

# Immunogenomic-based analysis of hierarchical clustering of diffuse large cell lymphoma

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## Research Article

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# Immunogenomic-based analysis of hierarchical clustering of diffuse large cell lymphoma

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## 28 **Abstract**

29 Diffuse Large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL) is one of the most usual type of adult lymphoma with  
30 heterogeneousness in histological morphology, prognosis and clinical indications. Prior to this, several  
31 studies were carried out to determine the DLBCL subtype based on the analysis of the genome  
32 profile. However, classification based on assessment of genes related to the immune system has limited  
33 clinical significance for DLBCL. We systematically explored the DLBCL gene expression dataset and  
34 provided publicly available clinical information on patients with GEO and TCGA. In this research, 928  
35 DLBCL samples from the Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) were applied, we calculated 29 immune-  
36 related genomes' enrichment levels in each sample and stratified them into high immunity that was  
37 based on ssGSEA score (Immunity\_H, n=323,68.7%), moderate (Immunity\_M, n= 135, 28.7%) and  
38 low (Immunity\_L, n= 12,2.6%). The ESTIMATE algorithm was used to calculate matrix score (range:  
39 -1,800.51,901.99), immunity score (range: -1,476.28,780.33), estimated score (range: -  
40 2,618.28,098.14), and tumor purity (range:0.216 0.976), All of them were significantly correlated with  
41 immune subtypes (Kruskal Wallis test,  $P < 0.001$ ). At the same time, the correlation of related genes  
42 was analyzed by immunohistochemistry staining. In addition, DLBCL cells were cultured in  
43 transfected and vitro with siRNA to verify correlation analysis and gene expression. Finally, human  
44 peripheral blood lymphocytes were incubated with DLBCL cells, and stained. Flow cytometry was  
45 applied to analyze genes' influence on immune function. By analysis, immune checkpoint and HLA  
46 gene expression levels were higher in the Immunity\_H group (Kruskal Wallis test,  $P < 0.05$ ). The levels  
47 of Tfh (follicular helper T cells), Monocytes, CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, M1 Macrophages, M2 Macrophages,  
48 CD4<sup>+</sup> memory activated T cells, were the most excellent in Immunity\_H, and total survival rate was  
49 higher in the Immunity\_L. The GO term discovered in Immunity\_H is connected with immunity.  
50 Through analysis, IRF4 (MUM1) was identified by us as immunotherapeutic target and a potential  
51 prognostic marker for DLBCL, which was made sure by using molecular biology experimentations.  
52 To conclude, immunosignature made a connection between DLBCL subtypes play a position in  
53 DLBCL prognostic stratification. Immunocharacteristics-related DLBCL subtypes' construction  
54 predicts expected patient results and supplies conceivable immunotherapy candida.

55 **Keywords:** genomic profiling, immune subtypes, IRF4, prognosis, DLBCL

56

## 57 **Introduction**

58 Lymphoma is the fourth ahead cause of cancer deaths in the United States and one of the most  
59 common cancers. DLBCL accounts for approximately one-third of lymphoma's all instances world-  
60 wide[1]. Two molecularly different DLBCL's shapes have been identified through gene expression  
61 patterns including germinal center B-cell-like (GCB) types and activated B cell-like (ABC)[2]. The  
62 immunohistochemical expression (IHC) of CD10, IRF4/MUM1 and Bcl-6 have been used to  
63 categorize DLBCL's examples into non-GCB groups and GCB. Relevant researches have revealed that  
64 IRF4's overexpression is connected with patients' miserable prognosis with DLBCL. In spite of the  
65 variety of clinical, morphologic and molecular human malignancies used to be classified by parameters  
66 nowadays, DLBCL patients' 40% survival continues to be poor.

67 Up till the present moment, there are few treatment alternatives for DLBCL. Immunotherapy is a  
68 new treatment that improves the survival prospects of DLBCL patients, including the blocking of  
69 immune checkpoints. [3]. In spite of the fantastic advance in immunotherapy strategies, favourable

70 effects, nevertheless, have been demonstrated merely in a subset of patients. Immunotherapy's  
71 responsiveness is influenced by Definite factors, for example, host germline genetics, PD-L1 grades  
72 and tumour genomics. [4, 5]. It has been discovered that tumor microenvironmental heterogeneousness  
73 can be used as biomarkers for prognosis and immunotherapy sensitivity of various kinds of cancers.  
74 [6, 7]. It is noteworthy that both tumor-associated stromal cells and infiltrating immune cells are  
75 significant components of tumor immune microenvironment and drama a significant part in tumor  
76 development, progression, and drug opposition. [8, 9]. In consequence, an increasing number of  
77 researches are concentrating on these factors, supplying fresh perceptions into the prognostic value and  
78 therapeutic methods of tumor biology.

79 In our research, based on immune genomic analysis, patients were divided with DLBCL into three  
80 groups: Immunity\_L, Immunity\_M and Immunity\_H. A strong connection has been demonstrated by  
81 us between categorization and immune infiltration and survival results. The construction of immune  
82 signatures that are associated with DLBCL subtypes may contribute to the search for prognostic  
83 markers and novel immunotherapy marks.

## 84 **Materials and methods**

### 85 **Data source**

86 DLBCL patient of gene expression and clinical data were downloaded from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO)  
87 database. In this research, clinical data that were related to age, stage, subtype, LDH, IPI, ECOG and survival  
88 were collected by us from GEO, and a total of 928 DLBCL patients were enrolled.

### 89 **Hierarchical cluster analysis of DLBCL**

90 29 immune-related gene sets were applied by us, including 707 genes, depicting different immune cell  
91 types, pathways and functions. The enrichment grades of immune biosignatures were worked out by  
92 using single sample gene set enrichment analysis (ssGSEA), as demonstrated in former learnings[10],  
93 and quantified typical immune cell sorts, roles, and pathways. DLBCL was hierarchically clustered by  
94 using unsupervised learning approach and further divided into Immunity\_M, Immunity\_L and  
95 Immunity\_H that be based on immune score.

### 96 **Calculation of the immune and stromal scores and Estimation of the CIBERSORT**

97 ESTIMATE is an approach to infer tumor purity's fraction by using immune cells and stromal cells in  
98 malignancy tissue applying expression data. In the light of the Immunity\_H, Immunity\_M and  
99 Immunity\_L groups, ESTIMATE algorithm was applied to estimate the immune grade and stromal  
100 grade and ESTIMATE DLBCL patients' score. We used deconvolution strategies to calculate parts of  
101 22 human immune cell types. This is a biological method of cell-type Identification through estimation  
102 Relative Subsets of RNA Transcripts (CIBERSORT). The CIBERSORT package was applied to  
103 calculate immune cell types' distribution in each subset, and immune cell's proportion types in  
104 DLBCL's subtypes was compared by Kruskal-Wallis test[11].

### 105 **GO and KEGG pathway enrichment analysis**

106 GSEA package was used to analyze gene aggregation and enrichment in DLBCL patients. Gene  
107 Ontology (GO) and The Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes Genomes (KEGG) analyses were used to  
108 evaluate the differentially expressed genes' functional function between Low and High group[12].  
109 Differential gene set enrichment was examined using the limma R package.  $P < 0.05$  was used as the  
110 cut-off value.

## 111 **Survival analyses**

112 The Kaplan–Meier survival curve was drawn based on the patient’s survival information to visualize  
113 the survival difference between immune subtypes.

## 114 **Cell lines and Cell culture**

115 Human peripheral blood lymphocytes and DLBCL cell line DS (obtained from ATCC) were cultured  
116 in RPMI 1640 medium (Gibco, USA) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Gibco, USA),  
117 streptomycin and penicillin in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> humidified chamber, at 37°C.

## 118 **Using siRNA to interfere with gene expression**

119 DS cells were transfected with synthetic siRNA oligonucleotides (concentration:100nmol/L).  
120 Lipofectamine 8000 (Beyotime, China) was used, by Gene Pharma (Gene Pharma, Shanghai, China)  
121 [13]. The sequence of siRNA is as follows: siIRF4: 5' -GGACACACCUAUGAUGUUAUU-3' ;  
122 and siControl, 5' -UAAGGCUAUGAAGAGAUACUU-3' [14].

## 123 **RNA extraction and Quantitative Real-time PCR**

124 DLBCL cells were inoculated into transfected and cell culture dishes with siRNA oligonucleotide.  
125 After transfection with siIRF4 or control siRNA for 48 h. PrimeScript™ RT Kit with gDNA Eraser  
126 (CAT. No. RR047A, Takara, Dalian, China) was reversed transcription following instructions of  
127 manufacturer. After transcription, cDNA was quantitatively analyzed applying QuantiNova™ SYBR  
128 Green PCR kit (Cat.No.208054, QIAGEN, Germany) and real-time PCR system (Applied Biosystems,  
129 Foster City, Calif), pursuant to instructions of the producer. For each sample, the mRNA abundance  
130 was normalized to the quantity of GAPDH. Primers are as follows: IRF4 : Forward, 5 '-  
131 CTACACCATGACAACGCCTTACC - 3' and reverse, 5-GGCTGATCCGGGACGTAGT -3'.  
132 GAPDH: Forward, 3' - AAAGGGTCATCATCTCTG -5', reverse,5' - GCTGTTGTCATACTTCTC -  
133 3'.

## 134 **Western blotting assay**

135 DLBCL was inoculated into cell culture dishes and transfected with siControl and siIRF4  
136 oligonucleotides respectively. After 48 h, cells were collected and lysed with cell lysate for Western  
137 blotting analysis. BCA assay was used to determine protein concentration, and primary antibody was  
138 used: anti-IRF4(Cat. No.62834), anti-PD-L1(Cat. No.13684), (Cell Signaling Technology, Inc.,  
139 Boston, MA). The primary antibody was diluted at 1:1000 and incubated overnight (12-18h) at 4°C.  
140 And wash with TBST (Tris Buffer Saline Tween-20) 4 times, 5 minutes each time. Incubate with  
141 peroxisase-labeled 1:5000 or secondary peroxisase-labeled goat anti-mouse IgG diluted ZGSBBio, Inc.,  
142 China) for 2 hours at room temperature. ECL kit (Beyotime, China) was applied for membrane  
143 detection. All proteins were loaded with GAPDH as control.

## 144 **Flow cytometry analysis**

145 We directly incubated cells with fluorescent-labeled antibodies and performed cell fluorescence  
146 analysis using flow cytometry (BD FACS Canto) to ascertain cell phenotypes for assessment. CD8  
147 and PD-L1 can be stained straight on the cell surface and discovered, while granular enzyme B and  
148 IFN-  $\gamma$  are employed for intracellular staining, so cells are foremost immobilized with 4%

149 paraformaldehyde for 20-30min, then stained with fluorescent-pigment-labeled antibodies and  
150 incubated in dark ice for 15 min. Antibody choice FITC- conjugated anti- Granzyme B antibodies  
151 and Anti-IFN-  $\gamma$  were stained with PE-conjugated anti-PD-L1, PE-Cy7 conjugated anti-CD8, and  
152 APC conjugated cells (BD, USA).

### 153 **Immunohistochemistry (IHC) staining of human diffuse large B lymphoma tissue array**

154 We purchased human Diffuse Large B lymphoma tissue Chip array (OD-CT-LY02-001) from  
155 Shanghai Outdo Biotech Co. Ltd. IRF4 antibody (Cat. No.62834, Cell Signaling Technology) and PD-  
156 L1 antibody (Cat. No.13684, Cell Signaling Technology) were stained by IHC to detect the expression  
157 of IRF4 and PD-L1 (1:50 dilution). Briefly, 4  $\mu$ m of tissue array sections were blocked with dehydrated  
158 peroxidase. Antigen recuperation was executed at 0.01 mol/L in citrate buffer and autoclaved. The  
159 primary antibody was added and incubated overnight at 4°C. Slides were re-stained with hematoxylin.  
160 The stained slides were observed by microscopy to obtain images. IHC scoring was also performed  
161 separately to analyze the correlation between IRF4 and PD-L1.

### 162 **Statistical Analysis**

163 All statistical tests were analyzed applying R (3.5.2) and unconditional data were extracted using Fisher  
164 s or  $\chi^2$  tests. A Kruskal-Wallis test and Wilcoxon test were applied for two or more uninterrupted  
165 data categories. Fisher is applied to sort relation between defined subtypes and clinical information  
166 statistically. Survival analysis was executed employing the R box survival. Kaplan-Meier curve was  
167 carried out to screen prognostic immune cell subclasses for survival data. All statistical analyses with  
168  $P < 0.05$  were considered statistically significant. GraphPad Prism8 software was applied to assess  
169 distinction between the two groups. T test was applied to compare parameters between categories\*. It  
170 suggested that the distinction between the two categories was statistically meaning ( $P < 0.05$ ).

## 171 **Results**

### 172 **Construction is modeled by immune subtype and patient clinical characteristics**

173 In this study, we involved clinical data and gene expression profiles of 928 patients with DLBCL from  
174 the GEO database. The selected patients' clinical characteristics are summarized by Table 1. 62.2 years  
175 was the median age at diagnosis (range: 20.8-86.0), with 517 males (55.7%) and 411 females (44.3%).  
176 We conducted the study according to the scheme flow in Figure 1(FIG.1). An unsupervised cluster  
177 analysis of 29 immune-associated gene sets was foremost performed by us. There were three clear sets  
178 of samples according to the ssGSEA score of the genome: Immunity\_L (n = 71, 7.7%), Immunity\_M  
179 (n = 322, 34.7%) and Immunity\_H (n = 535, 57.7%) (Fig.3A). As demonstrated in the heat map  
180 (Fig.2A), immunity-related genes' expression degree was more depressed in the Low group than in the  
181 High group. Stromal scores (range- 586.88 to 1982.43), immune scores (range 832.23 to 3359.60),  
182 Estimate scores (range 1387.54 to 4737.90) and tumor purity (scope 0.27 to 0.69) are revealed for  
183 patients with DLBCL. Immune scores and particular mesenchymal were worked out to forecast the  
184 level of infiltrating immune cells and mesenchymal and to provide a basis for inferring tumor purity in  
185 the tumor tissue (Fig.2B). Results demonstrated that tumor purity was importantly more down in the  
186 Immunity\_H group and substantially more excellent in the Immunity\_L group (Kruskal-Wallis test,  $P$   
187  $< 0.001$ ), indicating that this immunotyping correlation analysis with tumor purity in DLBCL is  
188 meaningful. These consequences showed that the Immunity\_L sample contained an unusually unusual  
189 amount of tumor cells, the Immunity\_H sample contained an unusually high figure of immune and  
190 stromal cells, and the Immunity\_M sample took an intermediate amount of tumor cells.

## 191 **Survival rate was significantly correlated with immune subsets**

192 Next, three immune subtypes' prognostic value was measured by us on patient survival. It was  
193 discovered that the survival curves of the three subgroups Immunity\_H, Immunity\_M and Immunity\_L  
194 were statistically significantly different ( $p=4.396e-08$ ). It also demonstrated that immunophenotyping  
195 was a good predictor of survival in DLBCL. Patients in Immunity\_H group had the best prognosis,  
196 those in Immunity\_L group had the worst prognosis, and those in Immunity\_M group were in between.  
197 As shown in (Fig.3B).

## 198 **Exploration of immune subtype-related markers**

199 In addition, we also explored the connection during the expression of PD-1, PD-L1, CD3D, HIF1A,  
200 and IRF4 genes and immune subgroups. These results showed that the expression of PD-1, PD-L1,  
201 CD3D, HIF1A, IRF4 and other genes were meaningfully different in both Immunity\_H and  
202 Immunity\_L groups (ANOVA text,  $P < 0.001$ ), as shown in (Fig.3C-H). The results of this study  
203 strongly support that the immune microenvironment affects action of immune checkpoint inhibitors in  
204 cancer patients, and it also sounds an alarm for the development of new immune checkpoint inhibitors,  
205 which cannot ignore the important role of immune microenvironment in novel immunotherapy.

## 206 **HLA genes were meaningfully correlated with immune subsets**

207 To test immune-related genes' expression in each subgroup, HLA genes' expression is then explored  
208 by us in three immune subgroups. "\*\*\*", "\*\* \*\*", "\*\*", "ns" respectively based on one-way ANOVA ( $p$   
209  $< 0.001$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ,  $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 1$ ). These consequences demonstrated that HLA family genes'  
210 expression in the Immunity\_H was importantly more excellent than that in Immunity\_M and  
211 Immunity\_L, and it was the most down in Immunity\_L (Fig.4A). Among 24 HLA-related genes, only  
212 hLA-G, HLA-DRB6, HLA-DPB2, HLA-DOB and HLA-B genes had no significance in immune  
213 subgroup distribution. The distribution of other HLA family members in immune subgroup was  
214 statistically significant ( $P < 0.05$ ).

## 215 **Immune subtypes were correlated with immune cell infiltration importantly**

216 To further investigate the important function of tumor microenvironment in DLBCL, the ratio of 22  
217 human immune cell subsets in DLBCL was assessed using the CIBERSORT package in R software.  
218 The results revealed that Monocytes, M1 Macrophages, M2 Macrophages, CD8+ T cells, CD4+  
219 memory activated T cells and follicular helper T cells were importantly high up in Immunity\_H than  
220 Immunity\_L and the consequences of B cells naive, B cells memory, plasma cells, CD4+ naive T cells  
221 in Immunity\_H groups and Immunity\_M were importantly more down than the Immunity\_L group  
222 (Fig.4B).

## 223 **KEGG enrichment analysis and GO**

224 Based on the improvement scores in each sample, the differential genes in the Immunity\_L and  
225 Immunity\_H groups were screened. (Fig.4C) shows correlation to the best 5 pathways with the most  
226 excellent GO and (Fig.4D) reveals the highest 5 pathways with the most excellent KEGG correlation.  
227 KEGG analysis showed that the differential genes in Immunity\_H and Immunity\_L groups were  
228 mainly enriched in GO analysis showed that Low group differential genes and High group were  
229 improved with immune synapse formation substantially, positive regulation of interleukin-2  
230 biosynthetic process, positive regulation of nitric oxide synthase biosynthetic process, regulation of

231 tolerance induction, T cell receptor signaling pathway, regulation of tolerance induction, and T-cell  
232 receptor complexes.

### 233 **PD-L1 regulates IRF4 expression in DLBCL.**

234 We then valued the expression of PD-L1 proteins and IRF4 by using immunohistochemistry (IHC) in  
235 30 patients diagnosed with DLBCL (Table 1). IRF4 expressions and PD-L1 were notably discovered  
236 in the majority of examples in this cohort, whereas PD-L1 overexpression was substantially more usual  
237 in cases with excellent IRF4(Fig.5A). PD-L1 IHC score had a good correlation with IRF4 score ( $P <$   
238  $0.001$ , Fig.5B). Finally, immunoblotting (Fig.5C) and real-time quantitative PCR (Fig.4D) detection  
239 confirmed that knockdown of IRF4 expression in DLBCL could effectively inhibit PD-L1 expression.

### 240 **Effect of IRF4 on immune function**

241 In this study, we observed that knocking down IRF4 resulted in reduced PD-L1 induction, and IFN- $\gamma$   
242 induction further confirmed the correlation between IRF4 and PD-L1 (Fig.6A-B). Compared with the  
243 control group, DS cells with knockdown IRF4 were co-incubated with PBMC, and the immune  
244 function of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells was detected by using flow cytometry. It was observed that the production  
245 of IFN- $\gamma$  and Granzyme B related molecules of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells was more excellent than that of the  
246 control group (Fig.6C). At the same time, we found that compared to the control group. Knocking  
247 down IRF4 can inhibit the differentiation of CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells into Treg (Fig.6D).

## 248 **Discussion**

249 Despite the wide variety of clinical, morphological and molecular parameters used to classify DLBCL  
250 today, the 40% survival rate remains poor [15, 16]. Currently, Genome mapping has been used to  
251 identify and diagnose diverse cancers' molecular subtypes, and an amount of evidences that the tumor  
252 microenvironment plays a significant part in tumgenesis, development and treatment[17, 18]. In the  
253 meanwhile, immune cells and stromal cells in tumor microenvironment also play a significant part in  
254 prognosis at the same time and tumor progression[19, 20]. Therefore, immune-related hierarchical  
255 clustering is used to better assess patient outcomes and select therapies that are effective only for  
256 specific subtypes of DLBCL.

257 In our study, we calculated 928 DLBCL samples using ssGSEA and analyzed the enrichment levels  
258 of 29 immune-related genomes in each sample. Next, we used unsupervised clustering, which could  
259 be clearly based on the three DLBCL subtypes identified by the ssGSEA score: Immunity\_High  
260 subtype, Immunity\_Medium subtype, and Immunity\_Low subtype. We used estimation algorithms to  
261 calculate each patient's score of immune, stromal and tumor purity. Analysis showed that of the three  
262 subtypes, Immunity\_High was connected with importantly more excellent prognosis and  
263 accommodated more stromal cells and immune cells than the other groups, showing increased activity  
264 in this subgroup. In addition, we discovered the expression of PD-1, PD-L1, CD3D, HIF1A, and IRF4  
265 genes were substantially different in both Immunity\_L groups and Immunity\_H (ANOVA text,  $P <$   
266  $0.001$ ).

267 Class L human leukocyte antigen is an intracellular peptide that can be recognized by T cells on  
268 the cell surface. Changes in the HLA gene may alter the ability to express neoantigens and thus affect  
269 immune escape. Numerous studies have shown that HLA alterations are strongly associated with  
270 cancer prognosis and treatment. In our research, HLA family genes' expression was importantly higher  
271 in Immunity\_H than in Immunity\_L and Immunity\_M.

272 At the same time, an increasing number of researches have illustrated a correlation between the  
273 treatment responsiveness and prognosis of tumor patients and the level of immune cell infiltration [21].  
274 We used the CIBERSORT package in R software to evaluate 22 human immune cell subpopulations'

275 part in DLBCL. We discovered significant differences in the level of immune cell infiltration and the  
276 proportion of immune infiltrating cell types by immune subtype grouping through our analysis[22].  
277 For instance, the highest proportions of CD8+ T cells and CD4+ memory T cells were discovered in  
278 Immunity\_H. Meanwhile, immune checkpoints' role is to exert anti-tumor impacts by increasing the  
279 role of CD4+ T and CD8+ T cells [23, 24]. It has been reported in the past that CD8+ T cell infiltration  
280 degrees are positively correlated with cancer prognosis after immunotherapy in various kinds of solid  
281 tumors. We found by further study that Monocytes, M1 Macrophages, M2 Macrophages, CD8+ T cells,  
282 CD4+ memory activated T cells and the follicular helper T cells were meaningfully high up in  
283 Immunity\_H than These consequences of B cells naive, B cells memory, Plasma cells, CD4+ naïve  
284 were meaningfully high up in Immunity\_L than in Immunity\_H and Immunity\_M. Besides, the CD8+  
285 /Treg ratio was considerably high up in Immunity\_High than in Immunity\_Low. This indicates that  
286 Immunity\_High has higher immune response and stronger anti-tumor activity[25-27].

287 IRF4/MUM1, a member of the IRF family, is specifically expressed in lymphocytes and is  
288 involved in immune regulation through a series of signal transduction actions. Previous studies have  
289 shown that abnormal IRF4 expression can be used as a diagnostic and prognostic marker for various  
290 hematologic malignancies. IRF4 was described by Chen et al. as a negative prognostic factor for non-  
291 small cell lung cancer[28]. Our study found that IRF4 (MUM1) was an immunotherapeutic target and  
292 a potential prognostic marker for DLBCL. We first demonstrated in DLBCL that IRF4 can up-regulate  
293 the PD-L1 expression of tumor cells. What's more, on one hand the high expression of IRF4 in tumor  
294 can inhibit function of effector T cells, and on the other hand increase the proportion of  
295 immunosuppressive cells Treg, which promote the immune escape of cancer cells. Our research  
296 showed that it was possible to inhibit the expression of IRF4 in tumor cells and relieve the  
297 immunosuppressive effect to achieve the effect of treating DLBCL.

298 In our study, we found IRF4's expression was meaningfully high up in Immunity\_H than in  
299 Immunity\_M and Immunity\_L; meanwhile, we verified the positive correlation between IRF4 and PD-  
300 L1 and demonstrated that IRF4 could enhance immunosuppressive effect of tumor microenvironment.  
301 These researches showed that it was possible to inhibit the expression of IRF4 in tumor cells and relieve  
302 the immunosuppressive effect to achieve the effect of treating DLBCL.

303

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## 307 **Authors' Contributions**

308 LHW, WY and LFL designed and performed the study, and ZBS wrote the original draft. YYZ revise  
309 the manuscript. QSG participated in the analysis and super.

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### 313 **Data availability**

314 All datasets produced for this research are involved in the article/Supplementary Material.

### 315 **Conflicts of Interest**

316 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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416 Figure Legends

417 Table 1: Data set related information

418 Table 2: Detailed information of tissue array used in IHC

419 Figure 1: The follow diagram of this study

420 Figure 2: A: Based on unsupervised cluster analysis of genomic ssGSEA score, 928 DLBCL samples  
 421 were divided into three groups: Immunity\_H (n = 636), Immunity\_M (n = 322) and Immunity\_L (n =  
 422 71).B: Heat map of Immunity\_H, Immunity\_M and Immunity\_L subtypes according to 29 immune  
 423 cell types.

424 Figure 3: A: Analysis of differences in tumor purity between three immune subtypes. Tumor purity  
 425 was importantly more down in Immunity\_H group and importantly more excellent in Immunity\_L (P  
 426 <0.001, Kruskal-Wallis test). B: Survival analysis of three immune subgroups. The survival curves of

427 Immunity\_L, Immunity\_M and Immunity\_H subgroups were significantly different ( $P = 4.396E-08$ ).  
428 It also proved that immune grouping had a good predictive effect on the survival of diffuse LARGE  
429 B-cell lymphoma. Patients in Immunity\_H had the best prognosis, patients in Immunity\_L had got the  
430 poorest prognosis, and the Immunity\_M was between them. C-H: The expression of PD-1, PD-L1,  
431 CD3D, HIF1A, IRF4 and other genes was meaningfully correlated with the immune subgroup. The  
432 expressions of PD-1, PD-L1, CD3D, HIF1A, IRF4 and other genes were meaningfully dissimilar  
433 between Immunity\_L and Immunity\_H (ANOVA text,  $P < 0.001$ ).

434 Figure 4: A : Immune subsets were significantly associated with HLA family genes. among 24 HLA-  
435 related genes, only five genes, HLA-G, HLA-DRB6, HLA-DPB2, HLA-DOB, and HLA-B, were not  
436 significant in the distribution of immune subsets. The remaining HLA family members were  
437 statistically distributed in the immune subgroups ( $p < 0.06$ ). B: Immune subtypes were significantly  
438 associated with immune cell infiltration. Monocytes, M1 Macrophages, M2 Macrophages, CD8+ T  
439 cells, CD4+ memory activated T cells and the follicular helper T cells were substantially high up in the  
440 Immunity\_H group than in the Immunity\_M groups and Immunity\_L. The results of B cells naive, B  
441 cells memory, Plasma cells and CD4+ naive T cells in Immunity\_L were considerably more excellent  
442 than those in Immunity\_M and Immunity\_H. C-D: GO and KEGG analysis Differential gene  
443 enrichment analysis of Immunity\_H and Immunity\_L groups.

444 Figure 5: A: IHC was used to detect the expression of IRF4 and PD-L1 in DLBCL. Two cases were  
445 stained with IRF4 and PD-L1 immunohistochemistry. Examine the section under a microscope. B: The  
446 images described are representative of 30 cases of DLBCL. Correlation between IRF4 IHC score and  
447 IRF4 IHC score in 30 DLBCL patients, calculated by Spearman's rank correlation methods, in 30  
448 DLBCL cases. C: We transfected siControl and siIRF4 into DS cell line by transient transfection  
449 method. Proteins were collected and lysed, and the displayed proteins were analyzed by western  
450 blotting. D: The expression of PD-L1 was detected by real-time fluorescence quantitative PCR. The  
451 error bar represents three separate experiments.

452 Figure 6: A-B: PD-L1's flow cytometry analysis in siIRF4 DS cells in relation to restriction with or  
453 without IFN- $\gamma$  therapy. C: Flow cytometry was used to analyze GranzymeB+ CD8+ T cell or IFN- $\gamma$  +  
454 CD8+ T cell frequencies. D: and CD4+ T cell frequency or Treg(FOXP3) in the PBMC.  
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# Figures

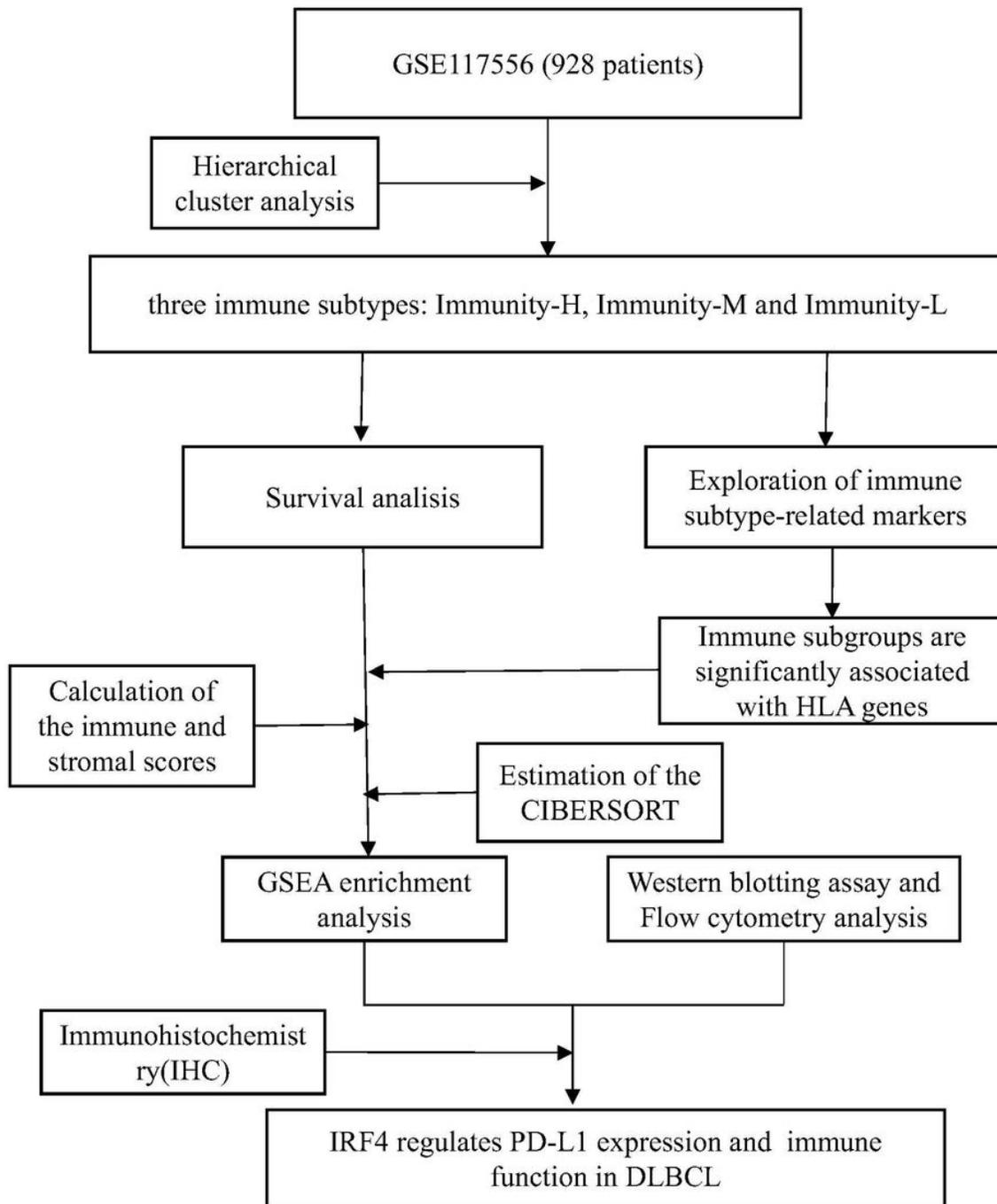
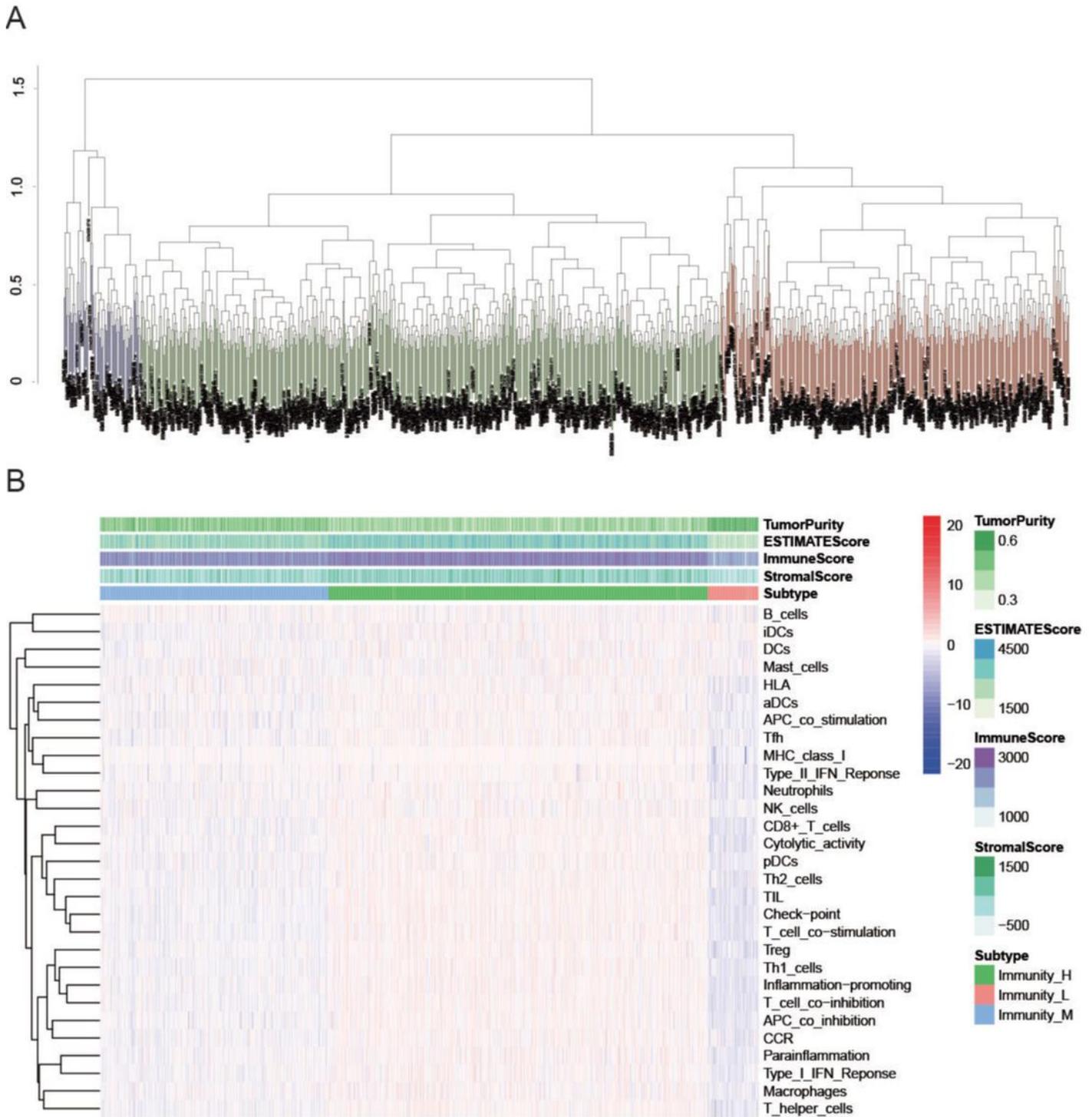


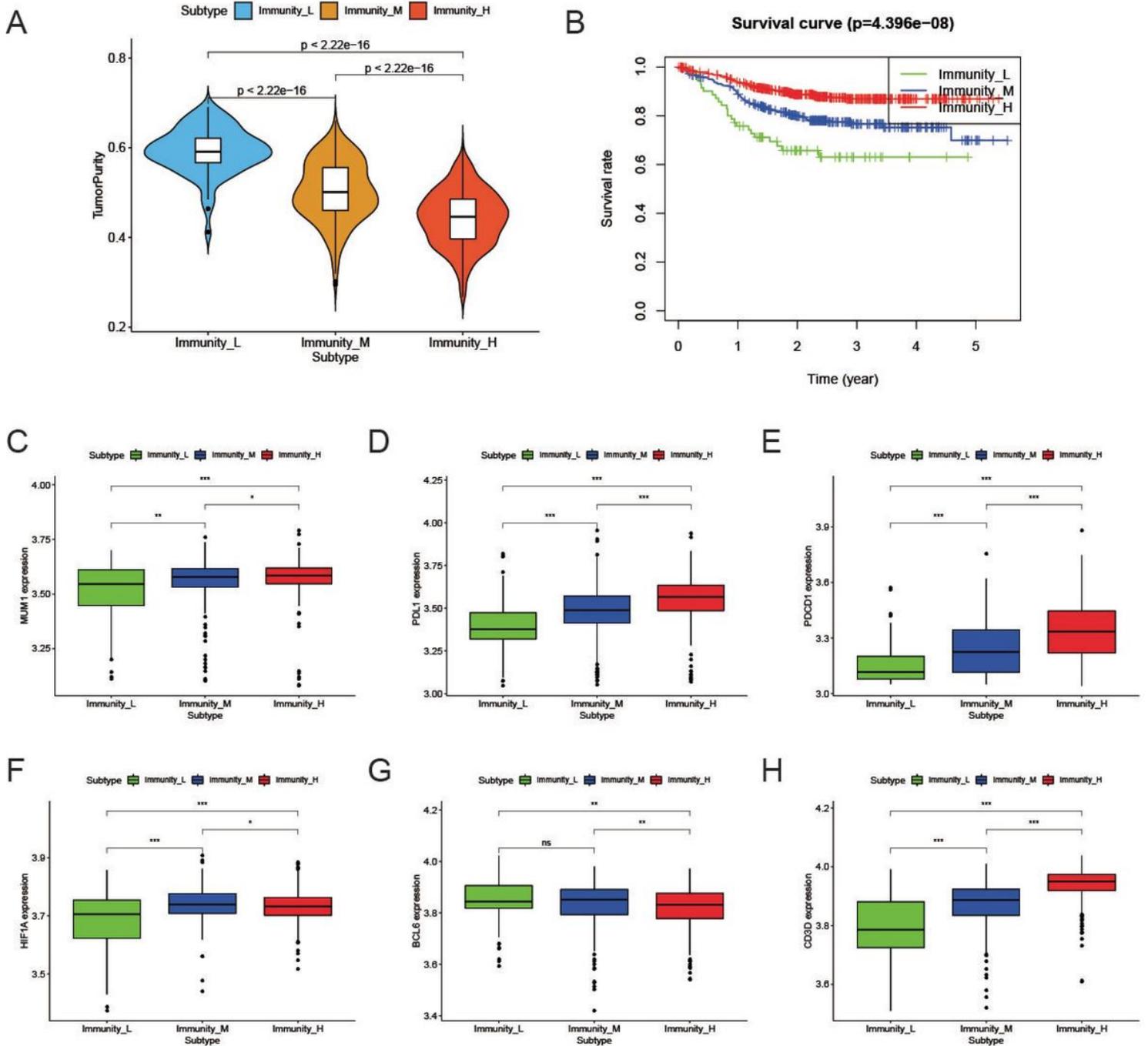
Figure 1

The follow diagram of this study



**Figure 2**

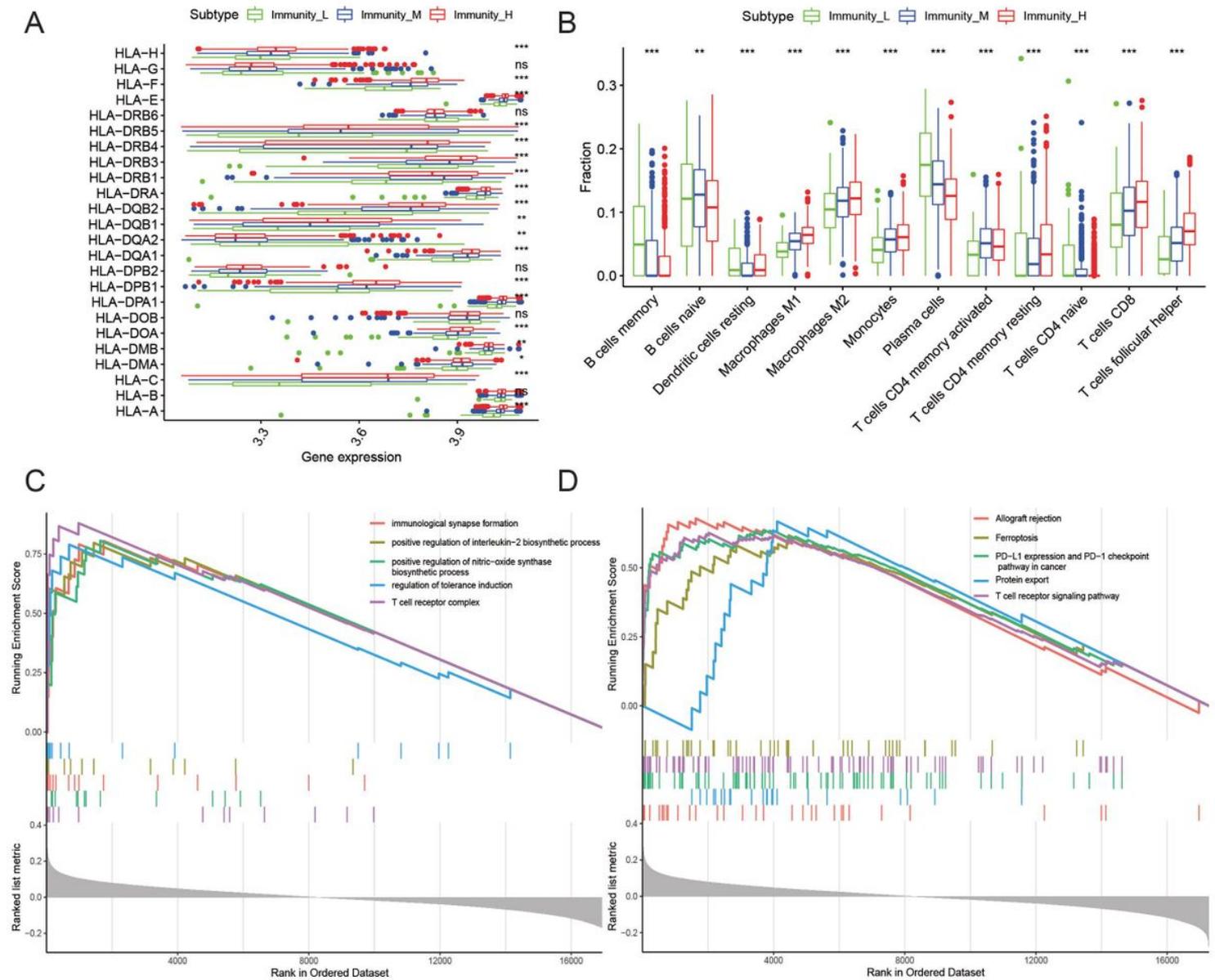
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**Figure 3**

A: Analysis of differences in tumor purity between three immune subtypes. Tumor purity was importantly more down in Immunity\_H group and importantly more excellent in Immunity\_L ( $P < 0.001$ , Kruskal-Wallis test). B: Survival analysis of three immune subgroups. The survival curves of Immunity\_L, Immunity\_M and Immunity\_H subgroups were significantly different ( $P = 4.396E-08$ ). It also proved that immune grouping had a good predictive effect on the survival of diffuse LARGE B-cell lymphoma. Patients in Immunity\_H had the best prognosis, patients in Immunity\_L had the poorest prognosis, and the Immunity\_M was between them. C-H: The expression of PD-1, PD-L1, CD3D, HIF1A, IRF4 and other genes was meaningfully correlated with the immune subgroup. The expressions of PD-1, PD-L1, CD3D, HIF1A,

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**Figure 4**

A : Immune subsets were significantly associated with HLA family genes. among 24 HLA-related genes, only five genes, HLA-G, HLA-DRB6, HLA-DPB2, HLA-DOB, and HLA-B, were not significant in the distribution of immune subsets. The remaining HLA family members were statistically distributed in the immune subgroups ( $p < 0.06$ ). B: Immune subtypes were significantly associated with immune cell infiltration. Monocytes, M1 Macrophages, M2 Macrophages, CD8+ T cells, CD4+ memory activated T cells and the follicular helper T cells were substantially high up in the Immunity\_H group than in the Immunity\_M groups and Immunity\_L. The results of B cells naive, B cells memory, Plasma cells and CD4+ naive T cells in Immunity\_L were considerably more excellent than those in Immunity\_M and Immunity\_H.

C-D: GO and KEGG analysis Differential gene enrichment analysis of Immunity\_H and Immunity\_L groups.

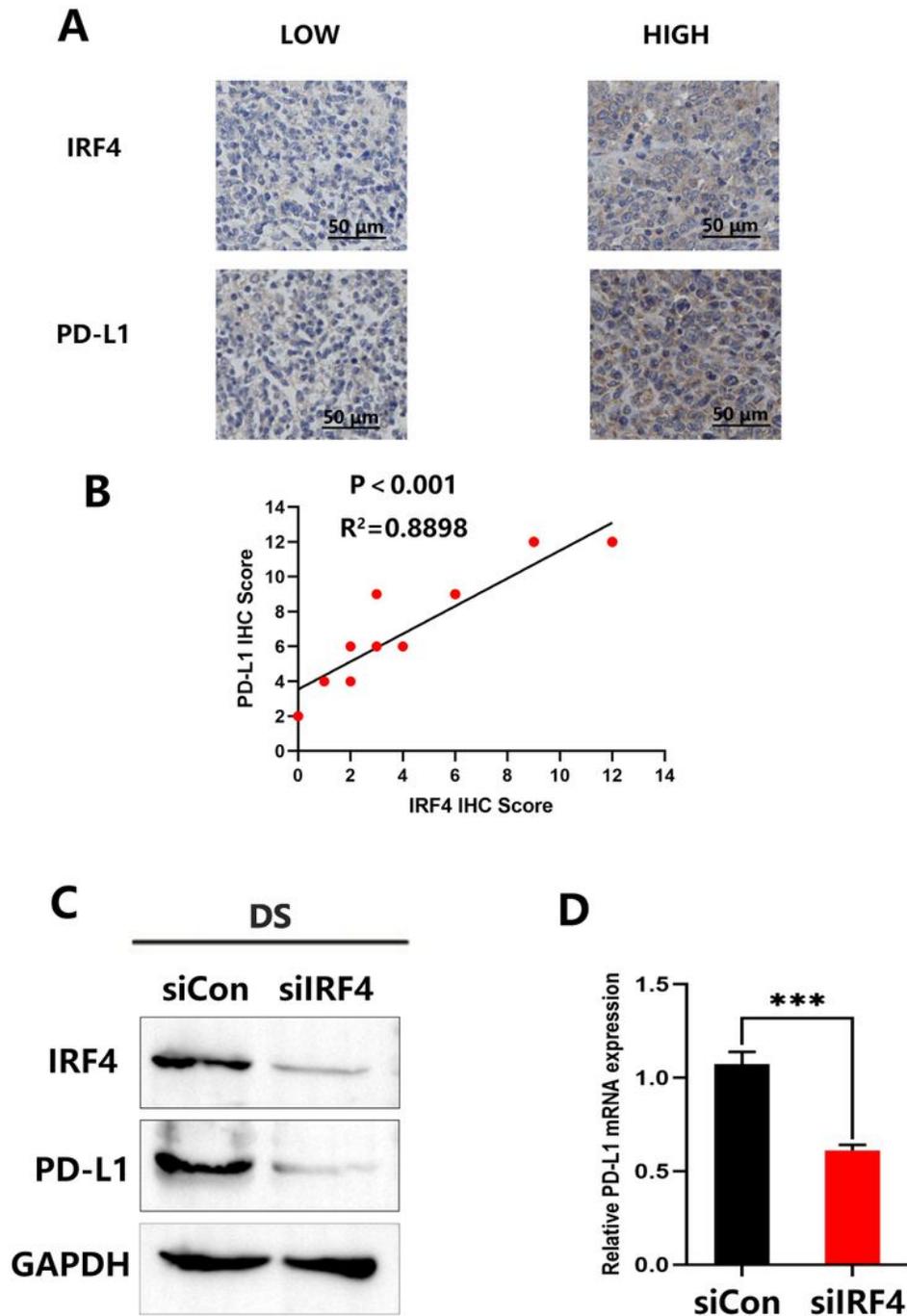


Figure 5

A: IHC was used to detect the expression of IRF4 and PD-L1 in DLBCL. Two cases were stained with IRF4 and PD-L1 immunohistochemistry. Examine the section under a microscope. B: The images described are

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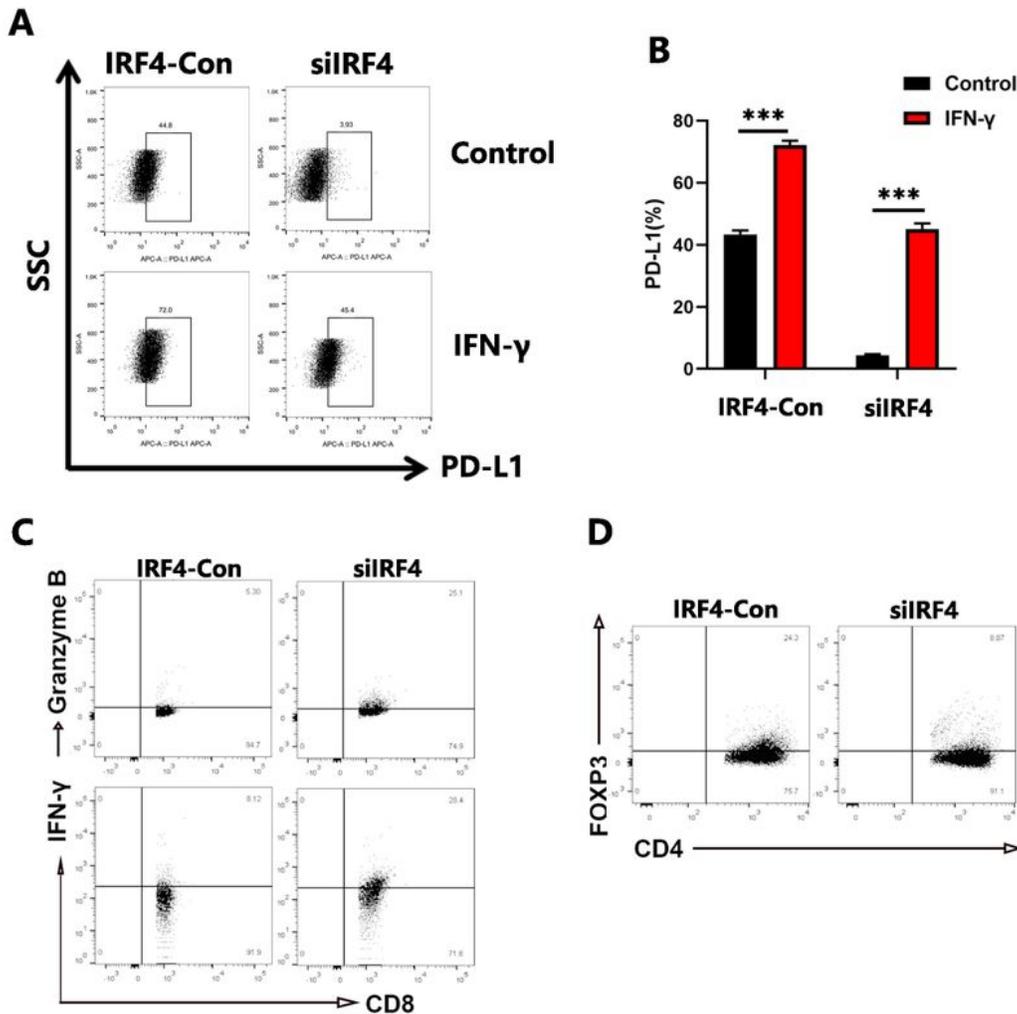


Figure 6

A-B: PD-L1's flow cytometry analysis in siIRF4 DS cells in relation to restriction with or without IFN- $\gamma$  therapy. C: Flow cytometry was used to analyze GranzymeB+ CD8+ T cell or IFN- $\gamma$ + CD8+ T cell frequencies. D: and CD4+T cell frequency or Treg(FOXP3) in the PBMC.

## Supplementary Files

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