

An Open Pediatric Brain Tumor Atlas

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Abstract

Introduction

Introduction will go here.

Materials and Methods

Biospecimen collection

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Atlas specimens are comprised of samples from Children's Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium (CBTTC) and the Pediatric Pacific Neuro-oncology Consortium (PNOC).

Children's Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium (CBTTC)

The CBTTC [1] is a collaborative, multi-institutional (16 institutions worldwide) research program dedicated to the study of childhood brain tumors. All CBTTC data can be download from the Gabriella Miller Kids First Data Resource Center, [2]. The de-identified patient's blood and tumor tissue were prospectively collected by the consortium from patients enrolled within the CBTTC.

The cell lines were generated by the CBTTC from either fresh tumor tissue obtained directly from surgery performed at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) or from prospectively collected tumor specimens stored in Recover Cell Culture Freezing media (cat# 12648010, Gibco). The tissue was dissociated using enzymatic method with papain as described [3]. Briefly, tissue was washed with HBSS (cat# 14175095, Gibco), minced and incubated with activated papain solution (cat# LS003124, SciQuest) for up to 45 minutes. The papain was inactivated using ovomucoid solution (cat# 542000, SciQuest), tissue was briefly treated with DNase (cat# 10104159001, Sigma) and passed through the 100µm cell strainer (cat# 542000, Greiner Bio-One). Two cell culture conditions were initiated based on the number of cells available. For cultures utilizing the fetal bovine serum (FBS), a minimum density of 3×10^5 cells/ml were plated in DMEM/F-12 medium (cat# D8062, Sigma) supplemented with 20% FBS (cat# SH30910.03, Hyclone), 1% GlutaMAX (cat# 35050061, Gibco), Penicillin/Streptomycin-Amphotericin B Mixture (cat# 17-745E, Lonza) and 0.2% Normocin (cat# ant-nr-2, Invivogen). For the serum-free media conditions cells were plated at minimum density of 1×10^6 cells/ml in DMEM/F12 media supplemented with 1% GlutaMAX, 1x B-27 supplement minus vitamin A (cat# 12587-010, Gibco), 1x N-2 supplement (cat# 17502001, Gibco), 20 ng/ml epidermal growth factor (cat# PHG0311L, Gibco), 20 ng/ml basic fibroblast growth factor (cat# 100-18B, PeproTech), 2.5µg/ml heparin (cat# H3149, Sigma), Penicillin/Streptomycin-Amphotericin B Mixture and 0.2% Normocin.

Pacific Pediatric Neuro-oncology Consortium (PNOC)

The Pacific Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Consortium (PNOC) is an international consortium dedicated to bringing new therapies to children and young adults with brain tumors. PNOC collected blood and tumor biospecimens from newly-diagnosed diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG) patients as part of the clinical trial [PNOC003/NCT02274987](#) [4].

Nucleic acids extraction and library preparation

PNOC samples

The Translational Genomic Research Institute (TGEN; Phoenix, AZ) performed DNA and RNA extractions on tumor biopsies using a DNA/RNA AllPrep Kit (Qiagen, #80204). All RNA used for library prep had a minimum RIN of 7 but no QC thresholds were implemented for the DNA. For library

preparation, 500ng of nucleic acids were used as input for RNA-Seq, WXS, and targeted DNA panel (panel). The RNA prep was performed using the TruSeq RNA Sample Prep Kit (Illumina, #FC-122-1001) and the exome prep was performed using KAPA Library Preparation Kit (Kapa Biosystems, #KK8201) using Agilent's SureSelect Human All Exon V5 backbone with custom probes. The targeted DNA panel developed by Ashion (formerly known as the GEM Cancer panel) consisted of exonic probes against 541 cancer genes. Both panel and WXS assays contained 44,000 probes across evenly spaced genomic loci used for genome-wide copy number analysis. For the panel, additional probes tiled across intronic regions of 22 known tumor suppressor genes and 22 genes involved in common cancer translocations for structural analysis. All extractions and library preparations were performed according to manufacturer's instructions.

CBTTC samples

Blood, tissue, and cell line DNA/RNA extractions were performed at the Biorepository Core at CHOP. Briefly, 10-20 mg frozen tissue, 0.4-1ml of blood or 2×10^6 cells pellet was used for extractions. Tissues were lysed using a Qiagen TissueLyser II (Qiagen) with 2×30 sec at 18Hz settings using 5 mm steel beads (cat# 69989, Qiagen). Both tissue and cell pellets processes included a CHCl₃ extraction and were run on the QIAcube automated platform (Qiagen) using the AllPrep DNA/RNA/miRNA Universal kit (cat# 80224, Qiagen). Blood was thawed and treated with RNase A (cat#, 19101, Qiagen); 0.4-1ml was processed using the Qiagen QIAsymphony automated platform (Qiagen) using the QIAsymphony DSP DNA Midi Kit (cat# 937255, Qiagen). DNA and RNA quantity and quality was assessed by PerkinElmer DropletQuant UV-VIS spectrophotometer (PerkinElmer) and an Agilent 4200 TapeStation (Agilent, USA) for RINe and DINe (RNA Integrity Number equivalent and DNA Integrity Number equivalent respectively). Library preparation and sequencing was performed by the NantHealth sequencing center. Briefly, DNA sequencing libraries were prepared for tumor and matched-normal DNA using the KAPA HyperPrep kit (cat# KK8541, Roche); tumor RNA-Seq libraries were prepared using KAPA Stranded RNA-Seq with RiboErase kit (cat# KK8484, Roche). Whole genome sequencing (WGS) was performed at an average depth of coverage of 60X for tumor samples and 30X for germline. The panel tumor sample was sequenced to 470X and the normal panel sample was sequenced to 308X. RNA samples were sequenced to an average of 200M reads. All samples were sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq platform (X/400) (Illumina) with 2 × 150bp read length.

Data generation

NantHealth Sequencing Center (Culver City, CA) performed whole genome sequencing (WGS) on all paired tumor (~60X) and constitutive (~30X) DNA samples. WGS libraries were 2x150 bp and sequenced on an Illumina X/400. NantHealth Sequencing Center performed ribosomal-depleted whole transcriptome stranded RNA-Seq to an average depth of 100M reads for CBTTC tumor samples. The Translational Genomic Research Institute (TGEN; Phoenix, AZ) performed paired tumor (~200X) and constitutive whole exome sequencing (WXS) or targeted DNA panel (panel) and poly-A selected RNA-Seq (~200M reads) for PNOC tumor samples. PNOC WXS and RNA-Seq libraries 2x100 bp and sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq 2500.

DNA WGS Alignment

We used BWA-MEM [5] v0.7.17 for alignment of paired-end DNA-seq reads. We used version 38, patch release 12 of the *Homo sapiens* genome as our alignment reference, which we obtained as a FASTA file from UCSC [6]. Alignments were further processed using following the Broad Institute's Best Practices [7] for processing Binary Alignment/Map files (BAMs) in preparation for variant discovery. Duplicates were marked using SAMBLASTER [8] v0.1.24, BAMs merged and sorted using Sambamba [9] v0.6.3. Resultant BAMs were processing using Broad's Genome Analysis Tool Kit [GATK] (<https://software.broadinstitute.org/gatk/>) v4.0.3.0, BaseRecalibrator submodule. Lastly, for normal/germline input, we run the GATK HaplotypeCaller [10] submodule on the recalibrated BAM,

generating a genomic variant call format (GVCF) file. This file is used as the basis for germline calling, described in the “SNV calling for B-allele Frequency (BAF) generation” section. References can be obtained from the [Broad Genome References on AWS](#) bucket, with a general description of references here [11].

Quality Control of Sequencing Data

NGSCheckmate [12] was performed on matched tumor/normal CRAM files to confirm sample matches and remove mismatched samples from the dataset. CRAM inputs were preprocessed using BCFtools to filter and call 20k common single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) using default parameters[13] and the resulting VCFs were used to run NGSCheckmate using [this workflow](#) in the D3b GitHub repository. Per author guidelines, <= 0.61 was used as a correlation coefficient cutoff at sequencing depths >10 to predict mismatched samples. For RNA-Seq, read strandedness was determined by running the [infer_experiment.py script](#) on the first 200k mapped reads. If calculated strandedness did not match strandedness information received from the sequencing center, samples were removed from analysis. We required at least 60% of RNA-Seq reads mapped to the human reference or samples were removed from analysis. MEND QC [14] was performed on aligned RNA-Seq reads using [this workflow](#) to identify mapped exonic non-duplicate reads.

Germline Variant Calling

SNP calling for B-allele Frequency (BAF) generation

Germline haplotype calls were performed following the [GATK Joint Genotyping Workflow](#), except the workflow was run on an individual sample basis. This workflow was applied to the GVCF output from the alignment workflow on normal/germline samples. Using only SNPs, we applied the [GATK generic hard filter suggestions](#) to the VCF, with an additional requirement of 10 reads minimum depth per SNP. This filtered VCF was used as input to Control-FREEC and CNVkit (below) for generation of BAF files. GATK v4.0.12.0 was used for all steps except VariantFiltration, which used 3.8.0 because as of GATK 4.0.12.0, this tool was beta and known to be unreliable for this purpose. This single-sample workflow can be found in the [Kids First GitHub repository](#). References can be obtained from the [Broad Genome References on AWS](#) bucket, with a general description of references here [11].

Somatic Mutation Calling

SNV and indel calling

For PBTA samples, we used four variant callers to call SNVs and indels from targeted DNA panel, WXS, and WGS data: Strelka2 [15], Mutect2 [16], Lancet [17], and VarDict [18]. WXS samples from TCGA were run using Strelka2, Mutect2 and Lancet. TCGA samples were captured using different WXS target capture kits and all the BED files were downloaded from [GDC portal](#). The input interval BED files for both panel and WXS data for PBTA samples were provided by the manufacturers. For both PBTA and TCGA, all panel and WXS BED files were padded by 100 bp on each side during Strelka2, Mutect2, and VarDict runs and 400 bp for the Lancet run.

For WGS calling, we utilized the non-padded BROAD Institute interval calling list [wgs_calling_regions.hg38.interval_list](#), comprised of the full genome minus N bases, unless otherwise noted below. Strelka2 [15] v2.9.3 was run using default parameters for canonical chromosomes (chr1-22, X,Y,M), as recommended by the authors. The final Strelka2 VCF was filtered for PASS variants. Mutect2 from GATK v4.1.1.0 was run following Broad best practices outlined from their Workflow Description Language (WDL) [19]. The final Mutect2 VCF was filtered for PASS variants. To manage memory issues, VarDictJava [18] v1.58 [20] was run using 20Kb interval chunks of the input BED, padded by 100 bp on each side, such that if an indel occurred in between intervals, it would be captured. Parameters and filtering followed [BCBIO standards](#) except that variants with a

variant allele frequency (VAF) ≥ 0.05 (instead of ≥ 0.10) were retained. The 0.05 VAF increased the true positive rate for indels and decreased the false positive rate for SNVs when using VarDict in consensus calling. The final VCF was filtered for PASS variants with TYPE=StronglySomatic. Lancet v1.0.7 was run using default parameters, except for those noted below. For input intervals to Lancet WGS, a reference BED was created by using only the UTR, exome, and start/stop codon features of the GENCODE 31 reference, augmented as recommended with PASS variant calls from Strelka2 and Mutect2 [21]. These intervals were then padded by 300 bp on each side during Lancet variant calling. Per recommendations by the New York Genome Center [21], for WGS samples, the Lancet input intervals described above were augmented with PASS variant calls from Strelka2 and Mutect2 as validation.

VCF annotation and MAF creation

We filtered outputs from both callers on the “PASS” filter, and annotated using The ENSEMBL Variant Effect Predictor [22], reference release 93, and created MAFs using MSKCC’s vcf2maf [23] v1.6.17.

Consensus SNV Calling

Our SNV calling process led to separate sets of predicted mutations for each caller. We considered mutations to describe the same change if they were identical for the following MAF fields: Chromosome, Start_Position, Reference_Allele, Allele, and Tumor_Sample_Barcode. Strelka2 does not call multinucleotide variants (MNV), but instead calls each component SNV as a separate mutation, so we separated MNV calls from Mutect2 and Lancet into consecutive SNVs before comparing them with Strelka2. We examined the variant allele frequencies produced by each caller and compared their overlap with each other [24]. VarDict calls included many variants that were not identified by other callers [25], while the other callers produced results that were relatively consistent with one another. Many of these VarDict-specific calls were variants with low allele frequency [26]. We termed mutations shared among the other three callers (Strelka2, Mutect2, and Lancet) to be consensus mutation calls and dropped VarDict due to concerns about it calling a large number of false positives. In practice, because our filtered set was based on the intersection of these three sets and because VarDict called nearly every mutation from the other three callers plus many that were unique to it, the decision to not consider VarDict calls has little impact on the results.

For some downstream analyses, only coding sequence SNVs (based on GENCODE v27 [27]) are used, to enhance comparability to other studies. We considered base pairs to be *effectively surveyed* if they were in the intersection of the genomic ranges considered by the callers used to generate the consensus and where appropriate, regions of interest, such as coding sequences. This definition of *effectively surveyed* base pairs is what is used to calculate effective genome size for calculations for tumor mutation burden and mutational signatures.

Recurrently mutated genes and co-occurrence of gene mutations

Using the consensus SNV calls, we identified genes that were recurrently mutated in the cohort, including nonsynonymous mutations with a variant allele frequency greater than 5% among the set of independent samples. The set of nonsynonymous mutations was determined using ENSEMBL Variant Effect Predictor [22] annotations, including High and Moderate consequence types as defined in maftools [28]. For each gene, we then tallied the number of samples that had at least one nonsynonymous mutation.

For genes that contained nonsynonymous mutations in multiple samples, we calculated pairwise mutation co-occurrence scores. This score was defined as the $I \times -\log_{10}(P)$ where I is 1 when the odds ratio is > 1 (indicating co-occurrence), and -1 when the odds ratio is < 1 (indicating mutual exclusivity), with P defined by Fisher’s Exact Test.

Somatic Copy Number Variant Calling (WGS samples only)

We used Control-FREEC [29,30] v11.6 and CNVkit [31] v0.9.3 for copy number variant calls. For both algorithms, the `germline_sex_estimate` (described below) was used as input for sample sex and germline variant calls (above) were used as input for BAF estimation. Control-FREEC was run on human genome reference hg38 using the optional parameters of a 0.05 coefficient of variation, ploidy choice of 2-4, and BAF adjustment for tumor-normal pairs. Theta2 [32] used VarDict germline and somatic calls, filtered on PASS and strongly somatic, to infer tumor purity. Theta2 purity was added as an optional parameter to CNVkit to adjust copy number calls. CNVkit was run on human genome reference hg38 using the optional parameters of Theta2 purity and BAF adjustment for tumor-normal pairs. We used GISTIC [33] v.2.0.23 on the CNVkit and the consensus CNV segmentation files to generate gene-level copy number abundance (Log R Ratio) as well as chromosomal arm copy number alterations using the parameters specified in the [OpenPBTA Analysis repository](#).

Consensus CNV Calling

For each caller and sample, CNVs were called based on consensus among Control-FREEC [29,30], CNVkit [31], and Manta [34]. CNVs called significant by Control-FREEC (p-value < 0.01) were included in the consensus calling.

Sample and caller combination files with more than 2500 CNVs called were removed from the set; we expect these to be noisy and poor quality samples based on cutoffs used in GISTIC [33]. For each sample, regions with reciprocal overlap of at least 50% between two of the three callers were included in the final consensus set. CNV regions within 10,000 bp of each other with the same direction of gain or loss were merged into single region. We filtered out any CNVs that overlapped 50% or more with immunoglobulin, telomeric, centromeric, segment duplicated regions or were shorter than 3000 bp.

Focal Copy Number Calling

We added the ploidy inferred via Control-FREEC to the consensus CNV segmentation file and used the ploidy and copy number values to define gain and loss values broadly at the chromosome level. We used bedtools coverage [35,36] to add cytoband status using the UCSC cytoband file [37,38]. The output status call fractions, which are values of the loss, gain and callable fractions of each cytoband region, were used to define dominant status at the cytoband-level. The weighted means of each status call fraction were calculated using band length. We used the weighted means to define the dominant status at the chromosome arm-level.

A status is considered dominant if more than half of the region was callable and the status call fraction was greater than 0.9 for that region. The 0.9 threshold was chosen to ensure that the dominant status fraction call is greater than the remaining status fraction calls in a region.

We also wanted to define focal copy number units to avoid calling adjacent genes in the same cytoband or arm as copy number losses or gains where it would be more appropriate to call the broader region a loss or gain. For the determination of the most focal units, we first considered the dominant status calls at the chromosome arm-level. If the chromosome arm dominant status was not clearly defined as a gain or loss (and was callable) we looked to include the cytoband-level status call. Similarly, if a cytoband dominant status call was not clearly defined as a gain or loss (and was callable) we looked to include the gene-level status call. To obtain the gene-level data, we used the `mergeByOverlaps` function [39] from the IRanges package [40] to find overlaps between the segments in the consensus CNV file and the exons in the GENCODE v27 annotation file [27].

Somatic Structural Variant Calling (WGS samples only)

We used Manta SV [34] v1.4.0 for structural variant (SV) calls. Manta SV calling was also limited to regions used in Strelka2. The hg38 reference for SV calling used was limited to canonical chromosome regions. The somatic DNA workflow for SNV, indel, copy number, and SV calling can be found in the [KidsFirst Github repository](#). Manta SV output was annotated using [AnnotSV v2.1](#) [41] and the workflow can be found in the [D3b GitHub repository](#).

Gene Expression Abundance Estimation

We used STAR [42] v2.6.1d to align paired-end RNA-seq reads. This output was used for all subsequent RNA analysis. We used Ensembl GENCODE 27 [27], “Comprehensive gene annotation” as a reference. We used RSEM [43] v1.3.1 for both FPKM and TPM transcript- and gene-level quantification. We also added a second method of quantification using kallisto [44] v0.43.1. This method differs in that it uses pseudoalignments using FASTQ reads directly to the aforementioned GENCODE 27 reference.

Gene Expression Matrices with Unique HUGO Symbols

Algorithms that perform gene set enrichment, molecular subtyping, or immune-profiling, for example, require an RNA-seq gene expression matrix as input, with HUGO gene symbols as row names and sample names as column names. This is not straight-forward, as there are a small proportion of gene symbols that map to multiple Ensembl gene identifiers (in GENCODE v27, 212 gene symbols map to 1866 Ensembl gene identifiers).

We first removed genes with no expression using a cut-off of $\text{FPKM} > 0$ in at least 1 sample across the PBTA cohort. Next, of the expressed multi-mapped genes, we found 168 genes mapped to 1393 Ensembl gene identifiers in the stranded dataset and 139 genes mapped to 429 Ensembl gene identifiers in the poly-A dataset. Of these, only a small proportion were found to be protein coding genes, i.e. 3% (42/1393) in stranded and 10% (42/429) in the poly-A dataset. The top two most represented gene types were misc_RNA (60% for stranded; 36% for poly-A) and snoRNA (24% for stranded and 27% for poly-A).

We computed the mean FPKM across all samples per gene and for each multi-mapped gene symbol, we chose the Ensembl identifier corresponding to the maximum mean FPKM with the goal of choosing the identifier that best represented the expression of the gene. After collapsing gene identifiers, there were a total of 46,400 unique expressed genes in the poly-A dataset and a total of 53,011 unique expressed genes remaining in the stranded dataset.

For each multi-mapped gene symbol, we also performed a correlation analysis between the duplicated genes so see how well the expression between different Ensembl identifiers of the same gene correlated. We computed the average Pearson correlation coefficient between the expressed gene identifier that was kept (after collapsing) vs each expressed gene identifier that was discarded. We did not find any striking patterns of correlations and the correlation coefficients were quite arbitrary as high as 0.92 and 1.00 and as low as -0.27 and -0.19 in stranded and poly-A dataset, respectively.

Immune Profiling/Deconvolution

In general, immune deconvolution from the tumor microenvironment is complicated in that most deconvolution methods do not always agree because of the type of underlying algorithm, the ability to deconvolute certain cell types better than others and the type of output: some methods output actual cell fractions while others output scores that correlate to cell abundance.

We used the R package immunedeconv [45,46] to deconvolute, quantify and compare various immune cell types across 21 histologies from the PBTA cohort (stranded and poly-A). The package provides a unified interface for cell type quantification from RNA-seq gene expression data using multiple methods: EPIC (immune cells, fibroblasts, endothelial cells; n = 6), TIMER (immune cells; n = 6), MCP-counter (immune cells, fibroblasts, endothelial cells; n = 8), quanTlseq (immune cells; n = 10), CIBERSORT (immune cells; n = 22) and xCell (immune and non-immune cells; n = 64). To get a more fine grained deconvolution, we chose the top two most comprehensive methods i.e. xCell and CIBERSORT that are able to deconvolute 64 and 22 cell types, respectively. xCell tests for enrichment of cell types using ssGSEA and CIBERSORT uses v-Support Vector Regression. xCell was our method of choice because 1) it is able to deconvolute the maximum number of immune and non-immune cell types, 2) is highly robust against background predictions and 3) can reliably identify the presence of immune cells at low abundances (0-1% infiltration depending on the immune cell type) [45]. Further, xCell was also shown to robustly outperform all other methods, including CIBERSORT in a benchmarking study [47]. We chose CIBERSORT as the second method because like xCell, it represents immune cell content as arbitrary scores that are highly correlated with actual cell proportions and are cross comparable between the two methods. The advantage of these methods is that they allow between samples (inter-sample), between cell types (intra-sample) and between cancer type (inter-histology) comparisons.

To compare the outcome scores across the two profiling methods i.e. xCell and CIBERSORT, we took 13 cell types commonly represented between both methods and created a correlation plot per cell type per histology [48]. Overall, across all histologies and cell types, the predictions did not correlate well (Pearson correlation = 0.12) but we did observe a high correlation (> 0.5) between certain cell type predictions i.e. Macrophages M2, Monocytes, Neutrophils and T cell CD8+ markers across specific histologies.

In order to see histology specific enrichment of certain cell types, we created heatmaps for xCell [49] and CIBERSORT [50] representing average immune cell scores normalized across histologies. We observed a very similar and interesting pattern in the heatmaps as well i.e. cell types that were highly correlated between xCell and CIBERSORT are also the ones that are found in high proportions compared to other cell types. Using the profiling methods, we could distinctively identify three histologies enriched in specific cell types: histiocytic tumors (n = 5) which are known to be characterized by an increase in monocytes, macrophages and dendritic cells [51] were observed to be enriched in Myeloid dendritic cell activated, Monocytes, Neutrophils and Macrophage M1/M2; Lymphomas (n = 1) were seen to be enriched in B cell plasma, Class-switched memory B cell, B cell naive, B cell, B cell memory, T cell regulatory (Tregs), Common Lymphoid progenitor [52]; and Germ cell tumors (n = 13) as expected [53] were seen to be enriched in T cell CD8+ and T cell CD4+ naive cells.

Because we only have a sample size of 1 for Lymphomas, we couldn't get any correlation between immune scores of xCell and CIBERSORT across various B cell types but looking at the heatmap of average scores per cell type per histology, it is highly likely that given a larger sample size, the immune scores between the two methods would correlate.

RNA Fusion Calling and Prioritization

Gene fusion detection

We set up [Arriba v1.1.0](#) and STAR-Fusion 1.5.0 [54] fusion detection tools using CWL on CAVATICA. For both these tools we used aligned BAM and chimeric SAM files from STAR as inputs and GRCh38_gencode_v27 GTF for gene annotation. We ran STAR-Fusion with default parameters and annotated all fusion calls with GRCh38_v27_CTAT_lib_Feb092018.plug-n-play.tar.gz provided in the STAR-fusion release. For Arriba, we used a blacklist file (blacklist_hg38_GRCh38_2018-11-04.tsv.gz)

from the Arriba release tarballs to remove recurrent fusion artifacts and transcripts present in healthy tissue. We also provided Arriba with strandedness information or set it to auto-detection for poly-A samples. We used [FusionAnnotator](#) on Arriba fusion calls in order to harmonize annotations with those of STAR-Fusion. The RNA expression and fusion workflows can be found in the [KidsFirst GitHub repository](#) and the FusionAnnotator workflow found in the [D3b GitHub repository](#).

Fusion prioritization

We performed artifact filtering and additional annotation on fusion calls to prioritize putative oncogenic fusions. Briefly, we considered all in frame and frameshift fusion calls with a minimum of 1 junction reads and at least one gene partner expressed (TPM > 1) to be true calls. If a fusion call had large number of spanning fragment reads compared to junction reads (spanning fragment minus junction read greater than ten), we removed these calls as potential false positives. We prioritized a union of fusion calls as true calls if the fused genes were detected by both callers, the same fusion was recurrent within a `broad_histology` (>2 samples) or the fusion was specific to the `broad_histology`. If either 5' or 3' genes fused to more than five different genes within a sample, we removed these calls as potential false positives. We annotated putative driver fusions and prioritized fusions based on partners containing known [kinases](#), [oncogenes](#), [tumor suppressors](#), curated transcription factors [55], [COSMIC genes](#), and/or known [TCGA fusions](#) from curated [references](#). *MYBL1* [56], *SNCAIP* [57], *FOXR2* [58], *TTYH1* [59], and *TERT* [60,61,62,63] were added to the oncogene list and *BCOR* [58] and *QKI* [64] were added to the tumor suppressor gene list based on pediatric cancer literature review. The fusion filtering workflow can be found in the [OpenPBTA Analysis repository](#).

Mutational Signatures

We obtained weights for signature sets by applying deconstructSigs [65,66] to consensus SNVs with the BSgenome.Hsapiens.UCSC.hg38 annotations [67]. We estimated how many mutations contributed to each signature for each sample using each sample's signature weights. Weights for signatures fall in the range zero to one inclusive. For a given sample and signature combination, we estimated the number of contributing mutations per Mb of the genome by multiplying the signature weight by the total number of trinucleotide mutations identified by deconstructSigs and then dividing by the size of the effectively surveyed genome.

$$\frac{\# \text{ of contributing mutations}}{\text{Mb}} = \frac{\text{weight} * \sum \# \text{ Trinucleotide mutations}}{\text{Size in Mb of effectively surveyed genome}}$$

These results do not include signatures with small contributions; deconstructSigs drops signature weights that are less than 6% [65]. We used these methods to calculate signature scores for each sample with both COSMIC [68] and Alexandrov et al, 2013 [69] signature sets.

PBTA Tumor Mutation Burden

We consider tumor mutation burden (TMB) to be the number of consensus SNVs per *effectively surveyed* base of the genome.

$$\text{TMB} = \frac{\backslash\# \text{ of coding sequence SNVs}}{\text{Size in Mb of }\{\backslash\text{em effectively surveyed}\} \text{ genome}}$$

We used the total number coding sequence consensus SNVs for the numerator and the size of the intersection of the regions considered by Lancet, Strelka2, and Mutect2 with coding regions (CDS from GENCODE v27 annotation [27]) as the denominator.

TCGA Tumor Mutation Burden

We calculated tumor mutation burden in TCGA using MC3 mutation calls [70] for TCGA brain-related tumor projects including: LGG (lower-grade glioma) [71], GBM (glioblastoma multiforme) [72], and PCPG (pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma) [73]. The MC3 project provided an exome BED file. All SNVs fell within these regions. We considered the regions covered by the MC3 BED file (based on GENCODE v19 annotation [74]) to have been effectively surveyed.

Clinical Data Harmonization

WHO Classification of Disease Types

The `pathology_diagnosis` field in the `pbta-histologies.tsv` file contains the diagnosis denoted from the patient's pathology report. The `integrated_diagnosis` field in the `pbta-histologies.tsv` file includes updates to `pathology_diagnosis` and these changes are documented in the `Notes`. For instance, any diagnosis denoted as "Other" in `pathology_diagnosis` was modified to capture the pathology report diagnosis in `integrated_diagnosis`. Additionally, `pathology_diagnosis` was modified to `integrated_diagnosis` if the presence of specific molecular alterations defined a biospecimen as having an alternate diagnosis. The `broad_histology` denotes the broad 2016 WHO classification [75] for each tumor. The `short_histology` is an abbreviated version of the `broad_histology`. The `glioma_brain_region` was subtyped into hemispheric, midline, mixed, or other based on specimen location (see table below).

Meta data	Definition	Possible values
<code>age_at_diagnosis_d</code> <code>ays</code>	Patient age at diagnosis in days	numeric
<code>age_la</code> <code>st_up</code> <code>date_</code> <code>days</code>	Patient age at the last clinical event/update in days	numeric
<code>aliquo</code> <code>t_id</code>	External aliquot identifier	variable
<code>broad_com</code> <code>positi</code> <code>on</code>	Broad classification of sample type	cell-line;cyst;non-tumor;tumor
<code>broad_histol</code> <code>ogy</code>	Broad WHO 2016 classification of cancer type	text
<code>cance</code> <code>r_pred</code> <code>isposit</code> <code>ions</code>	Reported cancer predisposition syndromes	text
<code>cohort</code>	Scientific cohort	CBTTC;PNO
<code>comp</code> <code>ositio</code> <code>n</code>	Sample composition	Derived Cell Line;Not Reported;Peripheral Whole Blood;Saliva;Solid Tissue

Meta data	Definition	Possible values
ethnicity	Patient reported ethnicity	text
experimental_strategy	Sequencing strategy	WGS;WXS;RNA-Seq;Panel
germline_sex_estimate	Predicted sex of patient based on germline X and Y ratio calculation (described in methods)	Female;Male;Unknown
glioma_brain_region	Brain region for all tumors classified as LGAT or HGAT	midline (Thalamus)
integrated_diagnosis	Updated and/or integrated molecular diagnosis	text
Kids_First_Biospecimen_ID	KidsFirst biospecimen identifier	BS_#####
Kids_First_Participant_ID	KidsFirst patient identifier	PT_#####
molecular_subtype	Molecular subtype defined by WHO 2016 guidelines	text
normal_fraction	Theta2 normal DNA fraction estimate	numeric
Notes	Free text field describing changes from pathology_diagnosis to integrated_diagnosis or manner in which molecular_subtype was determined	text
OS_days	Overall survival in days	numeric
OS_status	Overall survival status	DECEASED;LIVING
parent_aliquot_id	External identifier combining sample_id, sample_type, aliquot_id, and sequencing_strategy for some samples	text

Meta data	Definition	Possible values
pathology_diagnosis	Reported patient diagnosis from pathology reports	text
primary_site	Bodily site(s) from which specimen was derived	text
race	Patient reported race	text
reported_gender	Patient reported gender	text
RNA_library	Type of RNA-Sequencing library preparation	stranded;poly-A
sample_id	External biospecimen identifier	variable
sample_type	Broad sample type	Normal;Tumor
seq_center	Sequencing center	BGI@CHOP Genome Center;Genomic Clinical Core at Sidra Medical and Research Center;NantOmics;TGEN
short_histology	Abbreviated integrated_diagnosis	text
tumor_descripitor	Phase of therapy from which tumor was derived	Initial CNS Tumor;Progressive Progressive Disease Post-Mortem;Recurrence;Second Malignancy;Unavailable
tumor_fraction	Theta2 tumor DNA fraction estimate	numeric
tumor_ploidy	Control-FREEC ploidy	numeric

Table S1. Clinical metadata collected for OpenPBTA. {#tbl:S1}

Molecular Subtyping

The `molecular_subtype` column in the `pbta-histologies.tsv` file contains molecular subtype information derived as described below, following World Health Organization 2016 classification criteria [75].

Medulloblastoma (MB) subtypes SHH, MYC, Group 3, and Group 4 were predicted using an [RNA expression classifier](#) on the RSEM FPKM data.

High-grade glioma (HGG) subtypes were derived using the criteria below (additional details in the [analysis README](#)):

1. If any sample contained an H3F3A K28M, HIST1H3B K28M, HIST1H3C K28M, or HIST2H3C K28M mutation and no BRAF V600E mutation, it was subtyped as DMG, H3K28.
2. If any sample contained an HIST1H3B K28M, HIST1H3C K28M, or HIST2H3C K28M mutation and a BRAF V600E mutation, it was subtyped as DMG, H3 K28, BRAF V600E.

3. If any sample contained an H3F3A G35V or G35R mutation, it was subtyped as HGG, H3 G35.
4. If any high-grade glioma sample contained an IDH1 R132 mutation, it was subtyped as HGG, IDH.
5. If a sample was initially classified as HGAT, had no defining histone mutations, and a BRAF V600E mutation, it was subtyped as BRAF V600E.
6. All other high-grade glioma samples that did not meet any of these criteria were subtyped as HGG, H3 wildtype.

Non-MB and non-ATRT embryonal (`Embryonal tumor` in the `broad_histology` column of the metadata `pbta-histologies.tsv`) subtypes were derived using the criteria below [76,77,78,79]. Additional details can be found in the analysis [notebook](#).

1. Any RNA-seq biospecimen with *LIN28Aa* overexpression, plus a *TTYH1* fusion (5' partner) with a gene adjacent or within the C19MC miRNA cluster and/or copy number amplification of the C19MC region was subtyped as ETMR, C19MC-altered (Embryonal tumor with multilayer rosettes, chromosome 19 miRNA cluster altered).
2. Any RNA-seq biospecimen with *LIN28Aa* overexpression, a *TTYH1* fusion (5' partner) with a gene adjacent or within the C19MC miRNA cluster but no evidence of copy number amplification of the C19MC region was subtyped as ETMR, NOS (Embryonal tumor with multilayer rosettes, not otherwise specified).
3. Any RNA-seq biospecimen with a fusion having a 5' *MN1* and 3' *BEND2* or *CXXC5* partner were subtyped as CNS HGNET-MN1 (Central nervous system (CNS) high-grade neuroepithelial tumor with *MN1* alteration).
4. Non-MB and non-ATRT embryonal tumors with internal tandem duplication of *BCOR* were subtyped as CNS HGNET-BCOR (CNS high-grade neuroepithelial tumor with *BCOR* alteration).
5. Non-MB and non-ATRT embryonal tumors with over-expression and/or gene fusions in *FOXR2* were subtyped as CNS NB-FOXR2 (CNS neuroblastoma with *FOXR2* activation).
6. Non-MB and non-ATRT embryonal tumors with *CIC-NUTM1* or other *CIC* fusions, were subtyped as CNS EFT-CIC (CNS Ewing sarcoma family tumor with *CIC* alteration).
7. Non-MB and non-ATRT embryonal tumors that did not fit any of the above categories were subtyped as CNS Embryonal, NOS (CNS Embryonal tumor, not otherwise specified).

Survival

Overall survival, denoted `OS_days`, was calculated as days since initial diagnosis.

Prediction of participants' genetic sex

The clinical metadata provided included a reported gender. We used DNA data, in concert with the reported gender, to predict participant genetic sex so that we could identify sexually dimorphic outcomes. This analysis could also reveal samples that may have been contaminated in certain circumstances. We used the idxstats utility from SAMtools [80] to calculate read lengths, the number of mapped reads, and the corresponding chromosomal location for reads to the X and Y chromosomes. We used the fraction of total normalized X and Y chromosome reads that were attributed to the Y chromosome as a summary statistic. We reviewed this statistic in the context of reported gender and determined that a threshold of less than 0.2 clearly delineated female samples. Fractions greater than 0.4 were predicted to be males. Samples with values in the range [0.2, 0.4] were marked as unknown. We ran this analysis through [CWL](#) on Cavatica. Resulting calls were added to the clinical metadata as `germline_sex_estimate`.

Selection of independent samples

Certain analyses required that we select only a single representative specimen for each individual. In these cases, we prioritized primary tumors and those with whole-genome sequencing available. If this

filtering still resulted in multiple specimens, we selected from the remaining set randomly.

Results

Results section stub.

The Open Pediatric Brain Tumor Atlas

This section will introduce the dataset (e.g., the histologies represented and what data types are included; Figure 1A-B) and the process for contributing analytical code and to the manuscript (Figure 1C-D).

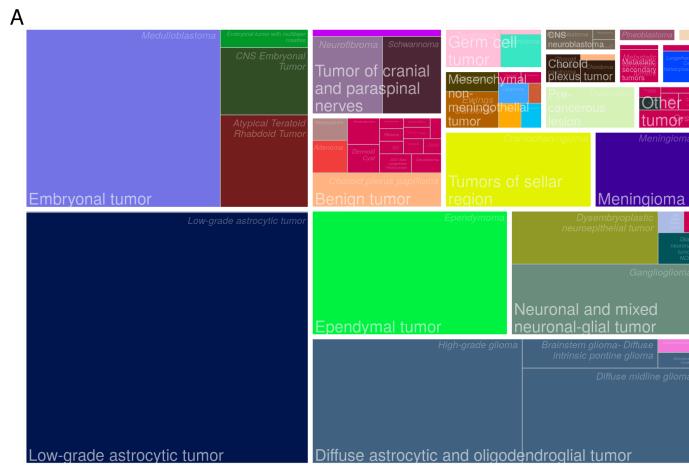


Figure 1: An overview of the OpenPBTA project. A) The distribution of unique participant samples across short histologies and integrated diagnoses.

Landscape of Genomic Alterations

The oncrint will provide a visualization of the genomic alterations found in the analyses implemented throughout the OpenPBTA project.

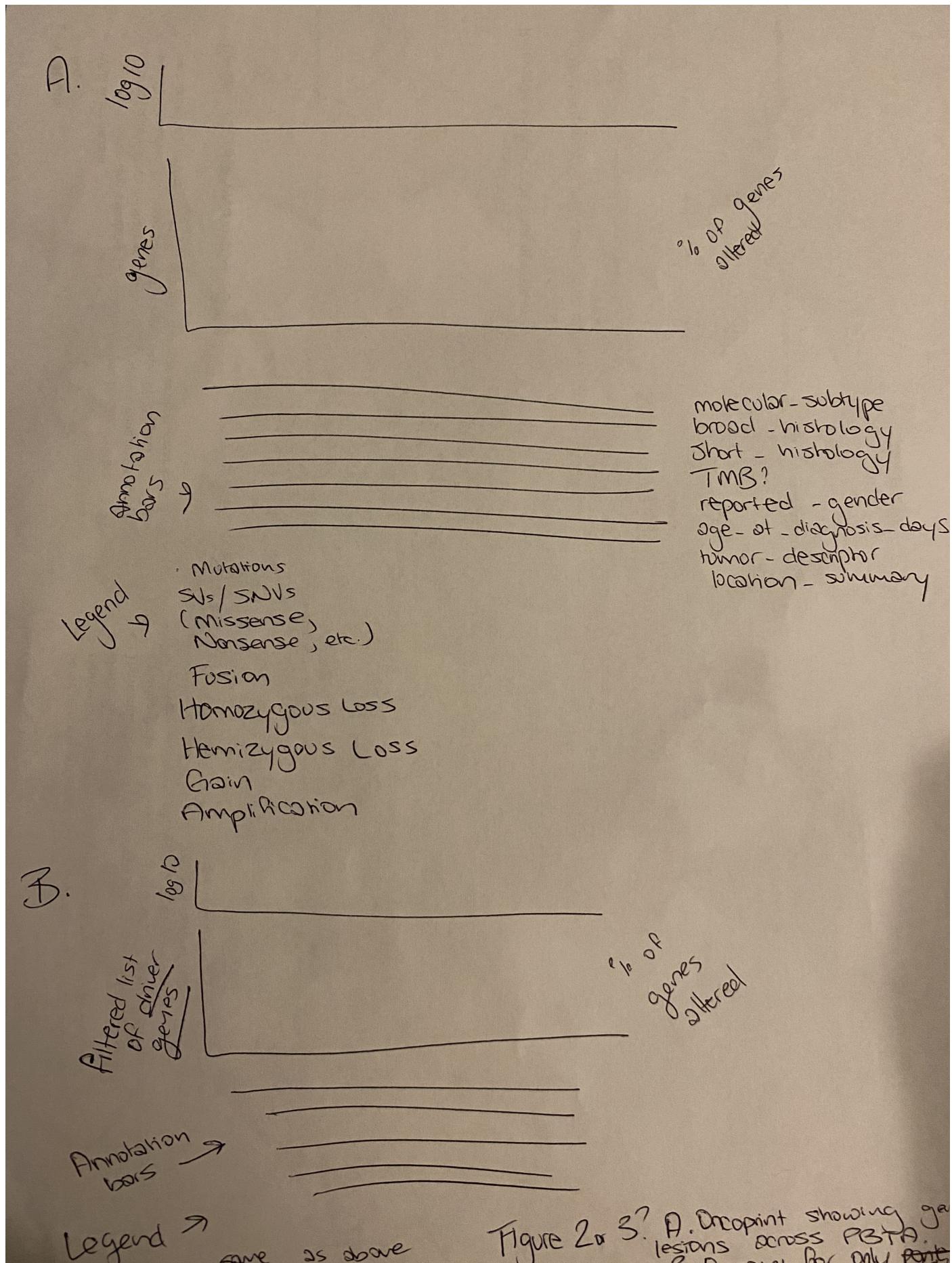


Figure 2 or 3? A. Oncoprint showing genetic lesions across PBTA. B. Oncoprint showing genetic lesions across PBTA. Only point

Figure 2: Oncoprint showing the landscape of genetic lesions across the OpenPBTA dataset

Landscape of Mutational Processes

This section summarizes the mutational landscape of the pediatric brain tumor samples of this dataset. Figure 1A shows the tumor mutation burden as compared to adult TCGA brain-related tumors. Figure 3B-C show concordance of these samples with mutational signatures from COSMIC [68] and Alexandrov et al, 2013 [69] signature sets.

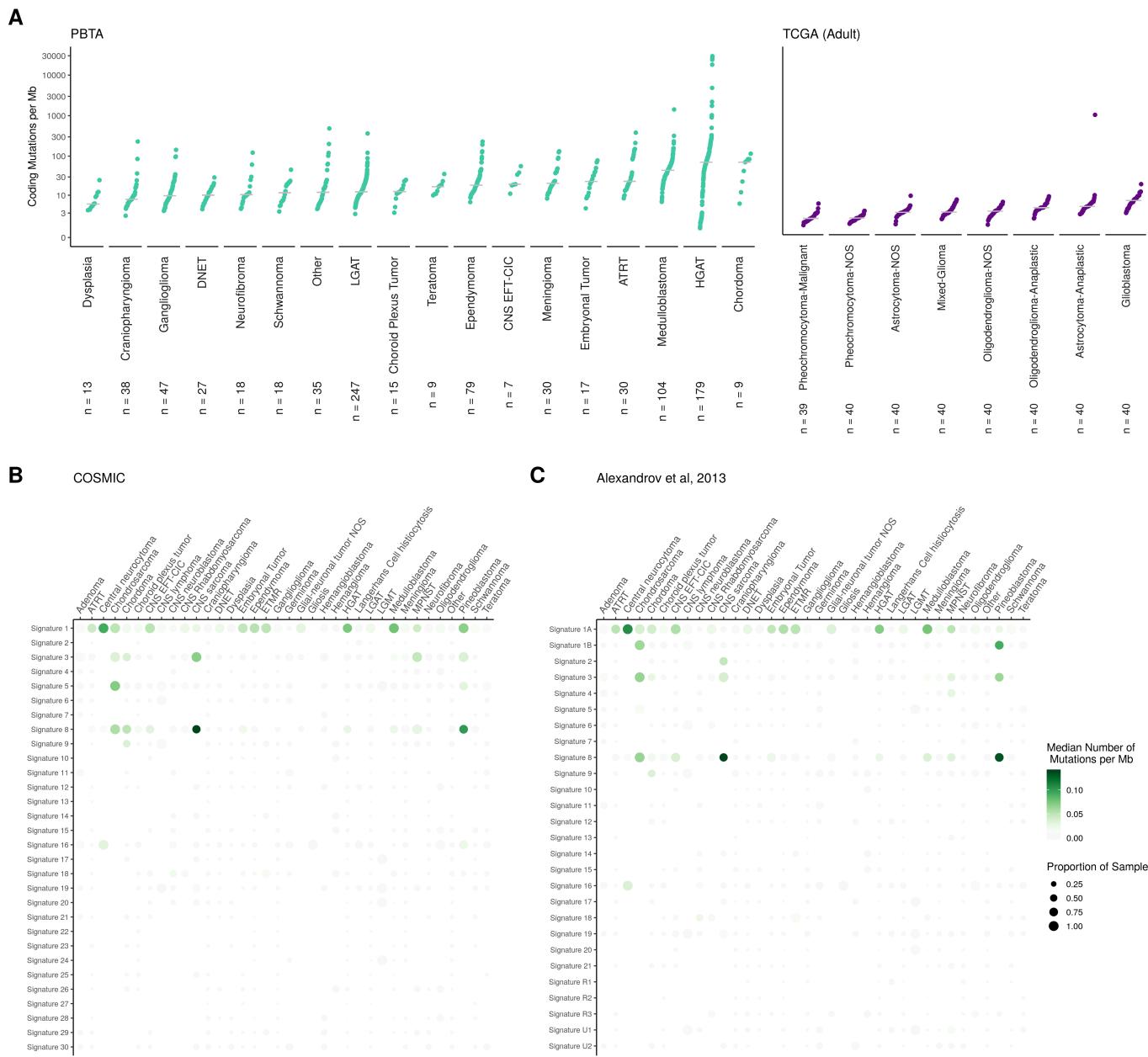


Figure 3: Mutational Landscape

Copy Number Variant Overview

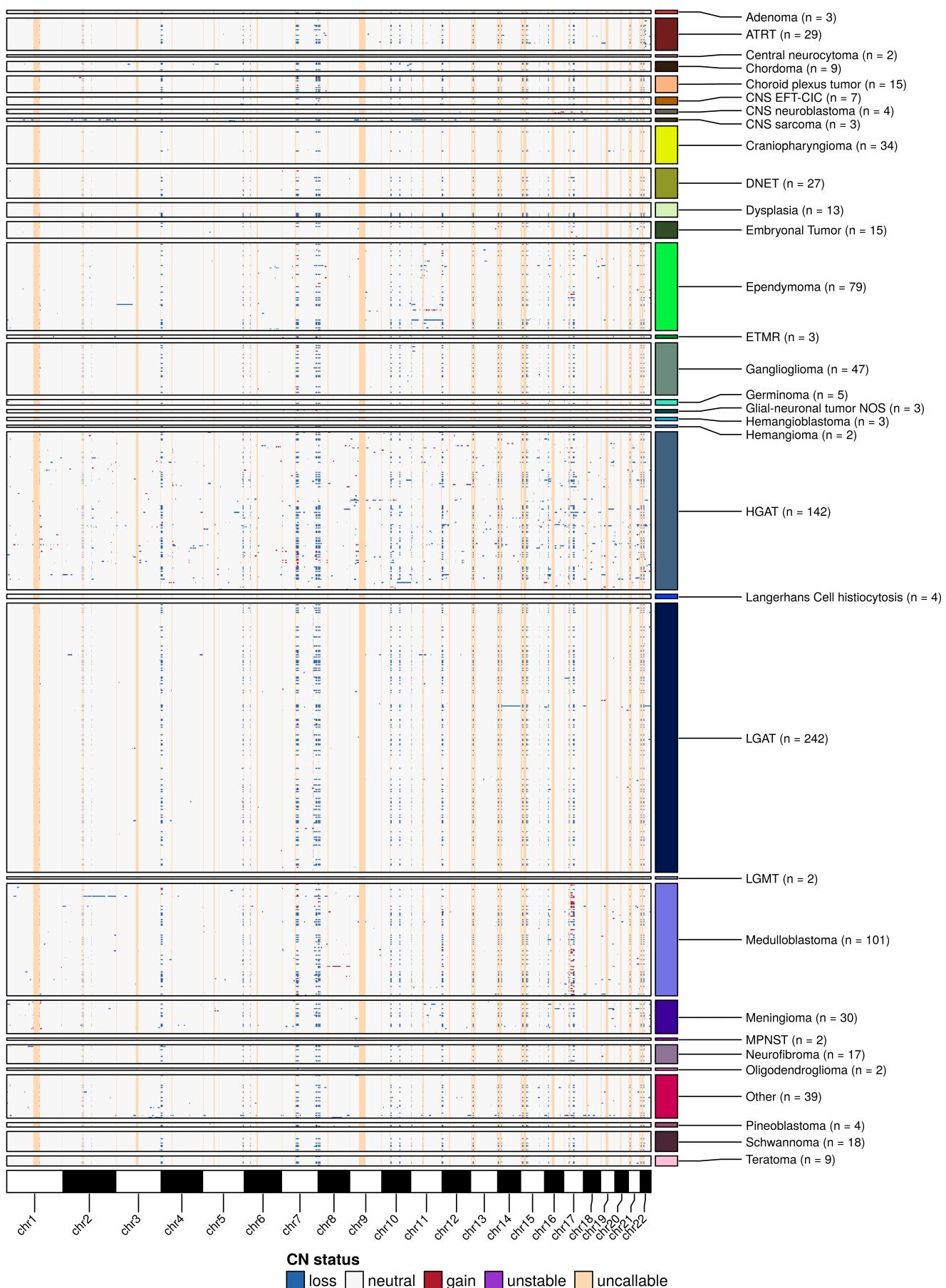
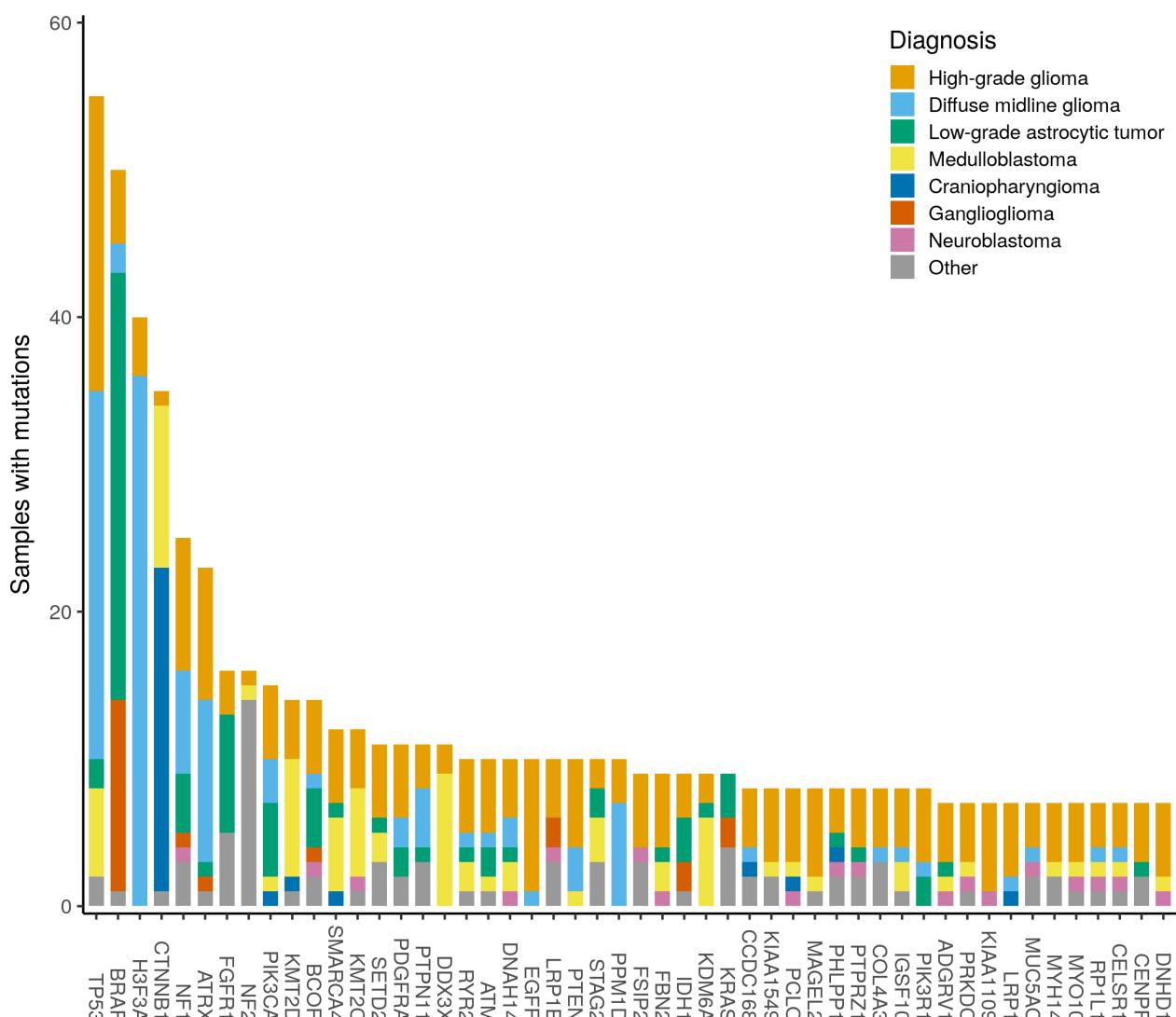


Figure 4: This figure shows dominant statuses for small copy number consensus segments (< 10 Mb) across the genome, where each square represents a ~1 Mb binned section of the genome. A dominant status is declared if one status is >75% coverage. Unstable indicates multiple non-neutral statuses totaling coverage >75%. Copy number segments longer than 10 Mb have been removed from the figure for easier interpretability.

Recurrence and co-occurrence of mutations

This section will discuss the genes and regions that are repeatedly mutated within and between cancer types. The occurrence of mutations in affecting particular genes, separated by tumor type is shown in Figure 5A, with significant co-occurrence across all types illustrated in Figure 5B.

A



B

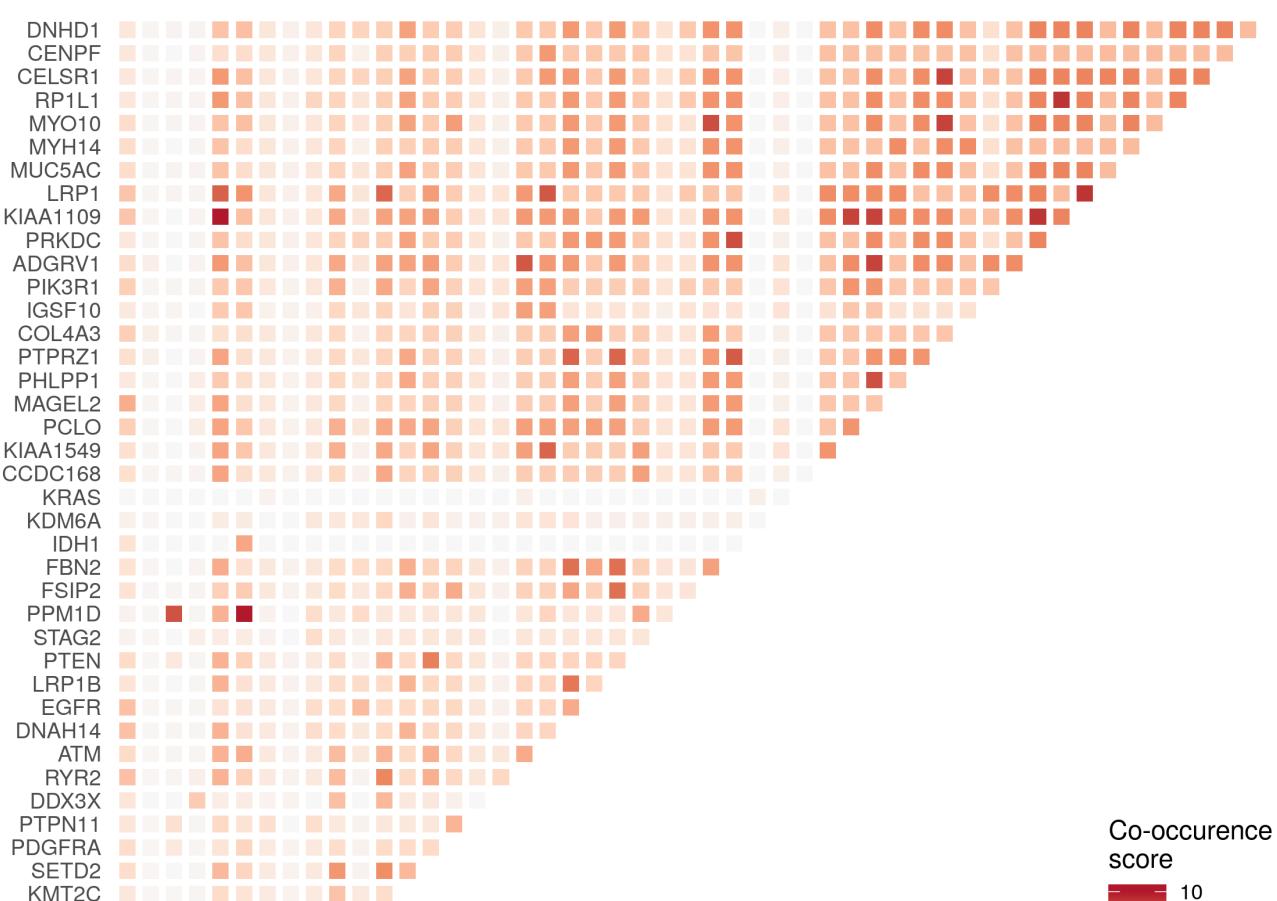




Figure 5: Occurrence and co-occurrence of nonsynonymous mutations for the 50 most commonly mutated genes across all tumor types. A) Counts of nonsynonymous mutations, colored by tumor type (as defined in `integrated_diagnosis`). B) Co-occurrence and mutual exclusivity of nonsynonymous mutations between genes. The co-occurrence score is defined as $I(-\log_{10}(P))$ where P is defined by Fisher's exact test and I is 1 when mutations co-occur more often than expected and -1 when exclusivity is more common.

Conclusions

Stub in conclusions section

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