Oncogenic mutations disrupt lineage differentiation via epigenetic perturbations

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Abstract

Understanding lineage differentiation is an ongoing challenge in the field of stem cell

research. We acquired eight gain-of-function (GOF) oncogenic mutations associated with DNA

methylation alteration from the TCGA datasets. After introducing each oncogene into wild-type

stem cells separately, we found that the mutant stem cells are difficult to reprogram to iPSCs and

terminally differentiate to induced neuronal cells, and retain proliferation capacity in the process

of differentiation. This findings suggests that oncogenic mutations impair the lineage

differentiation. After analyzing the resulting DNA methylation profiles, we identified many

novel lineage differentiation genes in mutant cells showing DNA methylation alteration

compared with wild-type cells, which is consistent with their methylation states in low-grade

gliomas (LGGs) compared with control brain. Collectively, our results indicate that oncogenic

mutations in stem cells are associated with DNA methylation changes for genes related to

multipotency maintenance, differentiation resistance, and tumorigenesis, therefore, displaying

impairment in lineage commitment.

Introduction

Induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) reprogramming and cell differentiation hold great

promise for regenerative medicine. However, their potential clinical application is hampered by

the low efficiency of somatic cell reprogramming and differentiation. We previously found that

cancer cells are extremely difficult to reprogram into iPSCs, except in acute myeloid leukemia

(AML)[1]. Reprogramming resets epigenetic states in AML-iPSCs, but leukemic behavior and

methylation are reacquired upon hematopoietic differentiation[1]. There appears to be a specific

epigenetic profile related to cell behavior during lineage differentiation. A better understanding

of oncogenic mutation associated epigenetic profiles holds great promise for enhancing

reprogramming and differentiation efficiency. Here, we show that oncogenic mutations interrupt

iPSC reprogramming and neural cell differentiation via change of epigenetic states, especially

reveals that methylation changes appear on genes play a critical role on multipotency,

differentiation, and tumorigenesis.

By analyzing DNA methylation profiles across cancers represented in TCGA (The Cancer

Genome Atlas), we identified eight candidate oncogenic mutations that are most associated with

genome-wide DNA methylation changes. To investigate the effect of oncogenic mutations in

reprogramming and differentiation, we independently introduced each oncogene into wild-type

(wt) neural progenitor cells (NPCs) derived from human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) and

investigated the epigenetic alteration occurring after the induction of the oncogenes. We found

that the induction of gain-of-function mutation of oncogenes effects the change of the epigenetic

landscape in mutant NPCs compared to wt NPCs. To understand the role of oncogenes in lineage

commitment, we measured the differentiation efficiency of hESCs (or NPCs) to induced

neuronal cells (iN), and the reprogramming efficiency of mutant NPCs to human induced

pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs). Through comparing the efficiency of mutant cells with wt cells

in the process of lineage reprogramming and differentiation, we found the mutant cells displayed

a preference for remaining as stem cells and resisting lineage change. Moreover, the mutant cells

retained their proliferation capacity in dysregulated lineage commitment and consequently

generated more cells in a differentiation resistance status due to inaccurate lineage commitment.

Through comparing the DNA methylation change between wt cells and mutant cells before and

after lineage differentiation, we found that many genes that play a role in multipotency

maintenance and neural identification had altered methylation, consistent with the same

methylation states in low-grade gliomas (LGGs). Our results indicate that the significant role of

oncogenes which is associated with the expression of genes that have a function on lineage

commitment through epigenetic modification.

Results

Expression of oncogenic mutations blocks differentiation of ES cell into neurons

It was previously shown that IDH1 (isocitrate dehydrogenase 1) mutations occur in the

majority of gliomas[2]. IDH1 mutant cells generate R(2)-2-hydroxyglutarate (2HG)[3], which causes

GASC1 (lysine-specific demethylase 4C, KDM4C) mediated hypermethylation[4,5]. Building upon

these previous studies[2,4], we chose the IDH1-mutation as our first candidate to study the

correlation between oncogene and epigenetic alteration. We investigatd the frequency of IDH1

mutation within each cancer type in TCGA. We confirmed that IDH1 mutation frequently occurs

in low-grade gliomas (LGGs) and glioblastoma (GBM) (Extended Data Fig. 1a). Thus, we

interrogated the effect of IDH1-R132* mutations (R132C, R132G, R132H, R132S) on the

epigenetic states in GBM and LGG, as measured by DNA methylation. IDH1-R132 mutations

are highly associated with DNA methylation changes (Extended Data Fig. 1b, c).

To understand whether oncogenes other than IDH1 show similar patterns, we performed a

pan-cancer analysis linking both gain-of-function (GoF) and loss-of-function (LoF) mutation

changes to epigenetic state, as represented by principal components of DNA methylation. Across

The Cancer Genome Atlas, we detected 22 and 17 candidate genes associations of DNA

methylation for GoF and LoF mutations respectively (1% false discovery rate) (Extended Data

Fig. 1d, e). We picked the top eight gain-of-function genes (IDH1-R132H, TP53-R273C,

BRAF-V600E, KRAS-G12C, NRAS-Q61R, HRAS-Q61R, SOX17-S403I, FGFR3-S294C) from

the candidate list based on p-value (adjusted pval < 0.05) for the following experimental

validation. It indicated that not only the IDH1 mutation reported before, but also a range of

oncogenic mutations are associated with epigenetic alteration in pan-cancer DNA methylation

analysis.

To investigate the function of the eight oncogenes indicated above in cell lineage

commitment, we assessed the differentiation efficiency from mutant human embryonic stem cells

(hESCs) to induced neuronal (iN) cells. We used a doxycycline (dox)-inducible lentiviral vector

system to transduce empty vector plasmid as a control and eight candidate oncogenes into hESC

H1 cells, separately. As we showed previously, overexpression of neuronal gene neurogenin-2

(Ngn2) efficiently converted hESCs into iN cells with nearly 100% yield and purity in less than

two weeks [6] (Fig. 1a). We compared the Ngn2 induced differentiation efficiency between wt and

mutant iN cells by staining with neuronal marker Tuj1 (tubulin beta-III). The differentiation

efficiency of wt hESCs is in a significant high percentage as nearly 100%. The wt hESC-derived

iN cells showed typical neuronal morphology with extension of axons and smaller cell nuclei.

The differentiation of iN cells from hESCs forces the cells to completely lose their stem cell

identification and proliferation capacity. Remarkably, for all eight tested candidate oncogenes, a

high percentage of mutant hESC cells failed to differentiate to iN cells (Fig. 1b). We

demonstrated that mutant hESC-derived iN cells have immature iN cell body morphology and

short axons (Fig. 1b). Their nuclear size is similar to hESCs, and not as small as wt

hESC-derived iN cells (Fig. 1b). We measured neurite length of cells at 12 days of iN

differentiation and found markedly shorter neurites in mutant hESC-derived iN cells than in wt

hESC-derived iN cells (Fig. 1c). In addition, we see a reduction in mRNA expression level of the

neuronal marker Map2 in mutant hESC-derived iN cells compared to wt hESC-derived iN cells

by qRT-PCR analysis at day 7 which is the early stage of differentiation (Fig. 1d).

Consistent with IDH1-R132H mutant hESCs, the IDH1-R132H mutant NPCs are also hard

to differentiate to iN cells compared to IDH1-wt NPCs (overexpress IDH1 without any

mutations) (Fig. 1e). From qRT-PCR analysis of neural marker expression at day 7 of

differentiation from NPCs, we found a significant decrease in the expression level of Map2,

Nestin, Pax6, and NeuroD1 in IDH1-R132H mutation NPC-derived iN cells compared to

IDH1-wt NPC-derived iN cells (Fig. 1f, Extended Data Fig. 2a, b, c). Collectively, these results

suggest that oncogenic mutations cause difficulty in inducing terminal differentiation from

hESCs and NPCs to neuronal cells, and perturb cell fate determination.

As known, the terminally differentiated cells, such as the neuronal cells discussed here,

cannot proliferate. Interestingly, we noticed that the mutant stem cells not only retain their stem

cell state via maintaining the expression of Sox2 and resist neural differentiation, but they also

continue to proliferate throughout the differentiation process. To investigate further, we counted

the cell number of wt and mutant hESCs with dox induction for 3 days, but did not find an

increase in mutant hESCs compared to wt hESCs (Extended Data Fig. 2d). This suggested that

there is no proliferation advantage of mutant hESCs. However, we found that the cell number of

mutant hESC-derived iN cells was increased after dox for 7 days compared to wt hESC-derived

iN cells (Extended Data Fig. 2e). To validate the possibility that oncogenes may enhance cell

proliferation, we stained the wt and mutant hESC-derived iN cells with the cell proliferation

marker Ki67 (Fig. 1g). For all eight oncogenes, we found that a high percentage of mutant

hESC-derived iN cells express Ki67 during the differentiation process, but rarely happen in wt

hESC-derived iN cells. To identify the cell type of Ki67+ cells, we co-stained for the neuronal

marker Tuj1 and pluripotency marker Sox2 with Ki67. There were three types of cells: Ki67+Sox2+, Ki67+Sox2– and Ki67+Tuj1–. Ki67+Tuj1+ cells were never observed. We counted the Ki67+ cells at 10 days of differentiation. Very few wt hESC-derived iN cells were Ki67+, but more than hundreds times mutant hESC-derived iN cells retained their proliferation capacity and resisted being fully differentiated to neural cells (Fig. 1g). There was a significant reduction in neuronal cell number of mutant hESC-derived iN cells at day 10 (Fig. 1h), even when the mutant hESC-derived iN cells expressed Tuj1, most of them did not grow long axons. There were hundreds times more Sox2+ cells in the eight mutant hESC-derived iN cells than wt hESC-derived iN cells at 10 days of differentiation (Fig. 1i, Extended Data Fig. 2f). In summary, we found that stem cells expressing oncogenes enable themselves to resist differentiation into neural cells. This suggests that many oncogenic mutations may be associated with inhibition of differentiation potential due to epigenetic rewiring, because it has only happened during lineage differentiation with more permissive epigenetic states.

Stem cells with oncogenic mutations are difficult to reprogram into iPS cells

As it was previously found that cancer cells are extremely difficult to reprogram into iPSCs[1], we employed human neural progenitor cells (NPCs) as above used, and planned to assess the human iPSC (hiPSC) reprogramming efficiency from NPCs with these eight oncogenes shown in Fig 1, in order to comprehensively understand the lineage commitment blocking. We used NPCs derived from hESCs following the dual smad inhibition protocol [7] (Extended Data Fig. 3). To investigate the effect of each oncogene, we used the dox inducible system, same as discussed above. The NPCs were used to generate hiPSCs by overexpressing the four transcription factors: Oct4, Sox2, c-Myc, and Klf4 (OSKM)[8] (Fig. 2a). Afterward, the reprogramming efficiency of wt and mutant NPC-derived iPSCs were compared by counting the number of iPSC colonies via immunofluorescence staining of an iPSC marker, TRA-1-60 (Fig. 2b, c). Wt and IDH1-wt NPC-derived iPSCs generated many colonies. In contrast, all eight mutant NPCs were difficult to

reprogram into iPSCs and generated no iPSC colonies or a few very small colonies (Fig. 2b, c).

These results were consistent with our previous study showing that cancer cells were difficult to

reprogram to iPSCs (Extended Data Fig. 4), even if there was only one oncogene induced in stem

cells with a short-term inducible expression. In summary, stem cells with oncogenes are difficult

to reprogram into iPS cells.

Oncogenic mutation is associated with epigenetic change in hESCs

To investigate the effect of oncogenic mutations on genome-wide DNA methylation in stem

cells, we performed an Infinium MethylationEPIC BeadChip assays. To clarify that the

epigenetic change is caused only by one oncogenic mutation, we introduced each oncogene into

individual wt hESCs, the same as we previously did, using dox to overexpress the GoF mutation

gene for nine days. The principal component analysis (PCA) of DNA methylation profiles

demonstrated that the seven mutant hESCs and wt hESCs as control (empty vector) were

distinguished by DNA methylated gene loci (Extended Data Fig. 5a, b). 282 CpG sites are

differentially methylated in the seven mutants compared with control, 246 out of 286 are

associated with specific genes (Extended Data Fig. 5c). TP53I3 and PTPRT were the top two

genes differentially methylated in differentially methylated positions (DMPs) distribution.

Furthermore, 321 genomic regions exhibited significant differences in differentially methylated

regions (DMRs) distribution (p-val < 0.05) (Extended Data Fig. 5d). Based on the distance from

CpG islands, there are 401 genomic regions that are differentially methylated in total 4,905

regions (p-val < 0.05) (Extended Data Fig. 5e). Geneset enrichment analysis showed that many

tumor suppressor genes are methylated within DMPs and DMRs (Extended Data Fig. 5f, g). The

genes are enriched for stem-like genesets, such as Wnt signaling pathway (WNT5A, UBC,

WWTR1, Sox9), embryonic skeletal system morphogenesis (HOXB1, HOXA7),

beta-catenin-TCF complex assembly (HIST1H4B, HIST1H4C), and positive regulation of

transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter (ZBTB38). These findings demonstrated that

oncogenic mutations are associated with epigenetic alteration in hESCs.

Oncogenic mutations block differentiation via epigenetic alteration of stem cell fate genes

As shown above, stem cells with oncogenes were difficult to induce into terminal

differentiation from NPCs to iN cells, which may be associated with epigenetic changes (Fig.1).

To investigate temporal DNA methylation changes occurring during NPC maintenance in early

and later times via genomic DNA methylation measurement by Infinium MethylationEPIC

BeadChip assay, we introduced IDH1-R132H, KRAS-G12C, TP53-R273C, BRAF-V600E,

NRAS-Q61R, HRAS-Q61R, and SOX17-S403I mutations separately into NPCs at day 0, with

dox induction for 2 or 10 days to overexpress the oncogenes. After 10 days of induction, we

differentiated the NPCs into iN cells for two more days using the same procedure described in

Fig 1 (Fig. 3a), in order to investigate the epigenetic change during differentiation at increase

temporal resolution. As a control, we conducted the same analysis on wt-2 days, wt-10 days, and

wt-10 days + 2 iN days (Fig. 3a).

At later time points we observed an increase in epigenetic variability within the mutant cell

lines, notably for IDH1, KRAS, and Sox17 mutations (Fig. 3b). To measure oncogene-specific

methylation changes, we identified differentially hyper- (beta-value > 0.8 and logFC > 0.3) and

hypo- (beta-value < 0.2, logFC < -0.3) methylated CpG sites. We found that oncogenic mutation

is associated with DNA methylation alteration in NPCs and NPC-derived iN cells generally

(Extended Data Fig. 6a, b, c). Notably, the DNA methylation change in IDH1, TP53, and KRAS

mutation NPCs are more significant, and these mutations are very common in brain tumors and

pan cancer. Therefore, to further understand the properties of IDH1, TP53, and KRAS mutation,

we identified DMPs at 2 days (Extended Data Fig. 6a, d), 10 days (Extended Data Fig. 6b, e) and

10 + 2 iN days (Extended Data Fig. 6c, f). The heatmap of significant DMPs demonstrated that

the epigenetic perturbations were enhanced as induction time increased and differentiation

occurred (p-value < 0.01) (Fig. 3c). To identify functional categories of differentially hypermethylated genes, we performed GO enrichment analysis using clusterProfiler, using a cut-off of 1.5-fold 5mC level change to define hypermethylated genes (meandiff > 0.05, padj < 0.01) (Fig. 3d). Genes are hypermethylated in wt NPCs at 2 to 10 days comparisons that are enriched among neural differentiation, regulation of neural precursor cell proliferation, endoderm development, stem cell differentiation, and cell fate commitment. On the contrary, genes are hypermethylated in IDH1, KRAS, and TP53 mutation NPCs at 2 to 10 days comparisons that are involved in the regulation of neuron death, neurotransmitter transport, cell proliferation, regulation of secretory pathway, endocrine system development, regulation of cation transmembrane transport, regulation of cell shape and growth. It was shown that there is a significant difference in gene methylation states between wt and mutants from 2 to 10 days. In addition, the three mutants share a number of hypermethylated genes.

To eliminate the effect that is not related with oncogenes, we did comparative analysis between wt-2days and wt-10days (wt-2/10days), between mutation-2days and mutation-10days (mutation-2/10days), then compared the wt-2/10days and mutation-2/10days. Similarly, we performed the comparison between wt-10days and wt-10+2iNdays (wt-10/10+2iNdays), between mutation-10days and mutation-10+2iNdays (mutation-10/10+2iNdays), then compared the wt-10/10+2iNdays and mutation-10/10+2iNdays (Extended Data Fig. 6g, h, Fig. 3e, f, g, h). Genes that were found to be differentially methylated in wt cells at the relevant comparison periods were removed in the following analysis. Notably, there are a large number of hypomethylated regions in mutant NPCs compared to wt NPCs from 2 to 10 days (Extended Data Fig. 6g, h). However, from 10 to 10 + 2 iN differentiation days, there are a large number of hypermethylated regions in mutant NPC-derived iNs compared to wt NPC-derived iNs (p-val < 0.05, max difference of CpG > 0.2) (Extended Data Fig. 6g, h). The distribution of DNA methylation change showed that most occurred at transcription start site [9] (Extended Data Fig. 6h).

To reveal the most distinct methylation changed genes, we delineated overlapping

methylated genes between the three mutants at 2 to 10 days and 10 to 10 + 2 iN days

comparisons (Fig. 3e). Interestingly, cells have IDH1, KRAS, and TP53 mutation share 25 genes

that were hypomethylated at 2 to 10 days comparisons, and share 32 genes were

hypermethylated at 10 to 10 + 2 iN days comparisons (Fig. 3e). Simultaneously, each mutant

displays different methylation changed genes in a specific manner (Fig. 3e). We next categorized

the methylation changed genes based on functionality (Fig. 3f). At 2 to 10 days comparisons, we

found that NPCs with IDH1, KRAS, or TP53 mutation shared several of the same

hypomethylated genes in the categories of pluripotency, multipotency, differentiation (BAI1,

MTL5); neural development (CNPY1, GALR1, GBX2, LHX5); cancer (CACNA2D3, DMTN,

FUCA2, IL12RB1, ITGAM, MYOZ3, NR2F1, NR2F1-AS1, UBR3, HIST1H1B) (Fig. 3f). At

10 to 10 + 2 iN days comparisons, we found that NPC-derived iN cells have IDH1, KRAS, and

TP53 mutation shared several of the same hypermethylated genes in pluripotency, multipotency,

differentiation (FOXD3, TAF10); neural development (GABRA1, GPR176, SALL1); cancer

(FH, BAZ1A, DCLRE1C, FARSB, HOXC12, ILK, LMBR1, TPP1, UBE2T, ZNF540, ZNF571)

(Fig. 3f).

In addition to the common methylation change in the three mutants, they also have distinct

patterns. Hoxb1 is hypomethylated in IDH1 mutation NPCs, and KLF4 is hypomethylated in

KRAS and TP53 mutation NPCs at 2 to 10 days comparisons (Fig. 3f). As reported, when Hoxb1

(Homeobox B1) expression is induced in ESC-derived NSCs (neural stem cells), few cells

differentiate, but they keep proliferating [10]. KLF4 (Kruppel Like Factor 4) -overexpressing NSCs

resisted neuronal differentiation, showing rounded morphology with very short processes[11],

which is consistent with our observation. Additionally, at 10 to 10 + 2 iN days comparisons,

Foxp1 is hypermethylated in IDH1 and KRAS mutation NPC-derived iN cells (Fig. 3f). Gain or

loss of Foxp1 (Forkhead Box P1) function alters the level of progenitor cell divisions and the

balance between self-renewal and differentiation[12]. The DNA methylation alterations happened

mostly in the functional category related to multipotency and neural identification as well as tumorigenesis. Correspondingly, as previously mentioned, mutant stem cells resist neural differentiation and reprogramming as a consequence. DNA methylation changes in normal NPCs dynamically regulate cell fate and identity. However, aberrant DNA methylation changes in mutant NPCs dysregulate cell fate and identity.

To explore the critical effect of differentiation that occurs in mutant stem cells, we plotted the methylation of each DMP for a given region before and after differentiation (Fig. 3g). Interestingly, we found some genes were hypermethylated from 2 to 10 days, but convert to hypomethylated from 10 to 10 + 2 iN days, such as Lin28A in TP53 mutation cells (Fig. 3g). On the contrary, some genes were hypomethylated from 2 to 10 days, but convert to hypermethylated from 10 to 10 + 2 iN days, such as FOXD3 in IDH1 and KRAS mutation cells (Fig. 3g). Lin28A (Lin-28 Homolog A) controls NPC proliferation and neurogenesis in a SOX2-dependent manner[13]. Foxd3 (forkhead box D3) is associated with inactivation of important naive pluripotency genes by its modification of chromatin structures via recruiting histone demethylases and decreasing numerous activating factors[14]. These genes effect stem cell identification and differentiation regulation that were changed on their methylation modification in an aberrant manner, which severely effects the accuracy of lineage commitment.

Meanwhile, we found many overlapping gene sites were hypermethylated or hypomethylated in three mutants (Fig. 3f). In particular, BAI1 was hypomethylated from the 2 to 10 days, and KMO was hypermethylated from the 10 to 10 + 2 iN days (Fig. 3h). BAI1 (brain-specific angiogenesis inhibitor 1) is expressed in normal human brain, mediates p53 polyubiquitination[15,16]. KMO (Kynurenine 3-monooxygenase) influences stem cell biology and modulates neurodegeneration[17]. The three mutants share numerous genes with the same methylation site modification, which suggested that there is a specific methylation pattern generally related to oncogenic mutation associated with lineage differentiation disorder.

Stem cells with oncogenic mutations share similar epigenetic patterns with brain tumors.

As previously discussed, these oncogenes came from tumor cells via TCGA data analysis (Extended Data Fig. 1d), that are associated with DNA methylation alteration. It is important to evaluate the similarity of epigenetic states between mutant cells and cancer, such as low-grade gliomas (LGGs). To identify the methylation changed genes associated with LGGs, we analyzed the epigenetic profile of LGGs with IDH1-R132H, TP53-R273C, BRAF-V600E, or other mutations separately, from TCGA datasets as measured by DNA methylation, and compared to the non-tumor human whole brain cells as control[18] (see Methods). To evaluate the similarity between mutant cells and LGG cells in DNA methylation patterns broadly, we compared the genomic regions that were differentially methylated between the control brain and LGGs with oncogenes, as well as between wt and mutant cells at 2, 10, and 10 + 2 iN days (Fig. 4a, b, Extended Data Fig. 7a, b). It was shown that many overlapping genes were hypermethylated in mutant cells and LGGs, and gene numbers increased as the increased days of oncogene induction and differentiation initiation (Fig. 4a, b), also many overlapping genes were hypomethylated (Extended Data Fig. 7a, b). The heatmap displays the most significantly differentially hypermethylated genes overlapped in mutant cells and cancer cells (Fig. 4b). Many genes retain the same methylation states from 10 to 10 + 2 iN days (Fig. 4b).

We found that many genes were hypermethylated in NPCs and NPC-derived iN cells with oncogenes, that were also hypermethylated in LGGs with the same oncogene (Fig. 4c), such as CASZ1, DACT2, SFRP2, MET, PIWIL1, VGLL4, LATS2, SIX3, UHRF1. As reported, SFRP2 is downregulated in glioma patients by promoter hypermethylation, and regulates Wnt/β-catenin activation in glioma cells[19,20]. Inactivation of LATS1/2 kinases causes YAP/TAZ-driven global hypertranscription in neural progenitors that inhibits differentiation[21]. LATS1/2 deficiency reprograms schwann cells (SCs) to a cancerous, progenitor-like phenotype and promotes hyperproliferation[22]. Notably, to fully understand the relation of these hypermethylated genes,

we analyzed the biological connection of them. We found that the hypermethylated genes in both

mutant cells and tumor cells have a close relation to chromatin-modifying enzymes (Fig. 4d).

Moreover, we compared the genomic regions that were differentially methylated between

the control brain and LGGs with oncogenes, as well as between wt and mutant NPCs or

NPC-derived iN cells at 2 to 10 days or 10 to 10 + 2 iN days comparisons (Extended Data Fig.

7c, d). Notably, we found that the genes were hypermethylated in mutant cells from Fig. 3f and

were also hypermethylated in LGGs (Extended Data Fig. 7c, d), such as TMEM106A and

RARRES1 at 2 to 10 days comparisons (Extended Data Fig. 7e), Foxd3 and HOXC12 at 10 to 10

+ 2 iN days comparisons (Extended Data Fig. 7f). These genes were hypermethylated in mutant

cells and LGGs that have a critical function in cell fate determination via epigenetic modification.

Collectively, tumors with various accumulated oncogenes share similar DNA methylation

patterns with stem cells have oncogenes after a short period of induced expression.

To specifically determine DNA hypermethylation sites consequent to oncogenic mutation

associated differentiation impairment, we investigated each methylation locus of

hypermethylated genes from Fig. 3g, h, 4c in mutant cells and brains. Elevated methylation

occurred at the same loci of genes in mutant cells and LGGs, such as CASZ1 and VGLL4

(Extended Data Fig. 7g).

Furthermore, we analyzed the biological connection of key genes from Fig. 3f, in order to

show the whole picture of the network. Biological process categories were visualized as nodes

clustered into functional modules and interconnected based on the indicated interaction

confirmed in literature. The red circle labeled genes had methylation alteration as shown in Fig.

3f. We categorized the genes by five different colors: the red node indicates genes in

pluripotency, multipotency, and differentiation (LIN28A, FOXD3, KLF4, HOXB1, MEIS,

NR2F1, BAI1, HOXA5, HOXA9, PHB, FOXP1, OTX2), the green node indicates genes in

neural development (GBX2, LHX5, SALL1, PAX2), the blue node indicates genes in cancer

(NCOR, NGFR, DDB1, FH, ILK, TPP1, ZNF540, LMO3, KLF7, NFIB), the light green node

indicates genes in DNA, RNA binding and translation (RPA1), the purple node indicates genes

which function as histone and chromatin enzymes (KDM2A, PRC1/2) (Fig. 4e). The

chromatin-modifying enzymes are labeled in yellow circles and shown on top of the

visualization. We labeled genes connected with at least three other genes with green circles. The

interaction of genes was connected with black lines based on published literature. We applied

blue lines to indicate genes connected with chromatin-modifying regulators. The arrow indicates

the effect of one gene on another gene. The gene regulatory network demonstrated that the genes

play a critical role in multipotency maintenance, lineage differentiation, and cancer formation

connect with each other via epigenetic regulation of chromatin-modifying enzymes.

To summarize the findings from this comprehensive data analysis, it is not only IDH1

mutation that causes methylation change [3,4], but other mutations, such as KRAS, TP53, and

SOX17 mutation. The DNA methylation states are important to the maintenance of specific cell

types, and also to facilitate differentiation from one cell type to another. Oncogenic mutations

occurred in stem cells and progenitor cells which perturb DNA methylation states on lineage

commitment genes and their functional performance in the process of differentiation,

consequently, emerging a type of cell that maintain multipotency, resist differentiation, and

retain proliferation, that is a novel exploration of impairment of differentiation efficiency. We

are the first to identify oncogenic mutations that disrupt DNA methylation change on lineage

differentiation genes, therefore, mutant stem cells undergoing inaccurate lineage commitment.

Discussion

In 2017, Chao et al. generated iPSCs from AML patient samples and found that

AML-iPSCs lacked leukemic potential, but when differentiated into hematopoietic cells, they

reacquired the ability to give rise to leukemia *in vivo* and reestablished leukemic DNA

methylation/gene expression patterns[1]. To investigate the relationship of oncogenic mutation and

DNA methylation change during lineage differentiation, we constructed mutant NPCs (or hESCs)

for comparing the lineage differentiation efficiency with or without oncogenes. We found stem

cells with oncogenes were hard to reprogram and differentiate. During reprogramming and

differentiation, a global reset of the epigenome occurs[8]. Also, the epigenetic states are more

permissive for gene expression during differentiation. It implies the possibility that these stem

cells with oncogenes may initiate differentiation failures via taking advantage of epigenetic reset

during lineage differentiation.

To investigate the essential DNA methylation changes that occurred in mutant NPCs at the

stage of maintenance and differentiation, we performed methylation assay on cells undergoing

oncogene induction for 2 days or 10 days, and neural cell differentiation for 2 days. We found

that Lin28A was hypermethylated in TP53 mutant cells at 2 to 10 days, but converts to

hypomethylated at 10 to 10+2 iN days (Fig. 3g). In the opposite way, some genes were

hypomethylated at 2 to 10 days, but convert to hypermethylated at 10 to 10+2 iN days, such as

FOXD3 in IDH1 and KRAS mutant cells (Fig. 3g). It had been reported that Lin28 regulates the

self-renewal of stem cells through direct interaction with target mRNAs and by disrupting the

maturation of certain miRNAs involved in embryonic development[13]. Lin28a/b double knockout

mice display neural tube defects and reduced proliferation and precocious differentiation of

NPCs[23]. FOXD3 was demonstrated to be required in maintaining pluripotency in mouse

embryonic stem cells[14]. Importantly, the DNA methylation states of these genes are converted in

mutant NPCs compared to wt NPCs during lineage differentiation. The mechanism of converted

methylation states corresponding with differentiation is interesting to explore further.

As found previously, these oncogenes came from tumor cells as shown in Extended Data

Fig. 1d. Therefore, we evaluated the similarity of epigenetic states between mutant cells and

LGGs. Importantly, it was shown that many genes that were hypermethylated in mutant cells

also were hypermethylated in LGGs. CASZ1 functions as a neural fate determination gene and

tumor suppressor. Piwil1 (piwi like RNA-mediated gene silencing 1) plays an important role in

RNA silencing and stem cell self-renewal[24]. Six3 (SIX homeobox 3) is required for development

of the rostral forebrain through binding to the Wnt1 promoter region[25]. Uhrf1 (ubiquitin like with

PHD and ring finger domains 1) is a widely known hemi-methylated DNA-binding protein,

playing a role in DNA methylation through the recruitment of Dnmt1[26]. Uhrf1 regulates cell

specification, particularly those associated with neuroectoderm and mesoderm specification[27,28].

SFRP2 (secreted frizzled related protein 2) is a Wnt antagonist and inhibits β-catenin[29] and bone

morphogenic protein (BMP) signaling pathways, and SOX2 directly binds the SFRP2

promoters[30]. SFRP2 improves mesenchymal stem cells engraftment by modulating self-renewal

through increasing stem cell survival and by inhibiting differentiation[19]. The inactivation of

Hippo pathway kinases LATS1/2 (large tumor suppressor kinase 1/2) causes a YAP/TAZ-driven

global increase in transcription activity during brain development, and upregulates many genes

involved in cell growth and proliferation, resulting in inhibition of differentiation of neural

progenitor cells [21].

In summary, our findings reveal an essential function of these lineage differentiation genes

as a stabilizer of the epigenome by promoting epigenetic modifications which are necessary for

the faithful differentiation and the maintenance of pluripotency and multipotency (Fig. 4e). There

is a lineage-specific epigenetic pattern. When stem cells have oncogenes, oncogenic mutation

associated epigenetic change effects the expression of pluripotent genes, and impair the accuracy

of lineage commitment.

Methods

Key resources table

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
Rabbit anti-Ki-67	Abcam	Cat# Ab15580; RRID: AB_443209
Mouse anti-Nestin	R&D Systems	Cat# MAB1259; RRID: AB_2251304
Mouse anti-Oct3/4	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	Cat# sc-5279; RRID: AB_628051
Goat anti-Sox1	R&D Systems	Cat# AF3369; RRID: AB_2239879
Goat anti-Sox2	R&D Systems	Cat# AF2018; RRID: AB_355110
Mouse anti-Tuj1	BioLegend	Cat# 801202; RRID: AB_10063408
Rabbit anti-Tuj1	BioLegend	Cat# 802001; RRID: AB_2564645
Mouse anti-Tra-1-60	Millipore	Cat# MAB4360; RRID: AB_2119183
DAPI	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# D1306; RRID: AB_2629482
Anti-Mouse IgG (Alexa Fluor 488-coupled)	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# A10037; RRID: AB_2534013
Anti-Rabbit IgG (Alexa Fluor 488-coupled)	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# A10042; RRID: AB_2534017
Alexa Fluor 488 donkey anti-goat IgG	Invitrogen	Cat# A-11055; RRID: AB_2534102
Alexa Fluor 488 donkey anti-mouse IgG	Invitrogen	Cat# A-21202; RRID: AB_141607
Alexa Fluor 488 donkey anti-rabbit IgG	Invitrogen	Cat# A-21206; RRID: AB_2535792
Alexa Fluor 555 Donkey Anti-Mouse IgG	Invitrogen	Cat# A-31570; RRID: AB_2536180
Alexa Fluor 555 Donkey Anti-Rabbit IgG	Invitrogen	Cat# A-31572; RRID: AB_162543
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins		
DMEM media	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# 11965092
DMEM/F-12 media	Thermo Fisher	Cat# 1132033
Neurobasal-A Medium	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# 10888022
mTeSR1 media	Stemcell Technologies	Cat# 85850
HyClone cosmic calf serum (CCS)	GE Healthcare	Cat# SH30087.04
HyClone fetal bovine serum (FBS)	GE Healthcare	Cat# SH30071.03
Knockout Serum Replacement	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# 10828028
Penicillin-Streptomycin	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# 15140163
L-Glutamine	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# 25030164
Sodium Pyruvate	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# 11360070
GlutaMAX Supplememnt	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# 35050061
MEM Non-Essential Amino Acids Solution (100X)	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# 11140050
2-Mercaptoethanol	Gibco	Cat# 21985023
N-2 supplement (100X)	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# 17502048
B-27 supplement (50X)	Thermo Fisher	Cat# 12587010
H-EGF	PeproTech	Cat# 100-47
H-FGF-basic-154	PeproTech	Cat# 10018B
Insulin	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# I6634

Heparin	Sigma	Cat# H3393
Ascorbic Acid	Sigma	Cat# A4403
HEPES Buffer Solution	Gibco	Cat# 15630049
Matrigel	BD Biosciences	Cat# 356230
Polybrene	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# H9268
Laminin in Tris-buffered saline	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# L2020
Mitomycin C	Stress Marq Biosciences	Cat# SIH-246-10MG
Bambanker freezing medium	NIPPON Genetics	Cat# BB03
Trypsin 10x (2.5%)	Sigma	Cat# 59427C-100ML
Accutase	Innovative Cell	Cat# AT104
Doxycycline	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# D9891
Blasticidin	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# 203350
Puromycin	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# P8833
Hygromycin B	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# H3274
Y-27632	Stemcell Technologies	Cat# 72302
SB431542	Selleckchem	Cat# S1067
LDN193189	Selleckchem	Cat# S2618
CHIR99021	Tocris	Cat# 4423
Recombinant DNA		
pMD2.G	Addgene	Cat# 12259; RRID: Addgene_12259
pRSV-Rev	Addgene	Cat# 12253; RRID: Addgene_12253
pMDLg/pRRE	Addgene	Cat# 12251; RRID: Addgene_12251
FUW-M2rtTA	Addgene	Cat# 20342; RRID: Addgene_20342
Ub-rtTA	Zhang et al., 2013	
TetO-EGFP	Zhang et al., 2013	Addgene #84041
TetO-Ngn2-T2A-PuromycinResistance	Zhang et al., 2013	Addgene #52047
TetO-hygromycin	Generated in this work	N/A
TetO-IDH1-R132H-hygromycin	Generated in this work	N/A
TetO-TP53-R273C-hygromycin	Generated in this work	N/A
TetO-BRAF-V600E-hygromycin	Generated in this work	N/A
TetO-KRAS-G12C-hygromycin	Generated in this work	N/A
TetO-NRAS-Q61R-hygromycin	Generated in this work	N/A
TetO-HRAS-Q61R-hygromycin	Generated in this work	N/A
TetO-SOX17-S403I-hygromycin	Generated in this work	N/A
TetO-FGFR3-S294C-hygromycin	Generated in this work	N/A
Experimental Models: Cell Lines		
Human H1-ESCs	WiCell Research Institute	Cat# WA01

HEK293T cells	ATCC	Cat# CRL-11268
Bacterial and virus strains		
JM109 E. coli	New England Biolabs	Cat# E4107
Critical commercial assays		
RNeasy Mini Kit	Qiagen	Cat# 74106
DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit	Qiagen	Cat# 69506
Software and Algorithms		
ImageJ	NIH	RRID: SCR_003070
GraphPad Prism		https://www.graphpad.com/; RRID: SCR_002798
Deposited Data		
Infinium MethylationEPIC array	This study	GEO: GSE

Cell culture and media

415 H1 ES cells were obtained from WiCell Research Resources (WiCell, WI). ES cells were
416 maintained as feeder-free cells in mTeSR™1 medium (Stem Cell Technologies). We used a
417 doxycycline (dox)-inducible lentiviral vector system to transduce empty vector plasmid as a
418 control and oncogenes into the H1 ES cells, separately. Selection was carried out for 7 days in
419 mTeSR™1 medium with 50 μg/ml hygromycin.

Generation of iN cells from human ES cells

H1 human ESCs were dissociated using accutase and plated as single cell in mTeSR™1 medium
supplemented with ROCK inhibitor Y-27632 (10 μM, StemCell Technologies, Inc.) on matrigel
to a final density of 20,000-30,000 cells per cm^2. On the second day, attached cells were infected
with lentivirus for Ngn2-puro and rtTA expression. After 24 hr (day 0), transgene expression was
induced by replacing the medium with N2/B27 medium (DMEM/F12, 1% N2 supplement (Life
Technologies), 1% B27 supplement (Life Technologies), 10 μg/ml insulin (Life Technologies)),
and 2 μg/ml Doxycycline. Selection was carried out for 14 days (day 1 to day 14) in N2/B27
medium with 2 μg/ml puromycin. From day 2, induced neuronal (iN) cells were maintained in
N2/B27 medium and changed medium every 2 days. Neuronal cells were defined as cells that
stained positive for Tuj1 and had a process at least three times longer than the cell body.

hESCs differentiate to neural progenitor cells

hESCs were grown in mTeSR media on matrigel coated dishes until confluent, then

enzymatically passaged with accutase, resuspended in Neurobasal-A medium, DMEM/F12, 1%

N2, 1% B27 and insulin media, with Y-27632, a specific inhibitor of Rho kinase (ROCK)

activity, and cultured in the same size of the dish without matrigel coating. Overnight, colonies

will form floating spherical clusters termed "embryoid bodies" (EBs). When EB size grows to

200～400 μm, they were gently moved to matrigel coated dishes. The next day, after the EBs

attached to the bottom, the media was changed to N2/B27 media supplemented with dual SMAD

inhibitors (LDN193189 and SB431542). EBs were fed every second day with N2/B27 media

supplemented with 0.1 μM LDN193189 and 10 μM SB431542[7]. Cells are cultured for several

days, until neural rosettes begin to appear, characterized as round clusters of neuroepithelial cells

with apicobasal polarity. Staining of Sox1 is performed to identify the neural progenitor cells.

Optimized protocol for NPCs differentiation from hESCs

NPCs were differentiated from hESCs using dual SMAD inhibitors[7] (Extended Data Fig. 3).

High-density hESCs were identified on day 1, and passaged to the same size of dish to form

embryoid bodies in iN cell medium on day 2～3 until the EB size is large as 200～300 μm. EBs

were harvested and moved to matrigel coated dishes on day 4. Media was changed to NSC

medium with TGF-β and BMP inhibitor to differentiate NPCs from day 5 to day 21. NSC basal

medium includes DMEM/F12 and Neurobasal medium at 1:1, 1% Sodium pyruvate, 1% P/S, 1%

NEAA, 1 M HEPES, 1% Glutamax, 1% NaHCO3. When used for culturing cells add: 1% B27,

20 ng/ml bFGF, 20 ng/ml EGF, 1 μl/ml B27 supplement, 2 μg/ml Heparin, and 0.1% LIF. NPC

differentiation medium includes fetal NSC basal medium, 1% N2, 2% B27, 0.1 mM Ascorbic

acid, 10 μM SB431542 (TGF-β inhibitor), and 0.1 μM LDN193189 (BMP Inhibitor)[31]. The

neural rosette formed around day 6. Cells were passaged and medium changed to NSC medium

on day 22. Immunostaining for the pluripotency marker Oct4 and NPC marker Sox1 for NPCs

was performed on day 28 (Extended Data Fig. 3). As low density will cause NPC differentiation,

the cells were plated at very high density. After four weeks of culturing in NSC medium with

dual SMAD inhibitors, all the cells are Sox1 positive NPCs, and there are no Oct4 positive cells

present in all field tested by immunofluorescence. However, not all the hESCs successfully

differentiate into NPCs in the dual SMAD inhibitors NSC medium. Mesoderm and endoderm

cells spontaneously showed in the process. NPCs come from the neural rosette, pick up the

neural rosette when passage cells, and maintain NPCs in NSC medium monthly which could

potentially help to purify NPCs.

Neural progenitor cells reprogram to iPSCs

The dox-inducible lentiviral transduction of the transcription factors Oct4, Sox2, c-Myc, and

Klf4 (OSKM) is an efficient method to reprogram human NPCs to iPSCs[32,33]. We transduced

cells with dox-inducible lentiviral vectors carrying the mouse cDNAs encoding the four

transcription factors Oct4, Sox2, c-Myc, and Klf4. These cells were simultaneously infected with

a   constitutively   active   lentivirus   transducing   the   reverse   tetracycline   transactivator

(FUW-M2rtTA). The infected cells were cultured in the presence of dox, and iPSCs with a

human ESC like morphology were detected after approximately 2 weeks in four factors culture.

Virus generation

Lentiviruses were produced as described[33] in HEK293T cells (ATCC, VA) by co-transfection

with three helper plasmids (pRSV-REV, pMDLg/pRRE and vesicular stomatitis virus G protein

expression vector) (12 μg of lentiviral vector DNA and 6 μg of each of helper plasmid DNA per

75 cm^2 culture area) using polyethylenimine (PEI) [34]. Lentiviruses were harvested with the

medium 24 and 46 hr after transfection. Viral supernatant was filtered through a 0.45 μm filter,

pelleted by centrifugation (21,000 × g for 2 hours), resuspended in DMEM, aliquoted, and

snap-frozen in liquid N$_2$. Only virus preparations with >90% infection efficiency as assessed by

EGFP expression or puromycin resistance were used for experiments.

Lentiviral infections

Complementary DNAs for candidate genes were cloned into doxycycline-inducible lentiviral

vectors, as described previously[35]. Lentiviral production and hESCs, NPCs infections were

performed as described previously[36]. Human ESCs and NPCs were infected with concentrated

lentivirus and treated with doxycycline (2 mg/μl) 16～24 hr later.

Immunofluorescence

Cultured iN cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 15 min at room temperature,

washed three times with PBS, and incubated in 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS for 10 min at room

temperature. Cells were blocked in PBS containing 10% BSA for 3 hours at 4℃. Primary

antibodies were applied overnight. Cells were washed in PBS three times. Secondary antibodies

were applied for 3 hours and then washed. Cells were stained with 300 nM DAPI for indication

of nuclei, and mounted with mounting medium (containing antifade agent). The coverslips were

sealed, and the target antigen was visualized by fluorescence microscopy.

Antibody

The following primary antibodies with indicated dilution in blocking buffer were used: Rabbit

anti-Tuj1 (Covance, BioLegend, MRB-435P, 1:1,000), Mouse anti-Tuj1 (Covance, BioLegend,

MMS-435P, 1:1,000), Rabbit anti-human Sox1 (Millipore, AB15766, 1:1000), Mouse

anti-Tra-1-60 (Millipore, MAB4360, 1:1000), Rabbit anti-Ki67 (Abcam, ab15580, 1:1000), Goat

anti-Sox2 (Santa Cruz, Y-17, sc-17320, 1:1000), Mouse anti-Sox2 (R&D, MAB2018, 1:200),

Goat anti-Sox2 (R&D, AF2018, 1:200), Mouse anti-Oct-3/4 (Sata Cruz, C-10, sc-5279), Mouse

anit-Nestin (DSHB, rat-401, 1:200), Mouse anit-Nestin (R&D, MAB1259, 1:200), Rabbit

anti-ASCL1 (Abcam, ab74065, 1:200). After staining with corresponding secondary antibodies

in PBS plus 1% BSA, coverslips were washed four times with PBS, each for 10 min, mounted

with the mounting medium onto glass slides, and examined under Olympus FluoView FV1000.

qRT-PCR

RNA was isolated through standard methods following manufacturer's instructions (QIAGEN),

and reverse transcribed with SuperScript III (Life Technologies). qRT-PCR was performed with

FastStart Universal SYBR Green Master Mix (Roche) along with gene specific primers on a

7900HT real-time PCR machine (Applied Biosystems). Statistical significance was determined

by Students t test based on triplicated experiments.

DNA methylation analysis using Infinium MethylationEPIC array

Genomic DNA was isolated from the indicated hESC, NPC, and NPC-derived iN cell

populations through standard methods (QIAGEN) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Samples were processed and run at the Stanford Functional Genomics Facility (SFGF) using the

Infinium MethylationEPIC array which interrogates over 850,000 methylation sites at

single-nucleotide resolution. All data files that were used in our analysis can be found at NCBI.

The GEO accession numbers are GSE268459, GSE268464, GSE268467, GSE268469,

GSE268471. The control brain cells came from the whole human brain[18].

Calculating DMPs and DMRs across mutations and timepoints

The ChAMP (Chip analysis methylation pipeline) R package was used to normalize the dataset

across all cell lines and time points using the BMIQ (Beta-mixture quantile dilation)

normalization method. Each DMP and DMR calculation was done in a pairwise fashion for each

mutation and wt cell line independently. We compared each mutant and wt cells at 2 days, 10

days, and 10 and 2 days of induction. In addition, 2 days vs. 10 days induction time points were

compared together. 10 days vs. 10 days and 2 days of induction were compared together. DMPs

were identified using the limma R package. Hypermethylated DMPs were determined as

positions that had a beta-value greater than 0.85 and a log fold-change greater than 0.25.

Hypomethylated DMPs were determined as positions that had a beta-value less than 0.25 and a

log fold-change less than 0.35. At 2 to 10 days comparisons and 10 to 10 + 2 iN days

comparisons, the same DMPs for the timeline of comparison calculated in wt cell lines were

removed in order to identify mutation-specific DMPs. DMRs were calculated using the

Bumphunter R package and annotated with the ilm10b4.hg19 genome. Both hypomethylated and

hypermethylated DMRs were defined as regions with FDR < 0.1, number of cpgs < 2, and

absolute maximum difference of CpG expression > 0.2. UCSC genome browser (GRCh37/hg19)

and Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV) illustration of the methylation regions were shown in

Fig. 3, 4 and Extended Data Fig. 5, 6, 7. The GO analysis was performed with ClusterProfiler. The DNA methylation data included in this publication have been deposited in NCBI's Gene Expression Omnibus repository (GSE). https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/info/geo_illu.html

Statistical Tests

Microsoft Excel was used for data analysis. Cumulative plots were generated from parameters collected from individual cells under similar experimental conditions. Average data are presented as bar graphs indicating means ± SD. Statistical comparisons between bar graphs were made using the unpaired, two-tailed, Student t test (NS: $p > 0.05$, *$p < 0.01$, all versus control).

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Author Contributions

L.M. conceived and designed the study; L.M., A.Y., H.H., D.A.K., J.M., and Y.Y. planned and performed the experiments; A.Y., H.H., D.A.K., and J.M. performed DNA methylation data analyses; L.M. provided critical advice on experimental designs and data interpretations; K.S. and J.A.J provided experimental material; L.M. wrote the manuscript. L.M., K.S., A.Y., and D.A.K. edited the manuscript and the figures.

Declaration of Interests

The authors declare no conflicts of interest in the presented study.

FIGURE LEGENDS

Fig. 1. Expression of oncogenic mutations blocks differentiation of ES cell into neurons

a, Experimental scheme for generating induced neuronal (iN) cells differentiated from human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) or neural progenitor cells (NPCs) by overexpression of the neuronal gene, Ngn2.

b, Brightfield and fluorescent images of iN cells stained for the neural cell marker Tuj1 (red), pluripotency marker Sox2 (red), cell proliferation marker Ki67 (green) from wt hESC-derived iN cells and mutant hESC-derived iN cells after 2 weeks of differentiation. Data are from at least three independent experiments. Scale bars, 50 μm.

c, Neurite length in cells were measured at 12 days of iN differentiation (*p < 0.01).

d, Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of neural cell marker Map2 expression level at 7 days of hESC differentiation. Two-tailed t-test, Mean ± SD (n=3, *p < 0.01).

e, Brightfield and fluorescent images of NPC-derived iN cells stained for the neural cells marker Tuj1 (green) from IDH1-wt NPC-derived iN cells and IDH1-R132H mutation NPC-derived iN cells after 2 weeks of differentiation.

f, Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of neural cell marker Map2 expression at 7 days of NPC differentiation. Values represent mean ± SD (n=3, *p < 0.01).

g, Cell number counting of Ki67 positive wt hESC-derived iN cells and mutant hESC-derived iN cells at 10 days of differentiation (*p < 0.01).

h, Cell number counting of Tuj1 positive wt hESC-derived iN cells and mutant hESC-derived iN cells at 10 days of differentiation (*p < 0.01).

i, Cell number counting of Sox2 positive wt hESC-derived iN cells and mutant hESC-derived iN cells at 10 days of differentiation. Values represent the number of cells showing positive in each situation ± SD (n=3, *p < 0.01).

Fig. 2. Stem cells with oncogenic mutations are difficult to reprogram into iPS cells

a, Experimental scheme for generating human induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs) from

human NPCs by overexpression of Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc (OSKM) four transcription

factors.

b, The fluorescent images of NPC-derived iPSCs stained for the pluripotency marker TRA-1-60

(red) from wt NPC-derived iPSCs and mutant NPC-derived iPSCs. Nuclear staining by DAPI

(blue). Scale bars, 25 μm.

c, The number of TRA-1-60 positive iPSCs colonies generated from the reprogramming of wt

and mutant NPCs (n=3, *p < 0.05).

Fig. 3. Oncogenic mutations block differentiation via epigenetic alteration of stem cell fate

genes

a, A schematic timeline representation detailing experimental design.

b, Principal component analysis (PCA) of DNA methylation profiles of seven oncogenes and wt

NPCs are distinguished by DNA methylation states, from induced genes express 2 days, 10 days

and 10 days plus 2 days induce to iN cells. PCA plot of the different methylation samples

color-coded in time of induction (n=2).

c, Heatmap analysis of significant DMPs with the blue-red color scale representing the hypo- to

hypermethylation trend. Hierarchical clustering of rows and columns represents beta-value of

each group, respectively (p-value < 0.01).

d, Gene ontology (GO) term enrichment analysis in wt, IDH1, KRAS, and TP53 mutation NPCs

at 2 to 10 days comparisons (p-value < 0.01). GO terms show gene enrichment of wt and mutants

are different, but three mutants share similarity.

e, Venn diagram representing number of genes found within DMRs in IDH1, KRAS, and TP53

mutation cells compared with wt cells at 2 to 10 days and 10 to 10 + 2 iN days comparisons.

f, Heatmap showing genes found within DMRs in IDH1, KRAS, and TP53 mutation cells

compared with wt cells at 2 to 10 days and 10 to 10 + 2 iN days comparisons (p-value < 0.01).

Color indicates maximum CpG difference within the DMR that the gene was found within. Geneset classification was identified using the hallmark genesets in GSEA. The gene classification is based on their major function and hallmark pathway signaling.

g, Methylation beta-values across DMR where genes that flipped from hypo- to hypermethylation across time points were found. LIN28A in TP53 mutation cells, and FOXD3 in KRAS and IDH1 mutation cells. Asterisks represent DNA methylation marks at gene loci.

h, Methylation beta-values across DMR where genes were found to be changed across mutational states (BAI1 and KMO) of IDH1, TP53, and KRAS mutation cells. Asterisks represent DNA methylation marks at gene loci.

Fig. 4. Stem cells with oncogenes share similar epigenetic patterns with brain tumors

a, Venn diagram representing number of hypermethylated genes found in DMRs come from the control brain VS low-grade gliomas (LGGs) with IDH1 or TP53 mutation, and wt cells VS IDH1 or TP53 mutation cells at 2, 10, and 10 + 2 iN days (p-value < 0.01).

b, Heatmap of differentially hypermethylated genes found within the overlap node from Fig. 4a (p-value < 0.01). The colour scale indicates methylation level, from high (yellow) to low (blue).

c, The box plot demonstrates the mean DNA methylation level and variation in methylation levels of genes from Fig. 4b in LGGs with IDH1-R132H, TP53-R273C, BRAF-V600E, other mutations and control brain cells as measured by DNA methylation from TCGA dataset (NS: p > 0.05, *: p <= 0.05, **: p <= 0.01, ***: p <= 0.001, ****: p <= 0.0001). The horizontal line in box-plots shows median values, and the lower and upper edges of the boxes represents the 25th and 75th percentiles, respectively, and upper and lower lines outside the boxes represent minimum and maximum values (error bars). Each black dot represents mean DNA methylation level of one affected case in the corresponding cohort. The methylation data of control brain came from whole human brain, and more details are in the method.

d, Visualization of network of hypermethylated genes. The red circles mark genes from Fig. 4b, c. The yellow circles mark chromatin regulation enzymes are on the top. The green circles mark genes which play a critical role in pluripotency that connect with genes that are hypermethylated in LGGs and connect with genes which function as chromatin regulators.

e, Visualization of the gene regulatory network. Biological Process categories were visualized as nodes clustered into functional modules and interconnected based on the indicated interaction confirmed in literature. There are five categories cycled as different colors: the red node indicates genes of pluripotency, multipotency, and differentiation (LIN28A, FOXD3, KLF4, HOXB1, MEIS, NR2F1, BAI1, HOXA5, HOXA9, PHB, FOXP1, OTX2); the green node indicates genes of neural generation and development (GBX2, LHX5, SALL1, PAX2); the blue node indicates genes of cancer (NCOR, NGFR, DDB1, FH, ILK, TPP1, ZNF540, LMO3, KLF7, NFIB); the light green node indicates genes that function in DNA, RNA binding and translation (RPA1); the purple node indicates genes that function in histone and chromatin regulation (KDM2A, PRC1/2). The red circles mark genes that are found to have methylation changes in Fig. 3f. The yellow circles mark chromatin regulation enzymes are on the top. The green circles mark genes that connect with at least three other genes. The black lines represent the interaction of two genes which has been confirmed in literature. The blue lines represent the genes connected with chromatin-modifying regulators. The arrows indicate an effect of one gene on another gene.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Extended Data Fig. 1. Oncogenic mutations are associated with epigenetic change from the The Cancer Genome Atlas dataset

a, Depicting the frequency of IDH1 mutation within each cancer type analysed.

b, c, The effect of IDH1-R132* mutations on epigenetic state in low-grade glioma (LGG) and glioblastoma (GBM) as measured by DNA methylation.

d, e, The 22 and 17 candidate genes in gain-of-function and loss-of-function mutations respectively (1% FDR, false discovery rate) involved in regulating the epigenetic landscape in cancer, by performing a cancer analysis linking both gain-of-function and loss-of-function mutations to changes in the epigenetic state by measure DNA methylation.

Extended Data Fig. 2. Stem cells with oncogenic mutations retain their potential for proliferation in differentiation

a, Cell number counting of wt hESCs and mutant hESCs after 3 days of dox-induction (n=3, NS: $p > 0.05$).

b, Cell number counting of wt hESC-derived iN cells and mutant hESC-derived iN cells at 7 days of differentiation (n=3, *$p < 0.01$).

c, The ratio of the Sox2 positive hESC-derived iN cell number and Tuj1 positive hESC-derived iN cell number at 10 days of differentiation (*$p < 0.01$).

Extended Data Fig. 3. Optimize differentiation protocol for generation of NPCs from hESCs

a, Experimental scheme for generating human NPCs differentiated from hESCs use dual SMAD inhibitors.

b, Brightfield of hESCs at day 1, embryoid bodies (EBs) at day 3, neural rosette at day 6, photo NPCs at day 28, and immunostaining pluripotency marker Oct4 (red) (yellow arrow) and NPC marker Sox1 (green) for NPCs at day 28. Nuclear staining by DAPI (blue). Scale bars, 25 μm.

Extended Data Fig. 4. Cancer cells are difficult to reprogramming and differentiation

a, The morphology of U251 cells. U251 cell line is an IDH1 mutation glioblastoma cell line. Scale bars, 25 μm.

b, c, Brightfield and fluorescent images of immunostaining TRA-1-60 (red) of U251 cells at 14

days reprogramming with OSKM for colony identification.

d, e, Brightfield and fluorescent images of immunostaining U251 cells at 14 days differentiation

by Ngn2 overexpression for the neural cells marker Tuj1 (green).

f, The morphology of K562 cells. K562 cell line is an IDH1 mutant leukemia cell line.

g, h, Brightfield and fluorescent images of K562 cells immunostaining for TRA-1-60 (green) at

14 days reprogramming with OSKM. No TRA-1-60 positive staining colony.

i, j, Brightfield and fluorescent images of staining Tuj1 (red) and DAPI (blue) on K562 cells at

14 days differentiation by Ngn2 overexpression.

k, The morphology of HCT116 cells. HCT116 cell line is an IDH1 mutant colon cancer cell line.

l, m, Brightfield and fluorescent images of staining TRA-1-60 (green) and DAPI (blue) on

HCT116 cells at 14 days reprogramming with OSKM. HCT116 cells cluster on feeders and grow

more as colony-like clumps as shown in the photo. All cells are TRA-1-60 positive.

n, o, Brightfield and fluorescent images of staining Tuj1 (red) and DAPI (blue) on HCT116 cells

at 14 days differentiation by Ngn2 overexpression.

p, q, r, s, Immunostaining U251 cells with the pluripotency marker Sox2 (red), neural

stem/progenitor cell markers Nestin (green) and ASCL1 (red), and neural cell marker Tuj1

(green).

Extended Data Fig. 5. Oncogenic mutations are associated with epigenetic change in hESC

cells

a, Principal component analysis (PCA) of DNA methylation profiles using Infinium

MethylationEPIC BeadChip assay demonstrates that seven oncogene mutants and one wt hESC

cells are distinguished by DNA methylation states. Each point represents wt as control or a gene

modified cell sample. The proportions of variance explained by PC1 and PC2 are indicated.

b, Heatmap plot shows the potential involvement of the most significant DNA methylation

changes in mutant hESCs compared with wt hESCs by Infinium MethylationEPIC BeadChip

assay.

c, Genomic location of differentially methylated sites (DMS), for CpG sites methylated in wt and

mutant hESCs. Odds ratio and 95% confidence intervals are displayed in wt and mutant hESCs,

comparing their localization in different genomic locations as provided by Illumina (TSS1500,

TSS200, 5′UTR, 1stExon, Body, Exon boundaries [ExonBnd], and 3′UTR). Odds ratios were

computed against the general distribution of the 684,838 CpGs of our dataset. Indicated 282 out

of 684,838 CpG sites are differentially methylated in seven mutant hESCs compared with wt

hESCs, 246 out of 286 are associated certain gene.

d, The distribution of DMRs between wt hESCs and mutant hESCs. 321 genomic regions are

differentially methylated ($P < 0.05$) (in total 4,905 regions from UCSC refgene).

e, Enrichment of DMRs according to genic regions (left) and distance from CpG island (right)

(with a CpG shore, CpG shelve and open sea located 1-2 kbp, 2-4 kbp and >4 kbp away from the

nearest CpG island, respectively) between wt and mutant hESCs. 401 genomic regions are

differentially methylated ($P < 0.05$) (in total 4,905 regions).

f, g, Gene Ontology (GO) categories of genes differentially methylated between wt and mutant

hESCs (top categories ranked according to p-value). GO enrichment analysis by DAVID using

DMPs associated 246 genes, and DMRs associated 125 genes.

Extended Data Fig. 6. Oncogenic mutations are associated with epigenetic alteration in

NPCs and iN cells

a, b, c, Number of hypermethylated (beta-value > 0.8 and logFC > 0.3) and hypomethylated

(beta-value < 0.2, logFC < -0.3) DMPs in mutant cells compared to wt cells at 2 days, 10 days,

and 10 days plus 2 days of neural induction.

d, e, f, Bar plot shows the percentage of genomic location each DMP was found in mutant cells

compared to wt cells at 2 days, 10 days, and 10 days plus 2 days of neural induction (p-value <

0.01).

g, Number of DMPs and DMRs at 2 to 10 days and 10 to 10 + 2 iN days comparisons for mutant

cells (IDH1, KRAS, and TP53). DMPs found in the same comparison for wt cells were removed

from the total DMP count.

h, Number of DMS within the DMRs in (G) across the IDH1, KRAS, and TP53 mutation cells.

Black or grey color bar plots represent DMRs found in hyper- or hypomethylated regions.

Extended Data Fig. 7. Stem cells with oncogenic mutations share similar epigenetic

patterns with brain tumors

a, Venn diagram representing the number of hypomethylated genes found in DMRs that come

from the control brain VS low-grade gliomas (LGGs) with IDH1 or TP53 mutation, and wt cells

VS IDH1 or TP53 mutation cells at 2, 10, and 10 + 2 iN days (p-value < 0.01).

b, Heatmap of differentially hypomethylated genes found within the overlap node from extended

data Fig. 7a at 2, 10, and 10 + 2 iN days (p-value < 0.01). The color scale indicates methylation

level from high (yellow) to low (blue).

c, Venn diagram representing the number of genes found in DMRs that come from the control

brain VS LGGs with IDH1 (TP53) mutation, and wt cells VS IDH1 (TP53) mutation cells, at 2

to 10 days comparisons and 10 to 10 + 2 iN days comparisons (p-value < 0.01).

d, Heatmap of differentially methylated genes found within the overlap node from extended data

Fig. 7c at 2 to 10 days comparisons and 10 to 10 + 2 iN days comparisons (p-value < 0.01). The

color scale indicates methylation level from high (yellow) to low (blue).

e, f, From comparing the epigenetic states in LGGs with IDH1-R132H, TP53-R273C,

BRAF-V600E, other mutations and control brain cells as measured by DNA methylation from

the TCGA dataset, the box plot demonstrates the distribution of DNA methylation of

hypermethylated genes in cells at 2 to 10 days comparisons and 10 to 10 + 2 iN days

comparisons. (NS: p > 0.05, *: p <= 0.05, **: p <= 0.01, ***: p <= 0.001, ****: p <= 0.0001).

g, Distribution of DNA methylation marks at CASZ1 and VGLL4 gene loci. The arrows indicate

differentially methylation sites.

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Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Supplemental Figure 1

a

b

IDH1 mutations in LGG

c

IDH1-R132* mutations in GBM and LGG

d   **gain-of-function mutations**

Cancer	Gene	Mutation	p_adjust
THCA	BRAF	V600E	1.96E-44
LGG	IDH1	R132H	4.76E-25
THYM	GTF2I	L424H	8.13E-15
COAD	BRAF	V600E	7.88E-14
SKCM	BRAF	V600E	1.11E-10
THCA	NRAS	Q61R	5.05E-10
UCEC	PPP2R1A	P179R	1.57E-07
BLCA	FGFR3	S249C	2.29E-06
THCA	HRAS	Q61R	1.34E-05
LGG	TP53	R273C	1.88E-03
LGG	IDH1	R132G	3.14E-03
LGG	IDH1	R132C	6.37E-03
UCEC	CTGLF11P	H132R	8.40E-03
PCPG	HRAS	Q61R	1.34E-02
LUAD	BRAF	V600E	1.38E-02
BLCA	FGFR3	Y373C	2.74E-02
THCA	NRAS	Q61K	3.05E-02
SKCM	IDH1	R132C	3.32E-02
UCEC	SOX17	S403I	3.35E-02
LGG	IDH2	R172K	4.48E-02
LGG	TP53	R175H	4.52E-02
LUAD	KRAS	G12C	4.90E-02

e   **loss-of-function mutations**

Gene	Cancer	PC	p_adjust
PTEN	UCEC	2	4.22E-09
ATRX	LGG	4	2.10E-05
TP53	LGG	4	1.47E-03
KMT2D	BLCA	6	1.47E-03
STAG2	BLCA	4	1.47E-03
AXIN1	LIHC	9	3.41E-03
RB1	BLCA	8	4.86E-03
NSD1	UCEC	4	4.96E-03
BMPR2	COAD	2	4.96E-03
ABCA13	UCEC	4	4.96E-03
ARID1A	UCEC	2	4.96E-03
SMARCA4	LUAD	4	7.86E-03
DYNC2H1	UCEC	4	8.17E-03
NSD1	UCEC	7	8.46E-03
TTN	STAD	2	8.46E-03
APC	COAD	3	8.46E-03
SMARCA4	LUAD	6	9.73E-03

Supplemental Figure 2

Supplemental Figure 3

Supplemental Figure 4

Supplemental Figure 5

a

Group	Status	Color
A	Empty-vector	
B	IDH1-R32H	
B	TP53-R273C	
B	SOX17-S403I	
B	BRAF-V600E	
B	NRAS-Q61R	
B	HRAS-Q61R	
B	KRAS-G12C	

b

c

Group	Count	%
Gene body	76	26.95
TSS200	62	21.99
TSS1500	49	17.38
NA	36	12.77
5' UTR	35	12.41
1st Exon	19	6.74
3' UTR	4	1.42
ExonBnd	1	0.35
Total	**282**	**100**

d DMR regions annotation (based on genes)

e DMR regions annotation (based on CpGs)

f

Differentially methylated positions (DMPs): enrichment analysis

Category	Term	Count	P	Fold Enrichment	adj. P
KEGG_PATHWAY	Transcriptional misregulation in cancer	7	0.03	3.07	0.98
KEGG_PATHWAY	Pathways in cancer	11	0.04	2.05	1.00
KEGG_PATHWAY	Regulation of actin cytoskeleton	7	0.06	2.44	1.00

Category	Term	Count	P	Fold Enrichment	Bonferroni
GO:MF	transcription factor activity, sequence-specific DNA binding	22	0.00398	1.96	0.81
GO:MF	transcriptional activator activity, RNA polymerase II core promoter proximal region sequence-specific binding	9	0.00641	3.27	0.93
GO:MF	sequence-specific DNA binding	14	0.0076	2.32	0.96
GO:MF	zinc ion binding	24	0.0091	1.76	0.98
GO:MF	protein binding	118	0.01824	1.15	1.00
GO:MF	DNA binding	29	0.03095	1.48	1.00
GO:MF	metal ion binding	34	0.0358	1.41	1.00
GO:MF	ligase activity	8	0.03814	2.54	1.00
GO:MF	chemoattractant activity	3	0.03893	9.52	1.00
GO:MF	ATP binding	26	0.04065	1.49	1.00
GO:MF	histone acetyltransferase binding	3	0.04161	9.18	1.00

g

Differentially methylated regions (DMRs): enrichment analysis

Category	Term	Count	P	Fold Enrichment	adj. P
GO:BP	negative regulation of canonical Wnt signaling pathway	7	0.00	7.67	0.45
GO:BP	male gonad development	4	0.02	7.60	21.30
GO:BP	intestinal epithelial structure maintenance	2	0.02	119.09	22.75

Category	Term	Count	P	Fold Enrichment	adj. P
GO:CC	cell junction	12	0.00	4.91	0.04
GO:CC	synapse	6	0.00	6.23	3.18
GO:CC	nuclear membrane	6	0.01	4.92	8.37

Category	Term	Count	P	Fold Enrichment	adj. P
GO:MF	phosphorylase kinase regulator activity	2	0.02	91.74	23.97
GO:MF	protein domain specific binding	5	0.03	4.41	28.45
GO:MF	palmitoyl-(protein) hydrolase activity	2	0.03	61.16	33.71

Category	Term	Count	P	Fold Enrichment	FDR
KEGG_PATHWAY	Long-term potentiation	4	0.01	10.17	7.36

Supplement Figure 6

Supplement Figure 7