

(19) **DANMARK**

(10) **DK/EP 3180447 T3**



(12)

Oversættelse af europæisk patentskrift

Patent- og
Varemærkestyrelsen

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- (51) Int.Cl.: **C 12 Q 1/68 (2018.01)**
- (45) Oversættelsen bekendtgjort den: **2020-06-15**
- (80) Dato for Den Europæiske Patentmyndigheds bekendtgørelse om meddelelse af patentet: **2020-03-11**
- (86) Europæisk ansøgning nr.: **15757372.6**
- (86) Europæisk indleveringsdag: **2015-08-17**
- (87) Den europæiske ansøgnings publiceringsdag: **2017-06-21**
- (86) International ansøgning nr.: **US2015045561**
- (87) Internationalt publikationsnr.: **WO2016025958**
- (30) Prioritet: **2014-08-15 US 201462037764 P** **2014-10-06 US 201414507412**
- (84) Designerede stater: **AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**
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- (54) Benævnelse: **FREMGANGSMÅDER OG MATERIALER TIL ANALYSE AF HOMOLOG REKOMBINATIONSDEFICIENS**
- (56) Fremdragne publikationer:
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DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

[0001] Cancer is a serious public health problem, with 562,340 people in the United States of America dying of cancer in 2009 alone. American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts & Figures 2009 (available at American Cancer Society website). One of the primary challenges in cancer treatment is discovering relevant, clinically useful characteristics of a patient's own cancer and then, based on these characteristics, administering a treatment plan best suited to the patient's cancer. While strides have been made in this field of personalized medicine, there is still a significant need for better molecular diagnostic tools to characterize patients' cancers. WO2013/130347 describes methods for predicting cancer response to anti-cancer therapies based upon determination and analysis of a chromosomal aberration score. Further, WO2012/027224 discloses the identification of novel methods for defining predictive biomarkers for response to anti-cancer drugs. Moreover, Popova et al. (Cancer Research 2012, 72:5454) discloses that ploidy and large-scale genomic instability consistently identify basal-like breast carcinomas with BRCA1/2 inactivation. Also, a HRD test is known as Myriad's HRD™ test.

SUMMARY

[0002] This document relates to methods and materials involved in assessing samples (e.g., cancer cells or nucleic acids derived therefrom) for homologous recombination deficiency (HRD) (e.g., an HRD signature) based on detection of particular chromosomal aberrations ("CA"). For example, this document provides methods and materials for detecting CA Regions to determine whether or not a cell (e.g., a cancer cell) has HRD (e.g., exhibits an HRD signature). This document also provides materials and methods for identifying cancer patients likely to respond to a particular cancer treatment regimen based on the presence, absence, or severity of HRD. Throughout this document, unless indicated otherwise, HRD and homology-dependent repair (HDR) deficiency are used synonymously.

[0003] The present invention is defined in the independent claim, to which reference should now be made. Advantageous embodiments are set out in the sub claims. In general, one aspect of this disclosure features a method for assessing HRD in a cancer cell or DNA (e.g., genomic DNA) derived therefrom. In some embodiments, the method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) detecting, in a sample or DNA derived therefrom, CA Regions (as defined herein) in at least one pair of human chromosomes of sample or DNA derived therefrom (e.g., any pair of human chromosomes other than a human X/Y sex chromosome pair); and (b) determining the number, size (e.g., length), and/or character of said CA Regions. In some embodiments, CA Regions are analyzed in a number of chromosome pairs that are representative of the entire genome (e.g., enough chromosomes are analyzed such that the number and size of CA Regions are expected to be representative of the number and size of CA Regions across the genome).

[0004] Various aspects of the present disclosure involve using a combined analysis of two or more types of CA Regions to assess (e.g., detect) HRD in a sample. Three types of CA Regions useful in such methods include (1) chromosomal regions showing loss of heterozygosity ("LOH Regions", as defined herein), (2) chromosomal regions showing telomeric allelic imbalance ("TAI Regions", as defined herein), and (3) chromosomal regions showing large scale transition ("LST Regions", as defined herein). CA Regions of a certain size, chromosomal location or character (e.g., "Indicator CA Regions", as defined

herein) can be particularly useful in various aspects of the present disclosure.

[0005] Thus in one aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining the total number of LOH Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LOH Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (2) determining the total number of TAI Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator TAI Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; and (3) assessing HRD in the sample based at least in part on the determinations made in (1) and (2). In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining the total number of LOH Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LOH Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (2) determining the total number of LST Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LST Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; and (3) assessing HRD in the sample based at least in part on the determinations made in (1) and (2). In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining the total number of TAI Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator TAI Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (2) determining the total number of LST Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LST Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; and (3) assessing HRD in the sample based at least in part on the determinations made in (1) and (2). In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining the total number of LOH Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LOH Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (2) determining the total number of TAI Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator TAI Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (3) determining the total number of LST Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LST Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; and (4) assessing (e.g., detecting) HRD in the sample based at least in part on the determinations made in (1), (2) and (3).

[0006] In one aspect the disclosure provides a method of diagnosing the presence or absence of HRD in a patient sample, the method comprising (1) analyzing (e.g., assaying) one or more patient samples to determine (e.g., detect) the total number of LOH Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LOH Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (2) analyzing (e.g., assaying) one or more patient samples to determine (e.g., detect) the total number of TAI Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator TAI Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; and either (3)(a) diagnosing the presence of HRD in a patient sample where the number from (1) and/or the number from (2) exceeds some reference; or (3)(b) diagnosing the absence of HRD in a patient sample where neither the number from (1) nor the number from (2) exceeds some reference. In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of diagnosing the presence or absence of HRD in a patient sample, the method comprising (1) analyzing (e.g., assaying) one or more patient samples to determine (e.g., detect) the total number of LOH Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LOH Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (2) analyzing (e.g., assaying) one or more patient samples to determine (e.g., detect) the total number of LST Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LST Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; and either (3)(a) diagnosing the presence of HRD in a patient sample where the number from (1) and/or the number from (2) exceeds some reference; or (3)(b) diagnosing the absence of HRD in a patient sample where neither the number from (1) nor the number from (2) exceeds some reference. In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of diagnosing the presence or absence of HRD in a patient sample, the method comprising (1) analyzing (e.g., assaying) one or more patient samples to determine (e.g., detect) the total number of TAI Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator TAI Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (2) analyzing (e.g., assaying) one or more patient samples to determine (e.g., detect) the total number of LST Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LST Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; and either (3)(a) diagnosing the presence of HRD in a patient sample where the number from (1) and/or the number from (2) exceeds some reference; or (3)(b)

diagnosing the absence of HRD in a patient sample where neither the number from (1) nor the number from (2) exceeds some reference. In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of diagnosing the presence or absence of HRD in a patient sample, the method comprising (1) analyzing (e.g., assaying) one or more patient samples to determine (e.g., detect) the total number of LOH Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LOH Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (2) analyzing (e.g., assaying) one or more patient samples to determine (e.g., detect) the total number of TAI Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator TAI Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (3) analyzing (e.g., assaying) one or more patient samples to determine (e.g., detect) the total number of LST Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LST Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; and either (3)(a) diagnosing the presence of HRD in a patient sample where the number from (1), the number from (2) and/or the number from (3) exceeds some reference; or (3)(b) diagnosing the absence of HRD in a patient sample where none of the numbers from (1), (2) or (3) exceeds some reference.

[0007] Various aspects of the present disclosure involve using an average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of three types of CA Regions to assess (e.g., detect) HRD in a sample. Three types of CA Region useful in such methods include (1) chromosomal regions showing loss of heterozygosity ("LOH Regions", as defined herein), (2) chromosomal regions showing telomeric allelic imbalance ("TAI Regions", as defined herein), and (3) chromosomal regions showing large scale transition ("LST Regions", as defined herein). CA Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator CA Regions", as defined herein) can be particularly useful in the various aspects of the method described herein. Thus in one aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining the total number of LOH Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LOH Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (2) determining the total number of TAI Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator TAI Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (3) determining the total number of LST Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LST Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (4) calculating the average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of the determinations made in (1), (2), and (3); and (5) assessing HRD in the sample based at least in part on the calculated average (e.g., arithmetic mean) made in (4).

[0008] In some embodiments assessing (e.g., detecting) HRD is based on a score derived or calculated from (e.g., representing or corresponding to) the detected CA Regions ("CA Region Score", as defined herein). Scores are described in greater detail herein. In some embodiments HRD is detected if a CA Region Score for a sample exceeds some threshold (e.g., a reference or index CA Region Score), and optionally HRD is not detected if the CA Region Score for the sample does not exceed some threshold (e.g., a reference or index CA Region Score, which may in some embodiments be the same threshold for positive detection). Those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that scores can be devised in the opposite orientation within this disclosure (e.g., HRD is detected if the CA region Score is below a certain threshold and not detected if the score is above a certain threshold).

[0009] In some embodiments the CA Region Score is a combination of scores derived or calculated from (e.g., representing or corresponding to) two or more of (1) the detected LOH Regions ("LOH Region Score", as defined herein), (2) the detected TAI Regions ("TAI Region Score", as defined herein), and/or (3) the detected LST Regions ("LST Region Score", as defined herein). In some embodiments the LOH Region Score and TAI Region Score are combined as follows to yield a CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = A * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + B * (TAI\ Region\ Score)$$

In some embodiments the LOH Region Score and TAI Region Score are combined as follows to yield a CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = 0.32 * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + 0.68 * (TAI\ Region\ Score)$$

In some embodiments the LOH Region Score and LST Region Score are combined as follows to yield a

CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = A*(LOH\ Region\ Score) + B*(LST\ Region\ Score)$$

In some embodiments the TAI Region Score and LST Region Score are combined as follows to yield a CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = A*(TAI\ Region\ Score) + B*(LST\ Region\ Score)$$

In some embodiments the LOH Region Score, TAI Region Score and LST Region Score are combined as follows to yield a CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = A*(LOH\ Region\ Score) + B*(TAI\ Region\ Score) + C*(LST\ Region\ Score)$$

In some embodiments the LOH Region Score, TAI Region Score and LST Region Score are combined as follows to yield a CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = 0.21*(LOH\ Region\ Score) + 0.67*(TAI\ Region\ Score) + 0.12*(LST\ Region\ Score)$$

[0010] In some embodiments the CA Region Score is a combination of scores derived or calculated from (e.g., representing or corresponding to) the average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of (1) the detected LOH Regions ("LOH Region Score", as defined herein), (2) the detected TAI Regions ("TAI Region Score", as defined herein), and/or (3) the detected LST Regions ("LST Region Score", as defined herein) to yield a CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = \frac{A*(LOH\ Region\ Score) + B*(TAI\ Region\ Score) + C*(LST\ Region\ Score)}{3}$$

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[0011] In another aspect, the present disclosure provides a method of predicting the status of BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes in a sample. Such method is analogous to the methods described above and differs in that the determination of CA Regions, LOH Regions, TAI Regions, LST Regions, or scores incorporating these are used to assess (e.g., detect) BRCA1 and/or BRCA2 deficiency in the sample. In another aspect, this disclosure provides a method of predicting a cancer patient's response to a cancer treatment regimen comprising a DNA damaging agent, an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, and/or a PARP inhibitor. Such method is analogous to the methods described above and differs in that the determination of CA Regions, LOH Regions, TAI Regions, LST Regions, or scores incorporating these are used to predict the likelihood that the cancer patient will respond to the cancer treatment regimen. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naïve patients. In another aspect, this disclosure provides a method of treating cancer. Such method is analogous to the methods described above and differs in that a particular treatment regimen is administered (recommended, prescribed, etc.) based at least in part on the determination of CA Regions, LOH Regions, TAI Regions, LST Regions, or scores incorporating these. In another aspect, this disclosure features the use of one or more drugs selected from the group consisting of DNA damaging agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, and PARP inhibitors, in the manufacture of a medicament useful for treating a cancer in a patient identified as having (or as having had) a cancer cell determined to have HRD (e.g., an HRD signature) as described herein. In another aspect, this document features a method for assessing a sample for the presence of a mutation within a gene from an HDR pathway. Such method is analogous to the methods described above and differs in that the determination of CA Regions, LOH Regions, TAI Regions, LST Regions, or scores incorporating these are used to detect (or not) the presence of a mutation within a gene from an HDR pathway.

[0012] In another aspect, the disclosure provides a method for assessing a patient. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining whether the patient has (or had) cancer cells with more than a reference number of CA Regions (or, e.g., a CA Region Score exceeding a reference CA Region Score); and (b)(1) diagnosing the patient as having cancer cells with HRD if it is determined that

the patient has (or had) cancer cells with more than a reference number of CA Regions (or, *e.g.*, a CA Region Score exceeding a reference CA Region Score); or (b)(2) diagnosing the patient as not having cancer cells with HRD if it is determined that the patient does not have (or has not had) cancer cells with more than a reference number of CA Regions (or, *e.g.*, the patient does not have (or has not had) cancer cells with a CA Region Score exceeding a reference CA Region Score).

[0013] In another aspect, this disclosure features the use of a plurality of oligonucleotides capable of hybridizing to a plurality of polymorphic regions of human genomic DNA, in the manufacture of a diagnostic kit useful for determining the total number or combined length of CA Regions in at least a chromosome pair (or DNA derived therefrom) in a sample obtained from a cancer patient, and for detecting (a) HRD or likelihood of HRD (*e.g.*, an HRD signature) in the sample, (b) deficiency (or likelihood of deficiency) in a BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene in the sample, or (c) an increased likelihood that the cancer patient will respond to a cancer treatment regimen comprising a DNA damaging agent, an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, or a PARP inhibitor.

[0014] In another aspect, this disclosure features a system for detecting HRD (*e.g.*, an HRD signature) in a sample. The system comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) a sample analyzer configured to produce a plurality of signals about genomic DNA of at least one pair of human chromosomes (or DNA derived therefrom) in the sample, and (b) a computer sub-system programmed to calculate, based on the plurality of signals, the number or combined length of CA Regions in the at least one pair of human chromosomes. The computer sub-system can be programmed to compare the number or combined length of CA Regions to a reference number to detect (a) HRD or likelihood of HRD (*e.g.*, an HRD signature) in the sample, (b) deficiency (or likelihood of deficiency) in a BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene in the sample, or (c) an increased likelihood that the cancer patient will respond to a cancer treatment regimen comprising a DNA damaging agent, an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, or a PARP inhibitor. The system can comprise an output module configured to display (a), (b), or (c). The system can comprise an output module configured to display a recommendation for the use of the cancer treatment regimen.

[0015] In another aspect, the disclosure provides a computer program product embodied in a computer readable medium that, when executing on a computer, provides instructions for detecting the presence or absence of any CA Region along one or more of human chromosomes other than the human X and Y sex chromosomes (the CA Regions optionally being Indicator CA Regions); and determining the total number or combined length of the CA Regions in the one or more chromosome pairs. The computer program product can include other instructions.

[0016] In another aspect, the present disclosure provides a diagnostic kit. The kit comprises, or consists essentially of, at least 500 oligonucleotides capable of hybridizing to a plurality of polymorphic regions of human genomic DNA (or DNA derived therefrom); and a computer program product provided herein. The computer program product can be embodied in a computer readable medium that, when executing on a computer, provides instructions for detecting the presence or absence of any CA Region along one or more of human chromosomes other than the human X and Y sex chromosomes (the CA Regions optionally being Indicator CA Regions); and determining the total number or combined length of the CA Regions in the one or more chromosome pairs. The computer program product can include other instructions.

[0017] In some embodiments of any one or more of the aspects of the disclosure of the preceding paragraphs, any one or more of the following can be applied as appropriate. The CA Regions can be determined in at least two, five, ten, or 21 pairs of human chromosomes. The cancer cell can be an

ovarian, breast, lung or esophageal cancer cell. The reference can be 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 20 or greater. The at least one pair of human chromosomes can exclude human chromosome 17. The DNA damaging agent can be cisplatin, carboplatin, oxaloplatin, or picoplatin, the anthracycline can be epirubicin or doxorubicin, the topoisomerase I inhibitor can be camptothecin, topotecan, or irinotecan, or the PARP inhibitor can be iniparib, olaparib or velaparib. The patient can be a treatment naïve patient.

[0018] Unless otherwise defined, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this disclosure pertains. Although methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used to practice the invention, suitable methods and materials are described below.

[0019] The details of one or more embodiments of the invention are set forth in the description and accompanying drawings below. Other features, objects, and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the description and drawings, and from the claims.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020]

Figure 1 shows graphs plotting allele dosages of breast cancer cells from a fresh frozen sample from a breast cancer patient along a chromosome as determined using a SNP array (above) and high-throughput sequencing (below).

Figure 2 shows graphs plotting allele dosages of breast cancer cells from an FFPE sample from a breast cancer patient along a chromosome as determined using a SNP array (above) and high-throughput sequencing (below).

Figure 3 is a flow chart of an example process for assessing the genome of a cell (*e.g.*, a cancer cell) for an HRD signature.

Figure 4 is a diagram of an example of a computer device and a mobile computer device that can be used to implement the techniques described herein.

Figure 5A shows LOH Regions Scores across breast cancer IHC subtypes. The top three panels are BRCA1/2 deficient samples. The bottom panel is BRCA1/2 intact samples.

Figure 5B shows TAI Regions Scores across breast cancer IHC subtypes. The top three panels are BRCA1/2 deficient samples. The bottom panel is BRCA1/2 intact samples.

Figure 6 shows the correlation between LOH and TAI Region Scores. Correlation coefficient = 0.69. X axis: LOH score; Y axis: TAI score; red dots: intact samples; blue dots (with a super imposed "X"): BRCA1/2 deficient samples. The area under the dots is proportional to the number of samples with that combination of LOH and TAI scores. $p = 10^{-39}$.

Figure 7A shows LOH Region Scores for patients as analyzed in Example 2 herein. The top three panels are BRCA1/2 deficient samples. The bottom panel is BRCA1/2 intact samples.

Figure 7B shows TAI Region Scores for patients as analyzed in Example 2 herein. The top three panels are BRCA1/2 deficient samples. The bottom panel is BRCA1/2 intact samples.

Figure 7C shows LST Regions Scores for patients as analyzed in Example 2 herein. The top three panels are BRCA1/2 deficient samples. The bottom panel is BRCA1/2 intact samples.

Figure 7D shows LOH vs TAI for patients as analyzed in Example 2 herein. X axis: LOH score; Y axis: TAI score; red dots: intact samples; blue dots (with a super imposed "X"): BRCA1/2 deficient samples. The area under the dots is proportional to the number of samples with that combination of LOH and TAI scores.

Figure 7E shows LOH vs LST for patients as analyzed in Example 2 herein. X axis: LOH score; Y axis: LST score; red dots: intact samples; blue dots (with a super imposed "X"): BRCA1/2 deficient samples. The area under the dots is proportional to the number of samples with that combination of LOH and LST scores.

Figure 7F shows TAI vs LST for patients as analyzed in Example 2 herein. X axis: TAI score; Y axis: LST score; red dots: intact samples; blue dots (with a super imposed "X"): BRCA1/2 deficient samples. The area under the dots is proportional to the number of samples with that combination of TAI and LST scores.

Figure 8 is a graph plotting the number of LOH regions longer than 15 Mb and shorter than the entire chromosome for ovarian cancer cell samples with somatic BRCA mutations, with germline BRCA mutations, with low BRCA1 expression, or with intact BRCA (BRCA normal). The size of the circles is proportional to the number of samples with such number of LOH regions.

Figure 9A illustrates HRD-LOH scores in BRCA 1/2 deficient (mutated or methylated) samples (top panel) and intact samples (bottom panel) in an all-comers breast cohort.

Figure 9B illustrates HRD-TAI scores in BRCA1/2 deficient (mutated or methylated) samples (top panel) and intact samples (bottom panel) in an all-comers breast cohort.

Figure 9C illustrates HRD-LST scores in BRCA1/2 deficient (mutated or methylated) samples (top panel) and intact samples (bottom panel) in an all-comers breast cohort.

Figure 10 illustrates an average (e.g., arithmetic mean) HRD-combined score (Y-axis) stratified by the Miller-Payne score (horizontal axis) in combined Cisplatin-1 and Cisplatin-2 cohorts.

Figure 11 illustrates a spearman correlation of 3 different measures of HR deficiency. Panels above the diagonal show correlation. Diagonal panels show density plots.

Figure 12 illustrates associations of clinical variables with HRD-combined score.

Figure 13 illustrates associations of clinical variables with BRCA1/2 deficiency. The top panels, and the bottom left panel, show the proportion of BRCA1/2 deficient patients within each category of grade, stage, and breast cancer type. The width of each bar is proportional to the number of patients in each category. The bottom right panel shows a conditional density estimate of BRCA1/2 deficiency given age.

Figure 14 illustrates determination of high HRD having a reference score ≥ 42 .

Figure 15 illustrates a histogram showing the distribution of HRD scores in a cisplatin cohort. The four columns on the left represent low HRD, and the five columns on the right, with reference scores >42 , represent high HRD.

Figure 16 illustrates the distribution of HRD scores within the pCR, RCB-I, RCB-II, and RCB-III classes of response. Boxes represent the interquartile range (IQR) of the scores with a horizontal line at the

median. The dotted line at 42 represents the HRD threshold between low and high scores.

Figure 17 illustrates a response curve for the quantitative HRD score. The curve is modeled by generalized logistic regression. The shaded boxes indicate the probability of response in HR Deficient vs Non-Deficient samples.

Figure 18 illustrates HRD scores for individual HRD components (LOH, TAI, and LST).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0021] In general, one aspect of this disclosure features a method for assessing HRD in a cancer cell or DNA (e.g., genomic DNA) derived therefrom. In some embodiments, the method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) detecting, in a sample or DNA derived therefrom, CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes or DNA derived therefrom; and (b) determining the number, size (e.g., length), and/or character of said CA Regions.

[0022] As used herein, "chromosomal aberration" or "CA" means a somatic change in a cell's chromosomal DNA that falls into at least one of three overlapping categories: LOH, TAI, or LST. Polymorphic loci within the human genome (e.g., single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)) are generally heterozygous within an individual's germline since that individual typically receives one copy from the biological father and one copy from the biological mother. Somatic, however, this heterozygosity can change (via mutation) to homozygosity. This change from heterozygosity to homozygosity is called loss of heterozygosity (LOH). LOH may result from several mechanisms. For example, in some cases, a locus of one chromosome can be deleted in a somatic cell. The locus that remains present on the other chromosome (the other non-sex chromosome for males) is an LOH locus as there is only one copy (instead of two copies) of that locus present within the genome of the affected cells. This type of LOH event results in a copy number reduction. In other cases, a locus of one chromosome (e.g., one non-sex chromosome for males) in a somatic cell can be replaced with a copy of that locus from the other chromosome, thereby eliminating any heterozygosity that may have been present within the replaced locus. In such cases, the locus that remains present on each chromosome is an LOH locus and can be referred to as a copy neutral LOH locus. LOH and its use in determining HRD is described in detail in International Application no. PCT/US2011/040953 (published as WO/2011/160063).

[0023] A broader class of chromosomal aberration, which encompasses LOH, is allelic imbalance. Allelic imbalance occurs when the relative copy number (i.e., copy proportion) at a particular locus in somatic cells differs from the germline. For example, if the germline has one copy of allele A and one copy of allele B at a particular locus, and a somatic cell has two copies of A and one copy of B, there is allelic imbalance at the locus because the copy proportion of the somatic cell (2:1) differs from the germline (1:1). LOH is an example of allelic imbalance since the somatic cell has a copy proportion (1:0 or 2:0) that differs from the germline (1:1). But allelic imbalance encompasses more types of chromosomal aberration, e.g., 2:1 germline going to 1:1 somatic; 1:0 germline going to 1:1 somatic; 1:1 germline going to 2:1 somatic, etc. Analysis of regions of allelic imbalance encompassing the telomeres of chromosomes is particularly useful in the disclosure. Thus, a "telomeric allelic imbalance region" or "TAI Region" is defined as a region with allelic imbalance that (a) extends to one of the subtelomeres and (b) does not cross the centromere. TAI and its use in determining HRD is described in detail in U.S. patent applications serial nos. 13/818,425 (published as US20130281312A1) and 14/466,208 (published as US20150038340A1).

[0024] A class of chromosomal aberrations that is broader still, which encompasses LOH and TAI, is referred to herein as large scale transition ("LST"). LST refers to any somatic copy number transition (i.e., breakpoint) along the length of a chromosome where it is between two regions of at least some minimum length (e.g., at least 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20 or more megabases) after filtering out regions shorter than some maximum length (e.g., 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4 or more megabases). For example, if after filtering out regions shorter than 3 megabases the somatic cell has a copy number of 1:1 for, e.g., at least 10 megabases and then a breakpoint transition to a region of, e.g., at least 10 megabases with copy number 2:2, this is an LST. An alternative way of defining the same phenomenon is as an LST Region, which is genomic region with stable copy number across at least some minimum length (e.g., at least 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20 megabases) bounded by breakpoints (i.e., transitions) where the copy number changes for another region also at least this minimum length. For example, if after filtering out regions shorter than 3 megabases the somatic cell has a region of at least 10 megabases with copy number of 1:1 bounded on one side by a breakpoint transition to a region of, e.g., at least 10 megabases with copy number 2:2, and bounded on the other side by a breakpoint transition to a region of, e.g., at least 10 megabases with copy number 1:2, then this is two LSTs. Notice that this is broader than allelic imbalance because such a copy number change would not be considered allelic imbalance (because the copy proportions 1:1 and 2:2 are the same, i.e., there has been no change in copy proportion). LST and its use in determining HRD is described in detail in U.S. patent application serial no. 14/402,254 (published as US20150140122A1).

[0025] Different cutoffs for LST score may be used for "near-diploid" and "near-tetraploid" tumors to separate BRCA1/2 intact and deficient samples. LST score sometimes increases with ploidy both within intact and deficient samples. As an alternative to using ploidy-specific cutoffs, some embodiments may employ a modified LST score adjusting it by ploidy: $LST_m = LST - kP$, where P is ploidy and k is a constant. Based on multivariate logistic regression analysis with deficiency as an outcome and LST and P as predictors, $k=15.5$ provided the best separation between intact and deficient samples (though one skilled in the art can envisage other values for k).

[0026] Chromosomal aberrations can extend across numerous loci to define a region of chromosomal aberration, referred to herein as a "CA Region." Such CA Regions can be any length (e.g., from a length less than about 1.5 Mb up to a length equal to the entire length of the chromosome). An abundance of large CA Regions ("Indicator CA Regions") indicate a deficiency in the homology-dependent repair (HDR) mechanism of a cell. The definition of a region of CA, and thus what constitutes an "Indicator" region, for each type of CA (e.g., LOH, TAI, LST) depends on the particular character of the CA. For example, an "LOH Region" means at least some minimum number of consecutive loci exhibiting LOH or some minimum stretch of genomic DNA having consecutive loci exhibiting LOH. A "TAI Region," on the other hand, means at least some minimum number of consecutive loci exhibiting allelic imbalance extending from the telomere into the rest of the chromosome (or some minimum stretch of genomic DNA extending from the telomere into the rest of the chromosome having consecutive loci exhibiting allelic imbalance). LST is already defined in terms of a region of genomic DNA of at least some minimum size, so "LST" and "LST Region" are used interchangeably in this document to refer to a minimum number of consecutive loci (or some minimum stretch of genomic DNA) having the same copy number bounded by a breakpoint or transition from that copy number to a different one.

[0027] In some embodiments a CA Region (whether an LOH Region, TAI region, or LST Region) is an Indicator CA Region (whether an Indicator LOH Region, Indicator TAI region, or Indicator LST Region) if it is at least 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 60, 70, 80,

90, or 100 megabases or more in length. In some embodiments, Indicator LOH Regions are LOH Regions that are longer than about 1.5, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 or more (preferably 14, 15, 16 or more, more preferably 15 or more) megabases but shorter than the entire length of the respective chromosome within which the LOH Region is located. Alternatively or additionally, the total combined length of such Indicator LOH Regions may be determined. In some embodiments, Indicator TAI Regions are TAI Regions with allelic imbalance that (a) extend to one of the subtelomeres, (b) do not cross the centromere and (c) are longer than 1.5, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 or more (preferably 10, 11, 12 or more, more preferably 11 or more) megabases. Alternatively or additionally, the total combined length of such Indicator TAI Regions may be determined. Because the concept of LST already involves regions of some minimum size (such minimum size being determined based on its ability to differentiate HRD from HDR intact samples), Indicator LST Regions as used herein are the same as LST Regions. Furthermore, an LST Region Score can be either derived from the number of regions showing LST as described above or the number of LST breakpoints. In some embodiments the minimum length of the region of stable copy number bounding the LST breakpoint is at least 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20 megabases (preferably 8, 9, 10, 11 or more megabases, more preferably 10 megabases) and the maximum region remaining unfiltered is less than 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4 or fewer megabases (preferably 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, or 4 or fewer megabases, more preferably fewer than 3 megabases).

[0028] As used herein, a sample has an "HRD signature" if such sample has a number of Indicator CA Regions (as described herein) or a CA Region Score (as described herein) exceeding a reference as described herein, wherein a number or score exceeding such reference indicates homologous recombination deficiency.

[0029] Thus the disclosure generally involves detecting and quantifying Indicator CA Regions in a sample to determine whether cells in the sample (or cells from which DNA in the sample are derived) have an HRD signature. Often this comprises comparing the number of Indicator CA Regions (or a test value or score derived or calculated therefrom and corresponding to such number) to a reference, or index number (or score).

[0030] The various aspects of the present disclosed method comprise using a combined analysis of two or more types of CA Regions (including two or more types of Indicator CA Regions) to assess (e.g., detect, diagnose) HRD in a sample. Thus, in one aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining the total number (or combined length) of Indicator LOH Regions in the sample; (2) determining the total number (or combined length) of Indicator TAI Regions in the sample; and (3) determining the presence or absence of (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in the sample based at least in part on the determinations made in (1) and (2). In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining the total number (or combined length) of Indicator LOH Regions in the sample; (2) determining the total number (or combined length) of Indicator LST Regions in the sample; and (3) determining the presence or absence of (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in the sample based at least in part on the determinations made in (1) and (2). In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining the total number (or combined length) of Indicator TAI Regions in the sample; (2) determining the total number (or combined length) of Indicator LST Regions in the sample; and (3) determining the presence or absence of (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in the sample based at least in part on the determinations made in (1) and (2). In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining the total number (or combined length) of Indicator LOH Regions in the sample; (2) determining the total number of Indicator TAI Regions in the sample; (3)

determining the total number (or combined length) of Indicator LST Regions in the sample; and (4) determining the presence or absence of (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in the sample based at least in part on the determinations made in (1), (2) and (3).

[0031] The various aspects of the present disclosure comprise using a combined analysis of the averages of three different CA Regions to assess (e.g., detect, diagnose) HRD in a sample. Thus, in one aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining the total number of LOH Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LOH Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (2) determining the total number of TAI Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator TAI Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (3) determining the total number of LST Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LST Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (4) calculating the average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of the determinations made in (1), (2), and (3); and (5) assessing HRD in the sample based at least in part on the calculated average (e.g., arithmetic mean) made in (4).

[0032] As used herein, "CA Region Score" means a test value or score derived or calculated from (e.g., representing or corresponding to) Indicator CA Regions detected in a sample (e.g., a score or test value derived or calculated from the number of Indicator CA Regions detected in a sample). Analogously, as used herein, "LOH Region Score" is a subset of CA Region Scores and means a test value or score derived or calculated from (e.g., representing or corresponding to) Indicator LOH Regions detected in a sample (e.g., a score or test value derived or calculated from the number of Indicator LOH Regions detected in a sample), and so on for TAI Region Score and LST Region Score. Such a score may in some embodiments be simply the number of Indicator CA Regions detected in a sample. In some embodiments the score is more complicated, factoring in the lengths of each Indicator CA Region or a subset of Indicator CA Regions detected.

[0033] As discussed above, the disclosed method will generally involve combining the analysis of two or more types of CA Region Scores (which may include the number of such regions). Thus, in one aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining an LOH Region Score for the sample; (2) determining a TAI Region Score for the sample; and (3)(a) detecting (or diagnosing) HRD in the sample based at least in part on either the LOH Region Score exceeding a reference or the TAI Region Score exceeding a reference; or optionally (3)(b) detecting (or diagnosing) an absence of HRD in the sample based at least in part on both the LOH Region Score not exceeding a reference and the TAI Region Score not exceeding a reference. In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining an LOH Region Score for the sample; (2) determining an LST Region Score for the sample; and (3)(a) detecting (or diagnosing) HRD in the sample based at least in part on either the LOH Region exceeding a reference or the LST Region Score exceeding a reference; or optionally (3)(b) detecting (or diagnosing) an absence of HRD in the sample based at least in part on both the LOH Region Score not exceeding a reference and the LST Region Score not exceeding a reference. In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining a TAI Region Score for the sample; (2) determining an LST Region Score for the sample; and (3)(a) detecting (or diagnosing) HRD in the sample based at least in part on either the TAI Region Score exceeding a reference or the LST Region Score exceeding a reference; or optionally (3)(b) detecting (or diagnosing) an absence of HRD in the sample based at least in part on both the TAI Region Score not exceeding a reference and the LST Region Score not exceeding a reference. In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining an LOH Region Score for the sample; (2) determining a TAI Region Score for the sample; (3) determining an LST Region Score for the sample; and (4)(a) detecting

(or diagnosing) HRD in the sample based at least in part on either the LOH Region Score exceeding reference, the TAI Region Score exceeding a reference or the LST Region Score exceeding a reference; or optionally (4)(b) detecting (or diagnosing) an absence of HRD in the sample based at least in part on the LOH Region Score not exceeding a reference, the TAI Region Score not exceeding a reference and the LST Region Score not exceeding a reference.

[0034] In some embodiments the CA Region Score is a combination of scores derived or calculated from (e.g., representing or corresponding to) two or more of (1) the detected LOH Regions ("LOH Region Score", as defined herein), (2) the detected TAI Regions ("TAI Region Score", as defined herein), and/or (3) the detected LST Regions ("LST Region Score", as defined herein). In some embodiments the LOH Region Score and TAI Region Score are combined as follows to yield a CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = A * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + B * (TAI\ Region\ Score)$$

In some embodiments the LOH Region Score and TAI Region Score are combined as follows to yield a CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = 0.32 * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + 0.68 * (TAI\ Region\ Score)$$

OR

$$CA\ Region\ Score = 0.34 * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + 0.66 * (TAI\ Region\ Score)$$

In some embodiments the LOH Region Score and LST Region Score are combined as follows to yield a CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = A * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + B * (LST\ Region\ Score)$$

In some embodiments an LOH Region Score for a sample and an LST Region Score for a sample are combined to yield a CA Region Score as follows:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = 0.85 * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + 0.15 * (LST\ Region\ Score)$$

In some embodiments the TAI Region Score and LST Region Score are combined as follows to yield a CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = A * (TAI\ Region\ Score) + B * (LST\ Region\ Score)$$

In some embodiments the LOH Region Score, TAI Region Score and LST Region Score are combined as follows to yield a CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = A * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + B * (TAI\ Region\ Score) + C * (LST\ Region\ Score)$$

In some embodiments the LOH Region Score, TAI Region Score and LST Region Score are combined as follows to yield a CA Region Score:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = 0.21 * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + 0.67 * (TAI\ Region\ Score) + 0.12 * (LST\ Region\ Score)$$

OR

$$CA\ Region\ Score = [0.24] * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + [0.65] * (TAI\ Region\ Score) + [0.11] * (LST\ Region\ Score)$$

OR

$$CA\ Region\ Score = [0.11] * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + [0.25] * (TAI\ Region\ Score) + [0.12] * (LST\ Region\ Score)$$

[0035] In some embodiments the CA Region Score is a combination of scores derived or calculated from (e.g., representing or corresponding to) the average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of (1) the detected LOH Regions ("LOH Region Score", as defined herein), (2) the detected TAI Regions ("TAI Region Score", as defined herein), and/or (3) the detected LST Regions ("LST Region Score", as defined herein) to yield a CA Region Score calculated from one of the following formulae:

$$CA\ Region\ Score = \frac{A * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + B * (TAI\ Region\ Score) + C * (LST\ Region\ Score)}{3}$$

$$CA\ Region\ Score = \frac{A * (LOH\ Region\ Score) + B * (TAI\ Region\ Score)}{2}$$

$$CA\ Region\ Score = \frac{A*(LOH\ Region\ Score)+C*(LST\ Region\ Score)}{2}$$

$$CA\ Region\ Score = \frac{B*(TAI\ Region\ Score)+C*(LST\ Region\ Score)}{2}$$

In some embodiments, including some specifically illustrated herein, one or more of these coefficients (i.e., A, B, or C, or any combination thereof) is 1 and in some embodiments all three coefficients (i.e., A, B, and C) are 1. Thus, in some embodiments the *CA Region Score* = (*LOH Regions Score*)+(TAI Region Score)+(LST Region Score), wherein the LOH Region Score is the number of Indicator LOH Regions (or the total length of LOH), the TAI Region Score is the number of Indicator TAI Regions (or the total length of TAI), and the LST Region Score is the number of Indicator LST Regions (or the total length of LST).

[0036] In some cases a formula may not have all of the specified coefficients (and thus not incorporate the corresponding variable(s)). For example, the embodiment mentioned immediately previously may be applied to formula (2) where A in formula (2) is 0.95 and B in formula (2) is 0.61. C and D would not be applicable as these coefficients and their corresponding variables are not found in formula (2) (though the clinical variables are incorporated into the clinical score found in formula (2)). In some embodiments A is between 0.9 and 1, 0.9 and 0.99, 0.9 and 0.95, 0.85 and 0.95, 0.86 and 0.94, 0.87 and 0.93, 0.88 and 0.92, 0.89 and 0.91, 0.85 and 0.9, 0.8 and 0.95, 0.8 and 0.9, 0.8 and 0.85, 0.75 and 0.99, 0.75 and 0.95, 0.75 and 0.9, 0.75 and 0.85, or between 0.75 and 0.8. In some embodiments B is between 0.40 and 1, 0.45 and 0.99, 0.45 and 0.95, 0.55 and 0.8, 0.55 and 0.7, 0.55 and 0.65, 0.59 and 0.63, or between 0.6 and 0.62. In some embodiments C is, where applicable, between 0.9 and 1, 0.9 and 0.99, 0.9 and 0.95, 0.85 and 0.95, 0.86 and 0.94, 0.87 and 0.93, 0.88 and 0.92, 0.89 and 0.91, 0.85 and 0.9, 0.8 and 0.95, 0.8 and 0.9, 0.8 and 0.85, 0.75 and 0.99, 0.75 and 0.95, 0.75 and 0.9, 0.75 and 0.85, or between 0.75 and 0.8. In some embodiments D is, where applicable, between 0.9 and 1, 0.9 and 0.99, 0.9 and 0.95, 0.85 and 0.95, 0.86 and 0.94, 0.87 and 0.93, 0.88 and 0.92, 0.89 and 0.91, 0.85 and 0.9, 0.8 and 0.95, 0.8 and 0.9, 0.8 and 0.85, 0.75 and 0.99, 0.75 and 0.95, 0.75 and 0.9, 0.75 and 0.85, or between 0.75 and 0.8.

[0037] In some embodiments A is between 0.1 and 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 0.2 and 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 0.3 and 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 0.4 and 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 0.5 and 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 0.6 and 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 0.7 and 0.8, 0.9, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 0.8 and 0.9, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 0.9 and 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 1 and 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 1.5 and 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 2 and 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 2.5 and 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 3 and 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 3.5 and 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 4 and 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 4.5 and 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 5 and 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 6 and 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 7 and 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 8 and 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 9 and 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 10 and 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 11 and 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 12 and 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 13 and 14, 15, or 20; or between 14 and 15, or 20; or between 15 and 20;

[illegible]

2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 1.5 and 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 2 and 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 2.5 and 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 3 and 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 3.5 and 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 4 and 4.5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 4.5 and 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 5 and 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 6 and 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 7 and 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 8 and 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 9 and 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 10 and 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 11 and 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 12 and 13, 14, 15, or 20; or between 13 and 14, 15, or 20; or between 14 and 15, or 20; or between 15 and 20. In some embodiments, A, B, and/or C is within rounding of any of these values (e.g., A is between 0.45 and 0.54, etc.).

[0038] Thus, in one aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining an LOH Region Score for the sample; (2) determining a TAI Region Score for the sample; and (3)(a) detecting (or diagnosing) HRD in the sample based at least in part on a combination of the LOH Region Score and the TAI Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score) exceeding a reference; or optionally (3)(b) detecting (or diagnosing) an absence of HRD in the sample based at least in part on a combination of the LOH Region Score and the TAI Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score) not exceeding a reference. In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining an LOH Region Score for the sample; (2) determining an LST Region Score for the sample; and (3)(a) detecting (or diagnosing) HRD in the sample based at least in part on a combination of the LOH Region Score and the LST Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score) exceeding a reference; or optionally (3)(b) detecting (or diagnosing) an absence of HRD in the sample based at least in part on a combination of the LOH Region Score and the LST Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score) not exceeding a reference. In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining a TAI Region Score for the sample; (2) determining an LST Region Score for the sample; and (3)(a) detecting (or diagnosing) HRD in the sample based at least in part on a combination of the TAI Region Score and the LST Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score) exceeding a reference; or optionally (3)(b) detecting (or diagnosing) an absence of HRD in the sample based at least in part on a combination of the TAI Region Score and the LST Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score) not exceeding a reference. In another aspect the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining an LOH Region Score for the sample; (2) determining a TAI Region Score for the sample; (3) determining an LST Region Score for the sample; and (4)(a) detecting (or diagnosing) HRD in the sample based at least in part on a combination of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score and the LST Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score) exceeding a reference; or optionally (4)(b) detecting (or diagnosing) an absence of HRD in the sample based at least in part on the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score and the LST Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score) not exceeding a reference.

[0039] Thus another aspect of the disclosure provides a method of assessing (e.g., detecting, diagnosing) HRD in a sample comprising (1) determining the total number of LOH Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LOH Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (2) determining the total number of TAI Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator TAI Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (3) determining the total number of LST Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LST Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (4) calculating the average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of the determinations made in (1), (2), and (3); and (5) assessing HRD in the sample based at least in part on the calculated average (e.g., arithmetic mean) made in (4).

[0040] In some embodiments, the reference (or index) discussed above for the CA Region Score (e.g., the number of Indicator CA Regions) may be 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20 or greater, preferably 5, preferably 8, more preferably 9 or 10, most preferably 10. The reference for the total (e.g., combined) length of Indicator CA Regions may be about 75, 90, 105, 120, 130, 135, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 275, 300, 325, 350, 375, 400, 425, 450, 475, 500 megabases or greater, preferably about 75 megabases or greater, preferably about 90 or 105 megabases or greater, more preferably about 120 or 130 megabases or greater, and more preferably about 135 megabases or greater, and most preferably about 150 megabases or greater. In some embodiments, the reference discussed above for the Combined CA Region Score (e.g., the combined number of Indicator LOH Regions, Indicator, TAI Regions and/or Indicator LST Regions) may be 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 or greater, preferably 5, preferably 10, preferably 15, preferably 20, preferably 25, preferably 30, preferably 35, preferably 40-44, most preferably ≥ 42 . The reference for the total (e.g., combined) length of Indicator LOH Regions, Indicator TAI Regions and/or Indicator LST Regions may be about 75, 90, 105, 120, 130, 135, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 275, 300, 325, 350, 375, 400, 425, 450, 475, 500 megabases or greater, preferably about 75 megabases or greater, preferably about 90 or 105 megabases or greater, more preferably about 120 or 130 megabases or greater, and more preferably about 135 megabases or greater, and most preferably about 150 megabases or greater.

[0041] In some embodiments, the disclosure provides a method for detecting an HRD signature in a sample. Thus, another aspect of the disclosure provides a method for detecting an HRD signature in a sample comprising (1) determining the total number of LOH Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LOH Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (2) determining the total number of TAI Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator TAI Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (3) determining the total number of LST Regions of a certain size or character (e.g., "Indicator LST Regions", as defined herein) in the sample; (4) combining the determinations made in (1), (2), and (3) (e.g., calculating or deriving a Combined CA Region Score); and (5) characterizing a sample in which the Combined CA Region Score is greater than a reference value as having an HRD signature. In some embodiments, the reference value is 42. Thus, in some embodiments a sample is characterized as having an HRD signature when the reference value is 42. In some embodiments, the reference discussed above for the Combined CA Region Score (e.g., the combined number of Indicator LOH Regions, Indicator, TAI Regions and/or Indicator LST Regions) may be 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 or greater, preferably 5, preferably 10, preferably 15, preferably 20, preferably 25, preferably 30, preferably 35, preferably 40-44, most preferably ≥ 42 .

[0042] In some embodiments, the number of Indicator CA Regions (or the combined length, a CA Region Score or a Combined CA Region Score) in a sample is considered "greater" than a reference if it is at least 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, 7-, 8-, 9-, or 10-fold greater than the reference while in some embodiments, it is considered "greater" if it is at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 standard deviations greater than the reference. Conversely, in some embodiments the number of Indicator CA Regions (or the combined length, a CA Region Score or a Combined CA Region Score) in a sample is considered "not greater" than a reference if it is not more than 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, 7-, 8-, 9-, or 10-fold greater than the reference while in some embodiments, it is considered "not greater" if it is not more than 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 standard deviations greater than the reference.

[0043] In some embodiments the reference number (or length, value or score) is derived from a relevant reference population. Such reference populations may include patients (a) with the same cancer as the

patient being tested, (b) with the same cancer sub-type, (c) with cancer having similar genetic or other clinical or molecular features, (d) who responded to a particular treatment, (e) who did not respond to a particular treatment, (f) who are apparently healthy (e.g., do not have any cancer or at least do not have the tested patient's cancer), etc. The reference number (or length, value or score) may be (a) representative of the number (or length, value or score) found in the reference population as a whole, (b) an average (mean, median, etc.) of the number (or length, value or score) found in the reference population as a whole or a particular subpopulation, (c) representative of the number (or length, value or score) (e.g., an average such as mean or median) found in terciles, quartiles, quintiles, etc. of the reference population as ranked by (i) their respective number (or length, value or score) or (ii) the clinical feature they were found to have (e.g., strength of response, prognosis (including time to cancer-specific death), etc.), or (d) selected to have a high sensitivity for detecting HRD for predicting response to a particular therapy (e.g., platinum, PARP inhibitor, etc.).

[0044] In some embodiments the reference or index that, if exceeded by the test value or score from the sample, indicates HRD is the same as the reference that, if not exceeded by the test value or score from the sample, indicates the absence of HRD (or functional HDR). In some embodiments they are different.

[0045] In another aspect, the present disclosure provides a method of predicting the status of BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes in a sample. Such method is analogous to the methods described above and differs in that the determination of CA Regions, LOH Regions, TAI Regions, LST Regions, or scores incorporating these are used to assess (e.g., detect) BRCA1 and/or BRCA2 deficiency in the sample.

[0046] In another aspect, this disclosure provides a method of predicting a cancer patient's response to a cancer treatment regimen comprising a DNA damaging agent, an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, and/or a PARP inhibitor. Such method is analogous to the methods described above and differs in that the determination of CA Regions, LOH Regions, TAI Regions, LST Regions, or scores incorporating these, including high HRD scores (e.g., an HRD signature or a high combined CA Region Score), are used to predict the likelihood that the cancer patient will respond to the cancer treatment regimen.

[0047] In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naïve patients. In another aspect, this disclosure provides a method of treating cancer. Such method is analogous to the methods described above and differs in that a particular treatment regimen is administered (recommended, prescribed, etc.) based at least in part on the determination of CA Regions, LOH Regions, TAI Regions, LST Regions, or scores incorporating these.

[0048] In another aspect, this disclosure features the use of one or more drugs selected from the group consisting of DNA damaging agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, and PARP inhibitors, in the manufacture of a medicament useful for treating a cancer in a patient identified as having (or as having had) a cancer cell determined to have high levels of HRD (e.g., an HRD signature) as described herein.

[0049] In another aspect, this document features a method for assessing a sample for the presence of a mutation within a gene from an HDR pathway. Such method is analogous to the methods described above and differs in that the determination of CA Regions, LOH Regions, TAI Regions, LST Regions, or scores incorporating these are used to detect (or not) the presence of a mutation within a gene from an HDR pathway.

[0050] In another aspect, this document features a method for assessing cancer cells of a patient for the

presence of an HRD signature. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) detecting the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient, and (b) identifying the patient as having cancer cells with the HRD signature. In another aspect, this document features a method for assessing cancer cells of a patient for the presence of an HDR deficient status. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) detecting the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient, and (b) identifying the patient as having cancer cells with the HDR deficient status. In another aspect, this document features a method for assessing cancer cells of a patient for having an HRD signature. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) detecting the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient, and (b) identifying the patient as having cancer cells with an HRD signature. In another aspect, this document features a method for assessing cancer cells of a patient for the presence of a genetic mutation within a gene from an HDR pathway. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) detecting the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient, and (b) identifying the patient as having cancer cells with the genetic mutation.

[0051] In another aspect, this document features a method for determining if a patient is likely to respond to a cancer treatment regimen comprising administering radiation or a drug selected from the group consisting of DNA damaging agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, and PARP inhibitors. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) detecting the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient, and (b) identifying the patient as being likely to respond to the cancer treatment regimen. In another aspect, this document features a method for assessing a patient. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining that the patient comprises cancer cells having an HRD signature, wherein the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient indicates that the cancer cells have the HRD signature, and (b) diagnosing the patient as having cancer cells with the HRD signature. In another aspect, this document features a method for assessing a patient. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining that the patient comprises cancer cells having an HDR deficiency status, wherein the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient indicates that the cancer cells have the HDR deficiency status, and (b) diagnosing the patient as having cancer cells with the HDR deficient status. In another aspect, this document features a method for assessing a patient. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining that the patient comprises cancer cells having an HDR deficient status, wherein the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient indicates that the cancer cells have high HDR, and (b) diagnosing the patient as having cancer cells with an HDR deficient status. In another aspect, this document features a method for assessing a patient. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining that the patient comprises cancer cells having a genetic mutation within a gene from an HDR pathway, wherein the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient indicates that the cancer cells have the genetic mutation, and (b) diagnosing the patient as having cancer cells with the genetic mutation. In another aspect, this document features a method for assessing a patient for a likelihood to respond to a cancer treatment regimen comprising administering radiation or a drug selected from the group consisting of DNA damaging agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, and PARP inhibitors. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining that the patient comprises cancer cells having an HRD signature, wherein the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient

indicates that the cancer cells have the HRD signature, and (b) diagnosing, based at least in part on the presence of the HRD signature, the patient as being likely to respond to the cancer treatment regimen. In another aspect, this document features a method for assessing a patient for a likelihood to respond to a cancer treatment regimen comprising administering radiation or a drug selected from the group consisting of DNA damaging agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, and PARP inhibitors. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining that the patient comprises cancer cells having an HRD signature, wherein the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient indicates that the cancer cells have an HRD signature, and (b) diagnosing, based at least in part on the presence of the HRD signature, the patient as being likely to respond to the cancer treatment regimen.

[0052] In another aspect, this document features a method for performing a diagnostic analysis of a cancer cell of a patient. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) detecting the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of the cancer cell, and (b) identifying or classifying the patient as having cancer cells with an HRD signature. In another aspect, this document features a method for performing a diagnostic analysis of a cancer cell of a patient. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) detecting the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of the cancer cell, and (b) identifying or classifying the patient as having cancer cells with a HDR deficient status. In another aspect, this document features a method for performing a diagnostic analysis of a cancer cell of a patient. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) detecting the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of the cancer cell, and (b) identifying or classifying the patient as having cancer cells with an HDR deficient status. In another aspect, this document features a method for performing a diagnostic analysis of a cancer cell of a patient. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) detecting the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of the cancer cell that are longer, and (b) identifying or classifying the patient as having cancer cells with a genetic mutation within a gene from an HDR pathway. In another aspect, this document features a method for performing a diagnostic analysis of a cancer cell of a patient to determine if the cancer patient is likely to respond to a cancer treatment regimen comprising administering radiation or a drug selected from the group consisting of DNA damaging agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, and PARP inhibitors. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) detecting the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of the cancer cell, and (b) identifying or classifying the patient as being likely to respond to the cancer treatment regimen.

[0053] In another aspect, this document features a method for diagnosing a patient as having cancer cells having an HRD signature. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining that the patient comprises cancer cells having the HRD signature, wherein the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient indicates that the cancer cells have the HRD signature, and (b) diagnosing the patient as having cancer cells with the HRD signature. In another aspect, this document features a method for diagnosing a patient as having cancer cells with an HDR deficient status. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining that the patient comprises cancer cells having the HDR deficiency status, wherein the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient indicates that the cancer cells have the HDR deficiency status, and (b) diagnosing the patient as having cancer cells with the HDR deficient status. In another aspect, this document features a method for diagnosing a patient as having cancer cells with an HDR deficient status. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining that the patient comprises cancer cells having the HDR deficient status, wherein the presence of more than a

reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient indicates that the cancer cells have the HDR deficient status, and (b) diagnosing the patient as having cancer cells with the HDR deficient status. In another aspect, this document features a method for diagnosing a patient as having cancer cells with a genetic mutation within a gene from an HDR pathway. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining that the patient comprises cancer cells having the genetic mutation, wherein the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient indicates that the cancer cells have the genetic mutation, and (b) diagnosing the patient as having cancer cells with the genetic mutation. In another aspect, this document features a method for diagnosing a patient as being a candidate for a cancer treatment regimen comprising administering radiation or a drug selected from the group consisting of DNA damaging agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, and PARP inhibitors. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining that the patient comprises cancer cells having an HRD signature, wherein the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient indicates that the cancer cells have the HRD signature, and (b) diagnosing, based at least in part on the presence of the HRD signature, the patient as being likely to respond to the cancer treatment regimen. In another aspect, this document features a method for diagnosing a patient as being a candidate for a cancer treatment regimen comprising administering radiation or a drug selected from the group consisting of DNA damaging agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, and PARP inhibitors. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining that the patient comprises cancer cells having high an HRD signature, wherein the presence of more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of the cancer patient indicates that the cancer cells have an HRD signature, and (b) diagnosing, based at least in part on the presence of the HRD signature, the patient as being likely to respond to the cancer treatment regimen.

[0054] In another aspect, the disclosure provides a method for assessing a patient. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining whether the patient has (or had) cancer cells with more than a reference number of Indicator CA Regions (or, *e.g.*, a CA Region Score exceeding a reference CA Region Score); and (b)(1) diagnosing the patient as having cancer cells with HRD if it is determined that the patient has (or had) cancer cells with more than a reference number of CA Regions (or, *e.g.*, a CA Region Score exceeding a reference CA Region Score); or (b)(2) diagnosing the patient as not having cancer cells with HRD if it is determined that the patient does not have (or has not had) cancer cells with more than a reference number of CA Regions (or, *e.g.*, the patient does not have (or has not had) cancer cells with a CA Region Score exceeding a reference CA Region Score).

[0055] In another aspect, this disclosure features the use of a plurality of oligonucleotides capable of hybridizing to a plurality of polymorphic regions of human genomic DNA, in the manufacture of a diagnostic kit useful for determining the total number or combined length of CA Regions in at least a chromosome pair (or DNA derived therefrom) in a sample obtained from a cancer patient, and for detecting (a) HRD, high HRD, or likelihood of HRD (each, *e.g.*, an HRD signature) in the sample, (b) deficiency (or likelihood of deficiency) in a BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene in the sample, or (c) an increased likelihood that the cancer patient will respond to a cancer treatment regimen comprising a DNA damaging agent, an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, or a PARP inhibitor.

[0056] In another aspect, this disclosure features a system for detecting HRD (*e.g.*, an HRD signature) in a sample. The system comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) a sample analyzer configured to produce a plurality of signals about genomic DNA of at least one pair of human chromosomes (or DNA derived therefrom) in the sample, and (b) a computer sub-system programmed to calculate, based on the

plurality of signals, the number or combined length of CA Regions in the at least one pair of human chromosomes. The computer sub-system can be programmed to compare the number or combined length of CA Regions to a reference number to detect (a) HRD, high HRD, or likelihood of HRD (each, e.g., an HRD signature) in the sample, (b) deficiency (or likelihood of deficiency) in a BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene in the sample, or (c) an increased likelihood that the cancer patient will respond to a cancer treatment regimen comprising a DNA damaging agent, an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, or a PARP inhibitor. The system can comprise an output module configured to display (a), (b), or (c). The system can comprise an output module configured to display a recommendation for the use of the cancer treatment regimen.

[0057] In another aspect, the disclosure provides a computer program product embodied in a computer readable medium that, when executing on a computer, provides instructions for detecting the presence or absence of any CA Region along one or more of human chromosomes other than the human X and Y sex chromosomes (the CA Regions optionally being Indicator CA Regions); and determining the total number or combined length of the CA Regions in the one or more chromosome pairs. The computer program product can include other instructions.

[0058] In another aspect, the present disclosure provides a diagnostic kit. The kit comprises, or consists essentially of, at least 500 oligonucleotides capable of hybridizing to a plurality of polymorphic regions of human genomic DNA (or DNA derived therefrom); and a computer program product provided herein. The computer program product can be embodied in a computer readable medium that, when executing on a computer, provides instructions for detecting the presence or absence of any CA Region along one or more of human chromosomes other than the human X and Y sex chromosomes (the CA Regions optionally being Indicator CA Regions); and determining the total number or combined length of the CA Regions in the one or more chromosome pairs. The computer program product can include other instructions.

[0059] In some embodiments of any one or more of the aspects of the disclosure described in the preceding paragraphs, any one or more of the following can be applied as appropriate. The CA Regions can be determined in at least two, five, ten, or 21 pairs of human chromosomes. The cancer cell can be an ovarian, breast, lung or esophageal cancer cell. The reference can be 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 20 or greater. The at least one pair of human chromosomes can exclude human chromosome 17. The DNA damaging agent can be cisplatin, carboplatin, oxaloplatin, or picoplatin, the anthracycline can be epirubicin or doxorubicin, the topoisomerase I inhibitor can be camptothecin, topotecan, or irinotecan, or the PARP inhibitor can be iniparib, olaparib or veliparib. The patient can be a treatment naive patient.

[0060] As described herein, a sample (e.g., cancer cell sample or a sample containing DNA derived from one or more cancer cells) can be identified as having an "HRD signature" (or alternatively called "HDR-deficiency signature") if the genome of the cells being assessed contains (a) any of an LOH Region Score, a TAI Region Score or an LST Region Score exceeding a reference or (b) a Combined CA Region Score exceeding a reference. Conversely, a sample (e.g., cancer cell sample or a sample containing DNA derived from one or more cancer cells) can be identified as lacking an "HRD signature" (or alternatively called "HDR-deficiency signature") if the genome of the cells being assessed contains (a) an LOH Region Score, a TAI Region Score and an LST Region Score each not exceeding a reference or (b) a Combined CA Region Score not exceeding a reference.

[0061] Cells (e.g., cancer cells) identified as having an HRD signature can be classified as having an increased likelihood of having an HDR deficiency and/or as having an increased likelihood of having a

deficient status in one or more genes in the HDR pathway. For example, cancer cells identified as having an HRD signature can be classified as having an increased likelihood of having an HDR deficient status. In some cases, cancer cells identified as having an HRD signature can be classified as having an increased likelihood of having a deficient status for one or more genes in the HDR pathway. As used herein, deficient status for a gene means the sequence, structure, expression and/or activity of the gene or its product is/are deficient as compared to normal. Examples include, but are not limited to, low or no mRNA or protein expression, deleterious mutations, hypermethylation, attenuated activity (e.g., enzymatic activity, ability to bind to another biomolecule), etc. As used herein, deficient status for a pathway (e.g., HDR pathway) means at least one gene in that pathway (e.g., BRCA1) is deficient. Examples of highly deleterious mutations include frameshift mutations, stop codon mutations, and mutations that lead to altered RNA splicing. Deficient status in a gene in the HDR pathway may result in deficiency or reduced activity in homology directed repair in the cancer cells. Examples of genes in the HDR pathway include, without limitation, the genes listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Selected HDR Pathway Genes

Gene Name	Entrez Gene Symbol (if assigned)	Entrez Gene Id	Gene Name	Entrez Gene Symbol (if assigned)	Entrez Gene Id
<i>BLM</i>	<i>BLM</i>	641	<i>RAD50</i>	<i>RAD50</i>	10111
<i>BRCA1</i>	<i>BRCA1</i>	672	<i>RAD51</i>	<i>RAD51</i>	5888
<i>BRCA2</i>	<i>BRCA2</i>	675	<i>RAD51AP1</i>	<i>RAD51AP1</i>	10635
<i>CtIP</i>	<i>RBBP8</i>	5932	<i>RAD51B</i>	<i>RAD51L1</i>	5890
DNA polymerase delta	<i>POLD1</i>	5424	<i>RAD51C</i>	<i>RAD51C</i>	5889
	<i>POLD2</i>	5424	<i>RAD51D</i>	<i>RAD51L3</i>	5892
	<i>POLD3</i>	10714	<i>RAD54</i>	<i>ATRX</i>	546
	<i>POLD4</i>	57804	<i>RAD54B</i>	<i>RAD54B</i>	25788
DNA polymerase eta	<i>POLH</i>	5429	<i>RMI1</i>	<i>RMI1</i>	80010
<i>DNA2</i>	<i>DNA2</i>	1763	<i>RMI2</i>	<i>C16orf75</i>	116028
<i>EME1</i>	<i>EME1</i>	146956	<i>RPA</i>	<i>RPA1</i>	6117
<i>ERCC1</i>	<i>ERCC1</i>	2067	<i>RTEL1</i>	<i>RTEL1</i>	51750
<i>EXO1</i>	<i>EXO1</i>	9156	<i>SLX1</i>		
<i>FANCM</i>	<i>FANCM</i>	57697	<i>SLX2</i>		
<i>GEN1</i>	<i>GEN1</i>	348654	<i>SLX4</i>	<i>SLX4</i>	84464
<i>MRE11</i>	<i>MRE11A</i>	4361	<i>TOP2A</i>	<i>TOP2A</i>	7153
<i>MUS81</i>	<i>MUS81</i>	80198	<i>XPF</i>	<i>ERCC4</i>	2072
<i>NBS1</i>	<i>NBN</i>	4683	<i>XRCC2</i>	<i>XRCC2</i>	7516
<i>PALB2</i>	<i>PALB2</i>	79728	<i>XRCC3</i>	<i>XRCC3</i>	7517
<i>PCNA</i>	<i>PCNA</i>	5111			

[0062] As described herein, identifying CA loci (as well as the size and number of CA Regions) can include, first, determining the genotype of a sample at various genomic loci (e.g., SNP loci, individual bases in large-scale sequencing) and, second, determining whether the loci exhibit any of LOH, TAI or

LST. Any appropriate technique can be used to determine genotypes at loci of interest within the genome of a cell. For example, single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) arrays (e.g., human genome-wide SNP arrays), targeted sequencing of loci of interest (e.g., sequencing SNP loci and their surrounding sequences), and even large-scale sequencing (e.g., whole exome, transcriptome, or genome sequencing) can be used to identify loci as being homozygous or heterozygous. Typically, an analysis of the homozygous or heterozygous nature of loci over a length of a chromosome can be performed to determine the length of CA Regions. For example, a stretch of SNP locations that are spaced apart (e.g., spaced about 25 kb to about 100 kb apart) along a chromosome can be evaluated using SNP array results to determine not only the presence of a region of homozygosity (e.g., LOH) along a chromosome but also the length of that region. Results from a SNP array can be used to generate a graph that plots allele dosages along a chromosome. Allele dosage d_i for SNP i can be calculated from adjusted signal intensities of two alleles (A_i and B_i): $d_i = A_i / (A_i + B_i)$. An example of such a graph is presented in Figures 1 and 2, which show the difference between fresh frozen and FFPE samples and between SNP microarray and SNP sequencing analyses. Numerous variations on nucleic acid arrays useful in the invention are known in the art. These include the arrays used in the various examples below (e.g., Affymetrix 500K GeneChip array in Example 3; Affymetrix OncoScan™ FFPE Express 2.0 Services (Formerly MIP CN Services) in Example 4).

[0063] Once a sample's genotype has been determined for a plurality of loci (e.g., SNPs), common techniques can be used to identify loci and regions of LOH, TAI and LST (including those described in International Application no. PCT/US2011/040953 (published as WO/2011/160063); International Application no. PCT/US2011/048427 (published as WO/2012/027224); Popova et al., Ploidy and large-scale genomic instability consistently identify basal-like breast carcinomas with BRCA1/2 inactivation, *CANCER RES.* (2012) 72:5454-5462). In some embodiments determining whether chromosomal imbalance or large scale transitions includes determining whether these are somatic or germline aberrations. One way to determine to do this is to compare the somatic genotype to the germline. For example, the genotype for a plurality of loci (e.g., SNPs) can be determined in both a germline (e.g., blood) sample and a somatic (e.g., tumor) sample. The genotypes for each sample can be compared (typically computationally) to determine where the genome of the germ line cell was heterozygous and the genome of the somatic cell is homozygous. Such loci are LOH loci and regions of such loci are LOH Regions.

[0064] Computational techniques can also be used to determine whether an aberration is germline or somatic. Such techniques are particularly useful when a germline sample is not available for analysis and comparison. For example, algorithms such as those described elsewhere can be used to detect LOH regions using information from SNP arrays (Nannya et al., *Cancer Res.* (2005) 65:6071-6079 (2005)). Typically these algorithms do not explicitly take into account contamination of tumor samples with benign tissue. Cf. International Application No. PCT/US2011/026098 (published as WO 2011/106541) to Abkevich *et al.*; Goransson et al., *PLoS One* (2009) 4(6):e6057. This contamination is often high enough to make the detection of LOH regions challenging. Improved analytical methods according to the present disclosure for identifying LOH, TAI and LST, even in spite of contamination, include those embodied in computer software products as described below.

[0065] The following is one example. If the observed ratio of the signals of two alleles, A and B, is two to one, there are two possibilities. The first possibility is that cancer cells have LOH with deletion of allele B in a sample with 50% contamination with normal cells. The second possibility is that there is no LOH but allele A is duplicated in a sample with no contamination with normal cells. An algorithm can be implemented as a computer program as described herein to reconstruct LOH regions based on genotype (e.g., SNP genotype) data. One point of the algorithm is to first reconstruct allele specific copy numbers

(ASCN) at each locus (e.g., SNP). ASCNs are the numbers of copies of both paternal and maternal alleles. An LOH region is then determined as a stretch of SNPs with one of the ASCNs (paternal or maternal) being zero. The algorithm can be based on maximizing a likelihood function and can be conceptually akin to a previously described algorithm designed to reconstruct total copy number (rather than ASCN) at each locus (e.g., SNP). See International Application No. PCT/US2011/026098 (published as WO 2011/106541) to Abkevich et al. The likelihood function can be maximized over ASCN of all loci, level of contamination with benign tissue, total copy number averaged over the whole genome, and sample specific noise level. The input data for the algorithm can include or consist of (1) sample-specific normalized signal intensities for both allele of each locus and (2) assay-specific (specific for different SNP arrays and for sequence based approach) set of parameters defined based on analysis of large number of samples with known ASCN profiles.

[0066] In some cases, nucleic acid sequencing techniques can be used to genotype loci. For example, genomic DNA from a cell sample (e.g., a cancer cell sample) can be extracted and fragmented. Any appropriate method can be used to extract and fragment genomic nucleic acid including, without limitation, commercial kits such as QIAamp™ DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen™), MagNA™ Pure DNA Isolation Kit (Roche Applied Science™) and GenElute™ Mammalian Genomic DNA Miniprep Kit (Sigma-Aldrich™). Once extracted and fragmented, either targeted or untargeted sequencing can be done to determine the sample's genotypes at loci. For example, whole genome,

transcriptome, or whole exome sequencing can be done to determine genotypes at millions or even

billions of base pairs (*i.e.*, base pairs can be "loci" to be evaluated).

[0067] In some cases, targeted sequencing of known polymorphic loci (e.g., SNPs and surrounding sequences) can be done as an alternative to microarray analysis. For example, the genomic DNA can be enriched for those fragments containing a locus (e.g., SNP location) to be analyzed using kits designed for this purpose (e.g., Agilent SureSelect™, Illumina TruSeq Capture™, and Nimblegen SeqCap EZ Choice™). For example, genomic DNA containing the loci to be analyzed can be hybridized to biotinylated capture RNA fragments to form biotinylated RNA/genomic DNA complexes. Alternatively, DNA capture probes may be utilized resulting in the formation of biotinylated DNA/genomic DNA hybrids. Streptavidin coated magnetic beads and a magnetic force can be used to separate the biotinylated RNA/genomic DNA complexes from those genomic DNA fragments not present within a biotinylated RNA/genomic DNA complex. The obtained biotinylated RNA/genomic DNA complexes can be treated to remove the captured RNA from the magnetic beads, thereby leaving intact genomic DNA fragments containing a locus to be analyzed. These intact genomic DNA fragments containing the loci to be analyzed can be amplified using, for example, PCR techniques. The amplified genomic DNA fragments can be sequenced using a high-throughput sequencing technology or a next-generation sequencing technology such as Illumina HiSeq™, Illumina MiSeq™, Life Technologies SoLID™ or Ion Torrent™, or Roche 454™.

[0068] The sequencing results from the genomic DNA fragments can be used to identify loci as exhibiting or not exhibiting a CA, analogous to the microarray analysis described herein. In some cases, an analysis of the genotype of loci over a length of a chromosome can be performed to determine the length of CA Regions. For example, a stretch of SNP locations that are spaced apart (e.g., spaced about 25 kb to about 100 kb apart) along a chromosome can be evaluated by sequencing, and the sequencing results used to determine not only the presence of a CA Region but also the length of that CA Region. Obtained sequencing results can be used to generate a graph that plots allele dosages along a chromosome. Allele dosage d_i for SNP i can be calculated from adjusted number of captured probes for two alleles (A_i and B_i): $d_i = A_i / (A_i + B_i)$. An example of such a graph is presented in Figures 1 and 2. Determining

whether an aberration is germline or somatic can be performed as described herein.

[0069] In some cases, a selection process can be used to select loci (e.g., SNP loci) to be evaluated using an assay configured to genotype loci (e.g., SNP array-based assays and sequencing-based assays). For example, any human SNP location can be selected for inclusion in a SNP array-based assay or a sequencing-based assay configured to genotype loci. In some cases, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5 million or more SNP locations present within the human genome can be evaluated to identify those SNPs that (a) are not present on the Y chromosome, (b) are not mitochondrial SNPs, (c) have a minor allele frequency of at least about five percent in Caucasians, (d) have a minor allele frequency of at least about one percent in three races other than Caucasians (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, and Yoruba), and/or (e) do not have a significant deviation from Hardy Weinberg equilibrium in any of the four races. In some cases, more than 100,000, 150,000, or 200,000 human SNPs can be selected that meet criteria (a) through (e). Of the human SNPs meeting criteria (a) through (e), a group of SNPs (e.g., top 110,000 SNPs) can be selected such that the SNPs have a high degree of allele frequency in Caucasians, cover the human genome in a somewhat evenly spaced manner (e.g., at least one SNP every about 25 kb to about 500 kb), and are not in linkage disequilibrium with another selected SNP for in any of the four races. In some cases, about 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130 thousand or more SNPs can be selected as meeting each of these criteria and included in an assay configured to identify CA Regions across a human genome. For example, between about 70,000 and about 90,000 (e.g., about 80,000) SNPs can be selected for analysis with a SNP array-based assay, and between about 45,000 and about 55,000 (e.g., about 50,000) SNPs can be selected for analysis with a sequencing-based assay.

[0070] As described herein, any appropriate type of sample can be assessed. For example, a sample containing cancer cells can be assessed to determine if the genome of the cancer cells contains an HRD signature, lacks an HRD signature, has an increased number of Indicator CA Regions or has an increased CA Region Score. Examples of samples containing cancer cells that can be assessed as described herein include, without limitation, tumor biopsy samples (e.g., breast tumor biopsy samples), formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue samples containing cancer cells, core needle biopsies, fine needle aspirates, and samples containing cancer cells shed from a tumor (e.g., blood, urine or other bodily fluids). For formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue samples, the sample can be prepared by DNA extraction using a genomic DNA extraction kit optimized for FFPE tissue, including but not limited to those described above (e.g., QuickExtract™ FFPE DNA Extraction Kit (Epicentre™), and QIAamp™ DNA FFPE Tissue Kit (Qiagen™)).

[0071] In some cases, laser dissection techniques can be performed on a tissue sample to minimize the number of non-cancer cells within a cancer cell sample to be assessed. In some cases, antibody based purification methods can be used to enrich for cancer cells and/or deplete non-cancer cells. Examples of antibodies that could be used for cancer cell enrichment include, without limitation, anti-EpCAM, anti-TROP-2, anti-c-Met, anti-Folate binding protein, anti-N-Cadherin, anti-CD318, anti-antimesencymal stem cell antigen, anti-Her2, anti-MUC1, anti-EGFR, anti-cytokeratins (e.g., cytokeratin 7, cytokeratin 20, etc.), anti-Caveolin-1, anti-PSA, anti-CA125, and anti-surfactant protein antibodies.

[0072] Any type of cancer cell can be assessed using the methods and materials described herein. For example, breast cancer cells, ovarian cancer cells, liver cancer cells, esophageal cancer cells, lung cancer cells, head and neck cancer cells, prostate cancer cells, colon, rectal, or colorectal cancer cells, and pancreatic cancer cells can be assessed to determine if the genome of the cancer cells contains an HRD signature, lacks an HRD signature, has an increased number of Indicator CA Regions or has an increased CA Region Score. In some embodiments, the cancer cells are primary or metastatic cancer cells of ovarian cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer or esophageal cancer.

[0073] When assessing the genome of cancer cells for the presence or absence of an HRD signature, one or more (*e.g.*, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, or 23) pairs of chromosomes can be assessed. In some cases, the genome of cancer cells is assessed for the presence or absence of an HRD signature using one or more (*e.g.*, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23) pairs of chromosomes.

[0074] In some cases, it can be helpful to exclude certain chromosomes from this analysis. For example, in the case of females, a pair to be assessed can include the pair of X sex chromosomes; whereas, in the case of males, a pair of any autosomal chromosomes (*i.e.*, any pair other than the pair of X and Y sex chromosomes) can be assessed. As another example, in some cases the chromosome number 17 pair may be excluded from the analysis. It has been determined that certain chromosomes carry unusually high levels of CA in certain cancers and, thus, it can be helpful to exclude such chromosomes when analyzing samples as described herein from patients having these cancers. In some cases, the sample is from a patient having ovarian cancer, and the chromosome to be excluded is chromosome 17.

[0075] Thus, a predefined number of chromosomes may be analyzed to determine the number of Indicator CA Regions (or the CA Region Score or Combined CA Region Score), preferably the number of CA Regions of a length of greater than 9 megabases, 10 megabases, 12 megabases, 14 megabases, more preferably greater than 15 megabases. Alternatively or in addition, the sizes of all identified Indicator CA Regions may be summed up to obtain a total length of Indicator CA Regions.

[0076] As described herein, patients having cancer cells (or samples derived therefrom) identified as having an HRD signature status can be classified, based at least in part on such HRD signature, as being likely to respond to a particular cancer treatment regimen. For example, patients having cancer cells with an HRD signature can be classified, based at least in part on such HRD signature, as being likely to respond to a cancer treatment regimen that includes the use of a DNA damaging agent, a synthetic lethality agent (*e.g.*, a PARP inhibitor), radiation, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments the patients are treatment naïve patients. Examples of DNA damaging agents include, without limitation, platinum-based chemotherapy drugs (*e.g.*, cisplatin, carboplatin, oxaliplatin, and picoplatin), anthracyclines (*e.g.*, epirubicin and doxorubicin), topoisomerase I inhibitors (*e.g.*, camptothecin, topotecan, and irinotecan), DNA crosslinkers such as mitomycin C, and triazene compounds (*e.g.*, dacarbazine and temozolomide). Synthetic lethality therapeutic approaches typically involve administering an agent that inhibits at least one critical component of a biological pathway that is especially important to a particular tumor cell's survival. For example, when a tumor cell has a deficient homologous repair pathway (*e.g.*, as determined according to the present disclosure), inhibitors of poly ADP ribose polymerase (or platinum drugs, double strand break repair inhibitors, etc.) can be especially potent against such tumors because two pathways critical to survival become obstructed (one biologically, *e.g.*, by BRCA1 mutation, and the other synthetically, *e.g.*, by administration of a pathway drug). Synthetic lethality approaches to cancer therapy are described in, *e.g.*, O'Brien et al., Converting cancer mutations into therapeutic opportunities, EMBO MOL. MED. (2009) 1:297-299. Examples of synthetic lethality agents include, without limitation, PARP inhibitors or double strand break repair inhibitors in homologous repair-deficient tumor cells, PARP inhibitors in PTEN-deficient tumor cells, methotrexate in MSH2-deficient tumor cells, etc. Examples of PARP inhibitors include, without limitation, olaparib, iniparib, and veliparib. Examples of double strand break repair inhibitors include, without limitation, KU55933 (ATM inhibitor) and NU7441 (DNA-PKcs inhibitor). Examples of information that can be used in addition to the presence of an HRD signature to base a classification of being likely to respond to a particular cancer treatment regimen include, without limitation, previous treatment results, germline or somatic DNA

mutations, gene or protein expression profiling (e.g., ER/PR/HER2 status, PSA levels), tumor histology (e.g., adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, papillary serous carcinoma, mucinous carcinoma, invasive ductal carcinoma, ductal carcinoma *in situ* (non-invasive), etc.), disease stage, tumor or cancer grade (e.g., well, moderately, or poorly differentiated (e.g., Gleason, modified Bloom Richardson), etc.), number of previous courses of treatment, etc.

[0077] Once classified as being likely to respond to a particular cancer treatment regimen (e.g., a cancer treatment regimen that includes the use of a DNA damaging agent, a PARP inhibitor, radiation, or a combination thereof), the cancer patient can be treated with such a cancer treatment regimen. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naïve patients. The disclosure thus provides a method of treating a patient comprising detecting an HRD signature as described herein and administering (or recommending or prescribing) a treatment regimen comprising the use of a DNA damaging agent, a PARP inhibitor, radiation, or a combination thereof. Any appropriate method for treating the cancer at issue can be used to treat a cancer patient identified as having cancer cells having an HRD signature. For example, platinum-based chemotherapy drugs or a combination of platinum-based chemotherapy drugs can be used to treat cancer as described elsewhere (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 3,892,790, 3,904,663, 7,759,510, 7,759,488 and 7,754,684. In some cases, anthracyclines or a combination of anthracyclines can be used to treat cancer as described elsewhere (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 3,590,028, 4,138,480, 4,950,738, 6,087,340, 7,868,040, and 7,485,707). In some cases, topoisomerase I inhibitors or a combination of topoisomerase I inhibitors can be used to treat cancer as described elsewhere (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 5,633,016 and 6,403,563. In some cases, PARP inhibitors or a combination of PARP inhibitors can be used to treat cancer as described elsewhere (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 5,177,075, 7,915,280, and 7,351,701. In some cases, radiation can be used to treat cancer as described elsewhere (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 5,295,944). In some cases, a combination comprising different agents (e.g., a combination comprising any of platinum-based chemotherapy drugs, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, and/or PARP inhibitors) with or without radiation treatments can be used to treat cancer. In some cases, a combination treatment may comprise any of the above agents or treatments (e.g., a DNA damaging agent, a PARP inhibitor, radiation, or a combination thereof) together with another agent or treatment-e.g., a taxane agent (e.g., doxorubicin, paclitaxel, abiraterone), a growth factor or growth factor receptor inhibitor (e.g., erlotinib, gefitinib, lapatinib, sunitinib, bevacizumab, cetuximab, trastuzumab, panitumumab), and/or an antimetabolite (e.g., 5-fluorouracil, methotrexate).

[0078] In some cases, patients identified as having cancer cells lacking an HRD signature can be classified, based at least in part on a sample lacking an HRD signature, as being less likely to respond to a treatment regimen that includes a DNA damaging agent, a PARP inhibitor, radiation, or a combination thereof. In turn, such a patient can be classified as likely to respond to a cancer treatment regimen that includes the use of one or more cancer treatment agents not associated with HDR, such as a taxane agent (e.g., doxorubicin, paclitaxel, abiraterone), a growth factor or growth factor receptor inhibitor (e.g., erlotinib, gefitinib, lapatinib, sunitinib, bevacizumab, cetuximab, trastuzumab, panitumumab), and/or an antimetabolite agent (e.g., 5-fluorouracil, methotrexate). In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naïve patients. Once classified as being likely to respond to a particular cancer treatment regimen (e.g., a cancer treatment regimen that includes the use of a cancer treatment agent not associated with HDR), the cancer patient can be treated with such a cancer treatment regimen. The disclosure thus provides a method of treating a patient comprising detecting the absence of an HRD signature as described herein and administering (or recommending or prescribing) a treatment regimen not comprising the use of a DNA damaging agent, a PARP inhibitor, radiation, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments the treatment regimen comprises one or more of a taxane agent (e.g., doxorubicin, paclitaxel, abiraterone), a growth factor or growth factor receptor inhibitor (e.g., erlotinib, gefitinib, lapatinib, sunitinib, bevacizumab, cetuximab, trastuzumab, panitumumab), and/or an antimetabolite agent (e.g., 5-

flourouracil, methotrexate). Any appropriate method for the cancer being treated can be used to treat a cancer patient identified as having cancer cells lacking an HRD signature. Examples of information that can be used in addition to the absence of an HRD signature to base a classification of being likely to respond to a particular cancer treatment regimen include, without limitation, previous treatment results, germline or somatic DNA mutations, gene or protein expression profiling (e.g., ER/PR/HER2 status, PSA levels), tumor histology (e.g., adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, papillary serous carcinoma, mucinous carcinoma, invasive ductal carcinoma, ductal carcinoma *in situ* (non-invasive), etc.), disease stage, tumor or cancer grade (e.g., well, moderately, or poorly differentiated (e.g., Gleason, modified Bloom Richardson), etc.), number of previous courses of treatment, etc.

[0079] Once treated for a particular period of time (e.g., between one to six months), the patient can be assessed to determine whether or not the treatment regimen has an effect. If a beneficial effect is detected, the patient can continue with the same or a similar cancer treatment regimen. If a minimal or no beneficial effect is detected, then adjustments to the cancer treatment regimen can be made. For example, the dose, frequency of administration, or duration of treatment can be increased. In some cases, additional anti-cancer agents can be added to the treatment regimen or a particular anti-cancer agent can be replaced with one or more different anti-cancer agents. The patient being treated can continue to be monitored as appropriate, and changes can be made to the cancer treatment regimen as appropriate.

[0080] In addition to predicting likely treatment response or selecting desirable treatment regimens, an HRD signature can be used to determine a patient's prognosis. Thus, in one aspect, this document features a method for determining a patient's prognosis based at least in part of detecting the presence or absence of an HRD signature in a sample from the patient. The method comprises, or consists essentially of, (a) determining whether a sample from the patient comprises cancer cells (or whether a sample comprises DNA derived from such cells) having an HRD signature (sometimes referred to herein as having high HRD) as described herein (e.g., wherein the presence of more Indicator CA Regions or a higher CA Region Score or Combined CA Region Score than a reference), and (b)(1) determining, based at least in part on the presence of the HRD signature or having high HRD, that the patient has a relatively good prognosis, or (b)(2) determining, based at least in part on the absence of the HRD signature, that the patient has a relatively poor prognosis. Prognosis may include the patient's likelihood of survival (e.g., progression-free survival, overall survival), wherein a relatively good prognosis would include an increased likelihood of survival as compared to some reference population (e.g., average patient with this patient's cancer type/subtype, average patient not having an HRD signature, etc.). Conversely, a relatively poor prognosis in terms of survival would include a decreased likelihood of survival as compared to some reference population (e.g., average patient with this patient's cancer type/subtype, average patient having an HRD signature, etc.).

[0081] As described herein, this document provides methods for assessing patients for cells (e.g., cancer cells) having an HRD signature. In some embodiments, one or more clinicians or medical professionals can determine whether a sample from the patient comprises cancer cells (or whether a sample comprises DNA derived from such cells) having an HRD signature. In some cases, one or more clinicians or medical professionals can determine if a patient contains cancer cells having an HRD signature by obtaining a cancer cell sample from the patient and assessing the DNA of cancer cells of the cancer cell sample to determine the presence or absence of an HRD signature as described herein.

[0082] In some cases, one or more clinicians or medical professionals can obtain a cancer cell sample from a patient and provide that sample to a testing laboratory having the ability to assess DNA of cancer cells of the cancer cell sample to provide an indication about the presence or absence of an HRD

signature as described herein. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naive patients. In such cases, the one or more clinicians or medical professionals can determine if a sample from the patient comprises cancer cells (or whether a sample comprises DNA derived from such cells) having an HRD signature by receiving information about the presence or absence of an HRD signature as described herein directly or indirectly from the testing laboratory. For example, a testing laboratory, after assessing DNA of cancer cells for presence or absence of an HRD signature as described herein, can provide a clinician or medical professional with, or access to, a written, electronic, or oral report or medical record that provides an indication about the presence or absence of an HRD signature for a particular patient (or patient sample) being assessed. Such a written, electronic, or oral report or medical record can allow the one or more clinicians or medical professionals to determine if a particular patient being assessed contains cancer cells having an HRD signature.

[0083] Once a clinician or medical professional or group of clinicians or medical professionals determines that a particular patient being assessed contains cancer cells having an HRD signature, the clinician or medical professional (or group) can classify that patient as having cancer cells whose genome contains the presence of an HRD signature. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naive patients. In some cases, a clinician or medical professional or group of clinicians or medical professionals can diagnose a patient determined to have cancer cells whose genome contains the presence of an HRD signature as having cancer cells deficient in (or likely to be deficient in) HDR. Such a diagnosis can be based solely on a determination that a sample from the patient comprises cancer cells (or whether a sample comprises DNA derived from such cells) having an HRD signature or can be based at least in part on a determination that a sample from the patient comprises cancer cells (or whether a sample comprises DNA derived from such cells) having an HRD signature. For example, a patient determined to have cancer cells having an HRD signature can be diagnosed as likely to be deficient in HDR based on the combination of the presence of an HRD signature and deficient status in one or more tumor suppressor genes (e.g., BRCA1/2, RAD51C), a family history of cancer, or the presence of behavioral risk factors (e.g., smoking).

[0084] In some cases, a clinician or medical professional or group of clinicians or medical professionals can diagnose a patient determined to have cancer cells whose genome contains the presence of an HRD signature as having cancer cells likely to contain genetic mutations in one or more genes in the HDR pathway. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naive patients. Such a diagnosis can be based solely on a determination that a particular patient being assessed contains cancer cells having a genome containing an HRD signature or can be based at least in part on a determination that a particular patient being assessed contains cancer cells having a genome containing an HRD signature. For example, a patient determined to have cancer cells whose genome contains the presence of an HRD signature can be diagnosed as having cancer cells likely to contain genetic mutations in one or more genes in the HDR pathway based on the combination of the presence of an HRD signature and a family history of cancer, or the presence of behavioral risk factors (e.g., smoking).

[0085] In some cases, a clinician or medical professional or group of clinicians or medical professionals can diagnose a patient determined to have cancer cells having an HRD signature as having cancer cells likely to respond to a particular cancer treatment regimen. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naive patients. Such a diagnosis can be based solely on a determination that a sample from the patient comprises cancer cells (or whether a sample comprises DNA derived from such cells) having an HRD signature or can be based at least in part on a determination that a sample from the patient comprises cancer cells (or whether a sample comprises DNA derived from such cells) having an HRD signature. For example, a patient determined to have cancer cells having an HRD signature can be diagnosed as being likely to respond to a particular cancer treatment regimen based on the combination

of the presence of an HRD signature and deficient status in one or more tumor suppressor genes (e.g., BRCA1/2, RAD51), a family history of cancer, or the presence of behavioral risk factors (e.g., smoking). As described herein, a patient determined to have cancer cells having an HRD signature can be diagnosed as likely to respond to a cancer treatment regimen that includes the use of a platinum-based chemotherapy drug such as cisplatin, carboplatin, oxaliplatin, or picoplatin, an anthracycline such as epirubicin or doxorubicin, a topoisomerase I inhibitor such as camptothecin, topotecan, or irinotecan, a PARP inhibitor, radiation, a combination thereof, or a combination of any of the preceding with another anti-cancer agent. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naive patients.

[0086] Once a clinician or medical professional or group of clinicians or medical professionals determines that a sample from the patient comprises cancer cells (or whether a sample comprises DNA derived from such cells) having a genome lacking an HRD signature, the clinician or medical professional (or group) can classify that patient as having cancer cells whose genome lacks an HRD signature. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naive patients. In some cases, a clinician or medical professional or group of clinicians or medical professionals can diagnose a patient determined to have cancer cells containing a genome lacking an HRD signature as having cancer cells likely to have functional HDR. In some cases, a clinician or medical professional or group of clinicians or medical professionals can diagnose a patient determined to have cancer cells containing a genome lacking an HRD signature as having cancer cells that do not likely contain genetic mutations in one or more genes in the HDR pathway. In some cases, a clinician or medical professional or group of clinicians or medical professionals can diagnose a patient determined to have cancer cells containing a genome lacking an HRD signature or containing an increased number of CA Regions that cover the whole chromosome as having cancer cells that are less likely to respond to a platinum-based chemotherapy drug such as cisplatin, carboplatin, oxaliplatin, or picoplatin, an anthracycline such as epirubicin or doxorubicin, a topoisomerase I inhibitor such as camptothecin, topotecan, or irinotecan, a PARP inhibitor, or radiation and/or more likely to respond to a cancer treatment regimen that includes the use of a cancer treatment agent not associated with HDR such as one or more taxane agents, growth factor or growth factor receptor inhibitors, anti-metabolite agents, etc. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naive patients.

[0087] As described herein, this document also provides methods for performing a diagnostic analysis of a nucleic acid sample (e.g., a genomic nucleic acid sample or nucleic acids amplified therefrom) of a cancer patient to determine if a sample from the patient comprises cancer cells (or whether a sample comprises DNA derived from such cells) containing an HRD signature and/or an increased number of CA Regions that cover the whole chromosome. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naive patients. For example, one or more laboratory technicians or laboratory professionals can detect the presence or absence of an HRD signature in the genome of cancer cells (or DNA derived therefrom) of the patient or the presence or absence of an increased number of CA Regions that cover the whole chromosome in the genome of cancer cells of the patient. In some cases, one or more laboratory technicians or laboratory professionals can detect the presence or absence of an HRD signature or the presence or absence of an increased number of CA Regions that cover the whole chromosome in the genome of cancer cells of the patient by (a) receiving a cancer cell sample obtained from the patient, receiving a genomic nucleic acid sample obtained from cancer cells obtained from the patient, or receiving a sample containing nucleic acids enriched and/or amplified from such a genomic nucleic acid sample obtained from cancer cells obtained from the patient and (b) performing an analysis (e.g., a SNP array-based assay or a sequencing-based assay) using the received material to detect the presence or absence of an HRD signature or the presence or absence of an increased number of CA Regions that cover the whole chromosome as described herein. In some cases, one or more laboratory technicians or laboratory professionals can receive a sample to be analyzed (e.g., a cancer cell sample obtained from

the patient, a genomic nucleic acid sample obtained from cancer cells obtained from the patient, or a sample containing nucleic acids enriched and/or amplified from such a genomic nucleic acid sample obtained from cancer cells obtained from the patient) directly or indirectly from a clinician or medical professional. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naïve patients.

[0088] Once a laboratory technician or laboratory professional or group of laboratory technicians or laboratory professionals detects the presence of an HRD signature as described herein, the laboratory technician or laboratory professional (or group) can associate that HRD signature or the result (or results or a summary of results) of the performed diagnostic analysis with the corresponding patient's name, medical record, symbolic/numerical identifier, or a combination thereof. Such identification can be based solely on detecting the presence of an HRD signature or can be based at least in part on detecting the presence of an HRD signature. For example, a laboratory technician or laboratory professional can identify a patient having cancer cells that were detected to have an HRD signature as having cancer cells potentially deficient in HDR (or as having an increased likelihood of responding to a particular treatment as described at length herein) based on a combination of the presence of an HRD signature and the results of other genetic and biochemical tests performed at the testing laboratory. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naïve patients.

[0089] The converse of the preceding is also true. Namely, once a laboratory technician or laboratory professional or group of laboratory technicians or laboratory professionals detects the absence of an HRD signature, the laboratory technician or laboratory professional (or group) can associate the absence of an HRD signature or the result (or results or a summary of results) of the performed diagnostic analysis with the corresponding patient's name, medical record, symbolic/numerical identifier, or a combination thereof. In some cases, a laboratory technician or laboratory professional or group of laboratory technicians or laboratory professionals can identify a patient having cancer cells that were detected to lack an HRD signature as having cancer cells with potentially intact HDR (or having a decreased likelihood of responding to a particular treatment as described at length herein) either based solely on the absence of an HRD signature or based on a combination of the presence of an HRD signature and the results of other genetic and biochemical tests performed at the testing laboratory. In some embodiments, the patients are treatment naïve patients.

[0090] The results of any analyses according to the disclosure will often be communicated to physicians, genetic counselors and/or patients (or other interested parties such as researchers) in a transmittable form that can be communicated or transmitted to any of the above parties. Such a form can vary and can be tangible or intangible. The results can be embodied in descriptive statements, diagrams, photographs, charts, images or any other visual forms. For example, graphs or diagrams showing genotype or LOH (or HRD status) information can be used in explaining the results. The statements and visual forms can be recorded on a tangible medium such as papers, computer readable media such as floppy disks, compact disks, flash memory, etc., or in an intangible medium, e.g., an electronic medium in the form of email or website on internet or intranet. In addition, results can also be recorded in a sound form and transmitted through any suitable medium, e.g., analog or digital cable lines, fiber optic cables, etc., via telephone, facsimile, wireless mobile phone, internet phone and the like.

[0091] Thus, the information and data on a test result can be produced anywhere in the world and transmitted to a different location. As an illustrative example, when an assay is conducted outside the United States, the information and data on a test result may be generated, cast in a transmittable form as described above, and then imported into the United States. Accordingly, the present disclosure also encompasses a method for producing a transmittable form of information on an HRD signature for at least one patient sample. The method comprises the steps of (1) determining an HRD signature

according to methods of the present disclosure; and (2) embodying the result of the determining step in a transmittable form. The transmittable form is a product of such a method.

[0092] Several embodiments of the method described herein involve a step of correlating the presence of an HRD signature according to the present disclosure (e.g., the total number of Indicator CA Regions or a CA Region Score or Combined CA Region Score greater than a reference) to a particular clinical feature (e.g., an increased likelihood of a deficiency in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene; an increased likelihood of HDR deficiency; an increased likelihood of response to a treatment regimen comprising a DNA damaging agent, an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, and/or a PARP inhibitor; etc.) and optionally correlating the absence of a HRD signature to one or more other clinical features. Throughout this document, wherever such an embodiment is described, another embodiment of the disclosure may involve, in addition to or instead of a correlating step, one or both of the following steps: (a) concluding that the patient has the clinical feature based at least in part on the presence or absence of the HRD signature; or (b) communicating that the patient has the clinical feature based at least in part on the presence or absence of the HRD signature.

[0093] By way of illustration, but not limitation, one embodiment described in this document is a method of predicting a cancer patient's response to a cancer treatment regimen comprising a DNA damaging agent, an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, and/or a PARP inhibitor, said method comprising: (1) determining in a sample two or more of (a) an LOH Region Score for the sample; (b) a TAI Region Score for the sample; or (c) an LST Region Score for the sample; and (2)(a) correlating a combination of two or more of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score and the LST Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score) exceeding a reference to an increased likelihood of responding to the treatment regimen; or optionally (2)(b) correlating a combination of two or more of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score and the LST Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score) not exceeding a reference to a not increased likelihood of responding to the treatment regimen; or optionally (2)(c) correlating an average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score, and the LST Region Score. According to the preceding paragraph, this description of this embodiment is understood to include a description of two alternative related embodiments. One such embodiment provides a method of predicting a cancer patient's response to a cancer treatment regimen comprising a DNA damaging agent, an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, and/or a PARP inhibitor, said method comprising: (1) determining in a sample two or more of (a) an LOH Region Score for the sample; (b) a TAI Region Score for the sample; or (c) an LST Region Score for the sample; or (d) an average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score, and the LST Region Score; and (2)(a) concluding that said patient has an increased likelihood of responding to said cancer treatment regimen based at least in part on a combination of two or more of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score and the LST Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score) exceeding a reference; or optionally (2)(b) concluding that said patient has a not increased likelihood of responding to said cancer treatment regimen based at least in part on a combination of two or more of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score and the LST Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score), or an average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score, and the LST Region Score, not exceeding a reference. Another such embodiment provides a method of predicting a cancer patient's response to a cancer treatment regimen comprising a DNA damaging agent, an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, and/or a PARP inhibitor, said method comprising: (1) determining in a sample two or more of (a) an LOH Region Score for the sample; (b) a TAI Region Score for the sample; or (c) an LST Region Score for the sample; or (d) an average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score, and the LST Region Score; and (2)(a) communicating that said patient has an increased likelihood of responding to said cancer treatment regimen based at least in part on a combination of two or more of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score and the LST Region Score

(e.g., a Combined CA Region Score); or an average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score, and the LST Region Score, exceeding a reference; or optionally (2)(b) communicating that said patient has a not increased likelihood of responding to said cancer treatment regimen based at least in part on a combination of two or more of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score and the LST Region Score (e.g., a Combined CA Region Score); or an average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of the LOH Region Score, the TAI Region Score, and the LST Region Score, not exceeding a reference.

[0094] In each embodiment described in this document involving correlating a particular assay or analysis output (e.g., total number of Indicator CA Regions greater than a reference number, presence of an HRD signature etc.) to some likelihood (e.g., increased, not increased, decreased, etc.) of some clinical feature (e.g., response to a particular treatment, cancer-specific death, etc.), or additionally or alternatively concluding or communicating such clinical feature based at least in part on such particular assay or analysis output, such correlating, concluding or communicating may comprise assigning a risk or likelihood of the clinical feature occurring based at least in part on the particular assay or analysis output. In some embodiments, such risk is a percentage probability of the event or outcome occurring. In some embodiments, the patient is assigned to a risk group (e.g., low risk, intermediate risk, high risk, etc.). In some embodiments "low risk" is any percentage probability below 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, or 50%. In some embodiments "intermediate risk" is any percentage probability above 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, or 50% and below 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, or 75%. In some embodiments "high risk" is any percentage probability above 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or 99%.

[0095] As used herein, "communicating" a particular piece of information means to make such information known to another person or transfer such information to a thing (e.g., a computer). In some methods of the disclosure, a patient's prognosis or likelihood of response to a particular treatment is communicated. In some embodiments, the information used to arrive at such a prognosis or response prediction (e.g., HRD signature according to the present disclosure, etc.) is communicated. This communication may be auditory (e.g., verbal), visual (e.g., written), electronic (e.g., data transferred from one computer system to another), etc. In some embodiments, communicating a cancer classification (e.g., prognosis, likelihood of response, appropriate treatment, etc.) comprises generating a report that communicates the cancer classification. In some embodiments the report is a paper report, an auditory report, or an electronic record. In some embodiments the report is displayed and/or stored on a computing device (e.g., handheld device, desktop computer, smart device, website, etc.). In some embodiments the cancer classification is communicated to a physician (e.g., a report communicating the classification is provided to the physician). In some embodiments the cancer classification is communicated to a patient (e.g., a report communicating the classification is provided to the patient). Communicating a cancer classification can also be accomplished by transferring information (e.g., data) embodying the classification to a server computer and allowing an intermediary or end-user to access such information (e.g., by viewing the information as displayed from the server, by downloading the information in the form of one or more files transferred from the server to the intermediary or end-user's device, etc.).

[0096] Wherever an embodiment of the disclosure comprises concluding some fact (e.g., a patient's prognosis or a patient's likelihood of response to a particular treatment regimen), this may include in some embodiments a computer program concluding such fact, typically after performing an algorithm that applies information on CA Regions according to the present disclosure.

[0097] In each embodiment described herein involving a number of CA Regions (e.g., Indicator CA

Regions), or a total combined length of such CA Regions, or an average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of the combined CAR Region scores, the present disclosure encompasses a related embodiment involving a test value or score (e.g., CA Region Score, LOH Region Score, etc.) derived from, incorporating, and/or, at least to some degree, reflecting such number or length. In other words, the bare CA Region numbers or lengths need not be used in the various methods, systems, etc. of the disclosure; a test value or score derived from such numbers or lengths may be used. For example, one embodiment of the disclosure provides a method of treating cancer in a patient, comprising: (1) determining in a sample from said patient two or more of, or an average (e.g., arithmetic mean) of, (a) the number of Indicator LOH Regions, (b) the number of Indicator TAI Regions, or (c) the number of Indicator LST Regions; (2) providing one or more test values derived from said number of Indicator LOH Regions, Indicator TAI Regions, and/or Indicator LST Regions; (3) comparing said test value(s) to one or more reference values (e.g., reference values derived from the number of Indicator LOH regions, Indicator TAI Regions, and/or Indicator LST Regions in a reference population (e.g., mean, median, terciles, quartiles, quintiles, etc.)); and (4)(a) administering to said patient an anti-cancer drug, or recommending or prescribing or initiating a treatment regimen comprising chemotherapy and/or a synthetic lethality agent based at least in part on said comparing step revealing that one or more of the test values is greater (e.g., at least 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, 7-, 8-, 9-, or 10-fold greater; at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 standard deviations greater) than at least one said reference value; or optionally (4)(b) recommending or prescribing or initiating a treatment regimen not comprising chemotherapy and/or a synthetic lethality agent based at least in part on said comparing step revealing that one or more of the test values is not greater (e.g., not more than 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, 7-, 8-, 9-, or 10-fold greater; not more than 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 standard deviations greater) than at least one said reference value. The disclosure encompasses, *mutatis mutandis*, corresponding embodiments where the test value or score is used to determine the patient's prognosis, the patient's likelihood of response to a particular treatment regimen, the patient's or patient's sample's likelihood of having a BRCA1, BRCA2, RAD51C or HDR deficiency, etc.

[0098] Figure 8 shows an exemplary process by which a computing system (or a computer program (e.g., software) containing computer-executable instructions) can identify LOH loci or regions from genotype data as described herein. This process may be adapted to use in determining TAI and LST as will be apparent to those skilled in the art. If the observed ratio of the signals of two alleles, A and B, is two to one, there are two possibilities. The first possibility is that cancer cells have LOH with deletion of allele B in a sample with 50% contamination with normal cells. The second possibility is that there is no LOH but allele A is duplicated in a sample with no contamination with normal cells. The process begins at box 1500, where the following data are collected by the computing system; (1) sample-specific normalized signal intensities for both alleles of each locus and (2) assay-specific (specific for different SNP arrays and for sequence based approach) set of parameters defined based on analysis of large number of samples with known ASCN profiles. As described herein, any appropriate assay such as a SNP array-based assay or sequencing-based assay can be used to assess loci along a chromosome for homozygosity or heterozygosity. In some cases, a system including a signal detector and a computer can be used to collect data (e.g., fluorescent signals or sequencing results) regarding the homozygous or heterozygous nature of the plurality of loci (e.g., sample-specific normalized signal intensities for both alleles of each locus). At box 1510, allele specific copy numbers (ASCN) are reconstructed at each locus (e.g., each SNP). ASCNs are the numbers of copies of both paternal and maternal alleles. At box 1530, a likelihood function is used to determine whether a homozygous locus or region of homozygous loci is due to LOH. This can be conceptually analogous to a previously described algorithm designed to reconstruct total copy number (rather than ASCN) at each locus (e.g., SNP). See International Application No. PCT/US2011/026098 (published as WO 2011/106541) to Abkevich *et al.* The likelihood function can be maximized over ASCN of all loci, level of contamination with benign tissue, total copy number averaged over the whole genome, and sample specific noise level. At box 1540, an LOH region is determined as a

stretch of SNPs with one of the ASCNs (paternal or maternal) being zero. In some embodiments, the computer process further comprises a step of inquiring or determining whether a patient is treatment naïve.

[0099] Figure 3 shows an exemplary process by which a computing system can determine the presence or absence of an LOH signature and is included to illustrate how this process can, as will be apparent to those skilled in the art, be applied to TAI and LST. The process begins at box 300, where data regarding the homozygous or heterozygous nature of a plurality of loci along a chromosome is collected by the computing system. As described herein, any appropriate assay such as a SNP array-based assay or sequencing-based assay can be used to assess loci along a chromosome for homozygosity or heterozygosity. In some cases, a system including a signal detector and a computer can be used to collect data (e.g., fluorescent signals or sequencing results) regarding the homozygous or heterozygous nature of the plurality of loci. At box 310, data regarding the homozygous or heterozygous nature of a plurality of loci as well as the location or spatial relationship of each locus is assessed by the computing system to determine the length of any LOH regions present along a chromosome. At box 320, data regarding the number of LOH regions detected and the length of each detected LOH region is assessed by the computing system to determine the number of LOH regions that have a length (a) greater than or equal to a preset number of Mb (e.g., 15 Mb) and (b) less than the entire length of the chromosome containing that LOH region. Alternatively the computing system can determine the total or combined LOH length as described above. At box 330, the computing system formats an output providing an indication of the presence or absence of an HRD signature. Once formatted, the computing system can present the output to a user (e.g., a laboratory technician, clinician, or medical professional). As described herein, the presence or absence of an HRD signature can be used to provide an indication about a patient's likely HDR status, an indication about the likely presence or absence of genetic mutations in genes of the HDR pathway, and/or an indication about possible cancer treatment regimens.

[0100] Figure 4 is a diagram of an example of a computer device 1400 and a mobile computer device 1450, which may be used with the techniques described herein. Computing device 1400 is intended to represent various forms of digital computers, such as laptops, desktops, workstations, personal digital assistants, servers, blade servers, mainframes, and other appropriate computers. Computing device 1450 is intended to represent various forms of mobile devices, such as personal digital assistants, cellular telephones, smart phones, and other similar computing devices. The components shown here, their connections and relationships, and their functions, are meant to be exemplary only, and are not meant to limit implementations of the methods described and/or claimed in this document.

[0101] Computing device 1400 includes a processor 1402, memory 1404, a storage device 1406, a high-speed interface 1408 connecting to memory 1404 and high-speed expansion ports 1410, and a low speed interface 1415 connecting to low speed bus 1414 and storage device 1406. Each of the components 1402, 1404, 1406, 1408, 1410, and 1415, are interconnected using various busses, and may be mounted on a common motherboard or in other manners as appropriate. The processor 1402 can process instructions for execution within the computing device 1400, including instructions stored in the memory 1404 or on the storage device 1406 to display graphical information for a GUI on an external input/output device, such as display 1416 coupled to high speed interface 1408. In other implementations, multiple processors and/or multiple buses may be used, as appropriate, along with multiple memories and types of memory. Also, multiple computing devices 1400 may be connected, with each device providing portions of the necessary operations (e.g., as a server bank, a group of blade servers, or a multi-processor system).

[0102] The memory 1404 stores information within the computing device 1400. In one implementation,

the memory 1404 is a volatile memory unit or units. In another implementation, the memory 1404 is a non-volatile memory unit or units. The memory 1404 may also be another form of computer-readable medium, such as a magnetic or optical disk.

[0103] The storage device 1406 is capable of providing mass storage for the computing device 1400. In one implementation, the storage device 1406 may be or contain a computer-readable medium, such as a floppy disk device, a hard disk device, an optical disk device, or a tape device, a flash memory or other similar solid state memory device, or an array of devices, including devices in a storage area network or other configurations. A computer program product can be tangibly embodied in an information carrier. The computer program product may also contain instructions that, when executed, perform one or more methods, such as those described herein. The information carrier is a computer- or machine-readable medium, such as the memory 1404, the storage device 1406, memory on processor 1402, or a propagated signal.

[0104] The high speed controller 1408 manages bandwidth-intensive operations for the computing device 1400, while the low speed controller 1415 manages lower bandwidth-intensive operations. Such allocation of functions is exemplary only. In one implementation, the high-speed controller 1408 is coupled to memory 1404, display 1416 (e.g., through a graphics processor or accelerator), and to high-speed expansion ports 1410, which may accept various expansion cards (not shown). In the implementation, low-speed controller 1415 is coupled to storage device 1406 and low-speed expansion port 1414. The low-speed expansion port, which may include various communication ports (e.g., USB, Bluetooth, Ethernet, or wireless Ethernet) may be coupled to one or more input/output devices, such as a keyboard, a pointing device, a scanner, an optical reader, a fluorescent signal detector, or a networking device such as a switch or router, e.g., through a network adapter.

[0105] The computing device 1400 may be implemented in a number of different forms, as shown in the figure. For example, it may be implemented as a standard server 1420, or multiple times in a group of such servers. It may also be implemented as part of a rack server system 1424. In addition, it may be implemented in a personal computer such as a laptop computer 1422. Alternatively, components from computing device 1400 may be combined with other components in a mobile device (not shown), such as device 1450. Each of such devices may contain one or more of computing device 1400, 1450, and an entire system may be made up of multiple computing devices 1400, 1450 communicating with each other.

[0106] Computing device 1450 includes a processor 1452, memory 1464, an input/output device such as a display 1454, a communication interface 1466, and a transceiver 1468, among other components (e.g., a scanner, an optical reader, a fluorescent signal detector). The device 1450 may also be provided with a storage device, such as a microdrive or other device, to provide additional storage. Each of the components 1450, 1452, 1464, 1454, 1466, and 1468, are interconnected using various buses, and several of the components may be mounted on a common motherboard or in other manners as appropriate.

[0107] The processor 1452 can execute instructions within the computing device 1450, including instructions stored in the memory 1464. The processor may be implemented as a chipset of chips that include separate and multiple analog and digital processors. The processor may provide, for example, for coordination of the other components of the device 1450, such as control of user interfaces, applications run by device 1450, and wireless communication by device 1450.

[0108] Processor 1452 may communicate with a user through control interface 1458 and display

interface 1456 coupled to a display 1454. The display 1454 may be, for example, a TFT LCD (Thin-Film-Transistor Liquid Crystal Display) or an OLED (Organic Light Emitting Diode) display, or other appropriate display technology. The display interface 1456 may comprise appropriate circuitry for driving the display 1454 to present graphical and other information to a user. The control interface 1458 may receive commands from a user and convert them for submission to the processor 1452. In addition, an external interface 1462 may be provide in communication with processor 1452, so as to enable near area communication of device 1450 with other devices. External interface 1462 may provide, for example, for wired communication in some implementations, or for wireless communication in other implementations, and multiple interfaces may also be used.

[0109] The memory 1464 stores information within the computing device 1450. The memory 1464 can be implemented as one or more of a computer-readable medium or media, a volatile memory unit or units, or a non-volatile memory unit or units. Expansion memory 1474 may also be provided and connected to device 1450 through expansion interface 1472, which may include, for example, a SIMM (Single In Line Memory Module) card interface. Such expansion memory 1474 may provide extra storage space for device 1450, or may also store applications or other information for device 1450. For example, expansion memory 1474 may include instructions to carry out or supplement the processes described herein, and may include secure information also. Thus, for example, expansion memory 1474 may be provide as a security module for device 1450, and may be programmed with instructions that permit secure use of device 1450. In addition, secure applications may be provided via the SIMM cards, along with additional information, such as placing identifying information on the SIMM card in a non-hackable manner.

[0110] The memory may include, for example, flash memory and/or NVRAM memory, as discussed below. In one implementation, a computer program product is tangibly embodied in an information carrier. The computer program product contains instructions that, when executed, perform one or more methods, such as those described herein. The information carrier is a computer- or machine-readable medium, such as the memory 1464, expansion memory 1474, memory on processor 1452, or a propagated signal that may be received, for example, over transceiver 1468 or external interface 1462.

[0111] Device 1450 may communicate wirelessly through communication interface 1466, which may include digital signal processing circuitry where necessary. Communication interface 1466 may provide for communications under various modes or protocols, such as GSM voice calls, SMS, EMS, or MMS messaging, CDMA, TDMA, PDC, WCDMA, CDMA2000, or GPRS, among others. Such communication may occur, for example, through radio-frequency transceiver 1468. In addition, short-range communication may occur, such as using a Bluetooth, WiFi, or other such transceiver (not shown). In addition, GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver module 1470 may provide additional navigation- and location-related wireless data to device 1450, which may be used as appropriate by applications running on device 1450.

[0112] Device 1450 may also communicate audibly using audio codec 1460, which may receive spoken information from a user and convert it to usable digital information. Audio codec 1460 may likewise generate audible sound for a user, such as through a speaker, e.g., in a handset of device 1450. Such sound may include sound from voice telephone calls, may include recorded sound (e.g., voice messages, music files, etc.) and may also include sound generated by applications operating on device 1450.

[0113] The computing device 1450 may be implemented in a number of different forms, as shown in the figure. For example, it may be implemented as a cellular telephone 1480. It may also be implemented as part of a smartphone 1482, personal digital assistant, or other similar mobile device.

[0114] Various implementations of the systems and techniques described herein can be realized in digital electronic circuitry, integrated circuitry, specially designed ASICs (application specific integrated circuits), computer hardware, firmware, software, and/or combinations thereof. These various implementations can include implementation in one or more computer programs that are executable and/or interpretable on a programmable system including at least one programmable processor, which may be special or general purpose, coupled to receive data and instructions from, and to transmit data and instructions to, a storage system, at least one input device, and at least one output device.

[0115] These computer programs (also known as programs, software, software applications or code) include machine instructions for a programmable processor, and can be implemented in a high-level procedural and/or object-oriented programming language, and/or in assembly/machine language. As used herein, the terms "machine-readable medium" and "computer-readable medium" refer to any computer program product, apparatus and/or device (e.g., magnetic discs, optical disks, memory, and Programmable Logic Devices (PLDs)) used to provide machine instructions and/or data to a programmable processor, including a machine-readable medium that receives machine instructions as a machine-readable signal. The term "machine-readable signal" refers to any signal used to provide machine instructions and/or data to a programmable processor.

[0116] To provide for interaction with a user, the systems and techniques described herein can be implemented on a computer having a display device (e.g., a CRT (cathode ray tube) or LCD (liquid crystal display) monitor) for displaying information to the user and a keyboard and a pointing device (e.g., a mouse or a trackball) by which the user can provide input to the computer. Other kinds of devices can be used to provide for interaction with a user as well; for example, feedback provided to the user can be any form of sensory feedback (e.g., visual feedback, auditory feedback, or tactile feedback); and input from the user can be received in any form, including acoustic, speech, or tactile input.

[0117] The systems and techniques described herein can be implemented in a computing system that includes a back end component (e.g., as a data server), or that includes a middleware component (e.g., an application server), or that includes a front end component (e.g., a client computer having a graphical user interface or a Web browser through which a user can interact with an implementation of the systems and techniques described herein), or any combination of such back end, middleware, or front end components. The components of the system can be interconnected by any form or medium of digital data communication (e.g., a communication network). Examples of communication networks include a local area network ("LAN"), a wide area network ("WAN"), and the Internet.

[0118] The computing system can include clients and servers. A client and server are generally remote from each other and typically interact through a communication network. The relationship of client and server arises by virtue of computer programs running on the respective computers and having a client-server relationship to each other.

[0119] In some cases, a computing system provided herein can be configured to include one or more sample analyzers. A sample analyzer can be configured to produce a plurality of signals about genomic DNA of at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell. For example, a sample analyzer can produce signals that are capable of being interpreted in a manner that identifies the genotype of loci along a chromosome. In some cases, a sample analyzer can be configured to carry out one or more steps of a SNP array-based assay or sequencing-based assay and can be configured to produce and/or capture signals from such assays. In some cases, a computing system provided herein can be configured to include a computing device. In such cases, the computing device can be configured to receive signals

from a sample analyzer. The computing device can include computer-executable instructions or a computer program (e.g., software) containing computer-executable instructions for carrying out one or more of the methods or steps described herein. In some cases, such computer-executable instructions can instruct a computing device to analyze signals from a sample analyzer, from another computing device, from a SNP array-based assay, or from a sequencing-based assay. The analysis of such signals can be carried out to determine genotypes, homozygosity or other chromosomal aberrations at certain loci, regions of CA, the number of CA Regions, to determine the size of CA Regions, to determine the number of CA Regions having a particular size or range of sizes, to determine whether or not a sample is positive for an HRD signature, to determine the number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes, to determine a likelihood of a deficiency in BRCA1 and/or BRCA2 genes, to determine a likelihood of a deficiency in HDR, to determine a likelihood that a cancer patient will respond to a particular cancer treatment regimen (e.g., a regimen that includes a DNA damaging agent, an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, a PARP inhibitor, or a combination thereof), or to determine a combination of these items.

[0120] In some cases, a computing system provided herein can include computer-executable instructions or a computer program (e.g., software) containing computer-executable instructions for formatting an output providing an indication about the number of CA Regions, the size of CA Regions, the number of CA Regions having a particular size or range of sizes, whether or not a sample is positive for an HRD signature, the number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes, a likelihood of a deficiency in BRCA1 and/or BRCA2 genes, to determine a likelihood of a deficiency in HDR, a likelihood that a cancer patient will respond to a particular cancer treatment regimen (e.g., a regimen that includes a DNA damaging agent, an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, a PARP inhibitor, or a combination thereof), or a combination of these items. In some cases, a computing system provided herein can include computer-executable instructions or a computer program (e.g., software) containing computer-executable instructions for determining a desired cancer treatment regimen for a particular patient based at least in part on the presence or absence of an HRD signature or on the number of Indicator CA Regions.

[0121] In some cases, a computing system provided herein can include a pre-processing device configured to process a sample (e.g., cancer cells) such that a SNP array-based assay or sequencing-based assay can be performed. Examples of pre-processing devices include, without limitation, devices configured to enrich cell populations for cancer cells as opposed to non-cancer cells, devices configured to lyse cells and/or extract genomic nucleic acid, and devices configured to enrich a sample for particular genomic DNA fragments.

[0122] This document also provides kits for assessing samples (e.g., cancer cells) as described herein. For example, this document provides kits for assessing cancer cells for the presence of an HRD signature or to determine the number of Indicator CA Regions in at least one pair of human chromosomes. A kit provided herein can include either SNP probes (e.g., an array of SNP probes for carrying out a SNP array-based assay described herein) or primers (e.g., primers designed for sequencing SNP regions via a sequencing-based assay) in combination with a computer program product containing computer-executable instructions for carrying out one or more of the methods or steps described herein (e.g., computer-executable instructions for determining the number of Indicator CA Regions). In some cases, a kit provided herein can include at least 500, 1000, 10,000, 25,000, or 50,000 SNP probes capable of hybridizing to polymorphic regions of human genomic DNA. In some cases, a kit provided herein can include at least 500, 1000, 10,000, 25,000, or 50,000 primers capable of sequencing polymorphic regions of human genomic DNA. In some cases, a kit provided herein can include one or more other ingredients for performing a SNP array-based assay or a sequencing-based assay. Examples

of such other ingredients include, without limitation, buffers, sequencing nucleotides, enzymes (e.g., polymerases), etc. This document also provides the use of any appropriate number of the materials provided herein in the manufacture of a kit for carrying out one or more of the methods or steps described herein. For example, this document provides the use of a collection of SNP probes (e.g., a collection of 10,000 to 100,000 SNP probes) and a computer program product provided herein in the manufacture of a kit for assessing cancer cells for the presence of an HRD signature. As another example, this document provides the use of a collection of primers (e.g., a collection of 10,000 to 100,000 primers for sequencing SNP regions) and a computer program product provided herein in the manufacture of a kit for assessing cancer cells for the presence of an HRD signature.

SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

[0123] As follows are specific embodiments of the present disclosure, that is, exemplary but non-limiting details of methods and systems according to the more general description above.

[0124] In some embodiments, the sample used is a frozen tumor sample. In some embodiments, the sample is from a particular breast cancer subtype chosen from triple negative, ER+/HER2-, ER-/HER2+, or ER+/HER2+. In some embodiments, the laboratory assay portion of the method, system, etc. comprises assaying the sample to sequence the BRCA1 and/or BRCA2 genes (as well as any other gene or genes in Table 1). In some embodiments, the laboratory assay portion of the method, system, etc. comprises assaying the sample to determine the allele dosage (e.g., genotype, copy number, etc.) for at least 10,000, 20,000, 30,000, 40,000, 50,000, 60,000, 70,000, 80,000, 90,000, 100,000 or more selected SNPs across the complete genome. In some embodiments the SNP analysis is done using an oligonucleotide microarray as discussed above. In some embodiments the BRCA sequence analysis, the SNP analysis, or both are performed using a probe capture (e.g., probes to each SNP to be analyzed and/or probes to capture the entire coding region of BRCA1 and/or BRCA2) with subsequent PCR enrichment technique (e.g., Agilent™ SureSelect XT). In some embodiments the BRCA sequence analysis, the SNP analysis, or both are performed by processing the output from the enrichment technique using a "next-generation" sequencing platform (e.g., Illumina™ HiSeq2500). In some embodiments the sample is analyzed for BRCA1/2 somatic and/or germline mutations, which may include large rearrangements. In some embodiments, the sample is analyzed for BRCA1 promoter methylation (e.g., by a qPCR assay (e.g., SA Biosciences)). In some embodiments, a sample is determined to have high methylation (or are "methylated") if the sample has greater than 10% (or 5%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, 50%) methylation (e.g., % of BRCA1 or BRCA2 promoter CpGs methylated). In some embodiments, DNA from a patient's matched normal (non-tumor) tissue may be analyzed, e.g., to determine whether BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations are germline or somatic.

[0125] In some embodiments, LOH Region Score can be calculated by counting the number of LOH regions that are >15 Mb in length, but shorter than the length of a complete chromosome. In some embodiments, TAI Region Score can be calculated by counting the number of telomeric regions > 11 Mb in length with allelic imbalance that extends to one of the subtelomeres, but does not cross the centromere. In some embodiments, LST Region Score can be calculated by counting the number of breakpoints between regions longer than 10 megabases having stable copy number after filtering out regions shorter than 3 megabases. In some embodiments the LST Region Score can be modified by adjusting it by ploidy: $LST_m = LST - kP$, where P is ploidy and k is a constant (in some embodiments, $k=15.5$). In some embodiments BRCA1/2 deficiency can be defined as loss of function resulting from a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation, or methylation of the BRCA1 or BRCA2 promoter region, together with LOH in the affected gene. In some embodiments response to treatment can be partial complete response

("pCR"), which in some embodiments can be defined as Miller-Payne 5 status following treatment (e.g., neoadjuvant).

[0126] In some embodiments, the claimed method predicts BRCA deficiency with a p-value of at least 8×10^{-12} , 6×10^{-6} , 0.0009, 0.01, 0.03, 2×10^{-16} , 3×10^{-6} , 10^{-6} , 0.0009, 8×10^{-12} , 2×10^{-16} , 8×10^{-8} , 6×10^{-6} , 3×10^{-6} , or 0.0002 (e.g., each CA Region Score is predefined and optionally multiple scores are combined in such a way as to yield these p-values). In some embodiments p-values are calculated according to Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. In some embodiments HRD scores and age at diagnosis can be coded as a numeric (e.g., integer) variable, breast cancer stage and subtype can be coded as categorical variables, and grade can be analyzed as either a numeric or categorical variable, or both.

[0127] In some embodiments p-values are two-sided. In some embodiments, logistic regression analysis can be used to predict BRCA1/2 deficiency based on an HRD score as disclosed herein, including the HRD-combined score). In some embodiments, the various CA Region Scores are correlated according to (e.g., defined in order to achieve) the following correlation coefficients: LOH Region Score and TAI Region Score = 0.69 ($p = 10^{-39}$), between LOH and LST = 0.55 ($p = 2 \times 10^{-19}$), and between TAI and LST = 0.39 ($p = 10^{-9}$).

[0128] In some embodiments the method combines the LOH Region Score and TAI Region Score as follows to detect BRCA1/2 deficiency and/or predict therapy response (e.g., platinum therapy response, e.g., cisplatin): Combined CA Region Score = $0.32 \times \text{LOH Region Score} + 0.68 \times \text{TAI Region Score}$. In some embodiments the method combines the LOH Region Score, TAI Region Score, and LST Region Score as follows to detect BRCA1/2 deficiency and/or predict therapy response (e.g., platinum therapy response, e.g., cisplatin): Combined CA Region Score = $0.21 \times \text{LOH Region Score} + 0.67 \times \text{TAI Region Score} + 0.12 \times \text{LST Region Score}$. In some embodiments the method combines the LOH Region Score, TAI Region Score, and LST Region Score as follows to detect BRCA1/2 deficiency and/or predict therapy response (e.g., platinum therapy response, e.g., cisplatin): Combined CA Region Score = $0.11 \times \text{LOH Region Score} + 0.25 \times \text{TAI Region Score} + 0.12 \times \text{LST Region Score}$. In some embodiments the method combines the LOH Region Score, TAI Region Score, and LST Region Score as follows to detect BRCA1/2 deficiency and/or predict therapy response (e.g., platinum therapy response, e.g., cisplatin): Combined CA Region Score = Arithmetic Mean of LOH Region Score, TAI Region Score and LST Region Score.

[0129] In some embodiments, BRCA deficiency status and HRD status can be combined to predict therapy response. For example, the disclosure can include a method of predicting patient (e.g., triple negative breast cancer patient) response to a cancer treatment regimen comprising a DNA damaging agent (e.g., platinum agent, e.g., cisplatin), an anthracycline, a topoisomerase I inhibitor, radiation, and/or a PARP inhibitor, the method comprising:

determining, in a cancer cell from a patient sample, the number of Indicator CA Regions (e.g., Indicator LOH Regions, Indicator TAI Regions, Indicator LST Regions, or any combination thereof) in at least one pair of human chromosomes of a cancer cell of said cancer patient;

determining whether a cancer cell from a patient sample is deficient in BRCA1 or BRCA2 (e.g., deleterious mutation, high promoter methylation); and

diagnosing a patient in whose sample either (a) said number of Indicator CA Regions is greater than a reference number or (b) there is a BRCA1 or BRCA2 deficiency, or both (a) and (b), as having an increased likelihood of responding to said cancer treatment regimen.

EXAMPLES

Example 1 - LOH and TAI Region Scores Across Breast Cancer Subtypes and Association with BRCA1/2 Deficiency

[0130] An LOH signature based on whole genome tumor LOH profiles has been developed that is highly correlated with defects in BRCA1/2 and other HDR pathway genes in ovarian cancer (Abkevich, et al., Patterns of Genomic Loss of Heterozygosity Predict Homologous Recombination Repair Defects, BR. J. CANCER (2012)), and which predicts response to DNA-damaging agent (*e.g.*, platinum-based neoadjuvant) therapy in breast cancer (Telli et al., Homologous Recombination Deficiency (HRD) score predicts response following neoadjuvant platinum-based therapy in triple-negative and BRCA1/2 mutation-associated breast cancer (BC), CANCER RES. (2012)). A second score based on TAI score also shows strong correlation with BRCA1/2 defects and predicts response to platinum treatment in triple negative breast cancer (Birkbak et al., Telomeric allelic imbalance indicates defective DNA repair and sensitivity to DNA-damaging agents, CANCER DISCOV. (2012)). This study examined the frequency of BRCA1/2 defects and elevated LOH or TAI Region Score across breast cancer subtypes as defined by ER/PR/HER2 status.

[0131] Frozen tumors were purchased from 3 commercial tissue biobanks. Approximately 50 randomly ascertained tumors from each of 4 breast cancer subtypes (triple negative, ER+/HER2-, ER-/HER2+, ER+/HER2+) were selected for analysis. A targeted custom hybridization panel was developed targeting BRCA1, BRCA2, and 50,000 selected SNPs across the complete genome. This panel, in combination with sequencing on the Illumina HiSeq2500, was used to analyze the tumors for BRCA1/2 somatic and germline mutations, including large rearrangements, and SNP allele dosages. BRCA1 promoter methylation was determined by a qPCR assay (SA Biosciences). When available, DNA from normal tissue was used to determine whether deleterious mutations were germline or somatic.

[0132] SNP data was analyzed using an algorithm that determines the most likely allele specific copy number at each SNP location. The LOH Region Score was calculated by counting the number of LOH regions that are >15 Mb in length, but shorter than the length of a complete chromosome. The TAI Region Score was calculated by counting the number of telomeric regions with allelic imbalance that are >11 Mb in length, but do not cross the centromere. Samples with low quality SNP data and/or with high contamination with normal DNA were excluded. 191 out of 213 samples yielded robust scores.

Table 2: BRCA1/2 deficiency in breast cancer IHC subtypes.

Subtype	n	BRCA1 Mutations	BRCA2 Mutations	Total Mutants (%)	BRCA1 Promoter Methylation (%)
Triple Negative	61	10	3	10 (16.4)	12 (19.7)
ER+/HER2-	51	2	2	4 (7.8)	1 (1.9)
ER-/HER2+	38	3	1	4 (10.5)	0
ER+/HER2+	63	8	1	7 (11.1)	1 (1.6)

Table 3: Mutation screening was performed on matched normal tissue from 17 of the BRCA1/2

mutants. 13 of the 17 individuals (76.5%) had a germline mutation.

Subtype	Tumor Mutation Profile	n	Germline	Somatic
Triple Negative	1 BRCA1 mutation	3	2	1
	1 BRCA2 mutation	1	1	0
	2 BRCA1 mutations	1	1	1
	1 BRCA1 mutation & 2 BRCA2 mutations	1	1 (BRCA2)	2
ER+/HER2-	1 BRCA1 mutation	1	1	0
	1 BRCA2 mutation	2	2	0
ER-/HER2+	1 BRCA1 mutation	2	1	1
ER+/HER2+	1 BRCA1 mutation	3	1	2
	2 BRCA1 mutations	2*	2	2
	1 BRCA2 mutation	1	1	0

*Each individual had 1 germline and 1 somatic mutation in BRCA1.

Table 4: Association between LOH or TAI score and BRCA1/2 deficiency

		Mean LOH Score			Mean TAI Score		
Subtype	n (BRCA1/2 Deficient)	BRCA1/2 Intact	BRCA1/2 Deficient	p value	BRCA1/2 Intact	BRCA1/2 Deficient	p value
All	191 (38)	8.1	16.5	8×10^{-12}	5.7	13.9	2×10^{-16}
Triple Negative	53 (22)	8.3	18.1	6×10^{-6}	6.7	13.2	3×10^{-6}
ER+/HER2+	56 (8)	7.4	13.6	0.0009	5	15.6	10^{-6}
ER+/HER2-	47 (5)	7.7	15	0.01	5	16	0.0009
ER-/HER2+	34 (3)	9.5	15.3	0.03	6.6	11.3	NS

[0133] Figure 5 shows LOH and TAI Region Scores across breast cancer IHC subtypes. 5A: LOH score; 5B: TAI score. Blue bars: BRCA1/2 deficient samples. Red bars: BRCA1/2 intact samples. Figure 6 shows the correlation between LOH and TAI Region Scores (Correlation coefficient = 0.69). X axis: LOH score; Y axis: TAI score; red dots: intact samples; blue dots: BRCA1/2 deficient samples. The area under the dots is proportional to the number of samples with that combination of LOH and TAI scores ($p = 10^{-39}$).

[0134] Logistic regression analysis was used to predict BRCA1/2 deficiency based on LOH and TAI scores. Both scores were significant in a multivariate analysis (Chi Square for LOH is 10.8, and for TAI is 44.7; $p=0.001$ and 2.3×10^{-11}). The best model for differentiation between BRCA1/2 deficient and intact samples is $0.32 \times \text{LOH Region Score} + 0.68 \times \text{TAI Region Score}$ ($p = 9 \times 10^{-18}$).

[0135] Conclusions: Elevated LOH and TAI Region Scores are each highly associated with BRCA1/2 deficiency in all subtypes of breast cancer; LOH and TAI Region Scores are highly significantly correlated; a Combined CA Region Score (i.e., combining LOH and TAI) shows the optimal correlation with BRCA1/2 deficiency in this dataset. The combination of LOH-HRD and TAI-HRD scores can, based on the present disclosure, predict response to DNA-damaging and other agents (e.g., platinum therapy) in triple negative breast cancer, and enable expansion of platinum use to other breast cancer subtypes.

Example 2 - LOH, TAI, and LST Region Scores Across Breast Cancer Subtypes and Association with BRCA1/2 Deficiency

[0136] SNP allele frequency ratios were obtained and were used to calculate LOH, TAI and LST Region Scores as described in Example 1. LST score was defined as the number of breakpoints between regions longer than 10 megabases having stable copy number after filtering out regions shorter than 3 megabases. We observed that LST score increased with ploidy both within intact and deficient samples. Instead of using ploidy-specific cutoffs in this Example 2, therefore, we modified LST Region Score by adjusting it by ploidy: $LST_m = LST - kP$, where P is ploidy and k is a constant. Based on multivariate logistic regression analysis with deficiency as an outcome and LST and P as predictors, $k=15.5$.

[0137] 191 of 214 samples gave scores that passed the QC criteria used. 38 of these samples were BRCA1/2 deficient. The corresponding p-values according to Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for LOH Region Score is 8×10^{-12} , for TAI Region Score is 2×10^{-16} , and for LST Region Score is 8×10^{-8} . 53/191 samples were triple negative breast cancer, including 22 that were BRCA1/2 deficient. Corresponding p-values were 6×10^{-6} , 3×10^{-6} , and 0.0002 for LOH, TAI, and LST Region Scores respectively. When the same analysis is performed for each individual breast cancer subtype significant p-values are also seen for all subtypes with at least one of the scores (Table 5). The distribution of scores is shown for BRCA1/2 deficient vs. BRCA1/2 intact samples in Figure 7A-C.

[0138] The scores were next analyzed to determine whether they were correlated (Figure 2D-F). The correlation coefficient between LOH Region Score and TAI Region Score was 0.69 ($p = 10^{-39}$), between LOH and LST was 0.55 ($p = 2 \times 10^{-19}$), and between TAI and LST was 0.39 ($p = 10^{-9}$).

[0139] Logistic regression analysis was used to predict BRCA1/2 deficiency based on LOH, TAI, and LST Region Scores. All three scores were significant in a multivariate analysis (Chi Square for LOH is 5.1 ($p = 0.02$), for TAI is 44.7 ($p = 2 \times 10^{-11}$), and for LST is 5.4 ($p = 0.02$)). The best model for differentiation between BRCA1/2 deficient and intact samples in this dataset was $0.21 \times LOH + 0.67 \times TAI + 0.12 \times LST$ ($p = 10^{-18}$). This Example 2 extends the conclusions from Example 1 (i.e., a model combining LOH and TAI Region Scores) to a model combining LOH, TAI, and LST Region Scores.

[0140] Other clinical data that were available for many of the samples included stage, grade, and age of diagnosis. Stage information was available for 64/191 samples. The correlation coefficient between stage and LOH Region Score (0.07) and TAI Region Score (0.1) were not significant. Grade information was available for 164/191 samples. The correlation coefficient between grade and LOH Region Score (0.33) and TAI Region Score (0.23) are significant ($p = 2 \times 10^{-5}$ and 0.004 respectively). Age of diagnosis was known for 184/191 samples. The correlation coefficient between age and LOH Region Score (-0.13) was not significant. The correlation coefficient between age and TAI Region Score (-0.25) was significant ($p = 0.0009$).

Table 5

LOH Region Score		Mean Score	Mean Score	
Subtype	n (BRCA1/2 Deficient)	BRCA1/2 Intact	BRCA1/2 Deficient	p value
All	191(38)	8.1	16.5	8×10^{-12}

LOH Region Score		Mean Score	Mean Score	
Subtype	n (BRCA1/2 Deficient)	BRCA1/2 Intact	BRCA1/2 Deficient	p value
Triple Negative	53 (22)	8.3	18.1	6×10^{-6}
ER+/HER2-	47(5)	7.7	15	0.01
ER-/HER2+	34(3)	9.5	15.3	0.03
ER+/HER2+	56(8)	7.4	13.6	9×10^{-4}
TAI Region Score				
All	191(38)	5.7	13.9	2×10^{-16}
Triple Negative	53 (22)	6.7	13.2	3×10^{-6}
ER+/HER2-	47(5)	5	16	9×10^{-4}
ER-/HER2+	34(3)	6.6	11.3	NS
ER+/HER2+	56(8)	5	15.6	10^{-6}
LST Region Score				
All	191(38)	9.01	-1.3	8×10^{-8}
Triple Negative	53 (22)	10.14	-1.41	0.0002
ER+/HER2-	47(5)	7.31	1.54	NS
ER-/HER2+	34(3)	9.18	-2.19	0.02
ER+/HER2+	56(8)	7.31	1.54	NS

Example 3 - Arithmetic mean of LOH, TAI, and LST Region Scores Across Breast Cancer Subtypes and Association with BRCA1/2 Deficiency

[0141] The following study shows how HRD scores as described herein can predict BRCA1/2 deficiency and the efficacy of agents targeting HR deficiency in triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). To investigate the rate of BRCA1/2 deficiency across breast cancer subtypes, breast tumor samples were assayed for BRCA1/2 mutations and promoter methylation. The three HRD scores as described in Example 2 were determined for the samples, and the association with BRCA1/2 deficiency was then examined using an arithmetic mean of the LOH/TAI/LST scores. Analysis of a neoadjuvant TNBC cohort treated with cisplatin was further examined relative to the relationship between all three HRD scores and response.

[0142] Invasive breast tumor samples and matched normal tissue were obtained from three commercial vendors. The samples were selected to give approximately equal numbers of all subtypes of breast cancer as defined by IHC analysis of ER, PR, and HER2. BRCA1 promoter methylation analysis was performed by qPCR. BRCA1/2 mutation screening and genome wide SNP profiles were generated using a custom Agilent SureSelect XT capture followed by sequencing on Illumina HiSeq2500. These data were used to calculate HRD-LOH, HRD-TAI, and HRD-LST scores.

[0143] SNP microarray data and clinical data were downloaded from a public repository for the cisplatin-1 and cisplatin-2 trial cohorts. BRCA1/2 mutation data was not available for one of these cohorts. All three HRD scores were calculated using publically available data, and analyzed for association with response

to cisplatin. The two cohorts were combined to improve power.

[0144] To calculate HRD scores the SNP data was analyzed using an algorithm that determines the most likely allele specific copy number at each SNP location. HRD-LOH was calculated by counting the number of LOH regions >15 Mb in length, but shorter than the length of a complete chromosome. HRD-TAI score was calculated by counting the number of regions > 11 Mb in length with allelic imbalance that extend to one of the subtelomeres, but do not cross the centromere. HRD-LST score was the number of break points between regions longer than 10 Mb after filtering out regions shorter than 3 Mb.

[0145] The combined score was the arithmetic mean of the LOH/TAI/LST scores. All p values were from logistic regression models with BRCA deficiency or response to cisplatin as the dependent variable.

[0146] Table 6 shows BRCA1/2 mutation and BRCA1 promoter methylation frequency across four breast cancer subtypes. BRCA1/2 variant analysis was successful on 100% of samples, while large rearrangement analysis was less robust with 198/214 samples producing data that passed QC metrics. Deleterious mutations were observed in 24/214 individuals (one had a somatic mutation in BRCA1 and a germline mutation in BRCA2). Matched normal DNA was available for 23/24 mutants, and was used to determine whether the identified mutation was germline or somatic. BRCA1 promoter methylation analysis was successful on 100% of samples. Figure 9 illustrates HRD scores in BRCA1/2 deficient samples.

Table 6

Subtype	n	BRCA1 Mutations	BRCA2 Mutations	Total Mutants (%)	Germline Mutations (%)	BRCA1 Promoter Methylation (%)
TNBC	63	10	3	10 (15.9)	69	13 (20.6)
ER+/HER2-	50	2	2	4 (8.0)	100	1 (2.0)
ER-/HER2+	38	3 [†]	1	4 [†] (10.5)	50	0
ER+/HER2+	63	8*	1	7* (11.1)	57	1 (1.6)
*Includes one individual who still retains intact functional copies of BRCA1.						
[†] Includes one individual whose functional status for BRCA1 could not be determined.						

[0147] Table 7 shows the association between the three HRD scores and BRCA 1/2 deficiency in the all-comers breast cohort. The combined score was the arithmetic mean of the three HRD scores.

Table 7

	Breast Cancer Subtype	All	TNBC	ER+/HER-	ER-/HER2+	ER+/HER2+
	Number of Individuals	197	52	50	35	60
	Number of BRCA1/2 Deficient (%)	38(100)	23 (61)	5(13)	3(8)	7(18)
HRD-LOH mean	BRCA1/2 Intact	7.2	8.2	7.1	8.3	6.0
	BRCA1/2 Deficient	16.5	17.7	17.2	12.0	14.1
	p value	1.3x10 ⁻¹⁷	1.5x10 ⁻⁸	0.0025	0.18	2.1x10 ⁻⁵
HRD-TAI mean	BRCA1/2 Intact	5.4	6.8	4.3	6.4	5.1
	BRCA1/2 Deficient	13.7	13.5	15.0	7.7	15.9

	Breast Cancer Subtype	All	TNBC	ER+/HER-	ER-/HER2+	ER+/HER2+
	p value	1.5×10^{-19}	2.2×10^{-7}	1.3×10^{-5}	0.58	1.4×10^{-6}
HRD-LST mean	BRCA1/2 Intact	-7.0	-5.1	-6.7	-6.7	-8.3
	BRCA1/2 Deficient	10.2	12.0	11.7	2.7	6.1
	p value	3.5×10^{-18}	8.0×10^{-11}	3.2×10^{-4}	0.082	0.0024
HRD combined mean	BRCA1/2 Intact	1.9	3.3	1.6	2.7	0.9
	BRCA1/2 Deficient	13.4	14.4	14.6	7.5	12.0
	p value	1.1×10^{-24}	7.8×10^{-13}	2.3×10^{-5}	0.072	2.1×10^{-5}

[0148] Table 8 shows the association between HRD scores and pCR (Miller-Payne 5) in TNBC treated with cisplatin in a neoadjuvant setting. Data was available from samples from the Cisplatin-1 (Silver et al., Efficacy of neoadjuvant Cisplatin in triple-negative breast cancer. J. CLIN. ONCOL. 28:1145-53 (2010)) and Cisplatin-2 (Birkbak *et al.*, (2012)) trials. pCR was defined as those patients with Miller-Payne 5 status following neoadjuvant treatment. HRD-combined was the arithmetic mean of the three HRD scores.

Table 8

Score	pCR Mean	Non-pCR Mean	OR (95% CI) for 75 th -25 th percentiles	P value
HRD-LOH	20.6	13.4	7.4 (1.5, 35.6)	0.0035
HRD-TAI	15.8	10.7	6.5 (1.3, 32.6)	0.0067
HRD-LST	13.4	1.4	14.7 (2.1, 102)	0.00065
HRD-combined	16.6	8.5	22.4 (2.1, 239)	0.00029

[0149] Conclusions: BRCA1/2 deficiency and elevated HRD scores were observed in all breast subtypes, and the HRD score detected BRCA1/2 deficiency. All three HRD scores predicted/detected response to cisplatin treatment in TNBC. The average of the three HRD scores (arithmetic mean) detected BRCA1/2 status in a breast all-comers cohort and cisplatin response in a second independent TNBC cohort. The arithmetic mean HRD-combined was a stronger predictor/detector of BRCA1/2 deficiency or therapy response than the individual HRD scores.

Example 4 - Multivariate Analysis of BRCA1/2 Status and DNA-Based Assays for Homologous Recombination Deficiency

[0150] The previous Examples described DNA-based scores measuring homologous recombination deficiency (HRD), which demonstrates that each score is significantly associated with BRCA1/2 deficiency, as is an HRD-combined score defined as an arithmetic mean of three different HRD scores. This Example extends the results of the previous examples by examining (1) associations between each of the three scores and the HRD-combined score, (2) associations of clinical variables with the HRD-combined score, and (3) associations of clinical variables and the HRD-combined score with BRCA1/2 deficiency.

[0151] Methods: The analyses in this Example 4 include the same 197 patient samples described in previous Examples. Briefly, 215 breast tumor samples were purchased as fresh frozen specimens from 3 commercial vendors. Samples were selected to give approximately equal representation of breast cancer subtypes according to IHC analysis of ER, PR, and HER2. 198 samples produced reliable HRD scores according to a Kolmogorov-Smirnov quality metric. One patient with a passing HRD score was removed from analysis due to unusual breast cancer subtype (ER/PR+ HER2-). Patient tumor and clinical characteristics are detailed in Table 9.

[0152] Patient clinical data were provided for 91 variables, but data for most variables were too sparse to be included in analysis. Breast cancer subtype (TNBC, ER+/HER2-, ER-/HER2+, ER+/HER2+) was available for all patients. The other variables considered were age at diagnosis (provided for 196/197 patients), stage (provided for 191/197 patients), and grade (provided for 190/197 patients).

Table 9

	All Patients (%)	Triple negative (%)	ER+/HER2- (%)	ER-/HER2+ (%)	ER+/HER2+ (%)	BRCA1/2 Mutant (%)	BRCA1/2 Deficient (%)	
Total Patients	197 (100)	52 (26.4)	50 (25.4)	35 (17.8)	60 (30.5)	24 (12.2)	38 (19.2)	
Age of Diagnosis								
	Range	28-90	29-90	33-80	29-76	28-79	33-79	29-76
	Median	56	54	62	55	54.5	55.5	49
	%<60	57	61	46	60	62	62.5	70
Stage								
	I	13 (6.6)	7 (13.5)	2 (4)	1 (2.9)	3 (5)	2 (8.3)	3 (7.9)
	II	121 (61.4)	28 (53.8)	31(62)	25 (71.4)	37 (61.7)	17 (70.8)	23 (60.5)
	III	54 (27.4)	9 (17.3)	17 (34)	8 (22.9)	20 (33.3)	5 (20.8)	9 (23.7)
	IV	3 (1.5)	3 (5.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2.6)
	unknown	6 (3)	5 (9.6)	0 (0)	1 (2.9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (5.3)
Grade								
	1	17 (8.6)	4(7.7)	8 (16)	0(0)	5 (8.3)	0(0)	0(0)
	2	102 (51.8)	17 (32.7)	30 (60)	13 (37.1)	42 (70)	10 (41.7)	14 (36.8)
	3	71 (36)	26 (50)	10 (20)	22 (62.9)	13 (21.7)	13 (54.2)	21 (55.3)
	unknown	7 (3.6)	5 (9.6)	2 (4)	0(0)	0(0)	1 (4.2)	3 (7.9)

[0153] BRCA1/2 mutation screening and genome wide SNP profiles were generated using a custom Agilent SureSelect XT capture followed by sequencing on Illumina HiSeq2500. Methylation of the BRCA-1 promoter region was determined by qPCR. Samples with greater than 10% methylation were classified as methylated.

[0154] HRD scores were calculated from whole genome tumor loss of heterozygosity (LOH) profiles (HRD-LOH), telomeric allelic imbalance (HRD-TAI), and large-scale state transitions (HRD-LST), the three HRD scores combined in the "HRD-combined score" discussed in this Example 4.

[0155] BRCA1/2 deficiency was defined as loss of function resulting from a BRCA-1 or BRCA-2 mutation, or methylation of the BRCA-1 promoter region, together with loss of heterozygosity (LOH) in the affected gene.

[0156] All statistical analyses were conducted using R version 3.0.2. All reported p-values are two-sided. The statistical tools employed included Spearman rank-sum correlation, Kruskal-Wallis one-way analysis of variance, and logistic regression.

[0157] For logistic regression modeling, HRD scores and age at diagnosis were coded as numeric variable. Breast cancer stage and subtype were coded as categorical variables. Grade was analyzed as both a numeric and categorical variable, but was categorical unless otherwise noted. Coding grade as numerical is not appropriate unless the increased odds of BRCA1/2 deficiency is the same when comparing grade 2 to grade 1 patients, as when comparing grade 3 to grade 2 patients.

[0158] P-values reported for univariate logistic regression models are based on the partial likelihood ratio. Multivariate p-values are based on the partial likelihood ratio for change in deviance from a full model (which includes all relevant predictor) versus a reduced model (which includes all predictors except for the predictor being evaluated, and any interaction terms involving the predictor being evaluated). Odds ratios for HRD scores are reported per interquartile range.

[0159] Results: Pairwise correlations of the HRD-LOH, HRD-TAI, and HRD-LST scores were examined graphically (Figure 1), and quantified with Spearman rank-sum correlation. Spearman rank-sum correlation was preferred to the more commonly used Pearson product-moment correlation, because right skew and outliers were observed in the HRD score distributions. All pairwise comparisons of scores showed positive correlation significantly different from zero ($p < 10^{-6}$).

[0160] The extent of independent BRCA1/2 deficiency information captured by each of the HRD-LOH, HRD-TAI, and HRD-LST scores was measured by examining a multivariate logistic regression model with all three scores included as predictors of BRCA1/2 deficiency status (Table 10). The HRD-TAI score captured significant BRCA1/2 deficiency information independent of that provided by the other two scores ($p = 0.00016$), as did the HRD-LST score ($p = 0.00014$). At the 5% significance level, the HRD-LOH score did not add significant independent BRCA1/2 deficiency information ($p = 0.069$).

Table 10

	P-Value	OR (95% CI) for 75 th -25 th percentiles
HRD-LOH	0.069	3.0 (0.89, 9.8)
HRD-TAI	0.00016	5.8 (2.1, 16)
HRD-LST	0.00014	7.4 (2.4, 23)

[0161] Table 10 illustrates results from a 3-term multivariate logistic regression model with HRD-LOH, HRD-TAI, and HRD-LST as predictors of BRCA1/2 deficiency.

[0162] To assess whether the HRD-combined score adequately captured the BRCA1/2 deficiency information of its three components, we tested three bivariate logistic regression models. Each model included the HRD-combined score, and one of the HRD-LOH, HRD-TAI, or HRD-LST scores. None of the component scores added significantly to the HRD-combined score at the 5% significance level (HRD-LOH $p=0.89$, HRD-TAI $p=0.090$, HRD-LST $p=0.28$). This suggests that the HRD-combined score adequately captures the BRCA1/2 deficiency information of the HRD-LOH, HRD TAI, and HRD-LST scores.

[0163] The HRD-combined score was finally compared to a model-based combined score which was optimized to predict BRCA1/2 deficiency in this patient set. While the HRD-combined score weights each of the HRD-LOH, HRD-TAI, and HRD-LST scores equally, the model-based score assigns the HRD-TAI score approximately twice the weight of the HRD-LOH or HRD-LST scores. The formula for the model-based score is given by

$$\text{HRD-Model} = 0.11 \times (\text{HRD-LOH}) + 0.25 \times (\text{HRD-TAI}) + 0.12 \times (\text{HRD-LST}).$$

[0164] Results from univariate analysis (Table 11), show that the HRD-Model score outperforms the HRD-combined score by approximately one order of magnitude (HRD Model $p=2.5 \times 10^{-25}$, HRD-Combined $p=1.1 \times 10^{-24}$).

Table 11

		P-Value	OR (95% CI)
HRD-LOH		1.30×10^{-17}	22 (8.4, 58)
HRD-TAI		1.50×10^{-19}	17 (7.2, 41)
HRD-LST		3.50×10^{-18}	19 (7.7, 46)
HRD-Combined		1.10×10^{-24}	90 (22, 360)
HRD-Model		2.50×10^{-25}	76 (19, 290)
Age at Diagnosis		0.0071	0.96 (0.94, 0.99)
Stage		0.88	
	I		1
	II		0.78 (0.20, 3.1)
	III		0.67 (0.15, 2.9)
	IV		1.7 (0.11, 25)
Cancer Subtype		1.20×10^{-05}	
	ER-/HER2+		1
	ER+/HER2-		1.2 (0.34, 5.8)
	ER+/HER2+		8.5 (2.3, 31)
	TNBC		8.5 (2.3, 31)
Grade (Categorical)		0.0011	NA
Grade (Numerical)		0.00053	3.1 (1.6, 6.3)

[0165] Table 11 shows results from univariate logistic regression. Odds ratios for HRD scores are reported per IQR of the score. The odds ratio for age is reported per year. The odds ratio for grade (numerical) is per unit.

[0166] In a bivariate logistic regression model, the HRD-Model score did not add significant independent BRCA1/2 deficiency information to the HRD-combined score ($p=0.089$). This further suggests that the HRD-combined score adequately capture the BRCA1/2 deficiency information of the HRD-LOH, HRD-TAI, and HRD-LST scores.

[0167] Associations of clinical variables with the HRD-combined score are shown in Figure 12. The HRD-combined score was significantly correlated with tumor grade (Spearman correlation 0.23, $p=0.0017$). Correlations with breast cancer stage and age at diagnosis were not significantly different from zero at the 5% level. Mean HRD combined scores differed significantly among breast cancer subtypes ($p=1.6 \times 10^{-5}$) according to a Kruskal-Wallis one-way analysis of variance test.

[0168] Heterogeneity of the HRD-combined score among clinical sub-populations was tested by examining the significance of interaction terms in multivariate logistic regression models. For each clinical variable, we added a term for interaction with the HRD-combined score to a model including all clinical variable, and the HRD-combined score. None of the interaction terms reached significance at the 5% significance level. Thus, there is no evidence to suggest that the probability of BRCA1/2 deficiency conferred by the HRD-combined score varies among clinical sub-populations.

[0169] Analogous tests for each of the HRD-LOH, HRD-TAI, and HRD-LST scores indicated significant interaction of the HRD-TAI score with age ($p=0.0072$) and grade ($p=0.015$), and significant interaction of the HRD-LST score with breast cancer subtype ($p=0.021$). Adjusted for multiple comparisons, only the interaction of the HRD-TAI score with age maintained significance at the 5% level ($p=0.029$). Significance of this interaction suggests that the increased probability of BRCA1/2 deficiency per unit increase of the HRD-TAI score diminishes as age increases.

[0170] Associations of clinical variables with BRCA1/2 deficiency are displayed in Figure 13. Clinical variables and the HRD-Combined score were evaluated with univariate (Table 11) and multivariate (Table 12) logistic regression models. Odds ratios for HRD scores are reported per IQR. Odds ratios for age at diagnosis are reported per annum.

Table 12

		P-Value	OR (95% CI)
HRD-Combined		1.2×10^{-16}	87 (17, 450)
Age at Diagnosis		0.027	0.95 (0.91, 1.0)
Stage		0.63	
	I		1
	II		2.4 (0.22, 27)
	III		0.99 (0.073, 13)
	IV		3.1 (0.0011, 9100)
Grade		0.40	NA
Type		0.087	
	ER-/HER2+		1
	ER+/Her2-		0.39 (0.039, 3.8)
	ER+/Her2+		1.3 (0.16, 10)
	TNBC		3.9 (0.62, 24)

[0171] Table 12 shows results from multivariate logistic regression. Odds ratios for HRD scores are reported per IQR of the score. The odds ratio for age is reported per year.

[0172] In univariate analysis, each of the HRD scores (HRD-LOH, HRD-TAI, HRD-LST, HRD-Combined, and HRD-Model) was significantly associated with BRCA1/2 deficiency. Higher scores indicated greater likelihood of deficiency. Increased age at diagnosis was significantly associated with decreased risk of BRCA1/2 deficiency ($p=0.0071$). Univariate results for breast cancer subtype, and tumor grade (both categorical and numeric), were also statistically significant. Cancer stage was not associated with BRCA1/2 status.

[0173] In multivariate analyses, a model based on the HRD-combined score, and all available clinical variables, was examined. The HRD-combined score captured significant BRCA1/2 deficiency information that was not captured by clinical variables ($p=1.2 \times 10^{-16}$). Of the available clinical variables, only age at diagnosis maintained significance in the multivariate setting ($p=0.027$). Grade was coded as a categorical variable, and was not statistically significant ($p=0.40$). Grade was also not significant when coded as a numerical variable ($p=0.28$). Quadratic and cubic effects for the HRD-combined score were tested in multivariate models including all clinical variables, but were not statistically significant.

[0174] Discussion. In this Example 4 the frequency of BRCA1/2 defects ranged from ~9 to ~16% across 4 subtypes of breast cancer as defined by IHC subtyping. Sequencing of matched tumor and normal DNA samples suggests that approximately 75% of the observed mutations were germline in origin. The primary method for loss of the second allele in breast cancer is via LOH, however ~24% of tumors also carried subsequent somatic deleterious mutations in the second allele. In addition, an apparently sporadic breast tumor was seen in one individual carrying a BRCA2 somatic deleterious mutation.

[0175] All 3 HRD scores showed strong correlation with BRCA1/2 deficiency regardless of subtype, and the frequency of elevated scores suggests that a significant proportion of all breast tumor subtypes carry defects in the homologous recombination DNA repair pathway. These findings, especially when combined with those of Example 3 above, show that agents which target or exploit DNA damage repair (e.g., platinum agents) may prove effective across a subset of tumors (those with homologous recombination deficiency as detected according to the present disclosure) from all subtypes of breast cancer.

[0176] Implementation of these HRD scores, either singly or in combination, in the clinical setting is best using an assay that is compatible with core needle biopsies that have been formalin fixed and paraffin embedded ("FFPE"). Samples of this type yield very low quantity and low quality DNA. DNA extracted from these FFPE treated samples often does not perform well in SNP microarray analysis.

[0177] Liquid hybridization based target enrichment technologies have been developed for production of libraries for next generation sequencing. These methodologies enable targeted sequencing of regions of interest after reduction in genomic complexity, resulting in decreased sequencing costs. Preliminary tests indicated that the available assays are compatible with DNA derived from FFPE DNA. In this Example 4 we report the development of a capture panel which targets ~54,000 SNPs distributed across the genome. Allele counts from the sequencing information that this panel provides can be used for copy number and LOH reconstruction, and the calculation of all 3 of the HRD scores. In addition, BRCA1 and BRCA2 capture probes may be included on the panel, as in this Example 4, which enable high quality mutation screening for deleterious variants in these genes in the same assay.

[0178] All 3 scores were significantly correlated with one another, suggesting that they all measure the same core genomic phenomenon. However, logistic regression analysis indicates that the scores could be combined resulting in stronger association with BRCA1/2 deficiency in this dataset.

[0179] The combination of a robust score capable of identifying tumors with defects in homologous recombination DNA repair and an assay compatible with formalin fixed paraffin embedded clinical pathological specimens facilitates the diagnostic identification and classification of patients with a high likelihood of response to agents targeting double strand DNA damage repair. In addition, such agents may have utility across all subtypes of breast cancer in which HRD is detected according to the present disclosure.

Example 5 - High HRD threshold value (e.g., one example of an HRD Signature)

[0180] This example demonstrates determination of high HRD. A threshold reference value was selected to have a high sensitivity for detecting HRD in breast and ovarian tumors that was nonspecific to treatment response or outcome. The total number of LOH, TAI, and LST Regions were determined. To calculate HRD scores, SNP data was analyzed using an algorithm that determines the most likely allele specific copy number at each SNP location. HRD-LOH was calculated by counting the number of LOH regions >15 Mb in length, but shorter than the length of a complete chromosome. HRD-TAI score was calculated by counting the number of regions > 11 Mb in length with allelic imbalance that extend to one of the subtelomeres, but do not cross the centromere. HRD-LST score was the number of break points between regions longer than 10 Mb after filtering out regions shorter than 3 Mb. The combined score (HRD score) was the summation of the LOH/TAI/LST scores.

[0181] The training set was assembled from 4 different cohorts (497 breast and 561 ovarian cases). The set consisted of 78 breast and 190 ovarian tumors that were lacking a functional copy of BRCA1 or BRCA2, because the distribution of HRD scores in BRCA-deficient samples represents the distribution of scores in HRD samples in general. The threshold was set at the 5th percentile of the HRD scores in the training set, and gives >95% sensitivity to detect HR deficiency. High HRD (or an HRD signature) was defined as having a reference score ≥ 42 (Figure 14).

Example 6 - HRD predicts Cisplatin response in Triple Negative Breast Cancer

[0182] This example demonstrates how HRD scores as described herein can predict the efficacy of agents targeting HR deficiency in triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) samples. Analysis of a neoadjuvant TNBC cohort treated with cisplatin was examined relative to the relationship between all three HRD scores and response. All p values were from logistic regression models with response to cisplatin as the dependent variable.

[0183] HR Deficiency status was determined for 62 of the 70 samples (70 individual patients) received from a cisplatin cohort (8 had insufficient tumors for analysis). Of these, 31 (50%) were HR deficient, 22 (35%) were non-HR deficient, and 9 (15%) were undetermined. Figure 15 provides a histogram showing the distribution of HRD scores in the cohort. Scores ≥ 42 were considered to have high HRD (see also, Example 5). The bimodality illustrated in Figure 15 indicates that HRD scores effectively distinguished HR deficient and non-deficient states in the tumor. Pathologic complete response (pCR), which is associated with long-term survival, was defined as a residual cancer burden (RBC) of 0 and observed in 11/59 (19%)

samples. Pathologic response (PR) was defined as an RBC of 0 or 1 and was observed in 22/59 (37%) samples. These overall response rates correlated with monotherapy expectations.

[0184] Statistical analyses followed a predefined Statistical Analysis Plan (SAP), which included primary, secondary, and BRCA wild-type subset analyses.

[0185] The primary analysis used HR Deficiency status to predict response in 50 samples. As shown in Table 13, HR deficient samples provided a better predictor of response for both PR and pCR. For example, 52% of HR deficient samples had a pathologic response as opposed to 9.5% of non-deficient samples having a pathologic response. Similarly, 28% of HR deficient samples had a pathologic complete response as opposed to 0% of non-deficient samples having a pathologic complete response.

Table 13: Primary analysis using HR Deficiency to predict response

Responder	Deficient	Non-deficient	Logistic method	Odds ratio (95% CI) <i>Reference: Non-deficient</i>	Logistic p-value
PR=no	14	19			
PR=yes	15 (52%)	2 (9.5%)	Standard maximum likelihood	10.18 (2.00, 51.89)	0.0011
pCR=no	21	21			
pCR=yes	8 (28%)	0 (0%)	Firth's penalized likelihood	17.00 (1.91, 2249)	0.0066

[0186] The secondary analysis used a quantitative HRD score as described in Example 5, to predict response in 48 samples. As shown in Table 14, HRD scores were significantly higher in samples from responders than non-responders, defined either as PR or pCR.

Table 14: Secondary analysis using quantitative HRD scores to predict response

Responder	N	Mean (standard deviation)	Odds ratio per IQR (37.5) (95% CI)	Logistic p-value
PR=no	33	39.8 (20.8)		
PR=yes	15	62.9 (16.1)	10.5 (2.3, 48.6)	3.1X10 ⁻⁴
pCR=no	41	42.6 (20.3)		
pCR=yes	7	73.3 (11.4)	117 (2.9, 4764)	7.0X10 ⁻⁵

[0187] The distribution of HRD scores within each class of response for the secondary analysis as defined by BRCA mutation status is illustrated in Figure 16, where the dotted line at 42 represents the HRD threshold between low and high scores. The response curve, or the probability of PR associated with each value of the quantitative HRD score for the secondary analysis is illustrated in Figure 17. The curve shown in Figure 17 was modeled by generalized logistic regression, which estimates 4 parameters: shape, scale, and the lower and upper limits of the curve. The shaded boxes indicate the probability of response in HR Deficient vs Non-Deficient samples. Table 15 shows that in the secondary analysis HR status remained significantly associated with pathologic response.

Table 15: Multivariable model of pathologic response

Variable	Levels	Number of Patients (%)	Odds ratio (95% CI)	Logistic p-value
HR status	Non-deficient	21 (42%)	Reference	0.0017
	Deficient	29 (58%)	12.08 (1.96, 74.4)	
Treatment	Cisplatin	18 (36%)	Reference	0.27
	Cisplatin +	32 (64%)	2.23 (0.52, 9.64)	
	Bevacizumab			
Tumor size * cm	Mean=3.7, IQR=(2.7, 4.0)		1.40 (0.84, 2.35)	0.19
Baseline	Negative	27 (54%)	Reference	0.24
nodal status	Positive	23 (46%)	2.29 (0.56, 9.33)	
Age at diagnosis * (yrs)	Mean=49.8, IQR=(43.0, 56.8)		0.97 (0.90, 1.05)	0.49
* Odds ratio per IQR				

[0188] Individual HRD components scores vs pathologic response are shown in Table 16 and illustrated in Figure 18. Table 16 shows that each component score, *i.e.*, LOH,, TAI, and LST, was predictive of response, and their sum, *i.e.*, the HRD score, was equally or more significant than any of the individual components (HRD p-value = 3.1×10^{-4}). Figure 18 illustrates strong pairwise correlations between the component scores.

Table 16: Quantitative HRD component scores vs PR

Responder PR	Component Score	Mean (Standard deviation)	Interquartile Range (IQR)	Odds ratio per IQR (95% CI)	Logistic p-value
No	LOH	10.9 (6.0)	8.0	3.6 (1.3, 9.9)	0.0072
Yes		15.7 (4.6)			
No	TAI	9.7 (6.0)	10.0	6.2 (1.7, 23.0)	0.0019
Yes		15.3 (4.2)			
No	LST	19.3 (9.9)	16.8	8.5 (2.2, 33.2)	1.4X10 ⁻⁴
Yes		32.0 (9.9)			

[0189] Further tested in the secondary analysis was association of BRCA1/2 mutation status with response. Table 17 confirmed that BRCA mutation status was associated with response; however, the association was not significant in this cohort (n=51) and BRCA mutation status was not as predictive as HR Deficiency.

Table 17: Secondary analysis using BRCA mutation status to predict response

Responder	Mutant Number (% response)	Non-mutant Number (% response)	Odds ratio (95% CI) Reference: Non-deficient	Logistic p-value
PR=no	4	29		
PR=yes	5 (55.6%)	13 (31.0%)	2.79 (0.64, 12.11)	0.17
pCR=no	6	37		
pCR=yes	3 (33.3%)	5 (11.9%)	3.70 (0.70, 19.7)	0.14

[0190] A subset analysis using HR Deficiency status in 38 BRCA wild-type samples was further conducted to demonstrate that HR Deficiency is predictive in samples with no BRCA1/2 mutations. As shown in Table 18, HR deficient samples provided a better predictor of response for both PR and pCR in BRCA wild-type samples. For example, 52.6% of HR deficient samples had a pathologic response as opposed to 10.5% of non-deficient samples having a pathologic response. Similarly, 26.3% of HR deficient samples had a pathologic complete response as opposed to 0% of non-deficient samples having a pathologic complete response.

Table 18: Subset analysis using HR Deficiency to predict response in BRCA wild-type samples

Responder	Deficient Number (% response)	Non-deficient Number (% response)	Logistic method	Odds ratio (95% CI) <i>Reference: Non-deficient</i>	p-value
PR=no	9	17			
PR=yes	10 (52.6%)	2 (10.5%)	Standard maximum likelihood	9.44 (1.69, 52.7)	0.0039
pCR=no	14	19			
pCR=yes	5 (26.3%)	0 (0%)	Firth's penalized likelihood	14.79 (1.48, 2001)	0.018

[0191] A subset analysis was further conducted using the quantitative HRD score in 38 BRCA wild-type samples. As shown in Table 19, samples having high HRD (with scores ≥ 42) provided a better predictor of response for both PR and pCR in BRCA wild-type samples.

Table 19: Subset analysis using quantitative HRD scores to predict response in BRCA wild-type samples

Responder	N	Mean (Standard deviation)	Odds ratio per IQR (36.0) (95% CI)	Logistic p-value
PR=no	26	38.1 (20.6)		
PR=yes	12	61.1 (16.5)	8.74 (1.83, 41.7)	0.0014
pCR=no	33	41.3 (20.4)		
pCR=yes	5	71.8 (12.3)	45.5 (1.47, 1406)	0.0012

[0192] In conclusion, this example demonstrates that the summation of all three HRD scores significantly predicted response to cisplatin treatment in TNBC.

OTHER EMBODIMENTS

[0193] It is to be understood that while the invention has been described in conjunction with the detailed description thereof, the foregoing description is intended to illustrate and not limit the scope of the invention, which is defined by the scope of the appended claims.

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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PATENTKRAV

1. Fremgangsmåde in vitro til forudsigelse af patientrespons på en cancerbehandlingsplan omfattende et DNA-beskadigende middel, anthracyclin, topoisomerase-I-hæmmer, eller PARP-hæmmer, hvilken fremgangsmåde omfatter:

(1) bestemmelse, i en prøve omfattende en cancercelle, af antallet af indikator-CA-regioner omfattende indikator-LOH-regioner, indikator-TAI-regioner og indikator-LST-regioner i mindst ét par humane kromosomer fra en cancercelle fra cancerpatienten; hvor

(a) en indikator-LOH-region er en LOH-region, der er længere end 1,5, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 eller flere megabaser i længden, men kortere end hele længden af det tilsvarende kromosom, hvori LOH-regionen befinder sig;

(b) en indikator-TAI-region er en TAI-region med allel ubalance, der (i) strækker sig til én af subtelomererne, (ii) ikke krydser centromererne og (iii) er længere end 1,5, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 eller flere megabaser i længden;

(c) en indikator-LST-region er et somatisk kopiantalsbrudpunkt langs længden af et kromosom, der er mellem to regioner af mindst 10 megabaser i længden efter bortfiltrering af regioner, der er kortere end 3 megabaser i længden;

(2) kombineret af indikator-CA-regioner for at tilvejebringe følgende testværdi: testværdi = (antal indikator-LOH-regioner)+(antal indikator-TAI-regioner)+(antal indikator-LST-regioner); og

(3) tilvejebringelse af en referenceværdi til sammenligning med testværdien, hvor referenceværdien er større end 32.

2. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 1, hvor referenceværdierne 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 eller større.

3. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 1, hvor referenceværdien repræsenterer 5. percentil af indikator-CA-regionsscores i en træningskohorte af HDR-deficiente patienter.

4. Fremgangsmåde ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1 til 3, hvor referenceværdien er 42.

5. Fremgangsmåde ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1 til 4, der endvidere omfatter sammenligning af testværdien med referenceværdien.

6. Fremgangsmåde ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1 til 5, der endvidere omfatter diagnosticering af en patient, i hvis prøve testværdien er større end referenceværdien, som havende en større sandsynlighed for at respondere på cancerbehandlingsplanen.

5

7. Fremgangsmåde ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1 til 6, hvor bestemmelsestrinnet omfatter analyse af prøven for at måle antallet af kopier for hver allel for mindst 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, 3500, 4000, 4500, 5000, 6000, 7000, 8000, 9000, 10.000, 11.000, 12.000, 13.000, 14.000, 15.000, 16.000, 17.000, 18.000, 19.000, 20.000, 25.000, 30.000, 35.000, 40.000, 45.000, 50.000, 60.000, 70.000, 80.000, 90.000, 100.000, 125.000, 150.000, 175.000, 200.000, 250.000, 300.000, 400.000, 500.000, 600.000, 700.000, 800.000, 900.000, 1.000.000 eller flere polymorfe genomiske loci i mindst 2, mindst 3, mindst 4, mindst 5, mindst 6, mindst 7, mindst 8, mindst 9, mindst 10, mindst 11, mindst 12, mindst 13, mindst 14, mindst 15, mindst 16, mindst 17, mindst 18, mindst 19, mindst 20, mindst 21 eller mindst 22 autosome par.

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8. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 7, hvor bestemmelsestrinnet omfatter analyse af de polymorfe genomiske loci i mindst 10 autosome par.

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9. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 8, hvor de polymorfe genomiske loci i 22 autosome par.

10. Fremgangsmåde ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 7 til 9, hvor bestemmelsestrinnet omfatter analyse af prøven for at måle antallet af kopier for hver allel for mindst 5000 polymorfe genomiske loci i de autosome par.

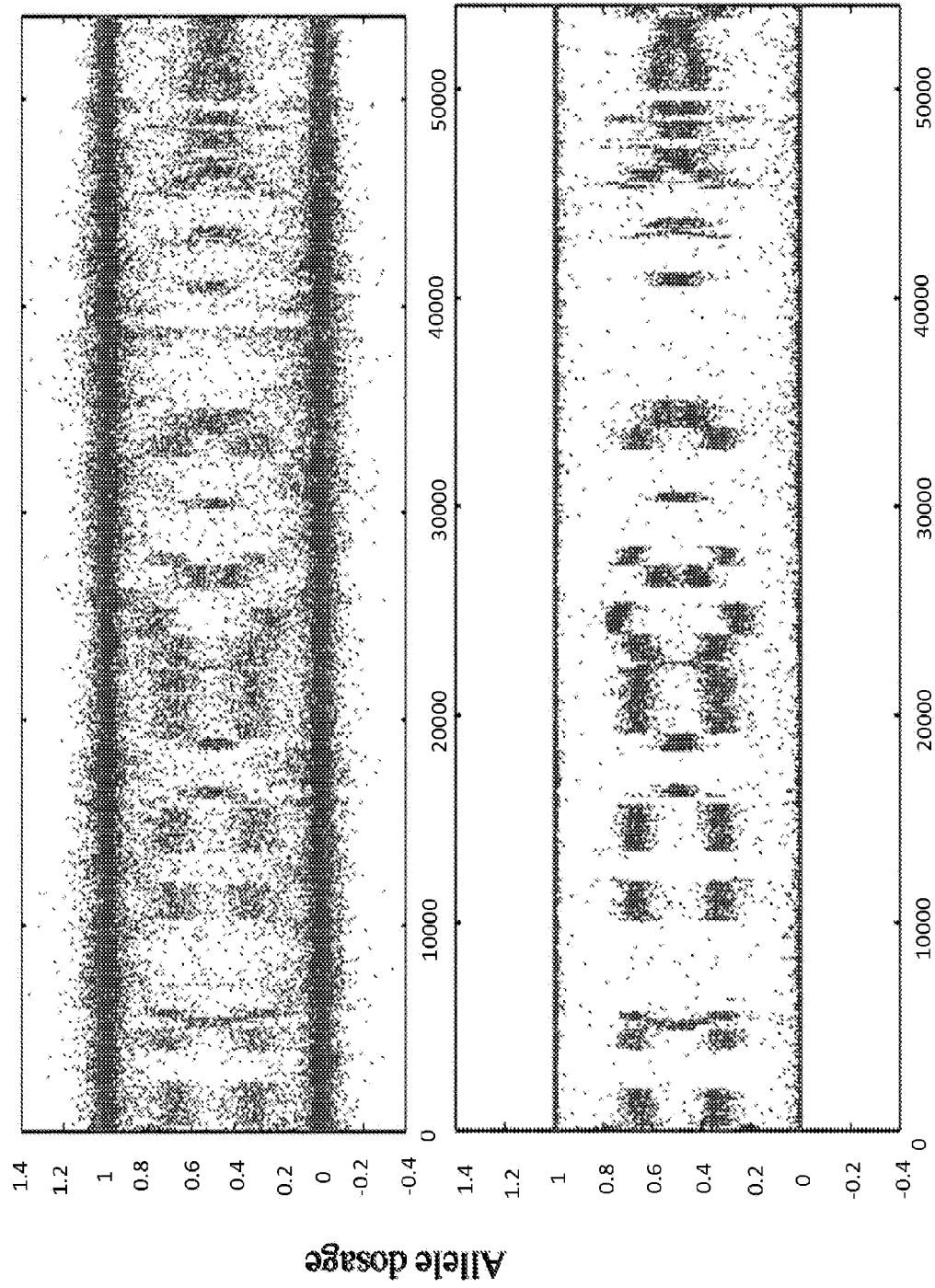
25

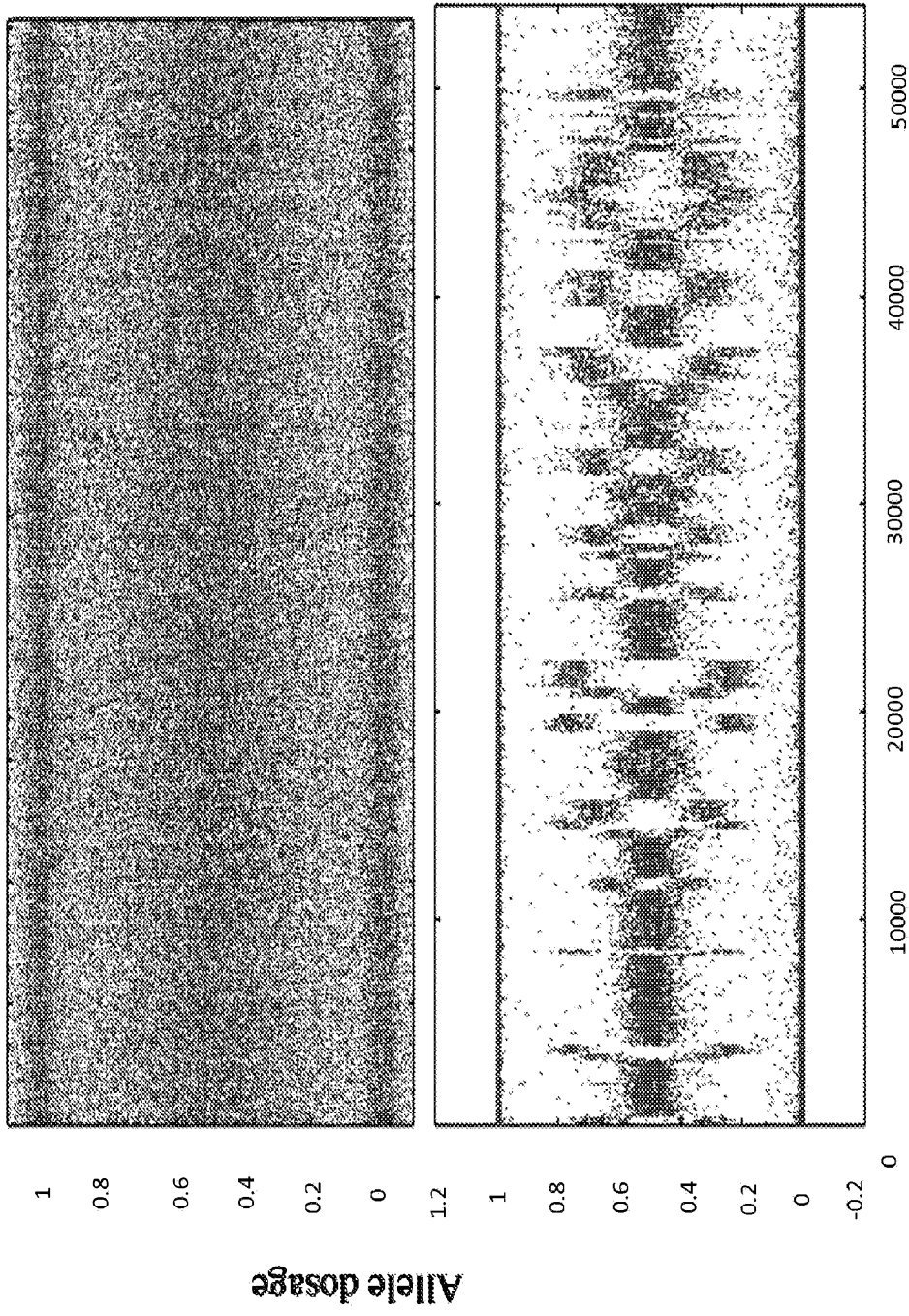
11. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 10, hvor bestemmelsestrinnet omfatter analyse af prøven for at måle antallet af kopier for hver allel for mindst 10.000 polymorfe genomiske loci i de autosome par.

30

12. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 11, hvor bestemmelsestrinnet omfatter analyse af prøven for at måle antallet af kopier for hver allel for mindst 50.000 polymorfe genomiske loci i de autosome par.

DRAWINGS





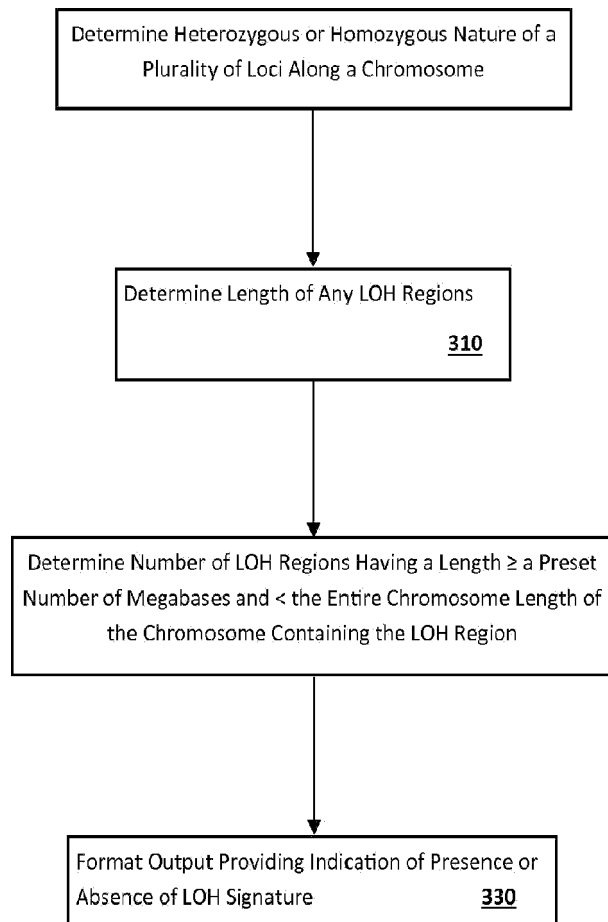


Figure 3

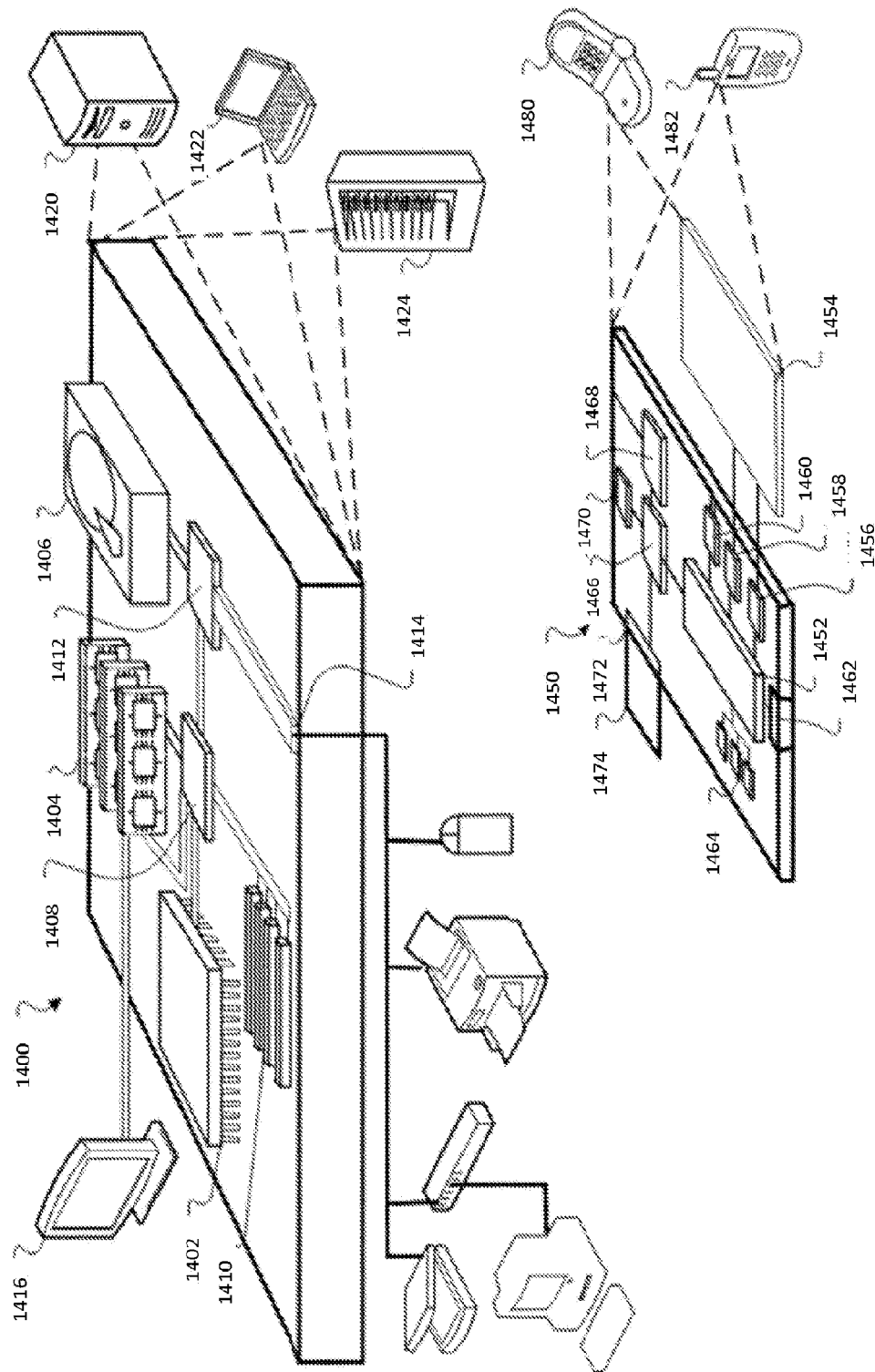


FIGURE 4

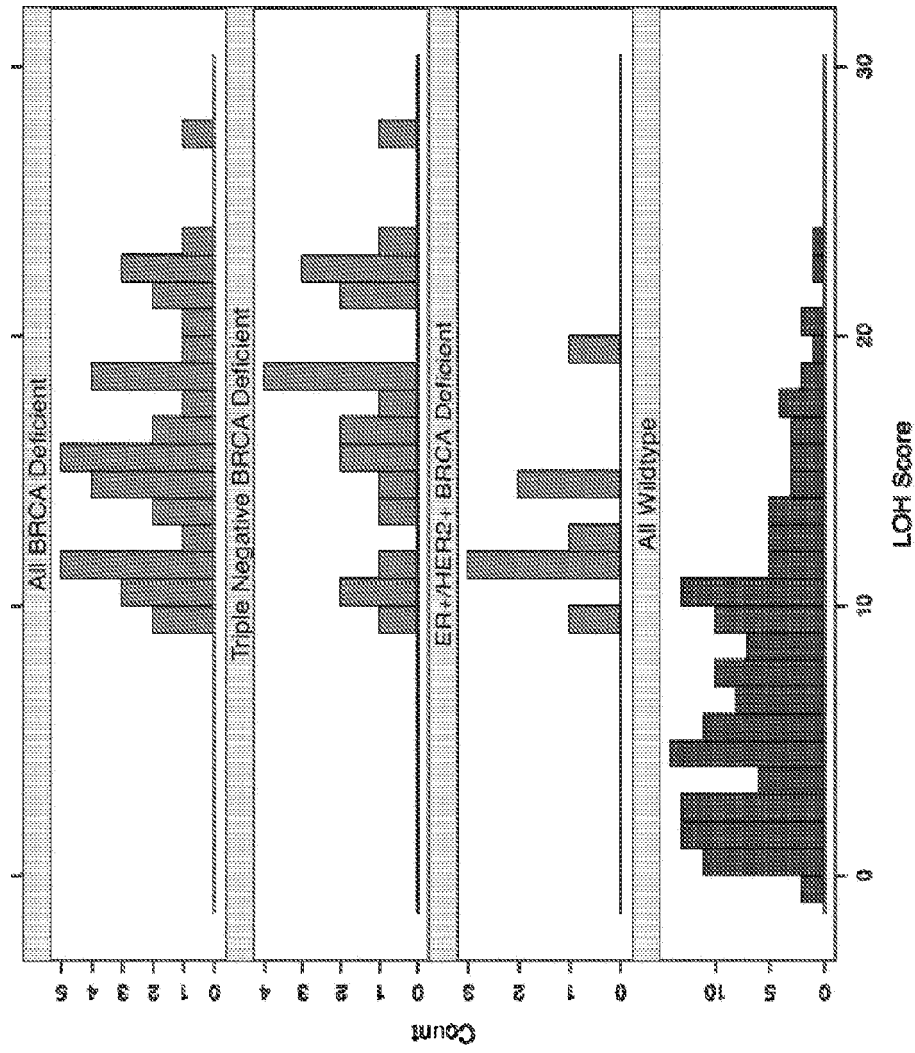


Figure 5A

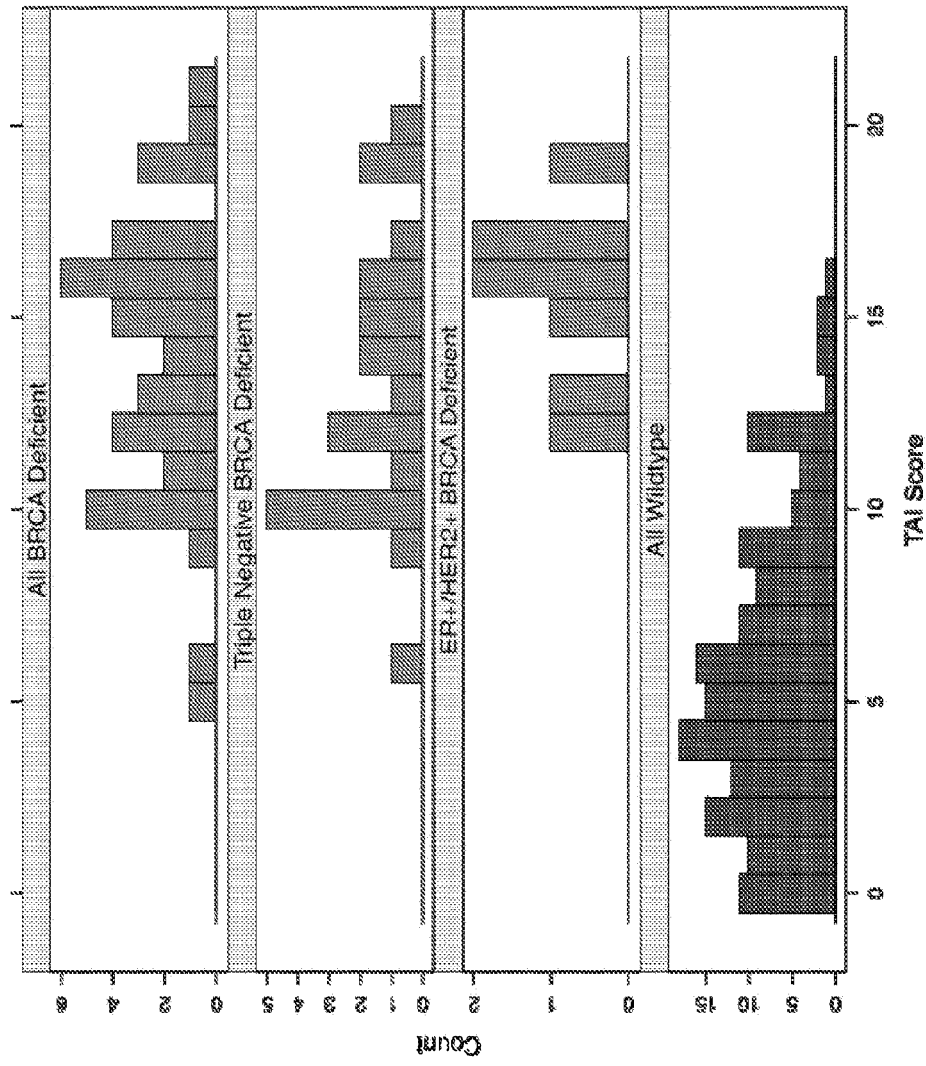


Figure 5B

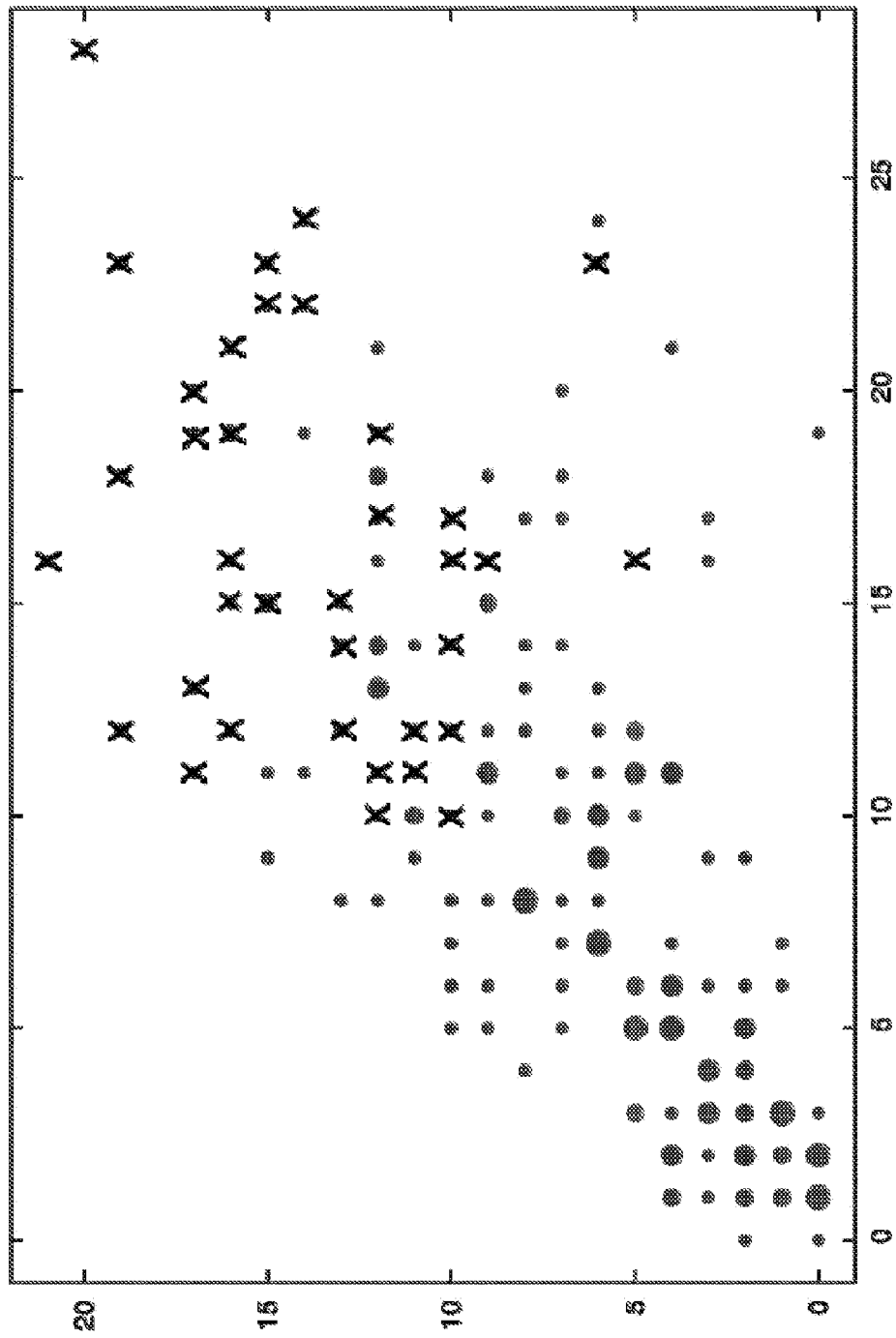


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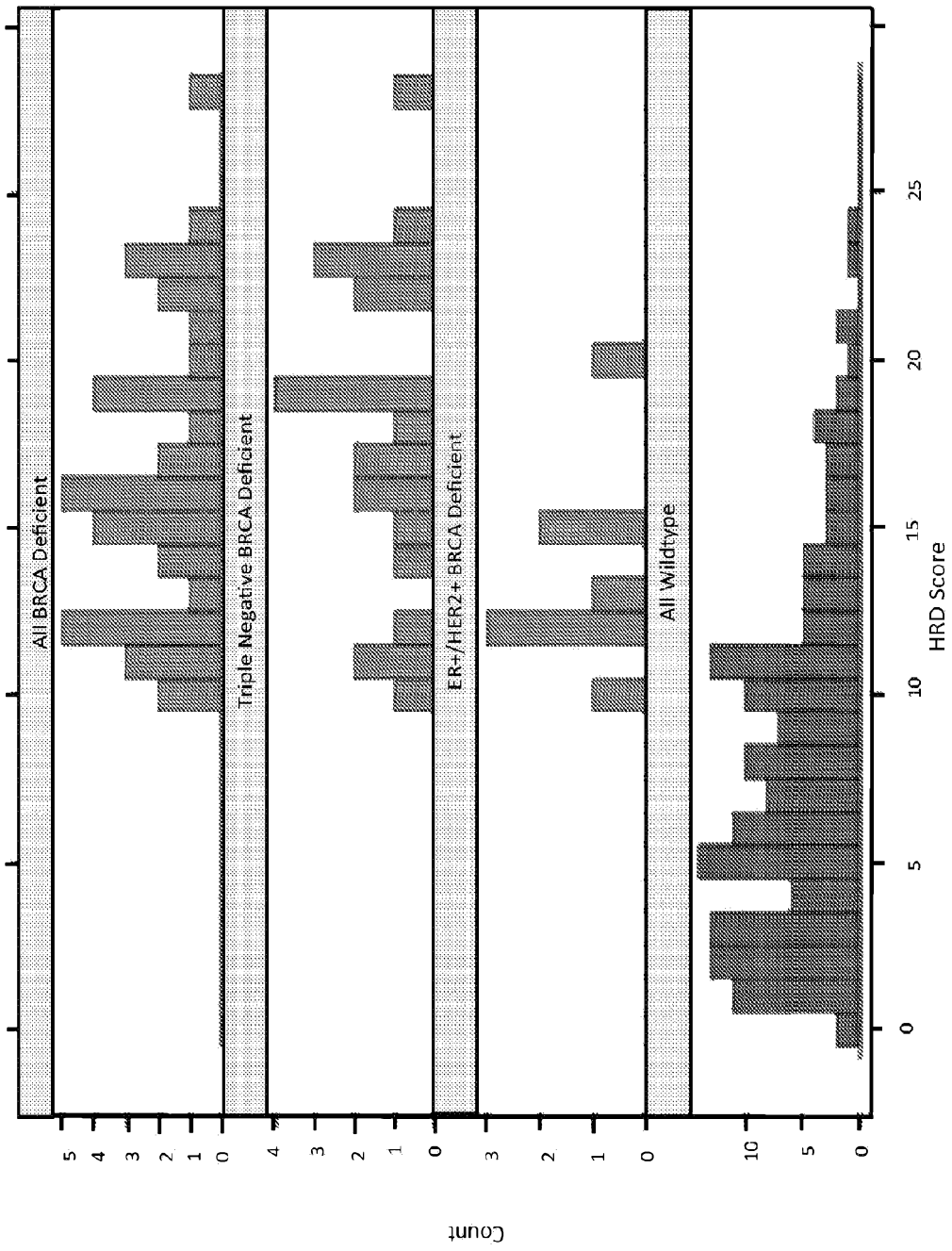


Figure 7A

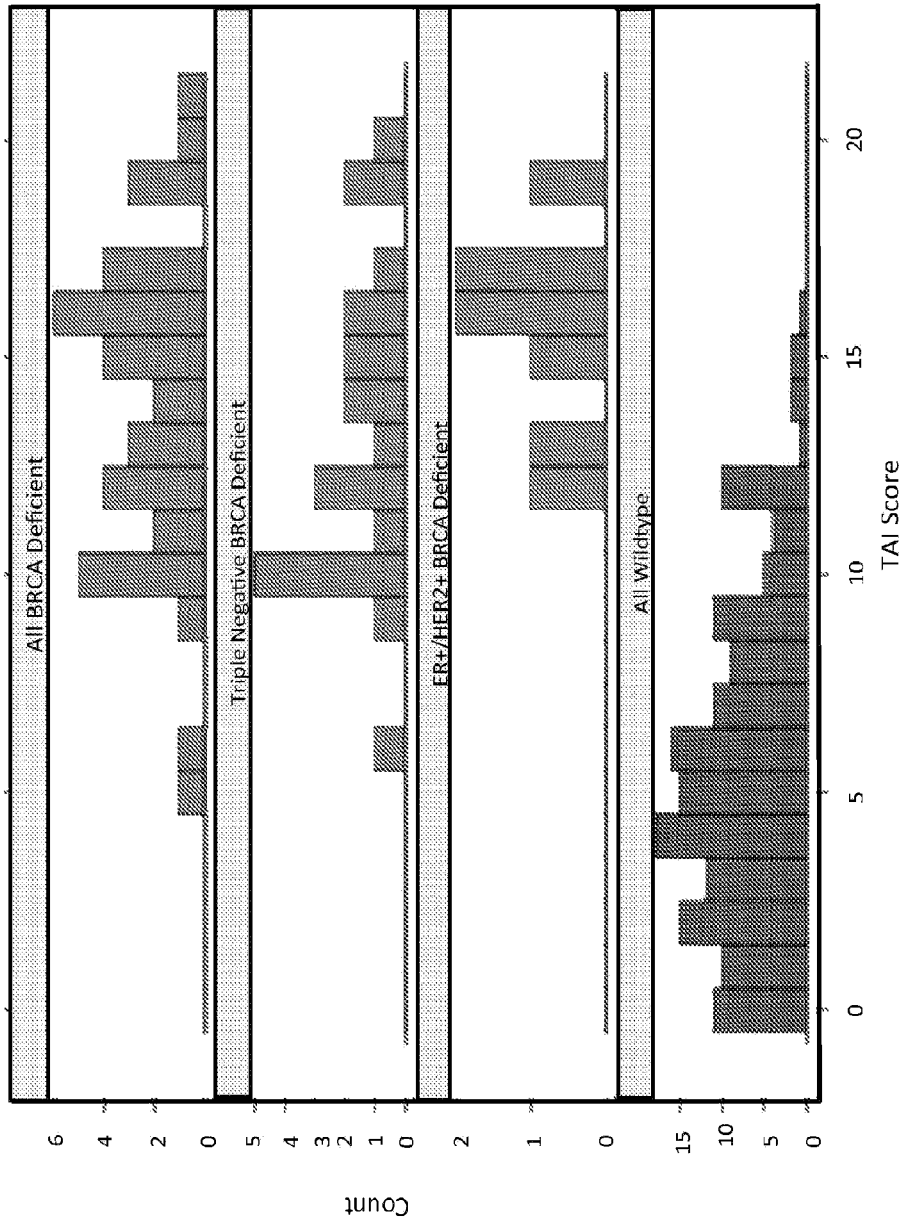


Figure 7B

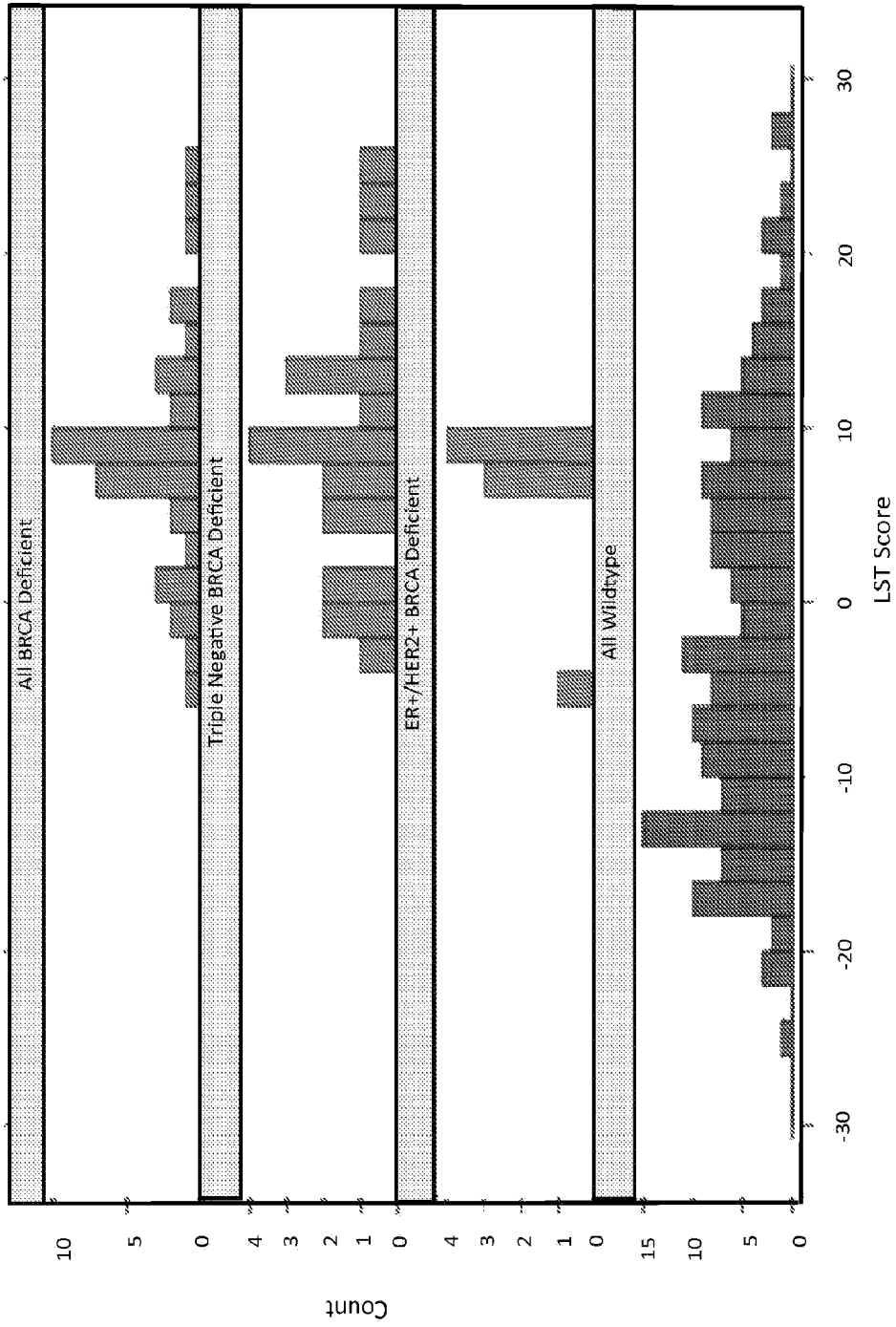


Figure 7C

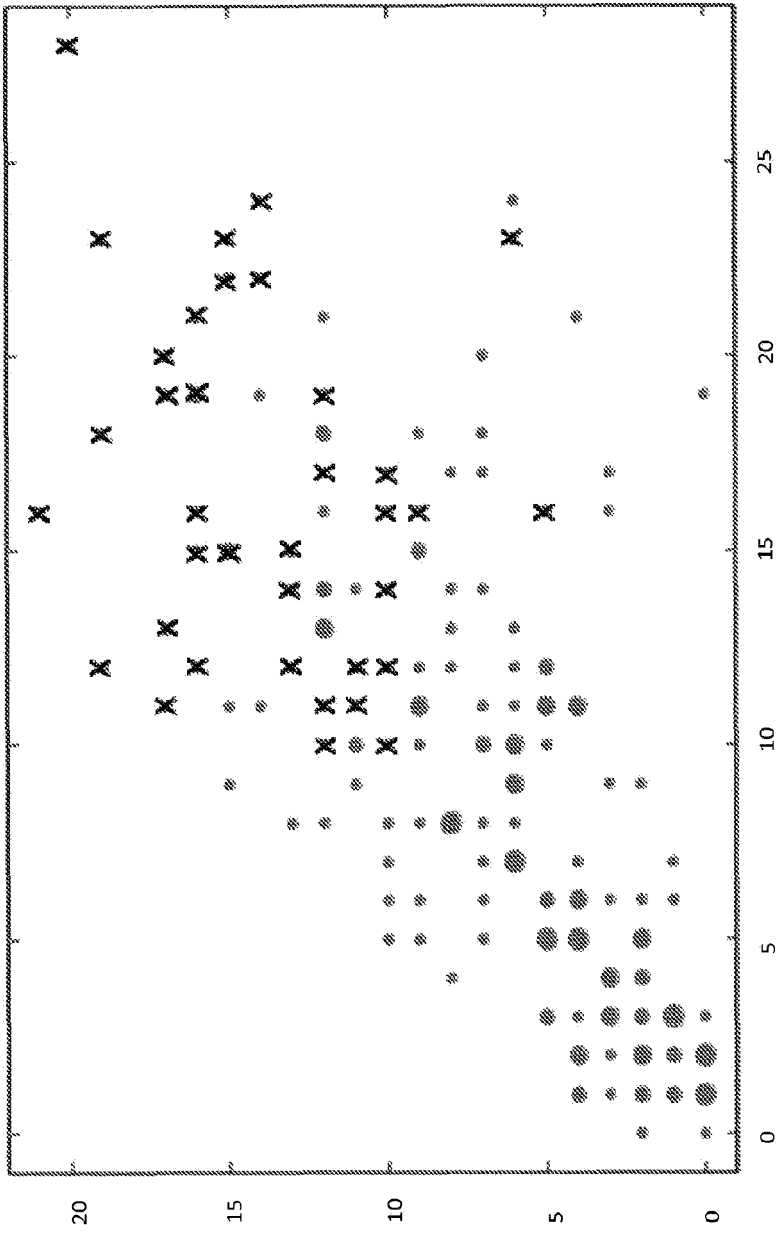


Figure 7D

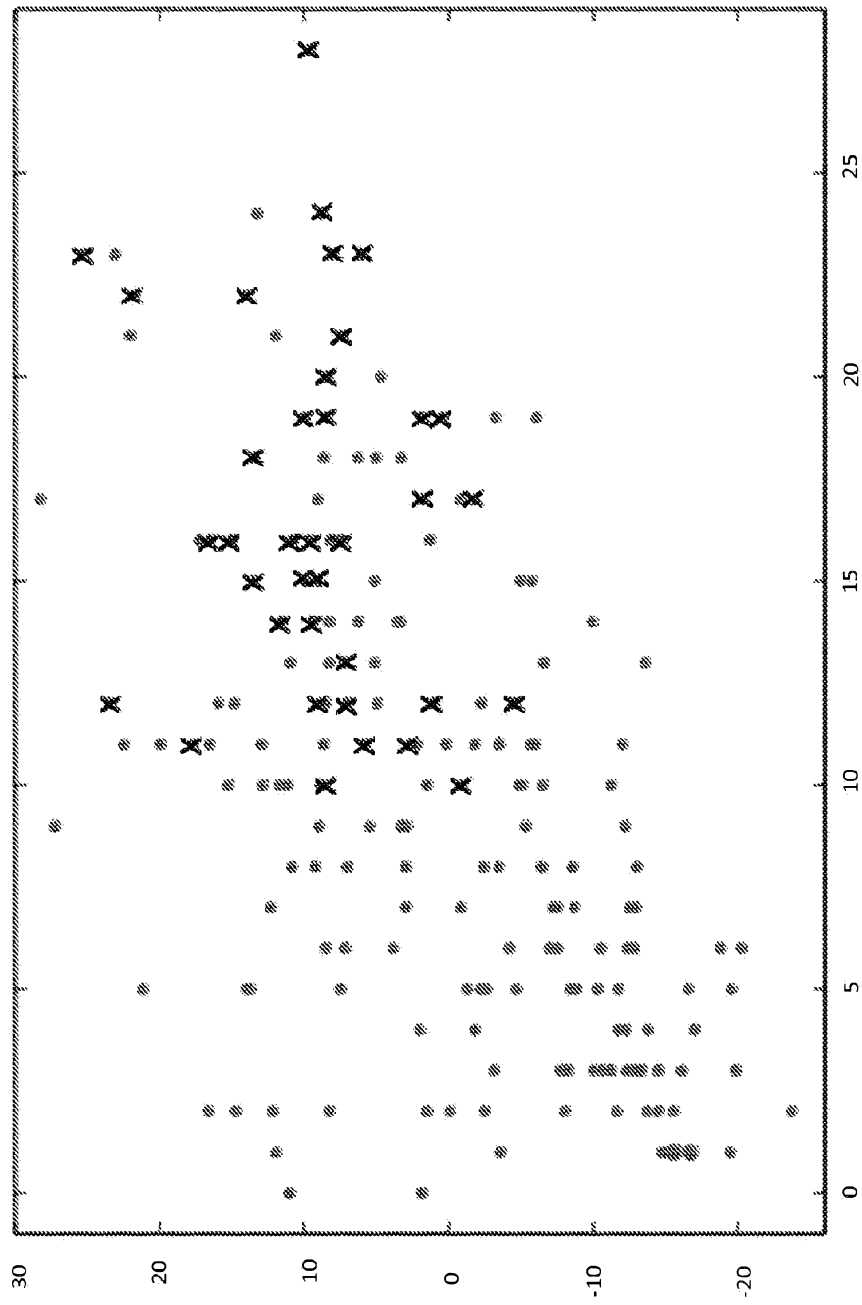


Figure 7E

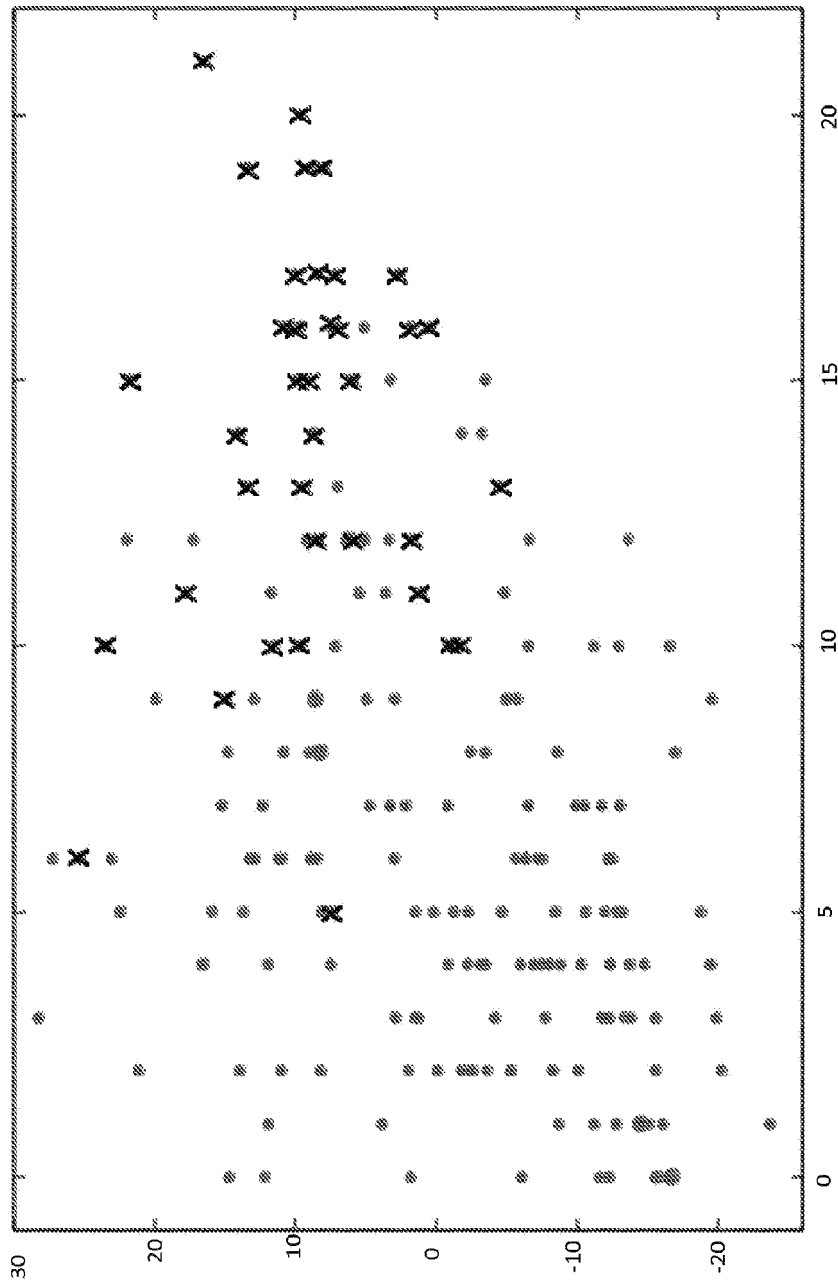


Figure 7f

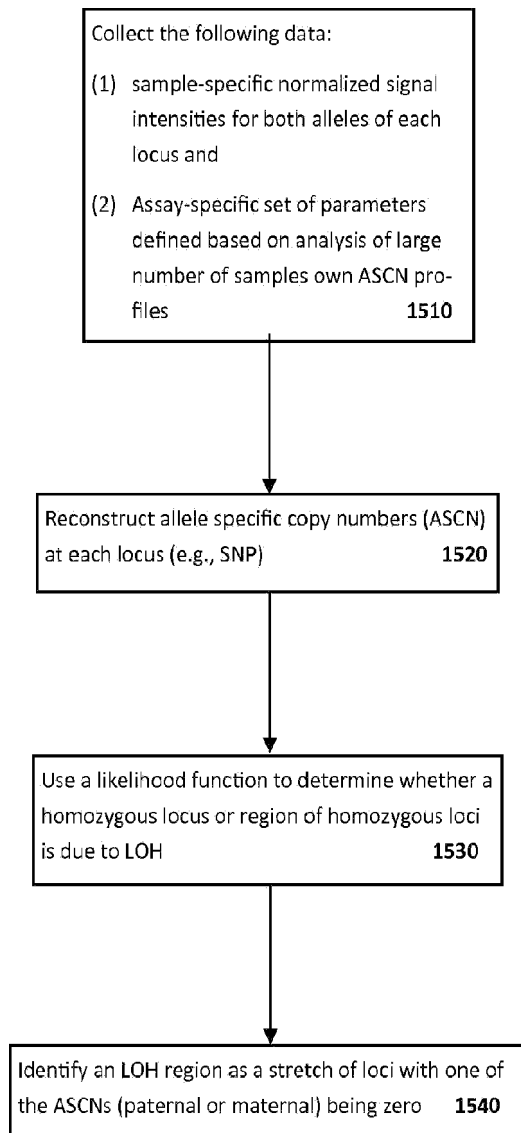


Figure 8

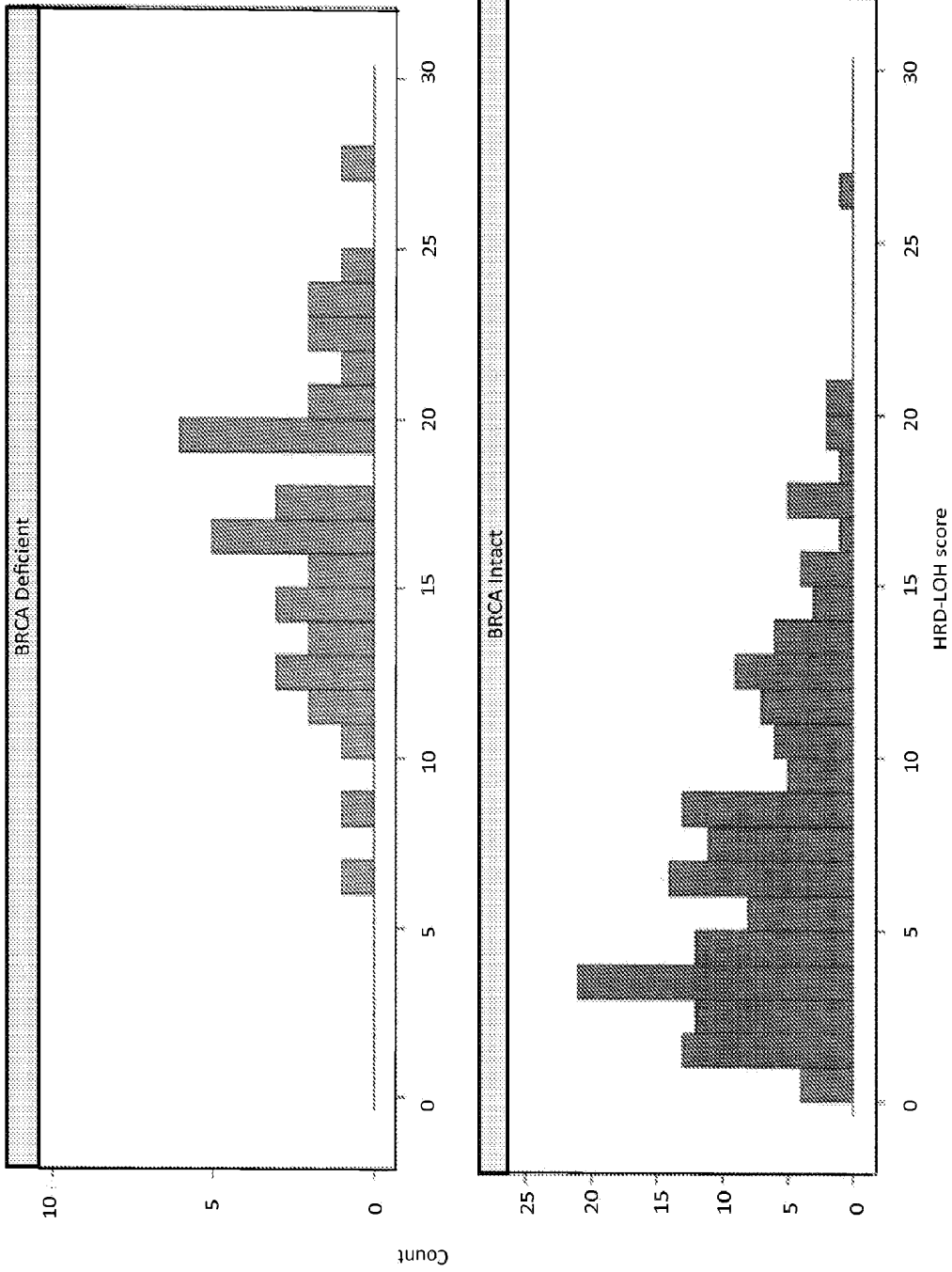


Figure 9A

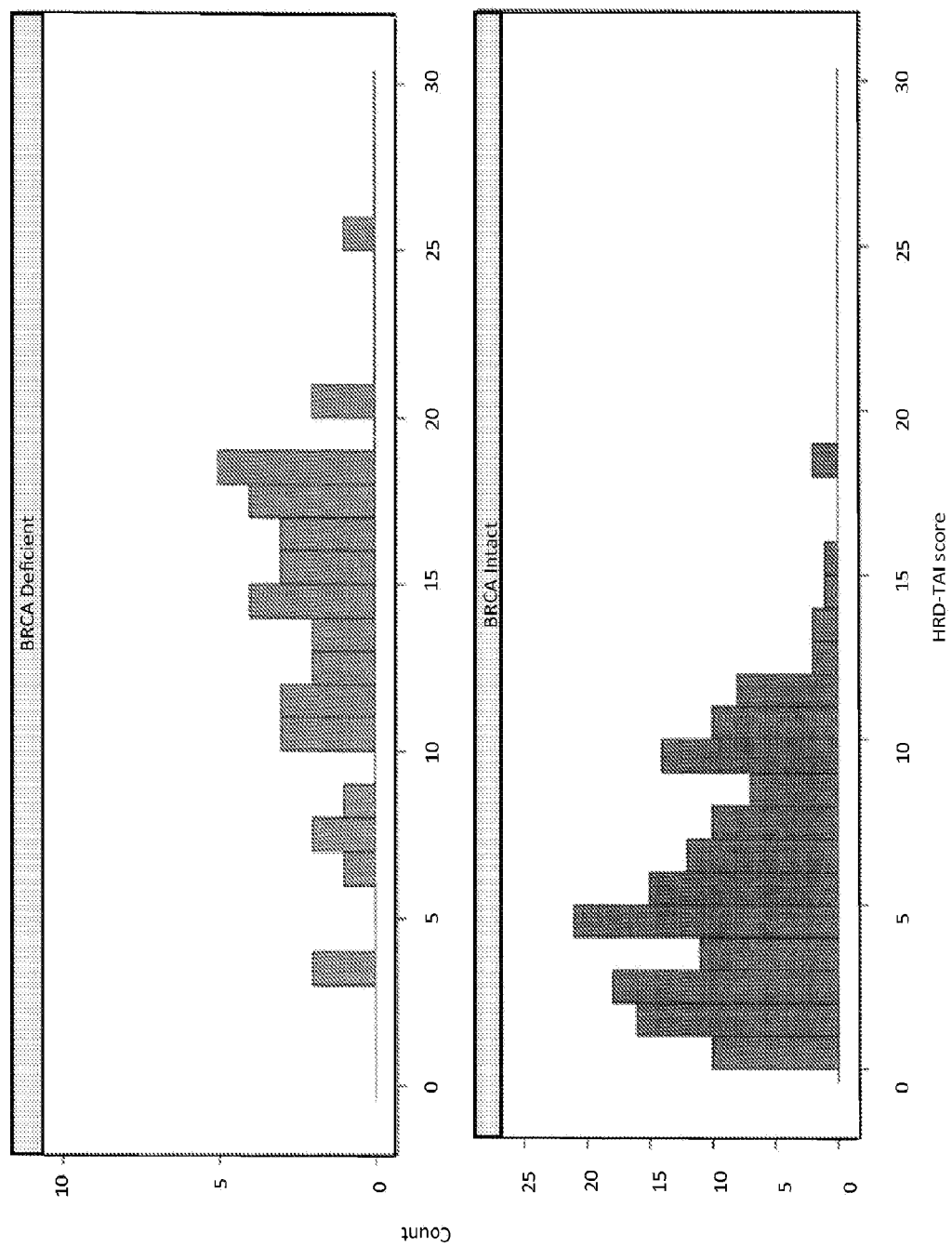
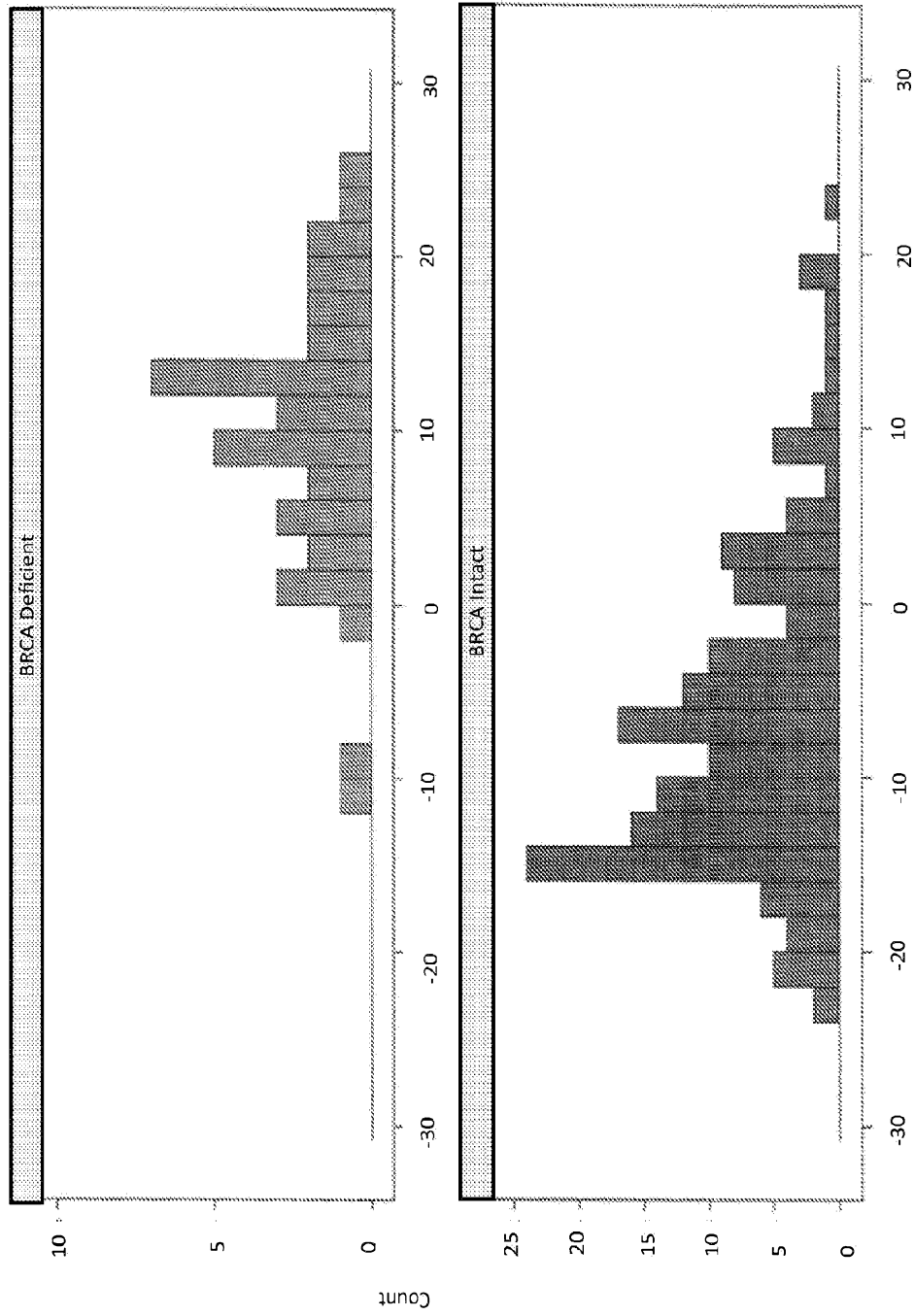


Figure 9B



HRD-LST score

Figure 9C

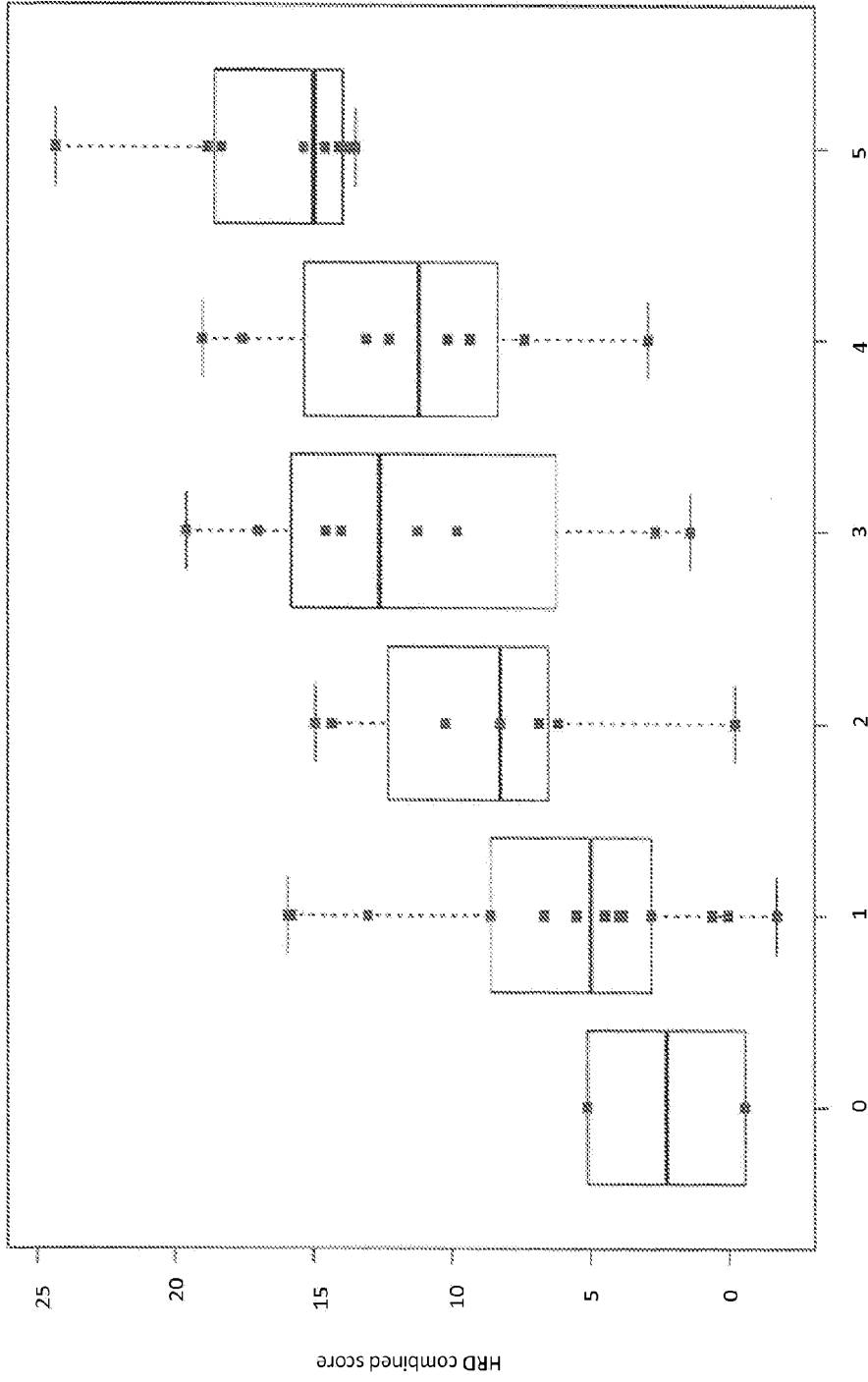


Figure 10

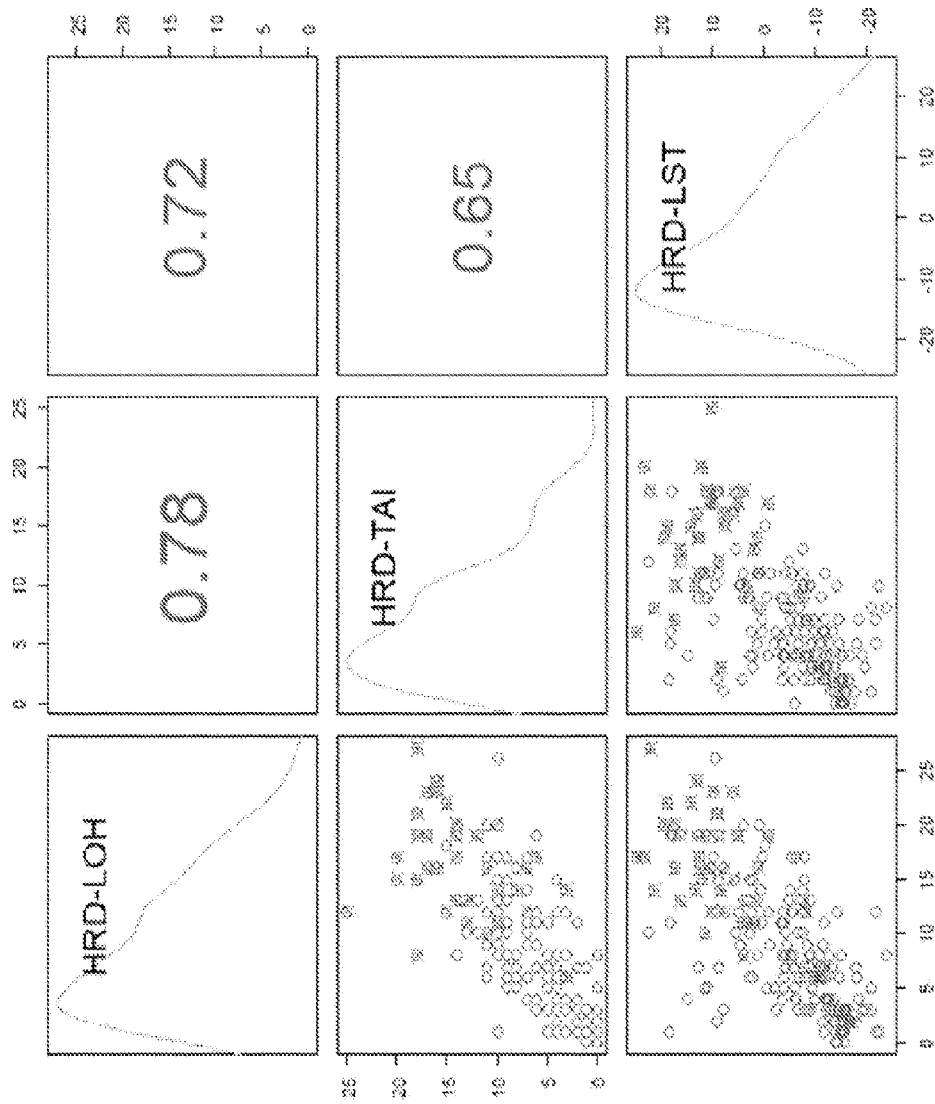


Figure 11

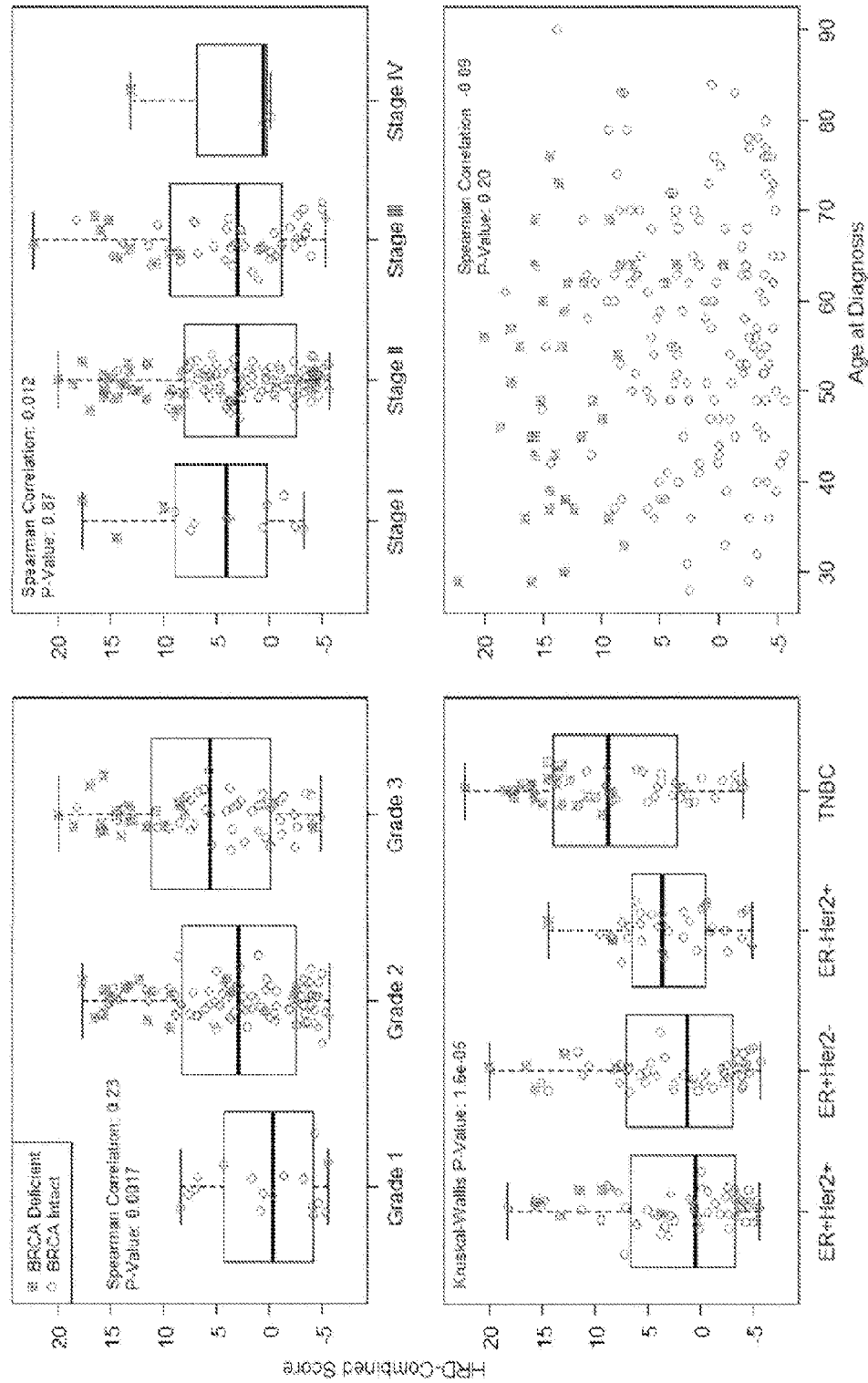


Figure 12

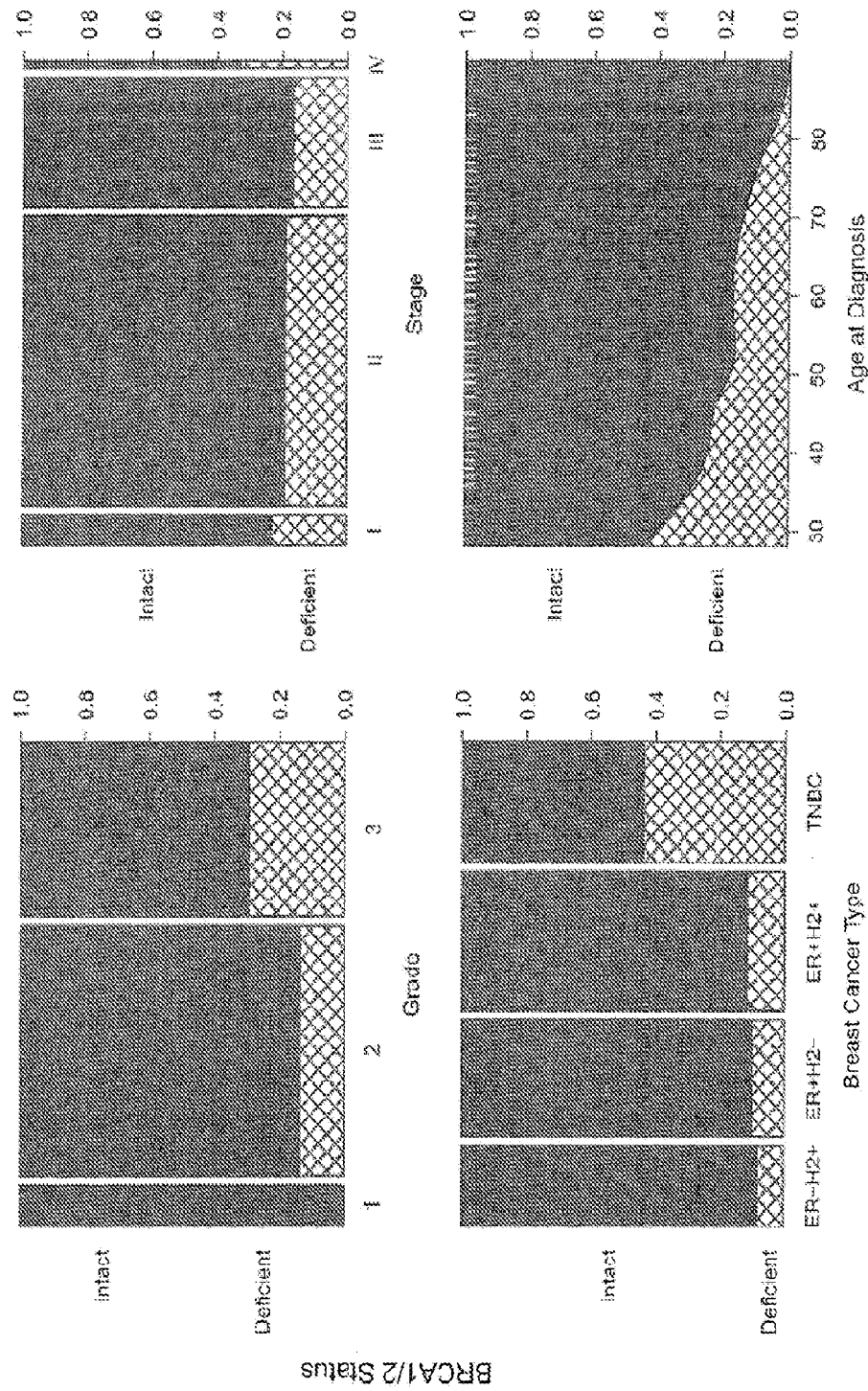


Figure 13

Combined studies breast and ovarian

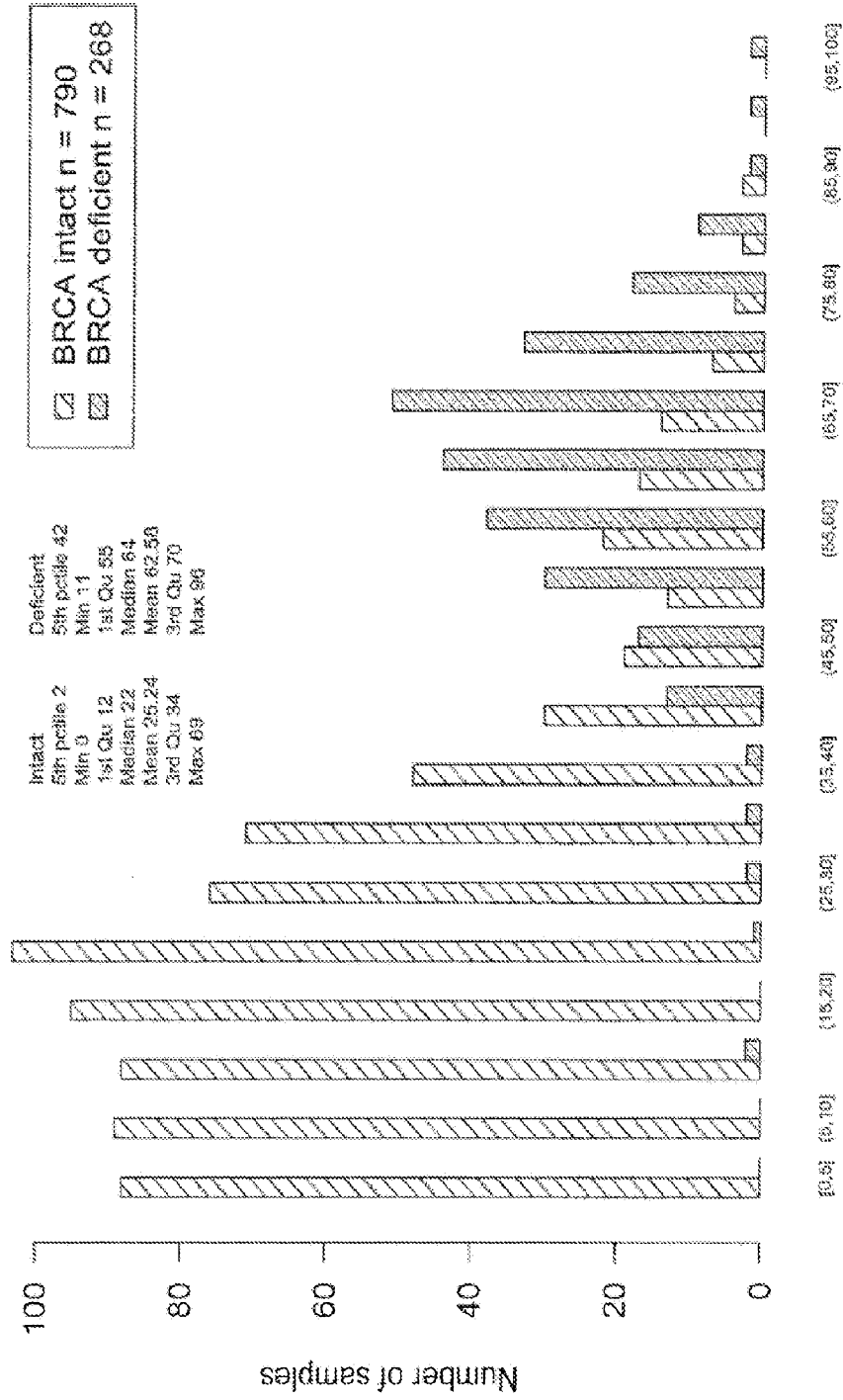


Figure 14

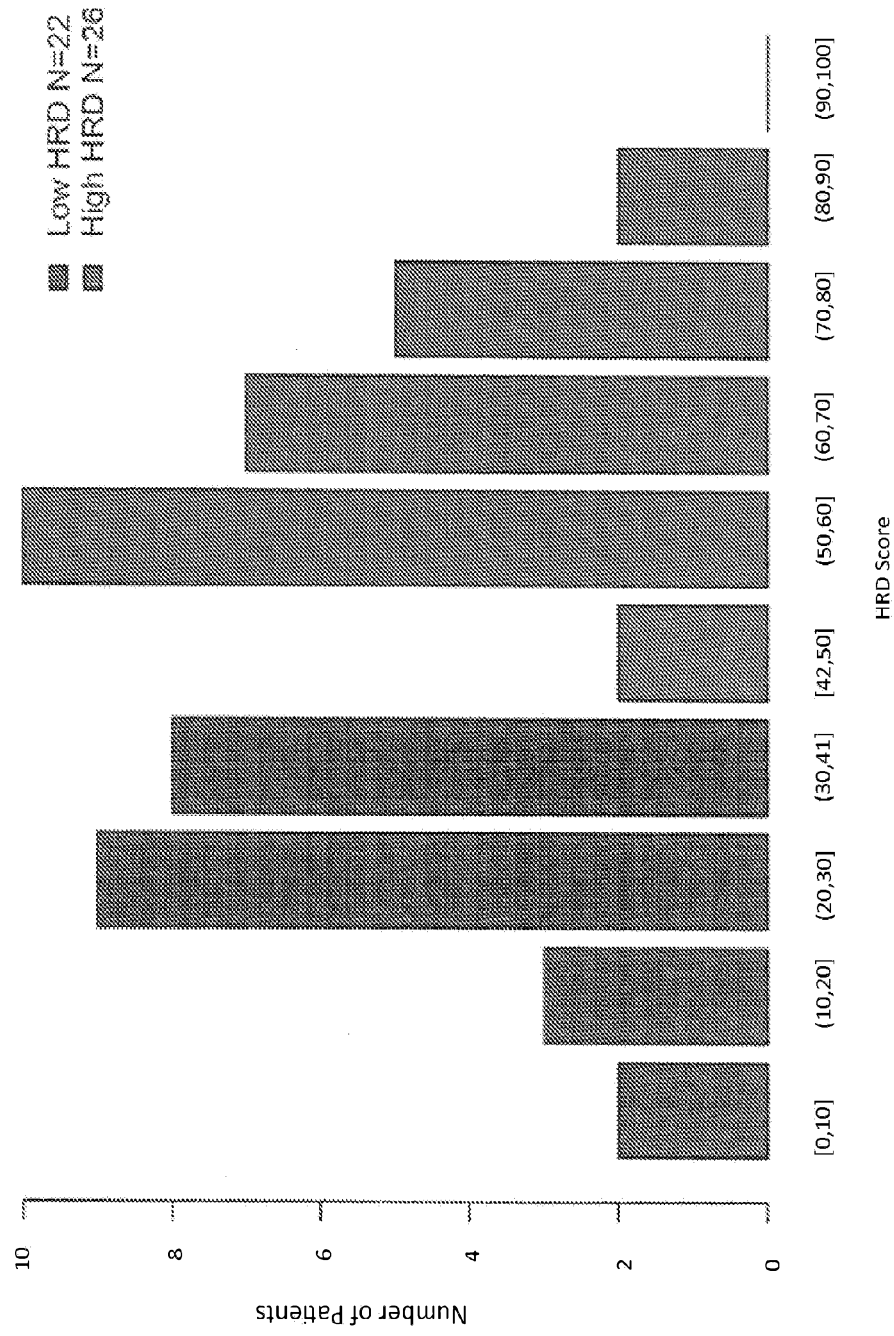


Figure 15

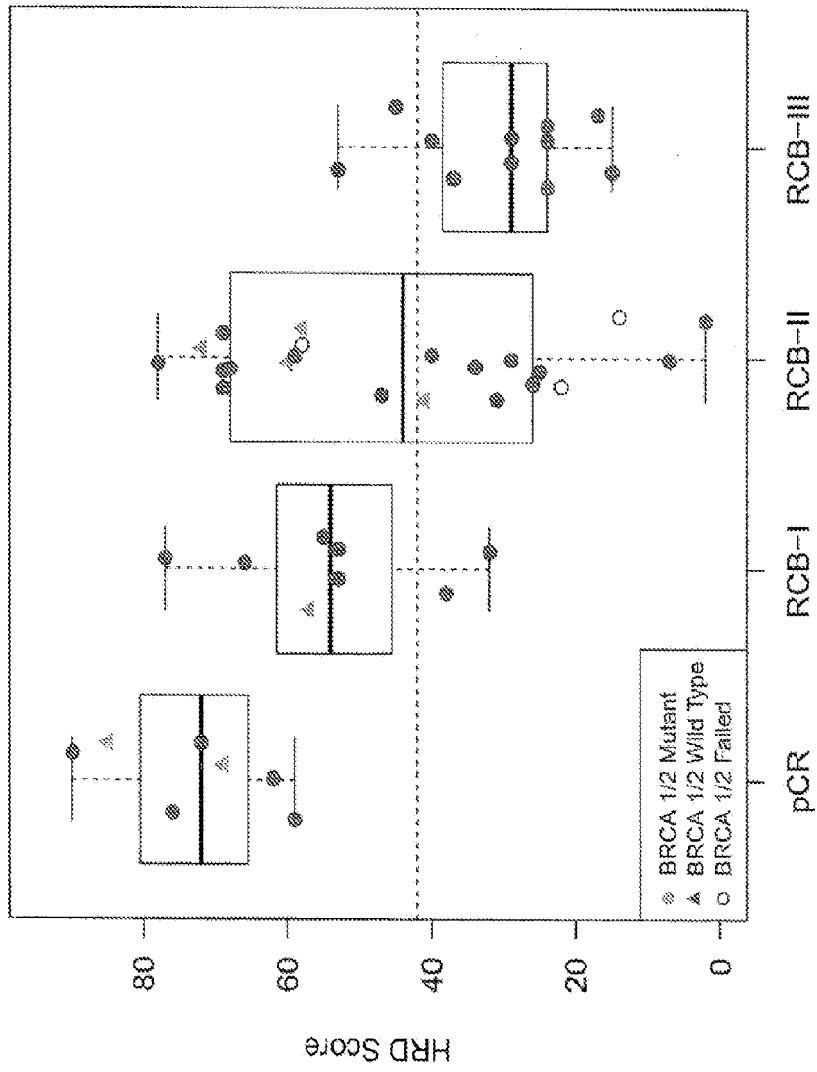


Figure 16

Logistic regression models of pathologic response

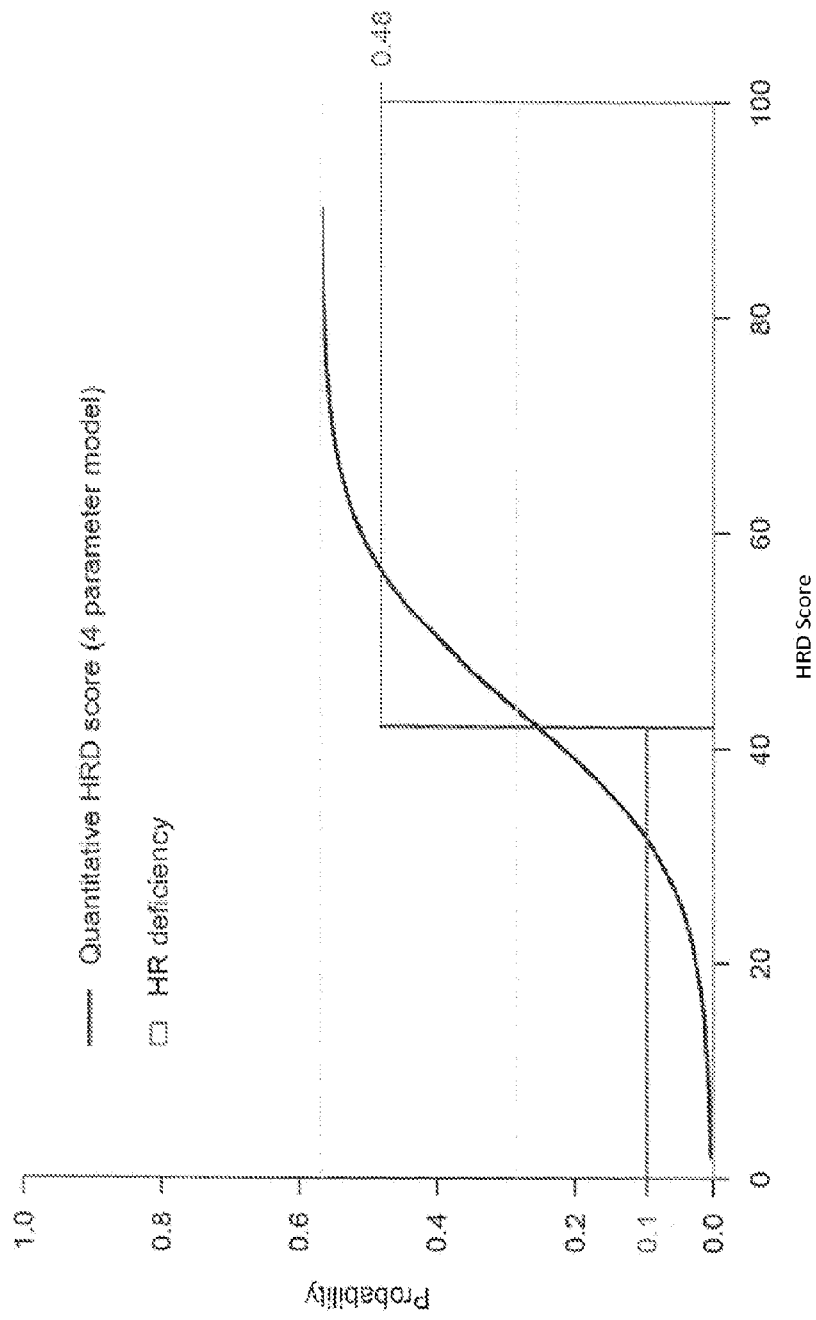


Figure 17

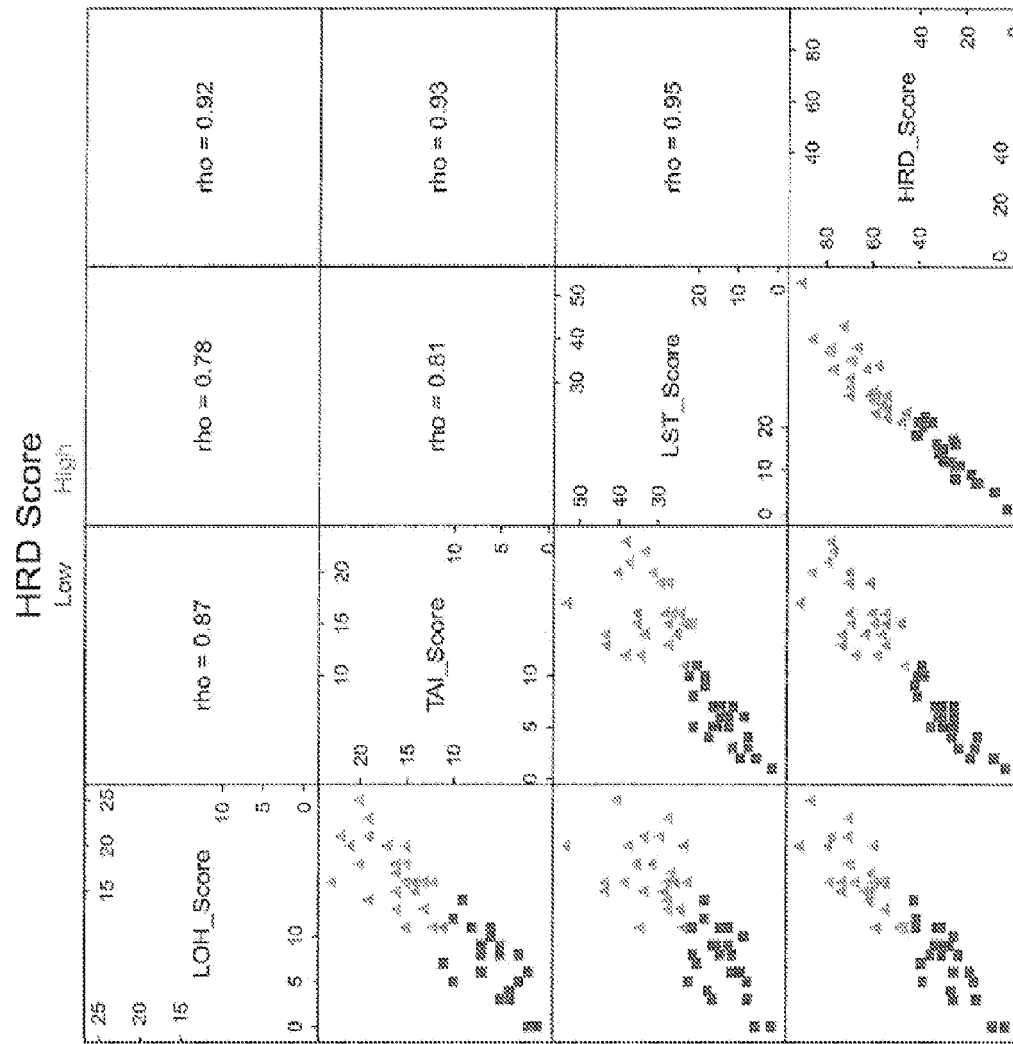


Figure 18