Identifying biomarkers associated with disease-free survival in early-stage lung cancer

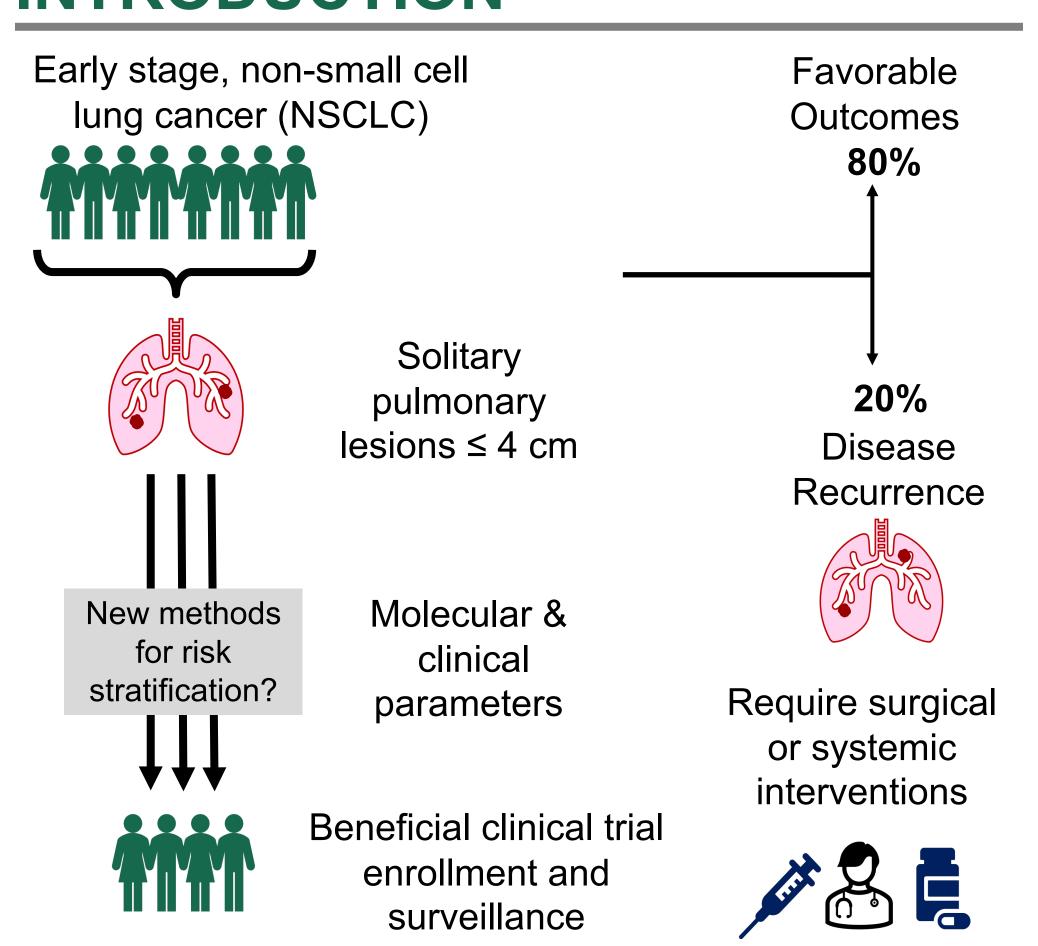
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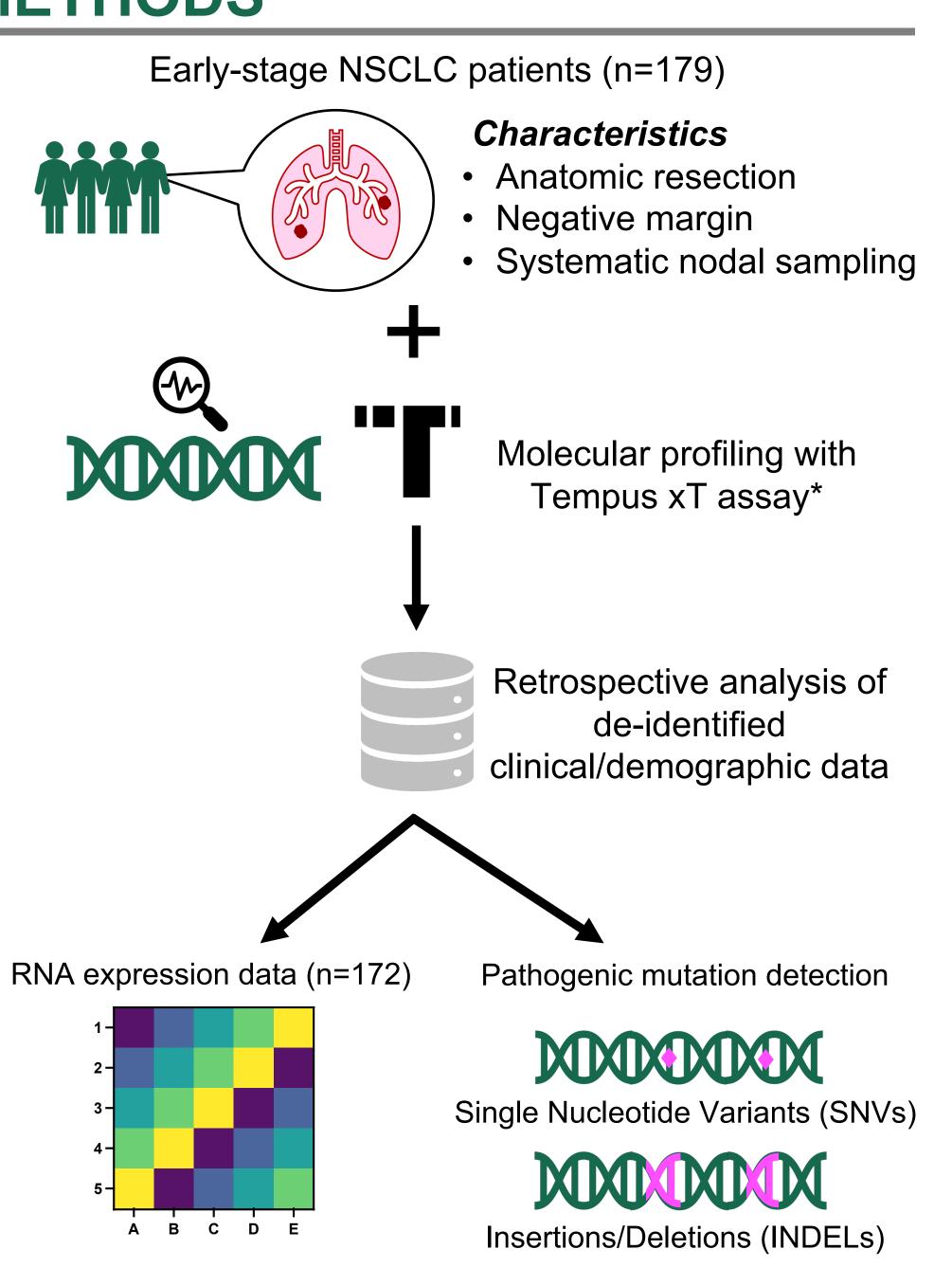
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INTRODUCTION



METHODS



^{*}Tempus xT solid tumor assay - DNA-seq of 595-648 genes at 500x coverage; whole-exome capture RNA-seq

Bivariate Cox-proportional Hazards models assessed association of individual variables with recurrence-free survival (time from surgery until recurrence/death).

SUMMARY

- Increased expression of NTRK1 and CD274 (PD-L1), decreased expression of ERBB2 (HER2), and high neoantigen tumor burden are associated with an increased risk for disease recurrence following surgery, suggesting mechanistic implications for heightened tumor aggressiveness and/or metastatic potential.
- Future work will validate our findings in a broader set of early-stage NSCLC patients, with the goal of better identifying patients at a high risk of recurrence who would benefit from increased surveillance or systemic therapy.

RESULTS

Patient Characteristic Total N = 17		
Age		
Median (IQR) ¹	69 (63, 74)	
Range	49, 85	
Gender	n (%)	
Female	111 (62%)	
Male	68 (38%)	
Race	n (%)	
Caucasian	148 (83%)	
Black/African American	22 (12%)	
Asian	5 (2.8%)	
Other	4 (2.2%)	
Ethnicity	n (%)	
Non-Hispanic/Latino	176 (98%)	
Hispanic/Latino	3 (1.7%)	
Smoking pack years		
Median (IQR) ¹	30 (10, 50)	
Range	0, 200	
Unknown	1	
Recurrence/death event	n (%)	
Yes	36 (20%)	
No	143 (80%)	
Pathologic stage at diagnosis	n (%)	
IA1	19 (11%)	
IA2	89 (50%)	
IA3	58 (32%)	
IB	13 (7.3%)	
Histology	n (%)	
Adenocarcinoma	136 (76%)	
Squamous cell carcinoma	43 (24%)	
Tumor size (greatest dimension)		
Median (IQR)	1.80 (1.5, 2.5)	
Range	0.3, 3.9	

¹IQR: Interquartile range

Table 1. Demographic and clinical information for all patients included in this study.

The most common somatically mutated genes in our cohort were *TP53* (33% of tumors) and *KRAS* (16% of tumors), consistent with previous studies

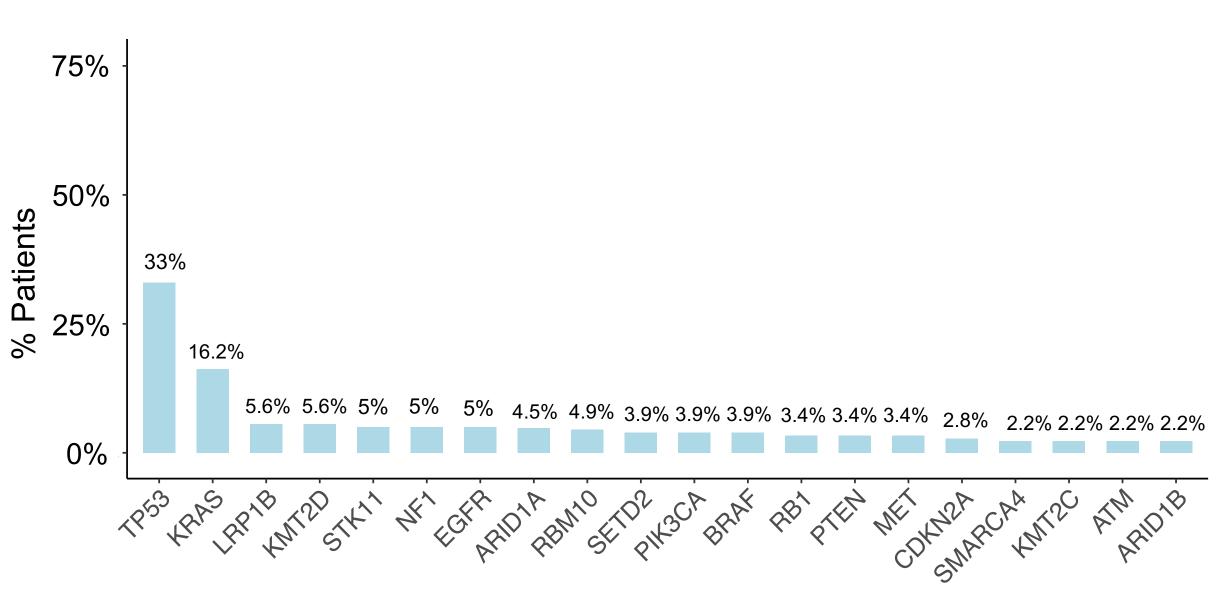


Figure 1. Percentage of patients with a pathogenic or likely pathogenic somatic mutation found in the top 20 commonly mutated genes in our cohort.

Increasing log₁₀-RNA expression for *NTRK1* and *CD274* (*PD-L1*) and decreasing log₁₀-RNA expression for *EGFR* and *ERBB2* (*HER2*) were associated with increased risk of recurrence/death

Gene	HR ²	95% CI ³	p-value
NTRK1	5.95	1.16, 30.4	0.027
CD274 (PD-L1)	7.88	1.61, 38.6	0.013
EGFR	0.24	0.05, 1.21	0.071
ERBB2 (HER2)	0.20	0.04, 0.97	0.042

²HR: Hazard ratio. ³CI: Confidence interval

Table 2. HR, CI, and p-value information for genes whose log_{10} -RNA expression was associated with recurrence/death events. Of note, EGFR expression was not statistically significant but trended towards an association. Total N=172, recurrence/death event N=34. p-values computed through bivariate Cox-proportional Hazards models.

Patients with a high neoantigen tumor burden displayed more rapid time to recurrence compared to

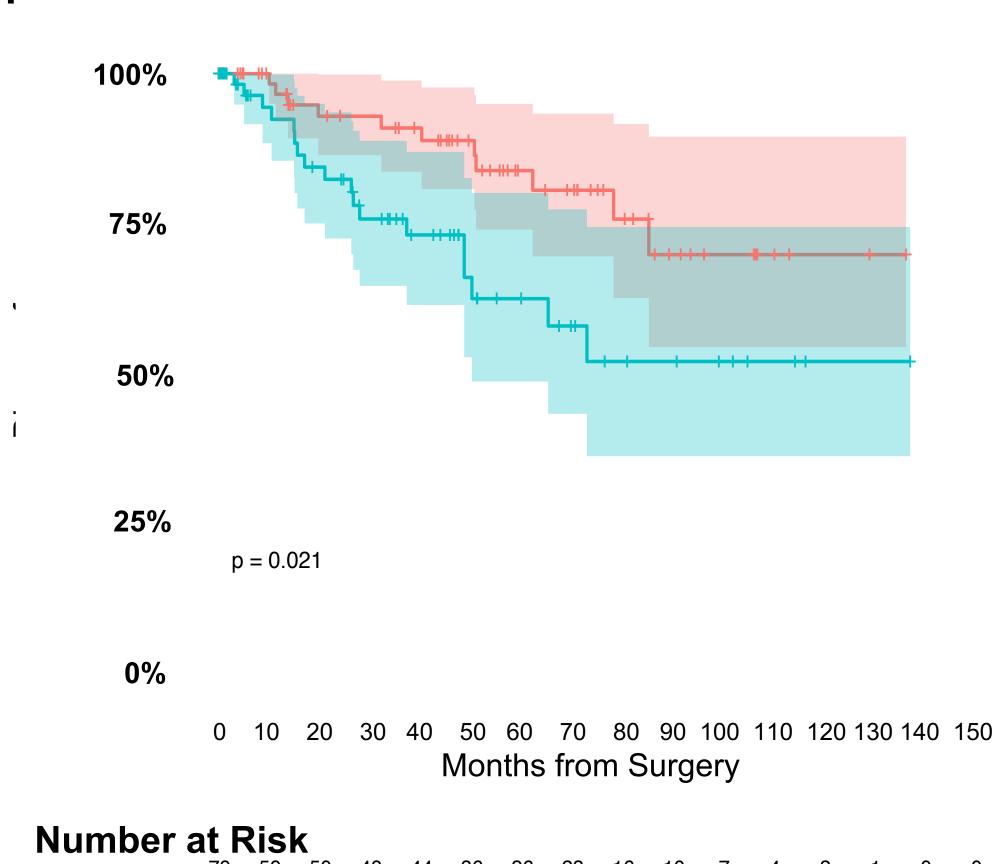




Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier curve comparing disease-free survival for patients with low vs. high neoantigen tumor burden. Patients were arbitrarily dichotomized at the median (1.6). p-value was computed by the log-rank test. N=148 patients with neoantigen tumor burden score available.

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