MYC overexpression in natural killer cell lymphoma: prognostic and therapeutic implications

Chengfeng Bi,^{1*} Yuhua Huang,^{2,3*} Roshia Ali,¹ Fang Wang,^{2,4} Xia Yang,^{2,3} Alyssa Bouska,⁵ Lu Xu,^{6,7} Xinbao Hao,⁸ Matthew A. Lunning,¹ Wing C. Chan,⁹ Javeed Iqbal,⁵ Dennis D. Weisenburger,⁵ Julie M. Vose¹ and Kai Fu^{5,6}

¹Division of Oncology & Hematology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, USA; ²State Key Laboratory of Oncology in South China, Collaborative Innovation Center for Cancer Medicine, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China; ³Department of Pathology, Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China; ⁴Department of Molecular Diagnosis, Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China; ⁵Department of Pathology and Microbiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, USA; ⁶Department of Pathology, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, NY, USA; ⁷Department of Hematology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Hainan Medical University, Haikou, Hainan, China; ⁸State Key Laboratory of Membrane Biology, School of Medicine, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China and ⁹Department of Pathology, City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, CA, USA

*CB and YH contributed equally as first authors.

Correspondence: C. Bi andy.bi@unmc.edu

K. Fu Kai.Fu@roswellpark.org

Received: Accepted: Early view: August 7, 2023. March 18, 2024. March 28, 2024.

https://doi.org/10.3324/haematol.2023.283811

©2024 Ferrata Storti Foundation Published under a CC BY-NC license 😇 💽 🔅

Supplementary Materials and Methods

Cell culture

The cell lines included in this study have been described previously.^{1,2} All cell lines were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 15% Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS), 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and 10ng/mL IL-2 (STEMCELL Technologies, Vancouver, BC, Canada). Primary normal NK cells were isolated from fresh healthy human tonsil using the human NK cell isolation kit (Miltenyi Biotec, Gaithersburg, MD, USA) and cultured in RPMI 1640 supplemented with 20% FBS, and 10 ng/mL IL-2.

Cell viability and cell cycle Assays

Cell viability was measured by using the PrestoBlue[™] Cell Viability Reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific Waltham, MA, USA). Relative fluorescence units were detected by Infinite M200 Pro plate reader (Tencan, Männedorf, Switzerland). To measure cell apoptosis, treated cells were stained by using FITC Annexin V Apoptosis Detection Kit (BD Biosciences, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA) and detected by flow cytometry. For the cell cycle analysis, the experimental cells were fixed by cold 75% ethanol and stained by Propidium iodide (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA), followed with flow cytometry detection.

Quantitative real-time PCR

RNA was isolated by RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, Germantown, MD, USA), and reversely transcribed to cDNA by using ProtoScript II First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA, USA). The real-time quantitative PCR was performed on Bio-Rad CFX96 Real-Time PCR Detection System(Bio-Rad) using the DyNAmo Flash SYBR Green qPCR Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). Relative expression fold change was calculated by $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ method. GAPDH was used as the housekeeping gene. PCR primers used were listed in Supplementary Table S1.

Western blot (WB)

The protein was isolated by using M-PER[™] Mammalian Protein Extraction Reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) supplied with Halt[™] Protease and Phosphatase Inhibitor Cocktail (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). Isolated protein was denatured for 10 mins at 70°C in NuPAGE LDS Sample Buffer with reducing buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). Protein electrophoresis was performed using Bolt 4~12% Bis-Tris Plus Gels and MES SDS running buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). Proteins were then transferred onto nitrocellulose membrane, blocked with Odyssey TBS Blocking Buffer (LI-COR, Lincoln, NE, USA), and incubated with primary antibody overnight at 4°C. The membrane was washed and incubated with the secondary antibody for 1h at room temperature. After washing, the membrane was scanned on the Odyssey CLx imager (LI-COR). Protein

was quantified based on band intensity using the Image Studio software (LI-COR). Protein expression change was evaluated by normalizing with β -actin or target protein input. The primary antibodies used for immunoblotting are listed in Supplementary Table S2.

Double thymidine block

In cell lines with fresh culture medium, thymidine (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) was added at a final concentration of 2mM and incubated at 37 °C for 18h. Then, the cells were washed with dPBS and cultured with fresh medium at 37 °C for 9h followed by the second round of thymidine treatment at 2mM for another 18h. The cells were then subjected to downstream examination.

Immunohistochemistry (IHC)

Sections from individual formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissues or tissue micro-arrays (TMAs) were stained automatically by BOND-MAX Autostainer (Leica Biosystems, Wetzlar, Germany) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The primary antibodies used for IHC are listed in Supplementary Table S2. Photographs were taken using the Leica Aperio CS2 scanning system with 40X magnification.

Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH)

FISH was performed on FFPE tissues for 60 ENKTL cases. The MYC Dual Color Break Apart Rearrangement Probe and the IGH/MYC/CEP 8 Tri-Color DF FISH Probe (Vysis; Abbott Molecular, Desplaines, IL, USA) were used to interrogate the MYC locus at chromosome 8q24. and the presence of MYC translocation/amplification according to the manufacturer's protocol in the FFPE specimens, respectively.

Briefly, 3–4 µm-thick FFPE tissue sections were cut and incubated at 56°C for 3 hours. After deparaffinizing and dehydrating the sections, they were incubated in 2x saline sodium citrate buffer (2x SSC, pH 7.0) at 75°C for 20 minutes and were then digested with proteinase K (0.2 mg/mL) at 37°C for 20 minutes. Probe sets were applied onto the tissue sections on each slide followed by denaturation at 80°C for 5 minutes. Probes were then hybridized overnight at 37°C using the ThermoBrite system (Vysis). Nuclei were counterstained with 4,6-di-amidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI, Vysis) and FISH signals were assessed using an Olympus BX61 microscope (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan). Hybridization signals were assessed in 200 interphase nuclei, with an established cutoff of 15% for *MYC* rearrangement of the locus, and copy numbers >5 or the ratio of green to red signal > 2 for *MYC* amplification. Images were acquired using the BioView Automated Imaging Analysis System (BioView, Rehovot, Israel).

Statistics and data analysis

The Overall Survival (OS) and Progression-Free Survival (PFS) curves were analyzed by the Kaplan-Meier method. For the RNA sequencing, FPKM was used to estimate gene expression levels, and DESeq2 method³ was used to analyze the differential

gene expression with the screening threshold of log2(FoldChange) ≥ 1 and padj ≤ 0.05 . Gene expression and pathway enrichment analysis was based on the GSEA/MSigDB database. The Data from functional and animal studies were analyzed by using GraphPad Prism 9 software. Data shown with the mean \pm SD are from at least two independent experiments. Unpaired t-test was used to compare data from two independent groups. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to compare data from three or more independent groups. *P*-values of less than 0.05 were considered significant.

Reference

1. Iqbal J, Weisenburger DD, Chowdhury A, et al. Natural killer cell lymphoma shares strikingly similar molecular features with a group of non-hepatosplenic gammadelta T-cell lymphoma and is highly sensitive to a novel aurora kinase A inhibitor in vitro. *Leukemia*. 2011;25(2):348-358.

2. Kucuk C, Iqbal J, Hu X, et al. PRDM1 is a tumor suppressor gene in natural killer cell malignancies. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2011;108(50):20119-20124.

3. Love MI, Huber W, Anders S. Moderated estimation of fold change and dispersion for RNA-seq data with DESeq2. *Genome Biol.* 2014;15(12):550.

Supplementary Table S1. List of oligos used in this study

qRT-PCR primers		Forward	Reverse			
MYC-1		GGTGCTCCATGAGGAGACA	CCTGCCTCTTTTCCACAGAA			
MYC-2		GGACCCGCTTCTCTGAAAGG	TAACGTTGAGGGGCATCGTC			
GAPDH		CCACTCCTCCACCTTTGAC	ACCCTGTTGCTGTAGCCA			
siRNA						
	MYC-1	rArUrCrArUrUrGrArGrCrCrArArArUrCrUrUrArArArAAA				
MYC-S1		rUrUrUrUrUrUrUrArArGrArUrUrUrGrGrCrUrCrArArUrGrArUrArU				
WITC-31	MYC-2	rGrGrArArCrGrArGrCrUrArArArAr	CrGrGrArGrCrUrUrUTT			
		rArArArArArGrCrUrCrCrGrUrUrUrUrArGrCrUrCrGrUrUrCrCrUrC				
	MYC-3	rCrGrArCrGrArGrArCrCrUrUrCrArUrCrArArArArArArCrATC				
MYC-S2		rGrArUrGrUrUrUrUrUrGrArUrGrAr	ArGrGrUrCrUrCrGrUrCrGrUrC			
WITC-32	MYC-4	rArGrGrArArArArCrGrArUrUrCrCrL	JrUrCrUrArArCrArGAA			
		rUrUrCrUrGrUrUrArGrArArGrGrArArUrCrGrUrUrUrUrCrCrUrUrA				
	MYC-5	rUrArUrArUrCrArUrUrGrArGrCrCr/	ArArArUrCrUrUrArAAA			
MYC-S3		rUrUrUrUrArArGrArUrUrUrGrGrCrUrCrArArUrGrArUrArUrArUrU				
MITC-00	MYC-6	rGrArCrUrGrArArArGrArUrUrUrAr(GrCrCrArUrArArUrGTA			
		rUrArCrArUrUrArUrGrGrCrUrArArArUrCrUrUrUrCrArGrUrCrUrC				
Rb-1		rGrUrArCrCrArArArGrUrUrGrArUrArArUrGrCrUrArUrGTC				
		rGrArCrArUrArGrCrArUrUrArUrCrArArCrUrUrUrGrGrUrArCrUrG				
Rb-2		rGrGrArUrUrArUrUrGrArUrArGrUrArCrUrCrUrUrGrGrUTT				
		rArArArCrCrArArGrArGrUrArCrUrArUrCrArArUrArArUrCrCrUrC				

Supplementary Table S2. List of antibodies used for WB and IHC

Target protein	Manufacturer	Clone	Application
MYC	Abcam	Y69	WB/IHC
HK2	Abcam	EPR20839	WB
CDK4	Cell Signaling Technology	D9G3E	WB
Rb	Thermo Fisher Scientific	1F8	WB
p-Rb (S780)	Abcam	EPR182(N)	WB
p-Rb (S795)	Cell Signaling Technology	Polyclonal	WB
p-Rb (S807/811)	Cell Signaling Technology	D20B12	WB
β-Actin	Santa Cruz	C4	WB
Ki-67	Dako	MIB-1	IHC
CD3e	Thermo Fisher Scientific	SP7	IHC
CD56	Cell Signaling Technology	E7X9M	IHC

		Ν	NYC	
Characteristics		Low level	High level	p-value
		n (%)	n (%)	
Patients		28 (25.2)	83 (74.8)	
Age	≤60	26 (25.2)	77 (74.8)	1.000
	>60	2 (25.0)	6 (75.0)	
Gender	Male	16 (21.6)	58 (78.4)	0.216
	Female	12 (32.4)	25 (67.6)	
ECOG performance	<2	26 (26.3)	73 (73.7)	0.727
	≥2	2 (16.7)	10 (83.3)	
Ann Arbor staging	Ι/Ш	24 (28.2)	61 (71.8)	0.187
	Ш/IV	4 (15.4)	22 (84.6)	
B symptoms	Absence	13 (22.8)	44 (77.2)	0.547
	Presence	15 (27.8)	39 (72.2)	
Primary tumor site	UAT	25 (27.5)	66 (72.5)	0.245
-	Non-UAT	3 (15.0)	17 (85.0)	
PTI	No	17 (26.6)	47 (73.4)	0.705
	Yes	11 (23.4)	36 (76.6)	
Regional LN involvement	No	16 (25.8)	46 (74.2)	1.000
	Yes	12 (24.5)	37 (75.5)	
Distant organ metastasis	No	25 (27.2)	67 (72.8)	0.392
	Yes	3 (15.8)	16 (84.2)	
LDH	Normal	24 (28.9)	59 (71.1)	0.123
	Elevated	4 (14.3)	24 (85.7)	
Epstein-Barr virus DNA	Undetectable	8 (29.6)	19 (70.4)	0.545
	detectable	20 (23.8)	64 (76.2)	
PINK-E score	<2	23 (27.1)	62 (72.9)	0.421
	≥2	5 (19.2)	21 (80.8)	
Treatment mode	Chemotherapy	7 (16.7)	35 (83.3)	0.105
	CMT	21 (30.4)	48 (69.6)	
Chemotherapy regimens	Peg/Asp -based	22 (25.6)	64 (74.4)	0.986
	Anthracyclines-based	5 (23.8)	16 (76.2)	
	Others	1 (25.0)	3 (75.0)	
Treatment response	CR	22 (26.2)	62 (73.8)	0.909
	Non-CR	5 (21.7)	18 (78.3)	
	Unknown	1 (25.0)	3 (75.0)	

Supplementary Table S3. Correlation between MYC expression and major clinical features in this cohort of ENKTL cases (N=111)

Abbreviations: Asp, Asparaginase; CMT, Combinational modality treatment; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; LDH, Lactate dehydrogenase; LN, Lymph node; PTI, Primary tumor invasion; Peg,

Pegaspargase; PINK-E, Prognostic index for natural killer cell lymphoma-EBV; UAT, Upper aerodigestive tract.

	Univariate analysis			Multivariate analysis		
Prognostic factors	HR	95% CI	<i>P</i> - value	HR	95% CI	<i>P</i> - value
Age>60			0.113			
Stage III/IV	1.999	1.066-3.748	0.028			
ECOG performance status ≥2	2.741	1.276-5.886	0.007	3.032	1.404- 6.546	0.003
Elevated LDH			0.093			
Detectable Epstein-Barr virus DNA			0.217			
Primary tumor invasion			0.105			
Non-UAT			0.442			
Regional LN involvement			0.247			
Distant organ metastasis	2.106	1.071-4.144	0.027			
Ki67≥65%	2.337	1.296-4.212	0.004	2.457	1.359- 4.441	0.005
c-Myc≥20%	2.110	0.985-4.523	0.049			

Supplementary Table S4. Multivariate analysis of OS by the Cox proportional hazards model

Non-UAT, non-upper aerodigestive tract; LN, Lymph node.

	Univariate analysis			Multivariate analysis		
Prognostic factors	HR	95% CI	<i>P</i> - value	HR	95% CI	<i>P</i> - value
Age>60	1.10	0.40-3.05	0.847	-	-	-
Stage III/IV	2.49	1.44-4.32	0.001	1.92	0.74-4.96	0.180
ECOG performance status ≥2	1.87	0.89-3.94	0.010	1.83	0.85-3.94	0.125
Elevated LDH	1.63	0.93-2.87	0.089	1.19	0.67-2.14	0.533
Detectable Epstein-Barr virus DNA	1.40	0.76-2.59	0.281	-	-	-
Primary tumor invasion	1.03	0.61-1.73	0.903	-	-	-
Non-UAT	1.40	0.76-2.6	0.280	-	-	-
Regional LN involvement	1.25	0.75-2.07	0.396	-	-	-
Distant organ metastasis	2.38	1.30-4.35	0.005	0.98	0.34-2.82	0.970
Ki67≥65%	2.28	1.36-3.82	0.002	1.49	0.81-2.75	0.201
c-Myc≥20%	2.72	1.33-5.55	0.006	1.86	0.81-4.26	0.141

Supplementary Table S5. Multivariate analysis of PFS by the Cox proportional hazards model

Non-UAT, non-upper aerodigestive tract; LN, Lymph node.

Supplementary Table S6. Commonly altered genes in primary case and cell line analysis

RNA-seq data Log2 transformed NK24_C1 NK24_C2 NK24_M1 NK24_M2 NK48_C1 NK48_C2 NK48_M1 NK48_M2 IM24_C1 IM24_C2 IM24_M1 IM24_M2 IM48_C1 IM48_C2 IM48_M1 IM48_M2 Gene 10.8979 8.84786 9.33826 10.4654 10.1984 8.54135 9.30939 9.89395 9.66614 7.37461 6.28251 10.2985 10.3253 8.33512 8.39229 HPDL 10.9993 TRAP1 11.8349 11.7087 9.9496 10.239 11.654 11.3752 9.95449 10.2545 11.645 11.6569 9.63602 9.16097 12.3642 12.2898 10.6898 10.2265 RNASEH1 8.74483 8.59986 6.9649 6.92813 8.58825 7.8394 6.52609 6.85873 8.12969 7.77138 6.57115 5.73231 8.46367 8.16231 6.85064 6.30593 11.7561 11.5909 9.69247 9.79646 9.98939 10.8746 10.5043 12.9141 12.8233 11.779 11.537 TTI I 12 9.97253 11.247 10.9011 12.62 12.5487 HSPD1 14.422 14.5989 12.716 13.1674 14.3198 13.9299 12.8004 12.9966 14.7191 14.7038 12.8646 11.8951 14.9769 14.9468 13.8545 13.2439 IFRD2 11.2174 11.0053 9.46465 9.66432 10.911 10.4428 9.60993 9.76722 11.9305 11.7051 9.84041 9.07724 11.9242 11.7861 10.9153 10.6128 RUVBL1 12.0931 12.0919 10.5769 11.9422 11.5475 10.5807 10.8222 11.7178 10.117 9.42679 12.0236 11.7976 10.6749 10.7796 11.5537 10.4131 11.7814 11.7493 9.83639 10.4854 11.4728 11.4428 9.91548 10.3028 11.4763 11.5131 9.71667 10.1148 11.6114 11.8959 10.7611 10.3645 HK2 SLC19A1 10.8011 9.22156 9.6994 9.33338 11.3445 10.6351 10.8719 8.71492 10.4388 9.04564 11.3809 9.67136 9,11971 11.4418 11.2387 10.4336 9.18546 PRMT3 10.444 10.4312 9.15139 9.34121 10.2838 10.1173 9.19067 10.0391 10.0128 8.39012 7.63231 10.1965 10.1888 9.15392 8.67577 FBI 12 8742 12 8221 11 0829 11 3486 12 5785 12 1713 11 2342 11 467 12 40 19 12 3767 11 3169 11 1723 13 1034 12 9408 11 687 11 3879 FAM216A 9.89936 9 80913 8 23339 8.61403 9 7 1 5 0 1 9 32943 8 24762 8.8707 10.2137 10.2781 8.62786 8 15858 10.4933 10.4735 9 45314 9.07807 FRPI 10.6636 10.6917 8.90024 8,96299 10.3057 9.72025 8.73968 9.0525 9.74671 9.50545 8.6081 7.99104 10.1172 9.97981 8.97727 8.6902 WDR74 10.3038 10 2956 8.89533 9.01928 9.877 9.27843 8.58988 8.72992 10.2175 10.1291 8.77101 8 3 3 0 1 10.5548 10.2654 9 1323 9.04477 NOLC1 13.1524 13.2206 11 685 12.0188 12 9971 12 5884 11.713 12.0376 13.2399 13.3498 11.5077 10.6184 13.3655 13.3106 12.6004 12.0612 DPH5 9.77808 9.95923 8.50547 8.982 9.69367 9.61799 8.46735 8.79419 9.2111 9.26146 7.79742 7.23784 9.82555 9.5229 8.4444 8.1787 PHB 11.9133 11.8868 10.3347 10.5569 11.6384 11.0842 10.2499 10.4987 11.6009 11.4923 10.2526 9.8137 11.8839 11.7727 10.901 10.5149 MRPL4 11.0888 10.9054 9.80402 9.82664 10.7398 10.2763 9.66498 9.71671 10.8121 10.7291 9.16966 8.99642 11.3072 11.1433 10.1117 9.91105 12.9433 TUFM 12.8595 12.8387 11.6366 11.7049 12.5328 12.2646 11.5333 11.7716 12.46 12.2965 10.9802 10.6537 12.8571 11.6104 11.4115 PRMT1 13.0636 13.1134 11.4667 11.7812 12.7635 12.2994 11.5723 11.7303 12.4448 12.4106 11.1476 11.1859 12.8199 12.7235 11.7155 11.4805 13.2289 13.0356 11.9438 12.7617 PAICS 13.1813 11.6932 12,2002 12.7678 12.031 13.5156 13.5048 11.8524 11.0289 13.396 13.3379 12.3009 RCC1 12.0126 11.9906 10.4933 10.8245 11.7596 11.3258 10.5761 10.8237 12.1538 12.1931 10.8148 10.4047 12.4439 12.2563 11.5321 11.3773 IARS 12.2476 12.3135 11.092 11.4144 12.2303 12.1203 11.2141 11.3247 12.7785 12.6901 11.1292 10.5769 12.9214 12.8931 12.2769 11.6762 PFAS 10.7977 10.5278 9.83639 9.62616 10.5027 10.4086 9.58437 9.91906 10.8397 10.6336 9.19417 8.46023 11.2746 11.0141 10.1752 9.80899 HSP90AB 15.9053 15.9839 14.5715 14.8587 15.7169 15.4402 14.7298 14.8867 15.4669 15.479 14.0179 13.2984 15.6854 15.7161 14.9795 14.5015 MRPL3 12.2825 12.3729 11.0791 11.2918 11.3625 10.914 10.9846 11.8626 11.8261 10.5385 10.1197 12.0486 11.2309 11.9549 11.9826 10.794 RPL22 10.8556 10.9599 9.57923 9.82242 10.5016 10.1413 9.45934 9.76402 10.7432 10.8045 9.70276 9.19642 10.8207 10.7983 9.81038 9.45066 EEF2KMT 8.69 8.55165 7.64063 7.79689 8.59664 8.04155 7.56395 7.57389 7.9082 7.98651 6.65058 5.65288 8.0334 7.80545 6.76896 6.51488 RUVBL2 12.0133 10.7809 10.8442 11.4088 10.4717 10.1405 10.9334 11.8683 10.8974 11.8813 11.6807 10.9859 11.2902 12.1284 12.1416 10.7671 8 48 185 7 86631 7 74625 9 46346 9 35151 7 68651 LIAS 8 93074 9 06483 8 23339 7 8392 8 65403 7 79159 9 58074 9 12852 8 48334 8 13718 XPOT 11.5684 10.5708 11.4683 11.3746 10.4613 10.4852 12.5989 12,5084 11.2913 10.6706 12.6888 11.466 10.5339 12.6996 12.093 11.626 NOB1 10 5068 10 5965 9 19995 9 40457 10 2201 9 70585 9 16379 9 32688 10 2162 10 2102 8 98533 8 78914 10 4637 10 3761 9 63896 9 35203 DFFA 12.1315 12 0398 10 9637 11 023 12.0511 11 6505 11 1681 11.1218 11 6586 11 6019 10 41 31 10 0335 11 8207 11 7158 11 0403 10 6548 POLD2 11.5063 11.2919 10.1667 10.3324 11.1385 10.8453 10.2523 10.251 11.7507 11.6316 10.7539 10.2115 12.083 12.0392 11.1646 10.9164 YBX1 15.0723 15.1732 13.7994 14.1012 14.8902 14.5656 13.9136 14.0702 15.1286 15.0726 14.1658 13.7935 15.6702 15.6038 14,7027 14.4985 CCT7 13.7444 13.7329 12.6239 12.7405 13.4605 13.0605 12.4741 12.6586 13.6589 13.5602 12.4839 12.1649 13.9302 13.7668 12.9914 12.8378 SRM 13.3706 13.368 12.128 12.1024 12.6755 12.0038 11.8154 11.5518 13.4241 13.3577 12.3021 11.9525 13.5537 13.0781 12.6926 12.4011 PRMT5 9.94837 9.83526 8.67826 8.53386 9.57982 8.82762 8.38512 8.52169 10.1525 10.0326 8.98533 8.91931 10.41 10.1745 9.58827 9.35203 EIF3E 12.7087 12.7803 11.6132 11.9777 12.5809 12.3279 11.4936 11.7515 12.4454 12.3705 11.2711 10.9228 12 5251 12.4381 11.844 11.4309 11.6655 11.8197 CAD 12.0505 11.8764 11.127 11.1544 11.8571 11.125 11.0293 12.3685 12.2615 11.0244 10.4198 12.5217 12.4568 11.6 DHX33 11.3902 11.5225 10.268 10.6006 11.1906 10.5869 10.3224 10.3739 11.7884 11.9449 10.431 9.91931 11.7723 11.614 11.2511 10.8909 LRPPRC 11.8568 12.9836 12.0174 10.9841 11.2994 11.7855 11.5934 11.0891 11.1849 12.8121 11.4575 11.0677 12.9118 12.8986 12.2306 11.834 MDH2 12.9998 12.0453 12.7357 11.9659 12.1457 11.2441 13.0819 12.9576 11.989 12.8224 12.7221 12.5647 11.6389 13.0264 12.2486 12.1022 NPM1 15.6251 15.7651 14.3728 14.787 15.3295 15.0254 14.2499 14.5578 15.4326 15.4817 14.3599 14.0236 15.4873 15.2727 14.9281 14.7131 CCDC51 9.60548 9.49633 8.32747 8.6525 9.20785 8.85108 8.15141 8.41536 8.96684 9.16543 8.20517 7.92496 9.36973 9.32231 8.19098 8.48623 SERBP1 14.2652 14.3543 13.2217 13.5519 13.9674 13.8163 13.2284 13.3979 14.2313 14.3393 12.7673 14.3932 14.3234 13.6885 13.3727 13.1534 MCCC2 11.4929 11.6648 10.9742 11.2143 11.47 11.3665 10.7829 10.9554 11.2754 11.3412 9.92804 9.4872 11.4913 11.5491 10.6972 10.2523 MRPS25 10.3923 10.1792 9.17182 9.42138 10.1189 9.81575 9.24529 9.05513 10.4199 10.5206 9.52622 9.32797 10.7914 10.6936 10.0425 9.83194 CCDC124 11.8486 10.3058 10.7755 10.0343 9.81218 11.3464 11.2875 11.7516 10.6711 10.5757 11.247 10.8511 10.4577 10.6768 10.3539 10.4272 SSBP1 11.749 11.7505 11.7966 10.5884 10.7709 11.2497 10.6962 10.3235 10.401 11.302 11.2531 10.6417 10.4128 11.547 10.6148 10.5889 CCT4 11.8966 12.4796 12.2004 11.6619 11.8234 12.7247 11.4898 11.1953 12.6994 12.6358 11.9983 11.7305 12.7187 12.7575 12.1295 12.7181 PDHA1 10.6732 10.8055 11.4046 10.6045 10.3047 9.89218 10.8556 11.445 11.4959 11.1875 10.7831 11.2414 11.2162 11.65 11.7097 10.609 12.9388 CCT2 13.0483 11.9643 12.2512 12.6442 12.2348 11.9789 11.9115 13.0981 13.1814 12.0253 11.6668 13.0702 12,9622 12.5357 12.2169 CSF1L 12 42 12 6182 11 5561 12 0059 12 3566 12 279 11 7623 11 8125 12 5748 12 5426 11 3877 11 0523 12 6566 12 5365 12 0551 11 6924 13 004 MYC 13.4584 13 3451 12 7174 12.714 12 6924 12 5722 11 8446 12 3535 12 9069 11 8021 11 3554 13.1168 13.1021 12 3973 12 3597 ATIC. 12.445 12.3055 11 3719 11.6376 12,1739 11 9392 11.3665 11.6194 12.1495 12.0337 11 0563 10.2559 12.0891 12 1105 11 5917 11 4022 MRPI 16 10.4409 10.3858 9 34 197 9 59687 10 1058 9 95488 9.44723 9 57389 10 4429 10.3851 9 75162 9 4 1 6 8 1 10.6469 10 6046 9.74423 9 62973 I ARP1 13.8332 13 8217 12 8904 13.0915 13.6622 13 3471 12 7576 12.9373 13.6894 13.695 12 7482 12 3892 13 8927 13.7999 13.475 13.2328 SLC25A5 13.0923 13.0578 12.2701 12.3434 12.9062 12.6797 12.1852 12.3299 13.0931 12.9491 12.2542 11.6469 13.4072 13.363 12.7991 12.5576 CDK4 11.294 11.2309 10.4762 10.4639 10.8958 10.4057 10.1301 10.0098 11.5488 11.4868 10.7182 10.3226 11.6459 11.6071 11.0425 11.0532 10.3068 11.2681 11.2482 NAE1 11.3471 11.5256 10.6035 10.8914 11.291 11.1407 10.5451 10.6738 11.0739 11.1495 9.98835 10.6907 10.525 DLD 11.6887 11.9503 11.438 11.6564 11.0761 11.1704 11.0853 11.2851 10.2547 11.2271 11.6164 11.0181 10.1538 10.1011 11.3942 10.638 RBM28 11.1674 11.2364 10.5669 10.6923 11.0184 10.5834 10.7901 10.6534 9.40877 10.9295 11.1655 10.6163 9.81477 10.9665 10.5833 10.1424 CHCHD3 11.8025 11.851 11.0116 11.1544 11.5681 11.3635 10.9545 11.0112 11.3756 11.3406 10.6981 10.3523 11.5898 11.5238 10.8987 11.0359 SRI 10.9388 11.0451 10.2411 10.5052 10.652 10.5542 9.81542 10.0233 10.0788 9.81775 9.41118 9.30866 10.343 10.2695 9.59816 9.46751 EIF3H 12.3373 12.4562 11.6436 11.9853 12.3286 12.3171 11.6225 11.9079 12.9316 12.9 12.2598 12.1607 13.2557 13.1618 12.6378 12.4631 CDC42SE 11.4574 11.4641 12.1814 12.0457 11.2235 11.2384 11.71 11.5979 11.7129 11.7673 12.1719 12.1234 11.4616 11.5461 12.3194 12,1952 VEZF1 9.88111 9.73398 10.6925 10.5183 9.50381 9.72978 10.4103 10.2338 9.55281 9.68551 10.078 10.0568 9.48623 9.42794 10.1034 10.2103

Supplementary Figure Legends:

Supplementary Figure S1. Genetic examination of MYC abnormality in ENKTL. FISH was performed by using MYC break-apart and fusion probes respectively in 60 cases. (A) representative figures for the fusion probe. (B) Left, a representative figure showing *MYC* gain (MYC-CN/Chr 8-CN <2); Right, a summary of the FISH results.

Supplementary Figure S2. Survival outcomes of patients receiving pegaspargase/asparaginase-based treatment. The patients were grouped by MYC expression status, and the PFS (A) and OS (B) curves are shown.

Supplementary Figure S3. MYC KD in NK malignancy cells with low and intermediate MYC Expression. YT, NK-YS, and SNK-6 cells were knocked down with MYC by siRNA mixture S1. (A) MYC protein levels were measured 24 hours after siRNA transfection. (B) Cell viability was measured 72 hours after transfection.

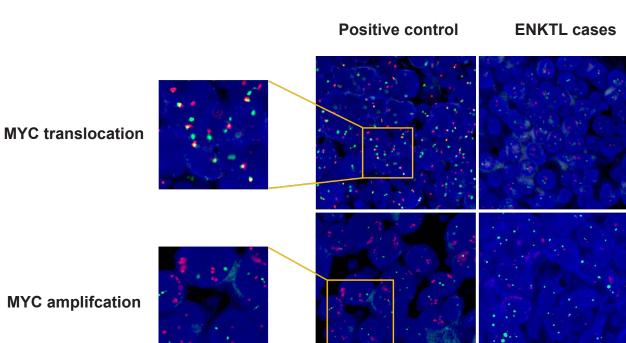
Supplementary Figure S4. Transcriptome alteration after MYC KD in NK malignancy cells. RNA-seq was performed to measure the transcriptome alteration after 24h of MYC KD in NK-92 and IMC-1 cells. (A) The volcano plots showing the relative gene expression of MYC KD to control cells. Those with expression levels \geq 2-fold were subject to further analysis. (B) The significantly altered genes in NK-92 and IMC-1 were analyzed by GSEA, respectively, and the enrichment of the "MYC_targets" signature is shown. (C-D) The commonly down-regulated (C) and up-regulated (D) genes between NK-92 and IMC-1 cells were examined with molecular signature enrichment. The Venn diagrams show the relationship of the altered genes between these two cells, and the Hallmark gene sets were used for the signature analysis.

Supplementary Figure S5. Transcriptome alteration after 48h of MYC knockdown in NK-92 and IMC-1 cells. (A) The volcano plots showing the relative gene expression of MYC knockdown to control cells. Those with expression levels \geq 2-fold were subject to further analysis. (B) The commonly down-regulated and up-regulated genes between NK-92 and IMC-1 cells were examined with molecular signature enrichment using the Hallmark gene set. (C) The Venn diagrams showing the common down-regulation and up-regulation between these two cells.

Supplementary Figure S6. CDK4 as a potential therapeutic target in ENTKL with MYC overexpression. (A) MYC-low NK malignancy cell lines YT and NK-YS as well as BL cell lines Namalwa and Raji were knocked down with MYC for 48h and examined with MYC, HK2, and CDK4 by WB. (B) NK malignancy cell lines were treated with increasing doses of benserazide for 72h and examined with cell viability by prestoblue assay. The cell lines are ranked by the area under curve (AUC) of the inhibition plot. (C) KHYG-1, NK-92, and IMC-1 cells were treated with palbociclib (1µM) and examined with MYC mRNA level by qRT-PCR after 24h and 48h of treatment, respectively. (D) Namalwa and Raji cells were treated with palbociclib and examined with MYC protein level by WB after 24h and 48h of treatment. (E) NK malignancy cells were subjected to double thymidine block and examined with MYC level by WB.

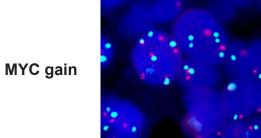
Supplementary Figure S7. Pathological examination for IMC-1 CDX model. (A-B) Spleen and liver involvement of the xenograft tumor cells. (C-F) IHC staining of CD3e, CD56, MYC, and Ki-67 in the liver with tumor involvement.

Supplementary Figure S8. Palbociclib treatment in the YT-CDX model. The volume of the subcutaneous tumor was calculated using the formula $V = (W^2 \times L)/2$, and compared between saline control and palbociclib-treated groups.

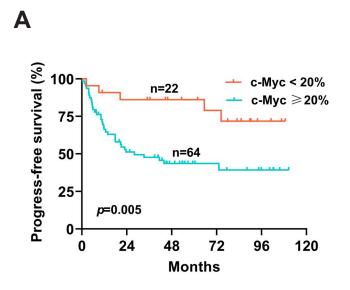


В

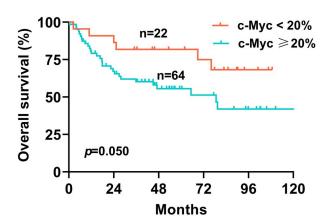
Α

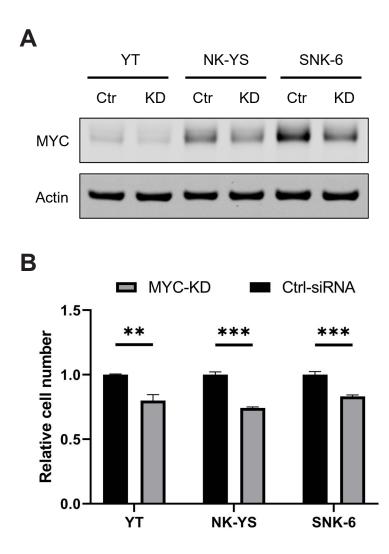


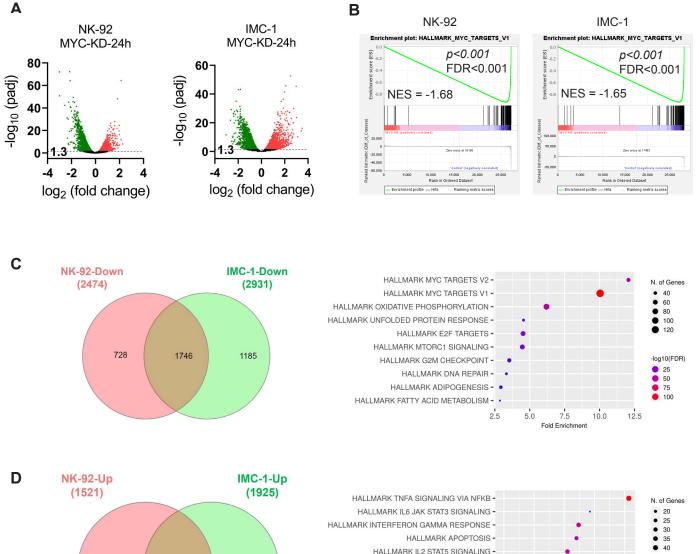
Genetic abnormality	Case number	MYC IHC
MYC translocation	0/60	N/A
MYC amplification	0/60	N/A
MYC gain	3/60	2/3

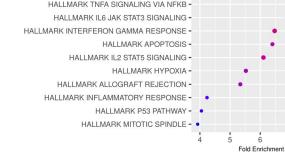


В





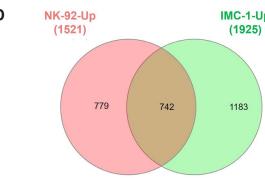


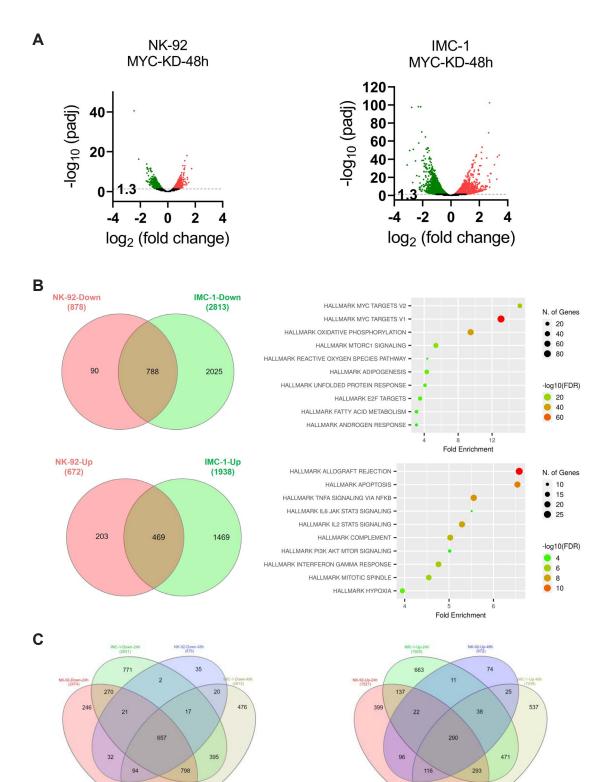


-log10(FDR)

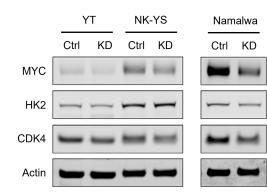
-

8



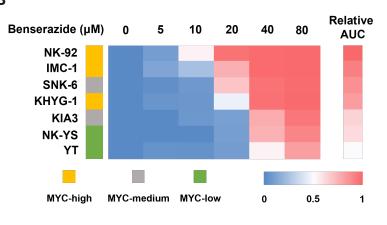


Α

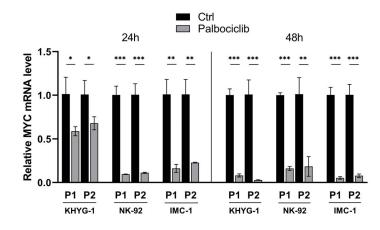


Nam	alwa	Raji		
Ctrl	KD	Ctrl	KD	
-	-	1	-	
_	[]]	
-	I	J	-	
-	-	l	1	

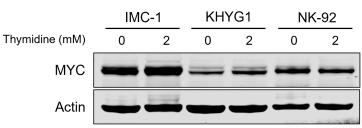
В



С

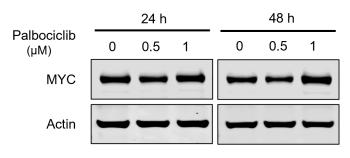


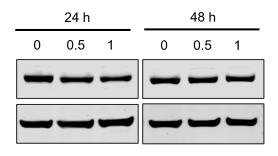
Е



D







Raji

