1 **Tissue- and sex-specific DNA damage tracks aging in rodents and humans**

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Summary

DNA damage causes genomic instability underlying many human diseases. Traditional approaches to DNA damage analysis provide minimal insights into the spectrum of disease-driving DNA lesions and the mechanisms causing imbalances in damage formation and repair. Here we used untargeted mass spectrometry-based adductomics[1] to discover 114 putative DNA lesions and modifications consistently detected in humans and two independent analyses in rats, showing species-, tissue-, age-, and sex-biases. As evidence of methodologic rigor, 10 selected adductomic signals were structurally validated as epigenetic marks: 5-MdC, 5-HMdC, 5-FdC; DNA damage products: N^2-CMdG, $1,N^6$-εdA, $3,N^4$-εdC, M^1dG, $O^{6/}N^2$-MdG, and 8-Oxo-dG; and established analytical artifacts: cyclobutane dimers of 2'-deoxycytosine. With steady-state levels of putative DNA adducts integrating multiple cell types in each tissue, there was strong age-dependent variation for many putative adducts, including N^2-CMdG, 5-HMdC, and 8-Oxo-dG in rats and $1,N^6$-εdA in human heart, as well as sex biases for 67 putative adducts in rat tissues. These results demonstrate the potential of untargeted adductomic analysis for defining DNA adducts as disease determinants, assigning substrates to DNA repair pathways, discovering new metabolically-driven DNA lesions, and quantifying inter-individual variation in DNA damage and repair across populations.
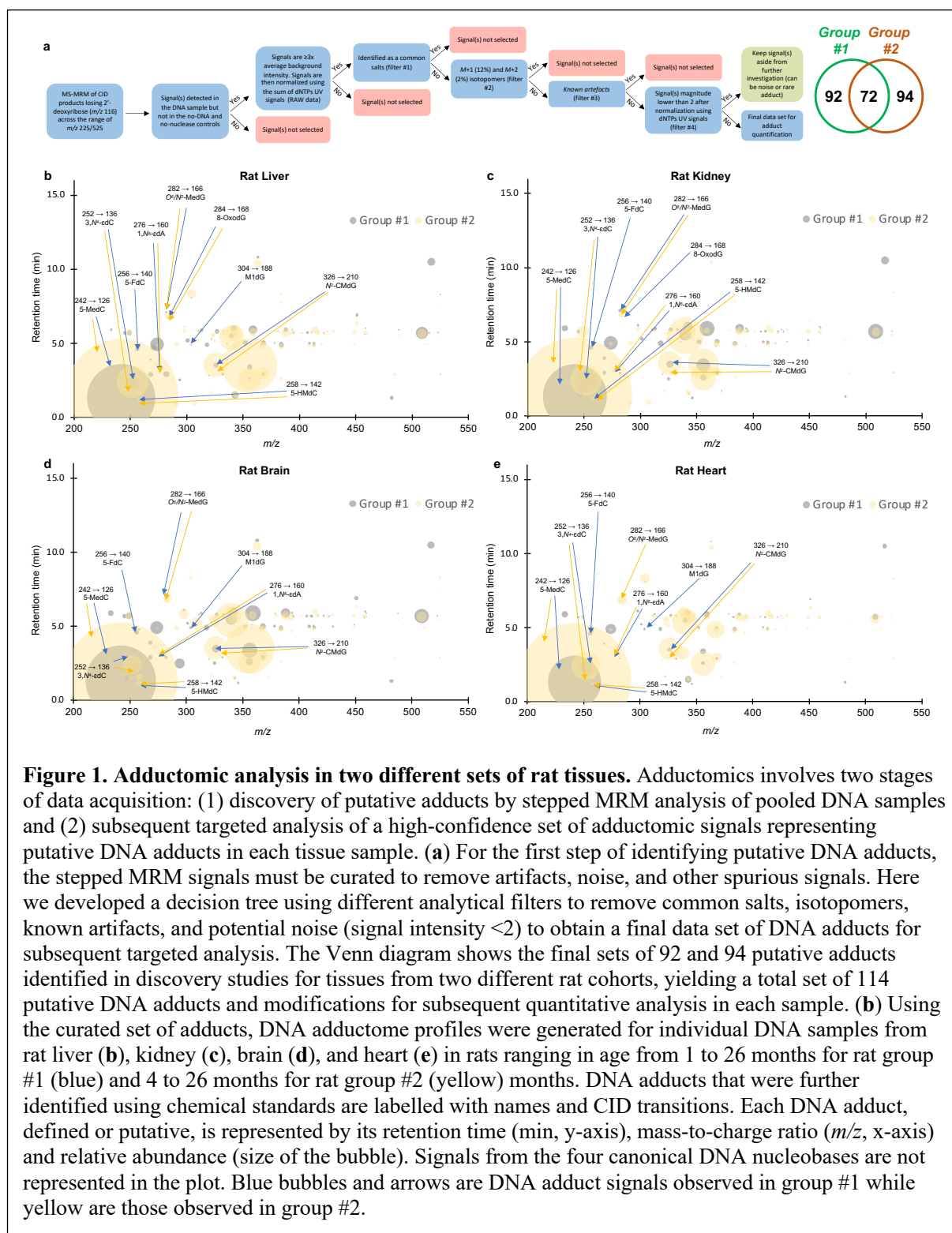
Main text

Refinement and validation of untargeted adductomics. Traditional targeted approaches to analyzing DNA adducts and structural alterations have revealed the existence of dozens of types of damage caused by both endogenous metabolic processes and exogenous environmental agents[2,3]. However, targeted approaches have yielded little information about

50   the true spectrum of DNA adducts and lesions driving aging and disease in human tissues.

51   Here we took an untargeted low-resolution mass spectrometry-based "adductomic"

52   approach[1,4-8] to characterize known DNA lesions and modifications and discover new ones

53   unique to individual rat and human tissues and the behavior of these damage products as a

54   function of age and sex. The adductomics approach involves an untargeted discovery phase in

55   which the 2'-deoxynucleoside components of hydrolyzed DNA are analyzed by multiple

56   reaction monitoring (MRM) of collision-induced dissociation (CID) products losing 2'-

57   deoxyribose (*m/z* 116) in 1 Dalton increments across the range of *m/z* 225-525 (*i.e.,* "stepped

58   MRM"). This approach provides greater sensitivity ($\leq$ 10 fmol; *vide infra*) than simple neutral

59   loss scanning. After filtering data to remove known artefacts and other noise (**Fig. 1a**), the

60   remaining putative DNA adduct signals serve as a basis set for subsequent MRM-based LC-

61   MS/MS analysis of individual DNA samples to quantify the putative adducts. For all studies

62   in rat, mouse, and human tissues, care was taken to avoid adventitious damage during DNA

63   isolation and processing, with addition of antioxidants and deaminase inhibitors[9].

64   **Supplementary Table 1** details the adductomics discovery phase using DNA isolated from

65   four tissues from groups of four male and four female Brown-Norway rats ranging age from

66   1- to 26-months-old, in two completely independent studies performed on different mass

67   spectrometers with different rat cohorts. To provide the broadest coverage of adduct variation,

68   DNA samples from each tissue were pooled across all ages to create four samples subjected to

69   adductomics discovery analysis. The 300 mass spectrometer signals from adduct discovery

70   for each organ were reduced to 92 and 94 mass spectrometer signals in the two independent

71   rat studies and assigned as putative DNA adducts and modifications on the basis of several

72   filtering criteria (**Fig. 1a**): (1) MS fragmentation released a mass consistent with 2'-

73   deoxyribose, (2) signals were detected in at least one tissue at a level that was at least three-

74   times the average background signal intensity and were detected in all individual samples of

Figure 1. Adductomic analysis in two different sets of rat tissues. Adductomics involves two stages of data acquisition: (1) discovery of putative adducts by stepped MRM analysis of pooled DNA samples and (2) subsequent targeted analysis of a high-confidence set of adductomic signals representing putative DNA adducts in each tissue sample. (**a**) For the first step of identifying putative DNA adducts, the stepped MRM signals must be curated to remove artifacts, noise, and other spurious signals. Here we developed a decision tree using different analytical filters to remove common salts, isotopomers, known artifacts, and potential noise (signal intensity <2) to obtain a final data set of DNA adducts for subsequent targeted analysis. The Venn diagram shows the final sets of 92 and 94 putative adducts identified in discovery studies for tissues from two different rat cohorts, yielding a total set of 114 putative DNA adducts and modifications for subsequent quantitative analysis in each sample. (**b**) Using the curated set of adducts, DNA adductome profiles were generated for individual DNA samples from rat liver (**b**), kidney (**c**), brain (**d**), and heart (**e**) in rats ranging in age from 1 to 26 months for rat group #1 (blue) and 4 to 26 months for rat group #2 (yellow) months. DNA adducts that were further identified using chemical standards are labelled with names and CID transitions. Each DNA adduct, defined or putative, is represented by its retention time (min, y-axis), mass-to-charge ratio (*m/z*, x-axis) and relative abundance (size of the bubble). Signals from the four canonical DNA nucleobases are not represented in the plot. Blue bubbles and arrows are DNA adduct signals observed in group #1 while yellow are those observed in group #2.

75   each rat or human tissue, (3) signals were not detected in no-DNA and no-nuclease controls

76   (*i.e.,* all reagents except DNA or nuclease/phosphatase), (4) signals representing salts (*e.g.,*

77   Na$^+$, K$^+$) were removed, (5) signals representing putative isotopomers of stronger signals (*m/z*

78   +1 and +2) were removed, (6) known artifacts were removed, (7) signals with normalized
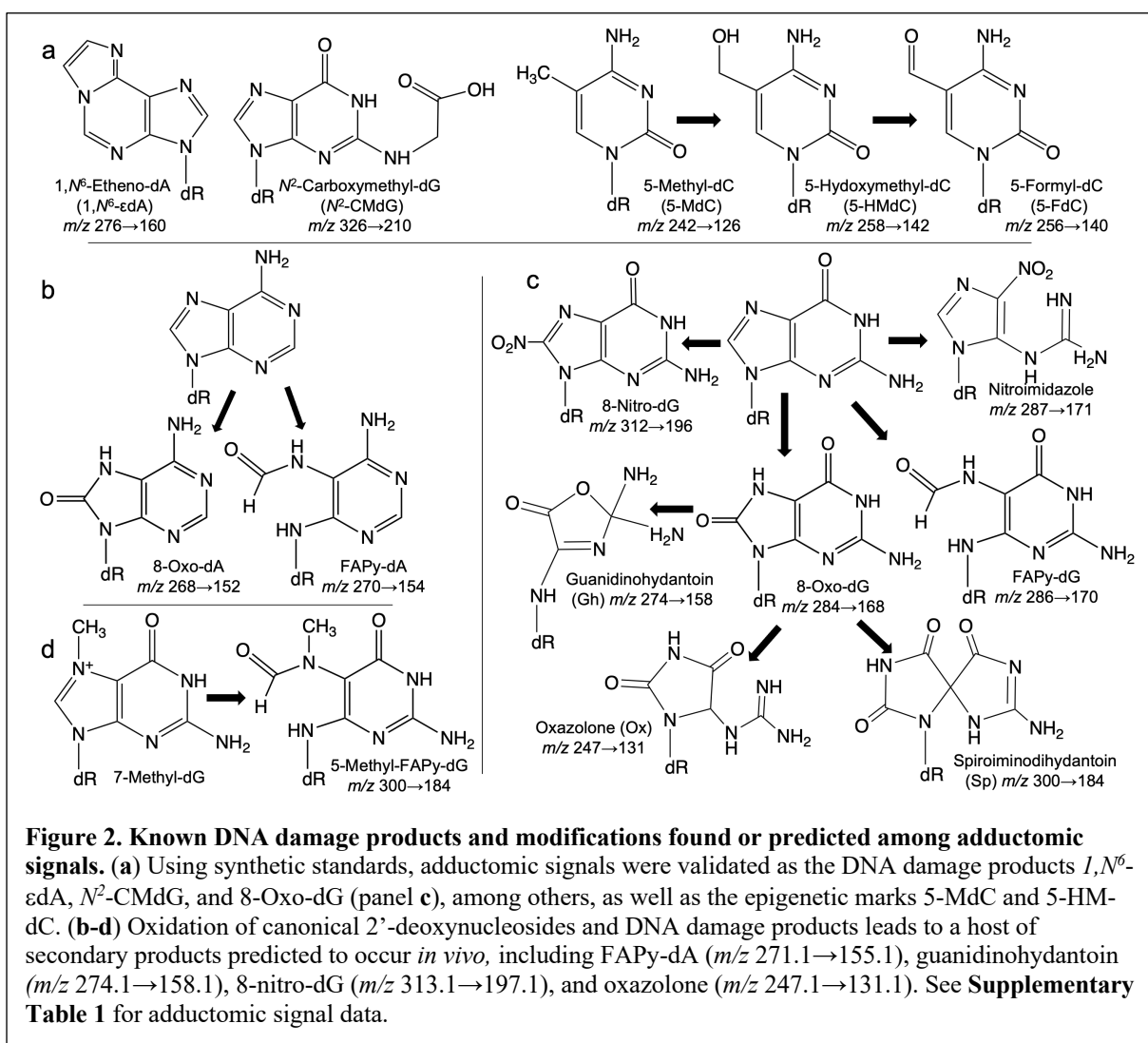
79   signal intensities ≤ 2.0 and not shared between the two independent analyses were removed. It

80   is important to note that the mass spectrometer signals could represent co-eluting mixtures of

81   chemicals with the same m/z value and cannot be assumed to represent individual 2'-

82   deoxyribonucleosides until the signals are structurally validated. The power of the

83   adductomics method lies in the ability to discover all detectable damage products and

84   modifications in cells or tissues and then quantify their variance among tissues and

85   conditions, with subsequent structural analysis confirming the identity of the putative DNA

86   damage products or modifications as the first step in mechanistic understanding of disease-

87   driving genetic toxicology.

88

89   As evidence of the rigor of the discovery method, 72 of putative adducts (63%) were shared

90   between the two independent cohorts of rats analyzed with two different mass spectrometer

91   systems (Agilent 6490 and 6495) (**Fig. 1a**, **Supplementary Table 1**). We then attempted to

92   assign chemical structures to each of the 114 putative adducts according to literature data[2,5-

93   7,10-15], subsequent high-resolution mass spectrometric analysis of HPLC fractions, or by

94   comparison to synthetic standards. The adductomic analysis revealed 66 previously

95   undescribed putative 2'-deoxyribonucleoside species as well as 48 species with fragmentation

96   and m/z values consistent with known damage products (average normalized signal intensities

97   and tentative chemical identities in **Supplementary Table 1** and **Extended Data Figure 1**).

98   These results are summarized in the bubble plots in **Figure 1**, depicting the identity and

99   quantity of putative DNA damage products in liver (**Fig. 1a**), kidney (**Fig. 1b**), brain (**Fig.**

100 **1c**), and heart (**Fig. 1d**) tissues from the two rat cohorts (blue and yellow bubbles).

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102 That the untargeted adductomic method revealed true DNA damage products and

103 modifications is supported by confirmation of the structures of 10 signals as known DNA

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104   lesions based on comparison to chemical standards (**Extended Data Fig. 1c**). For example,

105   we detected a putative adduct with m/z of 242→126 in all tissues, which was validated as the

106   epigenetic marker 5-methyl-2'-deoxycytidine (5-MdC; **Fig. 2**). The fact that the signal

107   intensity for the m/z of 242→126 5-MdC modification is several orders-of-magnitude higher

108   than other putative adducts in all tissues (**Fig. 1, Supplementary Table 1**) is consistent with

109   its presence as ~1% of all dC in the human genome[16,17]. Also consistent with the quantitative

110   rigor of the method, we detected an age-dependent signal with m/z 326→210 at much lower

111   levels than 5-MdC and identified it as N^2-carboxymethyl-2'-deoxyguanosine (N^2-CMdG)

112   (**Fig. 2**, **Supplementary Table 1**) – an advanced glycation end-product resulting from the

113   reaction between glyoxal and 2'-deoxyguanosine – by chemical synthesis of a standard for

Figure 2. Known DNA damage products and modifications found or predicted among adductomic signals. (a) Using synthetic standards, adductomic signals were validated as the DNA damage products $1,N^6$-εdA, N^2-CMdG, and 8-Oxo-dG (panel **c**), among others, as well as the epigenetic marks 5-MdC and 5-HM-dC. **(b-d)** Oxidation of canonical 2'-deoxynucleosides and DNA damage products leads to a host of secondary products predicted to occur *in vivo,* including FAPy-dA (m/z 271.1→155.1), guanidinohydantoin (m/z 274.1→158.1), 8-nitro-dG (m/z 313.1→197.1), and oxazolone (m/z 247.1→131.1). See **Supplementary Table 1** for adductomic signal data.

114   comparison by high-resolution LC-MS analysis (**Extended Data Fig. 1c**). Similar structural

115   validation was achieved for DNA damage arising from oxidation (8-hydroxy-2'-

116   deoxyguanosine, 8-Oxo-dG) and alkylation (1,N^6-etheno-2'-deoxyadenosine, 1,N^6-εdA; 3,N^4-

117   etheno-2'-deoxycytosine, 3,N^4-εdC; N^1-methyl-2'-deoxyguanosine, M^{1}dG; O^6- or N^2-methyl-

118   2'- deoxyguanosine, O^6-or N^2-MdG), as well as physiological epigenetic marks (5-

119   hydroxymethyl-2'-deoxycytidine, 5-HMdC; 5-formyl-2'-deoxycytidine, 5-FdC). The rigor of

120   the method was further validated with a putative adduct having an *m/z* 455→339

121   (**Supplementary Table 1**). High-resolution MS^4 Orbitrap mass spectrometric analysis

122   revealed the structure of this adduct as the cyclobutane dimer of 2'-deoxycytosine (dC=dC;

123   **Extended Data Fig. 2**). That this adduct co-eluted with dC is consistent with its formation as

124   an artifact of ionization and not as a pre-existing damage product in DNA.

125

126   Either due to lack of formation or levels below detection limits, we did not detect DNA

127   halogenation products (*e.g*., 5-chloro-2'-deoxycytidine, 8-chloro-2'-deoxyguanosine, 8-

128   chloro-2'deoxyadenosine, 2-chloro-2'-deoxyadenosine) or DNA deamination products 2'-

129   deoxyxanthosine (dX; from 2'-deoxyguanosine), 2'-deoxyinosine (dI; from 2'-

130   deoxyadenosine), and 2'-deoxyuridine (dU; from 2'-deoxycytidine). dX is relatively unstable

131   and depurinates during mass spectrometric ionization[9], while pyrimidine nucleosides such as

132   dU do not ionize well[18], which may explain our inability to detect these damage products in

133   the set of 114 detected species. Rough upper boundaries for the limits of quantification (LOQ)

134   by the stepped MRM adductomics method can be inferred from targeted analyses of 8-Oxo-

135   dG, N^2-CMdG, 5-HMdC and 1,N^6-εdA by isotope-dilution LC-MS (**Extended Data Fig. 1**),

136   which revealed LOQ values as follows (compound, fmol injected, lesions per 10^9 nt): 8-Oxo-

137   dG, 0.9, 49; N^2-CMdG, 3.8, 209; 5-HMdC, 4.2, 231; 1,N^6-εdA , 2.6, 143. The 114 species

138   identified by this validated adductomic method are thus very likely to be DNA damage

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139   products and modifications meriting further characterization given their strong associations

140   with tissue, sex, and age in mice, rats, and humans.

141

142   ***Tissue- and sex-specific DNA damage and modification in rats***. The observation of 114

143   putative DNA adducts identified in two independent studies of four tissues from male and

144   female rats that were 1- to 26-months-old raised the question of tissue-, sex-, and age-

145   specificity of the individual adduct species. At the simplest level, a comparison of adductomic

146   signal intensities (**Extended Data Fig. 3**) shows substantial variation among brain, heart,

147   kidney, and liver. The Venn diagram in **Figure 3a** quantifies the distributions of these adducts

148   among the tissues, revealing that the epigenetic marks (5-MdC, 5-HMdC, 5-FdC) were

149   detected in every tissue, as expected. While there were a few putative adducts uniquely

150   detected in each tissue, 60-70% of the signals were detected in all tissues (52 of 92 in group

151   #1 and 68 of 94 in group #2) (**Supplementary Table 1**). Among the adducts shared in all

152   tissues, a principal components analysis (PCA) revealed strong tissue-specific variations in

153   the levels of the shared adducts (**Extended Data Fig. 4a,c**), with a Bayesian statistical

154   approach (**Extended Data Figure 4b,e**) revealing 5 clusters common to both groups of rats

155   (**Extended Data Figure 4c,f**). This similar clustering for the two independent adductomics

156   experiments underscores the potential biological meaning of the datasets. A further Gaussian

157   mixture model clustering of the 52 shared putative DNA adducts from group #1 revealed that

158   signals from heart tissue were uniquely segregated into two clusters, with Cluster III being

159   heavily biased to sex (5 female) and age (≥16 mo) (**Fig. 3b**). A significant number of sex-

160   biased DNA adducts and modifications were observed in the four tissues from group #1, as

161   shown in **Figure 3c-f** and **Supplementary Table 2** (brain, 1; heart, 30; kidney, 34; and liver,

162   2; all with FDR = 1%). Among the epigenetic marks, significant sex differences were

163   observed for 5-HMdC in heart and kidney tissues, and for 5-FdC in kidney, with no difference

164   observed for 5-MdC in any tissue (**Supplementary Table 2**). While clusters were strongly

165   homogenous in group #1 rats, it was not possible to analyze group #2 rats for sex differences

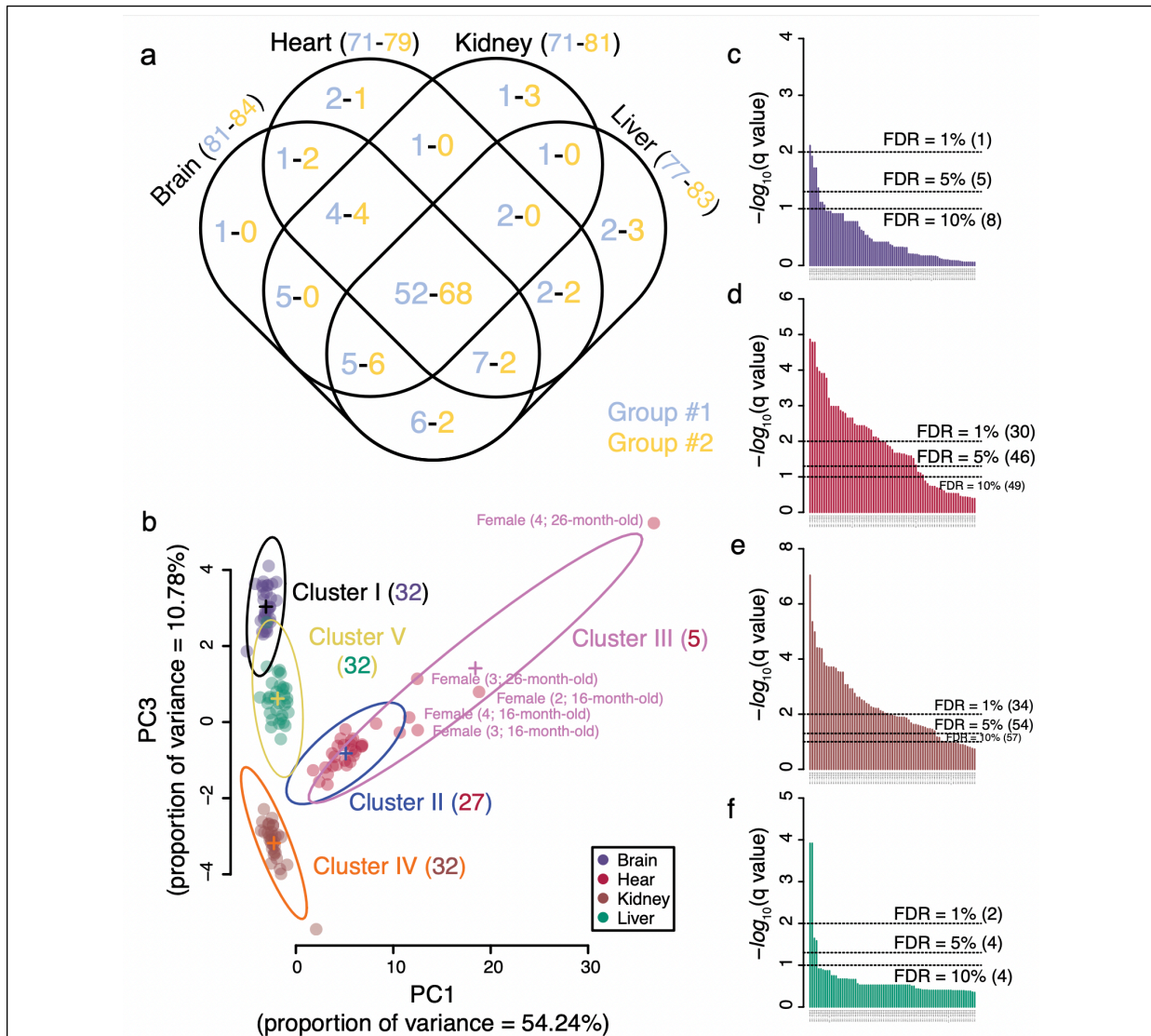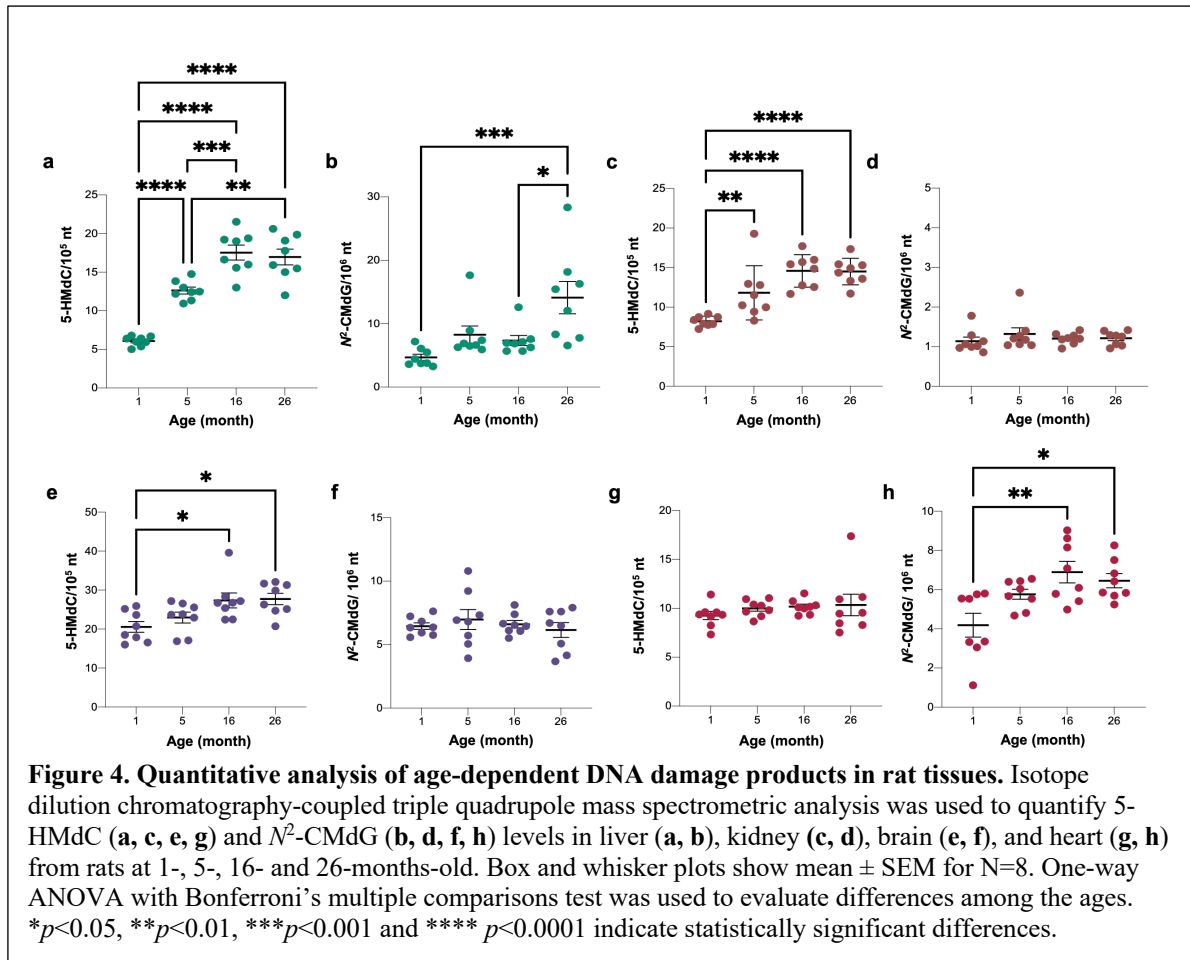166   since there were no females in 2 of 4 groups (**Extended Data Figure 3f-i**).

167

Figure 3. DNA damage is strongly tissue- and gender-specific in rats. (**a**) Venn diagram of the putative DNA adducts shared among the four rat tissues. Blue and yellow numbers (X-Y) correspond to the 92 putative adducts identified in group #1 rats and 94 in group #2 rats. Data are from **Supplementary Table 1**. (**b**) Based on multivariate statistical analysis of tissue, sex, and age associations of the 52 shared adducts in group #1 rats (**Extended Data Fig. 4a-c**), an EVV model (ellipsoidal distributions with equal volume and variable shape and orientation axes) revealed 5 underlying Gaussian distributions (Clusters I-V). The number of members in each cluster is shown in parentheses. Members of Cluster III comprise a striking group of 5 heart samples from mainly older female rats (labeled with sample # and age). (**c-f**) Bar plots of q-values for comparisons of putative DNA adduct levels in tissues from female versus male group #1 rats: (**c**) brain (81 adducts), (**d**) heart (71 adducts), (**e**) kidney (71), and (**f**) liver (77). q-Values were calculated from p-values obtained with the Wilcoxon rank sum test pn data from **Supplementary Tables 1** and **2**. Dotted lines represent the false discovery rates (FDR) at 10, 5, and 1%, with values in parentheses representing the number of significant adducts at each threshold.

168 *Adductome analysis in rat tissues reveals age-dependent DNA damage and modification.*

169 While most DNA adducts in rat tissues were unchanged with age, several adducts showed

170 strong age dependence, including 5-HMdC, N^2-CMdG, N^2-methyl-dG, 8-Oxo-dG, and 1,N^6-

171 εdA (**Extended Data Fig. 5, Supplementary Table 3**). To validate the adductomic results,

172 we performed sensitive and specific absolute quantification of these adducts, using isotope

Figure 4. Quantitative analysis of age-dependent DNA damage products in rat tissues. Isotope dilution chromatography-coupled triple quadrupole mass spectrometric analysis was used to quantify 5-HMdC (**a, c, e, g**) and N^2-CMdG (**b, d, f, h**) levels in liver (**a, b**), kidney (**c, d**), brain (**e, f**), and heart (**g, h**) from rats at 1-, 5-, 16- and 26-months-old. Box and whisker plots show mean ± SEM for N=8. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test was used to evaluate differences among the ages. *$p<0.05$, **$p<0.01$, ***$p<0.001$ and **** $p<0.0001$ indicate statistically significant differences.

173 dilution triple-quadrupole mass spectrometry, as shown in **Figure 4**, **Extended Data Figure**

174 **6**, and **Supplementary Table 3**. The epigenetic mark 5-HMdC was previously observed to

175 increase with age in mouse liver, kidney and brain[16,17] and in human tissues[19]. Our study

176 confirmed this increase in rats aged 1 to 26 months in liver (2.8-fold, **Fig. 4a**), kidney (1.7-

177 fold, **Fig. 4c**), and brain (1.4-fold, **Fig. 4e**), while it was unchanged in heart ($p= 0.62$) (**Fig.**

178 **4g**). Similarly, we confirmed a previous observation of age-dependent increases in 8-Oxo-

179 dG in rat liver[20], with a 1.8-fold increase over 26 months of age ($p=0.0001$; **Extended Data**

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180   **Fig. 6e**). These results validate the quantitative robustness of the adductomic analyses.

181   Similar analyses were not performed on the group #2.
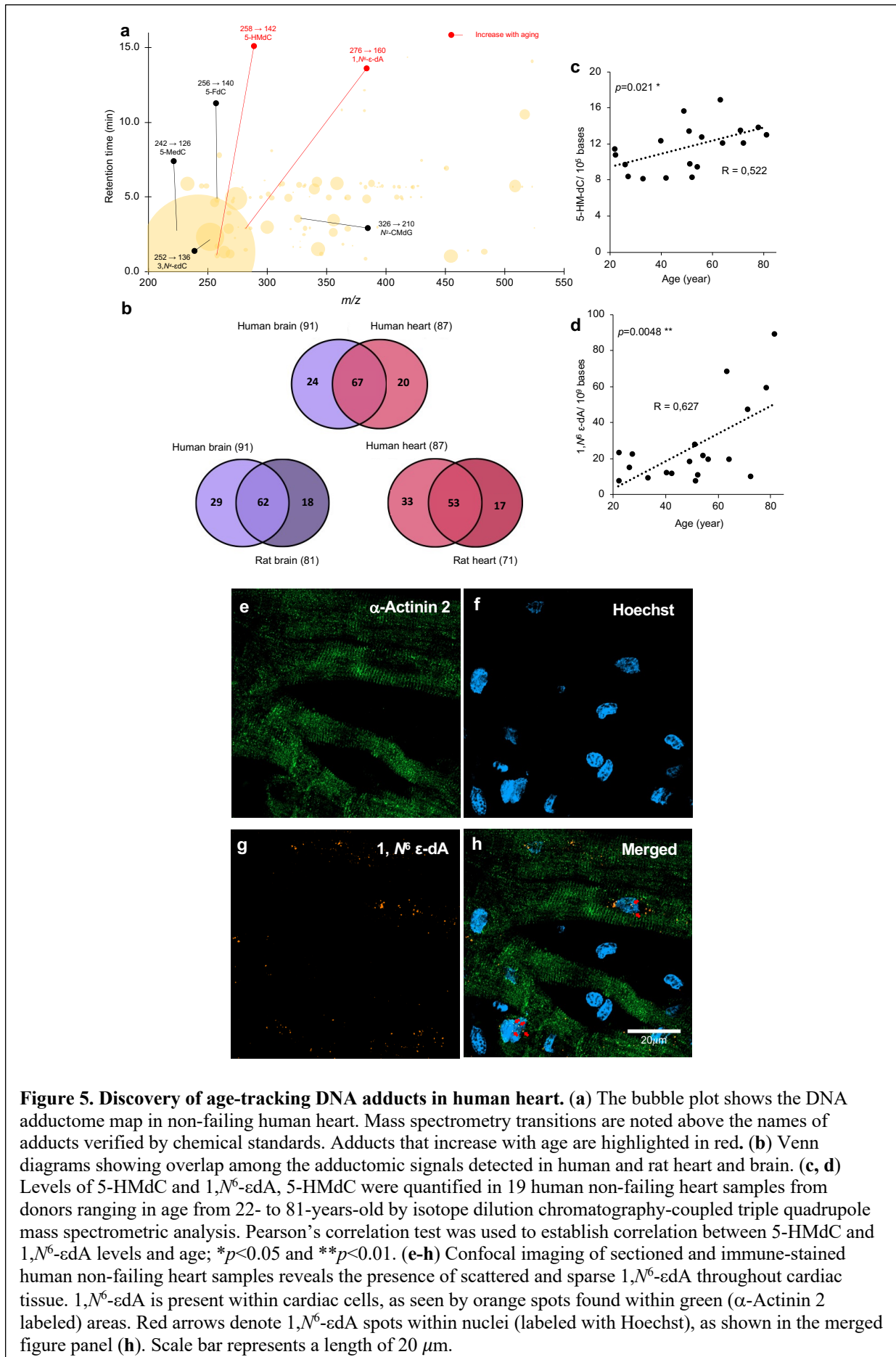
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183   We also found age-dependent increases in N^2-CMdG, an advanced glycation end-product

184   (AGE) that results from a reaction between glyoxal and 2'-deoxyguanosine (dG)[21] and that

185   has been in mouse hepatoma cells, 293T human kidney cells, and calf thymus DNA[12,22]. In

186   rat, N^2-CMdG increased in 3-fold in liver (**Fig. 4b**) and 1.5-fold in heart (**Fig. 4h**) over 1-26

187   months but remained unchanged in kidney (**Fig. 4d**) and brain (**Fig. 4f**). While mutations

188   caused by glyoxal-induced DNA adducts can be prevented by nucleotide excision DNA repair

189   (NER), mismatch DNA repair (MMR), and the protein DJ-1 *in vitro*[23,24], metabolically-

190   derived glyoxal, methylglyoxal, and other reactive aldehydes are removed by the glyoxalase

191   system of GLO1 and GLO2 in humans to prevent DNA adduct formation. In this system,

192   GLO1 converts glyoxal, methylglyoxal, and glutathione (GSH) to *S*-glycolylglutathione that

193   is cleaved by GLO2 to glycolate, D-lactate, and GSH[25]. Here, we quantified the effect of

194   GLO1 expression on N^2-CMdG levels in brain, heart, and liver tissues from mice with *Glo1*

195   knock-down[26] or over-expression[27] and wild-type littermates. Surprisingly, the only change

196   observed in N^2-CMdG levels involved a significant increase in liver in GLO1 over-expressing

197   mice compared to wild-type (**Extended Data Fig. 6f-j**). These data indicate either that N^2-

198   CMdG is formed from sources other than glyoxal or that GLO1 does not significantly affect

199   glyoxal levels in mice, either of which has implications for the observed age-dependent

200   accumulation of N^2-CMdG.

201

202   ***5-HMdC and 1,N⁶-εdA are age-dependent DNA adducts in human heart.*** The observed

203   results in rats raised the question of age-dependent DNA damage and modification in humans.

204   To this end, we performed adductomic analyses with DNA from non-failing human

11

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Figure 5. Discovery of age-tracking DNA adducts in human heart. (**a**) The bubble plot shows the DNA adductome map in non-failing human heart. Mass spectrometry transitions are noted above the names of adducts verified by chemical standards. Adducts that increase with age are highlighted in red. (**b**) Venn diagrams showing overlap among the adductomic signals detected in human and rat heart and brain. (**c, d**) Levels of 5-HMdC and 1,N^6-εdA, 5-HMdC were quantified in 19 human non-failing heart samples from donors ranging in age from 22- to 81-years-old by isotope dilution chromatography-coupled triple quadrupole mass spectrometric analysis. Pearson's correlation test was used to establish correlation between 5-HMdC and 1,N^6-εdA levels and age; *$p<0.05$ and **$p<0.01$. (**e-h**) Confocal imaging of sectioned and immune-stained human non-failing heart samples reveals the presence of scattered and sparse 1,N^6-εdA throughout cardiac tissue. 1,N^6-εdA is present within cardiac cells, as seen by orange spots found within green (α-Actinin 2 labeled) areas. Red arrows denote 1,N^6-εdA spots within nuclei (labeled with Hoechst), as shown in the merged figure panel (**h**). Scale bar represents a length of 20 μm.

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206 myocardial tissues comprised of left ventricular myocardial samples from 17 people ranging

207 in age from 22- to 81-years-old[27,28] and from 10 human brain tissue samples from persons

208 without cognitive impairment ranging in age from 71- to 89-years-old (**Supplemental Table**

209 **5**). The analysis revealed 111 total putative DNA adducts and modifications, with 91 detected

210 in brain and 87 in heart (**Fig. 5**, **Supplementary Table 3**). The Venn diagrams in **Figure 5b**

211 reveal that rats and humans share signals for 62 putative adducts in brain and 53 in heart.

212 Among these, adductomics revealed that 5-HMdC and 1,N^6-εdA all increased with age in

213 human hearts (**Fig. 5**, **Supplementary Table 3**), with this age dependence corroborated by

214 isotope dilution LC-MS/MS that shows a significant and positive correlation for 5-HMdC (p=

215 0.021) and 1,N^6-εdA (p= 0.0048) in non-failing human hearts (**Fig. 5c,d**; **Supplementary**

216 **Table 3**). As a product of reaction of dA with electrophilic products of lipid peroxidation[29],

217 1,N^6-εdA levels are elevated in human diseases such as Wilson's disease, hemochromatosis,

218 and cirrhosis[30], and show age-dependent increases in liver and brain in the OXYS rat model

219 of aging due to oxidative stress[31]. **Figure 5e-h** shows 1, N^6 ε-dA concentrated mainly in select

220 cardiomyocyte nuclei, raising the question of the age of these cells in the local tissue

221 environment.

222

223 **Discussion**

224

225 In spite of the overwhelming evidence that imbalances in hundreds of types of DNA damage

226 and dozens of DNA repair enzymes cause and drive many human diseases, such as in

227 cancer[32], the underlying mechanisms that lead to age-, tissue-, and sex-specificity of genetic

228 toxicity are poorly understood. Here, we took a first step in unraveling this problem with a

229 systems-level estimate of the spectrum of DNA damage products and modification in rat and

230 human tissues. Such an analysis is possible only with the emergence of convergent

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231   adductomic technology consisting of untargeted mass spectrometric detection and

232   quantification of virtually any type of nucleobase damage in DNA[6] coupled with statistical

233   modeling to visualize patterns and covariations among the putative DNA damage products.

234   This systems-level untargeted DNA adductomic approach serves as a discovery tool by

235   revealing all detectable forms of DNA damage, including new chemical species, followed by

236   providing relative quantification of adduct levels across different conditions.

237

238   *Validation of the adductomic method*. As an untargeted method, there is always concern

239   about detecting artifacts caused by non-DNA contaminants that produce a low-resolution CID

240   fragmentation mimicking loss of 2'-deoxyribose. Such artifacts are mitigated by starting with

241   highly purified DNA and accounting for contaminants in non-DNA components of the

242   analyzed samples. Each analytical run must include controls lacking buffer, enzymes, and

243   DNA to identify contaminants. Our adductomic method helped us to achieves these

244   requirements. Selected signals were reproducibly present at 3-times the background level in

245   all 32 samples of each analyzed rat tissue (*i.e.,* 8 samples of each tissue at 4 different ages;

246   22% average error), with more than half of the detected adducts being shared between rats

247   and humans in brain and heart tissues (**Fig. 5b**) in two different sets of rat. The adductomic

248   method was validated (1) by *post hoc* identification of 10 detected adducts using chemical

249   standards and (2) by high-resolution structural analysis of products, such as the tentatively

250   identified cyclobutane dimer of dC. Of the remaining 114 unidentified species, about half had

251   low-resolution *m/z* values consistent with known DNA damage structures (**Supplementary**

252   **Table 1**). More interesting after filtering our data, we were able to find 63% of shared adducts

253   between the two studies showing the robustness of our approach. Thus, there is a high

254   probability that most signals detected in our adductomic analyses are indeed DNA adducts

255   that merit identification and definition of formation and repair mechanisms to understand their

256   roles in pathobiology and the basis for our observed age, tissue, and sex biases. Of course, the

257   adductomic method is not as sensitive as isotope-dilution LC-MS/MS and will not detect

258   labile nucleobase species, such as rapid depurination of 8-nitro-2'-deoxyguanosine arising

259   during inflammatory stresses[2], or species arising from oxidation of the 2'-deoxyribose

260   moiety[33]. There are also complexities in the adductomic method, such as MS ionization of

261   adducts as salts (*e.g.,* possible ammonium salt of 5-Cl-dC for *m/z* 279-163; **Supplementary**

262   **Table 1**) and rearrangements of free 2'-deoxyribonuclesides (*e.g.,* sugar tautomers unique to

263   FAPy-dG; *vide infra*). Despite these constraints, the strength of the adductomic approach lies

264   in the insights gained from mining the systems-level datasets for correlative patterns that

265   reveal behaviors of classes and groups of DNA adducts across different conditions of health

266   and disease. By first identifying adductomic patterns, then identifying the chemical species

267   driving the patterns, and finally doing the biochemical detective work, we can define the

268   DNA damage products that truly drive human disease.

269

270   ***Mining adductomic data for chemical classes of DNA adducts.*** There are many ways to

271   mine adductomic datasets. One initial approach is to identify a putative DNA damage species

272   that correlates with a condition of interest, such as the age-dependent increases in 8-Oxo-dG

273   (**Extended Data Fig. 6e**), and then explore other mechanistically related species, such as the

274   large and well-studied class of purine damage products arising during inflammation and other

275   oxidative and nitrosative stresses (**Fig. 2**)[2]. Taking this path, we identified 8-Oxo-dG among

276   the 114 adducts using a standard but failed to detect signals accordant with 8-Oxo-dA (*m/z*

277   268→152) or FAPy-dA (*m/z* 270→154). This is consistent with the observation of 10-fold

278   lower levels of 8-Oxo-dA than 8-Oxo-dG and the relative amounts of 8-Oxo-dA, 8-Oxo-dG,

279   FAPy-dA, and FAPy-dG in cells and tissues subjected to irradiation and other oxidative

280   stresses (**Fig. 2**)[34-36]. While we did detect two signals suggestive of the known anomeric or

281   sugar tautomer forms of FAPy-dG (m/z 286-170)[37-39], the observed HPLC retention times of

282   2.9 and 4.9 min for m/z 286-170 (**Supplementary Table 1**) are inconsistent with

283   expectations-based retention times of ~0.7 and ~0.9 min for 5-methyl-FAPy-dG (**Fig. 2**). We

284   also observed signals suggestive of the other oxidized purine nucleobase products noted in

285   **Figure 2**: oxazolone (Oz; m/z 247→131), nitroimidazole (NitroIm; m/z 287→171),

286   spiroiminodihydantoin (Sp; m/z 300→184; same as FAPy-dG), and guanidinohydantoin (Gh;

287   m/z 274→158). While 8-Oxo-dG and putative Oz were variably present in rat and human

288   tissues, the putative NitroIm signal was only present in rat liver tissue and a signal consistent

289   with Gh was present in all rat and human tissues at high levels. The observation with Gh runs

290   contrary to published *in vitro* studies of DNA damage caused by a variety of oxidants in

291   which Gh rose at levels nearly two orders-of-magnitude lower than 8-Oxo-dG in all cases[40].

292   However, the biochemical environment in cells and tissues has the potential to strongly

293   influence the chemical reactions involved in DNA damage formation and partitioning, which

294   leaves the door open to the identity of m/z 274→158 as Gh. Based on the HPLC retention

295   times of chemical standards, we ruled out Sp and 5-methyl-FAPy-dG as the adduct present at

296   m/z 300→184: ~0.95 min for Sp (consistent with its hydrophilicity) and ~0.7 and ~0.9 min for

297   the anomeric or tautomeric pair of FAPy-dG species (**Fig. 2**). The adductomic data thus

298   provides the foundation for a host of testable hypotheses about the *in vivo* behavior of entire

299   classes of adducts arising by similar chemical mechanisms: Are *in vitro* observations

300   recapitulated *in vivo*? How does the cellular environment alter chemical partitioning? What

301   are the true oxidants causing damage to dG and dA *in vivo*? Biochemical detective work,

302   structural validation, and subsequent targeted analyses can then be used to test these models.

303   Structural validation using high-resolution mass spectrometry and chemical synthesis is well-

304   practiced and entirely feasible, as we demonstrated with the cyclobutane dimer of dC and N^2-

305   CMdG. One can also define the role of specific DNA repair mechanisms by comparing

16

306   adductomic profiles between wild-type and DNA repair mutant animal models or across

307   human populations with defined inter-individual repair capacities.

308

309   ***DNA adduct biases among tissues.*** The power of comparing adductomic profiles across

310   different conditions is illustrated by our observations of tissue-, age- and sex-specific biases in

311   adduct spectra. Strong tissue-specific biases were observed in rat for 114 putative and

312   validated DNA adducts (**Fig. 3; Extended Data Figures 3, 4d-f**), with a variety of tissue-

313   specific or at least tissue-enriched DNA damage products (**Supplementary Table 1**). The

314   normalized signal intensities for adducts noted in **Supplementary Table 1** represent

315   quantitative metrics that allow relative comparisons of adduct levels across tissues given the

316   precision of the LC-MS signals, with appropriate caution that the signal intensities do not

317   reflect absolute amounts of the putative adducts due to differences in ionization and detection

318   efficiencies. After removing the large signal for epigenetic mark 5-MdC, summing the signal

319   values in a tissue represents a crude measure of the DNA adduct load in the tissue (number of

320   adduct types and percentage of total adduct load in parentheses): rat brain, 3517 (81; 28%);

321   rat heart, 1458 (71; 12%); rat kidney, 3574 (71; 29%); rat liver, 3790 (77; 31%); human brain,

322   6142 (91; 63%); human heart, 3584 (87; 37%). The DNA adduct loads were higher in the

323   tissues analyzed in group #2: rat brain, 9483 (85; 24%); rat heart, 7085 (84; 18%); rat kidney,

324   10552 (90; 26%); rat liver, 13080 (90; 32%). The higher normalized signal intensities

325   observed for the group #2 rat tissues compared to group #1 reflect higher sensitivity of the

326   Agilent 6495C MS used analyze group #2 compared to the Agilent 6490 MS used for group

327   #1. While there is little meaningful information that can be derived from the adduct load data,

328   it is notable that both rat and human heart have the lowest level of adducts relative to other

329   tissues and that the two rat groups shared a similar order of adduct loads

330   (heart<brain<kidney<liver). The complexity of the adductomic datasets, as mixtures of

331 potentially all classes of lesions type and repair, precludes comparisons to published studies

332 showing tissue-specific variation in adduct repair for one or a few representative adducts or a

333 single repair class[41-43]. For example, Gosponodov *et al.* estimated NER rates among rat

334 kidney (0.1 lesions/kb/hr), liver (0.1 lesions/kb/hr), brain (0.08 lesions/kb/hr), and heart (0.04

335 lesions/kb/hr)[44], while Langie *et al.* found lower BER activity in mouse brain compared to

336 liver[45]. Cell replication rate could also account for tissue differences. For example, repair of

337 8-Oxo-dG and FAPy-dG occurs by OGG1 base-excision repair throughout the cell cycle and

338 by MUTYH removal of A at 8-Oxo-dG:A mispairs during DNA replication[46]. MUTYH

339 activity is highest in rapidly dividing cells (*e.g.*, gastrointestinal tract) due to replication-

340 coupled repair of 8-Oxo-dG:A mismatches. However, in addition to other repair metrics, there

341 is no correlation between tissue-specific levels or loads of adducts and cell turnover rates in

342 humans: hepatocyte cells (200-400 d)[47], endothelial kidney cells (>1 y)[48], cardiomyocytes

343 (~50 y)[49] and neurons (lifespan)[50]. Even less is known about tissue-specific metabolism that

344 causes DNA adducts. For example, mitochondrial density and energy activity correlate with

345 production of reactive oxygen species and associated oxidative damage to lipids and

346 carbohydrates, to form DNA-reactive alkylating agents, as well as to DNA and RNA

347 directly[41,42]. Brain and liver are lower in both metrics compared to heart and kidney[41,42], but,

348 again, differences among the tissues in adduct load and the number of types of adducts in

349 these tissues do not correlate with these metrics. These attempts to explain the observed

350 biased tissue distribution of known and putative DNA adducts point to potential value in

351 performing adductomic analyses in genetically engineered mouse models for the various

352 DNA repair pathways, by identifying true substrates of DNA repair enzymes, quantifying the

353 contribution of repair to adduct levels in each tissue, and to the age- and sex-dependence of

354 adduct levels.

355

356   ***DNA adduct biases among different cell types in tissues.*** One of the limitations of

357   performing adductomic analyses on whole tissues is the potential for biases among specific

358   cell types comprising the tissue. Enzymatic disaggregation of tissues may be the optimal

359   approach for isolating cell populations, with the potential for adequate DNA for adductomic

360   analyses, though DNA damage artifacts during processing are likely. Heat-induced artifacts

361   are highly likely to occur with laser-capture microdissection, with DNA yield (30 ng/mm^2)

362   and low resolution also limiting its utility[51]. While the 5-10 μm resolution of imaging mass

363   spectrometry may provide adequate resolution in tissues, the method is likely to be limiting in

364   terms of sensitivity (1 fmol)[52]. Immunohistochemistry with highly specific antibodies

365   ultimately optimizes chemical specificity with resolution. Here we used immunostaining to

366   detect 1,N^6-εdA in the nuclei of cardiomyocytes in human ventricular myocardial samples,

367   which indicated that accumulation may be limited to a small number of cells. While this may

368   result from a sensitivity threshold and all cells show some level of the adduct, substantial

369   accumulation of DNA adducts in a small number of cells might indicate damage specific to

370   cell subtypes or to the oldest cells in the tissue, with the latter indicating compromised

371   genomic integrity during senescence.

372

373   ***Age dependence of DNA adducts.*** Comparative analysis of DNA adducts in rats across the

374   age span of 1 to 26 months revealed that a subset of DNA adducts did not change, several

375   adducts showed significant age-dependent accumulation and decreases with age in a tissue-

376   and sex-specific manner (**Fig. 4**, **Extended Data Fig. 6**). This suggests shifts in the balance

377   between adduct formation and repair mechanisms over the life of the animal. We observed

378   significant age-dependent increases of N^2-CMdG in rat liver and heart (**Fig. 4**). N^2-CMdG and

379   the related N^2-(1-carboxyethyl)-2'-deoxyguanosine (N^2-CEdG) are advanced glycation end-

380   products resulting from the reaction of glyoxal and methylglyoxal, respectively, with 2'-

381   deoxyguanosine in DNA. This is not surprising since the methylglyoxal and glyoxal are

382   reactive α-oxoaldehydes formed in abundance during the glucose metabolism[53] in liver[54] and

383   there is evidence for age-dependent decreases in base excision repair (BER) mechanism in

384   mouse liver[55], with N^2-CMdG likely repaired by the BER enzyme alkyladenine glycosylase

385   (Aag)[56]. In studies examining age-dependent mechanisms of formation, we observed no effect

386   of glyoxalase I activity on N^2-CMdG levels. It is known that glyoxalase I prefers

387   methylglyoxal as a substrate over glyoxal and protects against N^2-CEdG[57,58]. Interestingly, we

388   detected a signal consistent with N^2-CEdG at m/z 340→224 and found strong covariance of

389   this signal with that for N^2-CMdG (**Extended Data Fig. 6k, Supplementary Table 1**).

390

391   Adductomic analysis of human heart tissue also revealed age-dependent DNA damage and

392   epigenetic marks. We observed a significant age-dependent accumulation of 5-HMdC, which

393   results from oxidation of 5-MdC[19], in non-failing heart tissue, which parallels a published

394   observation of increases in 5-HMdC with age in grey and white matter of the human

395   cerebrum[17]. We also found age-dependent increase in the 1,N^6-εdA damage product. While

396   this contrasts the inconsistent changes in 1,N^6-εdA in rat heart (**Extended Data Fig. 6d**), it is

397   consistent with the idea of cardiomyocytes becoming more susceptible to oxidative stress with

398   age[59], with cardiac DNA repair mechanisms tending to be less efficient with age[60], and with

399   the observation of age-dependent increases in the 4-hydroxy-2-nonenal (HNE) lipid

400   peroxidation product that reacts with DNA to form 1,N^6-εdA[61,62]. The immunohistochemical

401   evidence for concentration of 1,N^6-εdA in subpopulations of cardiomyocyte nuclei suggests a

402   possible correlation between adduct formation and cell age or senescence.

403

404   ***Sex dependence of DNA adducts.*** The complexity of the network of determinants of DNA

405   adduct spectra is increased by our observation of sex-specific differences in adduct levels in

406   all four of the tissues studied (**Fig. 3c-f, Supplementary Table 2**). Interestingly, while the

407   epigenetic mark 5-MdC did not show a sex bias in any of the rat tissues, its oxidation products

408   5-HMdC and 5-FdC were significantly higher or trending higher in female kidney and heart

409   (**Supplementary Table 2**). While sex-based biases in metabolism may account for the

410   observation that females show higher levels of smoking-related DNA adducts in human lung

411   tissue[63] and in mice treated with 2-amino-3-methylimidazo [4,5-f]-quinoline, a potent food

412   mutagen[64], our observations with 5-HMdC and 5-FdC suggest sex differences in epigenetic

413   regulation of gene expression. The variety of unknown putative DNA adducts showing sex

414   biases merits further investigation of their structures and definition of their potential roles in

415   cell biology, aging, and pathology.

416

417   ***Conclusions.*** Adductomics proved to be an effective approach for discovering individual

418   DNA damage products as well as for systems-level analysis of the behaviors of dozens of

419   putative DNA adducts as a function of tissue type, age, and sex. Such covariate behavior can

420   be highly informative about local environment of DNA repair and metabolism, especially

421   when combined with large metabolomics[65], proteomics[66,67], and other datasets. While age-

422   sex-, and tissue-specific variations in the levels of 114 putative and method-validated DNA

423   adducts provide important new biological insights into genetic toxicology and epigenetics, the

424   adductomic approach illustrated here is a powerful approach to (1) assigning substrates to

425   DNA repair pathways using genetically engineered animal models, (2) understanding

426   mechanisms of DNA damage formation by monitoring classes of DNA lesions and

427   manipulating metabolic pathways, and (3) quantifying inter-individual variation in DNA

428   damage and repair across populations and pathologies. These efforts will be enhanced by

429   advancing the mass spectrometry and data analysis tools for adductomic profiling[67].

430

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596

597   **Figure legends**

598

599   **Figure 1. Adductomic analysis in two different sets of rat tissues.** Adductomics involves

600   two stages of data acquisition: (1) discovery of putative adducts by stepped MRM analysis of

601   pooled DNA samples and (2) subsequent targeted analysis of a high-confidence set of

602   adductomic signals representing putative DNA adducts in each tissue sample. (**a**) For the first

603   step of identifying putative DNA adducts, the stepped MRM signals must be curated to

604   remove artifacts, noise, and other spurious signals. Here we developed a decision tree using

605   different analytical filters to remove common salts, isotopomers, known artifacts, and

606   potential noise (signal intensity <2) to obtain a final data set of DNA adducts for subsequent

607   targeted analysis. The Venn diagram shows the final sets of 92 and 94 putative adducts

608   identified in discovery studies for tissues from two different rat cohorts, yielding a total set of

609   114 putative DNA adducts and modifications for subsequent quantitative analysis in each

610   sample. (**b**) Using the curated set of adducts, DNA adductome profiles were generated for

611   individual DNA samples from rat liver (**b**), kidney (**c**), brain (**d**), and heart (**e**) in rats ranging

612   in age from 1 to 26 months for rat group #1 (blue) and 4 to 26 months for rat group #2

613   (yellow) months. DNA adducts that were further identified using chemical standards are

614   labelled with names and CID transitions. Each DNA adduct, defined or putative, is

615   represented by its retention time (min, y-axis), mass-to-charge ratio (*m/z*, x-axis) and relative

616   abundance (size of the bubble). Signals from the four canonical DNA nucleobases are not

617   represented in the plot. Blue bubbles and arrows are DNA adduct signals observed in group

618   #1 while yellow are those observed in group #2.

619

620   **Figure 2. Known DNA damage products and modifications found or predicted among**

621   **adductomic signals.** (**a**) Using synthetic standards, adductomic signals were validated as the

622 DNA damage products $1,N^6$-εdA, N^2-CMdG, and 8-Oxo-dG (panel **c**), among others, as well

623 as the epigenetic marks 5-MdC and 5-HM-dC. (**b-d**) Oxidation of canonical 2'-

624 deoxynucleosides and DNA damage products leads to a host of secondary products predicted

625 to occur *in vivo,* including FAPy-dA (*m/z* 271.1→155.1), guanidinohydantoin *(m/z*

626 274.1→158.1), 8-nitro-dG (*m/z* 313.1→197.1), and oxazolone (*m/z* 247.1→131.1). See

627 **Supplementary Table 1** for adductomic signal data.

628

629 **Figure 3. DNA damage is strongly tissue- and gender-specific in rats**. (**a**) Venn diagram of

630 the putative DNA adducts shared among the four rat tissues. Blue and yellow numbers (X-Y)

631 correspond to the 92 putative adducts identified in group #1 rats and 94 in group #2 rats. Data

632 are from **Supplementary Table 1**. (**b**) Based on multivariate statistical analysis of tissue, sex,

633 and age associations of the 52 shared adducts in group #1 rats (**Extended Data Fig. 4a-c**), an

634 EVV model (ellipsoidal distributions with equal volume and variable shape and orientation

635 axes) revealed 5 underlying Gaussian distributions (Clusters I-V). The number of members in

636 each cluster is shown in parentheses. Members of Cluster III comprise a striking group of 5

637 heart samples from mainly older female rats (labeled with sample # and age). (**c-f**) Bar plots

638 of q-values for comparisons of putative DNA adduct levels in tissues from female versus male

639 group #1 rats: (**c**) brain (81 adducts), (**d**) heart (71 adducts), (**e**) kidney (71), and (**f**) liver (77).

640 q-Values were calculated from p-values obtained with the Wilcoxon rank sum test pn data

641 from **Supplementary Tables 1** and **2**. Dotted lines represent the false discovery rates (FDR)

642 at 10, 5, and 1%, with values in parentheses representing the number of significant adducts at

643 each threshold.

644

645 **Figure 4. Quantitative analysis of age-dependent DNA damage products in rat tissues.**

646 Isotope dilution chromatography-coupled triple quadrupole mass spectrometric analysis was

647   used to quantify 5-HMdC (**a, c, e, g**) and N^2-CMdG (**b, d, f, h**) levels in liver (**a, b**), kidney (**c,**

648   **d**), brain (**e, f**), and heart (**g, h**) from rats at 1-, 5-, 16- and 26-months-old. Box and whisker

649   plots show mean ± SEM for N=8. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons

650   test was used to evaluate differences among the ages. *$p<0.05$, **$p<0.01$, ***$p<0.001$ and

651   **** $p<0.0001$ indicate statistically significant differences.

652

653   **Figure 5. Discovery of age-tracking DNA adducts in human heart.** (**a**) The bubble plot

654   shows the DNA adductome map in non-failing human heart. Mass spectrometry transitions

655   are noted above the names of adducts verified by chemical standards. Adducts that increase

656   with age are highlighted in red**. (b)** Venn diagrams showing overlap among the adductomic

657   signals detected in human and rat heart and brain. (**c,d**) Levels of 5-HMdC and 1, N^6 ε-dA, 5-

658   HMdC were quantified in 19 human non-failing heart samples from donors ranging in age

659   from 22- to 81-years-old by isotope dilution chromatography-coupled triple quadrupole mass

660   spectrometric analysis. Pearson's correlation test was used to establish correlation between 5-

661   HMdC and 1,N^6-εdA levels and age; *$p<0.05$ and **$p<0.01$. (**e-h**) Confocal imaging of

662   sectioned and immune-stained human non-failing heart samples reveals the presence of

663   scattered and sparse 1,N^6-εdA throughout cardiac tissue. 1,N^6-εdA is present within cardiac

664   cells, as seen by orange spots found within green (α-Actinin 2 labeled) areas. Red arrows

665   denote 1,N^6-εdA spots within nuclei (labeled with Hoechst), as shown in the merged figure

666   panel (**h**). Scale bar represents a length of 20 μm.

667

668   **Methods**

669

670   *Materials.* Tris-hydrochloride (Tris HCl), magnesium chloride ($MgCl_2$), acetic acid, sodium

671   acetate, formic acid, butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), tetrahydrouridine (THU), coformycin,

672   DNAse I, benzonase, phosphatase alkaline, desferrioxamine mesylate salt, glyoxal, 4-Thio-2'-

673   deoxyuridine, 6-thio-2'-deoxyguanosine, 5-Methyl-2'-deoxycytidine, 2-Chloro-2'-

674   deoxyadenosine, 8-Hydroxy-2'-deoxyguanosine, 5-hydroxymethyl-2'-deoxyuridine, 5-Fluoro-

675   2'-deoxycytidine and 6-thio-2'-deoxyguanosine were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (Saint-

676   Louis, MO, USA). Phosphodiesterase I was purchased from Affymetrix (Cleveland, Ohio,

677   USA). [^{15}N(U)]-labeled 2'-deoxyguanosine was purchased from Cambridge Isotopes

678   (Andover, MA, USA). Isopropanol and acetonitrile were purchased from VWR Scientific

679   (Franklin, MA, USA). Deionized water was further filtered through MilliQ systems (Millipore

680   corporation, Bedford, MA, USA) and used in the whole experiment. Anti-sarcomeric protein

681   α-Actinin 2 and ProLong Gold Antifade were purchased from Thermofisher Scientific

682   (Waltham, MA, USA) while 1, N^6 ε-dA Antibody and TrueBlack Plus Lipofuscin

683   Autofluorescence Quencher came from Novus Biological (Centennial, CO, USA) and

684   Biotium (Fremont, CA, USA) respectively. 5-Hydroxymethyl-2'-deoxycytosine, 1, N^6 ε-2'-

685   deoxyadenosine, 5-formyl-2'-deoxycytidine, 7-deaza-2'-deoxyxanthosine, 2'-deoxycytidine-5-

686   carboxylic acid sodium salt, O^6-nethyl-2'-deoxyguanosine, 8-oxo-2'-deoxyadenosine, N^2-

687   methyl-2'-deoxyguanosine and N^6-methyl-2'-deoxyadenosine were purchased from Berry &

688   Associates. 2'-Deoxyxanthosine, 8-chloro-2'-deoxyadenosine and 8-chloro-2'-

689   deoxyguanosine were purchased from Biosynth Carbosynth (San Diego, CA, USA). [^{3}D]-5-

690   HMdC, [^{15}N$_5$]-1, N^6 ε-dA, and [^{15}N$_5$]-8-oxo-2'-deoxyguanosine were purchased from Toronto

691   Research Chemical (Toronto, Canada). 5'-Ethynyl-2'-deoxycytidine and 5'-chloro-2'-

692   deoxycytidine were obtained from Cayman Chemical Company (Ann Arbor, MI, USA) and

693   Biolog (Hayward, CA, USA), respectively.

694

695   ***Synthesis of N^2-CMdG and [^{15}N(U)]-N^2-CMdG.*** For unlabeled N^2-CMdG, 1 mmol (0.267 g)

696   of 2'-deoxyguanosine or [^{15}N(U)]-labeled 2'-deoxyguanosine was reacted with 5 mmol of

697   glyoxal (0.290 g) in 1 M NaOAc/HOAc buffer pH 5.5 and the mixture was heated at 37 °C

698   overnight. The final N^2-CMdG product was purified from this mixture by HPLC with a

699   Hypersil GOLD C18 column (3.0 × 250 mm, 5 μm, Thermo Scientific) on an Agilent 1200

700   HPLC system. Binary mobile phase flow rate was 1 mL/min (A – 5mM ammonium acetate in

701   water, B – acetonitrile; increased to 40% of B for 20 min; increased to 90% of B in 0.1 min

702   and hold at 90% of B for 10 min; decreased to 0% of B in 1 min and re-equilibrate for 10

703   min). UV (λ_{max}, pH 7) = 260 nm. $[M+H]^+_{obs}$ = 326.1103, $[M+H]^+_{calc}$ = 326.1111, error =

704   2.39 ppm. MS/MS (ESI+): 210 (nucleobase + H), 164 (nucleobase – CO_2 + H), 117 (oxonium

705   ion of 2'-dR).

706

707   ***Animal procedures.*** All animal experiments were carried out by the local animal care and use

708   committee and respected the principals of animal experimentation (protocol number: 16-05-

709   271, National Institute on Aging). For the aging study, Brown Norway wild-type rats at 1, 5,

710   16 and 26 months old (4 females and 4 males per group of age) or 4, 9, 17 and 26 months old

711   (4 females and 4 males for groups at 9 and 17 months old; 8 males for groups at 4 and 26

712   months old) were purchased from the National Institute of Aging colony housed at Charles

713   River. All rats had *ad libidum* access to a standard chow diet (irradiated LabDiet Prolab

714   Isopro RMH 3000 5P75; LabDiet, St. Louis, MO) and water. All animals were maintained

715   under a 12-hour light/dark cycle at 22 °C. After two days acclimatization, all rats were

716   euthanized using isoflurane and cervical spine dislocation. Liver, kidneys, brain, and heart

717   were removed, washed with ice-cold PBS, and immediately plunged into liquid nitrogen and

718   stored at -80 °C.

719

720   For the transgenic mice, two models were used.: Reduced GLO1 activity in liver (n=11 and

721   18), brain (n=10 and 15) and heart (n=8 and 12) was modeled using Glyoxalase I Knock

722   Down (Glo1-KD) mice on a C57/BL6 background and their wild-type littermates[26]. Increased

723   GLO1 in brain (n=5 and 5) and heart (n=7 and 7) was modeled using Glyoxalase I over-

724   expression mice on a C57/BL6 background and their wild-type littermates[27]. Frozen tissues

725   were directly obtained from University of California San Diego. The ages for the knockdown

726   and the overexpressing mice were 217-273 and 180-292 days, respectively.

727

728   ***Human samples.*** Procurement of 19 frozen samples of non-failing left ventricular myocardial

729   tissue from human donors, deemed unsuitable for transplant, were obtained from University

730   of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA USA)[68]. Samples were immediately stored at -80 °C until

731   DNA extraction. The ages of the 9 female and 10 male subjects ranged from 22 to 81 years.

732   Donor demographics are detailed in **Extended Data Table 1**. Samples of human brain tissue

733   from participants in the Religious Orders Study or Rush Memory and Aging Project

734   (ROSMAP) without cognitive impairment (control subjects, CT) ranging in age from 71 to 89

735   years were obtained from the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center (Chicago, IL, USA)[69] and

736   were stored at -80 °C. Both studies were approved by an Institutional Review Board of Rush

737   University Medical Center. Each participant signed an informed consent. Anatomic Gift Act,

738   and Repository Consent to allow their data to be repurposed. NCI was defined as previously

739   reported[70]. Donor demographics and definitions of clinical and neuropathological criteria are

740   detailed in **Extended Data Table 1.**

741

742   ***DNA extraction, purification, and hydrolysis.*** DNA extraction from rat organs (livers,

743   kidneys, brains, and hearts), mouse organs (livers, brains, and hearts) and human hearts and

744   brains was performed with a commercial kit (Sigma-Aldrich, 11814770001) according to the

745   manufacturer's protocol, with the addition to all solutions of appropriate inhibitors and

746   antioxidants to minimize adventitious damage: 5 µg/ml coformycin, 50 µg/ml

747   tetrahydrouridine (THU), 100 μM desferrioxamine, 100 μM butylated hydroxytoluene

748   (BHT)[16]. DNA was then quantified by spectrophotometry at 260 nm (NanoDrop Lite

749   Spectrophotometer, Thermofisher scientific). Samples were finally stored at -80 °C.

750

751   For DNA adductome analysis, a mix of genomic DNA (containing 5 μg of each sample to

752   cover adductome in every age) was dried by using speed vacuum and then reconstituted in 90

753   μL of 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 8, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 10 μg/mL coformycin, 50 μg/mL THU, 1

754   mM desferrioxamine, 1 mM BHT and digested using 10 U benzonase, 5 U DNAse I, 17U

755   alkaline phosphatase, 0.1 U phosphodiesterase I. A blank sample was also prepared using the

756   same procedure without the DNA. The digestion was allowed to occur overnight at 37 °C.

757   Reactions were then worked up using 10 KDa exclusion filters and centrifuged at 12,800 × g

758   for 10 min to remove proteins and then analyzed by LC-MS/MS.

759

760   For adduct quantification analysis, 20 μg of genomic DNA was dried by using speed vacuum

761   and then reconstituted in 27 μL containing 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 8, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 10

762   μg/mL coformycin, 50 μg/mL THU, 1 mM desferrioxamine, 1 mM of BHT and digested

763   using 10 U benzonase, 5 U DNAse I, 17 U alkaline phosphatase, 0.1 U phosphodiesterase I.

764   An additional 3 μL of stable isotope-labeled internal standards were then added as needed,

765   including 5 nM [$^{15}N_5$]-N^2-CMdG 1 μM [D^3]-5-HMdC and 500 pM [$^{15}N_5$]- 1, N^6-ε-dA. The

766   digestion was allowed to occur overnight at 37 °C. Reactions were then processed using 10

767   KDa exclusion filters and centrifuged at 12,800×g for 10 min to remove proteins, followed by

768   analysis by LC-MS/MS.

769

770   ***DNA adductome analysis: Adduct discovery in pooled DNA samples.*** Adductome analysis

771   was performed on an HPLC Agilent 1290 Infinity II with an added Diode Array Detector

35

772   (DAD) coupled with the Agilent 6490 (Group #1 rats, mice, humans) or 6495 (Group #2 rats)

773   triple quadrupole mass spectrometer with an electrspray ion source operated in positive ion

774   mode with the following source parameters: drying gas temperature 200 °C with a flow of 12

775   L/min, nebulizer gas pressure 30 psi, sheath gas temperature 300 °C with a flow of 12 L/min,

776   ESI capillary voltage 4000 V and nozzle voltage 0 V. A Kinetex EVO C18 column (2.1 × 150

777   mm, 2.6 μm, Phenomenex) was used for chromatographic separation (column temperature 30

778   °C). Binary mobile phase flow rate was 0.400 mL/min (A – 0.1% formic acid in water, B –

779   0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile; delivered at 0% of B for 2 min; increased to 16% of B for 15

780   min; increased to 80% of B in 1 min and hold at 80% of B for 5 min; decreased to 0% of B in

781   1 min and re-equilibrate for 5 min). For 5-HMdC quantification, binary mobile phase was the

782   following: A – water, B – 5 mM of Ammonium Acetate in water, pH 5.3; delivered at 0% of

783   B for 2 min; increased to 16% of B for 15 min; increased to 80% of B in 1 min and hold at

784   80% of B for 5 min; decreased to 0% of B in 1 min and re-equilibrate for 5 min). The effluent

785   from the first min from the LC system was diverted to waste to minimize the contamination of

786   the ESI source. The strategy was designed to detect the neutral loss of 2'-deoxyribose from

787   positively ionized 2'-deoxynucleoside adducts by monitoring the samples transmitting their

788    $[M+H]^+ \rightarrow [M+H-116]^+$ transitions. For both the mix of DNA and the blank, 300 MRM

789   transitions were monitored from transition *m/z* 225→109 to transition *m/z* 525→409 with a

790   collision energy of 10 eV. Ten microliters of both samples were injected six times to cover

791   the monitoring of 300 MRM transitions. Each of 8 methods covering the 300 MRM

792   transitions has a final cycle length/ scan time of 790.4 ms (1.27 cycles/s). Transitions of

793   canonical 2'-deoxynucleosides, including *m/z* 228→112 ($[dC+H]^+$), *m/z* 243→127 ($[dT+H]^+$),

794   *m/z* 252→136 ($[dA+H]^+$) and *m/z* 268→152 ($[dG+H]^+$), were not monitored in this

795   adductome analysis. Finally, the 300 MRM signals were compared between the mix of DNA

796   and the blank. Each signal that was present in the mix of DNA sample but not in the blank

797   was collected for further investigation. These stepped MRM signals were normalized to

798   account for different amounts of injected DNA with each LC-MS run by dividing the mass

799   spectrometer signal intensity by the sum of the absorbance values from an in-line diode array

800   UV detector for the 4 canonical 2'-deoxyribonucleosides. The resulting normalized signal

801   intensities, detailed in **Supplementary Table 1a** for both groups of rats, were curated to

802   remove artifacts, noise, and other spurious signals using the decision tree detailed in **Figure**

803   **1a** to remove common salts, isotopomers, known artifacts, and potential noise (signal

804   intensity <2). The resulting relative peak intensity of these signals are detailed in

805   **Supplementary Table 1e** and plotted as a bubble chart in which the x-axis was the *m/z* and

806   the y-axis was retention time (**Fig. 1**).

807

808   ***DNA adductome analysis: Adduct quantification in individual DNA samples.*** The final set

809   of 114 putative DNA adducts and modifications detailed in **Supplementary Table 1e** was

810   used for targeted analysis of individual tissue samples from rats. Portions of isolated DNA

811   used for the adduct discovery described earlier were analyzed again with an MRM table for

812   the 114 putative DNA adducts and modifications and the same LC-MS/MS conditions. The

813   resulting signals were normalized by dividing by the sum of the UV signals for the four

814   canonical 2'-deoxyribonucleosides, as described earlier. The normalized signal intensities for

815   both groups of rats are detailed in **Supplementary Table 4**.

816

817   ***Identification of DNA damage products with standards.*** To tentatively identify the structures

818   of adductomic signals, a cocktail of 2'-deoxyribonucleoside standards (10 nM each in 30 μL

819   of water) was analyzed by LC-MS/MS using the same conditions noted earlier for adductomic

820   analysis. The goal here was to correlate retention times and MS/MS transitions for the

821   standards with the adductomic data. The following transitions were monitored: *m/z* 326 →

822   210 N^2-carboxymethyl-2'-deoxyguanosine, N^2-CMdG), m/z 258 → 142 (5-hydroxymethyl-2'-

823   deoxycytidine, 5-HMdC), m/z 276 → 160 (1,N^6-etheno-2'-deoxyadenosine, 1,N^6 ε-dA), m/z

824   242 → 126 (5-methyl-2'-deoxycytidine, 5-MdC), m/z 245 → 129 (4-thio-2'-deoxyuridine, 4-

825   thio-dU), m/z 252 → 136 (3,N^4-etheno-dC, 3, N^4-ε-dC), m/z 256 → 140 (5-formyl-2'-

826   deoxycytidine, 5-formyl-dC), m/z 262 → 146 (5'-chloro-2'-deoxycytidine, 5-CldC), m/z 268

827   → 152 (7-deaza-2'-deoxyxanthosine, 7-deaza-dX), m/z 268 → 152 (8-hydroxy-2'-

828   deoxyadenosine, 8-Oxo-dA), m/z 269 → 153 (2'-deoxyxanthosine, dX), m/z 274 → 158

829   (guanidinohydantoin, Gh), m/z 282 → 166 (O^6-methyl-2'-deoxyguanosine, O^6-MdG), m/z 282

830   → 166 (N^2-methyl-2'-deoxyguanosine, N^2-MdG), m/z 284 → 168 (8-hydroxy-2'-

831   deoxyguanosine, 8-Oxo-dG), m/z 284 → 168 (6-thio-2'-deoxyguanosine, S6-dG), m/z 294 →

832   178 (2'-deoxycytidine-5'-carboxylic acid sodium salt, dC carboxylic acid), m/z 300 → 184

833   (spiroiminodihydantoin, Sp), m/z 304 → 188 (pyrimidopurinone adduct of 2'-

834   deoxyguanosine, M1-dG), m/z 286 → 170 (8-chloro-2'deoxyadenosine, 8-Cl-dA), m/z 302 →

835   186 (8-chloro-2'-deoxyguanosine, 8-Cl-dG), m/z 286 → 170 (2-chloro-2'-deoxyadenosine, 2-

836   Cl-dA) and m/z 246 → 130 (5-fluoro-2'-deoxycytidine, 5-F-dC).

837

838   ***Identification of the cyclobutene dimer of dC.*** The identity of the putative DNA adduct with

839   m/z 455 → 339 was achieved by multi-stage mass spectrometry (MS^n) using an HPLC-

840   coupled Thermo Orbitrap ID-X Tribrid mass spectrometer coupled with a Vanquish LC

841   (Thermo Fisher). Five microliters of sample were injected on a Kinetex C18 column (150 ×

842   2.1 mm, Phenomenex) eluted with mobile phase A (0.1% formic acid) and mobile phase B

843   (0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile) using the following gradient: 2 min at 0% then to 18% B in

844   13 min and to 60% B in 2 min. The original conditions were re-established in 1 min and the

845   column re-equilibrated for 5 min. MS^1 data were acquired at 120,000 resolution in the

846   orbitrap with a 70% RF lens. MS^2 data were acquired on the targeted m/z identified

847   previously, using assisted HCD spanning 20, 35, and 60 normalized collision energy, and

848   assisted CID at 15,30,45 %. MS^2 fragments were measured in the orbitrap at 60,000

849   resolution. MS^2 fragments with >5% relative intensities were selected for MS^3, with a

850   fragmentation by CID at 30%, and analysis in the orbitrap at 30,000 resolution. All data were

851   analyzed in xcalibur qual browser, with some of the fragmentation additionally analyzed in

852   Massfrontier (V8.0, Thermo fisher).

853

854   ***DNA adduct quantification by isotope dilution LC-MS/MS.*** For absolute quantification of

855   specific DNA modifications and damage products, isotope dilution LC-MS/MS was

856   performed on isolated DNA used for adductomic analyses. Ten microliters of each sample

857   were injected into the LC-MS/MS instrument using the same LC-MS/MS parameters noted in

858   "DNA adductome analysis". Characteristic reactions and collision energies for DNA adducts

859   of interest are as follows (*m/z* precursor ion → *m/z* product ion, collision energy (eV),

860   retention time): N^2-CMdG (*m/z* 326→*m/z* 210, 10, 3.45min), $[^{15}N_5]$-N^2-CMdG (*m/z* 331→*m/z*

861   215, 10, 3.45min), 5-HMdC (*m/z* 258→*m/z* 242, 10, 2.72min), $[D^3]$-5-HMdC (*m/z* 261→*m/z*

862   245, 10, 2.71min), 1, N^6-ε-dA (*m/z* 276→*m/z* 160, 10, 2.93min), $[^{15}N_5]$- 1, N^6 ε-dA (*m/z*

863   281→*m/z* 165, 10, 2.93min), 8-Oxo-dG (*m/z* 284→*m/z* 170, 10, 6.65min), and $[^{13}C,^{15}N_2]$-8-

864   Oxo-dG (*m/z* 286→*m/z* 170, 10, 6.65min). Calibration curves for the labeled and unlabeled

865   forms were constructed by plotting the MRM signal ratios between the labeled and unlabeled

866   forms against their corresponding concentration ratios, as illustrated in **Extended Data**

867   **Figure 1**. Quantification for N^2-CMdG, 5-HMdC, 1, N^6-ε-dA and 8-Oxo-dG were achieved

868   using the ratio of peak areas of the unlabeled and labeled DNA adducts. Raw mass

869   spectrometric data were analyzed by MassHunter Qualitative Analysis software (Agilent

870   Technologies, USA).

871

872 ***Immunostaining and imaging.*** To prepare samples for immunostaining, samples were

873 dissected from patients and stored at -80 °C freezer prior to transferring to Tissue-Tek optimal

874 cutting temperature (OCT) compound for cryosection. Slides with sectioned samples were

875 then fixed with ice-cold 100% methanol for 15 min at 4 °C, washed 3 times with PBS, and

876 blocked for 1 h with a 5% goat serum, 0.3% Triton X-100 and PBS solution. Primary

877 antibodies were then applied to samples in antibody buffer (1% BSA and 0.3% Triton X-100

878 in PBS), overnight at 4 °C. For cardiomyocyte staining, anti-sarcomeric protein α-actinin 2

879 was applied at 1:250 or 2 μg/mL, and 1,N^6-εdA antibody was applied at 1:100, in antibody

880 buffer. Following five washes in PBS 0.3% Triton X-100, secondary antibodies were then

881 applied for 1hr in antibody buffer, at 1:1000. α-Actinin 2 was detected with Goat anti-Rabbit

882 IgG conjugated to Alexa 488, and 1,N^6-ε-dA was detected with Anti-Mouse IgG conjugated

883 to Alexa 555. To detect nuclei, Hoechst 33342 was applied for 10 min following secondary

884 antibody removal, at 1:10,000 in a 0.3% Triton-PBS. Slides were then washed 5 times in

885 0.3% Triton-PBS, washed two times in PBS, and TrueBlack Plus Lipofuscin

886 Autofluorescence Quencher was applied for 10 min to reduce autofluorescence. Finally,

887 TrueBlack was washed 3 times with PBS, and slides were mounted in ProLong Gold

888 Antifade. Images were captured with an LSM 980 Confocal Microscope (Zeiss), using the

889 Airyscan mode and a 63x oil objective. Z-stacks were captured across nine tiles, to sample

890 larger areas for image analysis.

891

892   *Image analysis.* To detect $1,N^6$-ε-dA in cardiac cell nuclei within sectioned samples, we

893   performed image analysis on captured confocal images using arivas Vision 4D software

894   (arivas). We used the machine learning module to detect cardiac cell networks identified

895   by α-actinin 2 staining, the thresholding segmentation module to detect nuclei by

896   Hoechst 33342 staining, and the blob finder module to detect $1,N^6$-εdA spots. Then we

897   used the compartments module to detect nuclei within cardiac cells networks and $1,N^6$-

898   εdA within these nuclei. Selected nuclei were encompassed by greater than 70% of the

899   cardiac signal, and $1,N^6$-εdA puncta were selected when they were encompassed by

900   greater than 50% nuclei signal in selected nuclei.

901

902   *Statistical analyses.* All statistical analyses were performed using either GraphPad Prism

903   (version 8.0) or R (http://www.r-project.org). Data are presented as means ± SEM (standard

904   error of the mean). Each biological sample was prepared at least two times to confirm

905   observation. Statistical significance was determined using one-way ANOVA with

906   Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test for rat study and a two-sided unpaired Student's *t*-test

907   to compare wild-type (WT) to KD/OE mice samples. Finally, we used Pearson's correlation

908   in human non-failing heart samples. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$ and **** $p <$

909   0.0001 was considered to indicate statistically significant differences. All statistical analyses

910   were performed using GraphPad Prism version 8.0 (GraphPad Software).

911

912   We traced differences of DNA adducts in rat sex and age using two-sided Wilcoxon rank sum

913   test (equivalent to the Mann-Whitney U test; wilcox.test function of stats package in R). The

914   false discovery rate (FDR), the rate of type I error associated with rejecting the null

915   hypothesis due to multiple comparisons, was estimated using qvalue function in the qvalue

916   package[71] in R.

917

918 To identify the most strongly covarying DNA adducts, we performed principal component

919 analysis (PCA) on shared adducts in rat samples (**Figure 3a, Extended Data Figure 3c**) in

920 both group, that is the most commonly used method for reduction of dimensionality[72], using

921 the prcomp function (stats package in R). To find underlying patterns, we used mixture model

922 clustering that is a probability-based approach in which we assume the data set is best

923 described as a mixture of probability models. We employed the mclust package[73] for

924 Gaussian mixture modeling (GMM), the most used mixture model-based clustering method,

925 to determine the underlying Gaussian mixture distributions using first two PC scores covering

926 62,71% variation of the data (**Extended Data Fig. 4c,f**).

927

928 To assess association between 162 DNA adducts, we estimated Spearman's rank correlation

929 coefficient (ρ) after zero filling the empty cells (**Supplementary Table 2**). Results are show

930 as a heatmap reordered by hierarchical clustering analysis (HCA) obtained by the R pvclust

931 package[74] after 3000 iterations of multiscale bootstrap resampling.

932

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953

954

Acknowledgments

962

Conflict of interest

964   The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

965

Author contributions

967   P. Dedon and R. Lee conceived of the study, supervised all aspects of the study, and

968   interpreted data. A. Guilbaud, F. Ghanegolmohammadi, Y. Wang, A. Kreymerman, J.

969   Gamboa-Varela, J. Leng, J. Garbern, E. Ricci-Blair, H. Elwell, C. Vidoudez, F. Cao, S.

970   Balamkundu, M. DeMott and Cui L. conducted the experiments, analyzed, and interpreted the

971   data. K. Bedi, K. Margulies, D. Bennett, A. Palmer and A Barkley-Levenson participated in

972   study design and provided key biological specimens. A. Guilbaud, F. Ghanegolmohammadi,

973   Y. Wang, and A. Kreymerman drafted the manuscript and all authors contributed to reviewing

974   and revising the manuscript.

975

976   **Data availability statement**

977   Mass spectrometry data that support the findings of this study have been deposited in the

978   Chorus Project (https://chorusproject.org/pages/index.html) with the accession code 1767.

979

980   **Competing Interests Statement**

981   A. Palmer has a patent for the methods and use of Glo1 inhibitors

982   (https://patents.google.com/patent/US11235020B2/en).

983

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987

988   **Supplementary Information**

989

990   Supplementary Information is available for this paper:

991   **Supplementary Table 1.** DNA adduct discovery: Normalized adductomic data for age-

992   pooled samples in rat tissues from two independent experiments (rat groups #1 and #2).

993   Separate sheets for each step of data filtering.

994   **Supplementary Table 2.** Analysis of adductomic data in individual DNA samples in rat

995   group #1 as a function of sex and age.

996   **Supplementary Table 3.** DNA adduct levels in mouse, rat, and human tissues measured by

997   isotope dilution LC-MS/MS.

998   **Supplementary Table 4**. Normalized mass spectrometric signals for individual samples of rat

999   tissues from rat groups #1 and #2.

1000   **Supplementary Table 5**. DNA adduct discovery and normalized signal data for human brain

1001   and heart samples.

1002

1003   **Extended Data Figure Legends**

1004

1005   **Extended Data Fig. 1.** Parameters and data for isotope-dilution chromatography-coupled

1006   triple quadrupole mass spectrometric quantification of DNA adducts in rat and human tissues.

1007   (**a**) Representative extracted ion chromatograms for analysis of N^2-CMdG, 5-HMdC,8-oxo-

1008   dG, and 1,N^6-εdA and their isotope-labeled counterparts in rat and human tissues. (**b**)

1009   Illustrative calibration curves of the canonical 2'-deoxyribonucleosides and several DNA

1010   adducts. (**c**) LC-MS/MS parameters for known DNA adducts and modifications analyzed

1011   here. These data pertain to **Figures 4** and **5**.

1012

1013   **Extended Data Figure 2.** High–resolution MS^4 Orbitrap analysis reveals the structure of the

1014   putative DNA adduct at *m/z* 455. *Left to right*: The HPLC chromatogram shows retention time

1015   of 0.89 min. The mass spectrum shows an *m/z* value of 455.18794 for the protonated species,

1016   which equates to an exact mass of 454.1801 for the adduct. The MS^4 fragmentation series

1017   shows progressive loss of two cytosine-sized fragments and is consistent with a cyclobutane

1018   dimer of dC. These data pertain to **Figure 1** and **Supplementary Table 1**.

1019

1020   **Extended Data Figure 3.** DNA damage is strongly tissue-specific in rats. Comparison of

1021   normalized LC-MS signal intensities for 92 putative DNA adducts in 4 tissues in group #1

1022   rats (blue numbers in upper circles and lower labels) and 94 in group #2 rats (yellow

1023   numbers). Rank order was established relative to brain from group #1 (left-most plot) with

1024   comparisons to heart, kidney, and liver for group #1 and group #2 rats. For each tissue,

1025   numbers in overlapping circles correspond to unique adducts in each group of rats (blue for

1026   group #1, yellow for group #2) and shared adducts (black numbers), with matching colors of

1027   upper circles and lower labels. These data pertain to **Figures 1** and **3.**

1028

1029   **Extended Data Figure 4.** Multivariate statistical analysis of 52 (**a-c**) and 64 (**d-f**) shared

1030   DNA adducts in group #1 and group #2 rat tissues reveals 5 co-varying clusters based on age,

1031   sex, and tissue. (**a, d**) Principal components analysis identifies 2 components that account for

1032   63% of the variance. Black bars (left axis) indicating the contribution ratio (proportion of

1033   variance), red circles (right axis) indicating the cumulative proportion of variance (cumulative

1034   contribution ratio [CCR]), and horizontal dashed lines (right axis) indicating CCRs of 60%

1035   and 90%. (b, e) Bayesian analysis to define the number of components for Gaussian mixture

1036   model (GMM) clustering. The number of components, describing the underlying Gaussian

1037   distributions, was defined based on Bayesian information criterion values of models with

1038   differing parametrizations. The best fitting model (Ellipsoidal distributions with equal volume

1039   and variable shape and orientation axes, EVV) had 5 components that were used for GMM

1040   clustering. (**c, f**) Membership probability matrix based on GMM clustering. Each value shows

1041   the posterior probability based on the model in panels **b** and **e**. The posterior probability

1042   describes the likelihood of each sample belonging to each cluster. Logarithmic transformation

1043   of conditional probabilities from expectation maximization was used to generate the heatmap.

1044   The dendrogram illustrates model-based hierarchical agglomerative clustering based on the

1045   Gaussian probability model for maximizing the resulting likelihood. This figure is associated

1046   with **Figure 3b, h.**

1047

1048   **Extended Data Figure 5.** Age-biased DNA adducts in four rat tissues in two different sets of

1049   rats. **(a, d)** Heatmaps show pairwise comparisons of all ages in each tissue. Significant

1050   changes (FDR = 10%) are presented as red (increase) and green (decrease). Bar plot on the

1051   top shows the frequency in each compared age. Bar plot (black) on the right shows frequency

1052   in each adduct. **(b**, **e)** Bar plots of overall frequency of significant changes (FDR = 10%) in

1053   each tissue. **(c, f)** Bar plots of overall frequency of significant changes (FDR = 10%) in each

1054   age-pairwise comparison. These data pertain to **Figures 1** and **4,** and **Supplementary Table**

1055   **5.**

1056

1057   **Extended Data Figure 6. Analysis of DNA damage products in rat, mouse, and human**

1058   **tissues.** (**a-j**) Isotope dilution chromatography-coupled triple quadrupole mass spectrometric

1059   analysis of DNA adducts in rat and mouse tissues. $1,N^6$-εdA levels in rat tissues as a function

1060   of age: liver (**a**), kidney (**b**), brain (**c**), and heart (**d**). Data are mean ± SEM for n = 8 rats.

1061   One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test was used to evaluate

1062   difference among ages., *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001, ****p<0.0001. (**e**) 8-Oxo-dG levels

1063   as a function of age in rat liver. Box and whisker plots show mean (heavy bar) and SEM

1064   (whiskers). One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test was used to

1065   evaluate differences among ages, *p<0.05, **p<0.01 and **** p<0.0001. Associated with

1066   **Figure 3**. (**f-j**) Glyoxalase I levels do not affect the level of N^2-CMdG in transgenic mice. N^2-

1067   CMdG levels were measured in liver (**f, i**), brain (**g, j**), and heart (**h**) from glyoxalase I

1068   knockdown (KD) mice (**f-h**) and from glyoxalase I over-expressing (OE) mice (**i, j**). Box and

1069   whisker plots show mean (heavy bar) and SEM (whiskers). A two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-

1070   test was used to evaluate the difference between wild-type (WT) and transgenic mice (KD,

1071   OE).   ** *p* < 0.01, *ns*: not-significant (**f-h**). Plot of normalized MS signal intensities for

1072   putative N^2-CE-dG (*m/z* 340-224) and validated N^2-CMdG for rat and human tissues. Data

1073   represent mean for *n*=8 measurements of male and female tissues. This figure is associated

1074   with **Figure 3**.

1075

1076   **Extended Data Tables**

1077

1078   **Extended Data Table 1.** Characteristics of the human tissue donors. ***Upper: heart tissue.***

1079   LV: Left Ventricle, HMI: Heart Mass Index, LVMI: Left Ventricular Mass Index, BSA: Body

1080   Surface Area, BMI: Body Mass Index, LVEDd: Left Ventricle End-Diastolic dimension,

1081   LVEDs: Left Ventricle End-Systolic dimension, PW: Posterior Wall, LVEF: Left Ventricle

1082   Ejection Fraction. ***Lower: brain tissue.*** Donors are represented according to their ID number

1083   (#), category (control, CT), age at death and gender. *n*= 10 CT. These data pertain to **Figure**

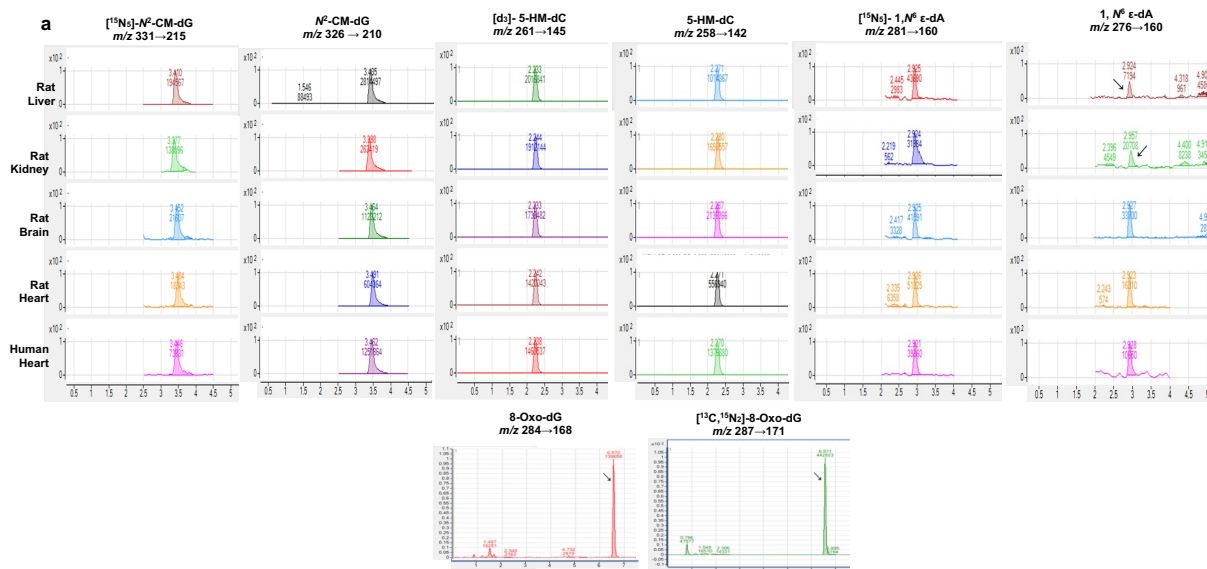1084   **5.**

Extended Data

Tissue- and sex-specific DNA damage tracks aging in rats and humans

Axel Guilbaud, Farzan Ghanegolmohammadi, Yijun Wang, Jiapeng Leng, Alexander Kreymerman, Jacqueline Gamboa Varela, Jessica Garbern, Hannah Elwell, Fang Cao, Elisabeth M. Ricci-Blair, Cui Liang, Seetharamsingh Balamkundu, Charles Vidoudez, Michael S. DeMott, Kenneth Bedi, Kenneth B. Margulies, David A. Bennett, Abraham A. Palmer, Amanda Barkley-Levenson, Richard T. Lee, Peter C. Dedon

Contents

Extended Data Fig. 1. Parameters and data for isotope-dilution chromatography-coupled triple quadrupole mass spectrometric quantification of DNA adducts in rat and human tissues. (**a**) Representative extracted ion chromatograms for analysis of N^2-CMdG, 5-HMdC, 8-oxo-dG, and 1,N^6-εdA and their isotope-labeled counterparts in rat and human tissues. (**b**) Illustrative calibration curves of the canonical 2'-deoxyribonucleosides and several DNA adducts. (**c**) LC-MS/MS parameters for known DNA adducts and modifications analyzed here. These data pertain to **Figures 4** and **5**.

Panel c table:

	DNA modification name	Abbreviation	Mass, Da	[H]+, m/z	[M+H-116]+, m/z	RT (min)	Corresponds to Adduct?
Cytidines	5-Methyl-2'-deoxycytidine	5-MdC	241	242	126	1.3	YES
	3,N^4-Etheno-2'-deoxycytidine	3,N^4εdC	251	252	136	2.2	YES
	5-Formyl-2'-deoxycytidine	5-FdC	255	256	140	4.6	YES
	5-Chloro-2'-deoxycytidine	5-CldC	261	262	146	4.2	NO
	5-Carboxy-2'-deoxycytidine sodium salt	5-CadC Na$^+$	293	294	178	2.1	NO
	5-Hydroxymethyl-2'-deoxycytidine	5-HMdG	257	258	142	2.2	YES
Guanosines	N^2-Carboxymethyl-2'-deoxyguanosine	N^2 CMdG	325	326	210	3.4	YES
	Spiroiminodihydantoin	Sp	299	300	184	0.9	NO
	Guanidinohydantoin	Gh	273	274	158	4.2	NO
	2'-Deoxyxanthosine	dX	268	269	153	5.7	NO
	Purimidopurinone of 2'-deoxyguanosine	M1dG	303	304	188	8.8	YES
	O^6-Methyl-2'-deoxyguanosine	O^6MdG	281	282	166	9.1	NO
	N^6-Methyl-2'-deoxyguanosine	N^6MdG	281	282	166	7.3/ 8.1	YES
	8-Oxo-2'-deoxyguanosine	8-oxodG	283	284	168	6.6	YES
	8-Chloro-2'-deoxyguanosine	8-CldG	301	302	186	9.0	NO
Adenosines	2-Chloro-2'-deoxyadenosine	2-CldA	285	286	170	8.3	NO
	1,N^6Etheno-2'-deoxyadenosine	1,N^6εdA	275	276	160	2.9	YES
	8-Oxo-2'-deoxyadenosine	8-oxodA	267	268	152	6.9	YES
	8-Chloro-2'deoxyadenosine	8-CldA	285	286	170	10.4	NO

Extended Data Figure 2. High–resolution MS⁴ Orbitrap analysis reveals the structure of the putative DNA adduct at *m/z* 455. *Left to right*: The HPLC chromatogram shows retention time of 0.89 min. The mass spectrum shows an *m/z* value of 455.18794 for the protonated species, which equates to an exact mass of 454.1801 for the adduct. The MS⁴ fragmentation series shows progressive loss of two cytosine-sized fragments and is consistent with a cyclobutane dimer of dC. These data pertain to **Figure 1** and **Supplementary Table 1**.
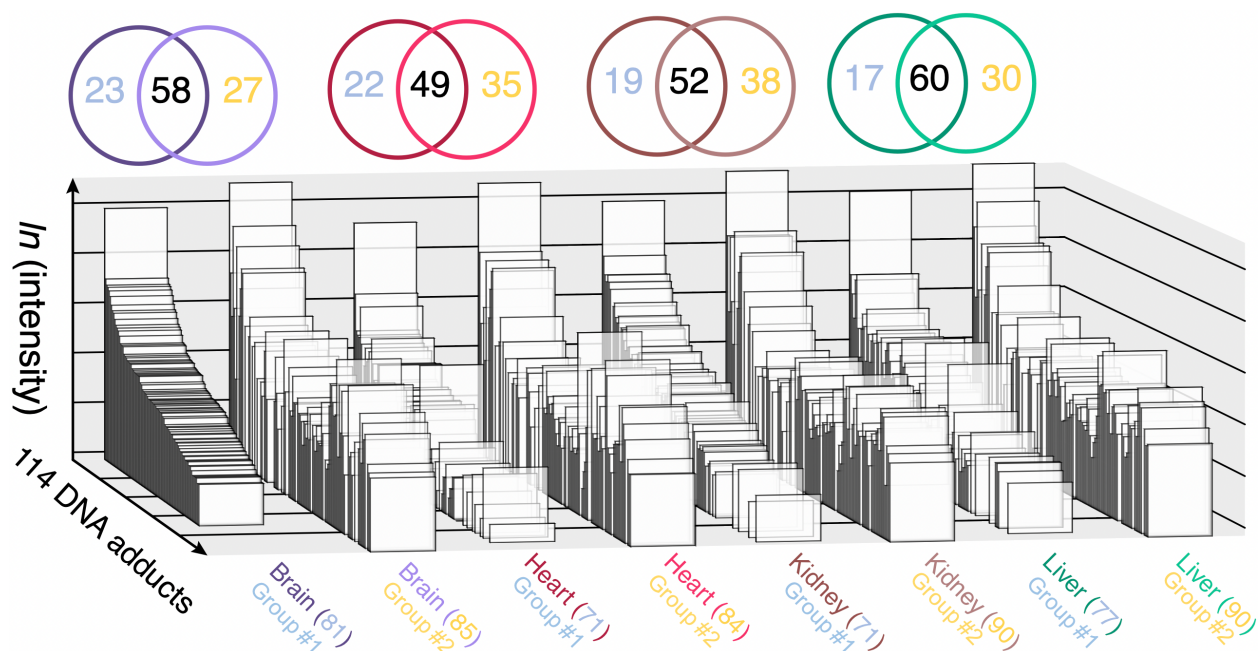
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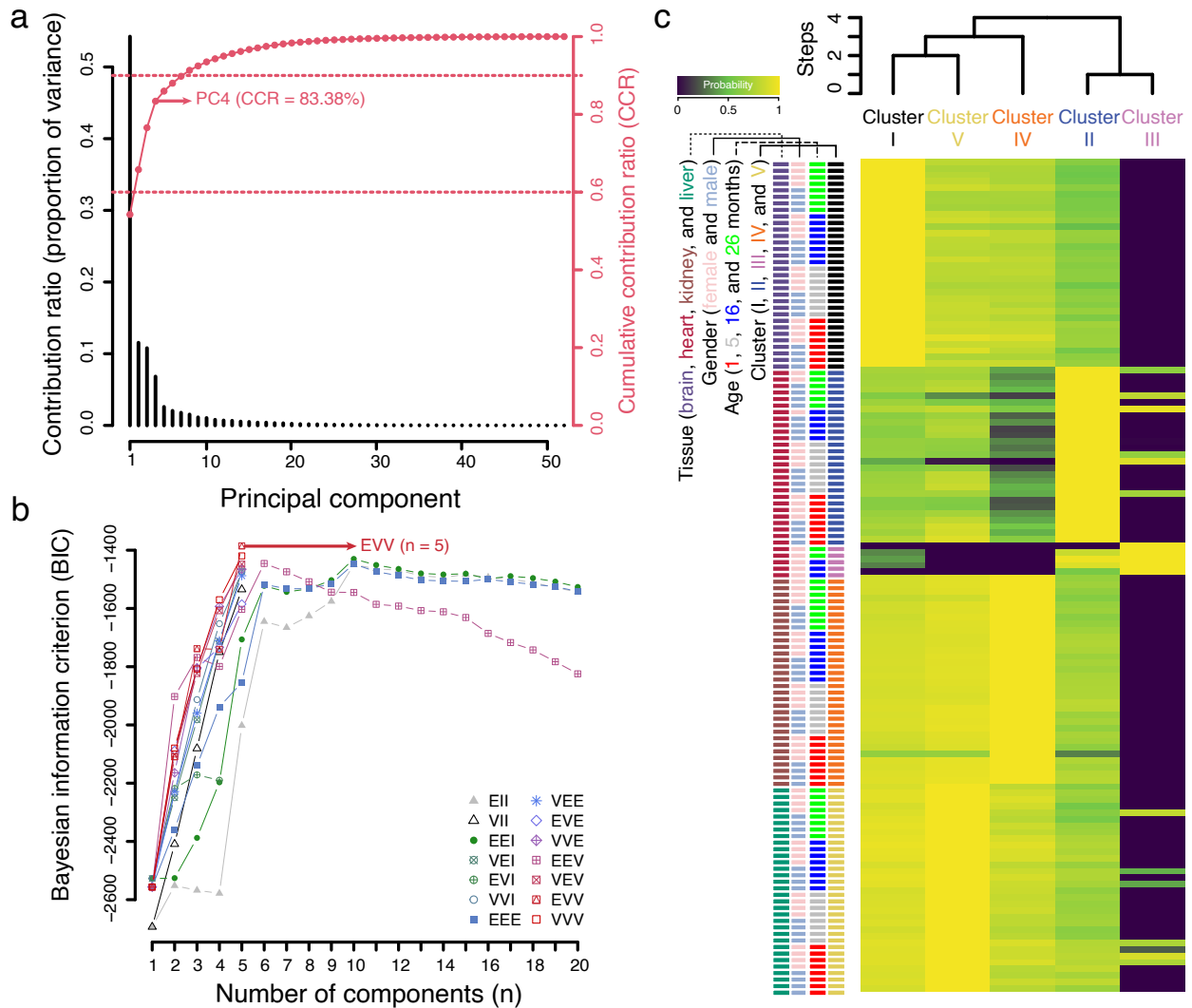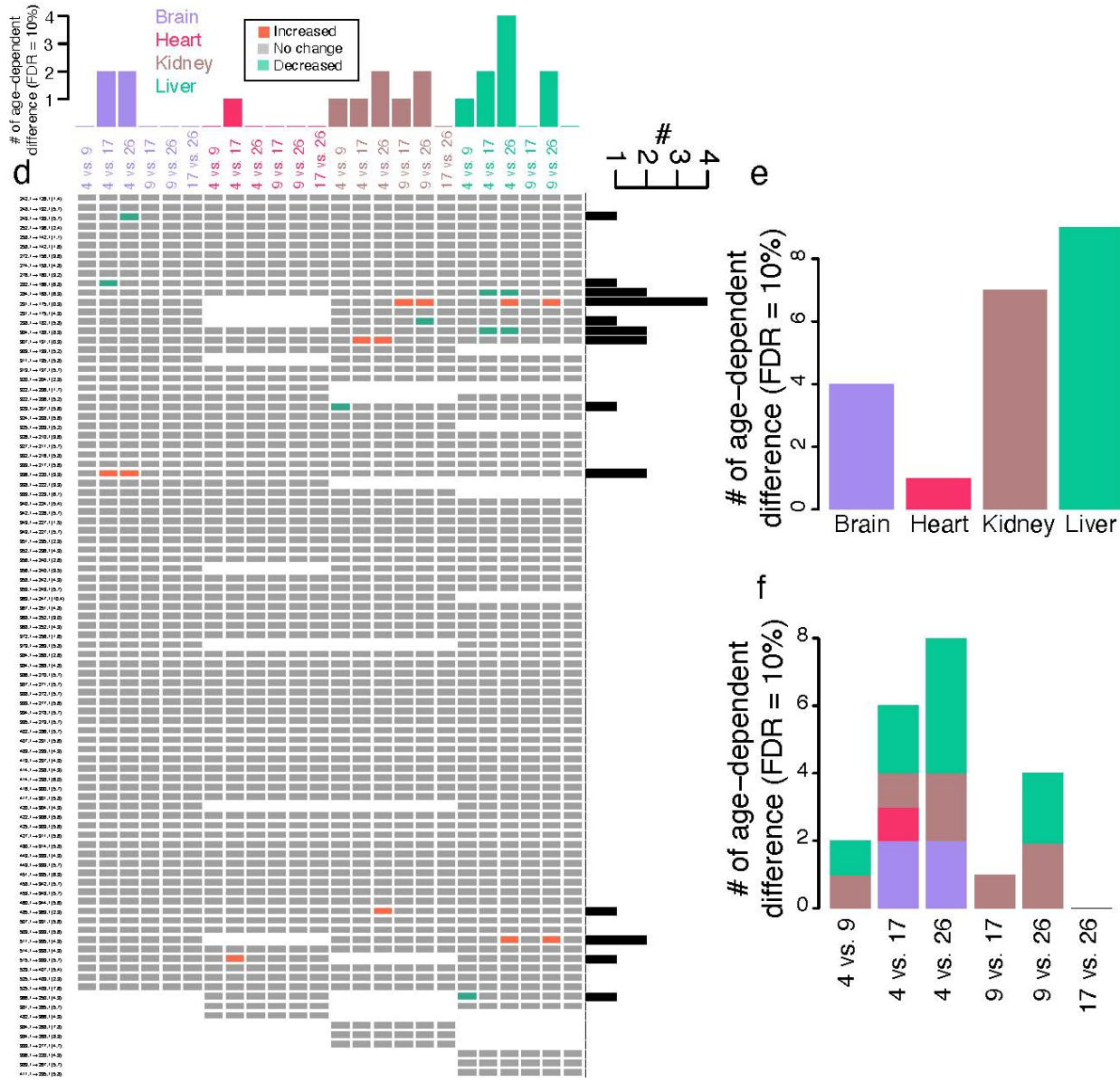
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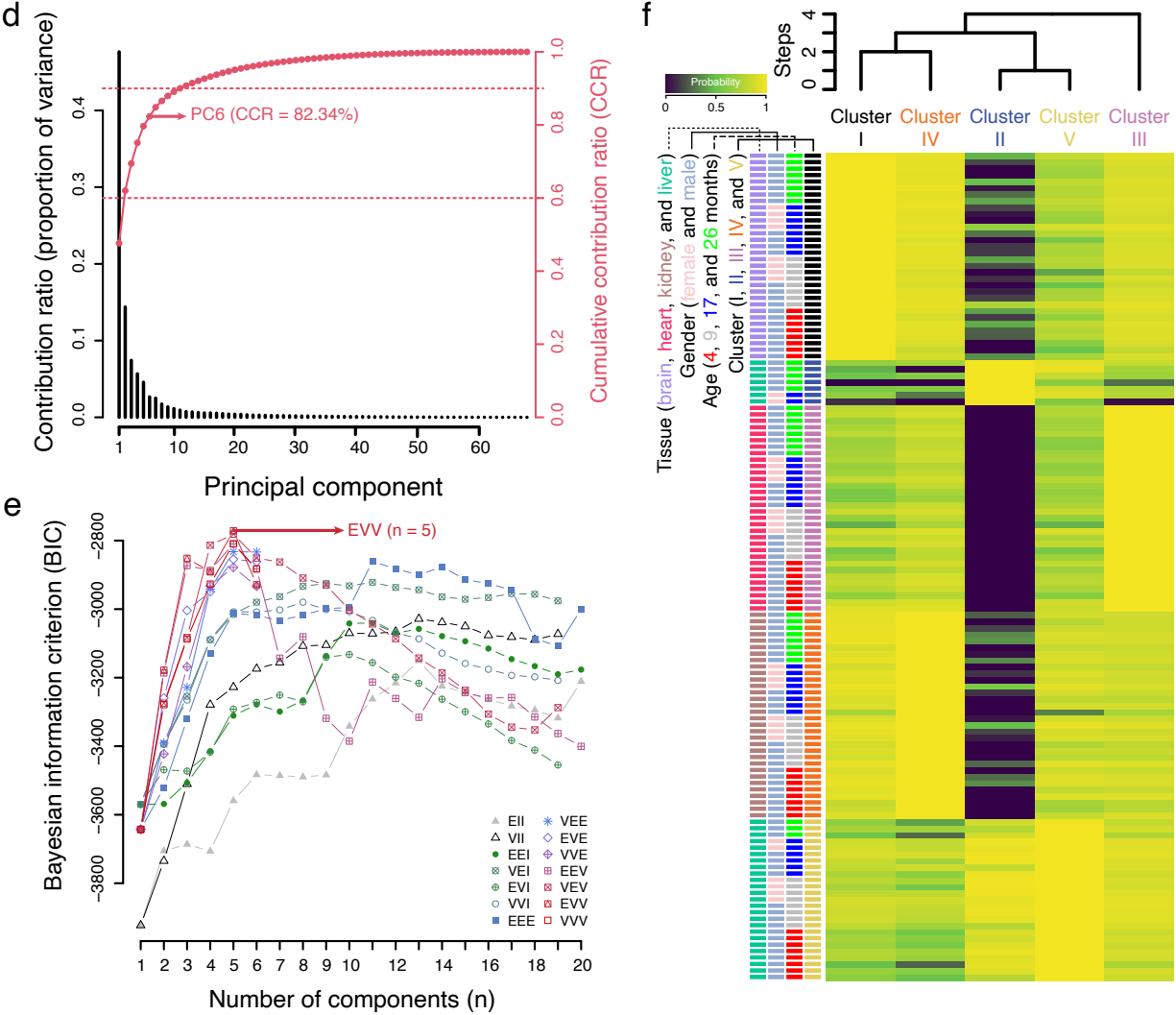
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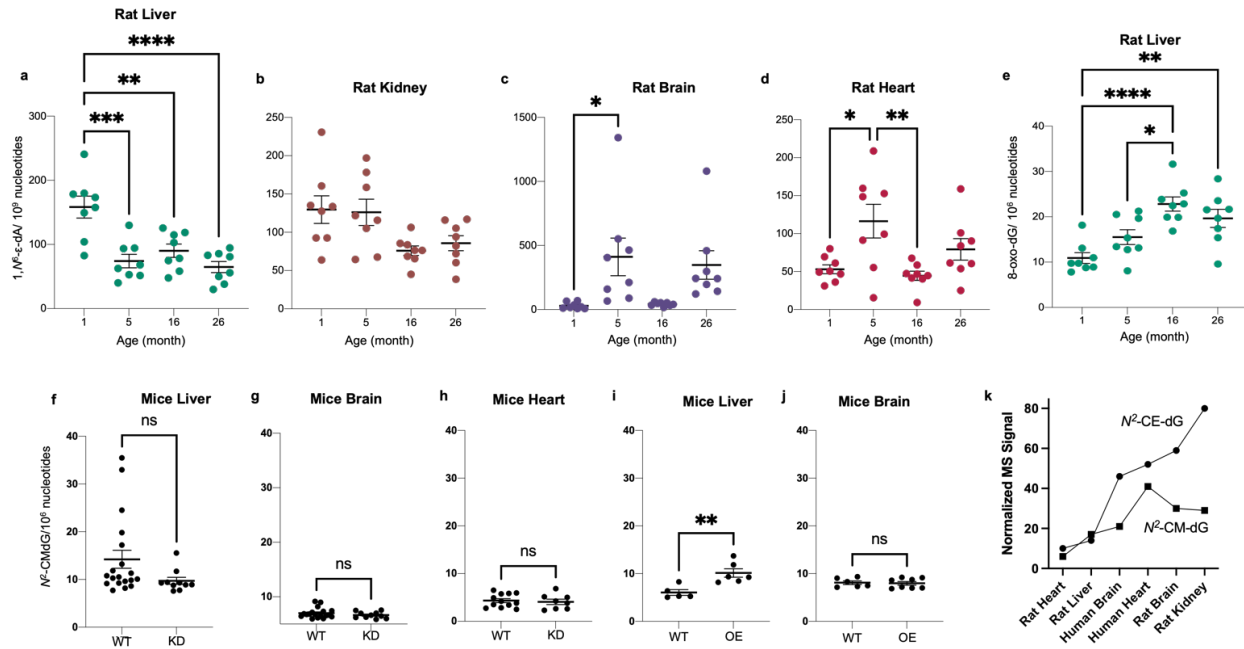
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Extended Data Table 1. Characteristics of the human tissue donors. *Upper: heart tissue.*
LV: Left Ventricle, HMI: Heart Mass Index, LVMI: Left Ventricular Mass Index, BSA: Body Surface Area, BMI: Body Mass Index, LVEDd: Left Ventricle End-Diastolic dimension, LVEDs: Left Ventricle End-Systolic dimension, PW: Posterior Wall, LVEF: Left Ventricle Ejection Fraction. *Lower: brain tissue.* Donors are represented according to their ID number (#), category (control, CT), age at death and gender. *n*= 10 CT. These data pertain to **Figure 5**.

Patient ID #	Age (year)	Gender	LV Mass	Heart Weight	% of LV/ Ht weight	HMI	LVMI	Weight (Kg)	Height (cm)	BSA	BMI	LVEDd	LVEDs	PW Thick	LVEF	Creatinine
1584	22	Male	182	299	61	164	100	67	180	1.82	20				55	1.0
1400	22	Female	168	278	60	145	88	88	150	1.91	39	4.1	2.2		65	0.8
1761	26	Female	170	254	67	137	92	69	180	1.86	21	4.0	3.2	0.9	50	2.8
1664	27	Female	165	260	63	137	87	79	165	1.90	29				58	1.9
1718	33	Male	189	278	68	157	107	65	173	1.77	22	4.9	3.7	0.7	55	0.7
1727	40	Male	198	300	66	145	95	90	172	2.07	30	4.9	3.0	1.3	60	3.7
1801	42	Male	208	377	55	206	114	69	175	1.83	23	4.4	2.6	1.2	62	0.9
1549	49	Male	213	383	56	168	93	104	180	2.28	32				55	2.1
1750	51	Female	150	227	66	148	98	51	167	1.54	18	3.8	3.0	0.9	60	1.0
1600	51	Female	134	213	63	122	76	68	163	1.75	26	4.2	2.8	0.7	50	0.8
1739	52	Male	213	352	61	168	102	90	175	2.09	29	4.1	2.6	0.8	65	0.7
1666	54	Male	159	262	61	152	92	62	173	1.73	21		1.2		65	0.8
1622	56	Male	156	259	60	154	93	66	155	1.69	28	4.2	2.4	0.9	65	1.3
1690	63	Female	137	247	55	153	85	56	167	1.61	20	3.6	2.6	0.8	60	0.9
1716	64	Female	158	269	59	139	82	81	166	1.93	29	3.9	2.3	0.9	70	0.9
1490	71	Female	104	206	50	142	72	48	158	1.45	19					0.5
1732	72	Female	156	271	58	159	91	67	157	1.71	27	4.0	2.9	0.8	65	0.6
1485	78	Male	234	448	52	212	111	92	175	2.12	30					3.4
1488	81	Male	218	402	54	210	114	78	170	1.91	27					1.6

Patient ID #	Category	Age (year)	Gender
20998065	CT	81.6	Female
10315029	CT	87.7	Male
20875195	CT	74.1	Female
21000504	CT	85.9	Female
21001933	CT	80.8	Female
20240514	CT	89.7	Female
11331231	CT	81.1	Male
11615242	CT	71.6	Male
10589255	CT	74.3	Male
15196262	CT	81.1	Male