

Intratumor Heterogeneity and Evolution of Colorectal Cancer

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3 Santasree Banerjee^{1,2,3†}, Xianxiang Zhang^{4†}, Shan Kuang^{1,3†}, Jigang Wang^{5†}, Lei Li^{1,3,6†},
4 Guangyi Fan^{1,2,3}, Yonglun Luo^{1,2,3,7}, Shuai Sun^{1,2,3}, Peng Han^{1,3}, Qingyao Wu⁴, Shujian Yang⁴,
5 Xiaobin Ji⁵, Yong Li^{1,3}, Li Deng^{1,3,8}, Xiaofen Tian^{2,3,9}, Zhiwei Wang^{1,2,3}, Yue Zhang^{1,3}, Kui
6 Wu^{2,3}, Shida Zhu^{2,3}, Lars Bolund^{1,2,3,7,10}, Huanming Yang^{2,11}, Xun Xu^{1,2,3,12}, Junnian Liu^{1,2,3*},
7 Yun Lu^{4,13*}, Xin Liu^{1,2,3*}

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9 ¹ BGI-Qingdao, BGI-Shenzhen, Qingdao, 266555, China.

10 ² BGI-Shenzhen, Shenzhen, 518083, China.

11 ³ China National GeneBank, BGI-Shenzhen, Shenzhen, 518120, China.

12 ⁴ Department of Gastroenterology, General Surgery Center, The Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao
13 University, Qingdao, 266555, China.

14 ⁵ Department of Pathology, The Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao University, Qingdao, 266555,
15 China.

16 ⁶ School of Future Technology, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 101408,
17 China.

18 ⁷ Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus University, Aarhus 8000, Denmark.

19 ⁸ State Key Laboratory of Agricultural Genomics, BGI-Shenzhen, Shenzhen 518083, China.

20 ⁹ MGI, BGI-Shenzhen, Shenzhen 518083, China.

21 ¹⁰ Lars Bolund Institute of Regenerative Medicine, BGI-Qingdao, BGI-Shenzhen, Qingdao,
22 China.

23 ¹¹ James D. Watson Institute of Genome Sciences, Hangzhou 310058, Zhejiang, China

24 ¹² Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Genome Read and Write, BGI-Shenzhen,
25 Guangdong, China.

26 ¹³ Shandong Key Laboratory of Digital Medicine and Computer Assisted Surgery, Qingdao
27 University, Qingdao, China.

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29 †These authors contributed equally to this study.

30 *Correspondence

1 Xin Liu, BGI-Qingdao, BGI-Shenzhen, Qingdao, 266555, China. Tel: +86-18025460332;
2 Email: liuxin@genomics.cn.

3 Yun Lu, Department of Gastroenterology, General Surgery Center, The Affiliated Hospital of
4 Qingdao University, Qingdao, 266555, China. Tel: +86-18661802231; Email:
5 cloudyLucn@126.com.

6 Junnian Liu, BGI-Qingdao, BGI-Shenzhen, Qingdao, 266555, China. Tel: +86-18503088190;
7 Email: chris.liu@genomics.cn.

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9 **Abstract**

10 Intratumor heterogeneity (ITH) enable us to understand the evolution of cancer. ITH and
11 evolution of colorectal cancer (CRC) has not been well studied. In this prospective study, we
12 recruited different stages of 68 CRC patients with primary tumor at right-sided colon, left-sided
13 colon and rectum. We performed high-depth whole exome sequencing of 206 multi-region
14 tumor samples including primary tumors, lymph node metastasis (LN) and extranodal tumor
15 deposits (ENTD). Our result showed extreme ITH with Darwinian pattern of CRC evolution,
16 evolution pattern of left-sided CRC was more complex and divergent than right-sided CRC and
17 both LN and ENTD were of polyclonal in origin. Extensive ITH was found in driver mutations
18 in *KRAS* and *PIK3CA* genes, suggesting major limitations of single biopsies in clinical
19 diagnosis for the CRC patients. In conclusion, our study showed the Darwinian pattern of CRC
20 evolution with differences in evolution pattern between right-sided and left-sided CRC patients.

21 **Key words:** Colorectal cancer, intratumor heterogeneity, Darwinian pattern, lymph node
22 metastasis, extranodal tumor deposits.

23 **Introduction**

24 Identification of novel targets, and the development of target-based precision medicine for
25 personalized cancer therapy is the biggest challenge in cancer research. Genomic instability in
26 cancers is a continuous process involving genetic alterations at gene or chromosomal level.
27 Extreme genetic heterogeneity drives a tumor from its benign state to malignancies. Tumor

1 multi-region sequencing reveals ITH and evolution which play a key role in progression and
2 metastases of the tumor, as well as identifying and developing novel targets for target-based
3 precision medicine in personalized cancer therapy¹. The development of effective target-based
4 precision medicine and personalized cancer therapy is based on ITH and the pattern of clonal
5 as well as subclonal evolution in CRC tumors². Therefore, patients with CRC may respond
6 variably to the same treatment, due to ITH, despite there being no significant differences
7 identified in the tumor histopathology³. In addition, mono-sampling biopsies for clinical
8 diagnosis are inadequate, due to ITH⁴. Hence, study of ITH is highly significant from both
9 clinical and biological perspective, to understand the genomic changes driving the malignant
10 process, which is fundamental to developing an effective personalized cancer therapy.

11 CRC is the third most common malignancy and the second leading cause of cancer death
12 worldwide, with 18.1 million new cancer cases, and 9.6 million deaths in 2018⁵. According to
13 the World Health Organization (WHO) GLOBOCAN database, there were 1,849,518 estimated
14 new CRC cases and 880,792 CRC-related deaths in 2018⁶. In China, CRC is the second most
15 common neoplasia, occupying the fifth position in mortality, accounting for an incidence of
16 521,490 new cases and 248,400 deaths in 2018⁶.

17 Amongst CRC patients, the stage of the disease is one of the most important prognostic
18 factors which is correlated with the disease survival rate⁷. Tumor Node Metastasis
19 (TNM)/American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) Cancer Staging system is the gold
20 standard for determining the correct cancer stage, helping us for making appropriate treatment
21 plans. Among CRC patients, the presence of cancer cells in lymph nodes is define as stage III
22 disease⁸. To date, the molecular signature and evolutionary relationship between LN and ENTD
23 has not been clear. Hence, the characterization of the molecular signature and evolution of the
24 primary tumor, LN and ENTD is very significant for TNM staging and therapeutic interventions
25 for the patients with CRC.

26 The location of the primary tumor, either in the right- or left-side of colon, is also an
27 important prognostic factor^{9,10}. Clinical symptoms are also different between patients with
28 right-sided and left-sided colon cancers. A possible explanation for this clinical heterogeneity
29 might be due to the differences in their embryonic origin, genomic expression profiles and

1 tumor microenvironment^{11,12}. The differences in genomic expressions and subsequent
2 alterations has not been studied well to explain the clinical heterogeneity between patients with
3 right- and left-sided colon cancer.

4 Recently, tumor multi-region sequencing studies of primary tumor have demonstrated
5 ITH¹³⁻²¹. This multiregional sequencing approach, sequencing DNA samples from
6 geographically separated regions of a single tumor, explores ITH and cancer evolution²²⁻²⁸.
7 Large-scale multiregional sequencing studies have systematically revealed ITH as well as
8 cancer evolution in patients with non-small-cell lung cancer and renal cancer²²⁻²⁴. However,
9 large-scale multiregional sequencing studies of CRC have not been well reported. In addition,
10 multiregional sequencing studies in CRC were performed at relatively shallow sequencing
11 depths, making it difficult to assess ITH, due to inability to detect somatic mutations with low
12 frequencies¹³⁻¹⁷.

13 In order to overcome the drawbacks of previous studies, we have comprehensively studied
14 the ITH and evolution of CRC, using high depth (median depth of 395×) whole exome
15 sequencing of 206 multi-region tumor samples and 68 matched germline samples from 68 CRC
16 tumors, determined the differences of ITH, and the evolution of CRC in patients with primary
17 tumors in both right-sided and left-sided colon and characterized the molecular signature of the
18 primary tumor, LN and ENTD, to define their evolutionary relationship.

19 **Results**

20 Comprehensive clinical descriptions of these 68 patients were provided in Supplementary Table
21 S1. Tumor multi-region high depth (median depth of 395×, range 179-596) whole exome
22 sequencing (WES) was performed with 206 tumor regions (2-7 regions per tumor) including
23 176 primary tumor regions, 19 LN regions and 11 ENTD regions, as well as 68 matched
24 germline samples from 68 CRC patients. WES identified 6 hypermutated (mutation rates of
25 each tumor region were more than 10 mutations/1 Mb bases) CRC patients, of these four
26 patients were identified with microsatellite instability (MSI). The remaining 62 CRC patients
27 were microsatellite stable (MSS) and of these, 12 patients had right-sided colon tumors, 20 had

1 left-sided colon tumors and 30 had rectal tumor. Hypermutated patients were analyzed
2 separately.

3 Multiregion tumor tissue samples from 68 CRC patients were sequenced and analyzed
4 (Supplementary Fig. S1). In our study, the experiments and data analysis workflow were shown
5 in Supplementary Fig. S2.

6 **ITH in colorectal tumors**

7 WES of 62 tumors with 188 tumor regions identified 19454 somatic mutations including 17560
8 SNVs (14361 non-silent SNVs) and 1894 INDELs (Supplementary Table S2). The mutation
9 rate of multi-region whole-exome sequencing was significantly more than single sample
10 sequencing due to detection of subclonal mutations (median number of mutations/1MB bases,
11 4.61 vs. 3.23; $P=8.9\times 10^{-9}$) (Supplementary Fig. S3). In our study, the mutation rate of single
12 sample sequencing was significantly higher than single CRC sample sequencing data from The
13 Cancer Genome Atlas²⁹ (TCGA), probably due to the higher sequencing depth in our study
14 (median number of mutations/1 MB bases, 3.23 vs. 2.07; $P=1.7\times 10^{-22}$) (Supplementary Fig. S3).

15 Then, identified somatic mutations were divided into clonal (mutations present in all
16 cancer cells with cancer cell fraction (CCF) > 0.9 across all the regions of a tumor) and
17 subclonal (mutations present in only a subset of cancer cells) mutations (Fig. 1A). It is worth
18 noting that 2 patients (CRC32 and CRC36) with left-sided colon tumors and 6 patients (CRC49,
19 CRC42, CRC51, CRC48, CRC52 and CRC60) with rectal tumors had not identified with clonal
20 mutations, suggesting that branched evolution was widespread in patients with left-sided colon
21 tumors. In addition, patients with right-sided colon tumors had significantly more clonal
22 mutations than the patients with rectal tumors (median number, 160 vs 119; $P=0.035$)
23 (Supplementary Fig. S4). There were no significant differences found in the number and
24 percentage of mutations between early (stage I and II) and late (stage III and IV) stage of
25 patients (Supplementary Fig. S5).

26 Somatic copy number alterations (SCNAs) were measured as length of segments affected
27 by either gains or losses (detailed copy number data has been given in Supplementary Table
28 S3). We summarized the total length of the genome that subjected to SCNAs and calculated the

1 percentage of clonal and subclonal SCNAs (Fig. 1A). Interestingly, in a patient (CRC43) with
2 a rectal tumor, all SCNAs were subjected to subclonal SCNAs. There were no significant
3 differences in the length and percentage of SCNAs among the patients with right-sided, left-
4 sided and rectal tumors as well as between early and late stage of CRC tumors (Supplementary
5 Figs. S6 and S7).

6 In our study, we identified that the mutation frequency of 14 driver genes (*APC*, *TP53*,
7 *KRAS*, *LZTR1*, *LRP1B*, *FBXW7*, *TCF7L2*, *FAT4*, *ARID1A*, *ATM*, *PIK3CA*, *AMER1*, *CSMD3*
8 and *SMAD4*) were higher at patient-level than at sample-level (Fig. 1B). In addition, we also
9 found that the mutation frequency was higher at patient-level compared to the TCGA study²⁹
10 except *CSMD3* (Fig. 1B). Notably, the mutation frequency of the *LZTR1* gene was much higher
11 than TCGA study²⁹ (Fig. 1B). We also identified that the frequency of SCNAs was higher than
12 TCGA²⁹ study data, probably due to the identification of subclonal SCNAs in our study (Fig.
13 1C).

14 **Clonal architecture in CRC**

15 All the mutations (SNVs and INDELs) were clustered according to their CCF values to
16 understand the clonal architecture and evolutionary history of 62 CRC tumors. Each colored
17 circle in the phylogenetic tree represented one cluster of the tumor (Fig. 2). Phylogenetic trees
18 for 62 tumors and 188 regions together with schematic diagram of 100 tumor cells representing
19 distribution of clusters in each tumor region (Supplementary Fig. S8). Driver mutations, driver
20 SCNAs and their clusters were annotated beside the phylogenetic trees (Supplementary Fig.
21 S8). Detailed information of cluster numbers for each tumor was listed in Supplementary Table
22 S4, with a median of 6 clusters per tumor (range, 1 to 13).

23 Patients with left-sided colon tumors possessed significantly more cluster numbers than
24 patients with both right-sided colon tumors (median number, 7.5 vs. 6; $P=0.028$) and rectal
25 tumors (median number, 7.5 vs. 5.5; $P=0.025$) (Supplementary Fig. S9), which potentially
26 reflected the more evolutionary diversity in patients with left-sided colon tumors. There were no
27 significant differences in cluster numbers between early and late stage of CRC tumors
28 (Supplementary Fig. S9). Only 22 out of 188 tumor regions (12%) were presented with

1 subclones in all the branches of the phylogenetic tree (Supplementary Fig. S8). This highlighted
2 the limitations of single biopsy strategy of clinical diagnosis since mono-sampling was not
3 enough to capture all the genetic information within a tumor.

4 **Driver event alterations in CRC evolution**

5 Identifying cancer driver events and their clonality might provide important evidences for
6 developing the target-based effective therapeutic strategies. Therefore, driver mutations, driver
7 SCNAs, arm level SCNAs and their clonality were analyzed for CRC tumors (Fig. 3).

8 We identified 1373 driver events (405 driver mutations, 707 driver SCNAs and 261 arm
9 level SCNAs) among 62 CRC tumors. Of these events, 44% of driver events (605 out of 1373)
10 were found to be subclonal (41% of driver mutations, 40% of driver SCNAs and 60% of arm
11 level SCNAs). However, significantly lower percentage of clonal driver events were identified
12 in rectal tumors than patients with both right-sided (median percentage, 56% vs. 72%; $P=0.031$)
13 and left-sided colon tumors (median percentage, 56% vs. 74%; $P=0.047$) (Supplementary Figs.
14 S10 and S11), which potentially reflected the increased diversity in driver events existing
15 amongst different tumor regions of patients with rectal tumors. Late stage CRC tumors
16 possessed significantly more subclonal driver events than early stage CRC tumors (median
17 number, 8 vs. 4; $P=0.043$) (Supplementary Figs. S12 and S13), which suggested that late stage
18 CRC tumors were more advanced in evolution than early stage CRC tumors.

19 In addition, no driver events were consistently clonal among 62 CRC tumors, suggesting
20 high ITH status and evolutionary diversity among CRC tumors, which might be the reason of
21 low efficiency of target-based precision medicine in CRC treatment (Fig. 3). All the driver
22 SCNAs and most of the driver mutations were early events while very few arm level SCNAs
23 were early events, suggesting that genomic instability process occurred firstly at the driver
24 SCNA level, then at the driver mutations level, and finally at the driver arm level SCNA level.

25 Driver mutations in *APC*, *TP53* and *KRAS* were majorly identified in CRC tumors with
26 right-sided colon tumors, left-sided colon tumors and rectal tumors. Mutations in *APC*, *TP53*
27 and *KRAS* genes were predominantly clonal and early among different locations of CRC tumors,
28 suggesting their significance and key roles in tumor initiation. However, except for *APC*, *TP53*

1 and *KRAS*, other identified driver mutations were completely different between patients with
2 right-sided and left-sided colon tumors (Fig. 3). The genes of driver SCNAs identified were the
3 same in patients with left-sided and rectal tumors while only 3 out of 24 genes of driver SCNAs
4 (*CYSLTR2*, *FLT3* and *FOXO1*) were same in patients with right-sided and left-sided colon
5 tumors (Fig. 3). The huge differences in both driver mutations and driver SCNAs between the
6 patients with right-sided and left-sided colon tumors suggested that left-sided colon tumors
7 were evolutionary closer to rectal tumors than to right-sided colon tumors. Chromosomal arm
8 level gain of 13q and loss of 18q were mostly occurred and predominantly clonal and early in
9 colon and rectal cancer patients except that gain of 13q were late events in rectal cancer.

10 **Convergent features and parallel evolution in CRC**

11 Evidence of convergent mutations in tumor driver genes may shed light on evolutionary
12 selection, which may provide therapeutic targets for treatment. *APC*, *TP53* and *KRAS* were the
13 most frequently mutated driver genes identified in our study, 80.6 % (50 / 62), 80.6 % (50 / 62)
14 and 51.6 % (32 / 62) respectively (Supplementary Fig. S14). Among these three genes, *APC*
15 was the most often mutated gene in CRC patients. Among the 50 CRC tumors with *APC*
16 mutations, 19 (38%) had 2 mutations, consistent with the two-hit hypothesis of *APC* genes in
17 CRC tumorigenesis (Supplementary Fig. S15).

18 Evolutionary selection was also exemplified by parallel evolution of driver mutations, in
19 which different driver mutations in distinct regions of the same tumor converge on the same
20 gene. In CRC36 (left-sided colon tumor), two different nonsynonymous mutations in *TP53*
21 were detected in tumor region 3 while another nonsynonymous mutation of *TP53* was detected
22 in tumor region 1 and 4, indicating parallel evolution of *TP53*.

23 **Positive selection**

24 In order to further evaluate evolutionary selection at the mutational level, we used the ratio of
25 dN/dS, which could reflect the degree of enrichment of protein-altering mutations.

26 Evidence for positive selection (dN/dS>1 based on the 95% confidence intervals) was
27 rejected when all the non-synonymous mutations were considered (Supplementary Table S5).

1 However, when genes were narrowed to all driver genes identified in the COSMIC Cancer
2 Gene Census (v88), positive selection was observed in clonal rather than subclonal of all non-
3 synonymous mutations. These findings suggested that positive selection happened in cancer
4 driver genes in early stage of CRC evolution.

5 **Mutation signature**

6 We analyzed mutational processes for CRC evolution by using published mutational
7 signatures³⁰. We found that the age-related signature 1 was the predominant mutational process
8 for CRC tumors, with a median percentage of age-related mutations of 70% (Supplementary
9 Fig. S16). Interestingly, a patient (CRC66) was identified with all the mutations with age-
10 related signature 1 while another patient (CRC63) was identified with defective DNA mismatch
11 repair-related signature 6 and 15.

12 The median percentage of age-related signature 1 in CRC tumors for clonal mutations was
13 73%, while it dropped to 53% for subclonal mutations (Supplementary Fig. S16). This finding
14 suggested that except for age, other mutational processes played more important roles in
15 subclonal than clonal tumors, which accounted for ITH of CRC. Except for age, other main
16 mutation processes were defective DNA mismatch repair-related signature 6, defective DNA
17 double-strand break-repair-related signature 3 and defective DNA mismatch repair-related
18 signature 15, suggesting that the main mutational process for ITH of CRC were age and
19 defective of DNA repair system.

20 **Chromosome instability**

21 Previously we analyzed the length and clonality of SCNAs relatively to ploidy (Fig. 1A), we
22 then measured the absolute SCNAs in CRC tumors. SCNAs and ITH of SCNAs were
23 ubiquitous, which described the continuing process of chromosome instability in CRC tumors
24 (Supplementary Figs. S17 and S18). Left-sided colon tumor were found to have more loss type
25 of SCNAs (total copy number = 0 or 1, or copy neutral loss of heterozygous) than rectal cancer
26 (P=0.007) and have more SCNAs with total copy number equal to 1 than right-sided colon
27 tumors (P=0.044) (Supplementary Fig. S17). Late stage tumors were identified with

1 significantly fewer SCNAs than early stage CRC tumors ($P=0.016$) (Supplementary Fig. S18).
2 Specifically, the late stage CRC tumors had significantly fewer SCNAs with total copy number
3 equal to 4 than early stage CRC tumors ($P=0.043$) (Supplementary Fig. S18). Moreover, late
4 stage CRC tumors had significantly more subclonal driver SCNAs than early stage CRC tumors,
5 which suggested that the loss of random SCNAs as well as enrichment of functional SCNAs in
6 late stage CRC tumors (Supplementary Fig. S13).

7 The SCNA frequency pattern in patients with left-sided colon tumors and rectal tumors
8 were similar to each other, while right-sided colon tumors were very different (Supplementary
9 Fig. S19). Patients with right-sided colon tumors had more 9p gain, 3q gain, 19p loss and less
10 20q gain, 18p loss, 8p loss than all CRC tumors (Supplementary Fig. S19). Late stage CRC
11 tumors had more 13q gain, 9p gain, 21p gain, 11q loss, 21q loss and 12p loss than early stage
12 CRC tumors (Supplementary Fig. S20). Interestingly, both poor prognosis location (right-sided
13 colon tumors) and stage (late stage of CRC tumors) of CRC tumors had more 9p gain.

14 **Genome doubling**

15 If the percentage of autosomal tumor genomes with a major copy number of two or more in a
16 tumor were 50% or more than 50%, then this tumor was classified as genome doubling tumor³¹.
17 Genome doubling events were identified in 76% of tumors (found in 47 out of 62 tumors, 9
18 right-sided colon tumors, 15 left-sided colon tumors, and 23 rectal tumors) and appeared to be
19 clonal in 66% of tumors (found in 31 out of 47 tumors, 5 right-sided colon tumors, 11 left-sided
20 colon tumors and 15 rectal tumors), which suggested that whole genome doubling was an early
21 event in CRC evolution. In our study, we identified that the rate of whole genome doubling was
22 much higher than 36% found in a previous study of CRC³¹, and the high rate was likely to come
23 from multi-region sequencing because 16 out of 47 CRC were identified with subclonal whole
24 genome doubling.

25 We observed a strong positive correlation between genome doubling with the ITH of both
26 mutations and SCNAs (Supplementary Figs. S21 and S22). These findings suggested that the
27 genome doubling was important for the progression of chromosomal instability. Tumors
28 without genome doubling had a significantly higher percentage of clonal SCNAs than subclonal

1 genome doubling tumors (median percentage, 62% vs. 29%, $P=0.037$). Moreover, tumors with
2 clonal genome doubling had significantly more clonal SCNAs than both subclonal genome
3 doubling tumors (median length \times 1 MB, 545 vs. 420, $P=0.017$) and tumors without genome
4 doubling (median length \times 1 MB, 545 vs. 391, $P=0.022$) (Supplementary Fig. S22).

5 **Mirrored subclonal allelic imbalance**

6 Recent studies identified parallel evolution of SCNA in NSCLC and renal cancer through
7 mirrored subclonal allelic imbalance (MSAI)^{22,24}, which was defined as the maternal allele was
8 gained or lost in a subclone in one region, yet the paternal allele was gained or lost in a different
9 subclone in another region. We identified MSAI events in 23 of 62 CRC tumors (37%, found
10 in 5 right-sided colon tumors, 6 left-sided colon tumors and 12 rectal tumors) (Supplementary
11 Fig. S23). MSAI parallel gain or loss events found in this study were summarized (Fig. 4A).
12 Chromosomal regions of 7p and 13q were identified with parallel gain events in 3 tumors and
13 chromosomal regions of 21q were identified with parallel loss events in 4 tumors. We also
14 analyzed parallel evolution of driver SCNAs, 5 tumors (4 tumors of parallel amplification and
15 1 tumor of parallel deletion) were found to have driver SCNAs which overlapped with MSAI
16 events (Figs. 4B and C). Interestingly, 2 of 5 patients (CRC12 and CRC59) were identified with
17 parallel amplification of *FLT3* gene in chromosome 13 (Fig. 4C).

18 **Conserved evolutionary features in CRC**

19 In order to understand the constraints and features of CRC evolution, we analyzed conserved
20 patterns of driver events by REVOLVER³² (Fig. 5). Evolutionary trajectories were clustered by
21 the CCF and cluster information of all the driver events in 62 CRC tumors and four clusters
22 (cluster red, blue, green and purple) were found (Fig. 5). In order to understand whether
23 conserved patterns of CRC evolution correlated to distinct clinical phenotypes, clinical and
24 genomic metrics were shown under 4 clusters (Fig. 5).

25 We found that the red and blue clusters had relatively fewer driver events than green and
26 purple clusters. There were no specific genomic or clinical features for the tumors in red cluster.
27 The blue, green and purple clusters had similar clinical and genomic features, which were

1 enriched in left-sided CRC tumors and tumors with genome doubling type.

2 **Phylogenetic distance between LN and ENT D**

3 We analyzed 16 non-hypermuted stage III patients to understand the phylogenetic distance
4 and evolutionary relationship amongst primary tumor, LN and ENT D. CRC21, CRC28, CRC43
5 and CRC48 were identified with both LN and ENT D samples which were sequenced (Fig. 6).
6 In CRC21, we identified that the clonal evolution of LN and ENT D was similar, while ENT D
7 appeared evolutionarily later than LN (Supplementary Fig. S8). In CRC28, two ENT D were
8 clustered together while LN were far away from them, which indicated that the LN and ENT D
9 were polyclonal in origin (Fig. 6). In CRC 43 and CRC48, we identified that the ENT D were
10 not clustered together with LN and evolved separately (Figs. 6 and S8). In tumors with more
11 than one LN sequenced (CRC01, CRC11, CRC29 and CRC33), some LN were clustered
12 together while some LN were not (Fig. 6). In tumors with two ENT D sequenced (CRC60), the
13 two ENT D were far away from each other in the phylogenetic tree (Fig. 6). These findings
14 suggested that both LN and ENT D were polyclonal in origin.

15 LN were identified with significantly less TMB than primary tumors ($P=0.035$)
16 (Supplementary Fig. S24). LN were also presented with significantly more loss type of SCNAs
17 ($P=0.043$) than primary tumors (Supplementary Fig. S25). Regarding SCNA frequency, the
18 biggest difference of gain events existed between LN and ENT D while the biggest difference
19 of loss events existed between primary tumors and ENT D (Supplementary Fig. S26). In
20 conclusion, LN and ENT D were different in both mutation and SCNA level.

21 **Evolution landscape of hypermutated CRC tumors.**

22 All 6 (CRC04, CRC05, CRC09, CRC13, CRC15 and CRC17) hypermutated CRC patients were
23 identified with right-sided colon tumors, of these two (CRC09 and CRC13) were with MSS
24 and remaining four (CRC04, CRC05, CRC15, CRC17) were with MSI tumors (Supplementary
25 Fig. S27A). All of the 6 hypermutated tumors had mutations in mismatch-repair genes, *POLE*
26 or *POLD* gene family (Supplementary Fig. S27A). CRC09 had one missense mutation and one
27 nonsense mutation of *POLE*. CRC13 had one missense mutation of *POLE* (Supplementary Fig.

1 S27A). These findings were consistent with that the predominant mutational process in these
2 two MSS tumors was *POLE*-related signature 10 (Supplementary Fig. S27B). Defective DNA
3 mismatch repair-related signature 6, 15, or 26 contributed to the mutational process of 4 MSI
4 tumors (Supplementary Fig. S27B).

5 We next analyzed evolution landscape of hypermutated tumors in SCNA level. None of the
6 tumor regions in 6 hypermutated tumors had genome doubling. Absolute SCNAs of
7 hypermutated CRC tumors were less compared with non-hypermutated CRC tumors
8 (Supplementary Figs. S27C and S17), which suggested that hypermutated tumors were mainly
9 mutation driven tumors. Interestingly, CRC04 had MSAI events in X-chromosome
10 (Supplementary Fig. S28).

11 **Discussion**

12 In this study, we performed high-depth whole exome sequencing and analyzed 206 multi-region
13 tumor samples from 68 patients with CRC. Our result showed very clear evidence of ITH in
14 respect of both mutations and somatic copy number alterations. Our result showed the specific
15 temporal and spatial features of evolution of CRC, following a Darwinian pattern of evolution.
16 In addition, left-sided CRC was structurally and functionally more complex and divergent in
17 terms of evolutionary perspective. We also identified that both ENT D and LN were polyclonal
18 in origin and ENT D was a distinctive entity from LN, which appeared later in tumor evolution.

19 **Evolution pattern: Darwinian pattern of evolution and neutral evolution**

20 In this present study, we found predominantly Darwinian pattern of evolution (59 out of 62
21 tumors) and a small portion of linear evolution (3 out of 62 tumors). Previous studies proposed
22 neutral evolution model for colorectal cancers^{13,33,34}, whilst our conclusion was different from
23 them, based on two reasons. Firstly, clonal events of both mutations (SNVs and INDELS) and
24 SCNAs were widespread, with a median percentage of 47% and 43% respectively. Secondly,
25 our study demonstrated a clear selection for functional mutations rather than non-functional
26 mutations in colorectal cancer. In addition, 59% of driver mutations were clonal while only 41%
27 of non-driver mutations were clonal, which indicated the enrichment of clonal driver mutations
28 in course of evolution. Furthermore, the dN/dS value was 1.03 (95% confidence interval, 0.983

1 to 1.07) for all non-synonymous mutations while it reached to 1.37 (95% confidence interval,
2 1.16 to 1.61) when we consider only cancer driver genes based on COSMIC database. These
3 findings indicated that positive selection existed only for cancer related gene mutations. Thirdly,
4 convergent and parallel events were also present for driver genes in both mutational and SCNA
5 level, especially for genes *APC*, *TP53* and *KRAS*. Some studies showed that the evolution
6 pattern for colorectal cancer was Darwinian evolution followed by neutral evolution^{17,35}. In our
7 study, according to the existence of mutations in different tumor regions, 28% of subclonal
8 mutations were shared by tumor regions (branch or trunk mutations), which suggested the
9 importance of branches in phylogenetic trees.

10 **Right-sided colon, left-sided colon and rectal cancer: In the light of genomic evolution**

11 Previous studies^{10,36} had shown remarkable differences between right-sided , left-sided colon
12 cancer and rectal cancer, based on histology, MSI status, genetic subtype and prognosis. Almost
13 no research has been done to date for understanding the differences between different locations
14 of CRC cancer from an evolutionary perspective. Our study demonstrated that ITH and
15 evolution in different location of CRC were different in the following aspects: mutation, SCNA,
16 structure of polygenetic tree and driver events. Firstly, rectal cancers had shown fewer clonal
17 mutations than right-sided colon cancers, indicating higher ITH in rectal cancer at mutational
18 level. Secondly, the pattern and clonality of SCNA frequency in right-sided colon cancer were
19 different from left-sided colon cancer, which addressed the evolutionary difference between
20 them at SCNA level. Thirdly, the structure of phylogenetic trees in left-sided colon cancer were
21 more complicated and branched than that of the right-sided colon cancer. Specifically, left-sided
22 colon cancer had the most complicated structure of the phylogenetic tree, reflected by the more
23 cluster numbers. In addition, only left-sided colon cancer had polyclonal origin. Fourthly, left-
24 sided colon cancer was enriched in clusters (blue and purple clusters) which had more driver
25 events. These findings indicated that left-sided colon cancer had more functional diversity in
26 the course of evolution. Specifically, rectal cancer had less percentage of clonal driver events
27 than colon cancer, indicating more functional diversity occurred in the process of evolution in
28 rectal cancer. In conclusion, our data showed that left-sided colon cancer were more divergent
29 and complicated in terms of evolution than right-sided colon cancer, not only structurally but

1 also functionally, which indicated that the evolutionary diversity might play an important role
2 in the initiation and progression of left-sided colon cancer. Moreover, the frequency and
3 clonality of SCNA was a potential and significant biomarker to distinguish right-sided colon
4 cancer from the left-sided colon cancer.

5 **Primary tumor, LN and ENT D: In evolutionary perspective**

6 To date, no systematic research studies have been done to understand the similarities and
7 differences between ENT D and LN. In this study, we found that ENT D were later events in the
8 evolution of the tumor than LN, which could be distinguished at mutational, SCNA and
9 evolutionary levels. At the mutational level, the TMB of LN was significantly less than primary
10 tumors. Also, LN and ENT D could not be clustered together in the polygenetic tree according
11 to the occurrence of mutations. Unlike in previous studies^{14,37,38}, different LN or ENT D in the
12 same tumor did not cluster together in all cases, indicating the polyclonal origin of both LN and
13 ENT D. We also identified here that LN were different from ENT D at SCNA level. In addition,
14 the biggest difference between LN and ENT D was gain of events in SCNA frequency. ENT D
15 thus appeared to be as later event than LN according to the clonal evolution history in CRC21.
16 In conclusion, our present study provided comprehensive evidences to prove that ENT D and
17 LN were two distinctive entities, which support the 7th and 8th editions of TMN staging.

18 **Stage and ITH in CRC**

19 There was no significant difference between early and late stage of CRC at both mutational and
20 evolution (cluster number) level. It was well known that chromosomal instability was
21 associated with a worse prognosis. Therefore, we analyzed the difference between early and
22 late stage of CRC at SCNA level. There was no significant difference in length and clonality of
23 SCNA relatively to ploidy between early and late stage of CRC in our study. However, early
24 stage CRC were found to have significantly more absolute SCNAs than late stage CRC in our
25 study. These two distinctive conclusions suggested the definition of chromosomal instability
26 was important. Interestingly, late stage CRC had significantly more subclonal driver SCNAs
27 than early stage CRC, which suggested ITH of functional SCNAs rather than total absolute
28 SCNAs might be more closely related with CRC progress.

1 **Germline mutations and ITH in CRC**

2 Five patients in our study were found to have pathogenic or likely pathogenic germline
3 mutations in DNA mismatch repair genes. Among them, two (CRC05 and CRC15) patients
4 were hypermutated MSI patients identified with pathogenic and likely pathogenic mutations in
5 *MLH1*. In addition, CRC33 were found to carry a likely pathogenic mutation in the *MLH1* gene,
6 CRC37 were presented with a pathogenic mutation in *PMS2* gene and CRC44 were identified
7 with a pathogenic mutation in *MLH3*. Interestingly, we found these 3 (CRC33, CRC37 and
8 CRC44) non-hypermutated MSS patients had relatively divergent and complex clonal evolution
9 with cluster number of 7, 6 and 8 respectively. These findings reminded us that germline
10 mutations in MSI genes might accelerate the evolution process in CRC.

11 **Personalized therapy: Target-based Precision medicine for CRC**

12 Presently, the principle of treatment for CRC has shifted from ‘one gene, one drug approach’
13 paradigm to a ‘multi-gene, multi-drug’ model when making decisions for precision
14 medicine^{39,40}. It is of great clinical importance to define the mutation status, clonality of genes
15 and biomarkers in CRC. Among 62 CRC tumors, 32 were identified with driver mutations in
16 *KRAS* while 7 were subclonal. Similarly, 7 CRC tumors harbored clonal driver mutations in
17 *PIK3CA*, while 3 were carrying subclonal driver mutations. Driver mutations in *NRAS* (1
18 tumor), *BRAF* (4 tumors) and *ERBB2* (1 tumor) were all clonal in origin. In addition, among 4
19 driver mutations in *BRAF*, 2 were V600E. Furthermore, we identified 5 CRC tumors with
20 *EGFR* amplification whilst only 1 was clonal in origin. No amplification of *ERBB2* was found
21 in our study. However, the occurrence of subclonal driver mutations in biomarker genes
22 emphasized the limitations of the single biopsy strategy for the clinical diagnosis of CRC. For
23 example, in CRC59, we found all 4 tumor regions had wildtype *KRAS*, *BRAF* and *NRAS* genes,
24 whilst only 1 region had the driver mutation in *PIK3CA*.

25 **Materials and methods**

26 **Patient recruitment**

27 The study was approved by the Ethics committee of the Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao

1 University. All the samples were collected after obtaining written informed consent from the
2 patients. Patients were recruited based on the following criteria. (i). age over 18 years, (ii)
3 patients clinically diagnosed with CRC by enteroscopy, imaging, biopsy and followed by
4 surgery, and histopathology performed with the resected tumor tissues. Patients with sufficient
5 tissue were available for the study.

6 **Sample collection**

7 A pathologist performed macroscopic examination of all surgically resected specimens to guide
8 the multi-region sampling in this study. Firstly, the pathologist performed routine pathological
9 sampling for clinical diagnosis, and then multi-region sampling was performed by using the
10 remaining samples. At least 2 regions of each tumor, which were at least 3 mm apart, were
11 collected. Areas with significant necrosis, fibrosis, or hemorrhage were avoided to maximize
12 the viability of tumor cells. Normal colorectal mucosa tissues were also sampled from areas
13 remote from the primary tumor (at least 2 cm distant from the tumor edge). Peri-intestinal
14 nodules including lymph nodes present in the resected specimen were sampled. If there was
15 malignancy appearance (the cut section appeared tan-gray and hard), after confirming the
16 malignancy, a portion of the lymph nodes was sampled for diagnostic requirements. The
17 remaining part was taken for this study. Each selected tissue block was split into two for snap
18 freezing and formalin fixing respectively (mirrored FFPE sample). Fresh samples were placed
19 in a 2 ml cryotube, and snap frozen with immediate immersion into liquid nitrogen before
20 transferred to -80°C freezer for storage. Peripheral blood was collected and processed into
21 EDTA anticoagulation tube. The tumor tissue samples from 68 patients were sequenced and
22 analyzed after filtering according to the filtering pipeline, schematically presented in the
23 CONSORT diagram (CONSORT flowchart, Supplementary Fig. S1). The workflow
24 summarizing experiments and data analysis in our study was shown in Supplementary Fig. S2.

25 **Sample processing**

26 Approximately 50 mm³ of tumor tissue from each region was used for genomic DNA extraction
27 using the QIAamp DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen, Germany) according to the manufacturer's

1 instructions. 2 ml of peripheral blood was used for germline DNA extraction using the QIAamp
2 DNA Blood midi kit (Qiagen, Germany) according to the manufacturer's instructions. DNA
3 was quantified by the Qubit Fluorometric Quantitation (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) and
4 the quality of DNA was assessed by agarose gel electrophoresis.

5 **Pathology diagnoses and review**

6 Pathological diagnoses were established according to the WHO classification and
7 independently reviewed by two pathologists. Clinical details were summarized in
8 Supplementary Table S1. Hematoxylin- eosin sections of mirrored FFPE samples for each
9 region in every case (387 sections from 70 patients) were evaluated. Only primary tumor
10 regions with more than 30% tumor component and pathological heterogeneity were considered
11 for sequencing. In addition, pathologist distinguished LN and ENT D by reviewing
12 hematoxylin-eosin sections of their mirrored FFPE samples in this study were also sent for
13 sequencing.

14 **Whole exome library construction and sequencing**

15 Tumor tissues and matched germline tissues were subjected to whole exome sequencing.
16 Exome capture was performed on 1 µg of genomic DNA. Covaris (LE220) was used to
17 randomly fragmented DNA into 150-250 bp. These fragments were purified and connected
18 through a PE Index Adaptor designed by BGI, and then captured by using the the MGIEasy
19 Exome Capture V4 probe set (~ 59 Mb; MGI Tech Co., Ltd, China). All constructed libraries
20 were loaded onto BGISEQ-500 (MGI Tech Co., Ltd, China) and the sequences were generated
21 as 100-bp paired-end reads.

22 Sequencing reads containing sequencing adapters, more than 10% of unknown bases and
23 low-quality bases (> 50% bases with quality <5) were removed by SOAPnuke (v1.5.6)⁴¹. The
24 processed sequencing reads were then aligned to UCSC human reference genome (hg19) using
25 BWA-MEM (v0.7.12)⁴². Picard (v1.137) (<https://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>) was used to
26 generate chromosomal coordinate-sorted bam files to remove PCR duplicates. Then, the
27 median sequencing depth of the generated data for the tumor area were reached 391 (range 179-

1 537), and the matched germline tissues were reached 414.5 (range 243-596). We then used the
2 Genomic Analysis Toolkit (GATK v3.8.0)⁴³ to perform base quality score recalibration and
3 local realignment of the aligned reads to improve alignment accuracy.

4 **Quality control to prevent contamination, inter-patient sample swaps and removal of** 5 **regions with extremely low mutation occurrence**

6 ContEst⁴⁴, a GATK module, was used to estimate the cross-individual contamination level.
7 Samples with contamination level more than 1% were deleted (3 samples failed the QC due to
8 contamination as shown in Supplementary Fig. S1. In order to avoid sample swaps between
9 patients, we used BAM-matcher⁴⁵.

10 The number of mutations in each tumor region was called independently. The median
11 number of mutations across all regions for each tumor was calculated. A region in one tumor
12 was removed if less than 20% of the median mutation count of that tumor was identified in that
13 region.

14 **Somatic mutation detection and filtering**

15 After processed the sequencing data, SAMtools (v1.2)⁴⁶ mpileup was used to locate non-
16 reference locations in tumor and germline samples. Bases with phred scores less than 20 or
17 reads with mapping quality (MAPQ) values less than 20 were deleted. Base-alignment quality
18 (BAQ) computation was disabled with adjust mapping quality coefficient set of 50. Both
19 VarScan 2 (v2.4.3)⁴⁷ and MuTect (v1.1.7)⁴⁸ were used to call somatic mutations. The somatic
20 variants called by VarScan 2 were filtered and the minimum coverage of the germline sample
21 was set to 10, the minimum variant frequency was changed to 0.01, and tumor purity was set
22 to 0.5. We further filtered the resulting single nucleotide variant (SNV) calls for false positives
23 using Varscan 2 associated fpfilter.pl script. We used bam-readcount (v0.8.0)
24 (<https://github.com/genome/bam-readcount>) to prepare input files for fpfilter and min-var-freq
25 was set to 0.02. All insertions/deletions (INDELs) called in reads that VarScan 2
26 processSomatic classified as "high confidence" were recorded for further downstream filtering.
27 MuTect was used to detect SNVs using annotation files contained in GATK bundle (v2.8) and

1 variants were filtered according to the filter parameter ‘PASS’.

2 Additional filtering was performed to reduce false positive mutation calls. If the variant
3 allele frequency (VAF) is greater than 2%, and both VarScan 2 (with a somatic p-value ≤ 0.01)
4 and MuTect called the mutation, then a SNV was considered as truly positive. Alternatively, if
5 a SNV was called only in VarScan 2 with a somatic p-value ≤ 0.01 , a frequency of 5% was
6 required. In addition, the sequencing depth supporting the variant call in each region
7 required ≥ 30 , and the sequence reads required ≥ 5 . In contrast, the VAF value of the variant
8 in the germline should be $\leq 1\%$. We filtered the INDEL using the same parameters as above,
9 except that reads ≥ 10 were required to support mutation calls, somatic p-values ≤ 0.001 and
10 sequencing depth ≥ 50 .

11 ANNOVAR⁴⁹ was used to annotate mutations with COSMIC (v88)⁵⁰, SIFT⁵¹, PolyPhen-
12 2⁵² and MutationTaster⁵³ databases. All mutations used in the analysis can be found in
13 Supplementary Table S2. Mutations were classified as clonal or subclonal using PyClone
14 (v0.13.1)⁵⁴. PyClone CCF (cancer cell fraction) value were calculated as described in the
15 subclonal deconstruction section. Mutations with CCF >0.9 across all regions of a tumor were
16 considered as clonal mutations, otherwise they were considered as subclonal mutations.

17 **Driver mutation identification**

18 All variants were compared with all genes identified and enlisted in the COSMIC Cancer Gene
19 Census (v88)⁵⁰. Then, three types of mutations were classified as a driver mutation according
20 to the following criteria. Firstly, if the gene was annotated as TSG (tumor suppressor gene) by
21 COSMIC, and the non-silent variant was considered deleterious: either *loss of function* (stop-
22 gain/stop-loss, frameshift deletion/insertion or non-frameshift insertion/deletion) or predicted
23 deleterious in two of these three computational approaches applied – SIFT⁵¹, PolyPhen-2⁵² and
24 MutationTaster⁵³, then the specific variant would be classified as a driver mutation. Secondly,
25 if the variant was annotated as oncogene by COSMIC, then we tried to identify exact matches
26 to non-silent variants in COSMIC. If an exact match was found ≥ 3 times, the variant was
27 categorized as a driver mutation. Thirdly, if the gene was annotated as TSG by COSMIC, and
28 the variant is located at the canonical splice site, then the specific variant would be classified

1 as a driver mutation. Finally, we compared all these three types of driver mutations to the CpG
2 island location file on UCSC Genome Bioinformatics website (<http://genome.ucsc.edu>). We
3 then deleted all mutations that occurred on the CpG island and finally got all driver mutations.

4 **Copy number analysis**

5 Sequenza (v3.0.0)⁵⁵ was used to detect the somatic copy number alterations (SCNAs) and
6 evaluate the purity and ploidy of tumor cells as follows. Firstly, we used SAMtools (v1.2)⁴⁶
7 mpileup to convert the Bam file to Pileup format. Secondly, paired tumors and normal Pileup
8 files were processed by sequenza-utils to extract the sequencing depth, determine the
9 homozygous and heterozygous positions of variants in normal samples, and calculate the
10 variant alleles and allelic frequencies from tumor samples. The sequenza-utils output was
11 further processed by using Sequenza R package to provide segmented copy number data,
12 cellularity and estimated ploidy for each sample. All segmented copy number data has been
13 given in Supplementary Table S3. Heatmap of genome-wide SCNAs is visualized by R package
14 Copynumber (v1.24.0)⁵⁶.

15 The driver gene copy number variations (driver SCNAs) of all genes enlisted in the
16 COSMIC cancer gene census were analyzed as follows. Firstly, if the gene was annotated as
17 oncogene by COSMIC, gene level amplification was called if gene copy number $> 2 \times$ ploidy
18 of that sample. Secondly, if the gene was annotated as TSG by COSMIC, gene level deletion
19 was called if gene copy number = 0. To determine the ITH status of driver SCNAs, we called
20 driver SCNAs across all regions from each tumor. If at least one region showed an amplified
21 SCNA, we called a gene as clonal amplification if all other regions of this gene showed copy
22 number $>$ ploidy + 1. If at least one region showed a deleted SCNA, we called a gene as clonal
23 deletion if all other regions of this gene showed copy number $<$ ploidy - 1. All other driver
24 SCNAs were defined as subclonal amplification or deletion. In 8 polyclonally originated tumors
25 (CRC32, CRC36, CRC42, CRC48, CRC49, CRC51, CRC52 and CRC60) without founder
26 clusters (cluster with CCF $>$ 0.9 across all regions of a tumor), all their driver SCNAs were
27 subclonal. To correlate driver SCNAs with specific mutation clusters of PyClone, we first
28 identified all clusters where $\geq 50\%$ CCF was present in each tumor region. We then identified

1 all the clusters present in the same regions as a given driver SCNAs. We called a gene as
2 clonally amplified if all the regions of this gene showed copy number $>2 \times$ ploidy while we
3 called a gene as clonally deleted if all the regions of this gene showed copy number = 0. Then
4 we repeated the association test above. If an SCNA still could not be associated with a mutant
5 cluster, it was annotated as a subclone associated with no known cluster (NA cluster).

6 To determine the ITH status of global SCNA, all parts of the genome were considered
7 independently and divided into the smallest contiguous segments that overlap in all the regions
8 within each tumor. The gains and losses of segment were determined as follows. Firstly, copy
9 number data for each segment was divided by the sample mean ploidy and then converted to
10 \log_2 . Secondly, gain and loss were defined as $\log_2(2.5/2)$ and $\log_2(1.5/2)$, respectively. Thirdly,
11 any segment of gain or loss that spanned across all the regions was defined as clonal and all
12 other segments of SCNA were defined as subclonal. Within each tumor, we summarized the
13 length of the genome that subjected to SCNA in any region (total SCNA), the length of the
14 genome that subjected to clonal SCNA (clonal gain or clonal loss), and the length of the genome
15 that subjected to subclonal SCNA (subclonal gain, subclonal loss or subclonal undetermined).
16 The proportion of subclonal SCNAs were then defined as the percentage of genomes subjected
17 to subclonal SCNA divided by the percentage of genomes subjected to total SCNAs.

18 Chromosomal arm level SCNAs were determined if at least one region has shown an
19 increase or decrease of at least 97% in chromosomal arm. To determine the ITH status of
20 chromosome arm gain and loss, we called clonal arm gain or loss if the same chromosomal arm
21 showed at least 75% gain or loss in all the remaining regions. While we called subclonal arm
22 gain or loss if at least one of the remaining regions showed less than 75% gain or loss. In 8
23 polyclonally originated tumors, all their arm level SCNAs were subclonal. As previously
24 described in the driver SCNAs part, we correlated arm level SCNAs with specific mutation
25 clusters of PyClone in the same way.

26 **Mirrored sub-clonal allelic imbalance analysis**

27 Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were called by using Platypus (v0.8.1)⁵⁷ and only
28 SNPs with a minimum coverage of $20\times$ were analyzed. The B allele frequency (BAF) of each

1 SNP was calculated as the ratio of reads of reference base to variant. Heterozygous SNPs and
2 BAFs were used as input and mirror subclone allelic imbalances (MSAI) were analyzed and
3 visualized by RECUR⁵⁸.

4 Parallel evolution events for driver SCNAs were identified as follows. Firstly, driver
5 SCNAs were identified as described in the "copy number analysis" section. Secondly, we
6 annotated the regions of MSAI events in each tumor to the events of driver SCNAs. If two
7 events coincided with each other, then these driver SCNAs undergone parallel evolution.

8 **Sub-clonal deconstruction**

9 In order to estimate whether mutations were clonal or subclonal, and the phylogenetic trees of
10 each tumor, the following formula were used^{22,59}:

$$11 \quad vaf = \frac{CN_{mut} \times CCF \times p}{CN_n \times (1 - p) + CN_t \times p}$$

12 Where *vaf* is the mutated allele frequency of the mutated base; *p* is the estimated tumor purity;
13 *CN_t* is tumor locus specific copy number; *CN_n* is normal locus specific copy number, assuming
14 2 for autosomal chromosomes; *CCF* is the fraction of tumor cells carrying mutations.
15 Considering that *CN_{mut}* is the copy number of the chromosome harboring the mutation, the
16 possible *CN_{mut}* range is from 1 to *CN_t* (integer). We then assigned one of the possible values
17 to *CCF*: 0.01, 0.02, ..., 1, together with every possible *CN_{mut}* to find the best fit *CCF* using
18 maximum likelihood. In detail, for point mutations with alternative reads as "a" and sequencing
19 coverage as "N", we used Bayesian probability theory and binomial distribution to estimate the
20 probability of a given *CCF*:

$$21 \quad P(CCF | (a|N)) \propto Binom(a|N, vaf_{ex}(CCF))$$

22 Then, the distribution of *CCF* was obtained by calculating *P(CCF)* on 100 uniform grids with
23 *CCF* values from 0.01 to 1 and dividing by their sum.

24 Then, we used PyClone (v0.12.9)⁵⁴ Dirichlet process clustering to cluster all the mutations
25 (SNVs and INDELS). For each mutation, we used the observed mutation count and set the
26 reference count so that *vaf* equal to half of the *CCF* value calculated by maximum likelihood
27 previously. We set the major allele copy number to 2, the minor allele copy number to 0 and
28 the purity to 0.5 since they had been modified.

1 Since the vaf values of INDELs were potentially unreliable, we multiplied each estimated
2 INDEL CCF with a region-specific correction factor, which was calculated by dividing the
3 median mutation CCF of the ubiquitous mutations (mutations presented in all regions) in that
4 region by the median INDEL CCF of the ubiquitous INDELs (INDELs presented in all regions)
5 in that region. We ran PyClone with 10,000 iterations and a burn-in of 1000.

6 **Phylogenetic tree construction**

7 Phylogenetic trees were constructed using the published tool CITUP (v0.1.0)⁶⁰. As input,
8 CITUP requires mutation clusters and their mean cancer cell prevalence values which were
9 collected from PyClone. All clusters with at least 5 mutations were used as input to CITUP.
10 Clusters for phylogenetic tree construction were summarized in Supplementary Table S4. The
11 optimal phylogenetic trees for each patient from CITUP were illustrated using MapScape
12 (v1.8.0)⁶¹.

13 **Evolution subtype analysis**

14 Evolutionary subtypes were clustered and visualized by REVOLVER (v0.2.0)³². CCF values
15 and cluster information of driver events were processed as previously described, which were
16 used as input to REVOLVER. REVOLVER requires a founder cluster for all the input tumors.
17 Therefore, we artificially defined a founder cluster for 8 polyclonally originated tumors. ITH
18 index was calculated as the numbers of subclonal driver events divided by the numbers of clonal
19 driver events, and SCNA index was indicated by the length of total SCNA.

20 **Phylogenetic analysis**

21 Phylogenetic distance between primary tumor, LN and ENTD were analyzed by using the
22 binary matrix of mutations present or absent in each region of tumors with LN or ENTD. Private
23 mutations of each region were discarded from phylogenetic tree building due to lack of
24 information. Fake outgroups with no mutations were generated for each individual as a root.
25 Phylogenies were constructed using the PHYLIP (v3.697)⁶² suite of tools. For each tumor, we
26 used seqboot to generate 100 bootstrap replicates by resampling of the mutations with
27 replacement.

1 Phylogenetic trees were then constructed for each bootstrap replicate by maximum
2 parsimony using the Mix programme in Wagner method. The jumble = 10 option was used and
3 the order of the input samples was randomized 10 times for each bootstrap replicate. Finally,
4 the Consense program was used to build a consensus of all the phylogenetic trees by using the
5 majority rule (extended) option. Phylogenetic trees were redrawn by FigTree (v1.4.4)⁶³ with
6 the length of trunks and branches, proportional to the number of mutations.

7 **dN/dS analysis**

8 Values of dN/dS were analysed for different types of mutations: missense (wmis), nonsense
9 (wnon), essential splice site substitution (wspl), non-synonymous substitutions (wall) and
10 truncating substitutions (wtru). Values of dN/dS were analyzed by dNdScv R package⁶⁴.

11 **Mutation signature analysis**

12 Mutation signatures were estimated by using the DeconstructSigs (v1.8.0)⁶⁵ package in R.
13 Mutational signature analysis was applied only in the presence of at least 15 mutations.

14 **Statistical analysis**

15 All analyses were performed in R statistical environment version $\geq 3.5.0$. All statistical
16 comparisons of two distributions used the Wilcoxon test (wilcox.test function in R).

17 **Data availability**

18 The sequencing data as been deposited at the CNGB Nucleotide Sequence Archive (CNSA:
19 <https://db.cngb.org/cnsa>), under accession number CNP0000594.

20 **Acknowledgement**

21 We are thankful to the proband and all the family members for participating in our study and
22 we are thankful to the China National GeneBank.

23 **Funding sources**

24 The study was supported by the grants from Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Genome
25 Read and Write (No. 2017B030301011), National Natural Science Foundation of China (No.

1 81802473), key research and development plan of Shandong province (No. 2018GSF118206)
2 and "Clinical medicine + X" project from Medical College of Qingdao University.

3 **Conflict of interest**

4 The authors confirm that there are no conflicts of interest.

5 **Author contributions**

6 Study concept and design: Santasree Banerjee, Shan Kuang, Junnian Liu, Yun Lu and Xin Liu;
7 Patient recruitment and clinical sample collection: Xianxiang Zhang, Qingyao Wu, Shujian
8 Yang; Histology and histopathology: Jigang Wang and Xiaobin Ji; Experiments (DNA
9 extraction and whole exome sequencing): Peng Han, Yong Li, Xiaofen Tian and Zhiwei Wang;
10 Analysis and interpretation of data: Santasree Banerjee, Shan Kuang, Lei Li, Shui Shun, Li
11 Deng and Yue Zhang; Drafting of the manuscript: Santasree Banerjee, Shan Kuang, Lei Li,
12 Xianxiang Zhang and Jigang Wang; Critical revision of the manuscript for
13 important intellectual content: Huanming Yang, Lars Bolund, Yonglun Luo, Kui Wu, Shida
14 Zhu, Guangyi Fan and Xun Xu; Supervision of the study: Santasree Banerjee, Shan Kuang,
15 Junnian Liu, Yun Lu and Xin Liu.

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1 **Figure legends**

2 **Figure 1. Overview of genomic heterogeneity in CRC tumors.**

3 (A) Heterogeneity of mutations and somatic copy-number alterations (SCNAs). Tumors were
4 sorted by location and stage.

5 (1) Number of all SNV and INDEL mutations (including coding and noncoding mutations) in
6 CRC tumors. (2) The percentages of clonal mutations in CRC tumors. (3) Quantification of
7 SCNAs in CRC tumors. (4) The percentages of clonal SCNAs in CRC tumors. (5) Demographic
8 and clinical characteristics of the 62 CRC patients in this study (divided by histology; whole
9 genome doubling status; stage; number of regions; tumor size; age and tumor location).

10 (B) Mutation frequency of driver genes (driver mutations occurred in not less than 10 patients)
11 and comparison with TCGA data.

12 (C) Frequency of SCNAs in CRC tumors. The dotted lines were frequency of SCNAs in TCGA
13 CRC samples.

14 **Figure 2. Phylogenetic trees.**

15 Phylogenetic trees for each CRC tumor were shown. The trees were ordered by overall stage
16 (I, II, III, IV) and position (right-sided colon, left-sided colon and rectum). The cluster number
17 corresponding to the color was displayed in the upper right corner with largest cluster labeled
18 "1". The lines connecting clusters does not contain any information.

19 **Figure 3. Summary of driver events in CRC evolution.**

20 Mutations and SCNAs were shown as occurrence in patients indicating whether the events are
21 clonal (blue) or subclonal (red). Only genes that were mutated in at least five patients in total
22 or two patients in right-sided colon/left-sided colon/rectum were shown. For SCNAs, driver
23 SCNAs in at least 20% of the patients were shown while all the arm level SCNAs were shown.
24 Driver events with more subclonal occurrence than clonal occurrence in tumors were late events,
25 otherwise they were early events. In the arm level SCNAs part, "G" represented gain, "L"
26 represented loss, and the numbers in parentheses represented the time of occurrence in tumors.

27 **Figure 4. Parallel evolution.**

28 (A) Genomic position and size of all mirrored subclonal allelic imbalance (MSAI) parallel gain

1 or loss events found in this study. This included genome-wide copy number gains and losses
2 which was subjected to MSAI events and their occurrence in CRC tumors.

3 (B) Parallel evolution of driver SCNAs observed in 5 CRC tumors, indicted by the depth ratio
4 and B-allele frequency values of the same chromosome on which the driver SCNAs (C) were
5 located.

6 (C) Phylogenetic trees that indicated parallel evolution of driver amplifications (Amp) or
7 deletions (Del) (Driver SCNAs) detected through the observation of MSAI (arrows).

8 **Figure 5. Evolutionary subtypes.**

9 Evolutionary trajectories were clustered based on CCF value and cluster information of driver
10 mutations, driver SCNAs and arm-level SCNAs. Heat maps showed the most recurrent
11 evolution for the most recurrent driver mutations, driver SCNAs and arm-level SCNAs.
12 Alterations were ordered by their frequencies in CRC tumors. CRC tumors are annotated by
13 the following parameters: ITH index (high: half of the largest ITH index value; low: the other
14 half), TMB (high > median, low ≤ median), SCNA index (high > median, low ≤ median), tumor
15 location, histology, whole genome doubling status, stage, number of regions, tumor size and
16 age.

17 **Figure 6. Phylogenetic distance between primary tumor, lymph node metastasis and** 18 **ENTD.**

19 Heatmap showed the presence (blue) and absence (white) of all the mutations (SNVs and
20 INDELS) among different tumor regions of the patients with lymph node metastasis or ENTD.
21 Phylogeny reconstruction using maximum parsimony based on mutational presence or absence
22 of all the mutations were shown beside heatmap. Driver genes were labeled in the phylogenetic
23 trees.











