

# FKBP10 Acts as a New Biomarker for Prognosis and Lymph Node Metastasis of Gastric Cancer by Bioinformatics Analysis and in Vitro Experiments

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**Purpose:** To explore the role of FKBP prolyl isomerase 10 (*FKBP10*) protein in the progression of gastric cancer.

**Methods:** Four independent gastric cancer databases (GSE27342, GSE29272, GSE54129 and TCGA-STAD) were used to identify differentially expressed genes (DEGs). Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) analysis was used to identify the abnormally active pathways in patients with gastric cancer. Univariate Cox regression analysis was used to identify genes with stable prognostic value in gastric cancer patients based on three independent gastric cancer databases (GSE15459, GSE62254, TCGA-STAD). Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was used to explore the possible pathways related to *FKBP10*. The reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) was employed to determine the expression of *FKBP10* mRNA in the HGC-27 and MKN-7 cell lines. Adhesion assay was used to detect changes in cell adhesion ability. *FKBP10*, *ITGA1*, *ITGA2*, *ITGA5*, *ITGAV*, *ITGA6*, *P-AKT*<sub>473</sub>, *P-AKT*<sub>308</sub>, *AKT*, and  $\beta$ -actin were evaluated by Western blot (WB).

**Results:** We first performed differential expression genes (DEGs) screening of four independent GC databases (GSE27342, GSE29272, GSE54129 and TCGA-STAD). Eighty-nine genes showed consistent up-regulation in GC, the results of pathway analysis showed that they were related to "Focal adhesion". The prognostic value of these 89 genes was tested in three independent GC databases GSE15459, GSE62254 and TCGA-STAD cohort. Finally, 12 genes, in which the expression of *FKBP10* was prominently increased in patients with lymph node metastasis (LNM), showed stable prognostic value. The following gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) also showed that *FKBP10* is mainly involved in cell adhesion process, while adhesion experiments confirmed that cell adhesion was down-regulated after silencing *FKBP10* in GC cells, and adhesion-related molecules integrin  $\alpha$ V and  $\alpha$ 6 were down-regulated.

**Conclusion:** *FKBP10* may be used as a marker for lymph node metastasis of GC and could be used as a potential target for future treatment of GC.

**Keywords:** FKBP10, GC, adhesion, lymph node metastasis, integrin

## Introduction

Gastric cancer (GC) is one of the most malignant tumor in the world.<sup>1</sup> Lymph node metastasis of GC is identified as one of the most important clinicopathological variables which is an important factor affecting the prognosis of patients.<sup>2-4</sup> Lymph node metastasis in GC is the result of a combination of multiple driving processes. Current physical examination methods have limited sensitivity and specificity, and there is no effective biomarker for screening lymph node metastasis of GC, which, to a large extent, limits the diagnosis and treatment of GC to a certain extent.

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Therefore, there is an urgent need to select specific markers that can predict lymph node metastasis in GC to further guide the treatment.

FKBP prolyl isomerase 10 (*FKBP10*), which can regulate the cross-linking of extracellular matrix collagen, belongs to FK506 binding protein (*FKBP65*) family.<sup>5,6</sup> Thus far, it has been linked with abnormal collagen cross-linking, such as pulmonary fibrosis and tumor.<sup>7-11</sup> At present, the role of *FKBP10* in tumors is getting more and more attention. Studies have shown that *FKBP10* is highly expressed in a variety of tumors, that it promotes tumor progression and is a poor prognostic factor for tumors, such as kidney,<sup>12</sup> lung<sup>13</sup> and prostate cancer.<sup>14</sup> Online data have shown that *FKBP10* is a poor prognostic factor for GC, and that it participate in regulating cell adhesion of GC;<sup>15</sup> however, its specific mechanisms in GC are still unclear. In this study, we performed differential expression gene screening on four independent GC databases, and verified the prognostic effects of 89 consistently up-regulated genes, finally obtaining 12 prognostic genes. We noted that among these 12 genes, the expression of *FKBP10* was significantly elevated in patients with lymph node metastasis. This indicated that *FKBP10* might be a specific biomarker for lymph node metastasis of GC, which is associated with poor prognosis of GC. Subsequently basic experiment proved the silencing *FKBP10* in GC cells inhibits GC cell adhesion, which is achieved by down-regulating the integrin family of integrin  $\alpha V$  and  $\alpha 6$ .

## Materials and Methods

### Cell Lines

Human gastric cell lines MKN-45, HGC-27, AGS and the normal human gastric epithelial cell line GES-1 were purchased from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Shanghai, China). MKN-7 was obtained from the Japanese Collection of Research Bioresources (JCRB Cell Bank, Osaka, Japan). SNU-216 was obtained from the Korea Cell Line Bank (KCLB, Seoul, Korea).

The human gastric cancer cell lines HGC-27 and MKN-7 were used for basic experimental verification. The cell lines were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Thermo Scientific, MA, USA) and penicillin-streptomycin (100 U/mL-1), and the cells were in a humid environment. It absorbs 95% of air and 5% of CO<sub>2</sub> at 37 °C. All experiments were performed in the logarithmic growth phase.

### Antibodies and Reagents

Anti-*FKBP10* (PA5-63387, 0.4  $\mu$ g/mL) was purchased from Invitrogen (Rockford, IL, USA). Anti-*AKT* (9272,1:1000), anti-*p-AKT*<sub>308</sub>(4056,1:1000), anti-*p-AKT*<sub>473</sub>(9271L,1:1000), anti-integrin  $\alpha V$  (4711,1:500) and  $\alpha 5$  (4705,1:1000), anti-*GAPDH* (2118,1:1000) were purchased from Cell Signaling Technology (Danvers, MA, USA). Anti-integrin  $\alpha 6$  (ab97760,1:500) was purchased from Abcam (Cambridge, MA, USA). Anti-integrin  $\alpha 1$  (mab5676, 2 $\mu$ g/mL) and  $\alpha 2$  (mab12331,1 $\mu$ g/mL) were purchased from the R&D system (Minneapolis, MN, USA).

Secondary goat anti-rabbit and goat anti-mouse antibodies were from Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Santa Cruz, CA, USA). Matrigel was purchased from Corning (Corning Life Science, Tewksbury, MA, USA).

### Adhesion Assay

Adhesion assay was performed as previously described.<sup>16</sup> HGC-27 and MKN-7 cells transfected with *FKBP10* siRNA or NC siRNA were seeded in 96-well plates, which were pre-coated with 10  $\mu$ g/mL Matrigel at 37 °C overnight at a density of  $1 \times 10^4$  cells/200  $\mu$ L. After incubating at 37 °C for 30 minutes, wash three times with phosphate buffer saline (PBS) to remove non-adherent cells. Adherent cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, stained with Wright-Giemsa, then counted at five random fields under a microscope (Olympus) and analyzed statistically.

### Western Blot Analysis

After treating cells according to experimental needs. Western blotting was performed as previously described.<sup>16</sup> Cells were extracted in 1% Triton lysis buffer and quantified using the Coomassie brilliant blue method. Then, the cell lysates were separated by SDS-PAGE and electrophoretically transferred to a polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) membrane (Millipore, Bedford, MA, USA). The membranes were blocked with 5% skim milk in tris-buffered saline Tween-20 (TBST) buffer at room temperature for 1 hour and incubated with the indicated primary antibodies overnight at 4°C, which were diluted proportionally with 5% skim milk in tris-buffered saline Tween-20 (TBST) buffer. After incubating with the appropriate secondary antibodies at room temperature for 40 minutes, the protein bands were detected with enhanced chemiluminescence reagent (SuperSignal Western Pico Chemiluminescent Substrate; Pierce, USA) and visualized with the Electrophoresis Gel

Imaging Analysis System (DNR Bio-Imaging Systems, Israel). Final images were analyzed using ImageJ software.

### Small Interfering RNA Transfections

After the cell confluence reaches 30%–40%, Lipofectamine 2000 was used to transfect with siRNA according to (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) manufacturer's instructions. FKBP10 siRNAs and negative control siRNA (NC) were purchased from ViewSolid Biotech (Beijing, China). After 48 hours transfection, efficiency was identified by using RT-PCR and Western blot analysis.

### Total RNA Extraction and Real-Time PCR

RT-PCR was performed as previously described.<sup>16</sup> Primer sequences for *FKBP10*: Forward (5'-TGCCTCCCTCAGA CTCTAACAC-3'), Reverse (5'-GAATGGGGGCTGGGAA GACTG-3').

### Identification of Differential Expression Genes (DEGs)

We selected four representative GC datasets TCGA-STAD, GSE29272, GSE54129, and GSE27342 for identification of DEGs. The RNAseq matrix and corresponding clinical information of TCGA-STAD cohort were downloaded from TCGA data portal (<http://cancer.genome.nih.gov/>). GSE29272, GSE54129 and GSE27342 were downloaded from the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database. RNA-seq of TCGA-STAD were normalized using R package “DESeq2”.<sup>17</sup> Microarray data of GSE29272, GSE54129 and GSE27342 were normalized and filtered using R package “preprocessCore”. DEGs of TCGA-STAD were screened under the criteria of  $\text{adj.P} < 0.05$  and  $\text{FC} \geq 1.5$  using R package “DESeq2”. DEGs of GSE29272, GSE54129, GSE27342 cohort were screened under the criteria of corrected  $\text{adj.P} < 0.05$  and  $\text{FC} \geq 1.5$  using R package “limma”.<sup>18</sup>

### Functional Enrichment Analysis of DEGs

In order to understand how stable up-regulated DEGs affect the prognosis of GC patients, we performed KEGG analysis for these DEGs.<sup>19</sup> The R package “clusterProfiler” was used to perform gene function enrichment analysis. The difference was considered statistically significant at  $P < 0.05$ .

### Univariate Cox Regression Analysis

To determine the prognostic value of 89 genes that were consistently up-regulated, we performed a univariate

analysis. Univariate analysis was done with the R package “survival” and “survminer”.  $P < 0.05$  was considered to be meaningful.

### Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) for FKBP10

We use GSEA v2.2.2 (<http://www.broadinstitute.org/gsea>) to investigate the biological characteristics of FKBP10.<sup>20</sup> Expression level of FKBP10 was annotated as high or low phenotype. C2: CP KEGG gene sets from MSigDB was used as the reference gene sets, all other parameters were set to default.<sup>19</sup>

### Statistical Analysis

The experimental results were analyzed by SPSS 16.0 software. Student's *t*-test was used to compare between the two groups. All averages were calculated from three independent experiments.  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

## Results

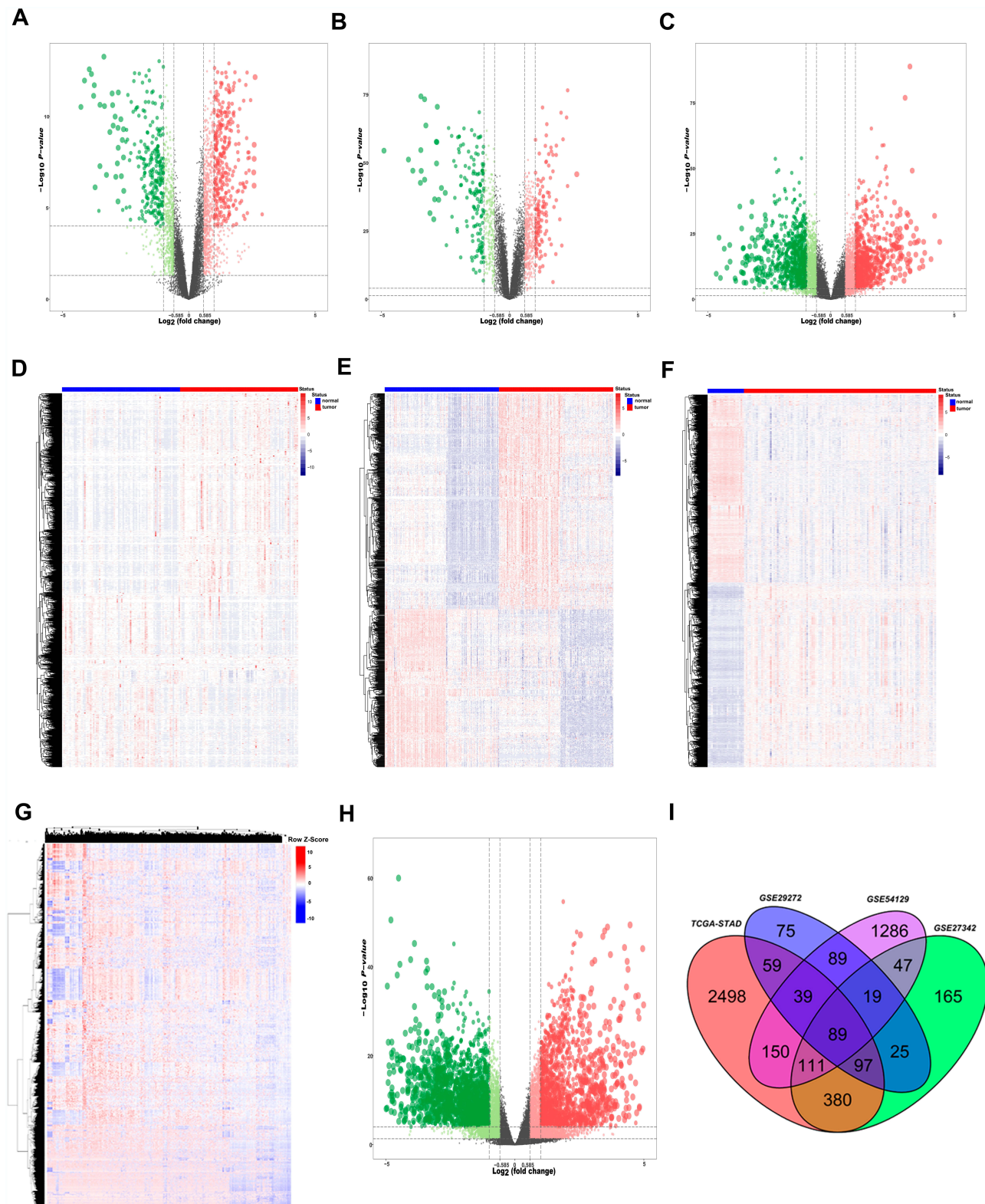
### Identification of Vital Up-Regulated DEGs in GC

In order to obtain stable DEGs in GC, we performed differential gene analysis on four independent data sets. A total of 3423 up-regulated genes and 3714 down-regulated genes were screened in TCGA-STAD with the criteria:  $\text{adj.P} < 0.05$  and  $\text{FC} \geq 1.5$  using R package “DESeq2” (Figure 1G and H). R package “limma” was used for screening DEGs for GSE29272, GSE54129 and GSE27342. Under the criteria that corrected  $\text{adj.P} < 0.05$  and  $\text{FC} \geq 1.5$ , 677 up-regulated genes and 771 down-regulated genes were screened from GSE27342 (Figure 1A and D); 491 up-regulated genes and 359 down-regulated genes were screened from GSE29272 (Figure 1B and E); 1829 up-regulated genes and 1859 down-regulated genes were screened from GSE54129 (Figure 1C and F). A total of 89 genes were simultaneously up-regulated in these 4 datasets (Figure 1I).

### KEGG Analysis of the 89-Up Regulated Genes

In order to understand the function of these 89 consistently up-regulated DEGs, KEGG were performed and bubble maps were drawn using ggplot2. KEGG analysis showed that these up-regulated genes are particularly abundant in “protein digestion and absorption,” “PI3K-AKT signal

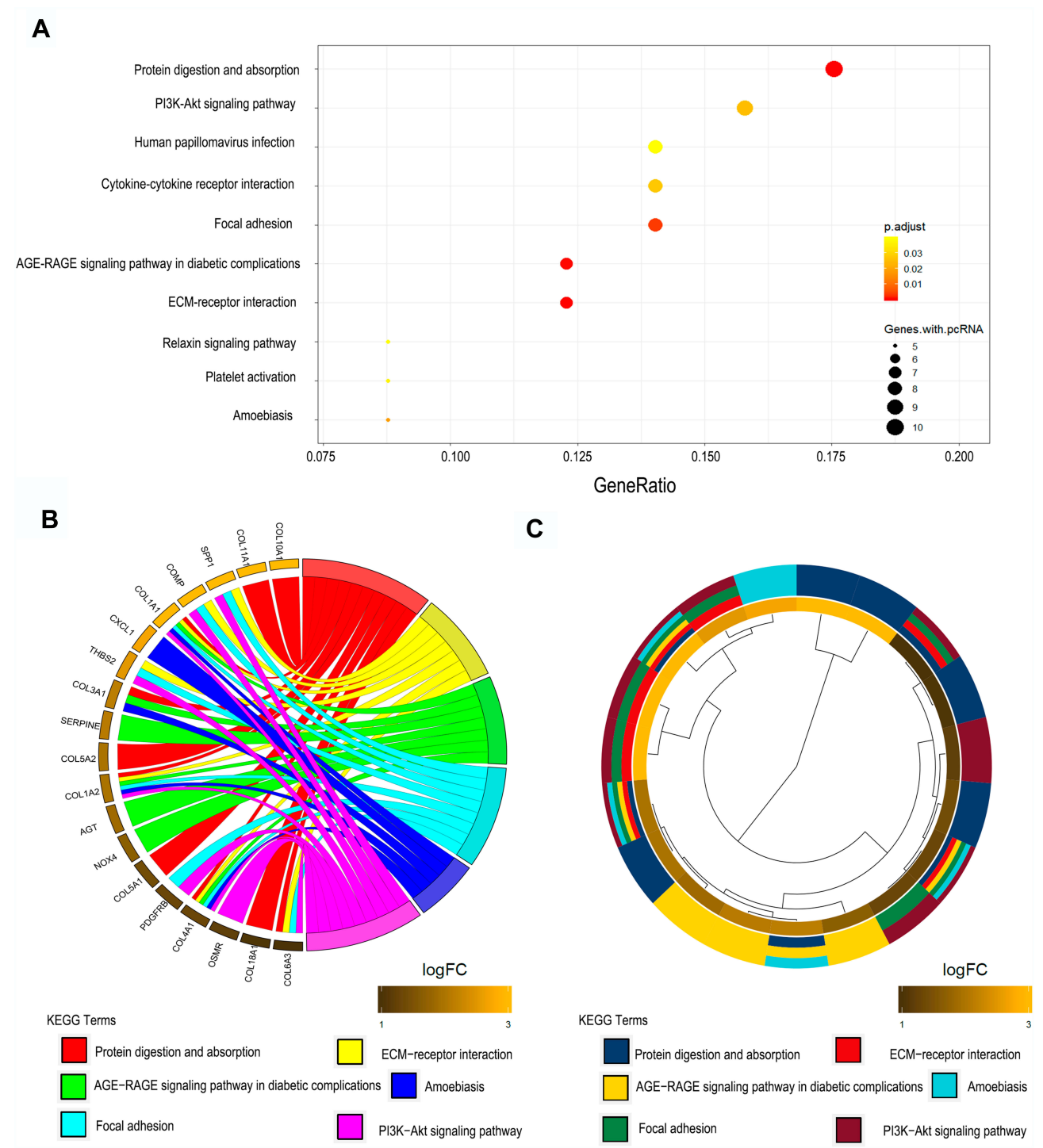




**Figure 1** Identification of differentially expressed genes between GC and normal tissues. The (A, B, C and H) Show the volcano maps of the DEGs between cancer tissues and adjacent tissues of GSE27342, GSE29272, GSE54129 and TCGA cohort respectively. (D, E, F and G) show the heatmap of the DEGs between cancer tissues and adjacent tissues of GSE27342, GSE29272, GSE54129 and TCGA cohort respectively. (I) Venn diagram of up-regulated genes of the four independent cohort. Finally, we got 89 consistently up-regulated genes in GC.

**Abbreviations:** GC, gastric cancer; DEGs, differentially expressed genes; TCGA, The Cancer Genome Atlas.

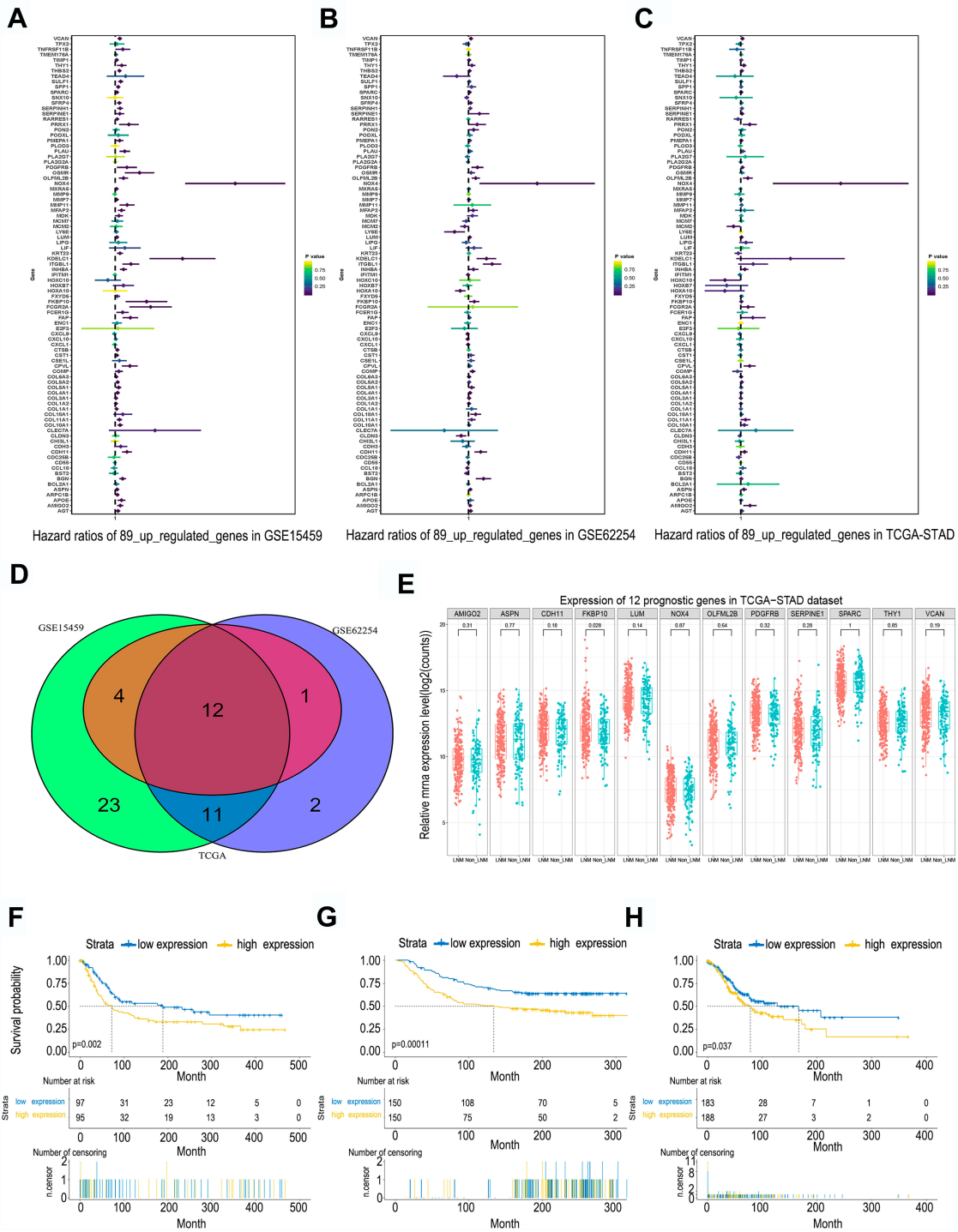




**Figure 2** KEGG results of 89 up-regulated DEGs in GC. **(A)** DEGs enriched in KEGG pathways “protein digestion and absorption,” “PI3K-AKT signal pathway,” and “focal adhesion,” etc. Fold enrichment of each KEGG term is indicated by the x-axis and bar color. **(B)** Hierarchical clustering of gene expression profiles of each KEGG pathway. **(C)** Chord plots show the relationship between genes and the KEGG pathway. **Abbreviations:** KEGG, Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes; DEGs, differentially expressed genes; GC, gastric cancer; PI3K-AKT, phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase-protein kinase B.

pathway,” and “focal adhesion” signal pathway (Figure 2A). The genes specifically enriched in each KEGG terms are shown in Figure 2B and C. These analysis results indicate

that these 89 genes are involved in the classic cancer-promoting pathway of GC, but the specific role needs further clarification.



**Figure 3** Identification of *FKBP10* as a novel prognostic marker for GC. The (A–C) Show the univariate analysis results of the 89 DEGs in three independent cohort (GSE15459, GSE62254 and TCGA) respectively. (D) The Venn diagram of the univariate analysis result. In summary, only 12 genes of the 89 up-regulated genes have a stable prognostic value (E) The relative mRNA expression level of the 12 genes between LNM group and Non-LNM group. (F–H) Show the Kaplan-Meier analysis of *FKBP10* in GSE15459, GSE62254 and TCGA cohort respectively. Patients with high *FKBP10* expression had shorter OS compared with low *FKBP10* expression. **Abbreviations:** *FKBP10*, *FKBP* prolyl isomerase 10; GC, gastric cancer; DEGs, differentially expressed genes; LNM, lymph node metastasis; TCGA, The Cancer Genome Atlas; OS, overall survival.

## Identification of *FKBP10* as a Novel Prognostic Marker for GC

In order to find genes that participate in the tumorigenesis and progression of GC, we performed single factor analysis of three independent gastric data sets: TCGA, GSE15459, and GSE62254 (Figure 3A and B and C). The obtained results showed that a total of 12 genes exhibited a high expression with poor prognosis in all three datasets (Figure 3D). In this study we mainly explore the factors affecting lymph node metastasis in GC. Further analysis found that only *FKBP10* was highly expressed in patients with lymph node metastasis (Figure 3E). Kaplan-Meier analysis found that *FKBP10* has stable prognostic effects in three independent gastric cohort (Figure 3F–H). This indicates that *FKBP10* can be used not only as a biomarker for the prognosis of GC, but also as a specific biomarker for lymph node metastasis of GC.

## Identification of Key Pathways and Genes Related to *FKBP10*

To further explore how *FKBP10* affects GC, we performed GSEA analysis. In three independent GC datasets GSE15459, GSE62254 and TCGA-STAD, “KEGG\_ADHERENS\_JUNCTION”, “KEGG\_ECM\_RECEPTOR\_INTERACTION” and “KEGG\_FOCAL\_ADHESION” were all identified as significance pathways related to *FKBP10* (Table 1, Figure 4A–C), which makes us presume that *FKBP10* may play an important role in the biological behavior of cell adhesion. According to Spearman correlation, we identified 1000 genes that were most relevant to *FKBP10*. In

summary, we speculate that *FKBP10* affects the adhesion process of GC through the *PI3K-AKT* signaling pathway.

## *FKBP10* Promotes GC Cells Adhesion Through Integrin Signaling in vitro

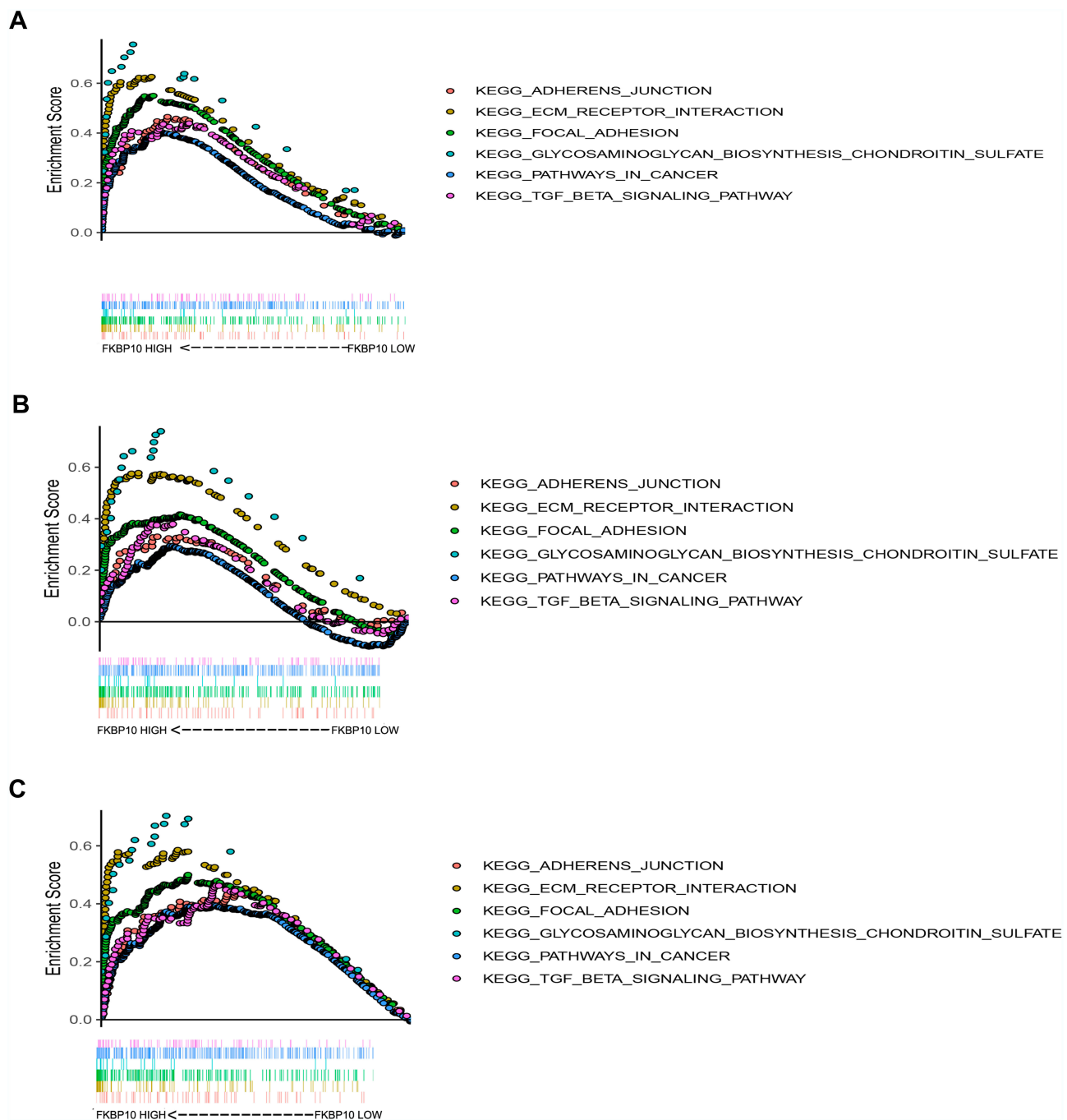
GSEA and KEGG analysis showed that *FKBP10* might affect the biological behavior of GC cells by acting on “adhesion pathway” and “*PI3K-AKT* pathway”. Based on this result, we next use basic experiments to test whether *FKBP10* has an effect on the adhesion of GC cells. We first detected *FKBP10* protein expression levels in various gastric cancer cell lines and GES-1. Figure 5A shows that *FKBP10* is significantly overexpressed in MKN-7 and HGC-27 cell lines, which is significantly higher than GES-1. Then siRNA was used to transiently knock down *FKBP10* expression, after transfected with siNC or siFKBP10 RT-PCR and Western Blot were used to detect knockdown efficiency. As shown in Figure 5B and C, siRNA reduced *FKBP10* mRNA and protein expression in both cell lines. Adhesion assay results showed *FKBP10* knockdown in HGC-27 and MKN-7 cells significantly suppressed cell adhesion compared to the negative controls as shown in Figure 5D and E. This result is consistent with the results of our data analysis. In addition to “adhesion pathway”, data analysis showed that *FKBP10* is involved in the “*PI3K-AKT* pathway” and therefore, it was tested whether *FKBP10* affects GC cell adhesion through this pathway. Figure 5G shows that there is no change in the *AKT* protein after knockdown of *FKBP10* in GC cells, while the phosphorylated *AKT* is reduced. At the same time, we detected changes in expression of integrin

**Table 1** Top Six GSEA Terms are Significantly Enriched in TCGA-STAD, GSE15459 and GSE62254

Name	GSE15459		GSE62254		TCGA	
	NES	NOM p-value	NES	NOM p-value	NES	NOM p-value
KEGG_ADHERENS_JUNCTION	1.7470553	0.001956947	1.4925742	0.034749035	1.8661315	0.003898636
KEGG_ECM_RECEPTOR_INTERACTION	2.0214167	0.0056926	1.6152014	0.017578125	2.1009507	0
KEGG_FOCAL_ADHESION	2.0666113	0	1.5525595	0.033932135	2.0269659	0.002020202
KEGG_GLYCOSAMINOGLYCAN_BIO SYNTHESIS_CHONDROITIN_SULFATE	2.0582051	0	1.5097376	0.046464648	1.9965792	0
KEGG_PATHWAYS_IN_CANCER	1.9199884	0	1.3536916	0.04761905	1.93229	0
KEGG_TGF_BETA_SIGNALING_PATHWAY	1.7097332	0.003824092	1.5905491	0.009881423	1.957675	0

**Abbreviations:** NES, normalized enrichment score; NOM p-value, normalized p-value; GSEA, gene set enrichment analysis; TCGA-STAD, The Cancer Genome Atlas Stomach Adenocarcinoma; KEGG, Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes.





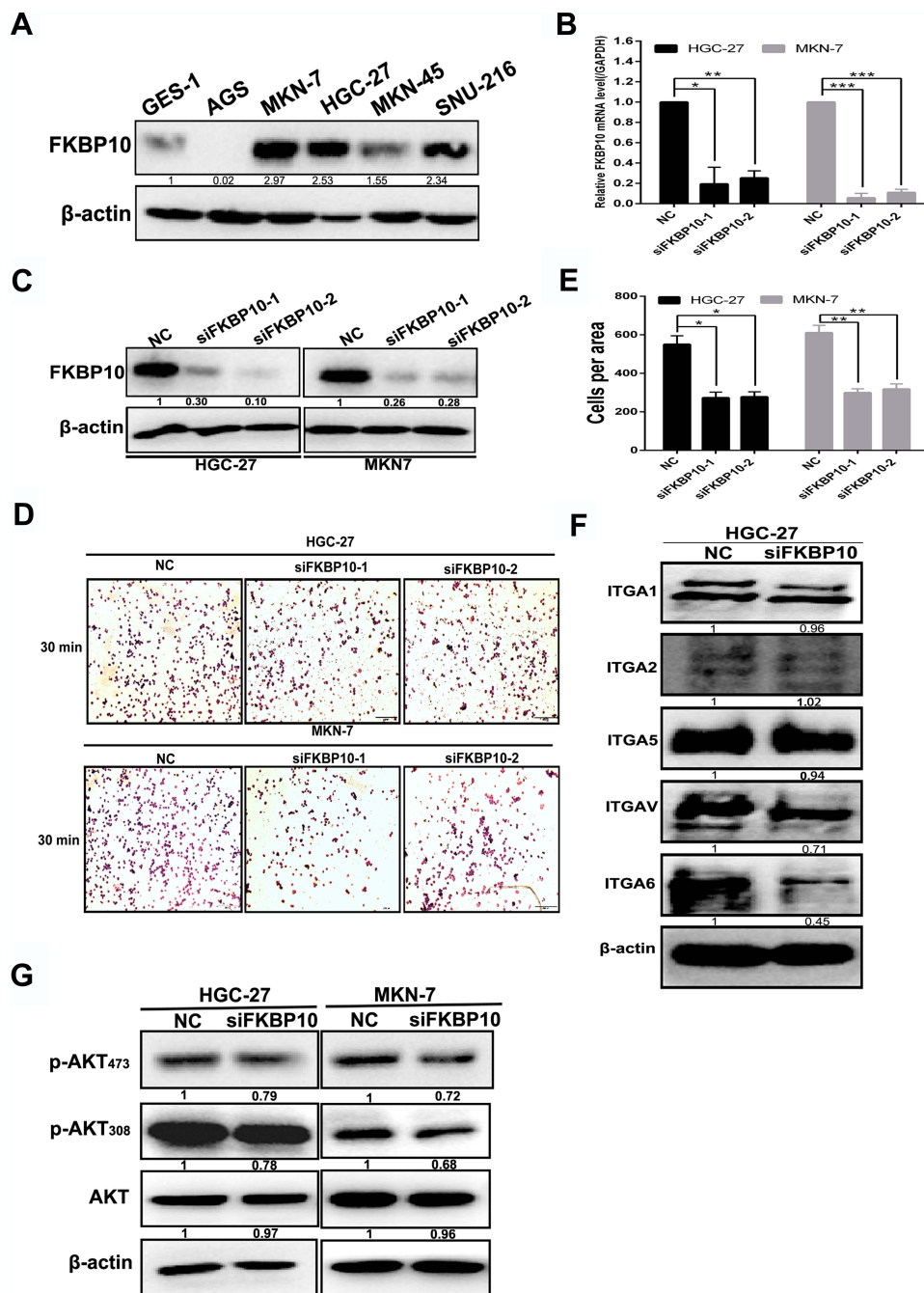
**Figure 4** Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) result of FKBP10. (A-C) “KEGG\_ADHERENS\_JUNCTION”, “KEGG\_ECM\_RECEPTOR\_INTERACTION”, “KEGG\_FOCAL\_ADHESION”, “KEGG\_GLYCOSAMINOGLYCAN\_BIOSYNTHESIS\_CHONDROITIN\_SULFATE”, “KEGG\_PATHWAYS\_IN\_CANCER”, “KEGG\_TGF\_BETA\_SIGNALING\_PATHWAY” were enriched in the three independent cohort. The position of the color bars means the ordering of the genes, and the color of the dots represents different enrichment pathways.

**Abbreviations:** FKBP10, FKBP prolyl isomerase 10; KEGG, Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes.

family proteins, which are adhesion classical related protein. As shown in Figure 5F, integrin  $\alpha V$  and integrin  $\alpha 6$  are significantly reduced. These results indicate that FKBP10 has an important role in GC cell adhesion, and that it may act through the integrin/AKT pathway.

## Discussion

GC has a high degree of malignancy and a poor prognosis. Many factors including lymph node metastasis can affect the prognosis of GC. Various examination methods have limitations in the diagnosis of gastric lymph node metastasis.<sup>21-24</sup>



**Figure 5** *FKBP10* promotes adhesion of GC cells **(A)** *FKBP10* protein expression in gastric cancer cell line and GES-1. **(B)** and **(C)** *FKBP10* mRNA and protein expression levels were tested by qRT-PCR and Western blot analysis in HGC-27 and MKN-7 cells after transfected with siFKBP10 for 48 hours. **(D)** Adhesion assay was used to detect changes in adhesion ability of HGC-27 and MKN-7 cells after transfected with siFKBP10 for 48 hours. **(E)** Quantifications of cells are shown as proportions of the number of control cells. Original magnification, 200×. Scale bar: 100 μM. **(F)** and **(G)** Integrin α1, integrin α2, integrin α5, integrin αV, integrin α6, AKT, P-AKT308, P-AKT473 proteins were detected by Western blot analysis in HGC-27 and MKN-7 cells after transfected with siFKBP10 for 48 hours. β-actin was used as a loading control in Western blot. (\*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001, n = 3, student t-test, means ± 95% CI).

**Abbreviations:** GC, gastric cancer; *FKBP10*, FKBP prolyl isomerase 10; AKT, protein kinase B; P-AKT<sub>308</sub>, phospho-protein kinase B; Thr308, threonine 308; P-AKT<sub>473</sub>, phospho-protein kinase B; Ser473, serine 473; *GAPDH*, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase; NC, negative control.

Currently, there are no effective molecular predictors that could be used to predict lymph node metastasis in GC. In this study, we screened out *FKBP10* as a potential marker for

lymph node metastasis in GC using online data analysis. Our experiments confirmed that GC cell adhesion was down-regulated after silencing *FKBP10*. Unfortunately, in this

study we lacked a classic animal model of orthotopic lymph node metastasis for GC. We will make up for this in future research.

Current research shows that dysfunction of *FKBP10* leads to abnormal expression of collagen in the interstitial cells and structural abnormalities, which in turn lead to disease. *FKBP10* is up-regulated in multiple solid tumors including lung, liver, and kidney fibrosis cancer.<sup>8,9,11</sup> Existing studies have shown that *FKBP65* cross-links with pyridine by mediating LH2 dimerization,<sup>8</sup> and decreased expression of *FKBP10* results in decreased *Colla1* mRNA levels and collagen accumulation in the liver.<sup>11</sup> At the same time, *FKBP65*, *HSP47* and *Bip* form a complex to regulate the activity of LH2.<sup>9</sup> Over recent years, the role of *FKBP10* in tumors has received increasing attention; nevertheless, its function is controversial. On the one hand, *FKBP10* expression is increased in some tumors, and normal tissues are not expressed, such as in melanoma but not in normal tissues.<sup>11,25</sup> *FKBP10* is not expressed in healthy parenchyma in human but is expressed in lung cancer nevertheless the *KRAS* is negative or positive. In *KRAS*-driven lung tumors, down-regulation of *FKBP10* inhibits tumor cell growth.<sup>13</sup> In colorectal cancer, *FKBP10* is highly expressed compared to the corresponding normal tissue.<sup>26</sup> Decreased expression of *FKBP10* inhibits proliferation and migration of renal cancer cells by down-regulating heat shock protein 90 and resulting in cell cycle arrest.<sup>12</sup> In a mouse xenograft model, YK-4-279, which is a small molecule inhibitor of *ETV1*, could prevent prostate cancer growth and metastasis. This effect is achieved by targeting *FKBP10*.<sup>14</sup> Moreover, in the acquisition and maintenance of the doxorubicin resistance phenotype in leukemia cells *FKBP10* also plays an important role.<sup>27</sup> However, compared with benign tumor cells and ovarian epithelial cells, the expression of FK506-binding protein 65 (*FKBP65*) is decreased in epithelial ovarian cancer cells.<sup>28</sup> *FKBP10* is highly expressed in GC, and is a poor prognostic factor for GC;<sup>15</sup> however, the specific mechanism underlying these actions still remain unclear.

In this study, we focus on factors affecting lymph node metastasis (LNM) in GC. We first identified 89 genes that were consistently up-regulated in tumor tissues compared to normal tissues across three GEO database and TCGA-STAD cohort. Out of these 89 genes, only 12 showed a stable prognostic value. *FKBP10* was only significantly higher in patients with LNM compared to patients with non-LNM, which implied *FKBP10* may promote GC progression by promoting GC lymph node metastasis. Our results revealed that *FKBP10* is a potential marker for

lymph node metastasis of GC that is associated with poor prognosis of GC. Subsequent GSEA results suggested that *FKBP10* might be associated with cell adhesion. In order to verify this, we conducted basic experiments, which confirmed that silencing *FKBP10* in GC cells could inhibit GC cell adhesion as was already reported by previous studies. We furthermore found that integrin  $\alpha V$  and integrin  $\alpha 6$  can be down-regulated after silencing *FKBP10*. The binding of integrin  $\alpha V$  and  $\alpha 6$  with their specific ECM protein were downregulation, thus inhibiting their potential downstream *P-AKT* and GC cell adhesion. This mechanism may promote interstitial enhancement of GC cells, thereby promoting lymph node metastasis.

## Conclusion

Compared to non-LNM patients, *FKBP10* expression was significantly higher in LNM patients. *FKBP10* is a potential marker of lymph node metastasis in GC and is associated with poor prognosis of GC. Online data and basic experiments have verified this, and after *FKBP10* is silenced, integrin  $\alpha V$  and integrin  $\alpha 6$  can be down-regulated, and its classical downstream *P-AKT* is down-regulated. It is suggested that *FKBP10* may promote interstitial enhancement of GC cells through this mechanism, thereby promoting lymph node metastasis.

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## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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