

Association between SNPs within MicroRNA Binding Sites and the Prognosis of Breast Cancer

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Research article

Keywords: Breast cancer, microRNA, Single nucleotide polymorphism, Prognosis

Posted Date: August 10th, 2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-24736/v2>

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Abstract

Background: Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) within microRNA binding sites can affect the binding of microRNA to mRNA and regulate gene expression, thereby contributing to the prognosis of cancer. We performed this study to explore the association between SNPs within microRNA binding sites and the prognosis of breast cancer.

Methods: We carried out a two-stage study including 2647 breast cancer patients, with a median follow-up of 68 months (range 0-159). In stage I, we genotyped 192 SNPs within microRNA binding sites using the Illumina Goldengate platform. In stage II, we validated SNPs significantly associated with breast cancer prognosis in another dataset using the TaqMan platform. Survival times was calculated, and Kaplan-Meier curves and Cox regression model were used to analyze survival of breast cancer patients with different genotypes.

Results: We identified 8 SNPs significantly associated with breast cancer prognosis in stage I ($P < 0.05$), and only rs10878441 was statistically significant in stage II (AA vs CC: adjusted HR=2.21, 95% CI: 1.11-4.42, $P = 0.024$). We combined the data from stage I and stage II, and found that, compared with rs10878441 AA genotype, CC genotype was significantly associated with poor survival of breast cancer (HR=1.69, 95% CI: 1.18-2.42, $P = 0.004$; adjusted HR=2.19, 95% CI: 1.30-3.70, $P = 0.003$). Stratified analyses demonstrated that rs10878441 was related to breast cancer prognosis in grade II patients and lymph node-negative patients ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusions: The LRKK2 rs10878441 CC genotype is associated with poor prognosis of breast cancer in a Chinese population, and it could be used as a potential prognostic biomarker for breast cancer. Further studies are warranted.

Background

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed tumor and the leading cause of cancer death among women, with an estimated 2.1 million new cases and 626,679 deaths worldwide each year according to the Globocan 2018 [1]. In China, breast cancer is predicted to account for about 15% of all new cancer cases among women [2]. It is estimated that around 3-6 million SNPs in the human genome could provide a means for elucidating the genetic component of complex diseases [3].

MicroRNAs are endogenous non-coding small RNAs (containing about 22 nucleotides) that regulate gene expression by Watson-Crick pairing with the target gene of the 3' untranslated region (3'UTR). It has been reported that microRNAs regulate nearly 30% of human genes [4], and play important roles in most physiological and pathological processes, such as tumorigenesis and proliferation. The binding of microRNA to mRNA is critical for regulating the mRNA level and protein expression. However, this binding can be affected by SNPs that reside in the microRNA binding sites. Therefore, SNP variations may interfere or disrupt the binding of the SNPs to microRNAs, which may affect the regulation of miRNAs on target genes, thereby contributing to the prognosis of cancer [5-7].

In recent years, a number of studies have reported a link between SNPs within microRNA binding sites and prognosis of various types of cancer including breast cancer [7-9]. Teo et al [10] reported the role of rs7180135 in RAD51 in the prognosis of breast cancer patients, and the G minor allele had improved breast cancer specific survival. Brendle et al [11] identified that the A allele of the SNP rs743554 in the 3'UTR of ITGB4 gene was associated with oestrogen receptor-negative tumors and worse survival in patients with breast cancer. Zhang et al [12] found that miR-367-binding site rs1044129 in RYR3 gene was associated with poor survival of patients with breast cancer. Liu et al [13] uncovered that TT genotype of rs16917496 on SET8 3'-UTR region was significantly associated with poor outcome of breast cancer in a Chinese population.

However, there is still a lack of large-scale association studies between SNPs with microRNA binding sites and the prognosis of breast cancer in China. Therefore, we carried out a two-stage cohort study to investigate the relationship between SNPs within microRNA binding sites and breast cancer prognosis.

Methods

Study subjects

We performed a two-stage cohort study including 2647 breast cancer patients, with 1297 and 1350 breast cancer patients in stage I and stage II, respectively. All patients were newly diagnosed and histologically confirmed for breast cancer at Tianjin Medical University Cancer Hospital (TJMUHC) from January 2006 to December 2012. The detailed description of Tianjin Cohort of Breast Cancer Cases (TBCCC) can be obtained in our previous study [14]. Demographic and epidemiological data were obtained from face-to-face questionnaires by trained personnel. Clinical data and pathology report were taken from medical records. All patients were followed up by telephone annually. In addition, we further confirmed the accuracy of self-reported information through Hospital information system (HIS) at TJMUHC and death registration system. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Tianjin Medical University Cancer Institute and Hospital, and all patients participated in the study signed written informed consent.

SNP selection

The "Patrocles" database (<http://www.patrocles.org/>) was used to select genome-wide microRNA target SNPs. Of all the 5035 SNPs within microRNA binding site provided by the database, 1,742 SNPs had been confirmed. At the same time, SNPs for inclusion conformed with the following criteria: (1) SNPs located at the binding site of microRNA-seed region, and the seed region was defined according to the "7-mirs" criteria [12]. (2) SNPs have Chinese population frequency data (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/snp/>), and SNPs have three genotypes with minor genotype frequency (MAF) ≥ 0.05 . Finally, 192 microRNA target SNPs were included in our study, the detailed information of these SNPs were shown in Table S1.

SNP genotyping

Genomic DNA was extracted from peripheral blood using QIAGEN DNA Extraction Kit (QIAGEN Inc.) [15]. The Illumina Golden Gate SNP Genotyping Arrays was used to genotype 192 SNPs in stage I. The TaqMan platform was taken to genotype 8 SNPs associated with breast cancer prognosis in stage II. We used a 5- μ l reaction mixture system with 20 ng of genomic DNA, 2.5 μ l of 2 \times TaqMan Genotyping Master Mix, 0.1 μ l of 40 \times probe and 1.9 μ l of double distilled water. The PCR reaction conditions were 95°C for 10 minutes, followed by 50 cycles of 92°C for 30 seconds, and 60°C for 1 minutes. We amplified using the 384-well reaction plates and performed genotype analysis using SDS 2.4 software (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA). In order to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the experimental results, approximately 5% of the samples were randomly selected for retesting.

Follow-up of Breast cancer

Followed-up information included follow-up date, vital status (alive, dead, and lost to follow-up), tumor progression (recurrence, metastasis), and treatment after tumor progression. Overall survival (OS) was defined as the time from the date of breast cancer diagnosis to the date of death from any cause. Disease-free survival (DFS) was calculated as the time from breast cancer diagnosis to the date of tumor progression (recurrence, metastasis or death). If patients were lost to follow-up, the follow-up date was calculated based on the date of the last visit. Follow-up of this study was completed on December 31, 2017.

Statistical analysis

The Kaplan-Meier method was used to calculate survival estimates, and log-rank test was used to compare the survival differences of these SNPs. To determine potential prognostic risk factors, univariate Cox regression was used to evaluate the relationship between demographic, epidemiological and clinicopathological characteristics and breast cancer prognosis, presented as hazard ratios (HRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs). Cox regression was used to appraise the association between SNPs and breast cancer OS, with and without adjustments for age at diagnosis, education, occupation, age at menarche, number of live births, breastfeeding duration, abortion, menopause, TNM stage, tumor size, histopathologic classification, grade, lymph node, ER, PR, and HER2. Similarly, Cox regression was used to assess the relationship between SNPs and breast cancer DFS, with and without adjustments for age at diagnosis, number of live births, breastfeeding duration, abortion, menopause, BBD, TNM stage, tumor size, histopathologic classification, grade, lymph node, ER, PR, and HER2. We further analyzed the relationship between the SNP rs10878441 and breast cancer OS stratified by clinical characteristics. All statistical tests were two-sided and $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant. All statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 20.0 software (SPSS Inc. Chicago, IL, USA) and R version 3.4.3.

Results

Demographic and epidemiological characteristics of patients

The demographic and epidemiological characteristics of 2647 breast cancer patients were shown in Table 1. The median age at diagnosis of all patients was 51 years (range 22-89). The median follow-up time was 68 months (range 0-159). 302 (12.0%) patients smoked and 63 (2.6%) patients drank alcohol. 1385 (52.6%) patients had menopause, 686 (26.4%) patients had benign breast disease, and 814 (30.9%) patients had a family history of cancer. In total, 239 patients died and 335 patients displayed tumor progression. Univariate analysis showed that age at diagnosis, education, occupation, age at menarche, number of live births, breastfeeding duration, abortion and menopause were significantly associated with breast cancer OS. In addition, age at diagnosis, number of live births, breastfeeding duration, abortion, menopause, and BBD were significantly related to breast cancer DFS.

Clinicopathological characteristics of patients

The clinicopathological characteristics of all participants were presented in Table 2. 1593 (67.7%) patients showed 0-ⅱa TNM stage and 761 (32.3%) patients showed ⅱb-ⅱ TNM stage. There were 1483 (67.8%) patients with tumor size ≤ 2.5 cm, 1853 (70.1%) patients with invasive ductal cancer, 567 (21.8%) patients with positive lymph nodes, 1542 (60.0%) patients with positive ER, 1383 (53.8%) patients with positive PR, and 555 (23.3%) patients with positive HER2. Univariate analysis showed that TNM stage, tumor size, histopathologic classification, grade, lymph node, ER, PR, and HER2 were significantly associated with breast cancer OS and DFS.

Association between 192 SNPs and breast cancer prognosis in Stage I

In stage I, the median follow-up time was 76 months (range 0 to 159). The relationship between 192 SNPs within microRNA binding sites and breast cancer OS were shown in Table S2. Among the 192 candidate SNPs, 8 SNPs within microRNA binding sites were related to cancer OS ($P < 0.05$), with and without adjustments for age at diagnosis, education, occupation, age at menarche, number of live births, breastfeeding duration, abortion, menopause, TNM stage, tumor size, histopathologic classification, grade, lymph node, ER, PR, and HER2 (Table 3, Figure S1). The associated SNPs were rs1053739 located in NMT1 at 17q21.31, rs2693 located in KIF13B at 8p12, rs698761 located in PREPL at 2p21, rs8602 located in MKNK1 at 1p33, rs10878441 located in LRRK2 at 12q12, rs10318 located in GREM1 at 15q13.3, rs10075853 located in ST8SIA4 at 5q21.1 and rs8410 located in PREPL at 2p21. We further analyzed the association between the 8 SNPs and breast cancer DFS, rs1053739, rs698761, rs10878441, rs10318, and rs8410 showed a significant association with breast cancer DFS (Table 3, Figure S2).

Association between 8 SNPs and breast cancer prognosis in Stage II

In stage II, the median follow-up time was 67 months (0 to 143). Among the 8 SNPs identified from stage I, the SNP rs10878441 in LRRK2 gene (the duplex structure between miR-550-3p and LRRK2 was shown in Figure S3) was significantly associated with the OS of breast cancer (AA vs CC: HR=2.21, 95% CI: 1.11-4.42, $P=0.024$) (Table 4). However, there was no association between the 8 SNPs and breast cancer DFS in multivariate analysis, and only the SNP rs10318 was significantly associated with breast cancer DFS in univariate analysis (AA vs GG: HR=0.64, 95% CI: 0.42-0.98, $P=0.040$).

Association between rs10878441 and breast cancer overall survival

We combined the data from stage I and stage II, compared with rs10878441 AA genotype, CC genotype was significantly connected with poor prognosis in breast cancer (HR=1.69, 95% CI: 1.18-2.42, $P=0.004$), which were still significantly connected with breast cancer OS when adjusted for age at diagnosis, education, occupation, age at menarche, number of live births, breastfeeding duration, abortion, menopause, TNM stage, tumor size, histopathologic classification, grade, lymph node, ER, PR, and HER2 (HR=2.19, 95% CI: 1.30-3.70, $P=0.003$) (Table 5, Figure 1). Furthermore, we evaluated the association between the SNP rs10878441 and breast cancer OS stratified by clinical characteristics (Table S3). The association was significant for grade II breast cancer patients (HR=1.64, 95% CI: 1.11-2.40, $P=0.012$; adjusted HR=1.76, 95% CI: 1.08-2.88, $P=0.022$), and was significant for lymph node-negative breast cancer patients (HR=1.78, 95% CI: 1.16-2.74, $P=0.008$; adjusted HR=2.02, 95% CI: 1.07-2.36, $P=0.029$).

Discussion

Through this association study, we genotyped 192 SNPs within microRNA binding sites and found that 8 SNPs were associated with the prognosis of breast cancer. We further replicated the 8 SNPs in an independent data set, and identified that the SNP rs10878441 (C allele) in LRRK2 gene was significantly associated with poor prognosis of breast cancer. This study provided some evidence for a novel prognostic locus for breast cancer.

In this present study, two SNPs (MKNK1 rs8602, GREM1 rs10318) were previously reported in the context of cancer prognosis. MKNK1 regulates diverse biologic processes including translation, cell proliferation, and differentiation [16, 17]. Berger et al found that MKNK1 polymorphism rs8602 might serve as a predictive marker in KRAS wild-type metastatic colorectal cancer patients treated with first-line FOLFIRI and bevacizumab [18]. Neckmann et al showed that GREM1 was associated with metastasis and predicted poor prognosis in ER-negative breast cancer patients [19]. Dai et al indicated that GREM1 polymorphism rs10318 was associated with recurrence in stage II colorectal cancer patients [20]. Our study found significant association between these two SNPs and breast cancer prognosis only in stage I, while no significant difference was observed in stage II (the validation set).

The LRRK2 gene, located in human chromosome 12q12, is a member of the leucine-rich repeat kinase family and encodes a protein with multiple domains such as a leucine-rich repeat (LRR) domain, a RAS domain, a GTPase domain, a kinase domain and several protein-protein interaction domains [21]. Mutations in LRRK2 gene have been demonstrated to be associated with autosomal-dominant Parkinson's disease [22, 23]. Studies have revealed that single nucleotide polymorphism in LRRK2 gene have been related to Crohn's disease [24, 25]. It is reported that LRRK2 gene is involved in a variety of cellular processes including cell transformation, proliferation and tumorigenesis, and is linked to various types of cancer [26, 27]. Gu et al. demonstrated that high expression of LRRK2 promoted the cell proliferation and migration of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (ICC) cells, and predicted worse prognosis in ICC patients [28]. Looyenga et al indicated that MET and LRRK2 cooperated to promote

efficient tumor cell growth and survival in papillary renal and thyroid carcinomas [26]. Warø et al reported that LRRK2 mutation carriers had an increased risk of non-skin cancer [29].

Our findings suggest that the C allele of LRRK2 has poor prognosis in breast cancer. LRRK2 expression may be regulated in a variety of ways, while the association between the SNP rs10878441 and the prognosis of breast cancer might be caused by differential microRNA regulation. SNP rs10878441 (A/C) is located within the miR-550-3p binding site, and it is likely to affect the miR-550-3p/LRRK2 interaction. As shown in Figure S3, the C allele cannot be targeted by miR-550-3p, which will lead to increased expression of LRRK2 protein, thereby altering the prognosis of breast cancer. The definite underlying mechanism for the association with the prognosis of breast cancer remains unknown. Lin et al identified a LINK-A lncRNA that mediated HIF1 α phosphorylation at Ser797 by LRRK2, resulting in the activation of normoxic HIF1 α signaling and promoting glycolysis reprogramming, tumorigenesis and progression in triple-negative breast cancer [30]. Jiang et al revealed that downregulated LRRK2 gene expression inhibited proliferation and migration while promoting the apoptosis of thyroid cancer cells by inhibiting activation of the JNK signaling pathway [31]. The biological mechanisms underlying their associations with breast cancer prognosis warrant further study.

Although we conducted a large systematic two-stage cohort study to evaluate microRNA target SNPs and breast cancer prognosis, our study has several limitations. First, we only selected high frequency SNPs with MAF \geq 0.05, inevitably miss low frequency SNPs that have an impact on breast cancer prognosis. Second, Type 1 error of multiple testing was not corrected in this study, although our design with large sample size and replication set can ensure a high repeatability of our findings. Third, due to the good prognosis of breast cancer patients, the number of deaths and tumor progression were small, and further follow-up will be required to confirm the reliability of the results. In addition, functional research is needed to elucidate the mechanism of this association in future study.

Conclusions

In conclusion, the LRRK2 rs10878441 CC genotype is associated with poor prognosis of breast cancer in a Chinese population, suggesting that it could be a potential prognostic biomarker for breast cancer. Further studies to elucidate the underlying mechanism for this association are warranted.

Abbreviations

SNP: single nucleotide polymorphisms; 3'UTR: 3' untranslated region; MAF: minor genotype frequency; OS: overall survival; DFS: disease-free survival; HR: hazard ratio; CI: confidence interval; BMI: body mass index; BBD: benign breast disease; ER: estrogen receptor; PR: progesterone receptor; HER2: human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; non-IDC: non-invasive ductal carcinoma; IDC: invasive ductal carcinoma; RAD51: RAD51 recombinase; ITGB4: Integrin subunit beta 4; RYR3: Ryanodine receptor 3; SET8: KMT5A, Lysine methyltransferase 5A; NMT1: N-Myristoyltransferase 1; KIF13B: Kinesin family member 13B; PREPL: Prolyl endopeptidase like; MKNK1: MAPK interacting serine/threonine kinase 1;

LRRK2: Leucine-rich repeat kinase 2; GREM1: Gremlin 1; ST8SIA4: ST8 alpha-N-acetyl-neuraminide alpha-2,8-sialyltransferase 4; KRAS: Kirsten rat sarcoma viral oncogene; HIF1 α : Hypoxia inducible factor1 α

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The research protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of Tianjin Medical University Cancer Institute and Hospital, and written informed consents were obtained from all patients participated in the study.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Availability of data and materials

The data sets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Funding

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China [Grant 81473039 and Grant 81974488], National Key Research and Development Program of China [Grant 2018YFC1315600 and Grant 2016YFC1302703], Program for Changjiang Scholars and Innovative Research Team in University in China [Grant IRT_14R40], Tianjin Science and Technology Committee Foundation [Grant 16JCYBJC26600 and Grant 17JCYBJC25300], Tianjin Municipal Key Health Research Program [Grant 15KG143].

Author Contributions

LWZ and LH developed the ideas and drafted the manuscript. YBH, ZWF, LYL, JXL and XW were responsible for data processing and statistical analysis. HXL, FFS, HZ, PSW supervised the study procedure and revised the manuscript. FJS and KXC are also involved in data analysis and interpretation, as well as manuscript preparation. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgments

Not applicable.

Additional file:

Additional file 1 (DOCX 35.1MB):

Table S1: 192 microRNA binding site SNPs identified from “Patrocles” database.

Table S2: Association between 192 SNPs within microRNA binding sites and breast cancer OS (Stage I).

Table S3: Association between the SNP rs10878441 and breast cancer OS stratified by clinical characteristics.

Figure S1: Association between 8 SNPs and breast cancer OS in stage I.

Figure S2: Association between 8 SNPs and breast cancer DFS in stage I.

Figure S3: The duplex structure of hsa-miR-550* and the 3'UTR of LRRK2 gene

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Tables

Table 1. Demographic and epidemiologic characteristics of breast cancer patients and associations with breast cancer prognosis

| Characteristics | N=2647 (%) | Stage I (N=1297,) | Stage II (N=1350,) | Overall survival | | Disease-free survival | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| | | | | HR (95% CI) | <i>P</i> | HR (95% CI) | <i>P</i> |
| Age at diagnosis | | | | | | | |
| (years) | | | | | | | |
| <=50 | 1167 (44.1) | 578 (44.6) | 589 (43.7) | 1 (ref) | <0.001 | 1 (ref) | 0.016 |
| >50 | 1477 (55.9) | 717 (55.4) | 760 (56.3) | 1.655 (1.264- 2.168) | | 1.320 (1.052- 1.657) | |
| BMI (kg/m²) | | | | | | | |
| <=18.4 | 56 (2.1) | 30 (2.4) | 26 (1.9) | 0.900 (0.330- 2.457) | 0.203 | 0.718 (0.293- 1.759) | 0.634 |
| 18.5-23.9 | 1025 (39.3) | 512 (40.4) | 513 (38.4) | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| 24.0-27.9 | 1024 (39.3) | 508 (40.1) | 516 (38.6) | 1.291 (0.962- 1.733) | | 1.105 (0.858- 1.423) | |
| ≥28 | 500 (19.2) | 218 (17.2) | 283 (21.1) | 1.386 (0.975- 1.971) | | 1.142 (0.838- 1.556) | |
| Marital status | | | | | | | |
| Unmarried | 35 (1.3) | 16 (1.2) | 19 (1.4) | 1 (ref) | 0.593 | 1 (ref) | 0.850 |
| Married | 2420 (92.9) | 1180 (91.8) | 1240 (93.9) | 0.939 (0.300- 2.934) | | 1.186 (0.380- 3.701) | |
| Divorced/widowed | 150 (5.8) | 89 (6.9) | 61 (4.6) | 1.213 (0.355- 4.139) | | 1.329 (0.393- 4.493) | |
| Education | | | | | | | |
| Without | | | | | | | |
| education | 133 (5.3) | 71 (5.7) | 62 (5.0) | 1 (ref) | 0.001 | 1 (ref) | 0.079 |
| Primary school | 303 (12.1) | 154 (12.3) | 149 (12.0) | 0.615 (0.357- 1.056) | | 0.656 (0.386- 1.116) | |
| Junior high school | 738 (29.6) | 364 (29.1) | 374 (30.1) | 0.399 (0.243- 0.658) | | 0.563 (0.352- 0.902) | |
| High school | 810 (32.5) | 426 (34.0) | 384 (30.9) | 0.425 (0.261- 0.693) | | 0.545 (0.342- 0.869) | |
| College and advanced | 512 (20.5) | 238 (19.0) | 274 (22.0) | 0.372 (0.218- 0.634) | | 0.520 (0.318- 0.852) | |
| Average monthly income (RMB) | | | | | | | |
| <=999 | 839 (34.5) | 480 (38.8) | 359 (30.0) | 1 (ref) | 0.056 | 1 (ref) | 0.112 |
| 1000-1999 | 1055 (43.3) | 544 (43.9) | 511 (42.8) | 0.895 (0.667- 1.202) | | 0.995 (0.766- 1.293) | |
| ≥2000 | 539 (22.2) | 214 (17.3) | 325 (27.2) | 0.616 (0.414- 0.919) | | 0.718 (0.510- 1.012) | |
| Occupation | | | | | | | |
| No | 1459 (58.3) | 770 (61.3) | 689 (55.3) | 1 (ref) | 0.009 | 1 (ref) | 0.089 |
| Yes | 1042 (41.7) | 486 (38.7) | 556 (44.7) | 0.689 (0.520- 0.912) | | 0.814 (0.641- 1.033) | |
| Age at marriage | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| (years) | | | | | | | |
| <30 | 2441 (93.9) | 1202 (94.1) | 1239 (93.8) | 1 (ref) | 0.816 | 1 (ref) | 0.457 |
| ≥30 | 158 (6.1) | 76 (5.9) | 82 (6.2) | 0.940 (0.556- 1.587) | | 0.831 (0.509- 1.355) | |
| Age at menarche (years) | | | | | | | |
| ≤14 | 698 (26.6) | 347 (27.0) | 351 (26.2) | 1 (ref) | 0.015 | 1 (ref) | 0.117 |
| >14 | 1927 (73.4) | 938 (73.0) | 989 (73.8) | 1.466 (1.075- 1.999) | | 1.231 (0.949- 1.596) | |
| Number of pregnancies | | | | | | | |
| ≤2 | 1198 (45.5) | 576 (44.7) | 622 (46.2) | 1 (ref) | 0.385 | 1 (ref) | 0.695 |
| >2 | 1435 (54.5) | 712 (55.3) | 723 (53.8) | 1.120 (0.867- 1.448) | | 1.045 (0.837- 1.305) | |
| Number of live births | | | | | | | |
| ≤1 | 1585 (62.0) | 783 (62.4) | 802 (61.6) | 1 (ref) | <0.001 | 1 (ref) | 0.002 |
| >1 | 971 (38.0) | 471 (37.6) | 500 (38.4) | 1.760 (1.358- 2.280) | | 1.435 (0.143- 1.802) | |
| Breastfeeding duration (months) | | | | | | | |
| ≤12 | 1045 (42.0) | 534 (43.9) | 511 (40.1) | 1 (ref) | 0.028 | 1 (ref) | 0.010 |
| >12 | 1444 (58.0) | 682 (56.1) | 762 (59.9) | 1.366 (1.033- 1.804) | | 1.372 (1.079- 1.746) | |
| Abortion | | | | | | | |
| No | 732 (28.2) | 357 (28.1) | 375 (28.2) | 1 (ref) | 0.003 | 1 (ref) | 0.004 |
| Yes | 1867 (71.8) | 914 (71.9) | 953 (71.8) | 0.664 (0.508- 0.868) | | 0.705 (0.556- 0.893) | |
| Oral contraceptive | | | | | | | |
| No | 2036 (82.6) | 1007 (81.5) | 1029 (83.7) | 1 (ref) | 0.823 | 1 (ref) | 0.673 |
| Yes | 428 (17.4) | 228 (18.5) | 200 (16.3) | 1.040 (0.738- 1.465) | | 0.935 (0.684- 1.278) | |
| Menopause | | | | | | | |
| No | 1247 (47.4) | 614 (47.6) | 633 (47.2) | 1 (ref) | <0.001 | 1 (ref) | 0.011 |
| Yes | 1385 (52.6) | 677 (52.4) | 708 (52.8) | 1.844 (1.408- 2.417) | | 1.341 (1.070- 1.679) | |
| BBD | | | | | | | |
| No | 1909 (73.6) | 957 (74.2) | 952 (72.9) | 1 (ref) | 0.227 | 1 (ref) | 0.028 |
| Yes | 686 | 332 | 354 (27.1) | 0.829 (0.611- | | 0.741 (0.566- | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| | (26.4) | (25.8) | | 1.125) | | 0.968) | |
| Smoking | | | | | | | |
| No | 2214 (88.0) | 1108 (88.2) | 1106 (87.8) | 1 (ref) | 0.988 | 1 (ref) | 0.428 |
| Yes | 302 (12.0) | 148 (11.8) | 154 (12.2) | 1.003 (0.671- 1.500) | | 1.151 (0.812- 1.632) | |
| Alcohol drinking | | | | | | | |
| No | 2445 (97.4) | 1233 (98.0) | 1212 (96.8) | 1 (ref) | 0.573 | 1 (ref) | 0.246 |
| Yes | 65 (2.6) | 25 (2.0) | 40 (3.2) | 0.574 (0.280- 2.025) | | 0.562 (0.209- 1.508) | |
| Physical activity per week (hours) | | | | | | | |
| <=3 | 1817 (72.9) | 943 (75.3) | 874 (70.5) | 1 (ref) | 0.072 | 1 (ref) | 0.067 |
| >3 | 675 (27.1) | 310 (24.7) | 365 (29.5) | 1.295 (0.976- 1.718) | | 1.261 (0.984- 1.617) | |
| Family history of cancer | | | | | | | |
| No | 1817 (69.1) | 912 (70.4) | 905 (67.8) | 1 (ref) | 0.117 | 1 (ref) | 0.258 |
| Yes | 814 (30.9) | 384 (29.6) | 430 (32.2) | 0.795 (0.596- 1.060) | | 0.868 (0.678- 1.110) | |

BMI, body mass index; BBD, benign breast disease; HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval

Table 2. Clinicopathological characteristics of breast cancer patients and associations with breast cancer prognosis

| Characteristics | N=2647 (%) | Stage I (N=1297, %) | Stage II (N=1350, %) | Overall survival | | Disease-free survival | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| | | | | HR (95% CI) | <i>P</i> | HR (95% CI) | <i>P</i> |
| TNM stage | | | | | | | |
| 0-Ia | 1593 (67.7) | 772 (65.5) | 821 (69.9) | 1 (ref) | <0.001 | 1 (ref) | <0.001 |
| Ib-II | 761 (32.3) | 407 (34.5) | 354 (30.1) | 3.493 (2.672- 4.568) | | 2.776 (2.203- 3.498) | |
| Tumor size | | | | | | | |
| ≤2.5cm | 1483 (67.8) | 683 (65.2) | 800 (70.2) | 1 (ref) | <0.001 | 1 (ref) | <0.001 |
| >2.5cm | 704 (32.2) | 364 (34.8) | 340 (29.8) | 2.092 (1.591- 2.750) | | 1.694 (1.291- 2.221) | |
| Histopathologic classification | | | | | | | |
| non-IDC | 789 (29.9) | 449 (34.7) | 340 (25.2) | 1 (ref) | <0.001 | 1 (ref) | <0.001 |
| IDC | 1853 (70.1) | 846 (65.3) | 1007 (74.8) | 1.815 (1.324- 2.487) | | 1.629 (1.275- 2.082) | |
| Grade | | | | | | | |
| I | 187 (10.0) | 74 (8.1) | 113 (11.7) | 1 (ref) | 0.015 | 1 (ref) | 0.004 |
| II | 1390 (74.0) | 693 (76.0) | 697 (72.2) | 1.814 (0.954- 3.449) | | 2.903 (1.487- 5.668) | |
| III | 301 (16.0) | 145 (15.9) | 156 (16.1) | 2.593 (1.294- 5.198) | | 2.934 (1.421- 6.056) | |
| Lymph node | | | | | | | |
| Negative | 2029 (78.2) | 983 (77.2) | 1046 (79.1) | 1 (ref) | <0.001 | 1 (ref) | <0.001 |
| Positive | 567 (21.8) | 290 (22.8) | 277 (20.9) | 4.488 (3.466- 5.813) | | 3.672 (2.934- 4.597) | |
| ER | | | | | | | |
| Negative | 1028 (40.0) | 576 (44.9) | 452 (35.1) | 1 (ref) | <0.001 | 1 (ref) | 0.002 |
| Positive | 1542 (60.0) | 707 (55.1) | 835 (64.9) | 0.589 (0.456- 0.761) | | 0.701 (0.561- 0.877) | |
| PR | | | | | | | |
| Negative | 1187 (46.2) | 563 (43.9) | 624 (48.5) | 1 (ref) | <0.001 | 1 (ref) | <0.001 |
| Positive | 1383 (53.8) | 720 (56.1) | 662 (51.5) | 0.519 (0.399- 0.675) | | 0.599 (0.478- 0.751) | |
| HER2 | | | | | | | |
| Negative | 1824 (76.7) | 910 (79.3) | 914 (74.2) | 1 (ref) | 0.003 | 1 (ref) | 0.018 |
| Positive | 555 (23.3) | 237 (20.7) | 318 (25.8) | 1.544 (1.157- 2.062) | | 1.365 (1.055- 1.767) | |

ER, estrogen receptor; PR, progesterone receptor; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; non-IDC, non-invasive ductal carcinoma; IDC, invasive ductal carcinoma; HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval

Table 3. Association between SNP within microRNA binding sites and the prognosis of breast cancer (Stage I)

| SNP | Overall survival | | | | | Disease-free survival | | | | |
|------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| | <i>N</i> | HR (95% CI) | <i>P</i> | HR (95% CI) | <i>P</i> [#] | <i>N</i> | HR (95% CI) | <i>P</i> | HR (95% CI) | <i>P</i> [*] |
| rs1053739 | | | | | | | | | | |
| AA | 359 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | | 354 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AG | 659 | 1.64 (0.88-3.07) | 0.121 | 2.65 (0.98-7.10) | 0.053 | 656 | 1.27 (0.83-1.95) | 0.270 | 1.24 (0.69-2.21) | 0.471 |
| GG | 278 | 2.66 (1.37-5.16) | 0.004 | 4.38 (1.52-12.65) | 0.006 | 277 | 1.75 (1.09-2.81) | 0.020 | 1.63 (0.85-3.12) | 0.144 |
| rs2693 | | | | | | | | | | |
| GG | 656 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | | 651 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AG | 532 | 1.08 (0.67-1.74) | 0.754 | 0.99 (0.50-1.95) | 0.975 | 529 | 0.90 (0.64-1.28) | 0.568 | 1.05 (0.65-1.71) | 0.837 |
| AA | 108 | 2.35 (1.22-4.51) | 0.011 | 3.19 (1.01-10.04) | 0.047 | 107 | 1.53 (0.89-2.63) | 0.124 | 1.93 (0.83-4.46) | 0.126 |
| rs698761 | | | | | | | | | | |
| GG | 588 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | | 583 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AG | 540 | 0.99 (0.60-1.62) | 0.958 | 1.63 (0.78-3.39) | 0.192 | 536 | 0.93 (0.64-1.34) | 0.683 | 0.99 (0.61-1.61) | 0.977 |
| AA | 168 | 1.92 (1.07-3.44) | 0.028 | 3.48 (1.45-8.33) | 0.005 | 168 | 1.64 (1.05-2.58) | 0.030 | 0.90 (0.43-1.88) | 0.777 |
| rs8602 | | | | | | | | | | |
| CC | 656 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | | 652 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AC | 518 | 1.38 (0.85-2.23) | 0.189 | 1.45 (0.73-2.88) | 0.293 | 514 | 1.05 (0.74-1.49) | 0.781 | 1.04 (0.63-1.70) | 0.886 |
| AA | 123 | 2.27 (1.19-4.32) | 0.013 | 2.63 (1.04-6.65) | 0.041 | 122 | 1.34 (0.79-2.28) | 0.278 | 1.27 (0.58-2.78) | 0.549 |
| rs10878441 | | | | | | | | | | |
| AA | 476 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | | 471 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AC | 610 | 1.00 (0.58-1.70) | 0.986 | 1.09 (0.52-2.29) | 0.811 | 606 | 1.07 (0.72- | 0.745 | 1.26 (0.74- | 0.396 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-----|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | | | 1.57) | | 2.16) | |
| CC | 211 | 2.63 (1.51-4.58) | 0.001 | 2.46 (1.07-5.68) | 0.035 | 211 | 2.11 (1.37-3.25) | 0.001 | 1.83 (0.95-3.55) | 0.071 |
| rs10318 | | | | | | | | | | |
| AA | 351 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | | 350 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AG | 660 | 0.75 (0.47-1.21) | 0.242 | 0.47 (0.24-0.94) | 0.033 | 654 | 0.77 (0.53-1.11) | 0.153 | 0.55 (0.32-0.94) | 0.029 |
| GG | 283 | 0.37 (0.18-0.78) | 0.009 | 0.32 (0.13-0.80) | 0.015 | 281 | 0.64 (0.39-1.03) | 0.064 | 0.63 (0.34-1.20) | 0.161 |
| rs10075853 | | | | | | | | | | |
| AA | 802 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | | 798 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AG | 412 | 1.32 (0.82-2.14) | 0.256 | 1.22 (0.60-2.46) | 0.583 | 407 | 1.15 (0.81-1.64) | 0.436 | 1.34 (0.82-2.17) | 0.243 |
| GG | 83 | 2.52 (1.30-4.91) | 0.006 | 3.58 (1.26-10.14) | 0.017 | 83 | 1.34 (0.73-2.46) | 0.343 | 1.08 (0.45-2.61) | 0.857 |
| rs8410 | | | | | | | | | | |
| GG | 599 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | | 593 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AG | 532 | 0.95 (0.58-1.56) | 0.840 | 1.63 (0.78-3.40) | 0.191 | 529 | 0.88 (0.61-1.26) | 0.480 | 0.98 (0.60-1.59) | 0.934 |
| AA | 163 | 1.98 (1.11-3.54) | 0.021 | 3.63 (1.52-8.71) | 0.004 | 163 | 1.60 (1.01-2.51) | 0.043 | 0.84 (0.39-1.80) | 0.647 |

SNP, single-nucleotide polymorphism; HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval

Adjusted for age at diagnosis, education, occupation, age at menarche, number of live births, breastfeeding duration, abortion, menopause, TNM stage, tumor size, histopathologic classification, grade, lymph node, ER, PR, and HER2.

* Adjusted for age at diagnosis, number of live births, breastfeeding duration, abortion, menopause, benign breast disease, TNM stage, tumor size, histopathologic classification, grade, lymph node, ER, PR, and HER2.

Table 4. Association between SNP within microRNA binding sites and the prognosis of breast cancer (Stage II)

| SNP | Overall survival | | | | | Disease-free survival | | | | |
|------------|------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | <i>N</i> | HR (95% CI) | <i>P</i> | HR (95% CI) | <i>P</i> [#] | <i>N</i> | HR (95% CI) | <i>P</i> | HR (95% CI) | <i>P</i> [*] |
| rs1053739 | | | | | | | | | | |
| AA | 466 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | | 463 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AG | 614 | 0.93 (0.65- 1.33) | 0.693 | 1.13 (0.65- 1.95) | 0.670 | 608 | 0.97 (0.69- 1.37) | 0.872 | 1.06 (0.64- 1.74) | 0.827 |
| GG | 257 | 1.11 (0.73- 1.70) | 0.624 | 1.38 (0.74- 2.57) | 0.306 | 255 | 1.21 (0.80- 1.82) | 0.370 | 1.17 (0.66- 2.09) | 0.596 |
| rs2693 | | | | | | | | | | |
| GG | 690 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | | 684 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AG | 531 | 1.08 (0.78- 1.51) | 0.635 | 1.05 (0.64- 1.73) | 0.856 | 526 | 1.00 (0.73- 1.38) | 0.981 | 1.07 (0.68- 1.69) | 0.773 |
| AA | 126 | 1.13 (0.67- 1.91) | 0.649 | 1.48 (0.68- 3.23) | 0.319 | 126 | 0.79 (0.45- 1.39) | 0.408 | 1.48 (0.68- 3.21) | 0.321 |
| rs698761 | | | | | | | | | | |
| GG | 592 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | | 585 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AG | 598 | 1.10 (0.78- 1.53) | 0.598 | 1.13 (0.69- 1.86) | 0.631 | 594 | 1.03 (0.74- 1.42) | 0.874 | 0.93 (0.59- 1.47) | 0.747 |
| AA | 160 | 1.31 (0.73- 1.91) | 0.506 | 1.12 (0.50- 2.50) | 0.780 | 160 | 1.15 (0.72- 1.84) | 0.563 | 1.07 (0.52- 2.19) | 0.863 |
| rs8602 | | | | | | | | | | |
| CC | 679 | 1 (ref) | 0.465 | 1 (ref) | | 674 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AC | 554 | 0.88 (0.63- 1.23) | 0.450 | 0.77 (0.46- 1.29) | 0.328 | 551 | 0.87 (0.63- 1.20) | 0.381 | 0.80 (0.50- 1.28) | 0.351 |
| AA | 101 | 1.24 (0.71- 2.14) | 0.454 | 1.61 (0.67- 3.88) | 0.289 | 98 | 1.34 (0.81- 2.24) | 0.260 | 1.82 (0.84- 3.93) | 0.127 |
| rs10878441 | | | | | | | | | | |
| AA | 498 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | | 493 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AC | 614 | 1.35 (0.95- 1.92) | 0.100 | 1.69 (0.99- 2.88) | 0.055 | 610 | 1.41 (1.00- 1.98) | 0.049 | 1.57 (0.95- | 0.078 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-------------|--------------------|--------------|-----|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | | | | | | 2.59) | |
| CC | 186 | | 2.21 (1.11- | 0.024 | 184 | 1.11 (0.67- | 0.700 | 1.46 | 0.275 |
| | | 1.27 (0.77- | 4.42) | | | 1.84) | | (0.74- | |
| | | 2.07) | | 0.349 | | | | 2.87) | |
| rs10318 | | | | | | | | | |
| AA | 376 | 1 (ref) | 1 (ref) | | 374 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AG | 643 | | 1.00 (0.58- | 0.984 | 637 | 0.69 (0.49- | 0.037 | 0.78 | 0.329 |
| | | 0.74 (0.51- | 1.72) | | | 0.98) | | (0.48- | |
| | | 1.07) | | 0.104 | | | | 1.28) | |
| GG | 313 | | 0.77 (0.36- | 0.511 | 312 | 0.64 (0.42- | 0.040 | 0.60 | 0.125 |
| | | 0.70 (0.45- | 1.67) | | | 0.98) | | (0.31- | |
| | | 1.09) | | 0.115 | | | | 1.15) | |
| rs10075853 | | | | | | | | | |
| AA | 822 | 1 (ref) | 1 (ref) | | 814 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AG | 448 | | 0.55 (0.31- | 0.041 | 446 | 0.77 (0.54- | 0.127 | 0.53 | 0.019 |
| | | 0.75 (0.52- | 0.98) | | | 1.08) | | (0.31- | |
| | | 1.07) | | 0.107 | | | | 0.90) | |
| GG | 78 | | 1.03 (0.36- | 0.950 | 77 | 1.06 (0.57- | 0.854 | 1.61 | 0.245 |
| | | 0.94 (0.47- | 2.98) | | | 1.97) | | (0.72- | |
| | | 1.85) | | 0.851 | | | | 3.62) | |
| rs8410 | | | | | | | | | |
| GG | 602 | 1 (ref) | 1 (ref) | | 596 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AG | 583 | | 1.22 (0.75- | 0.424 | 578 | 1.09 (0.79- | 0.615 | 0.94 | 0.774 |
| | | 1.17 (0.84- | 2.00) | | | 1.51) | | (0.59- | |
| | | 1.64) | | 0.358 | | | | 1.48) | |
| AA | 157 | | 1.01 (0.43- | 0.981 | 157 | 1.20 (0.75- | 0.458 | 1.02 | 0.965 |
| | | 1.15 (0.70- | 2.35) | | | 1.91) | | (0.49- | |
| | | 1.89) | | 0.593 | | | | 2.09) | |

SNP, single-nucleotide polymorphism; HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval

Adjusted for age at diagnosis, education, occupation, age at menarche, number of live births, breastfeeding duration, abortion, menopause, TNM stage, tumor size, histopathologic classification, grade, lymph node, ER, PR, and HER2.

* Adjusted for age at diagnosis, number of live births, breastfeeding duration, abortion, menopause, benign breast disease, TNM stage, tumor size, histopathologic classification, grade, lymph node, ER, PR, and HER2.

Table 5. Association between rs10878441 and breast cancer overall survival.

| SNP | N | Univariate | | Multivariate | |
|-----------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | | HR (95% CI) | P | HR (95% CI) | P [#] |
| rs10878441 (A/C) (Stage I) | | | | | |
| AA | 476 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AC | 610 | 1.00 (0.58-1.70) | 0.986 | 1.09 (0.52-2.29) | 0.811 |
| CC | 211 | 2.63 (1.51-4.58) | 0.001 | 2.46 (1.07-5.68) | 0.035 |
| Additive model | 1297 | 1.64 (1.20-2.23) | 0.002 | 1.56 (0.99-1.45) | 0.053 |
| Dominant model | 1297 | 1.40 (0.87-2.26) | 0.170 | 1.38 (0.70-2.74) | 0.353 |
| Recessive model | 1297 | 2.63 (1.65-4.21) | <0.001 | 2.33 (1.16-4.68) | 0.018 |
| rs10878441 (A/C) (Stage II) | | | | | |
| AA | 498 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AC | 614 | 1.35 (0.95-1.92) | 0.100 | 1.69 (0.99-2.88) | 0.055 |
| CC | 186 | 1.27 (0.77-2.07) | 0.349 | 2.21 (1.11-4.42) | 0.024 |
| Additive model | 1298 | 1.16 (0.93-1.46) | 0.188 | 1.51 (1.08-2.10) | 0.015 |
| Dominant model | 1298 | 1.33 (0.95-1.86) | 0.100 | 1.80 (1.08-2.99) | 0.024 |
| Recessive model | 1298 | 1.07 (0.69-1.67) | 0.767 | 1.63 (0.89-2.97) | 0.111 |
| rs10878441 (A/C) (Combined) | | | | | |
| AA | 974 | 1 (ref) | | 1 (ref) | |
| AC | 1224 | 1.19 (0.89-1.60) | 0.250 | 1.40 (0.91-2.16) | 0.122 |
| CC | 397 | 1.69 (1.18-2.42) | 0.004 | 2.19 (1.30-3.70) | 0.003 |
| Additive model | 2595 | 1.29 (1.07-1.54) | 0.007 | 1.47 (1.13-1.92) | 0.004 |
| Dominant model | 2695 | 1.31 (0.99-1.72) | 0.056 | 1.57 (1.05-2.36) | 0.028 |
| Recessive model | 2695 | 1.53 (1.12-2.10) | 0.008 | 1.79 (1.14-2.79) | 0.011 |

SNP, single-nucleotide polymorphism; HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval

[#] Adjusted for age at diagnosis, education, occupation, age at menarche, number of live births, breastfeeding duration, abortion, menopause, TNM stage, tumor size, histopathologic classification, grade, lymph node, ER, PR, and HER2.

Figures

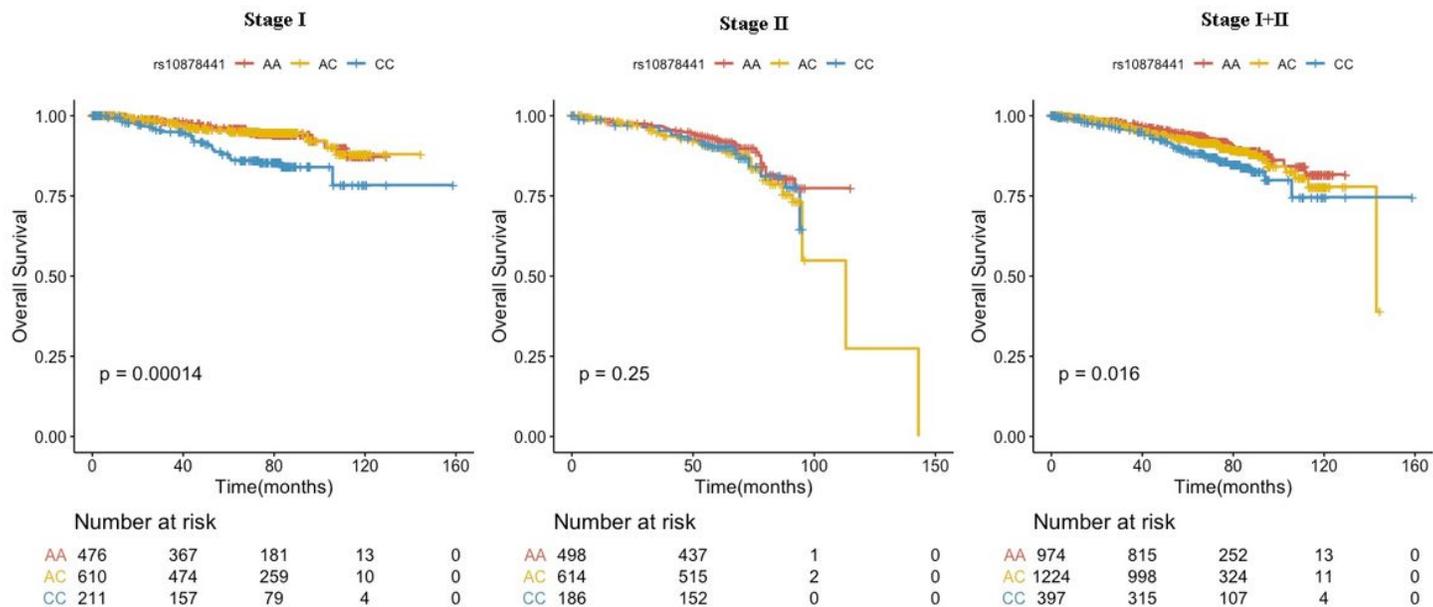


Figure 1

Association between rs10878441 and the prognosis of breast cancer

Supplementary Files

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- [SupplementaryMaterials.pdf](#)