Secrets within the genomes of cancer cells

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Incidence and mortality of cancer

1:3 develop cancer

1:5 die of cancer

100-200 different types of cancer

















Somatic mutations occur in all cells of the body throughout life



Somatic mutations occur in all cells of the body throughout life



.....ATCGGGGAATCGGACCCGATG.....





.....ATCGGGGAATCGGACCCGATG.....

.....ATCGGGAATCGG-

.....ATCGGGAATCGG--CTGAGTTTTGAGGG....



Driver and Passenger mutations



♥ Cancer genes

Driver and Passenger mutations





♥ Cancer genes







Massively parallel sequencing



Year



bases

Year





bases

per day

Year

A comprehensive catalogue of somatic mutations in a malignant melanoma



33,345 base changes66 insertions / deletions37 rearrangements

Key questions we can now ask about cancers and their genomes

 What are the mutated cancer genes and how different are individual cancers in their mutated cancer genes?

•What causes the somatic mutations in the first place?

•How do cancers spread?

•How can we use all this information to help patients?

Breast Cancer

- In UK:
 - 50,000 cases per year
 - 12,000 deaths per year



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How many cancer genes with driver mutations across all types of cancer?

- ~20,000 genes that make proteins in the human genome
- ~550 are cancer genes carrying driver mutations involved in causing human cancer

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Known causes of somatic mutations


What causes the somatic mutations in breast cancer?





Numbers of base substitution mutations in 100 breast cancers



Types of substitution mutations

$$\begin{array}{c}
 G \rightarrow A \\
 G \rightarrow T \\
 G \rightarrow C \\
 A \rightarrow G \\
 A \rightarrow T \\
 A \rightarrow C
 \end{array}$$

$$C \rightarrow T$$

$$C \rightarrow A$$

$$C \rightarrow G$$

$$T \rightarrow C$$

$$T \rightarrow A$$

$$T \rightarrow G$$

















Known causes of somatic mutations



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Genome-wide detection of rearrangements



Genome-wide detection of rearrangements



Present Absent















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Malignant Melanoma

Develops from melanocytes in skin
 In the UK

 11,000 cases per year
 2,000 dootbo per year

> 2,000 deaths per year



Mutations of BRAF found in malignant melanoma and other cancers

Driver mutations of BRAF found in 70% malignant melanoma 30% thyroid cancer 10% colorectal cancer













Treatment of metastatic malignant melanoma with a selective inhibitor of mutated BRAF (Vemurafenib)



Before

Treatment of metastatic malignant melanoma with a selective inhibitor of mutated BRAF (Vemurafenib)



Before



15 days after

Personalised treatment with Vemurafenib



Personalised treatment with Vemurafenib



.....TACAGTGAAA.....

.....**TACAGAGAAA**.....





Personalised treatment with Vemurafenib





.....**TACAGTGAAA**.....

.....**TACAGAGAAA**.....





Key questions we can now ask about cancers and their genomes

•How diverse are individual cancers in their driver mutations?

•What causes the somatic mutations?

•How do cancers spread?

•How can we use all this information to help patients?

International Cancer Genome Consortium Projects




