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Comprehensive genomic characterization defines human glioblastoma genes and core pathways

The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) Research Network

Abstract

Human cancer cells typically harbor multiple chromosomal aberrations, nucleotide substitutions and epigenetic modifications that drive malignant transformation. The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) pilot project aims to assess the value of large-scale multidimensional analysis of these molecular characteristics in human cancer and to provide the data rapidly to the research community. Here, we report the interim integrative analysis of DNA copy number, gene expression and DNA methylation aberrations in 206 glioblastomas (GBM), the most common type of adult brain cancer, and nucleotide sequence aberrations in 91 of the 206 GBMs. This analysis provides new insights into the roles of *ERBB2*, *NF1* and *TP53*, uncovers frequent mutations of the PI3 kinase regulatory subunit gene *PIK3R1*, and provides a network view of the pathways altered in the development of GBM. Furthermore, integration of mutation, DNA methylation and clinical treatment data reveals a link between *MGMT* promoter methylation and a hypermutator phenotype consequent to mismatch repair deficiency in treated glioblastomas, an observation with potential clinical implications. Together, these findings establish the feasibility and power of TCGA, demonstrating that it can rapidly expand knowledge of the molecular basis of cancer.

Cancer is a disease of genome alterations: DNA sequence changes, copy number aberrations, chromosomal rearrangements, and modification in DNA methylation together

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drive the development and progression of human malignancies. With the complete sequencing of the human genome and continuing improvement of high-throughput genomic technologies, it is now feasible to contemplate comprehensive surveys of human cancer genomes. The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) aims to catalogue and discover major cancer-causing genome alterations in large cohorts of human tumors through integrated multi-dimensional analyses.

The first cancer studied by TCGA is glioblastoma (GBM), the most common primary brain tumor in adults 1. Primary GBM, which comprises more than 90% of biopsied or resected cases, arises *de novo* without antecedent history of low grade disease, whereas secondary GBM progresses from previously diagnosed low-grade gliomas 1. Patients with newly diagnosed GBM have a median survival of approximately one year with generally poor responses to all therapeutic modalities 2. Two decades of molecular studies have identified important genetic events in human GBMs, including (i) dysregulation of growth factor signaling via amplification and mutational activation of receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK) genes; (ii) activation of the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) pathway; and (iii) inactivation of the p53 and retinoblastoma tumor suppressor pathways 1. Recent genome-wide profiling studies have also shown remarkable genomic heterogeneity among GBM and the existence of molecular subclasses within GBM that may, when fully defined, allow stratification of treatment 3–8. Albeit fragmentary, such baseline knowledge of GBM genetics sets the stage to explore whether novel insights can be gained from a more systematic examination of the GBM genome.

Results

As a public resource, all TCGA data are deposited at the Data Coordinating Center (DCC) for public access (<http://cancergenome.nih.gov/>). TCGA data are classified by data type (*e.g.* clinical, mutations, gene expression) and data level to allow structured access to this resource with appropriate patient privacy protection. An overview of the data organization is provided in Methods, and a detailed description is available in the TCGA Data Primer (http://tcga-data.nci.nih.gov/docs/TCGA_Data_Primer.pdf).

Biospecimen collection

Retrospective biospecimen repositories were screened for newly diagnosed GBM based on surgical pathology reports and clinical records (Fig. S1). Samples were further selected for having matched peripheral blood as well as associated demographic, clinical and pathological data (Table S1). Corresponding frozen tissues were reviewed at the Biospecimen Core Resource (BCR) to ensure a minimum of 80% tumor nuclei and a maximum of 50% necrosis (Fig. S1). DNA and RNA extracted from qualified biospecimens were subjected to additional quality control measurements (Methods) prior to distribution to TCGA centers for analyses (Fig. S2).

After exclusion based on insufficient tumor content ($n=234$) and suboptimal nucleic acid quality or quantity ($n=147$), 206 of the 587 biospecimens screened (35%) were qualified for copy number, expression, and DNA methylation analyses. Of these, 143 cases had matched normal peripheral blood DNAs and were therefore appropriate for re-sequencing. This

cohort also included 21 post-treatment GBM cases used for exploratory comparisons (Table S1). While it is possible that a small number of progressive secondary GBMs were among the remaining 185 cases of newly diagnosed glioblastomas, this cohort represents predominantly primary GBM. Indeed, when compared with published cohorts, overall survival of the newly diagnosed glioblastoma cases in TCGA is similar to that reported in the literature (Fig. S3, $p=0.2$)^{9–12}.

Genomic and transcriptional aberrations

Genomic copy number alterations (CNAs) were measured on three microarray platforms (Methods) and analyzed with multiple analytical algorithms^{13–15} (Fig. S4; Tables S2–S4). Besides the well-known alterations^{3,13,14}, we detected significantly recurrent focal alterations not previously reported in GBMs, such as homozygous deletions involving *NFI* and *PARK2* and amplifications of *AKT3* (Fig. 1a; Tables S2–S4). Search for informative but infrequent CNAs also uncovered rare focal events, such as amplifications of *FGFR2* and *IRS2* and deletion of *PTPRD* (Table S4). Abundances of protein-coding genes and non-coding microRNA were also measured by transcript-specific and exon-specific probes on multiple platforms (Methods, and manuscript in preparation). The resulting integrated gene expression data set showed that ~76% of genes within recurrent CNAs have expression patterns that correlate with copy number (Table S2). In addition, SNP-based analyses also catalogued copy-neutral loss of heterozygosity (LOH), with the most significant region being 17p, which contains *TP53* (Methods).

Patterns of somatic nucleotide alterations in GBM

91 matched tumor-normal pairs (72 untreated and 19 treated cases) were selected from the 143 cases for detection of somatic mutations in 601 selected genes (Table S5). The resulting sequences, totaling 97 million base pairs (1.1 ± 0.1 million bases per sample), uncovered 453 validated non-silent somatic mutations (Table S6; http://tcga-data.nci.nih.gov/docs/somatic_mutations/tcga_mutations.htm). The background mutation rates differed drastically between untreated and treated GBMs, averaging 1.4 versus 5.8 somatic silent mutations per sample (98 among 72 untreated vs 111 among 19 treated, $p < 10^{-21}$), respectively. This difference was predominantly driven by seven hypermutated samples, as determined by frequencies of both silent and non-silent mutations (Fig. 1b,c). Four of the 7 hypermutated tumors were from patients previously treated with temozolomide and 3 from patients treated with CCNU alone or in combination (Table S1b). A hypermutator phenotype in GBM has been described in 3 GBM specimens with *MSH6* mutations^{16,17}, prompting us to perform a systematic analysis of the genes involved in mismatch repair (MMR). Indeed, 6 of the 7 hypermutated samples harbored mutations in at least one of the mismatch repair genes *MLH1*, *MSH2*, *MSH6*, or *PMS2*, as compared with only one sample among the 84 non-hypermutated samples ($p = 7 \times 10^{-8}$), suggesting a role of decreased DNA repair competency in these highly mutated samples derived from treated patients.

By applying a statistical analysis of mutation significance¹⁸, we identified eight genes as significantly mutated (false discovery rate (FDR) $< 10^{-3}$) (Fig. 2d, Table S6). Interestingly, 27 *TP53* mutations were detected in the 72 untreated GBMs (37.5%) and 11 mutations in the 19 treated samples (58%). All of those mutations clustered in the DNA binding domain, a

well-known hotspot for p53 mutations in human cancers (Fig. S5; Table S6). Given the predominance of primary GBM among this newly diagnosed collection, that result unequivocally proves that p53 mutation is a common event in primary GBM.

NF1 is a human glioblastoma suppressor gene—Although somatic mutations in *NF1* have been reported in a small series of human GBM tumors 21, their role remains controversial 22, despite strong genetic data in mouse model systems 19,20. Here, 19 *NF1* somatic mutations were identified in 13 samples (14% of 91), including six nonsense mutations, four splice site mutations, five missense changes, and four frameshift indels (Fig. 2a). Five of these mutations—R1391S (23), R1513* (24), e25 -1 and e29 +1 (25), and Q1966* (26)—have been reported as germline alterations in neurofibromatosis patients, thus are likely inactivating. In addition, 30 heterozygous deletions in *NF1* were observed among the entire interim sample set of 206 cases, 6 of which also harbor point mutation (Tables S8 and S9). Some samples also exhibited loss of expression without evidence of genomic alteration (Fig. 2b). Overall, at least 47 of these 206 patient samples (23%) harbored somatic *NF1* inactivating mutations or deletions, definitively address *NF1*'s relevance to sporadic human GBM.

Prevalence of EGFR family activation—EGFR is frequently activated in primary GBMs. Variant III deletion of the extracellular domain (so-called “vIII mutant”)²⁷ has been the most commonly described event, in addition to extracellular domain point mutations and cytoplasmic domain deletions 28,29. Here, high resolution genomic and exon-specific transcriptomic profiling readily detected vIII and C-terminal deletions with correspondingly altered transcripts (Fig. 2c). Among the 91 GBM cases with somatic mutation data, 22 harbored focal amplification of wild type *EGFR* with no point mutation, 16 had point mutations in addition to focal amplification, and three had *EGFR* point mutations but no amplification (Fig. S6; Table S9). Collectively, *EGFR* alterations were observed in 41 of the 91 sequenced samples.

ERBB2 mutation has previously been reported in only one GBM tumor 30. In the TCGA cohort, 11 somatic *ERBB2* mutations in 7 of 91 samples were validated, including 3 in the kinase domain and two involving V777A, a site of recurrent missense and in-frame insertion mutations in lung, gastric, and colon cancers 31. The remaining eight mutations (including seven missense and one splice-site mutation) occurred in the extracellular domain of the protein, similar to somatic *EGFR* substitutions in GBM (Fig. 2d). Unlike in breast cancers, focal amplifications of *ERBB2* were not observed in GBMs.

Somatic mutations of the PI3K complex in human glioblastoma—The PI3 kinase complex is comprised of a catalytically active protein, p110 α , encoded by *PIK3CA*, and a regulatory protein, p85 α , encoded by *PIK3RI*. Frequent activating missense mutations of *PIK3CA* have been reported in multiple tumor types, including GBM^{32,33}. These mutations occur primarily in the adaptor binding domain (ABD) as well as the C2 helical and kinase domains 34–36. Indeed, *PIK3CA* somatic nucleotide substitutions were detected in six of the 91 sequenced samples (Table S6). Besides the 4 matching events already reported in the COSMIC database (<http://www.sanger.ac.uk/genetics/CGP/cosmic/>), two novel in-frame

deletions were detected in the ABD of *PIK3CA* (“L10del” and “P17del”). Those deletions may disrupt interactions between p110 α and its regulatory subunit, p85 α 37.

Unlike *PIK3CA*, *PIK3RI* has rarely been reported as mutated in cancers. Among the five reported *PIK3RI* nucleotide substitutions in cancers 38,39, one was in a glioblastoma 39. In our TCGA cohort, 9 *PIK3RI* somatic mutations were detected among the 91 sequenced GBMs. None of them was in samples with *PIK3CA* mutations. Of the nine mutations, eight lay within the intervening SH2 (or iSH2) domain and four are 3-basepair in-frame deletions (Fig. 3a and Table S6). In accord with the crystal structure of PI3 kinase, which identifies the D560 and N564 amino acid residues in p85 α as contact points with the N345 amino acid residue in the C2 domain of p110 α 37, the mutations detected in GBM cluster around those three amino acid residues (Fig. 3b), including a N345K mutation in *PIK3CA* (previously reported in colon and breast cancers 40) and two novel D560 mutations in *PIK3RI* (D560Y and N564K). We also identified an 18-basepair deletion spanning residues D560 to S565 (DKRMNS) in *PIK3RI* (Fig. 3b) in addition to three other novel deletions (R574del, T576del, and W583del) in proximity to the 3 key residues. We speculate that spatial constraints due to these deletions might prevent inhibitory contact of p85 α nSH2 with the helical domain of p110 α , causing constitutive PI3K activity. Taken together, the pattern of clustering of the mutations around key residues defined by the crystal structure of PI3K strongly suggest that these novel *PIK3RI* point mutations and insertions/deletions disrupt the important C2-iSH2 interaction, relieving the inhibitory effect of p85 α on p110 α .

MGMT methylation and MMR proficiency in post-treatment GBMs

Cancer-specific DNA methylation of CpG dinucleotides located in CpG islands within the promoters of 2,305 genes were measured relative to normal brain DNA (Table S7; Methods). The promoter methylation status of *MGMT*, a DNA repair enzyme that removes alkyl groups from guanine residues 41, is associated with GBM sensitivity to alkylating agents 42,43. Among the 91 sequenced cases, 19 samples were found to contain *MGMT* promoter methylation (including 13 of the 72 untreated and 6 of the 19 treated cases). When juxtaposed with somatic mutation data, an intriguing relationship between the hypermutator phenotype and *MGMT* methylation status emerged in the treated samples. Specifically, *MGMT* methylation was associated with a profound shift in the nucleotide substitution spectrum of treated GBMs (Fig. 4a). Among the treated samples lacking *MGMT* methylation (n=13), 29% (29/99) of the validated somatic mutations occurred as G:C to A:T transitions in CpG dinucleotides (characteristic of spontaneous deamination of methylated cytosines), and a comparable 23% (23/99) of all mutations occurred as G:C to A:T transitions in non-CpG dinucleotides. In contrast, in the treated samples with *MGMT* methylation (n=6), 81% of all mutations (146/181) turned out to be of the G:C to A:T transition type in non-CpG dinucleotides whereas only 4% (8/181) of all mutations were G:C to A:T transition mutations within CpGs. That pattern is consistent with a failure to repair alkylated guanine residues caused by treatment. In other words, *MGMT* methylation shifted the mutation spectrum of treated samples to a preponderance of G:C to A:T transition at non-CpG sites.

Significantly, the mutational spectra in the mismatch repairs (MMR) genes themselves reflected *MGMT* methylation status and treatment consequences. All seven mutations in

MMR genes found in six *MGMT* methylated hypermutated (treated) tumors occurred as G:C to A:T mutations at non-CpG sites (Fig. 4b; Table S6), while neither MMR mutations in non-methylated hypermutated tumors was of this characteristic. Hence, these data show that MMR deficiency and *MGMT* methylation together, in the context of treatment, exert a powerful influence on the overall frequency and pattern of somatic point mutations in GBM tumors, an observation of potential clinical importance.

Integrative analyses define core pathways required for GBM pathogenesis

To begin to construct an integrated view of common genetic alterations in the GBM genome, we mapped the unequivocal genetic alterations—validated somatic nucleotide substitutions, homozygous deletions and focal amplifications—onto major pathways implicated in GBM 1. That analysis identified a highly interconnected network of aberrations (Figs. S7–S8), including three major pathways: receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs) signaling, and the p53/RB tumor suppressor pathways (Fig. 5).

By copy number data alone, 66%, 70% and 59% of the 206 samples harbored somatic alterations of the RB, TP53 and RTK pathways, respectively (Table S8). In the 91 samples for which there was also sequencing data, the frequencies of somatic alterations increased to 87%, 78% and 88%, respectively (Table S9). There was a statistical tendency toward mutual exclusivity of alterations of components within each pathway (p-values of 9.3×10^{-10} , 2.5×10^{-13} , and 0.022, respectively for the p53, RB, and RTK pathways; Tables S10), consistent with the thesis that deregulation of one component in the pathway relieves the selective pressure for additional ones. However, we observed a greater than random chance (one-tailed $p = 0.0018$) that a given sample harbors at least one aberrant gene from each of the three pathways (Table S10). In fact, 74% harbored aberrations in all three pathways, a pattern suggesting that deregulation of the three pathways is a core requirement for glioblastoma pathogenesis.

Besides frequent deletions and mutations of the *PTEN* lipid phosphatase tumor suppressor gene, 86% of the GBM samples harbored at least one genetic event in the core RTK/PI3K pathway (Fig. 5a). In addition to *EGFR* and *ERBB*, *PDGFRA* (13%) and *MET* (4%) showed frequent aberrations (Tables S9). 10 of the 91 sequenced samples have amplifications or point mutations in at least two of the four RTKs catalogued (*EGFR*, *ERBB2*, *PDGFRA* and *MET*) (Table S9), suggesting genomic activation can be a mechanism for co-activated RTKs 44.

Inactivation of the p53 pathway occurred in the form of *ARF* deletions (55%), amplifications of *MDM2* (11%) and *MDM4* (4%), in addition to mutations of p53 itself (Fig. 5b; Table S8). Among 91 sequenced samples (Table S9), genetic lesions in *TP53* were mutually exclusive of those in *MDM2* or *MDM4* (odds ratios of 0.00 for both; $p = 0.02$ and 0.068, respectively; Tables S10), but not of those in *ARF*. In fact, 10 of the 32 tumors with *TP53* mutations also deleted *ARF*, suggesting that homozygous deletion of the *CDKN2A* locus (which encodes both p16^{INK4A} and *ARF*) was at least in part driven by p16^{INK4A}.

Among the 77% samples harboring RB pathway aberrations (Fig. 5c), the most common event was deletion of the *CDKN2A/CDKN2B* locus on chromosome 9p21 (55% and 53%),

followed by amplification of the *CDK4* locus (14%) (Fig. 1a; Table S8 and S9). Although copy number alterations in the CDK/RB pathway members can co-occur in the same tumor 14, all nine samples with *RBI* nucleotide substitutions (Table S9) lacked *CDKN2A/B* deletion or other copy number alterations in the pathway, suggesting that inactivation of *RBI* by nucleotide substitution, in contrast to copy number loss, obviates the genetic pressure for activation of upstream cyclin/cyclin-dependent kinases..

Discussion

In establishing this pilot program, TCGA has developed important principles in biospecimen banking and collection (manuscript in preparation), and established the infrastructure that will serve similar efforts in the future. Although it ensured high quality data, the stringent biospecimen selection criteria may have introduced a degree of bias because small samples and samples with high levels of necrosis were excluded. Nonetheless, the clinical parameters of this cohort are similar to other published cohorts (Table S1; Fig. S3).

The integrated analyses of multi-dimensional genomic data from complementary technology platforms have proved informative. In addition to pinpointing deregulation of RB, p53 and RTK/RAS/PI3K pathways as obligatory events in most, and perhaps all, GBM tumors, the patterns of mutations may also inform future therapeutic decisions. It would be reasonable to speculate that patients with deletions or inactivating mutations in *CDKN2A* or *CDKN2C* or patients with amplifications of *CDK4/CDK6* would be candidates for treatment with CDK inhibitors, a strategy not likely to be effective in patients with *RBI* mutation. Similarly, patients with *PTEN* deletions or activating mutations in *PIK3CA* or *PIK3R* might be expected to benefit from a PI3 kinase or PDK1 inhibitor, while tumors in which the PI3 kinase pathway is altered by *AKT3* amplification might prove refractory to those modalities. The presence of genomic co-amplification reinforces the recent report of multiple phosphorylated (activated) RTKs in individual GBM specimens 44, suggesting a way to tailor anti-RTK therapeutic cocktails to specific patterns of RTK mutation. In addition, combination anti-RTK therapy might synergize with downstream inhibition of PI3K or cell cycle mediators. In contrast, GBMs with *NFI* mutations might benefit from a RAF or MEK inhibitor as part of a combination, as shown for *BRAF* mutant cancers 45.

One of the most important biomarkers for GBM is the methylation status of *MGMT*, which predicts sensitivity to temozolomide 42,43, an alkylating agent that is the current standard of care for GBM patients. Integrative analysis of mutation, DNA methylation and clinical (treatment) data, albeit with small sample numbers, suggests a series of inter-related events that may impact clinical response and outcome. Newly diagnosed glioblastomas with *MGMT* methylation respond well to treatment with alkylating agents, in part as a consequence of unrepaired alkylated guanine residues initiating cycles of futile mismatch repair, which can lead to cell death 46–48. Therefore, treatment of *MGMT*-deficient GBMs with alkylating therapy introduces a strong selective pressure to lose mismatch repair function 49. That conclusion is consistent with our observation that the mismatch repair genes themselves are mutated with characteristic C:G → A:T transitions at non-CpG sites resulting from unrepaired alkylated guanine residues. Thus, initial methylation of *MGMT*, in conjunction with treatment, may lead to both a shift in mutation spectrum affecting

mutations at mismatch repair genes and selective pressure to lose mismatch repair function. In other words, our finding raises the possibility that patients who initially respond to the frontline therapy in use today may evolve not only treatment resistance, but also an MMR-defective hypermutator phenotype. If such a mechanism indeed underlies emergence of MMR-defective resistance, one may speculate that selective strategies targeting mismatch-repair deficiency 50 would represent a rational upfront combination that may prevent or minimize emergence of such resistance. Validation of this hypothesis will have immediate clinical impact and implication for therapeutic design. For one, it suggests that treatment mediated mutator phenotype may lead to pathway mutations that confer resistance to new targeted therapies thereby raising the concern that combined or serial treatment with alkylating agents and pathway targeted therapies may substantially increase the probability of developing resistance to such targeted drugs.

In conclusion, the power of TCGA to produce unprecedented multi-dimensional data sets employing statistically robust numbers of samples sets the stage for a new era in the discovery of new cancer interventions. The integrative analyses leading to formulation of an unanticipated hypothesis on a potential mechanism of resistance highlights precisely the value and power of such project design, demonstrating how unbiased and systematic cancer genome analyses of large sample cohorts can lead to paradigm-shifting discoveries.

Method Summary

Biospecimens were screened from retrospective banks of Tissue Source Sites under appropriate IRB approvals for newly diagnosed GBM with minimal 80% tumor cell percentage. RNA and DNA extracted from qualified specimens were distributed to TCGA centers for analysis. Whole genome-amplified genomic DNA samples from tumors and normals were sequenced by the Sanger method. Mutations were called, verified using a second genotyping platform, and systematically analyzed to identify significantly mutated genes after correcting for the background mutation rate for nucleotide type and the sequence coverage of each gene. DNA copy number analyses were performed using the Agilent 244K, Affymetrix SNP6.0, and Illumina 550K DNA copy number platforms. Sample-specific and recurrent copy number changes were identified using various algorithms (GISTIC, GTS, RAE). mRNA and miRNA expression profiles were generated using Affymetrix U133A, Affymetrix Exon 1.0 ST, custom Agilent 244K, and Agilent miRNA array platforms. mRNA expression profiles were integrated into a single estimate of relative gene expression for each gene in each sample. Methylation at CpG dinucleotides was measured using the Illumina GoldenGate assay. All data for DNA sequence alterations, copy number, mRNA expression, miRNA expression, and CpG methylation were deposited in standard common formats in the TCGA DCC at <http://cancergenome.nih.gov/dataportal/>. All archives submitted to DCC were validated to ensure a common document structure and to ensure proper use of identifying information.

The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) Research Network

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Supplementary Material

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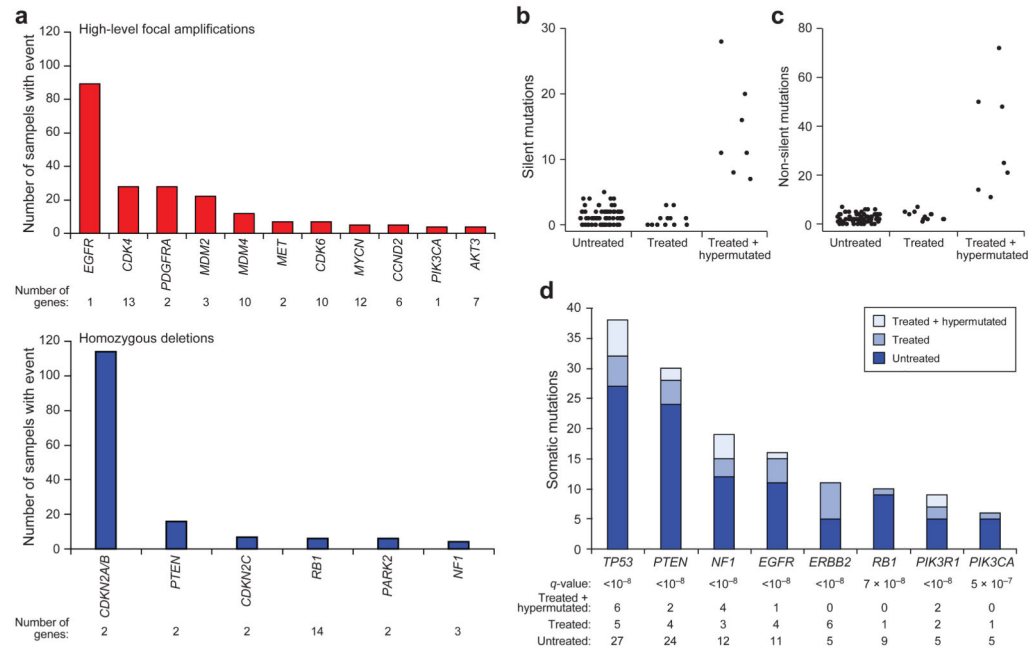


Figure 1. Significant copy number aberrations and pattern of somatic mutations

(a) Frequency and significance of focal high-level copy-number alterations. Known and putative target genes are listed for each significant CNA, with “Number of Genes” denoting the total number of genes within each focal CNA boundary.

(b–c) Distribution of the number of (b) silent and (c) non-silent mutations across the 91 GBM samples separated according to their treatment status, showing hypermutation in 7 out of the 19 treated samples.

(d) Significantly mutated genes in 91 glioblastomas. The eight genes attaining a false discovery rate <0.1 are displayed here. Somatic mutations occurring in untreated samples are in dark blue; those found in statistically non-hypermutated and hypermutated samples among the treated cohort are in respectively lighter shades of blue.

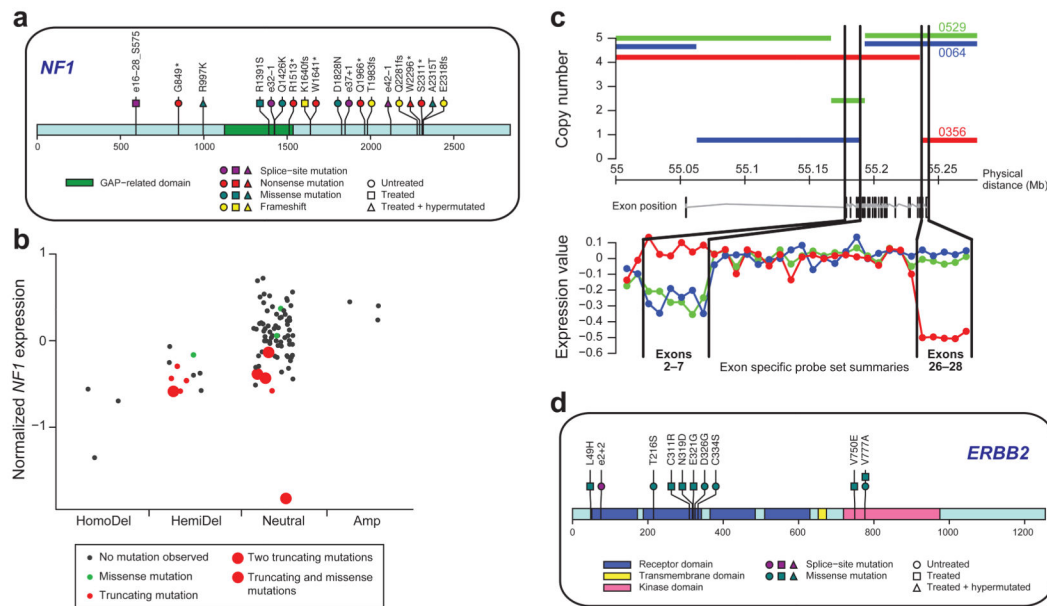


Figure 2. Mutations in *NF1* tumor suppressor gene and EGFR family members

(a) *NF1* somatic mutations in 91 glioblastoma tumors. Both missense mutations and truncating nonsense, frameshift, and splice site mutations were observed. Splice positions are given in number of bases to the closest exon (#) numbered according to the *NF1* reference transcript in the Human Gene Mutation Database; positive = 3' of exon, negative = 5' of exon. *: stop codon. fs: frameshift.

(b) Correlation of copy number and mutation status at the *NF1* locus with level of expression (Y axis). Mutation events predicted to result in fewer expressed copies (including deletion, nonsense, splice site, and frameshift mutations) generally have lower observed expression. HomoDel = homozygous deletion; HemiDel = single-copy loss; Neutral = no change in copy number (presumed diploid); Amp = increased copy number. Copy number status of the *NF1* locus in each sample was determined as described in the Supplementary Information.

(c) DNA Copy number and mRNA expression profiles for TCGA samples TCGA-08-0356 (red), TCGA-02-0064 (blue), and TCGA-02-0529 (green) at the *EGFR* locus. The upper panel shows the segmented DNA copy number (based on Affymetrix SNP6.0 data) versus genomic coordinates on chromosome 7. The lower panel shows relative exon expression levels across the known *EGFR* exons from the Affymetrix Exon array ordered by genomic position, where relative expression is the median-centered difference in exon intensity and gene intensity. The *EGFR* gene model lies between the two plots. Black lines map the genomic positions of exons 2 through 7 and 26 through 28. Note that structural deletions cause the relatively lower expression of exons 2–7 in the green and blue samples and exons 26–28 in the red sample.

(d) *ERBB2* somatic mutations in 91 glioblastoma tumors. Mutations cluster in the extracellular domain in both genes. Splice site mutation position is given in number of bases to the closest exon (#); positive = 3' of exon.

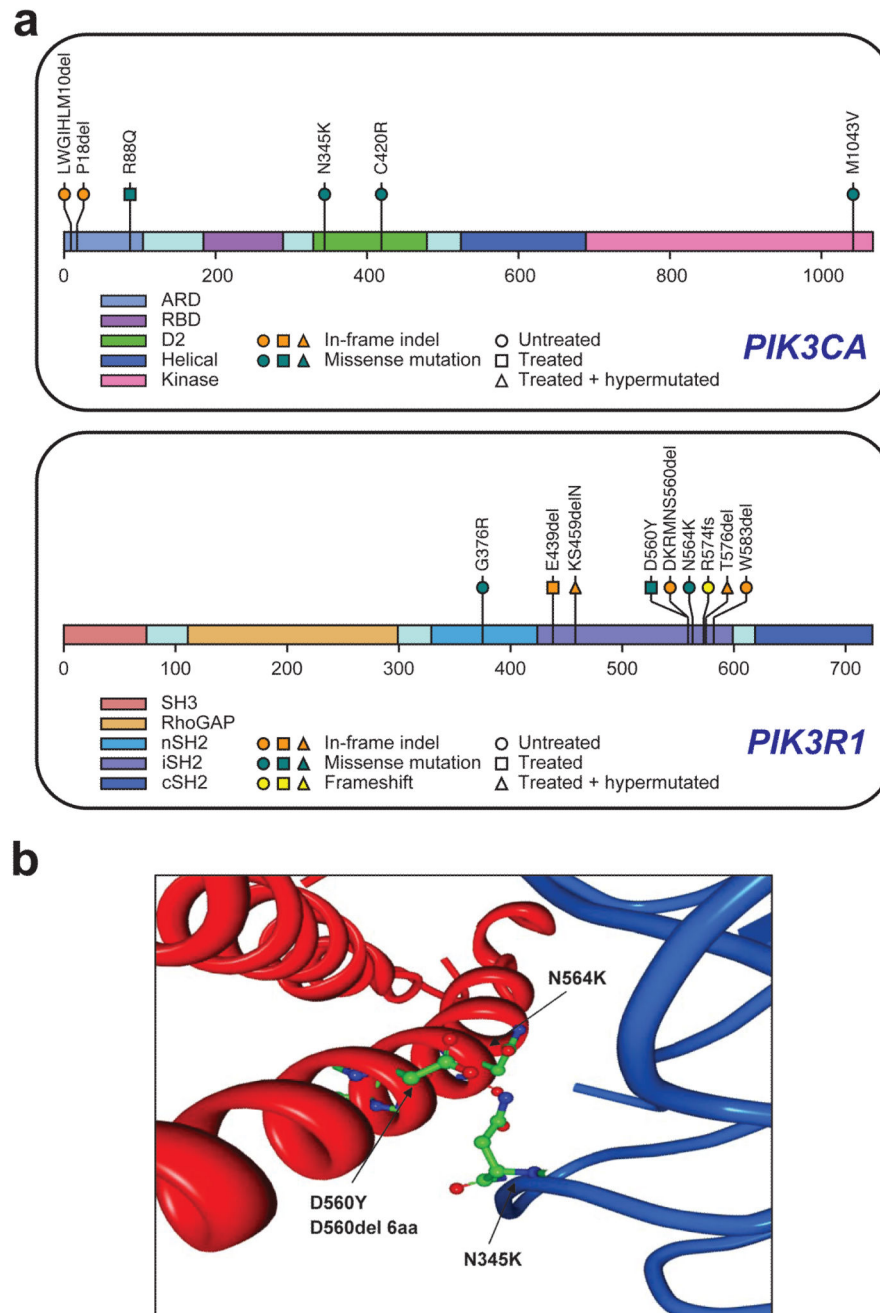


Figure 3. *PIK3R1* and *PIK3CA* mutations in GBM

(a). Diamonds above the backbone indicate the locations of mutations found in TCGA tumors. ABD: adaptor binding domain; RBD: Ras binding domain; C2: membrane-binding domain; iSH2: intervening domain.

(b). Four mutations found in the interaction interface of the p110 α C2 domain with iSH2 of p85 α . Two residues of p85 α , D560 and N564, are within hydrogen-bonding distance of the C2 residue of p110 α , N345.

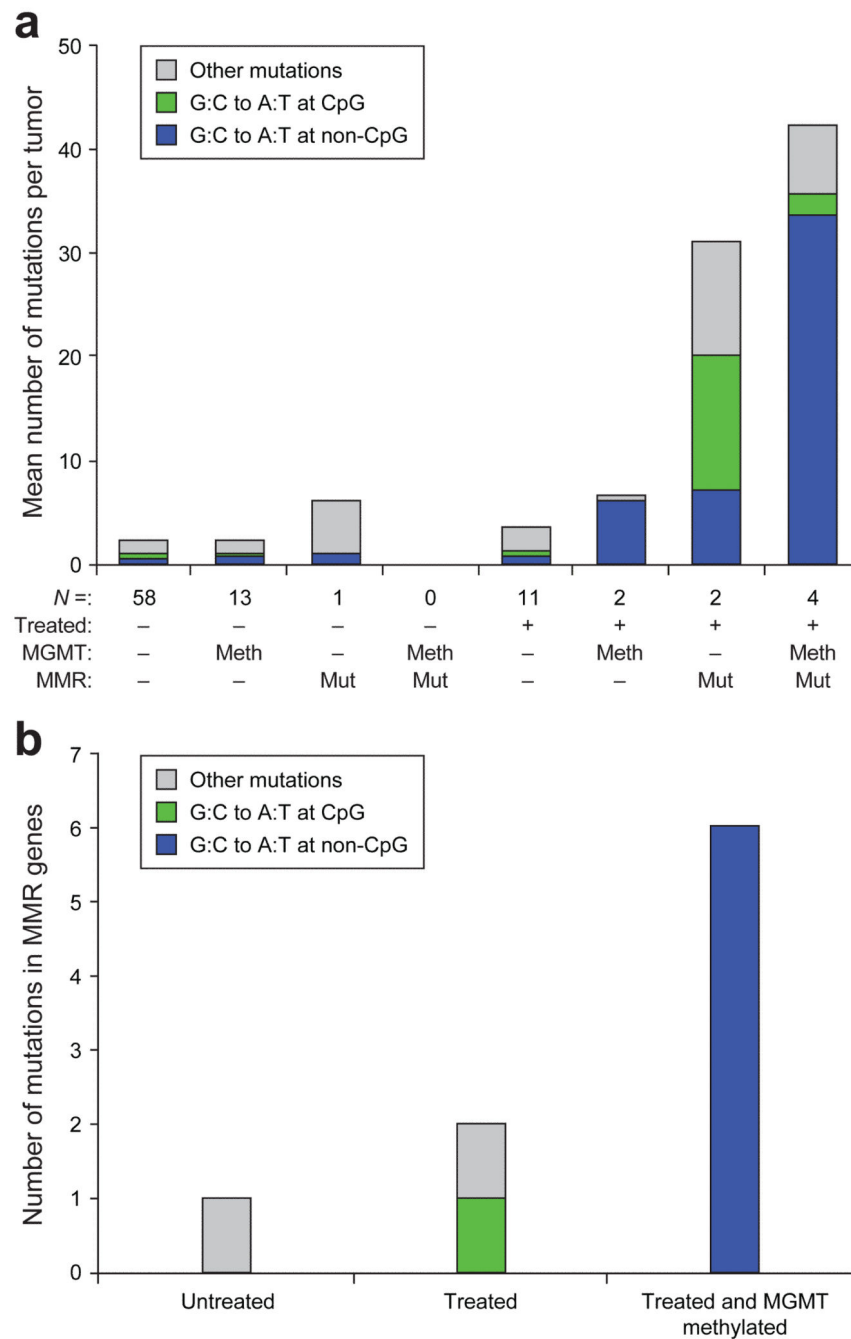


Figure 4. Pattern of somatic mutations, *MGMT* DNA methylation, and MMR gene mutations in treated GBMs

(a). The mean number of validated somatic nucleotide substitutions per tumor for key sample groups is indicated on the Y-axis and denoted by the height of the bar histograms. Samples are grouped along the X-axis according to treatment status of the patient (– = untreated; + = treated), DNA methylation status of *MGMT* (meth = DNA methylated; – = not methylated), and genetic status of MMR genes – = no genes mutated and mut = one or more of the *MLH1*, *MSH2*, *MSH6*, or *PMS2* genes mutated); the number below each bar

indicates the number of samples in the group. Bars are color-coded for types of nucleotide substitutions including G-to-A transitions at non-CpG sites (orange), G-to-A transitions at CpG sites (blue), and other mutation types (green).

(b). Bar histogram for mutation spectrum in the MMR genes as a function of treatment status, and methylation status of *MGMT*. The color code for substitution types is the same as in (a).

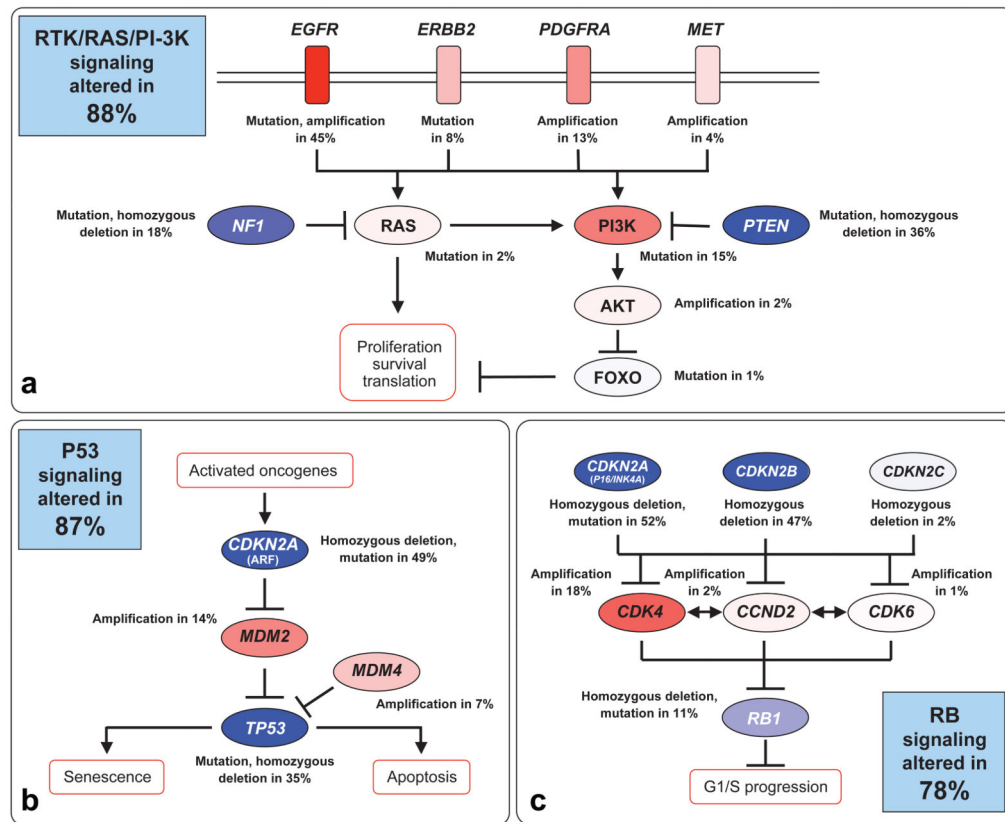


Figure 5. Frequent genetic alterations in three critical signaling pathways

Primary sequence alterations and significant copy number changes for components of the (a) RTK/RAS/PI-3K, (b) p53, and (c) RB signaling pathways are shown. Red indicates activating genetic alterations, with frequently altered genes showing deeper shades of red. Conversely, blue indicates inactivating alterations, with darker shades corresponding to a higher percentage of alteration. For each altered component of a particular pathway, the nature of the alteration and the percentage of affected tumors affected are indicated. Blue boxes contain the final percentages of glioblastomas with alterations in at least one known component gene of the designated pathway.