

Multiclonal complexity of pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia and the prognostic relevance of subclonal mutations

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Supplementary Data

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL AND METHODS

smMIP-based sequencing and variant calling

In order to accurately detect subclonal alterations in diagnosis samples, a total of 166 smMIP probes was designed to cover the hotspot regions of the genes *CREBBP*, *PTPN11*, *NT5C2*, and *WHSC1*, and coding regions of *TP53*, *KRAS* and *NRAS*, seven genes that are frequently mutated in relapsed ALL (Supplementary Table 4). All genomic regions of interest were covered by at least two probes, preferably covering both the sense and antisense strands. smMIP-based sequencing was performed as previously described using paired-end sequencing on an Illumina NextSeq 500 Desktop Sequencer (Illumina, CA, USA), after which smMIP-based consensus variant calling was performed using SeqNext software (JSI) version 4.2.5, as previously described¹. Mutant allele frequencies were corrected based on the blast percentage of the sample. We achieved an average on-target read depth of 22,985 raw reads per probe (Supplementary Figure 1A). After removing random errors present in less than 70% of raw reads, consensus reads were formed from reads with the same unique molecular identifier. We achieved an average on-target depth of 308 (median 141) unique-capture-based consensus reads per probe (Supplementary Figure 1B), with multiple probes overlapping on hotspot regions¹. After exclusion of the variants called from repetitive regions, poorly performing probes, variants called from less than 2 independent probes and variants called by less than 5 unique reads in one consensus read, a total of 7,836 variants remained with an average on-target depth of 1,419 consensus reads. We further filtered out variants present in an in-house database of the Radboud University Medical Center (Nijmegen, the Netherlands) containing exomes from 20,000 individuals² and variants predicted as non-pathogenic (synonymous, phyloP <2.5, CADD score < 15) (Supplementary Table 3). For the final list of variants, a correction of the mutant allele frequency was made based on the percentage of blast cells determined at the time of diagnosis, which was high for the majority of cases (>70% for 93% of cases). In a low number of cases an aneuploidy required a correction of mutant allele frequency for

copy number as well, which involved *WHSC1* (17 mutations), *TP53* (10 mutations), *KRAS* (6 mutations), *NRAS* (5 mutations), *PTPN11* (3 mutations) and *CREBBP* (1 mutation) (Supplementary Table 5).

IKZF1 deletion detection

IKZF1 status was assessed using the Multiplex ligation probe assay (MLPA) SALSA P335 ALL-*IKZF1* kit (MRC-Holland, The Netherlands), according to manufacturer's instructions and as described before^{3,4}. Additionally, *IKZF1* 4-7 deletions were assessed using real time quantitative PCR. Primers covering the breakpoint clusters in introns 3 and 7 were designed using Primer3 software version 0.4.0. Quantitative PCR (qPCR) was performed using an IQ SYBR Green supermix (Biorad, CA, USA) according to manufacturer's instructions. The primer sequences used for qPCR were: 5'-CTCCCAGCCCATAGGGTATAA-3' (forward) and 5'-GTTAAATAAAGAACCCTCAGGCATT-3' (reverse). The sensitivity of the qPCR assay was tested using dilution series of a sample with a high tumor load (96% blasts) and a full-clonal *IKZF1* del4-7 (detected by MLPA). All qPCR reactions were performed in duplicate, and the percentage of cells with *IKZF1* exon 4-7 deletions was calculated based on the dilution series of the control sample, and a correction was made based on the percentage of blast cells determined at the time of diagnosis. For every sample with a clonal or subclonal *IKZF1* exon 4-7 deletion, PCR products were sequenced with both forward and reverse primers using Sanger sequencing, after which the sequences were mapped to the reference genome (hg19) to determine the exact breakpoint positions and unique interstitial sequences (Supplementary Figure 1C and Supplementary Table 6).

Defining clonal and subclonal alterations

Previous studies have used allele frequency (AF) thresholds to define mutations as being present in a minor subclonal or major clone (clonal) ranging between 20% and 30%⁵⁻⁸. In this study, we used an AF threshold of 25% to separate major clonal from subclonal alterations, since mutations below 25% represent a minor cell fraction. The same threshold was used for defining clonal *IKZF1* 4-7 deletions, which correlates with deletions that are detectable using MLPA.

Cox regression analysis

Multivariate Cox regression model was estimated including all covariates significant in the univariate model, as well as age at diagnosis, gender and MRD as clinically relevant covariates. Multivariable model including combined ALL9 and ALL10 cohorts was stratified based on the treatment protocol. Proportional hazard assumption was checked by visual inspection of Schoenfeld Residuals. The score test was used to test violation of the proportional hazard assumption for each variable⁹. We did not identify violation of the proportional hazard assumption for any of the tested covariates. Potential multicollinearity was inspected using variance inflation factor (VIF). Univariate interactions were inspected for each of the tested covariates and reported in the supplementary table 11.

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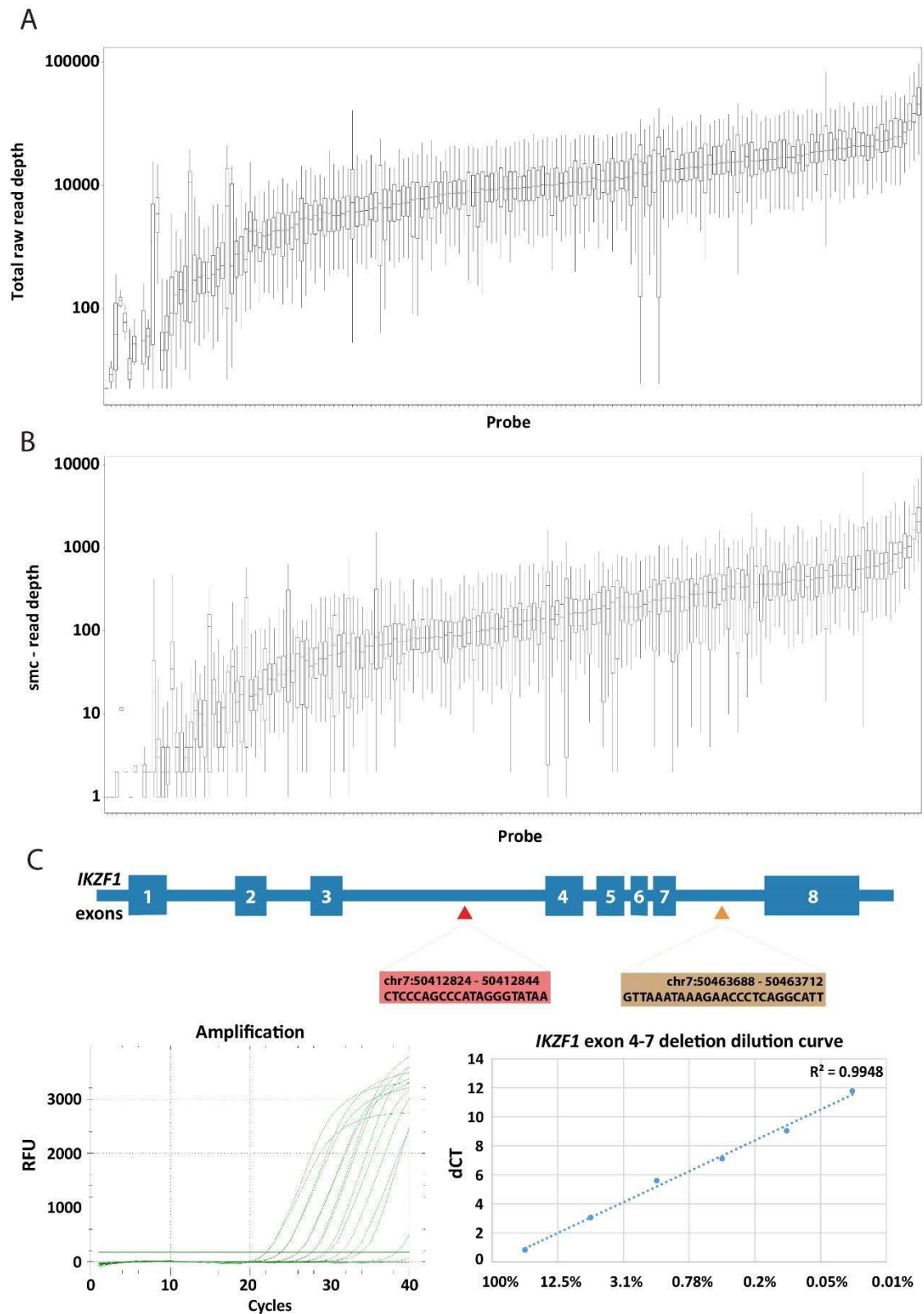
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Supplementary Figure 1: Box plots showing performance of smMIP-based sequencing and qPCR detection of *IKZF1* 4-7 deletions.

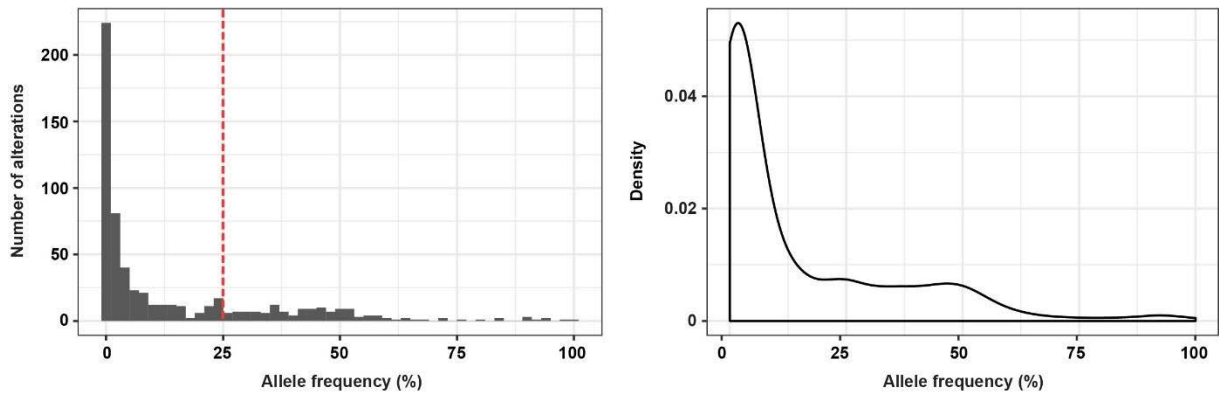
Supplementary Figure 2: Histograms and density plots showing distribution of mutant allele frequency.

Supplementary Figure 3: Bar plot indicating fraction of alterations preserved to major clones in available relapse samples.

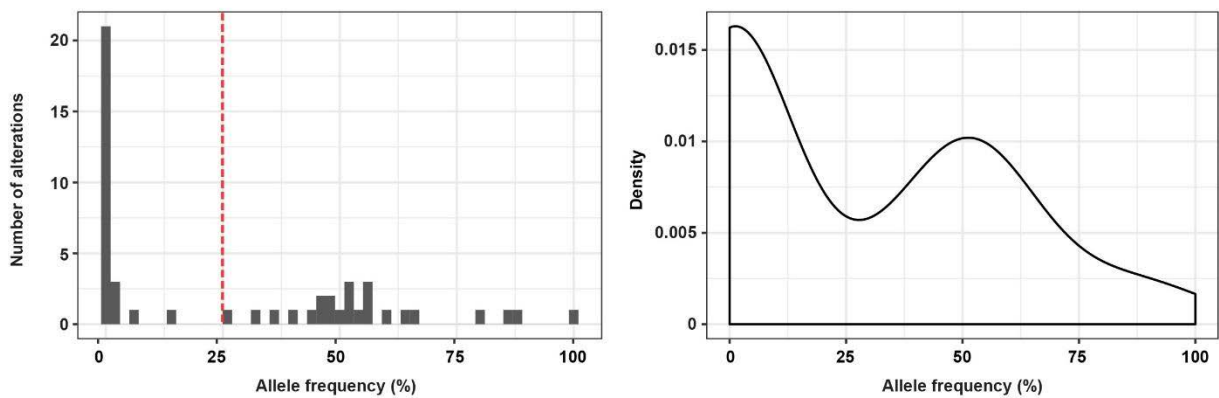


Supplementary Figure 1 – (A) Box plot showing total raw read depth per probe. **(B)** Box plots showing unique-capture-based consensus reads (smc) depth per probe. **(C)** Schematic representation of the *IKZF1* gene, indicating the position of the common breakpoint cluster in introns 3 and 7 (top panel). The bottom left panel shows a representative example of qPCR amplification curves of dilution series and the bottom right panel displays the dilution curve from the same experiment indicating high correlation ($R^2 = 0.9948$) for quantifiable samples.

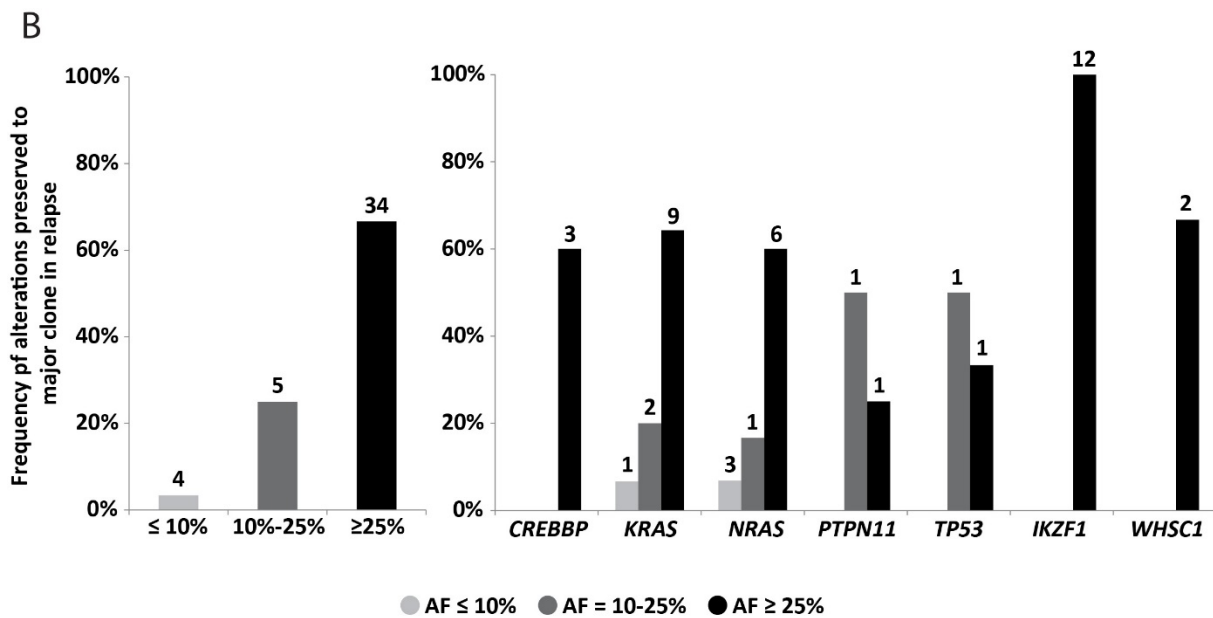
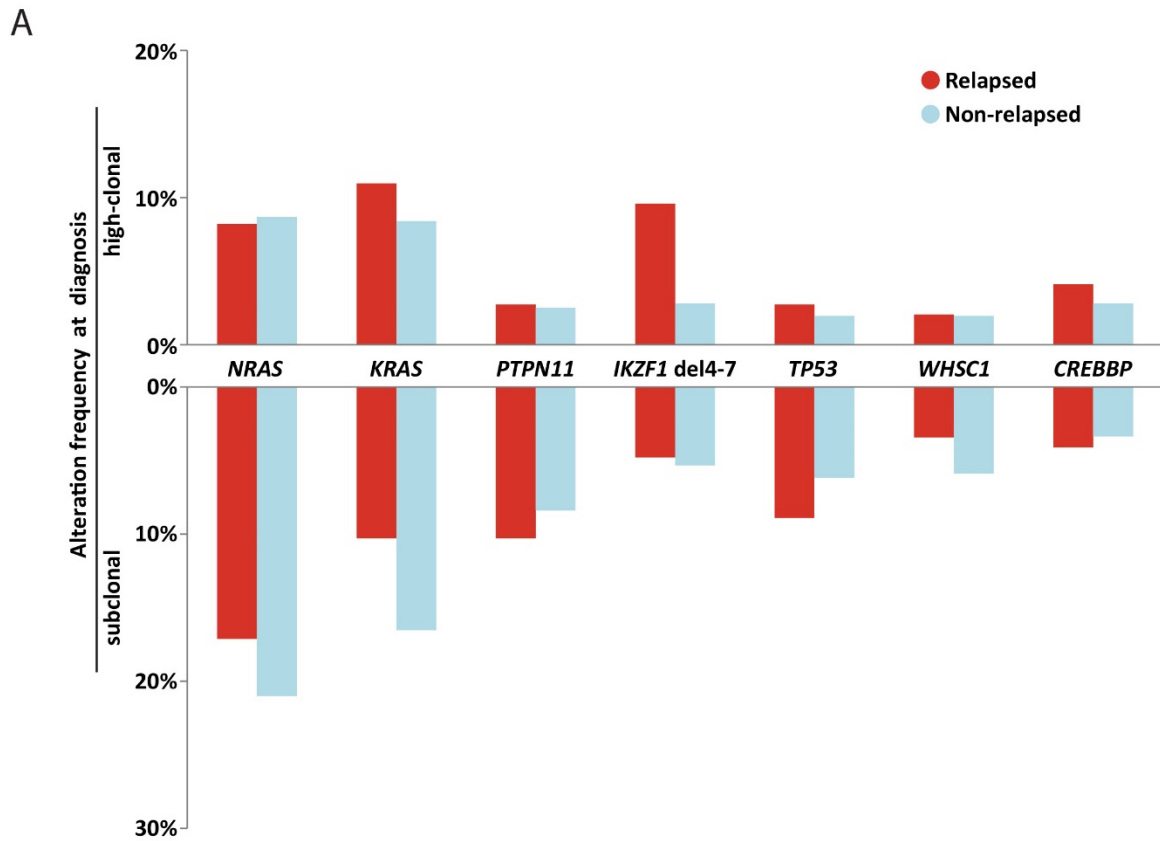
Distribution of somatic mutations



Distribution of *IKZF1* deletions



Supplementary Figure 2 – Histogram (left panel) and density plot (right panel) showing the distribution of the mutant allele frequency in cases with mutations and *IKZF1* 4-7 deletions. Allele frequency (AF) of 25% was chosen as the threshold for clonal versus subclonal mutations (indicated in red). Mutations above this threshold are present in more than 50% of the cells and thus always represent a major clone. As depicted in these panels the majority of (subclonal) mutations and deletions have AF below 10%.



Supplementary Figure 3 – (A) Bar plot showing alteration frequencies at diagnosis for relapsed (red) and non-relapsed cases (blue). Major clone alterations are shown upwards, while subclonal are presented downwards. **(B)** Bar plot indicating fraction of alterations preserved to major clones in available relapse samples for all genes tested (left panel) and per gene (right panel). Samples are grouped based on the alteration allele frequency detected in diagnosis. Absolute numbers for each group are shown on the top of the bars (supplementary table 7).

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

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Supplementary Table 2 – Comparison between total ALL10 cohort and the representative selection used in this study.

Supplementary Table 3 – Overview of all mutations detected in this study per patient

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