



KEY WORDS

- ✓ Metastatic colorectal cancer
- ✓ Liquid biopsy
- ✓ Biomarker
- ✓ MiRNA mikroarray
- ✓ circulating tumor cells

CONTACT

E-MAIL:
berkcandogan@uludag.edu.tr

THESIS SUPERVISOR

TELEPHONE:
224-294-2835

E-MAIL:
dilekpirim@uludag.edu.tr

INVESTIGATION OF CANDIDATE BIOMARKERS ASSOCIATED WITH CIRCULATING TUMOR CELL STATUS IN METASTATIC COLORECTAL CANCER

BERKCAN DOĞAN

0000-0001-8061-8131

BURSA ULUDAĞ UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE DEPARTMENT
PhD PROGRAM

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SUPERVISOR

ASSOC. PROF. DILEK PIRIM
0000-0002-0522-9432
BURSA ULUDAĞ UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE DEPARTMENT
BURSA – TÜRKİYE



THESIS ABSTRACT

The dissertation aims to investigate the circulating miRNA signatures associated with CTC status in metastatic CRC (mCRC) patients. In this dissertation, the CTC status of mCRC samples was determined using AdnaTest ColonCancer technology which detects tumor cells by immunomagnetic approach and characterises them based on colon-specific surface markers. MiRNA expression profiling was performed using the Agilent miRNA microarray platform in 24 selected individuals from healthy individuals (n=8), mCRC-CTC(-) (n=8) and mCRC-CTC(+) (n=8) groups. As a result of the statistical comparison between groups, two different candidates differentially expressed miRNA (DEM) groups were identified that were associated with CTC status and metastasis ($p < 0.05$). The related biomolecules and molecular pathways analysis that interact with DEMs, which have been associated with CTC status and metastasis and evaluated as candidate biomarkers, were performed. The TCGA and GTEx databases were also used to compare the expressions of DEM groups and their target genes. As a result of statistical and bioinformatic analyses, many candidate miRNAs and related regulators associated with CTC status were identified as candidates in different group comparisons.

APPLICATION AREAS OF THE THESIS RESULTS

Our findings reveal candidate biomarkers with potential for use in mCRC risk assessment and mCRC-associated CTC detection. The results have a high potential to lead to new translational medicine applications for mCRC management after further extensive validation and functional studies.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

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- o Gumusoglu, E., Gunel, T., Hosseini, M. K., Dogan, B., Tekarslan, E. E., Gurdamar, B., Cevik, N., Sezerman, U., Senol, T., Topuz, S., Aydinli, K. Metabolic pathways of potential miRNA biomarkers derived from liquid biopsy in epithelial ovarian cancer. (2023). Oncology Letters. Feb; 25, 142.
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- o Pirim, D., Dogan, B., Bağcı, F.B., Işık, Ö., Evrensel, T. Assessing HSP70 and TCP1 status of circulating tumor cells in metastatic colorectal cancer patients. 9th International Congress of Molecular Medicine, 2023.
- o Dogan, B., Işık O., Evrensel, T., Pirim, D. Evaluation of Circulating Tumor Cell (CTC) Specific Markers and CTC Status in Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Patients by Immunomagnetic Cell-Selection Method. 3rd International Multidisciplinary Cancer Research Congress, Istanbul, 2023.
- o Bursa Uludağ University BAP - FOA-2021-625 and FHIZ-2023-1466 Projects

