

# Oncogene mutational analysis in Chinese gastrointestinal stromal tumor patients

Qiong Chen<sup>1</sup>  
Rong Li<sup>2</sup>  
Zhi-Gao Zhang<sup>1</sup>  
Qiao-Ting Deng<sup>1</sup>  
Kun Li<sup>1</sup>  
Hao Wang<sup>1</sup>  
Xue-Xi Yang<sup>1</sup>  
Ying-Song Wu<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Laboratory Medicine and Biotechnology, Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, People's Republic of China; <sup>2</sup>Department of Tumor, Nanfang Hospital, Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, People's Republic of China

→ Video abstract



Point your Smartphone at the code above. If you have a QR code reader the video abstract will appear. Or use:

<http://youtu.be/m9zTsWJE-nA>

Correspondence: Ying-Song Wu;  
Xue-Xi Yang  
Southern Medical University, Life Science  
Building 9F, 1023 South Shatai Road,  
Guangzhou, Guangdong 510515, People's  
Republic of China  
Tel +86 20 6164 8553  
Email wg@smu.edu.cn;  
yxx1214@smu.edu.cn

**Background:** Gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs) are the most common mesenchymal tumors and exhibit a high frequency of oncogenic *KIT* or *PDGFRA* mutations. Tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) have been mainly used in the treatment of GISTs bearing *KIT*/*PDGFRA* mutations. However, other mutation profiles have been found to affect the sensitivity to and effectiveness of TKIs in the treatment of GISTs.

**Purpose:** The aim of the present study was to describe the mutational status of multiple genes in GIST samples and to provide information for finding potential predictive markers of therapeutic targets in Chinese GIST patients.

**Patients and methods:** MassARRAY spectrometry was used to test 40 Chinese GIST patients for 238 mutations affecting 19 oncogenes.

**Results:** A total of 14 oncogenes with 43 mutations were detected in 38 samples, with a mutation frequency of 95%. Among these mutation samples, 26 GISTs were found for *KIT* or *PDGFRA* mutations, while 12 were *KIT*/*PDGFRA* wild-type. Approximately half of the GIST samples harbored multiple mutations. The most frequent mutations were found in *KIT* (62.5%), *CDK4* (17.5%), *NRAS* (15%) and *EGFR* (12.5%). Other mutations included *PIK3CA* and *AKT1* (10%), *BRAF* and *ABL1* (7.5%), *PDGFRA*, *ERBB2* and *HRAS* (5%), and *AKT2*, *FLT3* and *KRAS* (2.5%). New mutated genes (*CDK4*, *AKT2*, *FLT3*, *ERBB2*, *ABL1* and *AKT1*), a higher *BRAF* mutation frequency (7.5%) and new *BRAF* mutation sites (G464E) were found in Chinese GIST patients.

**Conclusion:** This study demonstrated useful mutations in a small fraction of Chinese GIST, but targeted therapeutics on these potential predictive markers need to be investigated in depth especially in Oriental populations.

**Keywords:** gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST), mutation, tyrosine kinase receptor, oncogene

## Introduction

Gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs) are the most common mesenchymal tumors originating in different parts of the digestive tract. GISTs have a characteristic morphology and biological continuum, and they are mostly incidentally discovered.<sup>1</sup> Despite clinicopathological differences, most GISTs share a similar genetic profile, including oncogenic *KIT* or *PDGFRA* mutations.

Previous studies reported that *KIT* mutations are identified in 60%–85% of GISTs, while *PDGFRA* mutations are identified in 5%–10%.<sup>2</sup> These mutations appear to be mutually exclusive, encoding a tyrosine kinase receptor type III.<sup>3,4</sup> Thus, tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs), such as imatinib, sunitinib, or sorafenib, are considered the main treatment for GISTs. However, previous reports suggest that *KIT* and *PDGFRA* mutations in GISTs mainly affect exons that code for functional domains of the *KIT* and *PDGFRA* receptors. Therefore, *KIT* and *PDGFRA* genotyping may be of value in predicting sensitivity to TKIs and selecting the optimal clinical treatment. For example, *KIT* exon

11 mutants respond well to imatinib, while exon 9 mutants (Ala502-Tyr503dup) are less sensitive to this TKI. *PDGFRA* exon 18 mutants (Asp842Val) are resistant to imatinib, and *KIT* exon 13 and 14 mutants are sensitive to sunitinib.<sup>5</sup> However, *KIT*-negative GISTs present a true diagnostic challenge.

In addition, ~10%–15% of GISTs do not have detectable *KIT* or *PDGFRA* mutations (*KIT*/*PDGFRA* wild-type [WT] GISTs), suggesting that other molecular pathways may also be involved in the pathogenesis of these tumors. Mutations in *NF6.7* and *BRAF* (V600E),<sup>8,9</sup> or *SDH* complex genes,<sup>10</sup> were detected in *KIT*/*PDGFRA* WT GISTs. Thus, GISTs are also characterized by five categories of oncogenic abnormalities, including *KIT* mutant, *PDGFRA* mutant, *SDH*-deficient, *RAS*/*BRAF*/*NF1* mutant, or quadruple (*KIT*/*PDGFRA*/*SDH*/*RAS-P*) WT GISTs.<sup>11</sup> The pathogenesis and underlying biology of quadruple WT GISTs is currently unknown. Further molecular and clinicopathological characterization of quadruple WT GISTs may help determine their prognosis as well as assist with the optimization of medical management, including clinical testing of novel therapies.<sup>11</sup> Therefore, additional genetic testing may help identify therapeutic targets and develop novel therapeutic strategies for managing GISTs.

The aim of the present study was to describe the mutational status of multiple genes in GIST samples using the MassARRAY spectrometry platform. The results revealed 14 oncogenes with 43 mutations in 40 Chinese GIST patients, including 68.42% *KIT* or *PDGFRA* mutations and 31.58% *KIT*/*PDGFRA* WT GISTs. New mutation genes (*CDK4*, *AKT2*, *FLT3*, *ERBB2*, *ABL1*, and *AKT1*), a higher *BRAF* mutation frequency (7.5%), and new *BRAF* mutation sites (G464E) were identified in Chinese GIST patients. These mutation genes found in the present study may work as predictive markers for novel therapeutic targets in Chinese GIST patients.

## Materials and methods

### Patients and samples

Formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded samples from 40 patients with pathologically diagnosed GISTs were retrieved from the NanFang Hospital, Southern Medical University (Guangzhou, People's Republic of China), between June 2006 and September 2011. All the cases were clinically treated with tumor resection. The clinical and follow-up data were updated in September 2011. This study was approved by the NanFang Hospital Ethics Committee, and written informed consent was obtained from all the participants.

### Oncomutation detection

The OncoCarta panel (v1.0; Sequenom Inc., San Diego, CA, USA) was used to detect oncomutations in 40 GIST samples.

This panel is a set of prevalidated assays for sensitive and efficient mutation screening by parallel analysis of 238 somatic mutations across 19 common oncogenes. The mutation types of each gene are listed in Table S1. DNA was extracted from each GIST sample using a QIAamp DNA formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany), according to the manufacturer's instructions. DNA (20 ng) was amplified using 24 sets of OncoCarta PCR primers. An extension reaction based on the OncoCarta extension primers was then performed. After salts were removed by the addition of a cation exchange resin, the reaction analyses were spotted onto a SpectroCHIP (Sequenom Inc.) and were analyzed using a MassARRAY matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry platform (Sequenom Inc.).

## Analytical and statistical methods

Mutation data were analyzed by MassARRAY Typer Analyzer software 4.0.4.20 (Sequenom Inc.), using a cut-off mutation frequency of 1%. Automated mutation calls identified with the Typer software were generated using computational algorithms by quantifying the heights ratio of raw spectral peaks corresponding to the mutant and WT signals, noise-to-peak-height ratio, and area under the curve. In addition, the mutation report was manually reviewed by 3 investigators.

## Results

### Patient characteristics

Our study included 40 patients with GISTs who had undergone surgical resection. Mutation detection with the OncoCarta panel (ver.1.0; Sequenom Inc.) was performed in all the samples. The clinical characteristics of the patients are summarized in Table 1. The median age was 49 years (range, 20–84 years). Only 5% of these patients exhibited tumor recurrence or succumbed to the disease. A total of 80% of the patients were treated only with surgical resection and received no imatinib therapy, whereas 95% of the patients were insulin-like growth factor 1 receptor (IGF1R)-positive. All these results indicated that these tumors were low risk, with a low incidence of recurrence.

### Mutation status in 40 GIST cases

Of the 40 GIST tumors, 38 (95%) were found to harbor oncogenic mutations. Of the 238 hotspot mutations in 19 common oncogenes, 14 oncogenes with 43 mutations were detected. The most frequent mutations were found in *KIT* (62.5%, 25/40), *CDK4* (17.5%, 7/40), *NRAS* (15%, 6/40), and *EGFR* (12.5%, 5/40). Other mutations included *PIK3CA* and *AKT1* (10%, 4/40), *BRAF* and *ABL1* (7.5%, 3/40),

**Table 1** Clinical characteristic of 40 GIST patients

Characteristic	Number of patients
Sex	
Male	17 (42.5%)
Female	23 (57.5%)
Ages (years)	
Median	49
≤49	20 (50%)
>49	20 (50%)
Overall survival	
Survival	38 (95%)
Death	2 (5%)
Imatinib therapy	
No	32 (80%)
Yes	8 (20%)
Risk classification	
High	16 (40%)
Intermediate	10 (25%)
Low	12 (30%)
Very low	2 (5%)
IGFIR	
Positive	2 (5%)
Negative	38 (95%)
Morphology	
Spindle cells	26 (65%)
Epithelioid cells	1 (2.5%)
Mixed cells	13 (32.5%)

**Abbreviations:** GIST, gastrointestinal stromal tumor; IGFIR, insulin-like growth factor I receptor.

*PDGFRA*, *ERBB2*, and *HRAS* (5%, 2/40), and *AKT2*, *FLT3*, and *KRAS* (2.5%, 1/40). The identified mutations are outlined in Figure 1.

A total of 12 (30%) cases were found to be *KIT*/*PDGFRA* WT GISTs, including 4 cases with 2 or 3 coexisting mutations and 8 cases with a single mutation (Table 2). Sample 805823

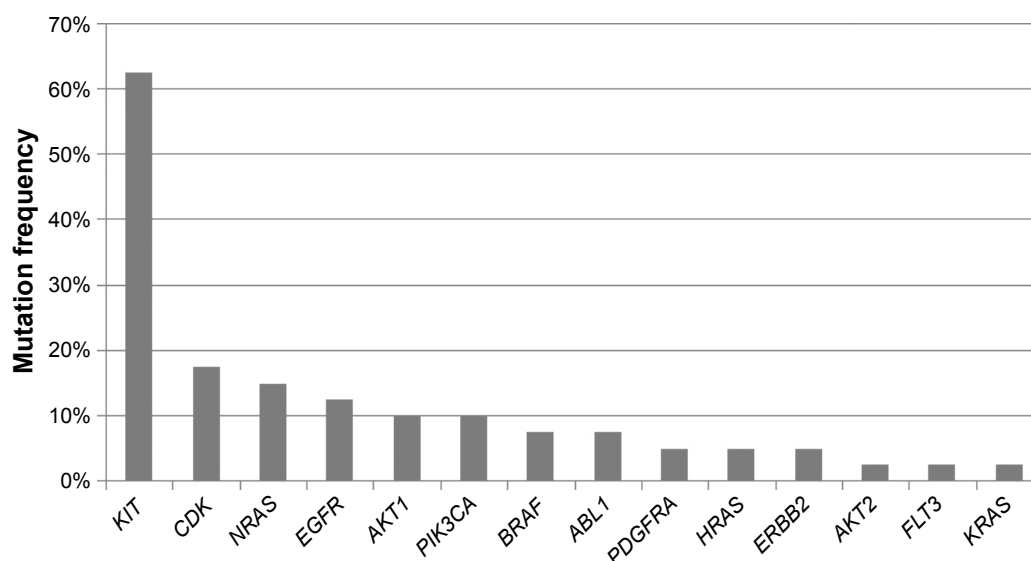
harbored multiple mutations in *ABL1* (E255K), *AKT1* (rs11555435), and *PIK3CA* (E545K). Sample 707660 had two mutations in *BRAF* (G464E) and *HRAS* (G13S). Sample 8071414 harbored two mutations in *ABL1* (T315I) and *CDK4* (R24C). Sample 610972 harbored two mutations in *ABL1* (G250E) and *NRAS* (G12D).

The profiles of 26 cases with *KIT* or *PDGFRA* mutations are shown in Table 3. Also, most of the cases harbored multiple mutations.

## Discussion

Cancer genetic information may provide important reference data for clinical diagnosis and treatment. Our research aimed to provide such information for identifying novel therapeutic targets by analyzing the mutational status of Chinese GIST patients for 238 hotspot mutations in 19 common oncogenes. A total of 43 mutations in 14 oncogenes were detected in 38 samples, with an overall mutation frequency of 95%. This result is consistent with a previous study reporting a single center's experience with 275 GIST cases, among which mutations were identified in 93.8% of the cases.<sup>12</sup> A total of 26 GISTs were detected for *KIT* or *PDGFRA* mutations, while 12 were found to be *KIT*/*PDGFRA* WT GISTs.

*KIT* is a cytokine receptor that belongs to the type III receptor tyrosine kinase family. It is structurally similar to *PDGFRs*, colony-stimulating factor-1 receptor, and *fms*-like tyrosine kinase. It has been reported that GISTs are generally positive for CD117 (c-kit) and are primarily caused by activating mutations in *KIT* or *PDGFRA*. Previous studies have demonstrated that *KIT* mutations are found in 60%–85% of GISTs, while *PDGFRA* mutations are found in 5%–10%.<sup>2</sup>

**Figure 1** Mutation status in 40 GIST cases.

**Abbreviation:** GIST, gastrointestinal stromal tumor.

**Table 2** Mutation analysis of GIST wild types

Sample ID	Gene	Mutation	Frequency	
			WT	MT
1002103	CDK4	R24C	0.93	0.07
900187	EGFR	S752I/F	0.74	0.26
8104799	CDK4	R24C	0.92	0.08
807165	PIK3CA	E542K	0.9	0.1
702442	NRAS	G12D	0.88	0.1
700675	KRAS	G12C	0.88	0.12
920127	ERBB2	G776S	0.87	0.14
100546	AKT1	rs11555435	0.83	0.17
805823	ABL1	E255K	0.92	0.08
	AKT1	rs11555435	0.85	0.15
	PIK3CA	E545K	0.91	0.09
707660	BRAF	G464E	0.94	0.1
	HRAS	G13S	0.84	0.2
8071414	ABL1	T315I	0.9	0.1
	CDK4	R24C	0.94	0.06
610972	ABL1	G250E	0.9	0.1
	NRAS	G12D	0.89	0.11

**Abbreviations:** GIST, gastrointestinal stromal tumor; MT, mutation type; WT, wild type.

In the present study, the *KIT* and *PDGFRA* mutation frequencies were 62.5 and 5%, respectively, which is consistent with previous reports. The most common mutation of *PDGFRA* (D842V) was not identified in the present study;

**Table 3** Mutation profiles of GIST in *KIT* or *PDGFRA* mutations

Sample ID	Mutation subtypes
809610	CDK (R24C), <i>KIT</i> (W557G)
900087	CDK (R24C), <i>KIT</i> (V560del, V560D)
900308	<i>AKT1</i> (rs34409589), <i>EGFR</i> (T790M), <i>KIT</i> (W557R), <i>NRAS</i> (G13S)
901117	<i>KIT</i> (L576P)
902827	<i>EGFR</i> (T790M), <i>KIT</i> (V560del, E561K)
904328	<i>PDGFRA</i> (T674I, D1071N)
1002262	<i>KIT</i> (V559A)
1004320	<i>KIT</i> (V560del, V560D)
1004799	<i>KIT</i> (W557G), <i>PDGFRA</i> (D1071N), <i>PIK3CA</i> (E545K)
100601	<i>ERBB2</i> (P780_Y781insGSP), <i>KIT</i> (V560del, V560D, K550_K558del)
1008731	CDK (R24C), <i>KIT</i> (P551_V555del)
1013505	<i>KIT</i> (V559_V560del, V559D)
1013727	<i>KIT</i> (V550_V558del)
601653	<i>KIT</i> (V560del)
609820	<i>KIT</i> (Y503_F504insAY)
612020	CDK (R24C), <i>KIT</i> (K642E)
612113	<i>NRAS</i> (G12S), <i>KIT</i> (D579del)
701468	<i>BRAF</i> (L597S), <i>FLT3</i> (I836del), <i>AKT1</i> (rs11555436), <i>AKT2</i> (R371H), <i>KIT</i> (V559A), <i>NRAS</i> (A18T)
704876	<i>KIT</i> (Y503_F504insAY), <i>NRAS</i> (A18T), <i>PIK3CA</i> (H1047Y)
708681	<i>KIT</i> (W557G), <i>HRAS</i> 2 (G12D)
803389	<i>EGFR</i> (D770_N771insG), <i>KIT</i> (K642E)
804077	<i>BRAF</i> (G464E), <i>KIT</i> (V559D), <i>BRAF</i> (L597S)
900879	<i>EGFR</i> (S752I/F), <i>KIT</i> (V560del, V560D)
905970	<i>KIT</i> (V559G)
908812	<i>KIT</i> (Y503_F504insAY)
920543	<i>KIT</i> (K642E)

**Abbreviation:** GIST, gastrointestinal stromal tumor.

on the contrary, T674I (exon 14) and D1071N (exon 22) were identified. *PDGFRA* T674I is an imatinib-resistant type of *PDGFRA*, and this mutation status may provide useful information for the clinical treatment of GISTs.

*KIT/PDGFRA* WT GISTs are another type of GIST without *KIT* and *PDGFRA* mutations (10%–15%), in which the responsible pathogenetic pathways remain unknown. In our study, a high frequency (30%) of *KIT/PDGFRA* WT GISTs was detected among the 40 GIST samples, with 3 mutations in *CDK4* and *ABL1*, 2 mutations in *AKT1*, *PIK3CA*, and *NRAS*, and 1 mutation in *EGFR*, *HRAS*, *KRAS*, *ERBB2*, and *BRAF*. Mutational analysis revealed that *KRAS* and *ABL1* mutations were only detected in *KIT/PDGFRA* WT GISTs, and all *ABL1* mutations were part of a multiple mutation status (results not shown).

It is well established that the RAS/RAF/ERK pathway plays an important role in tumor development, and *KRAS*, *HRAS*, and *NRAS* are the main components of the RAS/RAF/ERK pathway. Mutations in these genes occur in at least one-third of all human cancers, with *KRAS* mutations being the most common.<sup>13–15</sup> In the present study of Chinese patients with GISTs, mutations of *KRAS*, *NRAS*, and *HRAS* were also detected. Among the 40 GISTs, 1 case (2.5%) of a *KRAS* G12C mutation was identified, which did not occur simultaneously with *KIT*, *PDGFRA*, or *BRAF* mutations. This mutation site differed from that reported by Hechtman et al<sup>16</sup> in 2015, where one case with a *KRAS* G12V mutation was detected among 267 GISTs. Furthermore, 2 cases (5%) of *HRAS* mutations and 6 cases (15%) of *NRAS* mutations were detected among the 40 GISTs, whereas 1 *HRAS* mutation (G13S) and 2 *NRAS* mutations (G12D) were harbored by *KIT/PDGFRA* WT GISTs. It was previously reported that *KRAS*, *NRAS*, and *HRAS* mutations are scarce in GISTs.<sup>17</sup> Although our results support that *KRAS* and *HRAS* mutation are scarce in GISTs, *NRAS* mutations were detected at a higher frequency among Chinese GIST patients. This result suggests that the role of *NRAS* mutations may differ among various populations, and it may play a key role in the RAS/RAF/ERK pathway in Chinese GIST patients.

*EGFR* mutation is one of the most important targets for biological therapy, particularly in non-small-cell lung cancer and colorectal cancer.<sup>18</sup> However, there are very few literature on *EGFR* mutation in GISTs.<sup>19</sup> In the present study, 4 *EGFR* mutations (D770\_N771insG, T790M, and S752I/F) were detected among the 40 GISTs. Among these mutations, D770\_N771insG and T790M occurred together with *KIT*, *NRAS*, or *AKT1* mutations, whereas only the S752I/F mutation was harbored by *KIT/PDGFRA* WT GISTs. This result may overturn the hypothesis of Shi et al<sup>19</sup>



that *EGFR* mutations are mutually exclusive with *KIT*, *PDGFRA*, *KRAS*, or *BRAF* mutations in primary GISTs. In addition, the *EGFR* mutation frequency detected in our study is higher compared with previous reports. Therefore, we hypothesized that GISTs may be candidates for anti-EGFR-targeted therapy.

*BRAF* mutations are common in cancer and represent the most frequent genetic events in malignant melanoma. Multiple studies reported *BRAF* mutation V600E in *KIT*/*PDGFR* WT GISTs.<sup>8,20,21</sup> In the present study, 4 cases of *BRAF* mutations (L597S and G464E) were detected, and G464E coexisted with the *HRAS* mutation G13S in *KIT*/*PDGFR* WT GISTs. This result infers a higher *BRAF* mutation frequency (7.5%) and indicates the presence of new mutation sites in GISTs.

The P13K 110  $\alpha$  subunit encoded by *PIK3CA*, a downstream effector in the *KIT* signaling pathway, has been identified in different types of cancer. In GISTs, *PIK3CA* mutations were also reported in a recent study.<sup>22</sup> Similarly, in the present study, 4 cases (10%) were found to harbor *PIK3CA* mutations (H1047Y, E542K, and E545K). All the mutation sites identified in the present study have been reported in association with other tumors. A previous study based on immunohistochemistry suggested that activation of the mTOR signaling pathway is characteristic in *PDGFRA* mutant and WT GISTs, rather than *KIT* mutant GISTs.<sup>23</sup> In the present study, 2 cases harbored E542K and E545K hotspot mutations of *PIK3CA* in *KIT*/*PDGFRA* WT GISTs. Thus, *PIK3CA* mutations may play a role in WT GIST pathogenesis.

Cyclin-dependent kinase 4, encoded by the *CDK4* gene, is a member of the cyclin-dependent kinase family, is also referred to as cell division protein kinase 4, and is a catalytic subunit of the protein kinase complex that is important for cell cycle G1 phase progression. *CDK4* mutations are associated with tumor cell growth. However, there has been no report of this gene's mutations in GISTs to date. In the present study, 7 cases (17.5%) harbored *CDK4* mutations at R24C (2 hotspots of R24C and R24H in *CDK4* were detected). Nishida et al<sup>24</sup> reported that genotyping and cell cycle analysis may be crucial for GIST risk stratification. Analyzing the GIST risk classification among these *CDK4* mutation cases, it was observed that all these cases were high- or intermediate risk. This result was consistent with the study by Nishida et al.<sup>24</sup> Taking the function of *CDK4* into consideration, it was hypothesized that cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors for tumor cell quiescence (associated with *CDK4* mutations) may be a new therapeutic target in GISTs.

In addition, *AKT2*, *FLT3*, and *ERBB2* mutations, concurrently with *KIT* mutations, were separately observed in

3 different cases. A total of 4 cases (10%) harbored *AKT1* mutations and 3 cases were *ABL1* mutation-positive among *KIT*/*PDGFRA* WT GISTs. To the best of our knowledge, there has been no report of these mutations in GISTs to date. Thus, *AKT2*, *FLT3*, and *ERBB2* mutations are rarely present in GISTs. However, *AKT2*, *FLT3*, *ERBB2*, *ABL1*, and *AKT1* were reported to be associated with GIST therapy.<sup>25–27</sup> Therefore, the mutations observed in the present study may provide useful information for the clinical treatment of GISTs.

## Conclusion

The present study using MassARRAY spectrometry screened 238 mutations affecting 19 oncogenes in 40 Chinese GIST patients. Fourteen oncogene mutations were detected in the samples, including *KIT*, *CDK4*, *NRAS*, *EGFR*, *PIK3CA*, *AKT1*, *BRAF*, *ABL1*, *PDGFRA*, *ERBB2*, *HRAS*, *AKT2*, *FLT3*, and *KRAS*. Approximately half of the GIST samples harbored multiple mutations. A higher frequency of *KIT*/*PDGFRA* WT GISTs was detected in the present study. In addition, *CDK4*, *EGFR*, *PIK3CA*, *NRAS*, *KRAS*, *ERBB2*, and *AKT1* were single-point mutations detected in *KIT*/*PDGFRA* WT GISTs. New mutation genes (*CDK4*, *AKT2*, *FLT3*, *ERBB2*, *ABL1*, and *AKT1*) were also identified in Chinese GIST patients, along with a higher *BRAF* mutation frequency (7.5%) and new *BRAF* mutation sites (G464E). It is noteworthy that, although new mutations were detected in Chinese GIST patients, the sample size was insufficient to draw definitive conclusions. Therefore, further studies with larger samples that screen for mutations in full-length sequences are required to confirm our results.

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

## References

1. Miettinen M, Lasota J. Gastrointestinal stromal tumors – definition, clinical, histological, immunohistochemical, and molecular genetic features and differential diagnosis. *Virchows Arch*. 2001;438(1):1–12.
2. Heinrich MC, Corless CL, Demetri GD, et al. Kinase mutations and imatinib response in patients with metastatic gastrointestinal stromal tumor. *J Clin Oncol*. 2003;21(23):4342–4349.
3. Rubin BP. Gastrointestinal stromal tumours: an update. *Histopathology*. 2006;48(1):83–96.
4. Gasparotto D, Rossi S, Bearzi I, et al. Multiple primary sporadic gastrointestinal stromal tumors in the adult: an underestimated entity. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2008;14(18):5715–5721.
5. Lasota J, Miettinen M. Clinical significance of oncogenic *KIT* and *PDGFRA* mutations in gastrointestinal stromal tumours. *Histopathology*. 2008;53(3):245–266.
6. Salvi PF, Lorenzon L, Caterino S, Antonino L, Antonelli MS, Balducci G. Gastrointestinal stromal tumors associated with neurofibromatosis 1: a single centre experience and systematic review of the literature including 252 cases. *Int J Surg Oncol*. 2013;2013:398570.

7. Gasparotto D, Rossi S, Polano M, et al. Quadruple-negative GIST is a sentinel for unrecognized neurofibromatosis type 1 syndrome. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2017;23(1):273–282.
8. Jasek K, Buzalkova V, Minarik G, et al. Detection of mutations in the BRAF gene in patients with KIT and PDGFRA wild-type gastrointestinal stromal tumors. *Virchows Arch*. 2017;470(1):29–36.
9. Falchook GS, Trent JC, Heinrich MC, et al. BRAF mutant gastrointestinal stromal tumor: first report of regression with BRAF inhibitor dabrafenib (GSK2118436) and whole exomic sequencing for analysis of acquired resistance. *Oncotarget*. 2013;4(2):310–315.
10. Wang JH, Lasota J, Miettinen M. Succinate Dehydrogenase Subunit B (SDHB) is expressed in neurofibromatosis 1-associated gastrointestinal stromal tumors (Gists): implications for the SDHB expression based classification of Gists. *J Cancer*. 2011;2:90–93.
11. Pantaleo MA, Nannini M, Corless CL, Heinrich MC. Quadruple wild-type (WT) GIST: defining the subset of GIST that lacks abnormalities of KIT, PDGFRA, SDH, or RAS signaling pathways. *Cancer Med*. 2015;4(1):101–103.
12. Wang M, Xu J, Zhao W, et al. Prognostic value of mutational characteristics in gastrointestinal stromal tumors: a single-center experience in 275 cases. *Med Oncol*. 2014;31(1):819.
13. Ma BB, Lui VW, Poon FF, et al. Preclinical activity of gefitinib in non-keratinizing nasopharyngeal carcinoma cell lines and biomarkers of response. *Invest New Drugs*. 2010;28(3):326–333.
14. Hui AB, Lo KW, Teo PM, To KF, Huang DP. Genome wide detection of oncogene amplifications in nasopharyngeal carcinoma by array based comparative genomic hybridization. *Int J Oncol*. 2002;20(3):467–473.
15. Kratz CP, Schubert S, Bollag G, Niemeyer CM, Shannon KM, Zenker M. Germline mutations in components of the Ras signaling pathway in Noonan syndrome and related disorders. *Cell Cycle*. 2006;5(15):1607–1611.
16. Hechtman JF, Zehir A, Mitchell T, et al. Novel oncogene and tumor suppressor mutations in KIT and PDGFRA wild type gastrointestinal stromal tumors revealed by next generation sequencing. *Genes Chromosomes Cancer*. 2015;54(3):177–184.
17. Toda-Ishii M, Akaike K, Suehara Y, et al. Clinicopathological effects of protein phosphatase 2, regulatory subunit A, alpha mutations in gastrointestinal stromal tumors. *Mod Pathol*. 2016;29(11):1424–1432.
18. Troiani T, Napolitano S, Della CC, et al. Therapeutic value of EGFR inhibition in CRC and NSCLC: 15 years of clinical evidence. *ESMO Open*. 2016;1(5):e88.
19. Shi SS, Wu N, He Y, et al. EGFR gene mutation in gastrointestinal stromal tumors. *Histopathology*. 2017;71(4):553–561.
20. Agaram NP, Wong GC, Guo T, et al. Novel V600E BRAF mutations in imatinib-naïve and imatinib-resistant gastrointestinal stromal tumors. *Genes Chromosomes Cancer*. 2008;47(10):853–859.
21. Agaimy A, Terracciano LM, Dirnhofer S, et al. V600E BRAF mutations are alternative early molecular events in a subset of KIT/PDGFRA wild-type gastrointestinal stromal tumours. *J Clin Pathol*. 2009;62(7):613–616.
22. Lasota J, Felisiak-Golabek A, Wasag B, et al. Frequency and clinicopathologic profile of PIK3CA mutant GISTs: molecular genetic study of 529 cases. *Mod Pathol*. 2016;29(3):275–282.
23. Sapi Z, Fule T, Hajdu M, et al. The activated targets of mTOR signaling pathway are characteristic for PDGFRA mutant and wild-type rather than KIT mutant GISTs. *Diagn Mol Pathol*. 2011;20(1):22–33.
24. Nishida T, Omori T, Nakayama S, et al. Prognostic importance of cell-cycle activity and genotype in gastrointestinal stromal tumors. *J Clin Oncol*. 2011;29(suppl 15):e20501.
25. Wang Q, Liu F, Wang B, et al. Discovery of N-(3-((1-Isonicotinoyl)pyridin-4-yl)oxy)-4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide (CHMFL-KIT-110) as a selective, potent, and orally available type II c-KIT kinase inhibitor for gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs). *J Med Chem*. 2016;59(8):3964–3979.
26. Zook P, Pathak HB, Belinsky MG, et al. Combination of imatinib mesylate and AKT inhibitor provides synergistic effects in preclinical study of gastrointestinal stromal tumor. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2017;23(1):171–180.
27. Rausch JL, Boichuk S, Ali AA, et al. Opposing roles of KIT and ABL1 in the therapeutic response of gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) cells to imatinib mesylate. *Oncotarget*. 2017;8(3):4471–4483.

## Supplementary material

**Table S1** Mutations detected with OncoCarta

Gene mutation	Gene mutation	Gene mutation
ABL1-G250E	EGFR-L747_E749del, A750P	KIT-P585P
ABL1-Q252H	EGFR-E746_A750del	KIT-D579del
ABL1-Y253H	EGFR-L747_E749del, A750P	KIT-K642E
ABL1-Y253F	EGFR-L747_S752del, P753S	KIT-D816V
ABL1-E255K	EGFR-E746_T751del, V ins	KIT-D816H/D816Y
ABL1-E255V	EGFR-L747_S752del, Q ins	KIT-V825A
ABL1-D276G	EGFR-L747_S752del, Q ins	KIT-E839K
ABL1-F311L	EGFR-E746_T751del, S752D/SNP C2255T	KIT-M552L
ABL1-T315I	EGFR-D770_N771>AGG/V769_ D770insASV/V769_D770insASV	KIT-Y568D
ABL1-F317L	EGFR-D770_N771insG	KIT-F584S
ABL1-M351T	EGFR-L747_T750del, P ins	KIT-P551_V555del
ABL1-E355G	EGFR-E746_A750del	KIT-P551_V555del
ABL1-F359V	EGFR-E746_T751del, I ins	KIT-Y553_Q556del
ABL1-H396R	EGFR-L747_T751del	KIT-Y553_Q556del
AKT1-rs11555435	EGFR-L747_T751del	KRAS-G12V/A/D/C/S/R/F
AKT1-rs11555431	EGFR-E746_A750del, V ins	KRAS-G13C/S/V/D
AKT1-rs11555432	EGFR-E746_A750del, V ins	KRAS-A59T
AKT1-rs12881616	EGFR-S752_I759del	KRAS-Q61E/K/L/R/P/H
AKT1-rs11555433	ERBB2-L755P	MET-R970C
AKT1-rs11555436	ERBB2-G776S/G776LC	MET-T992I
AKT1-rs34409589	ERBB2-G776VC	MET-Y1230C
AKT2-S302G	ERBB2-G776VC/G776VC	MET-Y1235D
AKT2-R371H	ERBB2-M774_A775insYVMA	MET-M1250T
BRAF-G464R	ERBB2-A775_G776insYVMA	NRAS-G12V/G12A/G12D
BRAF-G464V/G464E	ERBB2-P780_Y781insGSP	NRAS-G12C/G12R/G12S
BRAF-G466V/G466G/G466E	ERBB2-P780_Y781insGSP	NRAS-G13V/G13A/G13D
BRAF-G466R	ERBB2-S779_P780insVGS	NRAS-G13C/G13R/G13S
BRAF-F468C	FGFR1-S125L	NRAS-A18T
BRAF-G469S/E/A/V/R	FGFR1-P252T	NRAS-Q61L/Q61R/Q61P
BRAF-D594V G	FGFR3-R248C	NRAS-Q61H
BRAF-F595L	FGFR3-S249C	NRAS-Q61E/Q61K
BRAF-G596R	FGFR3-G370C	PDGFRA-V561D
BRAF-L597S/R/Q/V	FGFR3-Y373C	PDGFRA-T674I
BRAF-T599I	FGFR3-A391E	PDGFRA-F808L
BRAF-V600E/K/R/L	FGFR3-K650Q/E	PDGFRA-D846Y
BRAF-K601N/E	FGFR3-K650T/M	PDGFRA-N870S
CDK-R24C/H	FLT3-I836del	PDGFRA-D1071N
EGFR-R108K	FLT3_2	PDGFRA-D842_H845del
EGFR-T263P	FLT3_3	PDGFRA-I843_D846del
EGFR-A289V	FLT3-D835H/D835Y	PDGFRA-S566_E571>K
EGFR-G598V	HRAS-G12V/D	PDGFRA-I843_S847>T
EGFR-E709K/E709H	HRAS-G13C/R/S	PDGFRA-D842V
EGFR-E709A/E709G/E709V	HRAS-G13V/D	PIK3CA-R88Q
EGFR-G719S/G719C	HRAS-Q61H	PIK3CA-N345K
EGFR-G719A	HRAS-Q61H/L/R/P/K	PIK3CA-C420R
EGFR-M766_A767insAI	JAK2-V617F	PIK3CA-P539R
EGFR-S768I	KIT-D52N	PIK3CA-E542K
EGFR-V769_D770insASV	KIT-Y503_F504insAY	PIK3CA-E545K
EGFR-V769_D770insCV	KIT-W557R/W557R/W557G	PIK3CA-Q546K
EGFR-D770_N771>AGG/V769_ D770insASV/V769_D770insASV	KIT-V559D/V559A/V559G	PIK3CA-H701P
EGFR-D770_N771insG	KIT-V559I	PIK3CA-H1047R/H1047L
EGFR-N771_P772>SVDNR	KIT-V560D/V560G	PIK3CA-H1047Y

(Continued)

**Table S1** (Continued)

Gene mutation	Gene mutation	Gene mutation
EGFR-P772_H773insV	KIT-K550_K558del	PIK3CA-G1049R
EGFR-H773>NPY	KIT-K558_V560del	PIK3CA-R38H
EGFR-H773_V774insNPH/H773_V774insPH/H773_V774insH	KIT-K558_E562del	PIK3CA-C901F
EGFR-V774_C775insHV	KIT-V559del	PIK3CA-M1043I/M1043I
EGFR-T790 M	KIT-V559_V560del	RET-C634R
EGFR-L858R	KIT-V560del	RET-C634W/Y
EGFR-L861Q	KIT-Y570_L576del	RET-E632_L633del
EGFR-L747_T750del, P ins/E746_A750del, T751A	KIT-E561K	RET-M918T
EGFR-E746_T751del, I ins/S752_I759del	KIT-L576P	RET-A664D

## OncoTargets and Therapy

### Publish your work in this journal

OncoTargets and Therapy is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal focusing on the pathological basis of all cancers, potential targets for therapy and treatment protocols employed to improve the management of cancer patients. The journal also focuses on the impact of management programs and new therapeutic agents and protocols on

Submit your manuscript here: <http://www.dovepress.com/oncotargets-and-therapy-journal>

patient perspectives such as quality of life, adherence and satisfaction. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Dovepress