An integrated molecular diagnostic report for heart transplant biopsies using an ensemble of diagnostic algorithms

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Abstract

Background. We previously reported a microarray-based diagnostic system for heart transplant endomyocardial biopsies (EMBs), using either 3-archetype (3AA) or 4-archetype (4AA) unsupervised algorithms to estimate rejection. The present study aimed to examine the stability of machine-learning algorithms in new biopsies, compare 3AA vs. 4AA algorithms, assess supervised binary classifiers trained on histologic or molecular diagnoses, create a report combining many scores into an ensemble of estimates, and examine possible automated sign-outs.

Methods. We studied 889 EMBs from 454 transplant recipients at eight centers: the initial cohort (N=331) and a new cohort (N=558). Published 3AA algorithms derived in cohort 331 were tested in cohort 558; the 3AA and 4AA models were compared; and supervised binary classifiers were created.

Results. Algorithms derived in cohort 331 performed similarly in new biopsies despite differences in case mix. In the combined cohort, the 4AA model, including a parenchymal injury score, retained correlations with histologic rejection and DSA similar to the 3AA model. Supervised molecular classifiers predicted molecular rejection (AUCs>0.87) better than histologic rejection (AUCs<0.78), even when trained on histology diagnoses. A report incorporating many AA and binary classifier scores interpreted by one expert showed highly significant agreement with histology (p<0.001), but with many discrepancies as expected from the known noise in histology. An automated random forest score closely predicted expert diagnoses, confirming potential for automated sign-outs.

Conclusions. Molecular algorithms are stable in new populations and can be assembled into an ensemble that combines many supervised and unsupervised estimates of the molecular disease states. (ClinicalTrials.gov NCT02670408).

Introduction

Molecular examination of endomyocardial biopsies (EMBs) presents an opportunity to reclassify disease states and improve the precision and accuracy of diagnoses. The current standard for diagnosing heart transplant rejection is histology, interpreted with limited reproducibility¹ using the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT)²⁻⁶ guidelines for T cell-mediated rejection (TCMR) and antibody-mediated rejection (ABMR). Molecular diagnosis offers the possibility of improved quantitation, objectivity, and mechanistic insights. We first reported assessments using gene sets⁷ and later assessed EMBs using kidney-derived rejection-associated transcript (RAT) expression. The genes associated with ABMR in hearts were highly similar to those in kidney⁸. We reported a first-generation centralized microarray-based Molecular Microscope[®] Diagnostic System (MMDx) for kidney⁹ and heart transplants^{7,10-12}. For EMBs, rejection was assessed using an unsupervised archetypal analysis (AA) that initially assigned three archetype (3AA) scores: S1_{normal}, S2_{TCMR}, and S3_{ABMR}¹². We explored a modification of this approach by a four-archetype (4AA) model that added a parenchymal injury score (S4_{injury})¹³, taking advantage of the fact that molecular features of adaptive immunity (rejection) are shared by innate immunity (the inflammatory response to injury)¹⁴⁻¹⁶.

In kidney transplant biopsies, we showed the value of supervised classifiers trained on histology diagnoses^{17;18} as well as unsupervised archetypal scores⁹. This raised the possibility of incorporating the multiple supervised and unsupervised machine learning estimates into one comprehensive report based on the principle that multiple estimates improve accuracy¹⁹⁻²¹. With this in mind, the present study had four aims: to test whether diagnostic algorithms derived in one biopsy set performed similarly in new biopsies despite variations in case mix; to study whether incorporation of injury estimates affected the estimates of rejection; to develop new supervised classifier equations trained on rejection diagnoses; and to integrate many estimates into an ensemble that reported the molecular and injury phenotype, potentially using an automated sign-out. Our strategy is outlined in Supplementary Figure 1.

Methods

Population. This prospective study was approved by the ethics review board of each center (Supplementary Table 1) and is registered at ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT02670408). As previously described¹², biopsies were collected prospectively for clinical indications or by protocol, processed for histology and HLA antibody testing as per local standard of care. Histology interpretation followed ISHLT guidelines^{3;22}.

Microarray analysis. As detailed elsewhere ¹², purified total RNA from EMBs including RNA available from 97 Edmonton samples used in a previous study ⁷ was labeled with the 3' IVT Plus kit (Affymetrix, Santa Clara) and hybridized to PrimeView microarrays (Affymetrix) according to manufacturer protocols (www.affymetrix.com).

Rejection-Associated Transcripts (RATs). As previously described, RATs were derived as union (after eliminating overlaps) of the top 200 probe sets associated with each of three kidney transplant biopsy histology comparisons: all rejection vs. everything else, ABMR vs. everything else, and TCMR vs. everything else^{9;23}.

Pathogenesis-based transcript sets (PBTs). PBTs were previously annotated to reflect biological mechanisms in rejection and injury, defined in human cell lines, mouse experimental models, and human transplant biopsies (detailed at https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine/institutes-centres-groups/atagc/research/gene-lists) PBTs are expressed as their mean fold difference in biopsies compared to a control group. We focused on PBTs for injury-and-repair transcripts (IRRATs)^{24;25}, quantitative constitutive macrophage transcripts (QCMATs)²⁶, quantitative cytotoxic T cell transcripts (QCATs)²⁷, T cell burden transcripts (TCBs)²⁸, NK cell burden transcripts (NKBs)²⁸, IFNG-inducible transcripts (GRITs)²⁹, DSA-selective transcripts (DSASTs)³⁰, and the endothelium-expressed subset of DSASTs (eDSASTs).

Archetypal analysis (AA). The methods for AA are published³¹, including model 1 for three archetypes (3AA)¹² and model 2 for four archetypes (4AA)¹³. Both were based on RAT expression and assigned each EMB a set of scores representing no rejection (S1_{normal}), TCMR (S2_{TCMR}), and ABMR (S3_{ABMR}). The 4AA model assigned an additional score for injury (S4_{Injury}).

Rejection diagnoses. To facilitate comparison between MMDx and histology, histologic and molecular scores were translated into diagnoses of ABMR, possible ABMR (pABMR), TCMR, possible TCMR (pTCMR), mixed ABMR plus TCMR, and no rejection¹³. Histologic ABMR 1H+ and 1I+ were pABMR; grades 2 and 3 were ABMR. Histologic TCMR 1R was pTCMR; grades 2R and 3R were TCMR. Using 4AA scores, $0.3 \le S3_{ABMR} < 0.5$ constituted pABMR, $S3_{ABMR} \ge 0.5$ constituted ABMR, $0.2 \le S2_{TCMR} < 0.3$ constituted pTCMR, and $S2_{TCMR} \ge 0.3$ constituted TCMR. $S4_{Injury} \ge 0.2$ constituted possible injury. Cut-offs were derived arbitrarily from examination of the data.

Binary rejection classifiers. The binary classifiers comparing a positive class to a negative class were derived to predict the probability of histologic or molecular diagnoses of ABMR, TCMR, or any rejection (using the above nomenclature). For features they used the top 20 transcripts (selected using Bayesian t-tests of all possible transcripts) associated with the relevant diagnosis, either histologic or molecular, compared to all other biopsies. They were constructed using linear discriminant analysis using 10-fold cross-validation. The top transcripts and the classifiers were derived from scratch in each fold of cross-validation, yielding test set predictions for all biopsies and preventing overfitting.

Results

Biopsy population. Clinically indicated, protocol and follow-up EMBs from 454 patients were collected in two cohorts: cohort 331 (N=331) from the earlier study¹² and a new cohort of 558 biopsies (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 2). Cardiomyopathy and coronary artery disease were the common primary diseases.

Histology grades and molecular scores were translated to a common nomenclature¹³ (see Methods): TCMR, pTCMR, ABMR, and pABMR. Frequencies of the histologic classes in cohort 331 and 558 are in Table 2 and Supplementary Table 3. As expected, in cohort 558 ABMR was less frequent than in cohort 331, (3% vs. 10%) particularly in the late biopsies, and no rejection was more frequent (44% vs. 27%) than in cohort 331. Case mix differed between cohorts because cohort 331 was enriched in high risk heart transplants performed in Paris, whereas cohort 558 was intended to be more representative of the prevalent international heart transplant population.

At their latest biopsy, 35% percent of patients in cohort 331 and 37% of patients in cohort 558 were DSA positive (Table 2).

Performance of machine learning algorithms in a new cohort. We studied whether the previously published 3AA model for classification of rejection in cohort 331¹² would detect rejection in a new cohort 558. Relationships between S1_{normal}, S2_{TCMR}, and S3_{ABMR} scores and the corresponding histologic classes were similar in both cohorts: S1_{normal} scores were highest in no rejection, S2_{TCMR} scores were highest in TCMR increasing through no rejection and pTCMR, and S3_{ABMR} scores were highest in ABMR increasing through no rejection and pABMR (Figure 1, Supplementary Table 4). Thus, unsupervised machine learning algorithms derived in one population performed as expected in new biopsies despite differences in case mix and participating centers.

Does incorporating injury estimates affect the assessment of rejection? We compared relationships between histologic diagnoses and molecular scores in the 3AA and 4AA models (Figure 2, Supplementary Table 5). Because the 4AA model was developed in the combined population ¹³, we rederived the 3AA model in the 889 population to permit comparison of the 3AA and 4AA scores.

Relationships between histologic diagnoses and $S1_{normal}$, $S2_{TCMR}$, and $S3_{ABMR}$ scores (Figure 2 A-D) were similar in both models: highest $S2_{TCMR}$ scores in TCMR and mixed, highest $S3_{ABMR}$ scores in ABMR, and a gradient in scores from normal to definite TCMR and ABMR. Adding the $S4_{Injury}$ score separated no rejection biopsies into injured and normal. The $S4_{Injury}$ scores were elevated in histologic TCMR and mixed compared to no rejection (Figure 2 E-F), more so than in ABMR. Moving from a 3AA to a 4AA model preserved the relationship of the molecular scores to histologic rejection.

Histologic classes were studied in RAT-based principal component analysis (PCA) (Supplementary Table 6). TCMR and ABMR had higher PC1 scores than no rejection. ABMR had high PC2 scores and TCMR had low PC2 scores. There were no significant differences among rejection classes in median PC3 scores, as expected since PC3 reflects abnormalities unrelated to rejection, collectively termed injury ¹³. However, among rejection classes the highest PC3 was in TCMR/mixed biopsies, reflecting parenchymal injury due to TCMR. This presumably reflects the fact that TCMR is an interstitial inflammatory process adjacent to the parenchyma whereas ABMR is primarily an intercapillary process and usually has little effect on the parenchyma until late.

The fold differences in 3AA and 4AA scores between DSA positive and DSA negative patients were calculated. S3_{ABMR} scores were higher and S1_{normal} scores were lower in biopsies from DSA positive patients (Supplementary Table 7).

Developing binary molecular rejection classifiers. Supervised binary molecular classifiers comparing a positive histology class to a negative class have proven useful in kidney transplant biopsies^{17;18}. To see if this approach would be useful for heart biopsies, we developed binary molecular classifiers trained using either histologic or molecular EMB diagnoses (see Methods).

Table 3 shows the areas under the receiver-operating characteristic curves (AUCs) for predicting histologic or molecular diagnoses of rejection with the new binary molecular classifiers, compared to the $4AA~S1_{normal}$, $S2_{TCMR}$, and $S3_{ABMR}$ scores. The AUCs for the 4AA~scores ability to predict histology diagnoses of any rejection, ABMR, or TCMR were 0.72, 0.69, and 0.67, similar to our previous report using cohort 331^{12} .

The molecular classifiers trained on molecular diagnoses also had low AUCs for predicting histology diagnoses (0.69, 0.75, and 0.70) and high AUCs for predicting molecular diagnoses (0.98, 0.98, and 1.00). Their AUCs for predicting molecular diagnoses made according to AA score cut-offs are expected because this is what these classifiers were trained to predict using many of the same features (transcripts) that defined the training labels. Of interest, the molecular classifiers trained on histology had low scores for histology diagnoses (0.73, 0.77, and 0.74) but higher scores for molecular diagnoses (0.88, 0.89, and 0.92), albeit not as high as classifiers trained on molecular diagnoses.

Thus, whether unsupervised, trained on molecular diagnoses, or trained on histologic diagnoses, molecular estimates of rejection gave relatively low scores for predicting histology diagnoses, compatible with the limitations imposed by the inter-observer disagreement within histology diagnoses ¹.

Developing a molecular report using an ensemble of algorithms. Because diagnoses are more reliable when they include multiple independent estimates, we prepared a new report incorporating 3AA (model 1) scores, 4AA (model 2) scores, binary classifiers trained on molecular diagnosis labels from model 1 or model 2, and PCA scores (Figure 3). The report visualizes the new biopsy (based on its RAT expression) projected into PCA of the 889 biopsy reference set. Page 2 lists scores for some relevant PBTs and single genes.

One expert (PFH) assigned molecular diagnoses to all 889 biopsies taking into account model 1 and model 2 scores, the binary classifier scores, and PBT scores available on the MMDx-Heart report. Table 4 compares agreement of 885 available histologic diagnoses with the corresponding molecular expert diagnoses, broken down by reason for biopsy, with statistical analyses in Supplementary Table 8. The overall relationship between MMDx and histology was significant (Chi-square test on 7x7 matrix for all biopsies is p=1x10⁻⁴⁹). Most histologic pTCMR cases (61%) were molecular no rejection, and only 10% were molecular TCMR-related (pTCMR 4%, TCMR 5%, or mixed 1%), indicating that histology grade 1R seldom reflects true TCMR. Conversely, 49% of histologic pABMR cases were signed out as molecular ABMR-related (pABMR 14%, ABMR 32%, or mixed 3%), indicating that pABMR is often ABMR-related. Treating pTCMR as no rejection and pABMR as ABMR-related, MMDx and pathology were 4.1 times more likely to agree than disagree on a diagnosis of rejection vs. no rejection (Fisher's exact p=9x10⁻²¹),

5.4 times more likely to agree on ABMR vs. no ABMR (p=1x10⁻²²), and 8.1 times more likely to agree on TCMR vs. no TCMR (p=1x10⁻¹¹) (Supplementary Table 8). The MMDx-histology relationships were preserved when all available protocol and indication/follow-up biopsies were analyzed separately (Table 4) despite the lower frequency of rejection in protocol biopsies. The relationship of MMDx to histology was also similar across post-transplant intervals: first year; Year 2-5 and beyond 5 years (Supplementary Table 9).

We also examined the frequencies of rejection in indication/follow-up vs protocol biopsies when one biopsy per patient was selected randomly. Using one random biopsy per patient from 162 patients biopsied for cause or follow-up, the estimated frequencies were molecular ABMR 20% (5% by histology), TCMR 11% (12% by histology), and no rejection 52% (35% by histology). This is similar to our cohort of kidney transplant indication biopsies where the frequencies of molecular ABMR and TCMR were approximately 20-29% and 7-9% respectively^{9;32}. In 306 patients who underwent protocol EMBs, the frequencies were molecular ABMR 9% (5% by histology), TCMR 4% (8% by histology), and no rejection 68% (40% by histology).

Automated sign-out that predicts expert sign-out. Because it would be useful to make automated sign-outs, we used all archetype, classifier, and PBT scores available on the report in random forest analyses that ranked the ability of each score to predict the expert's molecular diagnoses by bootstrapping thousands of decision trees (Figure 4). The random forest models predicted the expert's diagnoses of ABMR 98% of the time and TCMR 99% of the time. Model 2 S3_{ABMR} and the model 2 ABMR binary classifier score were most predictive of MMDx expert ABMR diagnoses. Model 2 S2_{TCMR}, T cell burden transcripts (TCB) score, and the model 2 binary TCMR classifier score were most predictive of MMDx expert TCMR diagnoses.

PBT scores on the report were not the main predictors of the MMDx expert's sign-out in random forests when all scores on the report were used as inputs, but they add confidence to molecular diagnoses nonetheless. In random forest analyses using only PBTs as variables, DSASTs and NKBs were most important for predicting molecular ABMR, and TCBs and QCATs were most important for predicting TCMR (Supplementary Figure 2). The PBT random forests predicted the expert's diagnoses of ABMR 95% of the time and TCMR 98% of the time.

Discussion

Having found value in molecular EMB assessment (especially after incorporating injury estimates)¹³, the present study aimed to develop an ensemble of estimates into a biopsy report and examine automated sign-out. We established that machine-learning algorithms trained in one cohort perform similarly in future biopsies despite differences in case mix. We showed that model 2 incorporating injury demonstrated similar relationships to histologic rejection as model 1 and correlated with DSA status. We then developed supervised binary classifiers to complement the unsupervised model 1 and 2 scores. We found that binary molecular classifiers trained on histology diagnoses predicted molecular diagnoses better than histology diagnoses. As expected, the classifiers trained on molecular diagnoses gave better predictions of molecular diagnoses than those trained on histology diagnoses. Indeed, no molecular score predicted histology diagnoses with an AUC>0.78, which is expected given the limits imposed by inter-observer disagreements in histology diagnoses reported in CARGO II1. We assembled a molecular report signed out by an expert, and found significant agreement with histology but also extensive discrepancies. An automated random forest estimate accurately predicted MMDx expert signout of molecular rejection. We conclude that an ensemble of supervised and unsupervised molecular estimates of rejection can form a stable reporting system that avoids undue reliance on single methods, and that combining all scores into an ensemble using random forest assessment makes automated signouts feasible for central reporting of EMBs.

The results present a picture of the distribution of rejection phenotypes in the prevalent heart transplant population. In both indication and protocol biopsies, MMDx diagnosed ABMR and no rejection more frequently than histology. Histology diagnosed pTCMR much more frequently than MMDx, but these histology TCMR biopsies often bore little resemblance to TCMR in molecular terms. The molecular results suggest that histologic pTCMR (i.e. grade 1R) in heart transplant is seldom true TCMR, as pathologists and clinicians have long suspected. MMDx shows some positive TCMR and ABMR in biopsies where histology is negative, and vice versa. Such discrepancies are the subject of ongoing and detailed analyses in the extension of the INTERHEART study.

While no diagnostic system is perfect, we consider molecular assessment a more accurate reflection of the true disease state than histology. Molecular assessment utilizes precise measurements

of features expressed as continuous numbers, not semi-quantitative or binary scores like histology, and has high technical and biological reproducibility³³. MMDx machine learning algorithms are purely data-driven rather than derived through a consensus of opinions. Molecules outperform histology when predicting phenotypes with accurate gold standards e.g. survival^{18;34}, and simulations show that molecular classifiers can outperform flawed gold standards over a wide range of sample labeling errors. Thus, classifiers trained on molecules associated with histology are probably more accurate than the histologic diagnosis because machine learning can overcome noise in histology. MMDx analysis has provided evidence for updating the Banff guidelines for kidney transplants with C4d-negative ABMR^{15;16}. The biological relevance of the gene expression measured by microarrays can often be established²³.

The observation that binary molecular classifiers, whether trained on histology diagnoses or molecular diagnoses predict molecular diagnosis but could not predict histologic diagnoses with AUCs >0.78 probably reflects the limitations posed by the known noise in histology, including some misclassification caused by injury-induced inflammation masquerading as rejection¹³. This is lower than the agreement between MMDx and histology in kidney, as expected given that CARGO II reported lower agreement between pathologists assessing EMBs (Cohen's kappa 0.28)¹ than is usually seen with kidney transplant biopsies¹⁷, probably because EMBs are more challenging to assess histologically than kidney core biopsies. Nevertheless, all machine learning molecular estimates, including unsupervised archetype scores and supervised binary classifiers trained on histology or MMDx diagnoses, were significantly associated with histology diagnoses, confirming that there is substantial truth in histology.

Caution is warranted in benchmarking the performance of a new molecular system against a standard with known problems such as histology. Seeking maximum agreement between molecular tests and a flawed conventional test would generate a molecular system that retains the errors of the conventional test. The MMDx phenotype is real and reproducible, and analysis of discrepancies with histology will improve understanding. We propose that the MMDx system and the histology system can develop reciprocally, each offering a platform to help develop the other. With this in mind, a detailed analysis of the MMDx-histology discrepancies is in progress, with the goal of eventually improving both systems. One limitation of this study is that the clinical implications need to be further explored, and will be addressed in the ongoing extension of the INTERHEART study.

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Disclosure

P F Halloran holds shares in Transcriptome Sciences Inc., a University of Alberta research company with an interest in molecular diagnostics and has been a symposium speaker for One Lambda. The other authors have declared no conflict of interest exists.



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Figure Legends

Figure 1. Comparison of molecular scores between histologic classes in cohort 331 and cohort 558 using the 3-archetype model scores derived by supervised archetype analysis in cohort 331. The plots on the left-hand side (A, C, E) compare relationships between histology classes and 3AA S1_{normal} (A), S2_{TCMR} (C), and S3_{ABMR} scores (E) in cohort 331. The plots on the right-hand side (B, D, and F) compare these same relationships in cohort 558. The S1_{normal}, S2_{TCMR}, and S3_{ABMR} scores in both cohorts were taken from 3AA models trained on cohort 331. Mixed rejection was included in the TCMR and ABMR histology groups; possible mixed rejection was included in the pTCMR and pABMR groups. Asterisks below the plot labels indicate the significance of the Mann-Whitney U test between the pairs: ns – not significant, * - p<0.05, ** - p<0.01, *** - p<0.001.

Figure 2. Comparison of molecular scores between histologic classes using the 3-archetype (3AA) and 4-archetype (4AA) model scores derived from algorithms trained in cohort 889. Results are shown for cohort 889. Panels A and B compare TCMR histology classes with S2_{TCMR} scores in 3AA (A) and 4AA (B). Panels C and D compare ABMR histology classes with S3_{ABMR} scores in 3AA (C) and 4AA (D). 4AA S4_{Injury} scores are compared with TCMR histology classes in panel E and with ABMR classes in panel F. Mixed rejection was included in the TCMR and ABMR histology groups; possible mixed rejection was included in the pTCMR and pABMR groups. Asterisks below the x-axis labels indicate the significance of the Mann-Whitney U test between the indicated pairs of histology groups: ns – not significant, * - p<0.05, ** - p<0.01, *** - p<0.001.

Figure 3. Molecular Microscope[®] **Report for heart transplant biopsies (MMDx-Heart).** The new biopsy (yellow triangle) is compared to the reference set of 889 endomyocardial biopsies and given a series of molecular scores and assigned a molecular interpretation. Patient information has been redacted. Archetype scores S1_{normal}, S2_{TCMR}, S3_{ABMR}, and S4_{Injury} from the 3-archetype model (3AA/Model 1) and the 4-archetype model (4AA/Model 2) are given for the new biopsy, in addition to corresponding binary classifier scores predicting the probability of molecular non-rejection, TCMR, and ABMR, trained

on the molecular assessments. The report visualizes of the new biopsy projected into the rejection-associated transcript-based principal component analysis of the 889 reference set biopsies. Biopsies in the reference set are colored according to their highest 4AA archetype scores: grey for S1_{normal}; red for S2_{TCMR}; blue for S3_{ABMR}; and cyan for S4_{Injury}. Page 2 of the report (right side of the figure) provides additional molecular data including pathogenesis-based transcript (PBT) set scores and transcript expression scores relating to all rejection, ABMR, TCMR, and injury. Score are represented as the log fold change in the new biopsy vs. normal biopsies (i.e. reference set biopsies with S1_{normal}>0.7). For each score a normal limit is given, defined as the 95th percentile score in the normal biopsies. Scores in the 95th-99th percentile are labeled "slightly abnormal" and scores in the 99th percentile are labeled "abnormal."

Figure 4. Relative predictive value of molecular scores used as variables in random forest predictions of molecular diagnoses assigned by an expert. Random forest analyses used molecular scores available on the report and time of biopsy post-transplant as features. Random forests were built using 2000 trees. Error rates with 2000 trees were stable. Model 1 corresponds to the RAT-based 3-archetype model trained in 889 hearts, and model 2 corresponds to the 4-archetype model. The classifiers refer to the binary classifiers trained on biopsy diagnoses assigned using model 1 or model 2 based on score cut-offs of S3_{ABMR}≥0.5 for ABMR and S2_{TCMR}≥0.3 for TCMR. (A) Relative importance of variables in predicting expert-assigned molecular ABMR diagnoses. (B) Relative importance of variables in predicting expert-assigned molecular TCMR diagnoses.

Supplementary Figure 1. Outline of the strategy in present study.

Supplementary Figure 2. Relative predictive value of PBT scores used as variables in random forest predictions of molecular diagnoses assigned by an expert. Random forest analyses used PBT scores available on the report. Random forests were built using 2000 trees. Error rates with 2000 trees were stable. (A) Relative importance of variables in predicting expert-assigned ABMR diagnoses. (B) Relative importance of variables in predicting expert-assigned TCMR diagnoses.

Figure 1

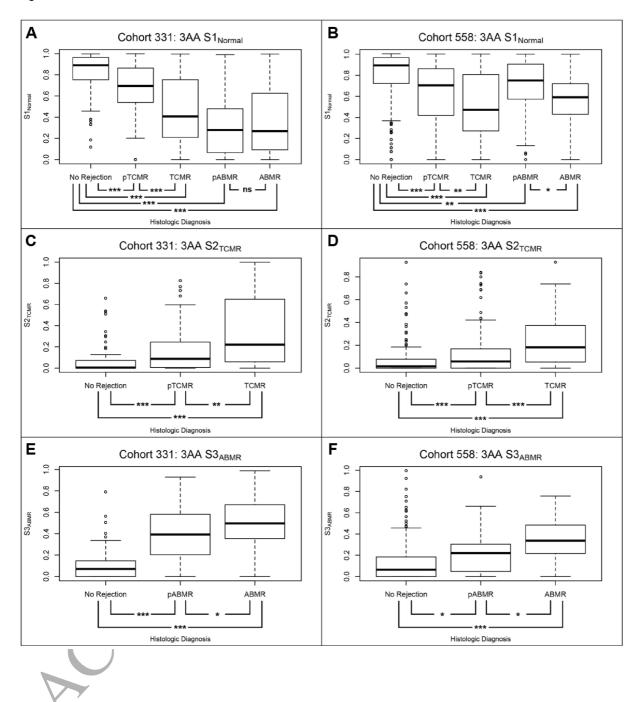


Figure 2

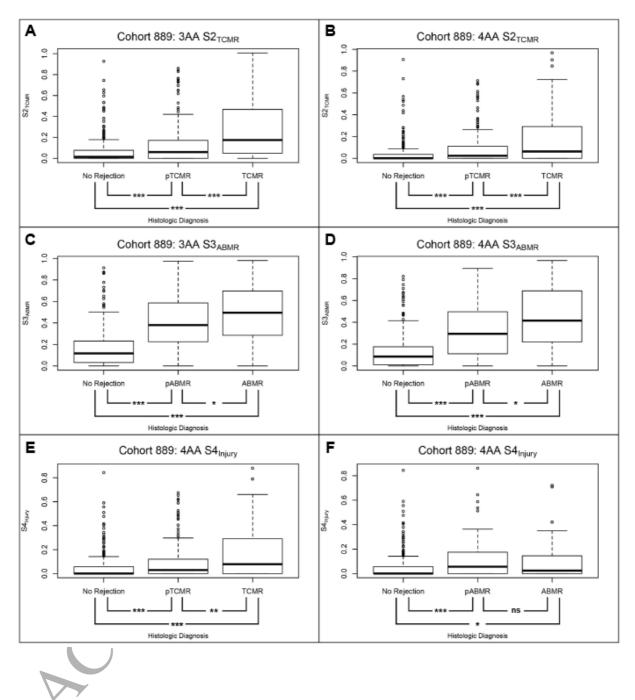
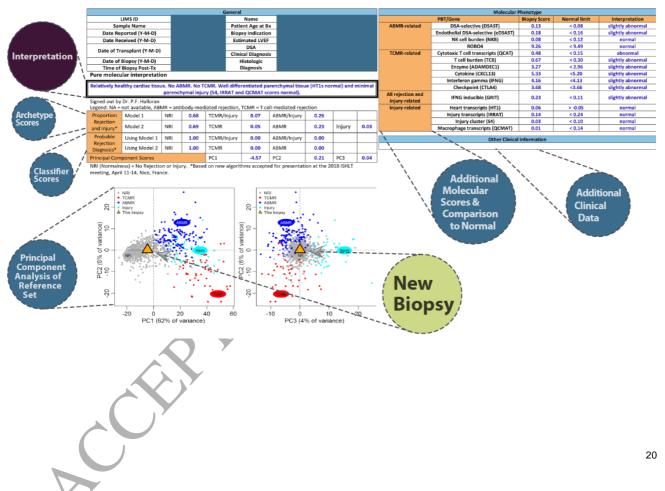
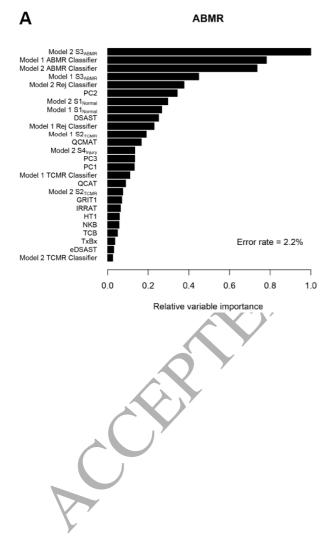




Figure 3









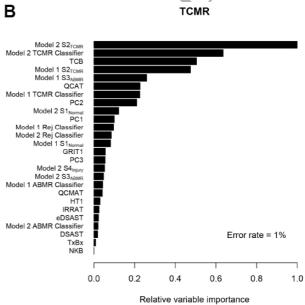


Table 1. Characteristics of patients and biopsies						
Biopsy Characteristics	Cohort 331 (331 Biopsies)	Cohort 558 (558 Biopsies)				
Days to biopsy post-transplant (TxBx)						
Mean	984	750				
Median (range)	337 (8 - 10150)	197 (6 – 9745)				
Days to most recent follow-up after biopsy						
Mean	1522	358				
Median (range)	1282 (13 - 3854)	299 (1 – 3713)				
Indication for biopsy						
Clinical (% of known)	62 (19%)	92 (17%)				
Follow-up (% of known)	19 (6%)	89 (16%)				
Protocol biopsy (% of known)	238 (75%)	375 (67%)				
Not recorded (% of total)	12 (4%)	2 (<1%)				

, ,					
Patient Characteristics*	Cohort 331* (210 Patients)	Cohort 558* (273 Patients)			
Mean patient age at first biopsy (range)	49 (2 – 78)	53 (16 – 76)			
Mean donor age (range)	40 (6 – 66)	41 (15 – 68)			
Patient sex					
Male (% of known)	147 (70%)	192 (73%)			
Female (% of known)	63 (30 %)	71 (27%)			
Not available (% of total)	0	10 (4%)			
Donor sex					
Male (% of known)	138 (68%)	155 (66%)			
Female (% of known)	65 (32%)	81 (34%)			
Not available (% of total)	7 (3%)	37 (14%)			
Patient had a previous failed heart transplant	5 (2%)	8 (3%)			
Transplant status					
Alive at last follow up (% of known)	173 (82%)	247 (90%)			
Deceased (% of known)	36 (18%)	22 (9%)			
Failed and retransplanted (% of known)	1 (<1%)	3 (1%)			
Not available (% of total)	9	1 (<1%)			
Primary disease†					
Dilated cardiomyopathy (% of known)	96 (46%)	134 (55%)			
Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (% of known)	11 (5%)	21 (9%)			
Restrictive cardiomyopathy (% of known)	3 (1%)	5 (2%)			
Other cardiomyopathy (% of known)	21 (10%)	18 (7%)			
Congenital heart defect (% of known)	17 (8%)	14 (6%)			
Coronary artery disease (% of known)	50 (24%)	35 (14%)			
Other (% of known)	28 (13%)	18 (7%)			
Not recorded (% of total)	1 (<1%)	28 (10%)			

roo in econical (76 or local) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 28 (10%) | 2

	Table 2. Histolog	y and DSA		
Histology diagnoses* (% of known diagnoses)		Cohort 331 (331 biopsies)	Cohort 558 (558 biopsies)	
TCMR Related	TCMR	36 (11%)	48 (9%)	
I CWR Related	pTCMR	90 (27%)	183 (33%)	
ABMR Related	ABMR	33 (10%)	18 (3%)§	
ABINK Kelaleu	pABMR	44 (13%)	19 (3%)§	
Othor	ABMR/TCMR (Mixed)	5 (2%)	4 (1%)	
Other	pABMR/pTCMR	34 (10%)	37 (7%)	
No Rejection		89 (27%)	245 (44%)§	
Missing		0 (0%)	4 (1%)	
1	DSA Status	Cohort 331 [†] (210 patients)	Cohort 558 [†] (273 patients)	
DSA status at most recent biopsy [‡]				
Positive		69 (35%)	94 (37%)	
Negative		130 (65%)	161 (63%)	
Unknown		11 (5%)	18 (7%)	

* Biopsies in the 889 cohort were labeled as follows:

 pAMR0.
 No ABMR;

 pAMR1, pAMR1H, pAMR1H+
 Possible ABMR (pABMR);

 pAMR2, pAMR3.
 ABMR;

 TCMR0R
 No TCMR;

 TCMR1R.
 Possible TCMR (pTCMR);

 TCMR2R, TCMR3R.
 TCMR

[†] Some patients were in both cohorts because biopsies were taken from them during both legs of the INTERHEART study. The total number of unique patients between both cohorts is 454.

[‡] The most recent DSA status at time of most recent biopsy was used, if known. DSA statuses dated more than 14 days after the biopsy were not considered. If the most recent DSA status at time of biopsy was not known, but the patient was most recently PRA negative, the DSA status was presumed negative.

[§] p-value<0.001 by Chi-square test of rejection vs no rejection between cohort 331 and cohort 558

Table 3. Ability of binary molecular classifiers trained on histology or MMDx diagnoses to predict histology	gic or molecular
diagnoses, compared to unsupervised 4AA S1 _{normal} S2 _{TCMP} , and S3 _{ABMP} scores	

	•	normai, icivik	ABINK		
Algorithms	Prediction tested	Areas under the receiver-operator characteristic curve (AUCs) for classifiers predicting the diagnosis of:			
7 .g		All Rejection*, [†] (ABMR, TCMR, Mixed)	ABMR* (ABMR, Mixed)	TCMR* (TCMR, Mixed)	
Control: unsupervised 4AA Scores S1 _{normal} , S2 _{TCMR} , and S3 _{ABMR} †	Histologic diagnoses	0.72	0.69	0.67	

Supervised classifiers trained on:	Prediction tested	All Rejection*,† (ABMR, TCMR, Mixed)	ABMR* (ABMR, Mixed)	TCMR* (TCMR, Mixed)
Histologic diagnoses*,‡	Histologic diagnoses	0.73	0.77	0.74
nistologic diagnoses ,‡	Molecular diagnoses	0.89	0.88	0.92
Malagular diagnasas* C	Histologic diagnoses	0.69	0.75	0.70
Molecular diagnoses*,§	Molecular diagnoses	0.98	0.98	1.00

^{*} All rejection = ABMR, TCMR, Mixed (ABMR/TCMR), ABMR/pTCMR, and pABMR/TCMR vs all other biopsies. ABMR = ABMR, Mixed, and ABMR/pTCMR vs all other biopsies.

† Molecular scores derived from the RAT-based four-archetype model of rejection. For classification purposes, we used cut-offs of S2_{TCMR}≥0.3 for TCMR, S3_{ABMR}≥0.5 for ABMR, and either cut-off for all rejections.

† Genes used: top 20 transcripts associated with histologic diagnoses. TCMR included biopsies with histologic TCMR grades > 1R, ABMR included biopsies with histologic ABMR grades > 1, and either cut-off for all rejections.

§ Genes used: top 20 transcripts associated with molecular diagnoses based on the four-archetype model of rejection using cut-offs of S2_{TCMR}≥0.3 for TCMR, S3_{ABMR}≥0.5 for ABMR, and either cut-off for all rejections.

Table 4. Comparing expert-assigned MMDx diagnoses with histology diagnoses in 885/889 endomyocardial biopsies, 259 for cause/follow-up endomyocardial
biopsies, and 612 protocol endomyocardial biopsies with available histology assessments
005/000 d

biopsies, and 612 protocol end	donnyocardiai biop		dial biopsies with avai		emonte		
		000,000 0.140111,00411		ert diagnoses (% of r			
Histology diagnoses†	TCMR (N=51)	pTCMR (N=33)	ABMR (N=106)	pABMR (N=120)	ABMR/TCMR (Mixed) (N=11)	pABMR/pTCMR (N=11)	No Rejection (N=553)
TCMR (N=84)	18 (21%)	9 (11%)	8 (10%)	4 (5%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	44 (52%)
pTCMR (N=273)	14 (5%)	10 (4%)	27 (10%)	47 (17%)	2 (1%)	6 (2%)	167 (61%)
ABMR (N=51)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	23 (45%)	15 (29%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	12 (24%)
pABMR (N=63)	5 (8%)	4 (6%)	20 (32%)	9 (14%)	2 (3%)	2 (3%)	21 (33%)
ABMR/TCMR (Mixed) (N=9)	6 (67%)	0 (0%)	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
pABMR/pTCMR (N=71)	3 (4%)	1 (1%)	13 (18%)	21(30%)	2 (3%)	1 (1%)	30 (42%)
No rejection (N=334)	5 (1%)	8 (2%)	14 (4%)	23 (7%)	3 (1%)	2 (1%)	279 (84%)
	259 for	cause/follow-up endo	myocardial biopsies v	vith available histolog	gy assessments		
			Exp	ert diagnoses (% of r	ow)*		
Histology diagnoses	TCMR (N=26)	pTCMR (N=11)	ABMR (N=51)	pABMR (N=30)	ABMR/TCMR (Mixed) (N=6)	pABMR/pTCMR (N=5)	No Rejection (N=130)
TCMR (N=26)	8 (31%)	2 (8%)	3 (12%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	12 (46%)
pTCMR (N=74)	7 (9%)	3 (4%)	12 (16%)	15 (20%)	0 (0%)	4 (5%)	33 (45%)
ABMR (N=16)	0 (0%)	1 (6%)	7 (44%)	4 (25%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (25%)
pABMR (N=27)	2 (7%)	3 (11%)	13 (48%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	7 (26%)
ABMR/TCMR (Mixed) (N=7)	4 (57%)	0 (0%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
pABMR/pTCMR (N=18)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	7 (39%)	5 (28%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	2 (11%)
No rejection (N=91)	3 (3%)	2 (2%)	8 (9%)	3 (3%)	3 (3%)	0 (0%)	72 (79%)
	6	12 protocol endomyoc	ardial biopsies with a	vailable histology ass	sessments		
			Exp	ert diagnoses (% of r	ow)*		
Histology diagnoses	TCMR (N=25)	pTCMR (N=22)	ABMR (N=50)	pABMR (N=88)	ABMR/TCMR (Mixed) (N=5)	pABMR/pTCMR (N=6)	No Rejection (N=416)
TCMR (N=58)	10 (17%)	7 (12%)	5 (9%)	3 (5%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	32 (55%)
pTCMR (N=198)	7 (4%)	7 (4%)	15 (8%)	31 (16%)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	134 (68%)
ABMR (N=30)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (37%)	11 (37%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	8 (27%)
pABMR (N=35)	3 (9%)	1 (3%)	7 (20%)	7 (20%)	2 (6%)	1 (3%)	14 (40%)
ABMR/TCMR (Mixed) (N=2)	2 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
pABMR/pTCMR (N=53)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	6 (11%)	16 (30%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	28 (53%)
No rejection (N=236)	2 (1%)	6 (3%)	6 (3%)	20 (8%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	200 (85%)

pABMR/pTCMR (N=53)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	6 (11%)	16 (30%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	28 (53%)
No rejection (N=236)	2 (1%)	6 (3%)	6 (3%)	20 (8%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	200 (85%)
* Diagnoses assigned by expert following individual review of molecular assessments. Diagnoses were translated from the "pure molecular interpretation" text on the report based on the following							
phrases:							

4 "possible rejection (pABMR and/or pTCMR); "rejection (ABMR and/or TCMR); "rejection (ABMR and/or TCMR)

† Chi-square test on 7x7 matrix is p=1.3x10⁻⁴⁹