

# THE EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY OF METASTATIC ADRENOCORTICAL CARCINOMA

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## Conclusion

- Most metastatic ACC undergo LOH followed by WGD (cnLOH)
- cnLOH occur early in the evolution of the tumor
- Mutation heterogeneity is common in advanced ACC
- *FLCN*, *BAP1*, *RNF43*, *ATR* are novel potential driver genes in ACCs

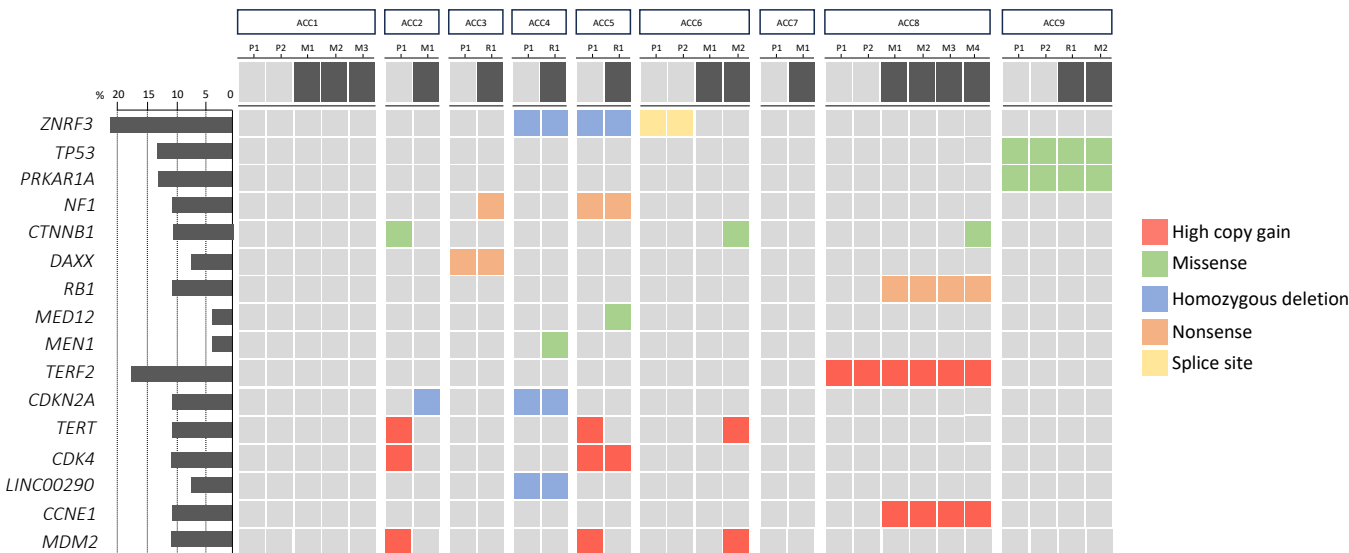


Figure 2. Mutational spectrum and heterogeneity. Top row – Tumors included (P – primary, M – metastatic)

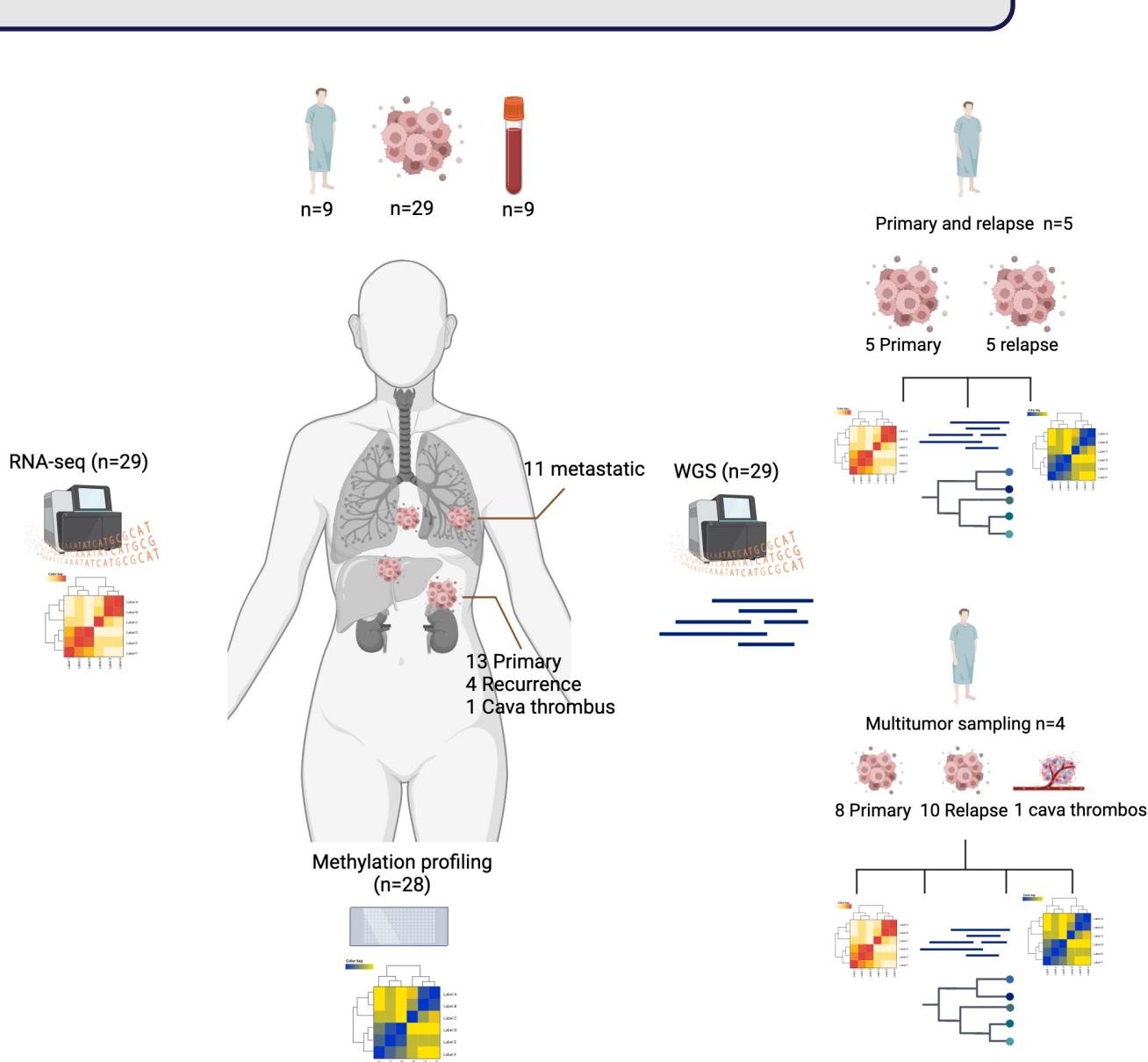


Figure 1. The infrastructure of the current study.

## Introduction

Adrenocortical carcinoma (ACC) is a rare and aggressive cancer with a prevalence of 1-2 per million individuals and a 5-year survival of 40%. Intratumoral heterogeneity is part of most cancers' evolution towards a metastatic state and evasion of systemic treatment. Large scale genomic investigations of different tumors have revealed a complex pattern of clonal and subclonal alterations in both single nucleotide variants (SNV) and copy number alterations (CNV). To further extend our knowledge on intratumoral heterogeneity in advanced ACC, we performed a detailed pan-genomic investigation on paired primary and metastatic ACC.

## Materials and methods

A total of 29 tumor samples from 9 patients were eligible for inclusion. All had matched primary and relapse samples (four with recurrent, eleven with metastatic). Four patients had multiple primary and metastatic tissues included. All tumors were subjected to whole-genome sequencing to a minimum of 60X, RNA sequencing (>45 million reads/sample), and methylation array (Illumina EPIC DNA methylation array) (Figure 1).

## Acknowledgments



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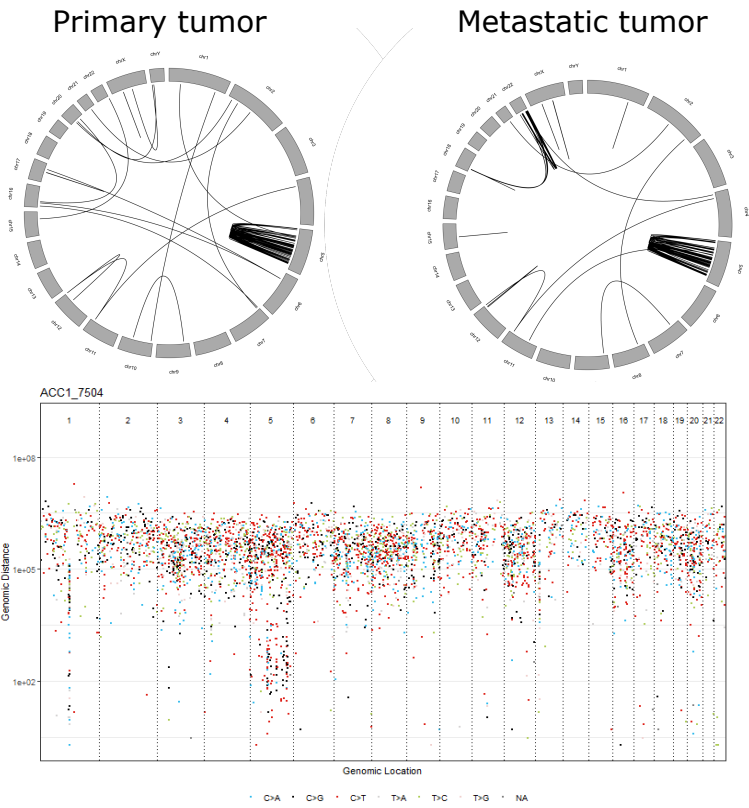


Figure 4. (Top) circos plots depicting small copy number alterations. In this patient Chr 5 is affected by a large number of structural alterations. In this area a hypermutation phenomena occurs called kataegis (bottom).

## Results

Previously described ACC driver mutations were heterogeneous in 44% (Figure 2) In 8/9 patients the tumor underwent global LOH which in most cases (7/8) was followed by WGD (Figure 3). This occurred early as only a mean of 24% of SNV were present before this event. To discover potential new candidate driver genes we selected clonal mutations also occurring in all tumor cells; *FLCN*, *BAP1*, *RNF43*, *ATR* were identified as new potential driver genes in ACC Structural alterations were stable among paired tumors from the same patient, suggesting early events in tumor development (Figure 4) RNA expression revealed upregulation of chromatin associated genes in metastatic samples.