ce cas, l'expression de gènes du remodelage matriciel et de la fibrose (TNC, CD44, VCAN, TGF $\beta$ , etc.) serait plus élevée dans la sous-classe ECM. Ce n'est pas le cas puisque les marqueurs matriciels, tout comme les marqueurs souche ou même biliaires, sont exprimés plus fortement dans la sous-classe STEM. Ces observations suggèrent que les CHCs STEM dérivent des ECM qui dérivent eux même des PP, reproduisant ainsi la progression tumorale par dédifférenciation telle qu'imaginée dès les années 50 par Edmondson (163).

Au début des années 2000, les scientifiques ont imaginé qu'ils pourraient définir des sous-types tumoraux pour tous les cancers connus en fonction du profil de mutations génétiques. Aujourd'hui, la découverte de l'importance de l'épigénétique a relativisé ces espoirs. Dans le CHC, seule la mutation CTNNB1 définit pleinement une sous-classe, avec un taux de mutation supérieur à 80%. Nos résultats montrent également que le phénomène observable le plus fort permettant de classer les CHCs est l'état de différenciation tumoral. Cependant, nos analyses se sont concentrées sur la robustesse des sous-classes. Si nous avions cherché à classer les CHCs en fonction de l'étiologie ou de l'origine géographique, nous aurions sans doute obtenue d'autres informations. De plus, il faut noter que les échantillons analysés pour cette étude ne correspondent qu'aux cas les moins avancées (seuls 15% à 20% des CHCs sont éligibles à la résection par chirurgie).

Il existe également des associations plus faibles entre les sous-classes et des mutations ou des voies de signalisation. Par exemple, la mutation TP53 est associée à la sous-classe STEM (G3 pour (205), S2 pour (226)). Dans notre base RNAseq de 210 CHCs, 26 sont classés STEM avec un taux de mutation d'environ 50% dans cette sous-classes. Selon les classifications actuelles, la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine est plus fortement induite dans les CHCs "Hepatocyte-like" (ECM) et la voie Notch plus fortement induite dans les CHCs "Progenitor-like" (STEM). L'expression de DKK1, gène cible de  $\beta$ -caténine et marqueur d'activation de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine est pourtant beaucoup plus forte dans la sous-classe STEM. Ce résultat suggère plutôt une augmentation progressive de l'activation de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine tumorale. Cette

hypothèse reste à démontrer, mais est soutenue par les résultats de Yamashita (284), qui montre une activation de la voie Wnt/b-caténine dans les CHC exprimant fortement EPCAM, un marqueur typiquement exprimé par les CHC de la sous-classe STEM.

Notre travail a également permis pour la première fois de montrer que les mécanismes en jeu dans la zonation du métabolisme hépatique du foie normal étaient retrouvés dans le foie tumoral. Par ailleurs, la signature PP de 8 gènes a été confirmée dans deux bases indépendantes pour la prédiction de la survie et de la récidive. A l'avenir, on peut imaginer qu'une telle signature puisse être utilisée en soutien au score AFP (186) pour la sélection des patients éligibles pour une greffe hépatique. Elle permettrait de sélectionner les patients ne risquant pas de métastaser à court terme, soit pour retarder la greffe chez ces patients, soit à l'inverser pour favoriser leur greffe puisque leur risque de récidive est faible.

Enfin, notre travail a permis de bâtir un outil puissant pour l'étude de marqueurs d'intérêt. Le Metadata set de plus de 1000 CHCs, annotés pour les sous-classes PP/PV/ECM/STEM, comprenant l'expression de presque 10 000 gènes peut être utilisé pour cribler des gènes d'intérêt. La survie associée à l'expression de ces gènes peut également être mesurée dans deux bases indépendantes de 247 et 210 CHCs. Actuellement, la base de données de J Zuckman-Rossi classant les patients en 6 groupes est encore utilisée comme outil pour l'évaluation préliminaire des marqueurs (205). Les effectifs de cette classification pionnière sont pourtant faibles, le nombre respectif d'effectif dans chaque groupe étant : G1=6 ; G2=6 ; G3=8 ; G4=17 ; G5=11 ; G6=8. Nous songeons actuellement à la création d'un site internet libre d'accès permettant de questionner notre Metadataset, pour en extraire les valeurs moyennes d'expression de gènes d'intérêt dans nos 4 sous-classes.

Une dernière partie du travail de thèse a porté sur l'étude des mécanismes moléculaires associés à la mutation CTNNB1 dans le CHC. Nos résultats ont mis en évidence une forte association négative entre la mutation et l'expression de marqueurs de fibrose et d'inflammation. Ces résultats ont été montrés in silico dans deux bases indépendantes annotées pour la mutation CTNNB1 (N=56 et N=87). L'association négative entre mutation et fibrose tumorale a également été confirmée dans notre cohorte de 82 CHCs. Nous avons également mis en évidence un effet direct de la mutation  $\beta$ -caténine sur les marqueurs d'inflammation après activation des HepaRG par LPS. Ces résultats, qui doivent cependant être encore confirmées, suggèrent un effet direct anti-inflammatoire de la  $\beta$ -caténine. Cet effet pourrait passer par une inhibition directe de NF- $\kappa$ B, comme démontré dans le cancer du côlon et le cancer du sein (250). Pour confirmer cela, une mesure de l'activité NF- $\kappa$ B dans notre modèle HepaRG est en cours.

Il faut noter ici que l'effet d'interactions entre β-caténine et NF-κB est complexe et dépend fortement du contexte cellulaire. Dans certaines conditions, la β-caténine induit le signal NFκB (285). Dans d'autres conditions NF-κB induit le signal β-caténine (286). Dans d'autres conditions encore NF-κB inhibe le signal β-caténine (287). Cependant, plusieurs modèles avec à la fois un fort signal pro-inflammatoire et un fort signal β-caténine montrent une diminution d'activité NF-κB par rapport à une situation où la β-caténine n'est pas activée (250–252).

Cela sous-entend que l'inhibition du signal NF- $\kappa$ B puisse dépendre de l'intensité du signal  $\beta$ caténine. Si cette hypothèse est démontrée, cela pourrait être une des clés pour expliquer la différence phénotypique entre les tumeurs mutées CTNNB1 et les tumeurs montrant des signes d'activation extracellulaire de la voie Wnt. Dans le premier cas, l'intensité massive du signal  $\beta$ caténine dû à l'accumulation ininterrompue de  $\beta$ -caténine dans les cellules pourrait inhiber le signal NF- $\kappa$ B et induire un phénotype peu fibrogénique et peu inflammatoire, forcément associé à un risque plus faible de métastase et donc à un bon pronostic. En cas d'activation extracellulaire de la voie Wnt, le signal  $\beta$ -caténine d'intensité plus modéré n'aurait pas la capacité d'inhiber NF- $\kappa$ B, voir pourrait le stimuler. On observerait donc un phénotype beaucoup plus inflammatoire et fibrogénique, associé à un plus mauvais pronostic. Dans ce cas, le dialogue croisé avec d'autres voies de signalisation comme TGF $\beta$  contribuerait également à l'engagement vers un phénotype souche.

## CONCLUSION

Nos travaux ont donc permis de confirmer l'existence de deux phénotypes différents liés à deux modes d'activation de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine dans le CHC. L'activation extracellulaire est associée à un remodelage de la matrice extracellulaire observable au sein de "nids fibreux", à une transition épithélio-mésenchymateuse, à un phénotype souche et à un mauvais pronostic. A l'opposé, un fort signal  $\beta$ -caténine provoqué par une mutation de l'exon 3 du gène CTNNB1 est associé à un phénotype de tumeurs différenciées exprimant un programme métabolique périveineux, à une faible inflammation et une faible fibrose ainsi qu'à un à un pronostic intermédiaire. Les causes de cette différence de phénotype entre mutation et activation extracellulaire de la voie Wnt pourraient passer par une inhibition de NF- $\kappa$ B par la  $\beta$ -caténine en cas de signal massif induit par la mutation activatrice.

Nos travaux ont également permis de mieux comprendre la distribution des CHCs grâce à une Meta-analyse transcriptomique sur plus de 1000 échantillons. Ces analyses ont permis d'isoler une nouvelle sous-classe de CHC portant une  $\beta$ -caténine sauvage, associée à un programme métabolique périportal ainsi qu'à un bon pronostic. Cette sous-classe fait partie de la classe "Non-prolifération" et permet de résoudre le paradoxe lié à l'association entre la mutation CTNNB1 et la survie des patients. La signature de 8 gènes associée à cette nouvelle sous-classe a également montré une association avec la survie et la récidive dans deux cohortes indépendantes. Elle pourrait à l'avenir être utilisée pour prédire le pronostic des patients et ainsi d'orienter l'allocation de greffons hépatiques chez les patients portant des CHCs stade A de Barcelone.

Au final, nos travaux ont éclairci deux mécanismes différents d'activation de la voie Wnt/βcaténine dans le CHC et confirmé leur importance clinique: (i) l'activation Wnt extracellulaire donne lieu à une foisonnante communication croisée entre différentes voies de signalisation; elle enrichie la biodiversité des CHCs, probablement leur apportant des avantages évolutifs en terme de progression tumorale; (ii) à l'opposé, l'activation par la mutation du gène CTNNB1 donne lieu à l'un des groupes les plus homogènes de CHCs, d'une moindre agressivité. De fait, dans les recherches futures pour de nouvelles thérapies curatives du CHC, il est très probable que le statut mutationnel CTNNB1 et la différentiation hépatocytaire influencent l'efficacité des traitements. Ces données pourraient contribuer à adapter les stratégies de recherche thérapeutique.

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## Résumé

Le carcinome hépatocellulaire (CHC) est une des principales causes de mortalité par cancer dans le monde. Dans environ 50% des tumeurs, on observe les signes d'une activation de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine, causée par une mutation de l'exon 3 du gène CTNNB1 ou par stimulation du récepteur FRZD. Des études transcriptomiques du CHCs ont montré que ces deux modes d'activation étaient associés à des sous-types de tumeurs différents. Nous avons cherché à mieux comprendre les caractéristiques cliniques et le phénotype moléculaire de ces deux sous-types de CHCs.

Dans un premier temps, nous avons fait le lien entre l'activation Wnt extracellulaire, un phénotype de cellules cancéreuses souches ou progénitrices et la présence de foyers de fibrose discrète intra-tumorale, observable par examen histopathologique, que nous avons appelés "nids fibreux". Nous avons également mis en évidence HAPLN1, une protéine de la matrice extracellulaire dont l'expression est stimulée par Wnt3a dans un modèle de cellules hépatiques progénitrices HepaRG, comme un nouveau marqueur d'agressivité du CHC. Ces résultats montrent une association entre l'activation Wnt extracellulaire et une agressivité tumorale passant par un remodelage matriciel.

Dans un second temps, une Méta-analyse de données publiques de transcriptomique a permis de mettre évidence 4 sous-types de CHCs. La mutation CTNNB1, prédite par l'expression de 5 marqueurs par une méthode développée durant la thèse, était associée à un de ces sous-types et à un bon pronostic clinique. Nous avons également isolé un nouveau sous-type de CHC de bon pronostic exprimant un phénotype de tumeur différenciée et des signatures de métabolisme hépatique périportales. Ce sous-type a probablement été un facteur confondant dans les études précédentes mesurant l'association de la mutation CTNNB1 avec un bon pronostic.

Enfin, nous avons mis en évidence une forte association négative entre la mutation CTNNB1 et l'inflammation ainsi que la fibrose tumorale dans trois cohortes indépendantes. Cet effet pourrait être provoqué par une inhibition de NF- $\kappa$ B par la  $\beta$ -caténine mutée, comme suggérée par des résultats préliminaires issue d'un modèle *in vitro* d'HepaRG mutés T41 stimulés par LPS. Nos résultats suggèrent donc que les deux modes d'activation de la voie Wnt/ $\beta$ -caténine sont associés à des mécanismes moléculaires, des profils d'expression, des phénotypes et des pronostics cliniques très différents.