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The interaction of p53 and MDM2 genes in cancers, *in silico* studies and phylogenetic analysis

Jayaraman A¹, *Jamil K¹, Raju S²¹School of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Studies, Budha Bhawan, 6th Floor, Secunderabad 500003, Andhra Pradesh (AP), India.²Department of Surgical Oncology, Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad, AP, India.

*Corresponding Author: kaiser.jamil@gmail.com

Abstract

The normal cell cycle process is a crucial process and is generally mediated by a number of regulatory genes. One of the most important regulators is the tumor suppressor p53, which in turn is regulated by MDM2 gene. The expression of p53 and MDM2 is found to be frequently altered in many cancers and metastasis/ relapses. This is the first report to look at the evolutionary history of these genes to decipher the role of these genes in the tumorigenesis process using *in silico* methods. We also found that they showed high degree of sequence similarity across the mammalian species, indicating that these species probably share parallel cancer causing mechanisms. Their individual unrooted phylogenetic tree formed 5 clusters each; however, p53 gene was found in a large number of species whereas MDM2 was found in smaller number of species. The role of MDM2 is therefore limited and occurs in fewer species across the mammalian species. It is evident that these molecules play an important role in the cancer process, perhaps responsible for relapses and hence need to be explored further as therapeutic targets. Such studies that are based on evidence from paleontology and genetics suggest that mechanisms of cancer are embedded deeply throughout evolution. Understanding the phylogenetic evolution of these genes could help in furthering our knowledge on the mechanisms involved in cancer.

Keywords: p53; MDM2; genes; cancer; *in silico* studies; phylogeny; cell cycle regulation.

Introduction

Neoplasia is a heterogeneous disease affecting mankind at all stages of life. To better understand the etiology of the disease, it is necessary to understand the molecular mechanisms that lead to the production of cancer cells. Abnormalities in the cell cycle process have largely been implicated in the prognosis of cancer. The cell cycle process plays a crucial role in the development of an organism as it controls cellular growth, differentiation and proliferation processes. Any change in the cell cycle would successively alter these processes and thus lead to cancer. The normal cell cycle process thus becomes a crucial process and is generally mediated by a number of regulatory genes. These genes include cyclins, cyclin dependent kinases and their inhibitors, many tumor suppressor genes, which ensure the proper progression of the cell cycle from one phase to another and also ensure the appropriate termination of the cell cycle process. In a previous study, Khan and Jamil (2008) carried out cancer metatranscriptome gene analysis and reported that genes involved in tumorigenesis are involved in multiple pathways essential for cell survival and hence

contribute to sustained proliferation of cancer cells.

The expression of p53 tumor suppressor gene and other genes that participate in the p53 pathway are found to be frequently altered in many cancers. The p53 gene encodes a 53 kDa protein that participates in a plethora of functions. It functions as a transcription factor, regulating the expression of many genes that are essential for checkpoint response due to DNA damage and also genes that participate in apoptotic pathways (Vousden and Lane, 2007). Initial levels of p53 in cells are fairly low but gradually increase in response to genotoxic stress signals. When DNA damage has been signaled, p53 protein interrupts G1 phase of cell division and allows for repair of the damaged DNA and also activates apoptosis to remove cells that are irreparably damaged (Kastan *et al.*, 1991). Altered expression of p53 through mutations or deletions results in change in apoptosis process and might also contribute to resistance to drug therapies (Liu *et al.*, 2002). Though p53 alterations are infrequent during diagnosis of ALL, in 16% to 28% of children suffering from relapse in ALL point mutations in p53 have been observed (Zhou *et al.*, 1995),

indicating a critical role of p53 in the tumorigenesis process. However, these mutations are much higher in solid tumors and other malignancies.

Since p53 has such diverse and critical functions, there exist mechanisms in the normal cells systems which regulate p53 expression so that it does not malfunction in the absence of external stress stimuli. One of the most important regulators is the MDM2 gene. The protein encoded by this gene, which is an ubiquitin ligase, binds to the N-terminal transactivation domain of the p53 molecule and thus acts as a negative regulator of p53 expression. On receiving stress stimuli, the p53-MDM2 interaction is broken allowing p53 to carry out its functional activities (Sakaguchi *et al.*, 1998; Craig *et al.*, 1999). MDM2 itself is a proto-oncogenic protein wherein its overexpression leads to suppression of p53 activity thus disrupting apoptosis. Overexpression of MDM2 and its subsequent inactivation of p53 activity has been reported in several cases of childhood ALL (Marks *et al.*, 1997; Gustafsson *et al.*, 2001). MDM2 also participates in cell cycle regulation, proliferation and apoptosis independent of p53. MDM2 expression levels affect these processes, and are thought to contribute to its role in tumorigenesis process (Zhang and Zhang, 2005). Overexpression of MDM2 has been reported in association with early relapse and drug resistance in pediatric leukemia (Zhou *et al.*, 2000).

The tumorigenesis process involves unlimited cell proliferations due to deregulation of pathways involved in cellular activities. Many of these pathways are not clearly understood in normal cells, and so information about how changes in these pathways lead to malignancies is even more difficult to decipher. Recent advances in evolutionary biology has helped provide tools so that the pathways can be studied in an evolutionary context and thus provide more information regarding the effect of alterations of genes involved in these pathways and their role in tumorigenesis. Weinberg (2007) has indicated that cancer causing genes are highly conserved and those genes that are responsible for multicellularity are most often altered leading to cancer. In previous studies, Khan and Jamil (2008) have used phylogenetic approaches and functional divergence to understand evolutionary history of MTHFR gene and its SNPs, which is reported in association with many diseases including leukemia. Their

studies have implicated that SNPs in MTHFR occur in sites under functional constraint and these sites might be fixed in a particular population.

In the current study, our aim was to look at the evolutionary history of p53 and MDM2 genes through the construction of phylogenetic trees, since it may further our knowledge to predict the cell cycle process in cancers as these genes are involved in the cell division process, and further it may be possible to unfold some of the mechanisms of tumorigenesis which are evolutionary.

Materials and Methods

DNA sequence data and sequence alignment

The sequences for alignment were retrieved from the NCBI GenBank database (Benson *et al.*, 2011) (available at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) and saved in fasta file format for further analysis. These sequences were imported into the alignment explorer of MEGA version 4 software (Tamura *et al.*, 2007). The ClustalW (Thompson *et al.*, 1994) algorithm was used to perform an initial multiple sequence alignment. This alignment was again manually edited and realigned using ClustalW with default parameters for Gap Opening, Gap Extension Penalty and DNA weight matrix to obtain optimal global sequence alignment. Phylogenetic trees were then built using this multiple sequence alignment file.

Phylogenetic tree building

Phylogeny tree building was carried out using MEGA version 4.0. The Neighbour-Joining (Saitou and Nei, 1987) method, which builds trees using a distance matrix, was chosen for phylogeny reconstruction of the sequences. Kimura 2-parameter (Kimura, 1980) distance model, which assumes uniform rate of substitution among sites, was selected as the nucleotide substitution model. To further increase the reliability of the phylogenetic tree obtained, 1000 Bootstrap replications were performed.

Functional divergence

During evolution many of the residues are subjected to functional constraints. Identification of these sites is important in studies that relate to understanding evolutionary history and can be estimated through functional divergence. In the current study, we calculated functional

divergence between the various species for each gene using Diverge 1.04 software (Gu and Vander Velden, 1999). Protein sequences of all the species were retrieved from GenBank and were aligned using ClustalW in MEGA software using default parameters and this alignment was used as input for the Diverge software. Using this input, the software was used to build a p-

distance Neighbour-Joining tree to delineate clusters. These clusters were then used to estimate statistical parameters such as site specific profile, which is useful to predict the amino acid residues which are vital for functional divergence. Residues estimated to have a functional divergence value greater than 0.2 were highlighted in the sequence alignment.

Table 1: Sequence details of p53.

S. No.	Organism	Common Name	Nucleotide Accession Number	Protein Accession Number
1.	<i>Homo sapiens</i>	Human	NM_000546	BAC16799
2.	<i>Cavia porcellus</i>	Domestic Guinea Pig	NM_001172740	NP_001166211
3.	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	Rhesus Monkey	NM_001047151	AAB91534
4.	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	African Green Monkey	X16384	CAA34420
5.	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	Crab-Eating Macaque	AF456343	AAB91535
6.	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Pig	NM_214145	NP_998989
7.	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Sheep	NM_001009403	ACP19318
8.	<i>Marmota monax</i>	Woodchuck	AJ001022	CAA04478
9.	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	Beluga Whale	AF475081	AAL83290
10.	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Rabbit	NM_001082404	NP_001075873
11.	<i>Tupaia belangeri chinensis</i>	Chinese Tree Shrew	AF175893	AF175893
12.	<i>Bos indicus</i>	Zebu	U74486	AAB51214
13.	<i>Felis catus</i>	Domestic Cat	NM_001009294	BAA05653
14.	<i>Xenopus laevis</i>	African Clawed Frog	NM_001088098	CAA54672
15.	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Norway Rat	NM_030989	NP_112251
16.	<i>Danio rerio</i>	Zebrafish	NM_131327	NP_571402
17.	<i>Bos Taurus</i>	Cattle	NM_174201	CAA57348
18.	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Rainbow Trout	NM_001124692	NP_001118164
19.	<i>Oryzias latipes</i>	Japanese Medaka	NM_001104742	AAC60146
20.	<i>Nothobranchius kuhntae</i>	Beira Killifish	EU391597	ACB30549
21.	<i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>	Mongolian Gerbil	AB033632	BAB69969
22.	<i>Mus musculus</i>	House Mouse	EU031806	AAA39883
23.	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Dog	AF060514	BAA78379
24.	<i>Cricetulus griseus</i>	Chinese Hamster	U50395	AAC53040
25.	<i>Xiphophorus maculatus</i>	Southern Platyfish	AF043947	AAC31134
26.	<i>Tetraodon miurus</i>	Congo Puffer	AF071571	AAD34213
27.	<i>Platichthys flesus</i>	European Flounder	Y08919	CAA70123
28.	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	Channel Catfish	AF074967	AAC26824
29.	<i>Barbus barbus</i>	Barbel	AF071570	AAD34212
30.	<i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>	Fruit Fly	DQ191318	NP_996268
31.	<i>Xenopus (Silurana) tropicalis</i>	Western Clawed Frog	NM_001001903	NP_001001903
32.	<i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>	Golden Hamster	U07182	AAB41344
33.	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>	Nile Tilapia	GU594898	ADE21938
34.	<i>Spalax judaei</i>	Blind Subterranean Mole Rat	AJ783406	CAH03844
35.	<i>Bombyx mori</i>	Silkworm	NM_001177410	NP_001170881
36.	<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>		AJ489250	CAD32988
37.	<i>Mya arenaria</i>	Softshell	AF253323	ACK28179
38.	<i>Xiphophorus helleri</i>	Green Swordtail	AF043946	AAC31133
39.	<i>Coregonus lavaretus</i>	Common Whitefish	EU978857	ACH73252
40.	<i>Loligo forbesi</i>	Northern European Squid	U43595	AAA98563
41.	<i>Tigriopus japonicas</i>	Crustaceans	GQ327969	ADG86236
42.	<i>Homo sapiens (mutant p53)</i>		FJ207420	ACI25593
43.	<i>Rattus norvegicus (mutant p53)</i>		U90328	AAB80959

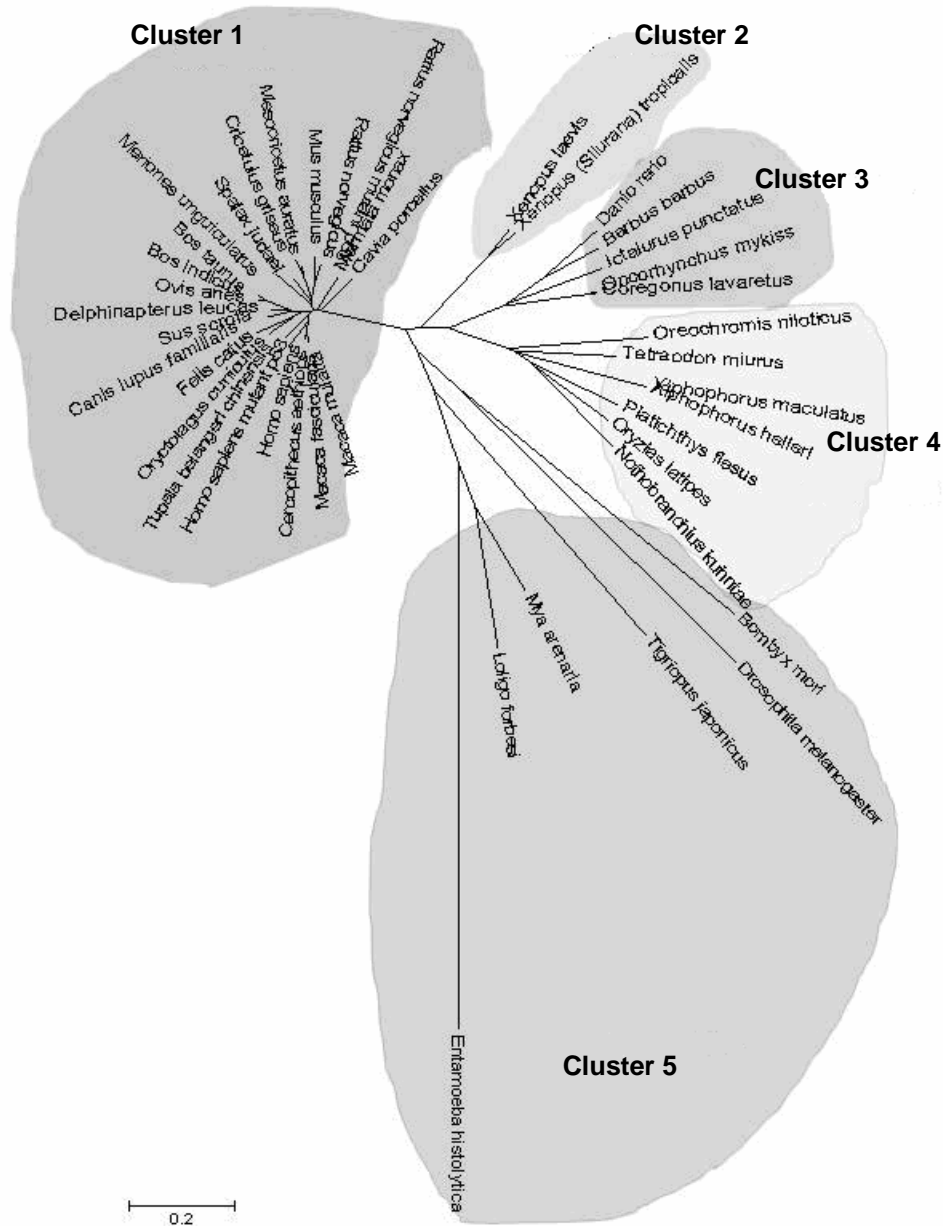


Figure 1: Phylogenetic tree of p53.

Results

We found that p53 and MDM2 showed some sequence similarity across the mammalian species, indicating that these genes probably regulate the normal cell division processes in these species as well. Details of the sequence alignment of p53 and MDM2 showing variable sites are presented in annexure-I and II.

Phylogenetic analysis of p53

A phylogenetic radiation tree constructed with p53 sequences of 41 species and a sequence

each of mutant p53 in Humans and Rats, showed five clusters – a cluster consisting of mammals, a cluster of amphibians, two clusters with different species of fish, a fifth cluster of various other organisms. Information about the gene can be accessed in GeneCards database with GCid: GC17M007565

Phylogenetic analysis of MDM2

Phylogenetic reconstruction of thirteen sequences of MDM2 from various organisms showed five clusters - Humans along with six

other species formed the first cluster, Norway Rat and House Mouse form another cluster, Red Jungle Fowl forms an isolated cluster, a fourth cluster of Amphibians, another isolated cluster

with Zebra fish. GeneCards database can be queried with GCid: GC12P069201 for information about the gene.

Table 2: Sequence details of MDM2.

S. No.	Organism	Common Name	Nucleotide Accession Number	Protein Accession Number
1.	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Dog	AB031276	BAB11975
2.	<i>Mus musculus</i>	House Mouse	U47934	AAB09031
3.	<i>Homo sapiens</i>	Human	GQ848196	ACX31156
4.	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Pig	EU119401	ABV09038
5.	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Cattle	NM_001099107	NP_001092577
6.	<i>Equus caballus</i>	Horse	NM_001081844	NP_001075313
7.	<i>Felis catus</i>	Domestic Cat	NM_001009346	NP_001009346
8.	<i>Danio rerio</i>	Zebra fish	AF010255	AAB64176
9.	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Norway Rat	NM_001108099	NP_001101569
10.	<i>Xenopus laevis</i>	African Clawed Frog	NM_001092601	NP_001086070
11.	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Red Jungle Fowl	NM_001199384	NP_001186313
12.	<i>Xenopus (Silurana) tropicalis</i>	Western Clawed Frog	NM_203912	NP_989243
13.	<i>Pongo abelii</i>	Sumatran Orangutan	NM_001131213	NP_001124685

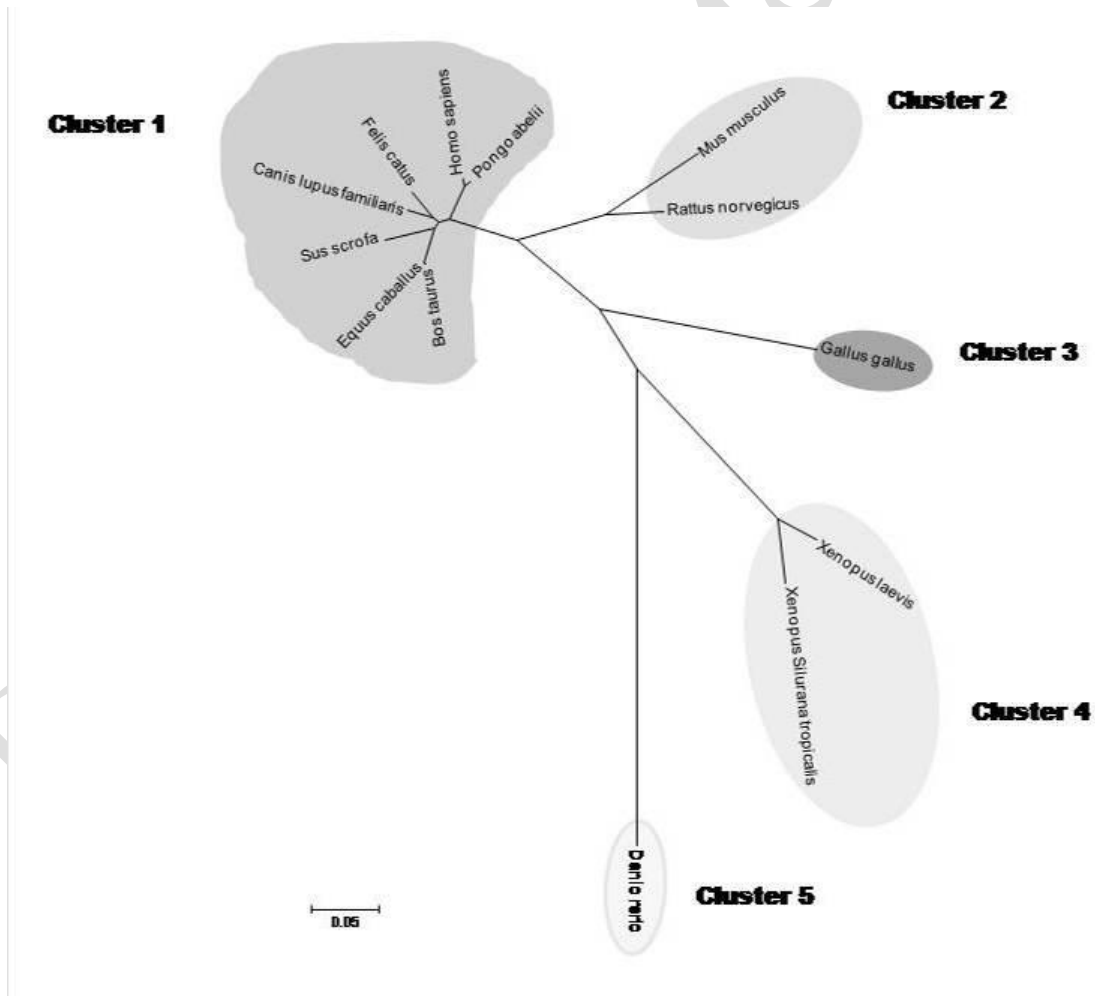


Figure 2: Phylogenetic tree of MDM2.

Functional divergence of p53 and MDM2

We used Diverge 1.04 to calculate the functional divergence of p53 and MDM2 proteins. Neighbour-Joining Tree with p-distance model was used for constructing trees to delineate clusters for both proteins. For the p53 protein, functional divergence was calculated by dividing the species into two clusters. The first cluster contains Mammalian species and the second cluster contains the rest of the organisms. The coefficient of functional divergence between cluster 1 and cluster 2 was 0.23. Further, using a posterior probability of 0.2 as a cutoff value we found 152 residues to be significantly divergent.

For the MDM2 protein also cluster 1 contained the Mammalian species and cluster 2 contained all other species. The coefficient of functional divergence between the two clusters was 0.1 and on applying a posterior probability value of 0.2, six functionally divergent residues were observed. In both the proteins, Mammalian sites were more or less similar to each other while differing from those in the second cluster.

Discussion

Neoplasia is characterized by accumulation of genetic abnormalities in the malignant cells. These changes lead to accumulation and proliferation of malignant cells and affect the patient's ability to fight infections. Though cure rates of 80% have been achieved, many patients still suffer due to therapy resistance and relapse (Pui *et al.*, 2006; Pieters and Carroll, 2008; Bhojwani *et al.*, 2006). p53 and MDM2 genes have been associated with treatment resistance and have been observed to have altered expression levels during relapse especially in leukemia which affect children. The p53 tumor suppression pathway is frequently deregulated in many cancers (Vogelstein *et al.*, 2000). Since the genes in this pathway are functionally active in important cellular activities such as cell growth and proliferation, apoptosis, tumor suppression, they represent important targets to understand disease mechanisms. The key genes in this pathway, p53 and MDM2, have been observed to have a considerable effect in failure of chemotherapy in patients and hence the expression of these genes and their alterations need to be decoded. Phylogenetic studies are increasingly being used in recent years to

understand the evolution of disease genes. The information obtained from phylogenetic study can further be used to construct better models of drug-gene interactions through homology modeling and affinity modeling (Sabitha *et al.*, 2008). Studies conducted by Khan and Jamil (2010) on E2 ubiquitin enzymes, using phylogenetic approaches and through identification of sites under functional constraints, have reported that these enzymes are in a state of active evolution and have indicated that this information could be useful in understanding their role in neoplasia. Further, Shaik *et al.* (2009 a, b) carried out the phylogenetic analysis of genes related to the toxicological parameters and showed how this method could be useful in determining the evolutionary history of genes or even meta-analysis of polymorphic genes could be useful in predicting solid tumors.

In our study, we have used phylogenetic reconstruction methods to look at the evolutionary history of the p53 and MDM2 genes. A further study of evolutionary history can be done by analyzing the functional diversity of a protein/gene family. In our analysis for proteins of p53 and MDM2 genes, we obtained a coefficient of functional divergence (θ_{ML}) value greater than 0 indicating type I functional divergence. This implies that these select residues/sites are subjected to different evolutionary rates. Most of the sites in these proteins have a posterior probability less than 0.5, implying that there exists functional similarity across the two clusters. This functional similarity could help in identifying the exact mechanism of change which the genes encoding these proteins undergo, resulting in their association in the tumorigenesis process. We observed that these are largely conserved in the mammalian species; the presence of these genes in various species could indicate that these genes could have similar functions or could have evolved due to natural selection process. It is also possible that the presence of these genes in other lower species could indicate that similar disease conditions might exist in those species. A study of these genes in mammalian species that are similar to humans might help elucidate how these genes acquired the function of regulating the cell division.

p53:

	1	1111111111	2222222222	3333333333	4444444555	6666777777	7777888888	8888999999
1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890
Homoc_sapiens	MEEFQSDFSV	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSPLFS---	---	QAMDDL	MLSPDDIEQW	FTSDPGPDEA
Marmota_monax	MEEAQSDLSI	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSSEVLS---	---	FMDDL	LLSSEDEVNW	FKGEPD--EA
Homoc_sapiens_mutant_p53	MEEFQSDFSV	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSPLFS---	---	QAMDDL	MLSPDDIEQW	FTSDPGPDEA
Rattus_norvegicus_mutant_p53	MEDSQSDMSI	ELFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPDD	LLPPTATGS---	---	FNSMED	LFLPQDVVEL	LEGFPEALQV
Cavia_porcellus	MEEPHSDLSI	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSDSLS---	---	FMDDL	LLSPEEVAWS	LCENFD--GD
Macaca_fascicularis	MEEFQSDFSI	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSPLFS---	---	QAVDDL	MLSPDDLAQW	LTDEPGPDEA
Macaca_mulatta	MEEFQSDFSI	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSPLFS---	---	QAVDDL	MLSPDDLAQW	LTDEPGPDEA
Xenopus_laevis	-MEFSSSETGM	DEFLSQETFE	ELWLLFPDPL	QTVTCRLDN---	---	---	---	---
Delphinapterus_leucas	MEEAQSELGV	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	LLSSELS---	---	FAVDDL	LLSPEDVANW	LDERPD----
Mus_musculus	MEEAQSDLSL	ELFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPED	ILP-----S-	---	PHCMDD	LLLQDVVEEF	FEFPEALRV
Bos_taurus	MEEAQSELNV	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	LLSSELS---	---	FAVDDL	LLPY-TDVATW	LDECFN----
Sus_scrofa	MDEAQSELGV	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	LLSSELS---	---	LAAVND	LLLSF-VTNW	LDECFN----
Cercopithecus_aethiops	MEEFQSDFSI	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSPLFS---	---	QAVDDL	MLSPDDLAQW	LTDEPGPDEA
Ovis_aries	MEEAQSELGV	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	LLSSELS---	---	FAVDDL	LLSPEDVVTW	LDECFN----
Oryctolagus_cuniculus	MEEAQSDLSI	ELFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	LLTSLN---	---	FPVDDL	LYS-AEDVANW	LNDFPF--EG
Tupaia_belangeri_chinensis	MEEFQSDFSV	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSPLFS---	---	QAMDDL	MLSPDDIEQW	FTSDPGPDEA
Bos_indicus	MEEAQSELNV	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	LLSSELS---	---	FAVDDL	LLPY-TDVATW	LDECFN----
Felis_catus	MQEPFLELTI	EPFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSSELS---	---	SAMNEL	PLS-EDVANW	LDEAFD----
Rattus_norvegicus	MEDSQSDMSI	ELFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPDD	LLPPTATGS---	---	FNSMED	LFLPQDVVEL	LEGFPEALQV
Danio_erio	---	MAQNDQEFPA	ELWLLFPENN	FFGGGSCWDI	---	INDEBY	LPGSFDPNPF	ENVLBEQPFQ
Oncorhynchus_mykiss	---MADLAFNV	SLPLSQSFPF	ELWLLFPENN	AVQPPPTESW	---	VGYDNF	MMRPAFQVFF	DPSLFFVSSAT
Oryzias_latipes	---MDFVP	DLPEQSQSPF	ELWLLFPENN	ELWLLFPENN	---	EF	TGWSVATGDM	FLLDQ---
Nothobranchius_kuhntae	---MEESALDLE	RHDSFDMWMM	ELKNNVYBAL	SSPIPVTFY	---	DGSDVF	DETVDVQSQM	FLLD----
Meriones_unguiculatus	MEEFQSDLSI	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	LLS--A-	---	LFPMDL	LLLPQDVTSW	LEDADPAFV
Canis_lupus_familiaris	MQEPQSELNI	DEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSSELC---	---	FAVDEL	LLP-ESVNVW	LDESDS---
Cricetulus_griseus	MEEFQSDLSI	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSLFP--S-	---	SDSIEE	LFLSENVRTGW	LESDGGALQG
Xiphophorus_maculatus	---MFRADL	TLPLSQDTFH	ELWLLFPENN	ESTLSPPEG	---	---	---	---
Tetraodon_murus	MEEENIS---	-LPLSQDTFQ	ELWLLFPENN	FNSTQTAAL	---	N---	EAWFAERM	NMCMNF----
Platichthys_flesus	MDEQGLDGMQ	ILFGSQSFSF	ELWLLFPENN	TATTAREFFD	---	---	---	-HLGNI----
Ictalurus_punctatus	EGNGERDTMM	VEFPDSQEFA	ELWLLFPENN	DNSI	---	WGKKEE	IPDDLQEVFC	DVLLSDMLQP
Barbus_barbus	---FAESQEFA	ELWLLFPENN	QEAG-TGWEL	---	---	IN-DEY	LPSSFPDPNF	DNVLTDFEQE
Drosophila_melanogaster	MYISQPMQSWH	KRPTDSRDD	ELWLLFPENN	KTVSVSGS	---	EL	TTPMFAFLQG	LNNGNIMQFS
Xenopus_(Silurana)_tropicalis	-MEFSSSETGM	EPFLSQETFE	ELWLLFPDPL	QTGGQGMEN	---	---	---	---
Mesocricetus_aureatus	MEEFQSDLSI	ELFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSLFP--S-	---	SDSIEE	LFLSENVAGW	LEDPEALQG
Oreochromis_niloticus	-MREQGVENV	SLPLSQSFPF	ELWLLFPENN	STTQTAALN	---	EF	TGWSVATGDM	AIMD----
Spalax_judaei	MEEFQSDLSI	EEFLSQETFS	ELWLLFPENN	VLSPLFS--P	---	NSMEDL	LLSPEEDVANW	LDDPDE--A
Bombyx_mori	MKHEIMTSLE	VATCEDDIVN	ELWLLFPENN	LFQGGIH---	---	DOV	DLGVLDDIEY	IISDVS---
Entamoeba_histolytica	EENEIWMNPI	IKOVNKMII	PHYENKPIE	DKNVIYLIE	---	ENEL	TMLIERIGV	KEPEIKKYDN
Mya_arenaria	SQVAIHGTFP	NQPMQSETFE	ELWLLFPENN	DNVSYTHINT	---	ELSDSDSGQV	EKFNQHTDT	SDLLNLIIGT
Xiphophorus_hellerii	---MEEADL	TLPLSQDTFH	ELWLLFPENN	ENESLAPFEG	---	---	---	---
Coregonus_lavaretus	---MADLVENV	SLPLSQSFPF	ELWLLFPENN	EVQSPVTEAW	---	VEYDNT	MMAEFLQGEF	DQSLTEVSAE
Loligo_forbesi	-----MSQG	TSFNSQETFN	LLWLSLEQVT	AN-EYTOIHE	---	GVGHEHAQEI	SAYAYGRSES	YDLLNPIINQ
Tigriopus_japonicus	MSHKLGVPRK	QQEKLNVMB	FKGIVPRAT	KSEDEYLEVK	---	FEVSV	LNLSGDNSES	SSSEVFKLSLK

	1111111111	1111122222	2222222222	2222222222	2222222222	2222222222	2222222222	2222222222	2222222222
	7788888888	9999900000	0000011111	1111122222	2222233333	3333344444	4444455555	5555566666	6666677777
	8601234564	5678901234	5678901234	5678901234	5678901234	5678901234	5678901234	5678901234	5678901234
Homc_sapiens	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Marmota_monax	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Homc_sapiens_mutant_p53	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Rattus_norvegicus_mutant_p53	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Cavia_porcellus	PVQVWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Macaca_fascicularis	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Macaca_mulatta	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Xenopus_laevis	PLLVRVDS	PFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Delphinapterus_leucas	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Mus_musculus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Bos_taurus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Sus_scrofa	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Cercopithecus_aethiops	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Ovis_aries	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Oryctolagus_cuniculus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Tupaia_belangeri_chinensis	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Bos_indicus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Felis_catus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Rattus_norvegicus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Danio_erio	PVQVWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Oncorhynchus_mykiss	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Oryzias_latipes	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Nothobranchius_kuhntae	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Meriones_unguiculatus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Canis_lupus_familiaris	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Cricetulus_griseus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Xiphophorus_maculatus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Tetraodon_mirus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Platichthys_flesus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Ictalurus_punctatus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Barbus_barbus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Drosophila_melanogaster	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Xenopus_(Silurana)_tropicalis	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Mesocricetus_auratus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Oreochromis_niloticus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Spalax_judaei	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Bombyx_mori	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Entamoeba_histolytica	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Mya_arenaria	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Xiphophorus_hellerii	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Coregonus_lavaretus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Loligo_forbesi	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	
Tigriopus_japonicus	PVQLWVDS	TFFPGTVRA	MAIYKQSDHM	TEVAFRCPEH	ERCAFD	SDGLAPPQHL	IRVEGNN	LRVYELDRNT	

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	5555555556	6666666667	7777777778	8888888889	9999999900	0000000011	1111111122	2222222233
	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890
Homo_sapiens	KKGEPHHELP	PGSTKRALPN	NTS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Marmota_monax	KKGEPHHELP	PGSTKRALPN	GTS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ARFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Homo_sapiens_mutant_p53	KKGEPHHELP	PGSTKRALPN	NTS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Rattus_norvegicus_mutant_p53	KKEEHCPELP	PGSAKRALPT	STS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Cavia_porcellus	KKGGLCPEPT	PGNIKRALPT	STS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Macaca_fascicularis	KKGEPCHQLP	PGSTKRALPN	NTS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Macaca_mulatta	KKGEPCHQLP	PGSTKRALPN	NTS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Xenopus_laevis	KKRGLKPS	---GKRELAH	PPSDEFPK	KRLV	VDDREDFP	TLKIFGR	SRVEMIKKLN	EAELEKDAQA
Delphinapterus_leucas	KKGQSCPELP	TGSAKRALPT	GTS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Mus_musculus	KKEVLCPELP	PGSAKRALPT	CNTS-ASPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	KRFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Bos_taurus	KKGQSCPEFP	PRSTKRALPT	NTS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	KRFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Sus_scrofa	KKGQSCPEFP	PGSTKRALPT	STS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Cercopithecus_aethiops	KKGEPCHQLP	PGSTKRALPN	NTS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Ovis_aries	KKGQSCPEFP	PGSTKRALPN	NTS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	KRFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Oryctolagus_cuniculus	KKGEPCHQLP	PGSSKRALPT	TMTSSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Tupaia_belangeri_chinensis	KKGQSCPELP	TGSIKRALPT	GSS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Bos_indicus	KKGQSCPEFP	PRSTKRALPT	NTS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	KRFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Felis_catus	KKGEPCHQLP	PGSTKRALPN	STS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Rattus_norvegicus	KKEEHCPELP	PGSAKRALPT	STS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Danio_ferio	KDQETKTMK	TTTGKRSLV	KESSEATIRP	EGSKKAKGS	---SDDEIF	TLKIFGR	ERYELLKKNL	DSELESLVVP
Oncorhynchus_mykiss	KQQTETLETK	TKPADGKRA	MKESLPAEP	PGASKKTKSS	---PAYSDDEIF	TLKIFGR	EKYEMLKKNF	DSELESLVVP
Oryzias_latipes	KTQP----	KKRKTNPNTS	---SKRKKK	HSSEG----	EDDKRDFP	HFEVYGRY	ERYEMLKKNL	DSELESLVVP
Nothobranchius_kuhntae	KKESGSKQTP	KKRNAPNTS	SLMTAKMVK	SSSSG----	EDDKRDFP	HFEVYGRY	ERYEMLKKNL	DSELESLVVP
Meriones_unguiculatus	KKQ-RCPELP	QSSAKRALPT	NTS-SSPFPK	R-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	KRFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Canis_lupus_familiaris	KKGEPCHQLP	PGSTKRALPN	STS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERYEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
CriceTulus_griseus	KKGEPCHQLP	PKSAKRALPT	NTS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Xiphophorus_maculatus	-----KSGTK	QTKRKSAPA	PMTSTAKSK	SASSG----	EDDKRDFP	HFEVYGRY	ERYEMLKKNL	DSELESLVVP
Tetraodon_murus	KMNDKADAK	KRKSVP	T	PDSTTIKSK	TASSA	EDDKRDFP	HFEVYGRY	ERYEMLKKNL
Platichthys_flesus	KTENGPKQTK	KRQKAPSNA	PHITVVMKSK	SSSSA----	EDDKRDFP	HFEVYGRY	ERYEMLKKNL	DSELESLVVP
Ictalurus_punctatus	KQQEPKTSK	TLTKP	---SMDEFP	HPHF	EASKKSKNS	---SDDEIF	TLKIFGR	ERYEMLKKNL
Barbus_barbus	KDQETKTLK	IPSAKRSIL	KSTSSVFRP	EGSKKAKLSG	---SDREIF	TLKIFGR	ERYEMLKKNL	DSELESLVVP
Drosophila_melanogaster	SKRKSVPK	AEDDEPKSVR	RCIAKTD	EDSND	---RRCDDSA	EDDKRDFP	HFEVYGRY	ERYEMLKKNL
Xenopus_silurana_tropicalis	KKRGLKFN	---GKRELSH	PPSDEFPK	KRLV	---EDDEIF	TLKIFGR	SRVEMIKKLN	EAELEKDAQA
Mesocricetus_auratus	KKGEPCHQLP	PKSAKRALPT	NTS-SSPFPK	R-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Oreochromis_niloticus	KKESGPKQTK	K-RKMTNPNTS	SLMTAKMVK	SSSSG----	EDDKRDFP	HFEVYGRY	ERYEMLKKNL	DSELESLVVP
Spalax_judaei	KKGELCPELP	PGSTKRALPT	GTS-SSPFPK	K-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Bombyx_mori	ARAARKRPR	RAVAPQEDQ	AKDRRPR	R-----	KKLDGEYF	TLKIFGR	ERFEMFRELN	EAELEKDAQA
Entamoeba_histolytica	TLQRIFTQT	DMKRTTKT	SDTITLSSR	TATLEPWTDN	LSCNNTDFV	ALDWSFYT	SKRTLFTSL	SSHSNPND
Mya_arenaria	PPMVSQGVK	QMPKFSMGT	EDTVSSKSK	RK	---EDDKRDFP	HFEVYGRY	ERYEMLKKNL	DSELESLVVP
Xiphophorus_hellerii	-----KSGTK	QTKRKSAPA	PMTSTAKSK	SASSG----	EDDKRDFP	HFEVYGRY	ERYEMLKKNL	DSELESLVVP
Coregonus_lavaretus	KQQTETLETK	TKPADGKRA	MKESLPAEP	PGASKKTKSS	---SPAYSDDEIF	TLKIFGR	EKYEMLKKNF	DSELESLVVP
Loligo_forbesi	VSKFPSPKN	GFPKSLVLT	NDTITKPK	RK	---TDD--GCP	TLKIFGR	ENYELDKLR	DTQAGKSNP
Tigriopus_japonicus	QGSSEFPK	RKRKPSVVG	SESSNHS	TS	GGSSPQDSNA	NNKMS	SDTY	VVVFGRY

	4444444444	4444444455	5555555555	5555555555	5555555555	5555555555	5555555555	5555555555
	3333333344	4444999900	0000000011	1111111122	2222222233	2222222233	2222222233	2222222233
	2345678901	2345678901	2345678901	2345678901	2345678901	2345678901	2345678901	2345678901
Homo_sapiens	GKEPGCSRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Marmota_monax	EKEPGESRPH	PSYL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Homo_sapiens_mutant_p53	GKEPGCSRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Rattus_norvegicus_mutant_p53	AEEESGDSRAH	SSYP-----	-KTKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Cavia_porcellus	EKEPGESRPH	PSYL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Macaca_fascicularis	GKEPAGSRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Macaca_mulatta	GKEPAGSRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Xenopus_laevis	QQ-----	KVT	IKCR	-KCRDE	-IKPKK	GKGL	LVKDEQ	DS
Delphinapterus_leucas	GKEPAGSRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Mus_musculus	TEESGDSRAH	SSIQ-----	-PRAPQ----	-ALIK	KEESP	C-----	-----	-----
Bos_taurus	GREPGESRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Sus_scrofa	ARESGENRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Cercopithecus_aethiops	GKEPAGSRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Ovis_aries	GREPGESRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Oryctolagus_cuniculus	EKEPGCSRAH	SSYL-----	-KAKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Tupaia_belangeri_chinensis	EKEPGCSRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Bos_indicus	GREPGESRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Felis_catus	GKEPAGSRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Rattus_norvegicus	AEEESGDSRAH	SSYP-----	-KTKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Danio_ferio	ASDAEKYRQK	FMTK-----	-NKKE--NRE	SSEPK	QKGL	MVKDEGR	DS	DS
Oncorhynchus_mykiss	VADADKYRQK	CLTK-----	-RVAKR--DF	GVPK	KRKL	LVKKEK	DS	DS
Oryzias_latipes	-----	KESK	KNKD	-SCMVF	-----	SSCKL	KSN	-----
Nothobranchius_kuhntae	-----	KEKK	QLLV	-QFVLP	-----	TSGR	LKDRS	DS
Meriones_unguiculatus	AGESGDGRAQ	ASCL-----	-KTKKD----	-KSTS	PRKN	MIKRE	DS	DS
Canis_lupus_familiaris	GKEPAGSRAH	SSHL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
CriceTulus_griseus	SKGSEDNGAH	SSYL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Xiphophorus_maculatus	-----	P	KIKQ	---ET	PAF	---SSGR	LKGG	DS
Tetraodon_murus	-----	PKSK	-A	THRP	---DG	TF	PSGR	DS
Platichthys_flesus	-----	EKAKNKV	AVKQ	-----	ELP	VF	---SSGR	VQGRS
Ictalurus_punctatus	PADQEKYRQK	LLSK-----	-TCRKR	EDGA	AGEPK	RGKR	LVKKEK	DS
Barbus_barbus	PSFMDRYRQK	LLTK-----	-GKKK--DGQ	T	PEPK	RGKR	MVKDEK	DS
Drosophila_melanogaster	MIKEAAAEVL	RNPN-----	-QENLR	-----	RHANKL	LSLKK	RAYEL	-----
Xenopus_silurana_tropicalis	QQ-----	KLS	IKCR	-KCRDE	-IKPKK	GKGL	LVKDEL	DS
Mesocricetus_auratus	LKASEDSGAH	SSYL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Oreochromis_niloticus	EKYRQKGGK	DGOT-----	-PEGPK	-----	KGKLL	VKEEK	DS	DS
Spalax_judaei	EKDSGESRAH	SSYL-----	-KSKKG----	-QSTS	RHKKL	MPKTEG	DS	DS
Bombyx_mori	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Entamoeba_histolytica	SFSFATNVHL	AHFS-----	-LSKFF	FAND	GSYP	FLQSHL	VSHHCNS	CS
Mya_arenaria	QNQLQSLKQK	Q-----	-VEVQ	RQWLT	NVLAKE	GKSR	LKKK	RPK
Xiphophorus_hellerii	-----	P	KIKQ	-----	ELP	VF	---SSGR	LKGG
Coregonus_lavaretus	AADADKYRQK	RLTK-----	-RVAKR--EL	GVPK	KRKL	LVKRE	DS	DS
Loligo_forbesi	FAERLLYKQF	RQAPRET	PVT	KCP	PTNTA	QWTL	KL	GLQ
Tigriopus_japonicus	BYVQLRRLI	QTYNHDKLRS	LSFKPES	AVK	GVESA	QANMI	TANT	SKNST

MDM2:

	11111	1111222222	2333333444	4444555555	5566677777	8888899999	0000011111	1111222222	1111222222
Canis_lupus_familiaris	5678912345	6789012345	9123569014	5678123456	7935901689	1456906890	1248901234	6789012345	6789012345
Mus_musculus	NMSVSDGAVS	TSQIPASEQT	RKPELLKKSQV	KDTYKEMTFY	LQTRKQYNS	LDLFFSHKIY	TMVYVNVQHE	PSDSCTSVSE	
Homc_sapiens	NMSVSEGAAS	TSQIPASEQT	RKPELLKKSQV	NDTYKEMTFY	TQTRKQYNS	LDVFFSHKIY	AMYVAVSQDD	---SGTSPSE	
Sus_scrofa	NMSVFDGAVT	TSQIPASEQT	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Bos_taurus	NMSVSDGAVS	TSQIPASEQT	RKPELLKKSQV	KDTYKEMTFY	LQTRKQYNS	LDLFFSHKIY	TMVYVNVQHE	PSDSCTSVSE	
Equus_caballus	NMSVSDGAVS	TSQIPASEQT	RKPELLKKSQV	KDTYKEMTFY	LQTRKQYNS	LDLFFSHKIY	TMVYVNVQHE	PSDSCTSVSE	
Felis_catus	NMSVSDGAVS	TSQIPASEQT	RKPELLKKSQV	KDTYKEMTFY	LQTRKQYNS	LDLFFSHKIY	TMVYVNVQHE	PSDSCTSVSE	
Danio_riero	---MAESCLS	SSQISKVDNK	RKVQKQEDAD	KDVKEMVTFY	LKSEKQHQGE	PAVLKSPALF	ALNVVTKNFE	-----	
Rattus_norvegicus	NMSVSEGAAG	TSQIPASEQT	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Xenopus_laevis	MNLTSTNCL	NNHISTSDQK	QTPLLSKSQV	KETKEMVTFY	LQAEKQHSN	LDVFFSHKIY	AMYVAVSQDD	---SGTSPSE	
Gallus_gallus	FMTSLD----	GSPVSAEQQA	KPPELLKKLAF	KDTYKEMTFY	LQAEKQHSN	LDLFTSHRIT	SMSIATNQDE	STLAVPFRDD	
Xenopus_Silurana_tropicalis	MNLTSTNCL	NSHIMASDQK	KTPLLSKSQV	KETKEMVTFY	LQAEKQHSN	LDLFTSHRIT	AMSVAANVKE	---SSEDIPIG-N	
Pongo_abelii	NMSVFDGAVT	TSQIPASEQT	RKPELLKKSQV	KDTYKEMTFY	LQTRKQYNS	LDLFFSHKIY	TMVYVNVQHE	PSDSCTSVSE	
	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111222222	2222222222	2222222222
Canis_lupus_familiaris	2222333333	3333444444	4445555555	5556666666	6667777777	7778888888	8889999999	9999000000	0011111222
Mus_musculus	6789012345	6789023456	7890123456	7890123456	7890123456	7890123456	8901234567	2369234567	8901289013
Homc_sapiens	NSCHREGGSD	QKDFVETQEE	KPSSSDLIISR	PSTSSRRRAI	S---ETENED	DLFGPRRHKS	SISEALCVTR	ETCCRRSSSE	
Sus_scrofa	NRCHLEGGSD	QKDLVELQEE	KPSSSHLISR	PSTSSRRRAI	S---ETENED	ELSGERHKS	SISEALCVTR	ETCCRRSSSE	
Bos_taurus	NRCHLEGGSD	QKDLVELQEE	KPSSSDLIISR	PSTSSRRRAV	S---ETENED	ELFGPRRHKS	SISEALCVTR	ETCCRRSSSD	
Equus_caballus	NRCHLEGGSD	QKDLVELQEE	KPSSSDMISR	PSTSSRRRAV	S---ETENED	ELFGPRRHKS	SISEALCVTR	ETCCRRSSSE	
Felis_catus	NRCHLEGGSD	QKDLVELQEE	KPSSSDMISR	PSTSSRRRAV	S---ETENED	ELFGPRRHKS	SISEALCVTR	ETCCRRSSSE	
Danio_riero	----SQSTP	SEPRSSSEPR	GFQDTSDSR	SSTSSQRRR	RSSDFSSHA	EDESREHKS	SFTDSCVITG	GLIHR- RQNE	
Rattus_norvegicus	SRQFEGGSD	LKDFVAVQEE	KPSSSDMISR	PSTSSRRRAI	S---ETENED	ELFGPRHRA	---SEGLCVTR	ETCCRRSSSE	
Xenopus_laevis	VCCFEDKQSS	QKEKLELDPK	LLAPASDSKP	CNLSQKSSN	E---TEISV	DHAEQOHKS	SFTESWVTR	GLRCD-RNSE	
Gallus_gallus	AKFRLEKENV	LKESMELEEK	QTSN---ATS	QPTTSRRRH	S---ESENES	DDLHSDRHKS	SITESCVVVS	GLCRDRNSD	
Xenopus_Silurana_tropicalis	VCSFEDKQSS	QKELLELPEK	VIAFAYDSKP	CNSSQKSSN	ETVCEISV	DHAEQOHKS	SITESWVVS	GLRCD-RNSE	
Pongo_abelii	NRCHLEGGSD	QKDLVETQEE	KPSSSHLISR	PSTSSRRRAI	S---ETENED	ELSGERHKS	SISEALCVTR	ETCCRRSSSE	
	2222222222	2222222222	2222222222	2222222222	2222222222	2222222222	3333333333	3333333333	3333333333
Canis_lupus_familiaris	2222233333	3333444444	4445555555	5556666666	6667777777	7778888888	8889999999	9999000011	2222233333
Mus_musculus	4567801345	6789012345	6780334670	1234567890	1202356789	0234578034	1245623569	0237890123	4444445555
Homc_sapiens	STCTFNPLDA	GVSEHSGDWL	QDQVQLDEDL	SEEGQELSD	DDVRVYVQAG	EDTDSSEPSL	TSNEMFHNRA	LENEDKGGK	---
Sus_scrofa	STCTFNPLDA	GVSEHSGDWL	QDQVQLDEDL	SEEGQELSD	DDVRVYVQAG	EDTDSSEPSL	TSNEMFHNRA	LENEDKGGK	---
Bos_taurus	STCTFNPLDA	GVSEHSGDWL	QDQVQLDEDL	SEEGQELSD	DDVRVYVQAG	EDTDSSEPSL	TSNEMFHNRA	LENEDKGGK	---
Equus_caballus	STCTFNPLDA	GVSEHSGDWL	QDQVQLDEDL	SEEGQELSD	DDVRVYVQAG	EDTDSSEPSL	TSNEMFHNRA	LENEDKGGK	---
Felis_catus	STCTFNPLDA	GVSEHSGDWL	QDQVQLDEDL	SEEGQELSD	DDVRVYVQAG	EDTDSSEPSL	TSNEMFHNRA	LENEDKGGK	---
Danio_riero	SSDANNVSD	SRSEGESESE	DDSDNDIAE	NDVDSVFGEN	E-IEVIFAE-	-DEDSDETTE	FKDQPHKST	VADETHSNWE	
Rattus_norvegicus	ATDTPHQLD	GVSDHSDACL	QDQVQLDEDL	SDEGHLSDE	DDVRVYVQAG	EDADSSEPSL	TSNEMSHRT	LENEDKGGK	---
Xenopus_laevis	STDSNSNPER	HSTNDNS---	EHDQVYDDP	SGDEHGVSEE	EEVQVLYETE	EDTDSVTSSE	PEGEVSYPT	VKDEQRKPE	
Gallus_gallus	STDSVIFLDA	SLSSENSDMF	DHCVQVYDE	NEDCQELTDE	DDVQLLYQDE	DDSDSNEPSL	PESEMHRHA	LEDDRSKDKL	
Xenopus_Silurana_tropicalis	STCTFNPLDA	GVSEHSGDWL	QDQVQLDEDL	SEEGQELSD	DDVRVYVQAG	EDTDSSEPSL	TSNEMFHNRA	LENEDKGGK	---
Pongo_abelii	STCTFNPLDA	GVSEHSGDWL	QDQVQLDEDL	SEEGQELSD	DDVRVYVQAG	EDTDSSEPSL	TSNEMFHNRA	LENEDKGGK	---
	3333333333	3333333333	3333333333	3333333333	3333444444	4444444444	4444444444	4444444444	4444444444
Canis_lupus_familiaris	5555555555	6666666666	7777777777	8888888888	9999999999	0000000000	1111111111	2222223333	3333344444
Mus_musculus	4567890123	4567890123	4567901234	5678901345	6789123789	0124567890	1236780123	4568901234	4568901234
Homc_sapiens	--IPEKATPE	NSTQVEEGFD	VFDCKAAASD	SRESCAEED	DKITASLSD	YSQSTSSSI	YSSDVKFERE	ETQKEESS	
Sus_scrofa	VEISEKAKLE	NSQAEEGLD	VFDCKLTVND	AKESCAEDSE	EKAETPLSD	YSQSTSSSI	YSSVVKLE-E	ETQKDESS	
Bos_taurus	VEISEKAKLE	NSTQAEEDFD	VFDCKLTVND	SRESCEEND	DKITASQSED	YSQSTSSSI	YSSDVKFERE	ETQKEESS	
Equus_caballus	GMPEEARLE	NSTQVEEGFD	VFDCKPTVND	SRESCAEEND	DKITAPLSED	YSQSTSSSI	YSSDVKIERE	ETQKEESS	
Felis_catus	GMPEKAKLE	DSMQEEDGFD	VFDCKSTVSD	SRESCEEND	DKITASLSED	YSQSTSSSI	YSSDVKFERE	ETQKEESS	
Danio_riero	GMPEKAKLE	DSMQEEDGFD	VFDCKSTVSD	SRESCEEND	DKITASLSED	YSQSTSSSI	YSSDVKFERE	ETQKEESS	
Rattus_norvegicus	GMPEKAKLE	DSMQEEDGFD	VFDCKSTVSD	SRESCAEEND	DKITASQSED	YSQSTSSSI	YSSDVKFERE	ETQKEESS	
Xenopus_laevis	NLSRNRTRNP	EDTSVTTTFN	TTFEKLKXPS	SPLPETD---	-----	DG	VDVTPFLLR	GSSETFLER-	---FNSIAC
Gallus_gallus	VEISEKAKLE	SSQAEEGLD	VFDGKVTEDD	AKESSAEDSE	EKVAMLLSD	YSQSTSSSI	YSSSGKLE-E	DTQKDESS	
Xenopus_Silurana_tropicalis	PHSKRKL---	MEIEEEDGFD	VFDCKSKLTS	SQDTNVDKKE	AENINSEED	CSQSTSSSI	SCSVTKDS-	---SEESS	
Pongo_abelii	VSKRLEGSFH	LFS--DEGFD	VFDCKVKTNE	DKEFAVENE	DKAVISEED	YSQSTSSSI	CSSDPRPEKK	EMKREESS	
	4444444444	4444455555	4444455555	4444455555	4444455555	4444455555	4444455555	4444455555	4444455555
Canis_lupus_familiaris	6789012906	826060167							
Mus_musculus	FPLNAIEGKA	FKKQMIFF							
Homc_sapiens	FPLNAIEGKA	FKKQMIFF							
Sus_scrofa	FPLNAIEGKA	FKKQMIFF							
Bos_taurus	FPLNAIEGKA	FKKQMIFF							
Equus_caballus	FPLNAIEGKA	FKKQMIFF							
Felis_catus	FPHNAIEGKA	FKKQMIFF							
Danio_riero	LPATCLESRA	YKNLESVMS							
Rattus_norvegicus	FPLNAIEGKA	FKKQMIFF							
Xenopus_laevis	LPVSSIFSKS	FRKQMIFF							
Gallus_gallus	LPVSSIFSKS	FRKQMIFF							
Xenopus_Silurana_tropicalis	LPLTSVETRA	YKKEEMIFS							
Pongo_abelii	LPLNAIEGKA	FKKQMIFF							

Apoptosis is a key process that is initiated to remove damaged cells from the system, thus ensuring the well-being of the species. Inhibition of this pathway due to alterations of genes that activate and regulate this pathway is a major characteristic feature of many malignancies. p53 is an important gene because of its close involvement in the activation of apoptotic pathways upon detection of damage. p53 activates the expression of its key regulator, MDM2 which in turn binds to p53 and regulates activity of p53 and so these two proteins control each other. Altered expression of either of these genes can thus have an inherent effect on cell death leading to uncontrolled cell proliferation and result in non-removal of damaged cells. The alterations of these genes also contribute to drug resistance since chemotherapeutic moieties function by activating apoptotic pathways to destroy leukemic cells.

Through phylogenetic study, we have determined that these genes share a high degree of sequence similarity across the Mammalian species and to a lesser extent with other animals, implying that they might share a common ancestor. Also, since they share sequence similarity it could be possible that the tumorigenic potential of these genes could be due to a buildup of changes during their evolution. This could entail that the mechanisms that lead to overexpression of these genes in solid tumors and leukemia could probably be deciphered by observing their genetic structure and function in the other species and by applying this information to human neoplasms. These data indicate the need to better understand not only how each of these gene are altered in disease but also how their interaction can contribute to malignancy. Interactions studies could also help determine why these genes play a more significant role in relapse than during initial disease development. This type of study could probably explore the design and development of drug moieties that could target the interaction of these two genes, instead of a single gene, and could thus prove to be an effective therapeutic strategy.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this is the first report of the phylogenetic analysis of p53 and MDM2 genes which revealed the sequence similarity shared with many species. The study of these two genes – oncogene (p53) and proto-oncogene (MDM2) - suggests that the mechanism of

neoplasia is deeply rooted throughout evolution. This evolutionary history could help determine how these genes are altered in cancers and that MDM2-p53 interaction might play a very important role in the Tumorigenesis and Leukemogenesis processes during relapse in cancer patients. Thus, these molecules are indeed important for furthering our understanding of the cancer process.

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