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LONG NON CODING RNA EXPRESSION IN ETV6-RUNX1 PAEDIATRIC ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA

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Long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) play important roles in numerous diseases and represent an emerging layer of cancer biology. However, the role that lncRNAs play in the pathogenesis of pediatric B-cell leukemia (B-ALL) with t(12;21)[ETV6-RUNX1] translocation is unknown. In this study, the lncRNA expression profiles of 42 pediatric B-ALL (24 with and 18 without the t(12;21)) and 4 bone marrows from healthy patients were assessed using the Arraystar Human lncRNA Array. Using microarray data, we identified 117 lncRNA that were differentially expressed (fold change > 1.5 and FDR > 0.05) between the B-ALL subgroups (ETV6-RUNX1-positive and ETV6-RUNX1-negative). The most upregulated lncRNA in ETV6-RUNX1 positive B-ALL were TCL6, RP4-697K14.3, LOC100292680, RP11-345I18.1, LINC00599 and TRAF3IP2-AS1, while the most downregulated were RP11-135F9.1, RP11-561B11.1, AK095221, RP11-463H12.1, AC007283.4 and CCDC26. Coding-non-coding gene co-expression networks were constructed to identify lncRNAs with potential functions in ETV6-RUNX1 translocation. Levels of representative lncRNA-mRNAs pairs were further detected by qRT-PCR in patients with pediatric B-ALL. Thus, these findings provide the first detailed description of lncRNA expression profiles related to t(12;21) translocation in pediatric B-ALL, such lncRNA profiles may play important roles in driving normal cells to leukemic cells. These lncRNAs may provide novel molecular biomarkers and offer new basis for combating pediatric B-ALL.

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