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# Association of MRI morphologic phenotype from unsupervised learning with breast cancer subtypes and treatment response

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## **PURPOSE**

To investigate if MRI morphologic phenotypes defined by unsupervised clustering is associated with breast cancer subtype and pathologic complete response (pCR) after neoadjuvant chemotherapy (NAC)

## BACKGROUND

- Shape and morphology are known features associated with tumor malignancy and aggressiveness
- Radiomic features extracted from MRI images provide comprehensive tumor characterization
- While supervised learning uses labeled datasets that train algorithms to classify data or predict outcomes. unsupervised learning algorithms are used to examine and group unlabeled datasets. Such algorithms can uncover hidden and intrinsic structures within the data.









## **METHODS** Study cohort

 990 patients enrolled in I-SPY 2 TRIAL, randomized to drug arms (NAC)

## DCE-MR

- In ISPY-2, MRI was measured during NAC at pretreatment (T0), 3 weeks (T1), 12 weeks (T2), and presurgery (T3) time points
- MRI at T0 and T1 were used for the analysis **Tumor subtypes**
- 4 subtypes defined by immunohistochemistry (IHC) based on hormone receptor (HR) and HER2 status: HR+/HER2-: HR+/HER2+: HR-/HER2+: HR-/HER2-

### METHODS

#### Radiomic shape features

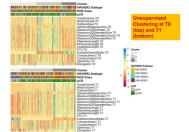
- 17 shape features are defined by IBSI (Image Biomarker Standardization Initiative)1
- . They were extracted by using PyRadiomics and measured within the FTV masks from DCE-MRI.

#### Statistical analysis

- MRI morphologic phenotypes: unsupervised hierarchical (Pearson correlation, applomerative ward linkage) on radiomic shape features
  - The associations between the unsupervised clusters of radiomic features with four IHC subtypes and pCR: x2 test of independence and Cramer's V.

## **RESULTS**

- Optimal number of clusters (k=3) was selected from Consensus Clustering<sup>2</sup> method.
- Clusters generated by unsupervised hierarchical clustering in a population of 910 out of 990 patients



## RESULTS

· Features tended to group as those related to volume and surface area, linear dimension and shape characteristics such as elongation and flatness.

## Associations with pCR and subtype

- Associations of MRI clusters with pCR are stronger at T1 than at T0
- · Associations of MRI clusters with subtype was significant at T1, but not at T0
- Features showing strongest association with pCR included surface-to-volume ratio in cluster 3 at T0 and T1. linear dimension features in cluster 3 at T0. and cluster 1, 3 at T1

Test of association

IHC subtypes and

CR at T0 and T1

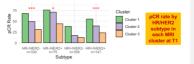
etween clusters and

btype/Outcome	p-value (χ2 test)	Cramer's V
	то	
HR/HER2	0.497	0.054
pCR	0.033	0.086
	T1	
HR/HER2	<0.001	0.154

< 0.001 pCR rates in MRI clusters at T1 (boxplot)

Highest in Cluster 1 and lowest in Cluster 3. HR+/HER2-: the pCR rate in Cluster 1 was 2-fold of Clusters 2 and 3-fold of Cluster 3.

Statistically significantly different except for the HR-/HFR2+ sub-cohort



### CONCLUSIONS

- · Statistically significant association was shown between MRI morphologic phenotype and pCR, with stronger association observed at T1. Association differed by HR/HER2 subtype with
- strongest association observed in HR+/HER2- and triple negative.
- Our results suggest that unsupervised clustering of radiomic shape features derived from DCE-MRI may be helpful for early prediction of tumor response to NAC.

## ADVOCATE PERSPECTIVE

MRIs show three-dimensional information such as tumor size and shape. Measuring tumor shape using an unsupervised learning approach as described in this poster can improve the effectiveness of MRI in measuring treatment response. Early prediction of both responders and non-responders will increase treatment optimization by allowing responders to switch early to their next scheduled trial therapy while allowing non-responders to switch early to a different trial therapy thereby avoiding side effects from a therapy which is not working for them.

## CITATIONS

- Zwanenburg, Alex, et al. "The image biomarker standardization initiative: standardized quantitative radiomics for high-throughput image-based phenotyping." Radiology295.2 (2020):
- Monti, S., Tamayo, P., Mesirov, J. & Golub, T. Consensus dustering: a resampling-based method for class discovery and visualization of gene expression microarray data. Mach. Learn. 52. 91-118 (2003).

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