# Emerging NGS Applications at the Intersection Germline and Somatic Cancer Genetics

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#### **Disclosure Information**

Nothing to disclose

# **Learning Objectives**

1 Understand when and how testing for inherited mutations in *BRCA1, BRCA2*, and other homologous recombination DNA repair genes is used to guide cancer treatment.

2. Describe the clinical scenario and utility of tumor sequencing of mismatch DNA repair genes as part of a Lynch syndrome workup.

3. List at least two types of tumor findings that increase the probability that a germline variant in a cancer predisposition gene is pathogenic.

## Interplay



Targeted Therapy

 $\Rightarrow$  Cancer Syndrome Screening  $\langle$ 

#### Germline



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Variant Interpretation

## Outline

- DNA repair gene mutations and cancer treatment
  - Background
  - Testing Approaches
- Tumor sequencing in a Lynch workup
- How tumors can help with variant classification
- Case vignette

#### DNA Repair Genes Guide Cancer Treatment

DNA Repair	Example	Germline	Treatment
Pathway	Genes	Syndrome	Implications
Homologous Recombination Repair (HR)	BRCA1, BRCA2	Hereditary breast/ovarian/ prostate	PARPi, platinum
Mismatch Repair	MSH2,	Lynch	PD1/PDL-1
(MMR)	MLH1		inhibitors

PARPi= poly(ADP) ribose polymerase inhibitor PD1/PDL-1= programmed cell death 1/ligand 1

### FDA Approves PARPi for Ovarian and Breast

• Three PARPi approved, 2014 (ovary), 2018 (breast)

• Two drugs based on BRCA1/2 mutation status

- Germline + somatic BRCA1/2 testing now standard
- Other cancers close behind: prostate, pancreatic

#### Extraordinary PARP Inhibitor Responses in DNA Repair-Mutated Prostate Cancer



Mateo et al. *NEJM* (2015)



14/16 (88%) with bi-allelic DNA repair defects responded 2/33 (6%) without bi-allelic DNA repair defects responded

## Germline DNA Repair Mutations Are Common in Metastatic Prostate Cancer



#### FDA Approves PD-1 Inhibitor for Any MMR-Deficient Cancer



#### FDA grants accelerated approval to pembrolizumab for first tissue/site agnostic indication



### MSI by NGS (mSINGS)



Salipante et al. 2015 Clin. Chem. and Hempelmann et al. 2015 JMD.

#### "Long Tail" of MSI Cancers Now Being Tested for MMR



MMR= mismatch DNA repair

## MSI by NGS Outperforms Traditional Methods in New Cancer Types



Adapted from Hempelmann et al. (2018) JITC. PMID:29665853



#### **Types of Tests**

DNA Repair Pathway	Functional	Mutation-Based
MMR	IHC, MSI 🥠	NGS Panel (e.g. ColoSeq), Total Mutation Burden
HR	LOH Burden	NGS panel (e.g. BROCA), HRD Mutation Signature

MMR= mismatch repair, HR= homologous recombination, HRD= homologous recombination deficiency IHC= immunohistochemistry, MSI= microsatellite instability, LOH= loss of heterozygosity

### Implementation of Cancer NGS Testing: Not One-Size Fits All



#### Approach at UW/BBI/SCCA

- Upfront germline and tumor paired sequencing
- DNA repair-focused NGS panels exons AND introns
  - e.g. BROCA-tumor



#### Practice of Genomic Medicine: **Patient-Tailored** Expert Review



#### SCCA Prostate Cancer Genetic Care Clinic (launched 2016, Heather Cheng)

#### **Two-Part Consultation**

- 1. Medical Oncology
  - Discuss genetics (somatic and germline) for treatment planning
  - Discuss trial/research options
- 2. Genetic Counselor
  - Risk assessment, pre- and post-test counseling, as relevant
  - Education and guidance on discussing with family



## Outline

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   After germline testing
  - As first-line screening
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#### Universal Lynch Syndrome Screening: Colorectal Cancer

#### Tumor MSI/IHC POS

#### BRAF V600E/MLH1 methylation NEG

#### Germline testing NEG Lynch excluded??



# After Germline Testing is Unexpectedly Negative: Sometimes Called "Lynch Like"

• Lynch syndrome in ~3% of colorectal cancer

- "Lynch-like" also in ~2-3% of colorectal cancer
  - Positive tumor screening and no germline mutation
  - Increasingly clinically important with universal screening

#### **Double Somatic MMR Mutations Common**

• Explain most "Lynch-like" cases (up to 75%)

• About as common as Lynch syndrome



- Positive screening results explained by somatic mutation
- Patients unlikely to have Lynch syndrome ("undiagnosed")

MMR= mismatch repair genes



#### NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2015 Updates Genetic/Familial High-Risk Assessment: Colorectal

Recommendation to **consider somatic MMR testing** in some scenarios when germline testing is negative was added to the 2015 NCCN guidelines

MMR= mismatch repair genes

# **Tumor NGS Can Explain MMR Deficiency After Germline is Unexpectedly Negative**



Jacobson et al. (2018), manuscript in preparation

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# Tumor Sequencing as First-Line Lynch Screening Can Simplify Testing



# **Study Design**

• 419 OSU prospective cases with known MMR IHC, MSI, BRAF, MLH1-methylation status by conventional assays

• Tumor-only NGS at UW, <u>blinded</u> expert review

• MMR genes, MSI by NGS, BRAF, KRAS, NRAS

#### Tumor NGS as First-Line Lynch Screening Performs Better Than Traditional Screening

	Tumor NGS	MSI + BRAF	IHC + BRAF
Sensitivity	100% (94-100)	91% (81-97)	90% (79-96)
Specificity	95% (93-97)	95% (92-97)	95% (92-97)
PPV	40% (30-51)	34% (25-45)	33% (24-44)
NPV	>99% (99-100)	>99% (98-100)	>99% (98-100)
Lynch Cases Missed	0 missed	5 missed	6 missed

PPV= positive predictive value; NPV= negative predictive value (95% confidence intervals)

Hampel et al. JAMA Oncology 2018 PMID: 29887214



# Outline

- DNA repair gene mutations and cancer treatment
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- How tumors can help with variant classification
  - In patients with germline VUS
  - Incorporating somatic data into classification
- Case vignette

## Tumor Data <u>Is Being Used</u> To Clarify Germline Variants

• Increasing tumor testing to clarify "Lynch-like" cases

Same tests used in patients with germline MMR VUS

VUS= variant of uncertain significance

MMR= mismatch repair genes

"Lynch-like"= patients with positive Lynch screening tests, but negative germline testing

### When Tumor Testing Might Help

"High" germline VUS, close to likely pathogenic

OR

#### "Low" germline VUS, close to likely benign

VUS= variant of uncertain significance

Highest

Strength of Evidence

I owest

#### **Clues From Tumor: Germline VUS Pathogenic**



No Somatic Explanation



Single Somatic Mutation Consistent With 2<sup>nd</sup> Hit OR



#### **Clues From Tumor: Germline VUS Benign**

Double somatic mutation

AND

#### Absence of LOH



#### Pitfalls

• Missed germline or somatic mutation

• Double somatic mutations are *in cis* 

• Multiple clones

## Tumor NGS Enables Variant Re-Classification

40 patients with germline MMR VUS

- 5 re-classified based in part on tumor sequencing
  - 4 to likely pathogenic
  - 1 to likely benign



MMR= mismatch repair gene VUS= variant of uncertain significance

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#### Incorporating Somatic Data into Classification: Lynch is the Perfect Model

• Highly specific tumor phenotype (e.g. MSH2 loss)

• Somatic mutations are *de novo* 

 Analogous to *de novo* germline mutation in a patient with a matching phenotype -strong criteria for pathogenicity

### **Somatic Mutations That Explain IHC**

- Somatic missense mutations often explain IHC
- <u>Same</u> mutations may be seen as germline VUS
- Can we use the tumor information to reclassify?

• Yes!

# Tumor NGS for <u>Variant Classification</u>: Passenger or Driver?



Normalized Variant Allele Fraction

Shirts et al. (2018), Am. J. Hum Genet. PMID:29887214

## Likelihood Modeling

Prior probability based on InSiGHT



InSiGHT Database mutL homolog 1 (MLH1)

• Likelihood ratio (LR) from normalized variant allele fraction



 Posterior probability >95% = Likely Pathogenic

### Results

• 61 somatic missense MMR mutations that fit IHC

- 20 reported as germline
  - 10/20 classified as pathogenic/likely pathogenic
  - 10/20 classified as VUS
- 4 of 10 VUS reclassified as pathogenic/likely pathogenic

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Case vignette

#### Case

 45 year old woman with colorectal cancer that loss of MSH2 and MSH6 protein by IHC

• Father had colon cancer at age 55

• Colon cancer predisposition panel testing identifies a rare deep intronic variant in *MSH2* 

#### Case

• Nucleotide position is completely conserved

 Computer prediction strongly suggests the creation of a cryptic splice site

 Variant is reported as VUS with offer of RNA functional studies to follow up

#### Case

 Same MSH2 deep intronic variant is observed twice as a somatic mutation in colorectal cancer that had loss of MSH2 and MSH6

 Functional RNA splicing studies confirm introduction of a cryptic exon and frameshift in ~50% of transcripts



#### **Case: Final Diagnosis**

Lynch syndrome caused by an inherited pathogenic deep intronic mutation in *MSH2* that results in the introduction of a cryptic exon and a premature frameshift

## Summary

 Germline and tumor NGS testing of DNA repair genes is increasingly needed to guide cancer treatment

 Tumor NGS testing increasingly used in a Lynch workup

• Tumor NGS testing assists with DNA repair gene variant classification

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