

Conclusion Expression of TROP-2 in cervical cancer is associated with increased levels of intratumoral TILs, indicating the potential therapeutic target for TROP-2 targeted antibody-drug conjugate alone or in combination with immune checkpoint inhibitors.

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FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERIZATION OF NRIP1 IN ENDOMETRIAL CANCER; MUTATIONS ASSOCIATES WITH AGGRESSIVE FEATURES WHILE LOW EXPRESSION LEVELS PREDICT POOR SURVIVAL

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Introduction/Background *NRIP1*, encoding an obligate cofactor to the estrogen receptor alpha ($ER\alpha$), is a significantly mutated gene in endometrial cancer (EC) with possible implications on hormone signaling and cancer development. We aimed at determining the prognostic impact of *NRIP1* mutations and mRNA expression in patients with $ER\alpha$ -positive EC, and functionally test patient-observed mutations *in vitro* on $ER\alpha$ -dependent transcriptional activity.

Methodology Sanger sequencing of recurring *NRIP1* frameshift mutations was performed on 242 EC patients enriched for $ER\alpha$ -positive tumors (endometrioid histology). Transcriptional profiles of 305 patients, in part overlapping with the sequenced samples, were used to investigate differentially expressed genes between *NRIP1* mutated/non-mutated tumors, and to determine the relation of *NRIP1* mutation status with expression and patient survival. A dual-luciferase reporter assay was used to uncover the effect of *NRIP1*-mutants on $ER\alpha$ -regulated gene transcription using COS-1 cells.

Results Hotspot *NRIP1* mutations were identified in 5.4% of the samples, and associated with high FIGO-stage, deep myometrial infiltration, and positive lymph-node status. However, there was no significant difference in disease-specific survival between patients with mutated and wildtype *NRIP1*, and mutation status did not associate with *NRIP1* expression levels. Interestingly, reporter assays showed that the repressive effect of wildtype *NRIP1* was significantly abolished with *NRIP1* mutants. Further, low *NRIP1* expression levels were significantly associated with decreased disease-specific survival, high grade, negative $ER\alpha$ status and low BMI. Gene Set Enrichment Analysis revealed an increase in gene sets related to proliferation in *NRIP1* mutated tumors.

Conclusion The relatively low mutation rate hampers a firm conclusion on the prognostic value of *NRIP1* frameshift mutations in endometrioid EC. However, low *NRIP1* expression may be a marker of poor prognosis. Our functional investigations demonstrates that frameshift mutated *NRIP1*, compared to wildtype *NRIP1*, have a significantly reduced corepressor effect on $ER\alpha$ -transcriptional activity, suggesting a possible effect on estrogen signaling.

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MLH1 PROMOTER METHYLATION ANALYSIS IN PATIENTS WITH ENDOMETRIAL CANCER STAGE I-II

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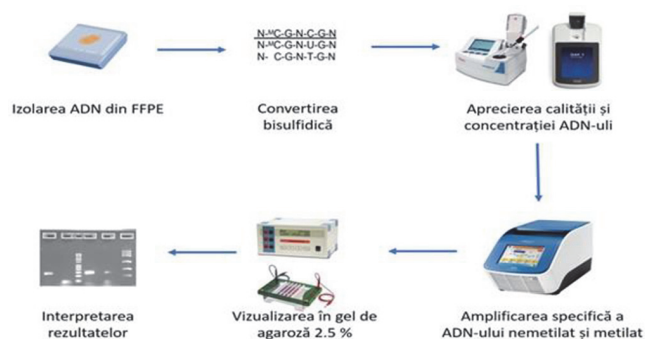
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Introduction/Background The study included 50 patients diagnosed with endometrial cancer (EC) stage I-II. The age of these patients, on average, was 49.1 ± 12.1 years and ranged from 54 to 86 years.

Methodology The tumor DNA was extracted from mapped formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue sections to provide tumor samples for the assays (figure 1).

The methylation status of the *MLH1* gene was determined using the Methylation Specific Polymerase Chain Reaction (MS-PCR) method and specific primers for both unmethylated and methylated fragments.

Results The frequency of *MLH1* promoter methylation was 20.0% and was determined in 10 patients. The frequency of tumors with *MLH1* promoter methylation increases during menopause, reaching 30.0% at the age of 50–59 years and 50, 0% of cases at 60–69 years and decreases in the age periods 70–79 years, reaching 20.0%. The analysis of the obtained results showed that in patients with EC, the presence of *MLH1* epimutation was significantly higher in stage I of the disease.



Abstract 2022-RA-807-ESGO Figure 1 Methylation chain-specific polymerization reaction workflow

Abstract 2022-RA-807-ESGO Table 1 *MLH1* dependence on stage of the disease in patients with endometrial cancer in stages I-II

FIGO stage	<i>MLH1</i> promoter methylation				P
	Negative		Positive		
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	
I	34	68,0	8	22,0	$\chi^2=0,001$; gl=1; p>0,05
II	6	8,1	2	4	

The presence of *MLH1* epimutation was observed in 22.0% of patients with stage I EC and only in 2 stage II patients. The results of the analysis of overall survival in patients, according to the presence of *MLH1* epimutation, showed that 71% of women with *MLH1* epimutation and 92.5% without *MLH1* epimutation survived at 3 years.