

Somatic alterations in brain tumors

JILL BARNHOLTZ-SLOAN¹, ANDREW E. SLOAN¹, SUSAN LAND²,
WILLIAM KUPSKY² and ALVARO N.A. MONTEIRO^{3,4}

¹Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, OH 44106; ²Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI 48201; ³Risk Assessment, Detection, and Intervention Program, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Tampa, FL 33612; ⁴Department of Interdisciplinary Oncology, University of South Florida College of Medicine, Tampa, FL 33612, USA

Received December 18, 2007; Accepted February 26, 2008

Abstract. Mutations in *TP53* and *RB1* have been shown to participate in the development of malignant brain tumors. Emerging evidence shows that mutations are involved in *LGII* in brain tumor progression. Herein we present data from the sequencing of a series of high- and low-grade gliomas with matched normal DNA. We report on 35 unique missense mutations in *TP53*, *RB1* and *LGII* genes and use available information for each mutation in order to classify them as likely to be 'driver' or 'passenger' mutations. The identification of putatively deleterious mutations in *LGII* supports the notion that this locus may play a role in brain cancer development.

Introduction

The most common type of primary brain tumor in adults is glioma (MIM#137800), a tumor arising from glial cells (astrocytes, oligodendrocytes or both) (1). Most gliomas can be divided into three groups based on their histopathological appearance: astrocytic, oligodendroglial and mixed oligo-astrocytic tumors (1). Although these tumor types make up the great majority of human gliomas, there are also a number of other subtypes (1). Brain tumors are highly heterogeneous with a wide morphological spectrum (2). Cytogenetic and molecular genetic studies have shown that tumor subtypes exist within larger histological brain tumor categories, such as astrocytoma, grade IV, also known as glioblastoma multiforme (GBM). GBM is the most commonly diagnosed type of malignant brain tumor in adults.

Two pathways for the progression of GBMs have been demonstrated: secondary and *de novo* (3-5). The two

progression pathways show that these tumors have changes occurring in *TP53* (MIM# 191170) and *RB1* (MIM# 180200) and in other genes in these respective pathways (3-5).

Therefore, the evidence indicates that *TP53* and *RB1* play a key role in the molecular pathogenesis of brain tumors. Herein, we report on the somatic mutations in *TP53* and *RB1* found in a series of low- and high-grade gliomas. We analyze *LGII* whose locus is rearranged and down-regulated in malignant brain cancers (6). We also provide a tentative classification of mutations as that may confer a selective advantage to the cancer phenotypes, as 'driver mutations' or that accumulate in cancer cells but do not contribute to the cancer phenotype as 'passenger mutations'.

Materials and methods

Subjects. Forty-three subjects with primary brain tumors were included in the study between May 2002 and July 2004 at the Karmanos Cancer Institute Neuro-oncology clinic and other institutions in the Detroit Metropolitan area, which included hospitals in the Detroit Medical Center system and the Henry Ford Health system. The tumor samples were re-read to ensure that a viable tumor was represented in the samples and to verify histological diagnosis. The DNA from blood or tumor samples was extracted according to established protocols. Therefore, matched tumor DNA (from tumor samples) and normal DNA (from blood samples) was available for each individual. Subsets of these samples were then used to investigate somatic and germline genetic changes in *TP53*, *LGII* and *RB1*.

***TP53*-sequencing analysis.** Using a set of 20 matched tumor and normal DNA samples, single-strand conformation polymorphism (SSCP) assay and DNA sequencing were used to determine the frequency of *TP53* mutations in exons 5-9 (accounting for 97% of mutations in tumor DNA). SSCP was performed for all 20 pairs for exons 5-7 and for 10 of these pairs for exons 5-9. Briefly, bidirectional oligonucleotide primers for the PCR amplification of exon 5-8 fragments were synthesized. The sequences for primers used are: 5'-gttcactgtg gccctga-3' and 5'-agccctgtcgtctct-3' for exon 5 (annealing temperature, 56°C); 5'-ctctgattctcactg-3' and 5'-ccagagac cccagttgcaaacc-3' for exon 6 (annealing temperature, 52°C);

Correspondence to: Correspondence to Dr Alvaro N.A. Monteiro, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, 12902 Magnolia Drive, Tampa, FL 33612, USA
E-mail: alvaro.monteiro@moffitt.org

Key words: *TP53*, *RB1*, *LGII*, glioblastoma, brain tumors, mutation analysis

Table I. Somatic mutations in brain cancer.

ID ^a	Race/ethnicity	Type of tumor ^b	Gene	Exon	Genomic ^c	Predicted RNA ^d	Predicted protein
72	Caucasian	9450 - Oligodendroglioma, NOS, LGG	<i>TP53</i>	6	12713G>T	895G>T	S215I
73	Caucasian	9451 - Oligodendroglioma, anaplastic, HGG	<i>RBI</i>	4	41314A>T	555A>T	K130II
				4	41329T>C	570T>C	L135P
				13	73189G>A	1427G>A	D421N
				17	77503C>T	1695C>T	T510I
			<i>LGII</i>	18	49221G>A	1862G>A	D566N
				4	19643A>G	601A>G	N125S
				4	19697T>G	655T>G	L144S
				8	39800A>G	1815A>G	N531D
78	Caucasian	9400 - Astrocytoma, NOS, HGG	<i>RBI</i>	2	3624A>G	422A>G	G86R
				10	63759A>G	1145A>G	K327E
				12	69672A>G	1335A>G	N390S
				16	76409C>A	1606C>A	N480K
			<i>LGII</i>	20	155992A>G	2201A>G	I679V
				4	19631T>A	589T>A	I122K
				6	34942A>G	847A>G	K207R
				6	34987T>C	892T>C	I223T
110	Caucasian	9440 - GBM, HGG	<i>TP53</i>	9	13797C>T	1068C>T	R273C
118	Caucasian	9440 - GBM, HGG	<i>LGII</i>	4	19694A>G	652A>G	H143R
127	Caucasian	9400 - Astrocytoma, NOS, HGG	<i>TP53</i>	5	12524A>G	787A>G	H179R
189	Caucasian	9440 - GBM, HGG	<i>TP53</i>	5	12469G>A	732G>A	A161T
193	Caucasian	9440 - GBM, HGG	<i>RBI</i>	4	41322A>C	563A>C	N133H
				13	73164A>C	1402A>C	K412N
				21	152566T>C	2115T>C	F650S
			<i>LGII</i>	4	19648A>G	606A>G	K128E
			<i>LGII</i>	6	34982C>G	887C>G	C221W
				8	39671C>T	1686C>T	Q488X
194	African American	9440 - Astrocytoma, GBM, HGG	<i>RBI</i>	13	73214A>G	1452A>G	K429R
205	African American	9401 - Anaplastic, HGG	<i>TP53</i>	5	12524A>G	787A>G	H179R
				18	149243T>C	1884T>C	I573T
			<i>RBI</i>	20	156037C>G	2246C>G	L694V
				20	156032A>G	2241A>G	Y692C
				24	169609G>A	2675G>A	E837K
				25	173022C>T	2778C>T	P871L
215	African American	9440 - GBM, HGG	<i>RBI</i>	19	152574A>G	2123A>G	K652E
			<i>LGII</i>	4	19694A>G	652A>G	H143R

^aPatient identity. ^bICD-O code with the associated name and further classified into LGG, low-grade glioma; HGG, high-grade glioma.^cNucleotide numbering according to the reference assembly: NC_000017 for *TP53*, NC_000013 for *RBI* and NC_000010.9 for *LGII*.^dNumbering according to the NCBI RefSeq: NM_000546 for *TP53*, NM_000321 for *RBI* and NM_005097 for *LGII*.

Table II. Predicted functional consequence of somatic mutations in *TP53*

ID ^a	Predicted protein	Reported in ^b	Notes
189	A161T	70 tumors	Part of the sequence-specific DNA-binding domain but not in any particular defined motif.
127 205	H179R	135 tumors	Part of motif III in the sequence-specific DNA-binding domain.
72	S215I	21 tumors	Part of the sequence-specific DNA-binding domain but not in any particular defined motif.
110	R273C	581 tumors 9 LF families	Part of motif IV in the sequence-specific DNA-binding domain. This residue directly contacts DNA, and is one of the most frequently mutated in p53.

^aPatient identity. ^bNumber of times it has been found as a somatic or germline mutation (LF, Li-Fraumeni syndrome) and deposited at the IARC p53 mutation database (<http://www-p53.iarc.fr/>).

5'-tgcttgccacaggtct-3' and 5'-acagcaggccagtgt-3' for exon 7 (annealing temperature, 58°C); and 5'-aggacctgattccttac-3' and 5'-tctgaggcataactgc-3' for exon 8 (annealing temperature, 55°C). PCR products were generated in a 30- μ l reaction mixture including 50 ng of DNA, 20 μ M dNTP, 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 9.0), 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 0.1% Triton X-100, 10 pmol of each primer, 1 unit Taq, (Perkin-Elmer Corp., Norwalk, CT) and 0.2 μ Ci [³³P]-dCTP (DuPont New England Nuclear, Boston, MA). DNA with a known *TP53* mutation was included as a positive control. The PCR reaction was carried out using 35 cycles (94°C for 30 sec, annealed for 30 sec at various temperatures as indicated above and 72°C for 1 min) on a Perkin-Elmer 9600 thermal cycler. PCR product (3 μ l) was mixed with 2 μ l of 0.1 N NaOH and then mixed with 5 μ l of gel loading buffer solution from the United States Biochemical Corp. (Cleveland, OH) and heated at 94°C for 4 min. Gels were run at room temperature for 20 h and exposed for 16 h for the autoradiographic detection of bands. Direct sequencing of PCR fragments for the two DNA strands was performed with aberrant migration patterns on single-strand conformation polymorphism gel to determine the corresponding DNA sequences using a double-strand DNA cycle sequencing system from Life Technologies/Invitrogen, Inc. (Gaithersburg, MD). The IARC *TP53* mutation database (<http://www-p53.iarc.fr/>) and Hollstein *et al* (7) were consulted to determine whether the mutations found in our samples had been reported previously.

RB1-sequencing analysis. Eight matched normal and tumor DNA samples from the original 20 matched samples were analyzed for *RB1* mutations using custom Affymetrix resequencing chips (www.affymetrix.com). A multiple sequence alignment was generated using CLUSTAL (Vector NTI) with the following RB orthologs (accession number): *Homo sapiens* (NP_000312.1), *Pan troglodytes* (AAK32151.1), *Canis familiaris* (AAF67147.1), *Mus musculus* (NP_033055.1), *Rattus norvegicus* (P33568), *Gallus gallus* (NP_989750.1), *Xenopus laevis* (AAB23173.1), *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (AAD13390.1), *Oryzias latipes* (AAG21826.1), *Fundulus heteroclitus* (AAS80140.1), *Caenorhabditis elegans* (NP_491686.1), *Drosophila melano-*

gaster (CAA65661.1), *Nicotiana benthamiana* (AAU05979.1), *Populus tremula* (AAF61377.1), *Oryza sativa* (XP_483552.1) and *Cocos nucifera* (AAM77469.1). The corresponding amino acid was then identified in the orthologs. The flanking region was also analyzed for conservation. For residues located in regions for which there is a crystal structure (8,9), the amino acid location in the structure was determined (PDB: 1AD6 and 1N4M).

LGII-sequencing analysis. The set of 8 matched normal and tumor DNA samples used for *RB1* analysis was also analyzed for *LGII* mutations using custom Affymetrix resequencing chips. A multiple sequence alignment was generated using CLUSTAL (Vector NTI) with the following *LGII* orthologs (accession number): *Homo sapiens* (NP_005088), *Mus musculus* (NP_064674), *Bos taurus* (AAX08851) and *Rattus norvegicus* (NP_665712). The corresponding amino acid was then identified in the orthologs. The flanking region was also analyzed for conservation.

Results

Tumor mutations. We identified 38 missense and non-sense changes (38 unique) in 11 samples from brain tumors (Table I). Low-grade gliomas showed a limited number of mutations in the loci studied while the vast majority of high-grade gliomas displayed multiple mutations (Table I).

TP53 mutations. During the sequence analysis of exons 5-7 we identified 4 changes representing 3 unique missense variants while the analysis of exons 8-9 showed only 1 (Table II). The mutation found in an African-American sample, His179Arg, was the same as the one in a Caucasian sample. None of these variants were found in the normal matched controls. All five mutations have previously been reported (<http://www-p53.iarc.fr/>) and are expected to impact protein function.

RB1 mutations. We obtained sequencing information from 8 brain tumor samples and compared it with normal samples. Brain tumor samples showed a large number of mutations

Table III. Predicted functional consequence of somatic mutations in *RB1*

ID ^a	Predicted protein	Allowed in orthologs ^b	Notes	Final ^c
78	G86R	G, Y, D, E, S, F	The wide variety of different amino acids allowed at this position suggests that this change is not deleterious.	<i>FB</i>
73	K130I	K, R, D, Q, E, T	Although K is well conserved in mammalian species, the wide variety of different amino acids allowed at this position in non-mammalian species suggests that this change is not deleterious.	<i>FB</i>
193	N133H	N, D, R, T, G, Q, K	Although the wide variety of different amino acids allowed at this position suggests that this change is not deleterious, H is not within the range of variation.	<i>UN</i>
73	L135P	K, V, I, M, T	The amino acids found at this position in other orthologs have non-polar side chains as does proline, although a replacement for proline is not within the range of variation.	<i>UN</i>
78	K327E	K, Y, S, N, T	Although the wide variety of different amino acids allowed at this position suggests that this change is not deleterious, E is not within the range of variation.	<i>UN</i>
78	N390S	N, P, S, E, A	The wide variety of different amino acids allowed at this position suggests that this change is not deleterious. In addition, S is present in frogs as well as in some plant species. Located at an α helix at the start of domain A.	<i>FB</i>
193	K412N	K, E, G, T, D, R, Q	This position is highly divergent. However, N is a potential helix breaker. Located at an α helix in the A domain.	<i>FD</i>
73	D421N	D, H, S, I, T, E, M	This position is highly divergent. However, N is a potential helix breaker. Located at an α helix in the A domain.	<i>FD</i>
73	T510I	T, R, V, Y	Conservative change at a conserved position. Located in an unstructured loop in domain A.	<i>FB</i>
194	K429R	K, R, S, T	Conservative change in a position that is conserved in vertebrates with R present in fish (trout). Located at an α helix in domain A.	<i>FB</i>
78	N480K	N, D, E, A, S, K, V	The wide variety of different amino acids allowed at this position suggests that this change is not deleterious. In addition, K is present in <i>Drosophila</i> . Located at an α helix in domain A. An in-frame deletion of this residue has been reported in a family with low penetrance retinoblastoma (33).	<i>UN</i>
73	D566N	D, G, N	A conserved position. However, N is found in <i>Drosophila</i> . Located in an unstructured loop in domain A.	<i>FB</i>
194	I573T	I, V, L	Conservative change in a conserved position. The amino acids found at this position in other orthologs have non-polar side chains as does T, although it is not within the range of variation. Located in an α helix in domain B.	<i>UN</i>
193	F650S	F	Non-conservative change in a completely conserved position. Located at an α helix in the B domain.	<i>FD</i>
215	K652E	K, G, T, S, N, R	Despite the wide range of variation found at this position there is a high conservation in all animal species (K or R) and the change is from a positively to a negatively charged amino acid. Found in an α helix in domain B.	<i>FD</i>

Table III. Continued.

ID ^a	Predicted protein	Allowed in orthologs ^b	Notes	Final ^c
78	I679V	I, V, Q S, N, R, W, T	The conservative nature of the change and the wide variety of different amino acids allowed at this position suggests that this change is not deleterious. In addition, V is present in frog and fish (Medaka). Located at an α helix in domain B.	FB
194	Y692C	Y, S, T	Y is conserved in all vertebrate species (except chicken) and C is not within the range of variation. Located in an unstructured loop in domain B.	UN
205	L694V	L, I	Highly conserved position in a relatively conserved region. This is a conservative change but V is not within the range of variation found. Located at an unstructured loop in domain B.	UN
194	E837K	E, T	Highly conserved position with E being found in all the orthologs (except T in <i>C. elegans</i>). Change from a negatively to a positively charged amino acid but not present in a recognizable domain.	UN
194	P871L	P, V, A, L, G	Although P is conserved in all vertebrate species, L can be found in <i>Nicotiana</i> . It is located in the cyclin/cdk docking site (KXLKXL).	FD

^aPatient identity. ^bAmino acids that are found at the corresponding position in the multiple sequence alignment using the homologs as described in Materials and methods. ^cTentative classification of whether the variant is likely to contribute or not to the tumor phenotype: FB, favor benign (or inconsequential, 'passenger'); FD, favor deleterious (or consequential, 'driver') and UN, unknown or not enough information to propose a classification.

many of which occurred in the intronic regions. We also found 20 missense alterations located throughout the coding region of the gene (Table III, Fig. 1A). Although it is difficult to infer causality or even contribution to the tumor phenotype, we have analyzed these missense alterations and found that some of them are likely to impact protein function and therefore play a role in tumor progression (Table III, Fig. 1A).

LGII variants. We obtained sequencing information from 8 brain tumors samples and compared it with normal samples. We also screened 24 additional normal tissue DNAs. Normal samples revealed two recurring changes in the *LGII* gene: i) a silent mutation (g.34976T>C, c.881T>C and p.Phe219Phe) that has previously been reported (refSNP ID 1111820), found in 31 out of 32 samples and ii) a missense variant (g.39285T>C, c.1301T>C and p.Ile359Thr) that has not been reported, found in 8 out of 32 samples. It is unclear whether the latter variant may have any impact on protein function (Table IV and Fig. 1B).

Additionally, brain tumor samples revealed 11 and 1 missense and nonsense tumor-specific mutations, respectively (Tables I and IV). Unfortunately, due to the limited number of orthologs, the known conservation analysis is not comprehensive. Importantly, a majority of the mutations (9/13) are located at the N-terminal region (Fig. 1B). Several of them (8/13) are located in defined domains that appear to be important for the function of LGI1 such as the leucine-

rich repeats (LRR) and the cysteine clusters that flank the LRR, with one mutation targeting one of the conserved cysteines (C221W) (Fig. 1B).

Discussion

In this study, we performed a sequence analysis of matched normal and tumor DNA derived from brain tumors in order to identify mutations in *TP53*, *RB1* and *LGII*. We chose to concentrate on these genes due to established, as is the case for *TP53* and *RB1*, or emerging, as is the case for *LGII*, roles in the development of brain tumors.

TP53 and *RB1* mutations are a common event in gliomas of all types (10-15). *TP53* is mutated in 40-70% of grade II and III astrocytomas and 30-40% of GBMs (16) but less frequently in oligodendrogliomas (~5%) and mixed gliomas (~30%) (17). In a study of almost 200 astrocytomas of grades II-IV, 76% of GBMs, 72% of anaplastic astrocytomas and 67% of grade II astrocytomas were found to have a disruption in the *TP53* pathway, while 67% of GBMs, 13% of anaplastic astrocytomas and 0% of grade II astrocytomas were found to have a disruption in the *RB1* pathway (11). The critical role of *TP53* in gliomagenesis has also been confirmed in numerous pre-clinical models (18,19). Mutations, allelic loss at 13q or homozygous deletion of *RB1* is found in ~30% of GBMs and a smaller proportion of anaplastic astrocytomas (11-13).

Our analysis identified 4 unique missense mutations in *TP53* (Table II), all of which had previously been reported as

Table IV. Predicted functional consequence of somatic mutations in *LGII*.

ID ^a	Predicted protein	Allowed in orthologs ^b	Allowed in paralogs ^c	Notes	Final ^d
78	I122K	I	I	Highly conserved in paralogs. Hydrophobic residues can be found in all leucine repeat-rich proteins with L present in all except in this second repeat of LGI1 (I). This change from a hydrophobic to a positively charged amino acid at this position is likely to impact function.	<i>FD</i>
73	N125S	N	N	Located in the leucine-rich repeat. N is completely conserved in LGI1 orthologs, paralogs, and other leucine repeat-rich proteins (Slit, Toll, Osteomodulin, Tartan, Biglycan, ALS, lumican, PGPIX and Chondroadherin) (6) suggesting an important function.	<i>FD</i>
194	K128E	K	E, W, G	Conserved in orthologs but highly variable stretch in paralogs. Part of the leucine repeat-rich region but this position is highly variable in other LRR proteins, with D, Q, T, S, E and R being found.	<i>UN</i>
118 215	H143R	H	H	Highly conserved in paralogs and is part of the leucine repeat-rich region but this position is highly variable in other LRR proteins, with K, Y, S, D, E and Q being found.	<i>FB</i>
73	L144S	L	L	Highly conserved in paralogs. Hydrophobic residues can be found in all leucine repeat-rich proteins with L present in all except PGPIX (T) and Lumican (I) (6). Located at the splicing junction.	<i>FD</i>
78	K207R	K	K, Q, S	Conservative change in a region that is variable in the paralogs. Located in the cysteine cluster of the LRR flanking region but position is highly variable.	<i>FB</i>
193	C221W	C	C	Conserved C in LRR proteins located at the cysteine cluster of the LRR flanking region, probably important for function.	<i>FD</i>
78	I223T	I	I, T, A	Replacement is allowed in paralogs and is a relatively conservative change.	<i>FB</i>
193	I340V	I	I, L	Conservative change in a conserved position in orthologs and paralogs.	<i>FB</i>
194	Q488X	n/a	n/a	Stop codon that truncates the extreme C-terminus. Notably, frameshifts on codons 440 and 547 have been shown to be deleterious in autosomal-dominant partial epilepsy with auditory features, suggesting that the extreme C-terminus is important for function (28,29).	<i>FD</i>
73	N531D	N	N, D, G, A	Conserved in orthologs but highly variable stretch in paralogs which may suggest a role in conferring specificity.	<i>UN</i>
78	N534I	N	N,D, Q, R	Conserved in orthologs but highly variable stretch in paralogs which may suggest a role in conferring specificity.	

^aPatient identity. ^bAmino acids that are found at the corresponding position in the multiple sequence alignment using the homologs as described in Materials and methods. ^cAmino acids that are found at the corresponding position in paralogs LGI1-4 (34), (accession numbers for LGI2-LGI4: AF467954-AF467956). ^dTentative classification of whether the variant is likely to contribute or not to the tumor phenotype: FB, favor benign (or inconsequential, 'passenger'); FD, favor deleterious (or consequential, 'driver') and UN, unknown or not enough information to propose a classification.

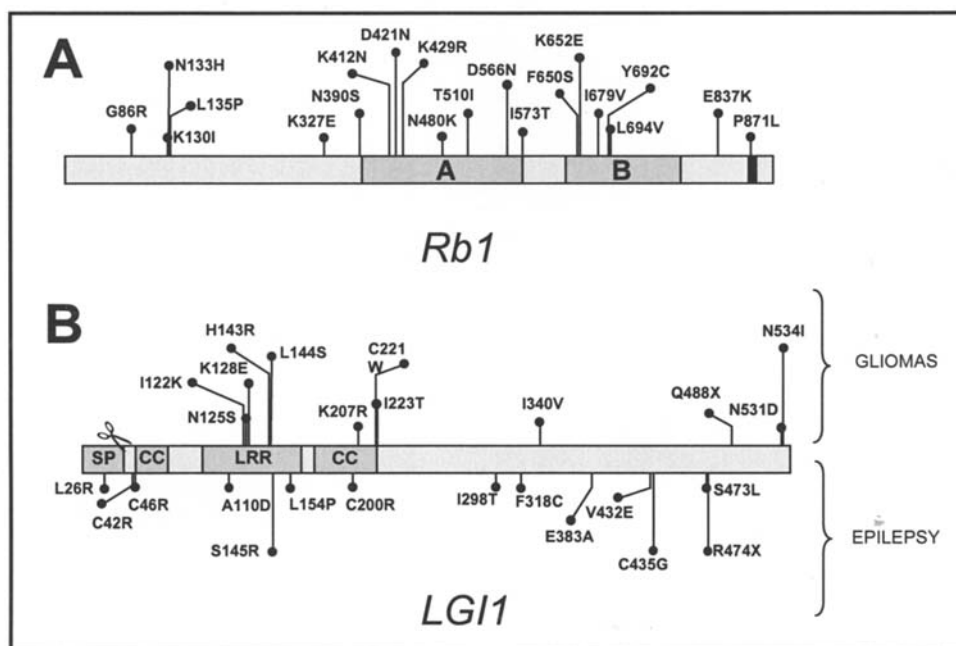


Figure 1. (A) The RB1 domain structure indicating conserved regions (A and B domains), cyclin/cdk docking site (black box) and the location of missense variants found in tumor samples. (B) The LGI1 domain structure indicating signal peptide (SP), cysteine-rich domains (CC) and the leucine-rich repeat (LRR). Mutations found mutated in the germline in epilepsy patients are shown at the bottom of the diagram. Mutations found in tumor samples (this study) are shown at the top of the diagram. The scissors show the cleavage site.

somatic mutations in tumors (<http://www-p53.iarc.fr/>). One such mutation, Arg273Cys, has also been found to mutate in the germline in 9 Li-Fraumeni syndrome families indicating that it is clearly an inactivating mutation. All mutations detected in TP53 are located in the DNA binding region, a region of the protein that is less tolerant to mutations (20). Accordingly, they are predicted to be deleterious by structure-based (21), AGVGD (22) and SIFT (23) prediction methods. Functional assays in yeast also indicate that all mutations are non-functional, with the one exception being Ala161Thr which is partially non-functional (20). We conclude that the TP53 mutations found in our study are 'driver mutations' and are likely to contribute to brain tumor progression.

Twenty mutations were identified in RB1 (Table III, Fig. 1A), none of which had been reported to the Rb mutation database (<http://rb1-lsdb.d-lohmann.de/>) or could be found in the literature. Since these mutations have yet to be characterized it is difficult to know whether they contribute to the tumor phenotype. Six variants are found in the N-terminal region, but there is no information regarding protein motifs in this region. The N-terminal mutations which are part of the three conserved N-terminal sub-domains (aa195-235, aa270-289 and aa317-343) (24) appear to be inconsequential as judged by their position and relative lack of conservation in other orthologs. Twelve mutations localize to the A and B domains many of which are in secondary structures and are likely to impact the RB1 function, although it is unknown to which extent (Table III). Finally, two mutations are found in the extreme C-terminus in relatively well-conserved residue positions, one of them in the cyclin/cdk docking site. Their impact on protein function is unclear. We conclude that although most mutations found in RB1 are likely to be 'passengers', some amino acid changes that may impact protein function are likely to contribute to the tumor phenotype.

LGI1 has been implicated in the development of brain tumors, although it is still debated whether the evidence support a role as a *bona fide* tumor suppressor in brain tumors (6,25-27). Mutations in LGI1 cause autosomal-dominant partial epilepsy with auditory features (28-30). Herein, we report on 12 novel variants in LGI1. Notably, the identified mutations differ from those that have been detected in patients with epilepsy (Table IV, Fig. 1B). Although it is difficult to infer causality or even contribution to the tumor phenotype we have analyzed these missense alterations and found that some of them are likely to impact protein function and therefore play a role in tumor progression (Tables I-IV). However, previous studies did not show mutations in LGI1 in glioblastomas, suggesting that they are not a common event (31,32). Further studies will be needed to determine the role of LGI1 in gliomagenesis.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the American Brain Tumor Association (JSBS) and by grants CA92309 and CA101954 from the National Institutes of Health (ANAM; AES). This work has also been supported in part by the Molecular Imaging and the Molecular Biology cores at the H.L. Moffitt Cancer Center.

References

1. WHO Classification of Tumours: Pathology and Genetics of Tumours of Nervous System. Kleihues P and Cavenee WK (eds). IARC Press, Lyon, 2000.
2. Coons SW, Johnson PC, Scheithauer BW, Yates AJ and Pearl DK: Improving diagnostic accuracy and interobserver concordance in the classification and grading of primary gliomas. *Cancer* 79: 1381-1393, 1997.

3. Kleihues P and Ohgaki H: Phenotype vs genotype in the evolution of astrocytic brain tumors. *Toxicol Pathol* 28: 164-170, 2000.
4. Nozaki M, Tada M, Kobayashi H, Zhang CL, Sawamura Y, Abe H, Ishii N and Van Meir EG: Roles of the functional loss of p53 and other genes in astrocytoma tumorigenesis and progression. *Neurooncol* 1: 124-137, 1999.
5. Lang FF, Miller DC, Koslow M and Newcomb EW: Pathways leading to glioblastoma multiforme: a molecular analysis of genetic alterations in 65 astrocytic tumors. *J Neurosurg* 81: 427-436, 1994.
6. Chernova OB, Somerville RP and Cowell JK: A novel gene, LGI1, from 10q24 is rearranged and downregulated in malignant brain tumors. *Oncogene* 17: 2873-2881, 1998.
7. Hollstein M, Sidransky D, Vogelstein B and Harris CC: p53 mutations in human cancers. *Science* 253: 49-53, 1991.
8. Xiao B, Spencer J, Clements A, Ali-Khan N, Mitnacht S, Broceno C, Burghammer M, Perrakis A, Marmorstein R and Gambin SJ: Crystal structure of the retinoblastoma tumor suppressor protein bound to E2F and the molecular basis of its regulation. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 100: 2363-2368, 2003.
9. Lee C, Chang JH, Lee HS and Cho Y: Structural basis for the recognition of the E2F transactivation domain by the retinoblastoma tumor suppressor. *Genes Dev* 16: 3199-3212, 2002.
10. Collins VP: Brain tumours: classification and genes. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 75: ii2-ii11, 2002.
11. Ichimura K, Bolin MB, Goike HM, Schmidt EE, Moshref A and Collins VP: Deregulation of the p14ARF/MDM2/p53 pathway is a prerequisite for human astrocytic gliomas with G1-S transition control gene abnormalities. *Cancer Res* 60: 417-424, 2000.
12. Ichimura K, Schmidt EE, Goike HM and Collins VP: Human glioblastomas with no alterations of the CDKN2A (p16INK4A, MTS1) and CDK4 genes have frequent mutations of the retinoblastoma gene. *Oncogene* 13: 1065-1072, 1996.
13. Ueki K, Ono Y, Henson JW, Efrid JT, von DA and Louis DN: CDKN2/p16 or RB alterations occur in the majority of glioblastomas and are inversely correlated. *Cancer Res* 56: 150-153, 1996.
14. Lee SH, Kim JH, Rhee CH, Kang YS, Lee JH, Hong SI and Choi KS: Loss of heterozygosity on chromosome 10, 13q(Rb), 17p, and p53 gene mutations in human brain gliomas. *J Korean Med Sci* 10: 442-448, 1995.
15. Watanabe T, Yokoo H, Yokoo M, Yonekawa Y, Kleihues P and Ohgaki H: Concurrent inactivation of RB1 and TP53 pathways in anaplastic oligodendrogliomas. *J Neuropathol Exp Neurol* 60: 1181-1189, 2001.
16. Ichimura K, Ohgaki H, Kleihues P and Collins VP: Molecular pathogenesis of astrocytic tumours. *J Neurooncol* 70: 137-160, 2004.
17. von Deimling A, Fimmers R, Schmidt MC, Bender B, Fassbender F, Nagel J, Jahnke R, Kaskel P, Duerr EM, Koopmann J, Maintz D, Steinbeck S, Wick W, Platten M, Muller DJ, Przkora R, Waha A, Blumcke B, Wellenreuther R, Meyer-Puttlitz B, Schmidt O, Mollenhauer J, Poustka A, Stangl AP, Lenartz D, *et al*: Comprehensive allelotyping and genetic analysis of 466 human nervous system tumors. *J Neuropathol Exp Neurol* 59: 544-558, 2000.
18. Zhu Y and Parada LF: The molecular and genetic basis of neurological tumours. *Nat Rev Cancer* 2: 616-626, 2002.
19. Zhu Y, Guignard F, Zhao D, Liu L, Burns DK, Mason RP, Messing A and Parada LF: Early inactivation of p53 tumor suppressor gene cooperating with NF1 loss induces malignant astrocytoma. *Cancer Cell* 8: 119-130, 2005.
20. Kato S, Han SY, Liu W, Otsuka K, Shibata H, Kanamaru R and Ishioka C: Understanding the function-structure and function-mutation relationships of p53 tumor suppressor protein by high-resolution missense mutation analysis. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 100: 8424-8429, 2003.
21. Mathe E, Olivier M, Kato S, Ishioka C, Vaisman I and Hainaut P: Predicting the transactivation activity of p53 missense mutants using a four-body potential score derived from Delaunay tessellations. *Hum Mutat* 27: 163-172, 2006.
22. Tavtigian SV, Deffenbaugh AM, Yin L, Judkins T, Scholl T, Samollow PB, de Silva D, Zharkikh A and Thomas A: Comprehensive statistical study of 452 BRCA1 missense substitutions with classification of eight recurrent substitutions as neutral. *J Med Genet* 43: 295-305, 2006.
23. Ng PC and Henikoff S: Accounting for human polymorphisms predicted to affect protein function. *Genome Res* 12: 436-446, 2002.
24. Goodrich DW: How the other half lives, the amino-terminal domain of the retinoblastoma tumor suppressor protein. *J Cell Physiol* 197: 169-180, 2003.
25. Kunapuli P, Kasyapa CS, Hawthorn L and Cowell JK: LGI1, a putative tumor metastasis suppressor gene, controls in vitro invasiveness and expression of matrix metalloproteinases in glioma cells through the ERK1/2 pathway. *J Biol Chem* 279: 23151-23157, 2004.
26. Piepoli T, Jakupoglu C, Gu W, Lualdi E, Suarez-Merino B, Poliani PL, Cattaneo MG, Ortino B, Goplen D, Wang J, Mola R, Inverardi F, Frasson C, Bjerkvig R, Steinlein O, Vicentini LM, Brustle O and Finocchiaro G: Expression studies in gliomas and glial cells do not support a tumor suppressor role for LGI1. *Neurooncol* 8: 96-108, 2006.
27. Gu W, Brodtkorb E, Piepoli T, Finocchiaro G and Steinlein OK: LGI1: a gene involved in epileptogenesis and glioma progression? *Neurogenetics* 6: 59-66, 2005.
28. Kalachikov S, Evgrafov O, Ross B, Winawer M, Barker-Cummings C, Martinelli BF, Choi C, Morozov P, Das K, Teplitskaya E, Yu A, Cayanis E, Penchaszadeh G, Kottmann AH, Pedley TA, Hauser WA, Ottman R and Gilliam TC: Mutations in LGI1 cause autosomal-dominant partial epilepsy with auditory features. *Nat Genet* 30: 335-341, 2002.
29. Morante-Redolat JM, Gorostidi-Pagola A, Piquer-Sirerol S, Saenz A, Poza JJ, Galan J, Gesk S, Sarafidou T, Mautner VF, Binelli S, Staub E, Hinzmann B, French L, Prud'homme JF, Passarelli D, Scannapieco P, Tassinari CA, Avanzini G, Marti-Masso JF, Kluwe L, Deloukas P, Moschonas NK, Michelucci R, Siebert R, Nobile C, *et al*: Mutations in the LGI1/Epitempin gene on 10q24 cause autosomal dominant lateral temporal epilepsy. *Hum Mol Genet* 11: 1119-1128, 2002.
30. Gu W, Brodtkorb E and Steinlein OK: LGI1 is mutated in familial temporal lobe epilepsy characterized by aphasic seizures. *Ann Neurol* 52: 364-367, 2002.
31. Krex D, Hauses M, Appelt H, Mohr B, Ehninger G, Schackert HK and Schackert G: Physical and functional characterization of the human LGI1 gene and its possible role in glioma development. *Acta Neuropathol* 103: 255-266, 2002.
32. Somerville RP, Chernova O, Liu S, Shoshan Y and Cowell JK: Identification of the promoter, genomic structure, and mouse ortholog of LGI1. *Mamm Genome* 11: 622-627, 2000.
33. Lohmann DR, Brandt B, Hopping W, Passarge E and Horsthemke B: Distinct RB1 gene mutations with low penetrance in hereditary retinoblastoma. *Hum Genet* 94: 349-354, 1994.
34. Gu W, Wevers A, Schroder H, Grzeschik KH, Derst C, Brodtkorb E, de Vos R and Steinlein OK: The LGI1 gene involved in lateral temporal lobe epilepsy belongs to a new subfamily of leucine-rich repeat proteins. *FEBS Lett* 519: 71-76, 2002.