

MULTIPLE MYELOMA

Amplification and overexpression of *CKS1B* at chromosome band 1q21 is associated with reduced levels of p27^{Kip1} and an aggressive clinical course in multiple myeloma

JOHN SHAUGHNESSY

Abstract

The molecular basis for aggressive transformation of multiple myeloma (MM) and other cancers is not completely understood. Global gene expression profiling on highly purified malignant plasma cells from 351 newly diagnosed patients with MM treated with autologous stem cell transplantation revealed a statistically significant over-representation of chromosome 1 genes in a group of 70 genes whose expression was linked to poor outcome. In particular, over-expression of *CKS1B*, which maps to an amplicon at 1q21 in myeloma and regulates SCF^{Skp2}-mediated ubiquitination and proteolysis of the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor p27^{Kip1} was significantly over-expressed in patients with poor survival. Interphase fluorescence in-situ hybridization revealed that *CKS1B* expression was strongly correlated with DNA copy number in a subset of 197 cases ($P < 0.0001$) with both measurements. Validated in 224 patients lacking expression analysis, *CKS1B* gene amplification conferred a poor prognosis ($P < 0.0001$) and was an independent predictor of outcome in multivariate analyses ($P = 0.002$). *CKS1B* mRNA and protein expression were correlated and both were inversely correlated with p27^{Kip1} protein levels. RNA interference of *CKS1B* messenger RNA in myeloma cell lines led to reduced *CKS1B* mRNA and protein, an accumulation of p27^{Kip1}, and profound growth inhibition. Based on these data we conclude that over-expression of *CKS1B*, mainly due to gene amplification, imparts a poor prognosis in MM, possibly as a result of enhanced degradation of p27^{Kip1}.

Keywords: multiple myeloma, prognosis, gene expression profiling, DNA amplification, chromosome 1q21, *CKS1B*, p27^{Kip1}, cell cycle regulation.

Multiple Myeloma is a malignancy of antibody-secreting plasma cells that expand in the bone marrow causing severe osteolytic bone disease and a constellation of additional complications including hypocalcaemia, immunosuppression, anemia, and kidney failure [1]. Although outcome has been greatly improved through the use of high dose melphalan and autologous stem cell transplantations, survival is still highly variable with some patients surviving months and others greater than 10 years or more [2–4]. Aggressive disease, with increased proliferation and a higher frequency of abnormal metaphase karyotypes, elevated LDH and extra-medullary manifestations, seen in approximately 20% of newly diagnosed patients, inevitably appears in all cases, however at a variable rate of onset [4].

Recurrent, non-random genetic lesions have been identified in myeloma and these have been related to

clinical course and response to therapy [5]. At the genetic level myelomas can be broadly separated into hyperdiploid and non-hyperdiploid diseases [6]. Non-hyperdiploid myelomas, typically harboring immunoglobulin-mediated translocations leading to transcriptionally activation of *CCND1*, *CCND3*, *MAF*, *MAFB*, or *FGFR3/MMSET* are seen in approximately 40% of cases [7–10]. The remaining 60% of myelomas are hyperdiploid with aneuploidy resulting from trisomies of chromosomes 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 15, 19 and 21 [11–14]. Gene expression studies have revealed that virtually all myelomas, regardless of ploidy status, exhibit deregulated expression of one of the three cyclin D genes, suggesting that cyclin D activation may be an initiating genetic event in this malignancy [12]. Myelomas with translocations resulting in activation of *CCND1* are typically diploid and have a more favorable prognosis than those with translocations

Correspondence: John D. Shaughnessy, Donna D, and Donald M, Lambert Laboratory of Myeloma Genetics, Room 915, Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR, 72205. Tel: 501-296-1503, X1457; Fax: 501-686-6442; E-mail: shaughnessyjohn@uams.edu

activating *MAF* or *FGFR3/MMSET* [15–18]. Deletion of chromosome 13q14, which is strongly linked to *IGH*-mediated translocations, chromosome 17p and hypodiploidy are associated with a poor prognosis [18–22]. Hyperdiploid tumors are thought to be more dependent on interactions with the bone marrow microenvironment as evidenced by higher levels of *DKK1* expression, increased incidence of lytic bone lesions and their conspicuous absence in myeloma cell lines [12,23,24].

The fact that virtually all of the recurrent genetic lesions seen in myeloma are also observed in the benign plasma cell dyscrasia monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) [26–28] and that the global gene expression profiles of the two disease are indistinguishable [35], suggests that additional, as yet uncharacterized, gene mutations may be required for progression. Tandem duplications and jumping translocations of the q21 band of chromosome 1 are acquired during myeloma disease progression [29,30] and 1q amplifications have been linked to a poor prognosis in this disease [18,21,31]. No other chromosome or chromosome band undergoes the types of extensive and continual rearrangements as seen for 1q21. Deletion of 17p and acquisition of *MYC* activating translocations are also seen in end stage disease, however a definitive role of these lesions in progression has not been determined.

Global RNA expression profiling is capable of identifying DNA copy number changes in myeloma [12,21] and other cancers [31–33], and unlike array-based comparative genomic hybridization (aCGH) has the added value of pointing to genes whose expression may be altered by these changes. Furthermore, unlike aCGH, RNA profiling can identify gene-activating translocations, not resulting in gain or loss of DNA, that are frequently observed in lymphoid malignancies.

In an effort to identify genes linked to an aggressive clinical course, we applied RNA from highly purified plasma cells derived from 351 newly diagnosed patients with multiple myeloma to Affymetrix U133Plus 2.0 microarrays. Expression extremes of ~54,000 probe sets were correlated with disease-related and overall survival following 2 cycles of high-dose melphalan and autologous stem cell transplantation. Using log rank tests, 70 probe sets were identified for which expression in the fourth or first quartile was correlated with a high incidence of disease-related death. Although 10% of the genes on the microarray were derived from chromosome 1, 30% of the retained genes were derived from this chromosome ($P < 0.0001$). As rearrangements of chromosome 1 have been linked to poor prognosis in myeloma and tandem duplications and jumping translocations of the q21 band of chromosome 1 increase during myeloma progression, we focused on genes from the 1q21 in the list of 70 as candidate

genes whose increased expression may be related to increased DNA copy number and leading to disease progression. Two genes, *PSMD4* and *CKS1B*, map to the 1q21 band, and of these two, *CKS1B* was most strongly associated with survival in unadjusted log rank tests (i.e. according to the list order of Table I). There were 40 deaths among 88 patients with *CKS1B* expression in quartile 4 compared to 78 among 263 patients with quartile 1–3 expression ($P < 0.0001$, false discovery rate, 2.5%). To determine if elevated expression was linked to DNA amplification we performed interphase fluorescence *in situ* hybridization analysis on 197 of the 351 cases studied by microarray. *CKS1B* amplification was evident in 46% with the percentage of cases with amplification increasing in frequency as *CKS1B* expression levels increased from quartile 1 to quartile 4 ($P < 0.0001$). These data also showed that *CKS1B* expression significantly increased as *CKS1B* copy numbers increased from 2 to 3 to greater than equal to 4 copies. We next investigated whether *CKS1B* amplification was associated with survival and event-free survival in a cohort of 224 patients enrolled on the same protocol prior to the initiation of gene expression profiling. *CKS1B* amplification levels were inversely correlated with both event-free survival ($P < 0.0001$, data not shown) and overall survival in this cohort ($P < 0.0001$). These effects were also observed when we combined all 421 (197+224) patients (event-free survival, $P < 0.0001$; data not shown; overall survival, $P < 0.0001$). To test whether *CKS1B* amplification was simply mirroring amplification of the entire chromosome we correlated interphase FISH data with metaphase cytogenetics. As expected, 16 of 17 (94%) cases with evidence of 1q gain by metaphase cytogenetics exhibited amplification by FISH. Importantly, *CKS1B* amplification was also observed by interphase FISH in 61 of 112 cases (54%) lacking evidence of chromosome 1q gain by metaphase cytogenetics ($P < 0.0001$). Given that the incidence of chromosome 1q21 amplification and jumping translocations increases during disease progression and all myeloma cell lines are derived from end stage disease, we evaluated *CKS1B* amplification in a panel of 22 myeloma cell lines. FISH analysis revealed 3 to 8 copies of *CKS1B* in 21 of 22 myeloma cell lines (data not shown). We next investigated whether *CKS1B* expression increased during disease progression. *CKS1B* expression at diagnosis and at relapse, evaluated in 44 paired cases, revealed increased expression in 80% ($P = 0.0001$) with the most dramatic increases occurring in those cases with Q1–Q3 expression at diagnosis. *CKS1B* FISH on paired baseline and relapse samples from 30 patients enrolled on the protocol showed that of twelve cases lacking amplification at diagnosis, 6 had ≥ 3 copies at relapse; of 12 cases with three copies at diagnosis, six had ≥ 4 copies at relapse; and of six cases with

Table Ia. Quartile 4 FDR 2.5% gene probe sets – rank correlations with 1q21 amplification index, CKS1B and PC labeling index and adjusted *P*-values for associations with overall survival

Rank (Q4)	Chromosome	Probe set	Symbol	CKS1B amplification index $r^{\dagger}$	CKS1B $r^{\ddagger}$	PCLIr [*]	Adjusted survival <i>P</i> -value ^a
1	8q21.13	202345_s_at	NA	0.20	0.22		0.001
2	Xp22.2-p22.1	1555864_s_at	NA	0.34	0.47		0.007
3	5p15.33	204033_at	TRIP13	0.19	0.45	0.20	0.001
4	1q22	206513_at	AIM2	0.15	0.13		0.089
5	2p24.1	1555274_a_at	SELI	0.28	0.31		0.001
6	21q22.3	211576_s_at	SLC19A1	0.17	0.23		0.007
7	3p21.3	204016_at	LARS2	−0.18			0.002
8	1q43	1565951_s_at	OPN3	0.36	0.36		0.007
9	1q31	219918_s_at	ASPM	0.36	0.64	0.17	0.010
10	12q15	201947_s_at	CCT2	0.23	0.43	0.13	0.004
11	16p13.3	213535_s_at	UBE2I		0.38		0.022
12	20q13.2-q13.3	204092_s_at	STK6	0.31	0.51	0.19	0.044
13	1p36.33-p36.21	213607_x_at	FLJ13052				0.150
14	Xq12-q13	208117_s_at	FLJ12525		0.34		0.006
15	17q25	210334_x_at	BIRC5	0.20	0.36	0.14	0.110
16	3q27	204023_at	NA	0.29	0.62	0.16	0.072
17	1q21.2	201897_s_at	CKS1B	0.50	1.00	0.15	0.007
18	19q13.11-q13.12	216194_s_at	CKAP1	0.24	0.38		0.001
19	1q21	225834_at	MGC57827	0.39	0.66	0.23	0.140
20	19q13.12	238952_x_at	DKFZp779O175		0.11		0.009
21	17p13.3	200634_at	PFN1	0.30	0.41		0.002
22	19p13.2	208931_s_at	ILF3	0.22	0.22		0.220
23	1q22	206332_s_at	IFI16	0.30	0.32	0.13	0.003
24	7p14-p13	220789_s_at	TBRG4		0.13	0.17	0.009
25	10p11.23	218947_s_at	PAPD1	0.31	0.30		0.150
26	8q24	213310_at	EIF2C2	0.28	0.37		0.031
27	3q12.1	224523_s_at	MGC4308	0.17	0.24	0.14	0.038
28	1p36.3-p36.2	201231_s_at	ENO1		0.23		< 0.001
29	18q12.1	217901_at	DSG2	0.15			0.005
30	6q22	226936_at	NA	0.15	0.52	0.17	0.027
31	8q24.3	58696_at	EXOSC4		0.20		0.330
32	1q21-q25	200916_at	TAGLN2	0.47	0.52		0.120
33	3q21	201614_s_at	RUVBL1	0.16	0.14		0.023
34	16q22-q24	200966_x_at	ALDOA	0.21	0.28		0.001
35	2p25.1	225082_at	CPSF3		0.39		0.073
36	1q43	242488_at	NA	0.18	0.27	0.14	0.090
37	3q12.3	243011_at	MGC15606		0.27		0.004
38	22q13.1	201105_at	LGALS1		0.31		0.051
39	3p25-p24	224200_s_at	RAD18	0.17	0.41	0.14	0.040
40	20p11	222417_s_at	SNX5				0.085
41	1q21.2	210460_s_at	PSMD4	0.58	0.59	0.13	0.067
42	12q24.3	200750_s_at	RAN	0.22	0.40		0.056
43	1pter-q31.3	206364_at	KIF14	0.41	0.57	0.25	0.019
44	7p15.2	201091_s_at	CBX3	0.14	0.20	0.16	0.150
45	12q22	203432_at	TMPO	0.32	0.59	0.18	0.007
46	17q24.2	221970_s_at	DKFZP586L0724	0.27	0.47		0.081
47	11p15.3-p15.1	212533_at	WEE1	0.20	0.54	0.13	0.056
48	3p12	213194_at	ROBO1				0.150
49	5q32-q33.1	244686_at	TCOF1				0.120
50	8q23.1	200638_s_at	YWHAZ	0.26	0.23		0.012
51	10q23.31	205235_s_at	MPHOSPH1		0.40	0.16	0.050

[†]Correlation between each gene's log-scale expression and the CKS1B amplification index (N = 197, all patients with both GEP and FISH 1q21). Blank cells correspond to correlations with *P* > 0.05.

[‡]Correlation between each gene's log-scale expression and CKS1B log-scale expression (N = 351, all patients with GEP). Rows with CKS1B $|r| \geq 0.4$ are formatted bold.

^{*}Correlation between each gene's log-scale expression and the PCLI (N = 305, 46 patients are missing PCLI).

^aMultivariate proportional hazards regression of overall survival on extreme quartile expression (Q1 or Q4) for each gene, adjusted for FISH 13 80%, cytogenetic abnormalities, B2M > 4, CRP > 4, ALB < 3.5 and PCLI (N = 277, 74 patients are missing at least one measurement; see the supplemental methods for details).

Table Ib. Quartile 1 gene probe sets satisfying FDR 2.5% cutoff

Rank (Q1)	Chromosome	Probe set	Symbol	CKS1B Amplification Index $r^\dagger$	CKS1B $r^\ddagger$	PCLI r^*	Adjusted Survival P -value ^a
1	9q31.3	201921_at	GNG10	−0.20	−0.30		0.600
2	1p13	227278_at	NA			−0.12	0.900
3	Xp22.3	209740_s_at	PNPLA4				0.029
4	20q11.21	227547_at	NA	−0.29	−0.28	−0.15	0.630
5	10q25.1	225582_at	KIAA1754	−0.21	−0.32		0.003
6	1p13.2	200850_s_at	AHCYL1			−0.13	0.019
7	1p13.3	213628_at	MCLC	−0.30	−0.28	−0.15	0.440
	1p22	209717_at	EV15	−0.33	−0.29	−0.16	0.870
	1p13.3	222495_at	AD −020	−0.30	−0.24	−0.20	0.920
10	6p21.31	1557277_a_at	NA		−0.11		0.460
11	1p22.1	1554736_at	PARG1		−0.20	−0.11	0.280
12	1p22	218924_s_at	CTBS	−0.16	−0.11	−0.13	0.460
13	9p13.2	226954_at	NA	−0.22	−0.40		0.090
14	1p34	202838_at	FUCA1	−0.17	−0.23		0.066
15	13q14	230192_at	RFP2	−0.28	−0.18		0.880
16	12q13.11	48106_at	FLJ20489	−0.23	−0.23	−0.11	0.300
17	11q13.1	237964_at	NA	−0.16	−0.20		0.044
18	2p22-p21	202729_s_at	LTBP1	−0.24	−0.21		0.097
19	1p13.1	212435_at	NA	−0.21	−0.21	−0.11	0.034

[†]Correlation between each gene's log-scale expression and the CKS1B amplification index (N = 197, all patients with both GEP and FISH 1q21). Blank cells correspond to correlations with $P > 0.05$.

[‡]Correlation between each gene's log-scale expression and CKS1B log-scale expression (N = 351, all patients with GEP). Rows with CKS1B $|r| \geq 0.4$ are formatted bold.

^{*}Correlation between each gene's log-scale expression and the PCLI (N = 305, 46 patients are missing PCLI).

^aMultivariate proportional hazards regression of overall survival on extreme quartile expression (Q1 or Q4) for each gene, adjusted for FISH 13 80%, cytogenetic abnormalities, B2M > 4, CRP > 4, ALB < 3.5 and PCLI (N = 277, 74 patients are missing at least one measurement; see the Supplemental Methods for details).

≥ 4 copies at diagnosis, five retained ≥ 4 copies at relapse. Multivariate proportional hazards analyses revealed that *CKS1B* amplification, chromosome 13q14 deletion, and metaphase karyotype abnormalities all independently conferred both inferior event-free and overall survival, whereas hypo-albuminemia was the only one of three standard prognostic factors that retained adverse implications for both endpoints examined. *CKS1B* amplification was an independent predictor of outcome both as a 0–100 scale index and as a two-group category after adjustment for other variables. In these analyses, a patient group with an 0–100 scale index one unit larger than another has an estimated 0.9% higher risk of progression and 1.1% higher risk of death (i.e. an increase of approximately 1% in risk with each increase of 1 in the index). The frequency of *CKS1B* quartile 4 expression varied

among previously reported genetic subgroups [5]. With respect to gene expression-based identification of those with recurrent translocations, nearly two-thirds of patients with *MAF* or *MAFB* activation, one-third each with *FGFR3/MMSET* and *CCND1* activation, and only 18% of those without these translocations had *CKS1B* in quartile 4 ($P < 0.0001$). When examined in the context of metaphase karyotypes, *CKS1B* quartile 4 expression was present in approximately 20% of cases with hyperdiploid or normal, i.e. uninformative, karyotypes, whereas this feature was seen in nearly 50% of patients with hypodiploid and other cytogenetic abnormalities ($P = 0.0002$). In a separate multivariate analysis that adjusted for genetic subgroups, *CKS1B* quartile 4 expression remained an independent adverse outcome predictor; the gene expression-derived translocation

Table IIa. Multivariate proportional hazards analysis[†] (n = 369)

	Event-Free Survival				Survival		
	%	HR	P	Cumulative r^2	HR	P	Cumulative r^2
CKS1B Amplification Index 0–100)		1.009	0.002	0.160	1.011	0.002	0.219
FISH Chromosome 13 Deletion	25.5	1.786	0.006	0.224	1.879	0.014	0.308
Abnormal Karyotype	35.0	1.875	0.001	0.272	2.298	< 0.001	0.393
Beta-2-microglobulin ≥ 4 mg/L	35.8	1.478	0.046	0.305	1.396	0.170	0.422
C-reactive protein ≥ 4 mg/L	63.4	1.533	0.028	0.320	1.586	0.055	0.448
Albumin < 3.5 g/dL	16.5	1.660	0.019	0.336	1.698	0.044	0.461
Events/Deaths	127				84		

Table IIB. Multivariate proportional hazards analysis[†] (n=369)

	%	Event-Free Survival			Survival		
		HR	P	Cumulative r ²	HR	P	Cumulative r ²
CKS1B Amplification Index >=46	32.5	1.68	0.008	0.132	2.12	0.001	0.207
FISH Chromosome 13 Deletion	25.5	1.74	0.010	0.204	1.83	0.020	0.293
Abnormal Karyotype	35.0	1.94	< 0.001	0.257	2.33	< 0.001	0.383
Beta-2-microglobulin >=4 mg/L	35.8	1.52	0.033	0.293	1.43	0.140	0.417
C-reactive protein >= 4 mg/L	63.4	1.49	0.038	0.312	1.56	0.060	0.443
Albumin <3.5 g/dL	16.5	1.69	0.016	0.331	1.73	0.035	0.455
Events/Deaths	127				84		

[†]369 of 421 patients with CKS1B amplification measurements had complete measurements for this analysis; see the supplemental methods for details.

a) Multivariate proportional hazards analysis with the continuous CKS1B amplification index. A patient group with an index one unit larger than another has an estimated 0.9% higher risk of progression and 1.1% higher risk of death (i.e. an increase of approximately 1% in risk with each increase of 1 in the index). Labeling index was not significant in either analysis ($P > 0.35$, HR < 1.11, N=325, EFS events = 116, deaths = 77, with 44 additional subjects missing the labeling index).

b) Multivariate proportional hazards analysis with a cutoff of >=46 for the CKS1B amplification index. Labeling index was not significant in either analysis ($P > 0.32$, HR < 1.12, N=325).

category as a whole conferred inferior event-free ($P = 0.034$), but not inferior overall survival $P = 0.261$); however, consistent with published data [15,21], *CCND1* spikes impacted both endpoints favorably. While not adjusted for the multiple log rank tests that identified the 70 genes, this analysis, suggests that *CKS1B* expression retains predictive power in the context of genetic risk groups. Since CKS1 is required

for SCF^{Skp2}-mediated ubiquitinylation and proteasomal degradation of p27^{Kip1} [42,43], we next tested the relationship between CKS1 expression and p27^{Kip1} in myeloma plasma cells. Western blot analysis of protein extracts from plasma cells from 27 newly diagnosed myeloma cases and 7 myeloma cell lines for which microarray data was also available, revealed a strong correlation between *CKS1B* mRNA

Supplemental Table 1. Chromosome distribution of 2.5% FDR gene probe sets

Chromosome	U133Plus 2.0		Q1		Q4		Combined		P value*
	Number of Genes	%	Number of Genes	%	Number of Genes	%	Number of Genes	%	
1	3,659	9.9	9	47.4	12	23.5	21	30.0	< 0.0001
2	2,522	6.9	1	5.3	2	3.9	3	4.3	
3	2,116	5.8	0	0.0	7	13.7	7	10.0	
4	1,456	4.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
5	1,718	4.7	0	0.0	2	3.9	2	2.9	
6	2,005	5.4	1	5.3	1	2.0	2	2.9	
7	1,798	4.9	0	0.0	2	3.9	2	2.9	
8	1,311	3.6	0	0.0	4	7.8	4	5.7	
9	1,463	4.0	2	10.5	0	0.0	2	2.9	
10	1,444	3.9	1	5.3	2	3.9	3	4.3	
11	2,069	5.6	1	5.3	1	2.0	2	2.9	
12	1,927	5.2	1	5.3	3	5.9	4	5.7	
13	730	2.0	1	5.3	0	0.0	1	1.4	
14	1,195	3.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
15	1,152	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
16	1,507	4.1	0	0.0	2	3.9	2	2.9	
17	2,115	5.7	0	0.0	3	5.9	3	4.3	
18	582	1.6	0	0.0	1	2.0	1	1.4	
19	2,222	6.0	0	0.0	3	5.9	3	4.3	
20	1,072	2.9	1	5.3	2	3.9	3	4.3	
21	468	1.3	0	0.0	1	2.0	1	1.4	
22	906	2.5	0	0.0	1	2.0	1	1.4	
X	1,273	3.5	1	5.3	2	3.9	3	4.3	
Y	80	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
m	5	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
	36,795		19		51		70		
Unknown	17,880								
	54,675								

*An exact test for binomial proportions was used to compare the proportion of retained probe sets mapping to chromosome 1 to the proportion for the entire array.

Supplemental Table 2. Relationship between *CKS1B* gene expression quartiles and *CKS1B* amplification by interphase fluorescence in-situ hybridization in newly diagnosed myeloma

CKS1B Expression [†]	# Amplified	% Amplified
quartile 1 [‡] n = 44	9	20%
quartile 2 n = 43	12	28%
quartile 3 n = 51	26	51%
quartile 4 n = 59	44	75%
total 197	91	46%

[†] $P < 0.0001$. Amplification is defined as $\geq 20\%$ of cells with 3 or ≥ 4 *CKS1B* signals, for validation in conjunction with Figure 2b–c, as described in the Methods. Other tables use the *CKS1B* amplification index and its optimal cutoff.

[‡]Quartile assignments based upon 351 patients with GEP

and protein, but no correlation between *CDKN1B* (*p27^{Kip1}*) mRNA and protein levels. There was an inverse correlation between *CKS1B* and *p27^{Kip1}* protein levels. To confirm that *CKS1B* regulates *p27^{Kip1}* protein and possibly myeloma cell growth, we generated myeloma cell lines that constitutively express a small interfering RNA to *CKS1B*. Western blot analysis of the ARP1 myeloma cell line (containing 8 copies of *CKS1B*) transduced with lentivirus expressing iRNA to *CKS1B* or a scrambled iRNA revealed a marked reduction and increase in *CKS1B* and *CDKN1B* protein levels in *CKS1B* iRNA treated cells relative to control cells, respectively. A time course analysis of ARP1 cell growth also revealed a reduction in cell proliferation in *CKS1B* iRNA-positive cells relative to controls.

Global gene expression analysis of highly purified plasma cells from a large cohort of uniformly treated patients with myeloma identified 70 genes that were significantly correlated with early disease-related mortality. An unexpected feature of this list was that 30% of the 70 genes mapped to chromosome 1. Interestingly, all underexpressed genes from 1 were

from 1p and 9% of the overexpressed genes were from chromosome 1q, a feature consistent with cytogenetic and molecular cytogenetic data of frequent 1q gains and 1p losses in myeloma [18,21,28,29,44–47]. Tandem duplications and jumping translocations involving 1q21, caused by decondensation of pericentromeric heterochromatin [28,29,48], are cardinal features of progressive end-stage disease in myeloma suggesting that genes from this region may be driving myeloma progression.

DNA synthesis is mediated by the action of the cyclin E/CDK2 complex, which in turn is negatively regulated by the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor *p27^{Kip1}* [49]. The small evolutionarily conserved protein *CKS1* is required for SCF^{Skp2}-mediated ubiquitination and proteasomal degradation of *p27^{Kip1}* [45,46], degradation of which permits DNA replication and correct progression of cells through S phase into mitosis [50]. Morris et al. recently showed that *CKS* proteins also interact with the proteasome to control the proteolysis of mitotic cyclins by way of regulating the transcriptional activity of *CDC20* [51], a regulatory subunit of the anaphase-promoting complex/cyclosome ubiquitin ligase [52]. Thus, *CKS1* and the SCF^{Skp2}-*CDKN1B*-*Cdk1/2* axis appear to be important for both DNA synthesis and mitosis [53]. The low *p27^{Kip1}* protein levels in cancer cells along with the conspicuous absence of inactivating gene mutations, has prompted speculation that hyperactivation of *CKS1B* and/or *SKP2*, may account for the low levels of *p27^{Kip1}* in cancer [54,55].

Recent studies have shown that loss of *p27^{Kip1}* is associated with shortened survival in patients with myeloma [56]. Based on the current data we propose that increased degradation of *p27^{Kip1}* and poor prognosis in myeloma is primarily caused by a gene-dosage related increase in *CKS1B* gene expression. In

Supplemental Table 3. Relationship of quartile 4 gene expression to amplification for genes located on bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) used to measure 1q21 amplification

Symbol	Not Amplified		Amplified* (Amplification. Index. ≥ 46)		<i>P</i> -Value [†]	Amplification Index $r^{\ddagger}$	Log Rank <i>P</i> -Value ^a
	n/129	(%)	n/68	(%)			
<i>PBXIP1</i>	24	(18.6)	28	(41.2)	0.0012	0.29	0.5285
<i>CKS1B</i>	20	(15.5)	39	(57.4)	<0.0001	0.50	0.0002
<i>PB591</i>	23	(17.8)	38	(55.9)	<0.0001	0.43	0.0873
<i>LENEP</i>	31	(24.0)	18	(26.5)	0.8389	0.03	0.6507
<i>ZFP67</i>	27	(20.9)	29	(42.6)	0.0023	0.34	0.8717
<i>FLJ32934</i>	28	(21.7)	11	(16.2)	0.4606	−0.02	0.6207
<i>ADAM15</i>	23	(17.8)	29	(42.6)	0.0003	0.23	0.2808
<i>EFNA4</i>	26	(20.2)	23	(33.8)	0.0528	0.21	0.3212

*The 0–100 scale *CKS1B* amplification index is a weighted sum of the proportions of clonal cells with 3 copies of *CKS1B* and ≥ 4 copies of *CKS1B*, defined by $(.34 \times \% \text{ 3 copies} + .66 \times \% \geq 4 \text{ copies})/.66$

[†]For a test of the independence of amplification and 4th quartile membership ($N = 197$)

[‡]Correlation between each gene's expression and the 0–100 scale *CKS1B* amplification index

^aLog rank test for association of Q4 membership and overall survival ($N = 351$, 64 deaths)

Supplemental Table 4 a. Relationship between genetic abnormalities and *CKS1B* expression in quartile 4

Abnormality	n/347 (%)	CKS1B		P-Value*
		Q4		
		n	(%)	
Expression-derived translocation				
t(11;14)	60 (17.3)	20	(33.3)	< 0.0001
t(4;14)	48 (13.8)	17	(35.4)	
t(14;16) & t(14;20)	14 (4.0)	9	(64.3)	
No Translocation Spike	225 (64.8)	41	(18.2)	
Metaphase karyotype				
Hyperdiploid	55 (15.9)	10	(18.2)	0.0002
Non-hyperdiploid	48 (13.8)	24	(50.0)	
Other Cytogenetics Abnormality	9 (2.6)	4	(44.4)	
No Cytogenetics Abnormality	235 (67.7)	49	(20.9)	
Chromosome 13 Deletion	n/334			
No	224 (67.1)	47	21.0	0.02
Yes	110 (32.9)	37	33.6	

†Translocations were determined from the expression spikes t(11;14)=CCND1, t(4;14)=FGFR3/MMSET, t(14;16)=MAF and t(14;20)=MAFB. Aneuploidy and other cytogenetic abnormalities were determined from cytogenetics, for which 4 observations were missing.

*Fisher's exact test of the independence of each category and *CKS1B* 4th quartile membership. Under the null hypothesis, Q4 contains on average 25% of patients within each level, corresponding to a proportional distribution across Q1-3 and Q4.

support of this concept we also observed that *CKS1B* over-expression and amplification commonly surfaced at relapse in patients lacking such features at diagnosis suggesting that tandem duplications and jumping translocations promote myeloma progression through amplification of the *CKS1B* gene.

CKS1B has been shown to be overexpressed in oral, gastric, colon, ovarian, and non-small cell lung carcinomas, and blastoid variant of mantle cell lymphoma [37,57–62] and its expression linked to poor survival in oral, gastric, and colorectal carcinomas [37,58,61]. Since 1q21 amplification and p27^{Kip1} degradation is frequently observed in advanced malignancies, it will be important to determine whether *CKS1B* overexpression and disease progression/ag-

gressiveness in other tumor types is linked to increased DNA copy numbers of *CKS1B*.

SKP2 overexpression has been observed in many tumor types and has been linked to poor survival in some cancers [63]. *SKP2* gene expression levels were not linked to survival in this analysis (data not shown) and we found that unlike *CKS1B* expression, *SKP2* expression was relatively high and not significantly different amongst plasma cells from normal healthy donors, MGUS, smoldering myeloma and myeloma (data not shown). Taken together these data suggests that *CKS1B* may be the rate-limiting component of the SCF^{Skp2} complex in myeloma cells.

In the current analysis we discovered that *CKS1B* overexpression was significantly linked to hypodi-

Supplemental Table 4 b. Multivariate analysis of *CKS1B* quartile 4 expression and cytogenetic abnormalities†

	Event-Free Survival		Survival	
	HR	P‡	HR	P‡
CKS1B Q4	1.97	0.003	2.16	0.005
Expression-derived translocation*				
t(11;14)	0.59	0.034	0.82	0.261
t(4;14)	1.67		1.77	
t(14;16) & t(14;20)	1.48		1.12	
Metaphase karyotype**				
Hyperdiploid	1.75	0.006	1.84	0.013
Non-hyperdiploid	2.29		2.56	
Other Cytogenetics Abnormality	2.35		2.71	
r ²	0.218		0.223	
Events/Deaths	97		63	

†N = 347. Of 351 patients with expression data, 4 are missing cytogenetics.

‡Partial likelihood ratio test for the overall effect of the category.

*The P-value for modification of the *CKS1B* effect on EFS by translocation subgroup is 0.74

Supplemental Table 5. Overexpression *CKS1B* and *CKS2* are related to ploidy.

<i>CKS1B</i>	Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4	<i>p</i> -value
Hyperdiploidy (%)	66	61	27	28	2.64×10^{-7}
Hypodiploidy (%)	9	18	39	32	0.00099
Diploidy (%)	25	21	33	41	0.23
Total (N)	85	87	84	79	
<i>CKS2</i>	Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4	<i>P</i> -value
Hyperdiploidy (%)	23	42	59	62	7.74×10^{-5}
Hypodiploidy (%)	40	23	17	14	0.0096
Diploidy (%)	37	42	24	25	0.25
Total (N)	86	86	82	81	

ploidy as determined metaphase cytogenetics. We have subsequently confirmed this relationship using DNA content analysis by flow cytometry in ~300 samples (unpublished data). Using gene expression profiling to identify molecular determinants of myeloma bone disease we recently showed that *CKS2* was one of only four genes significantly overexpressed in myelomas with osteolytic lesions [23]. Subsequently we noted that osteolytic lesions predominate in myelomas with hyperdiploid gene expression signatures [12]. Indeed, overexpression of *CKS2* was linked to hyperdiploid myeloma as determined by flow cytometry (unpublished data). Several studies have suggested a link between *CKS* genes in DNA ploidy. Hixon et al. showed that *CKS1* mediates vascular smooth muscle cell polyploidization [64] and Spruck et al. revealed that *CKS2* expression is required for the first metaphase/anaphase transition of mammalian meiosis [65]. Future studies will be aimed at determining if over-expression of either of the *CKS* family members can alter ploidy in myeloma cells.

CKS1B gene amplification along with chromosome 13q14 deletion and abnormal metaphase cytogenetics accounted for almost 40% of the observed survival variability in this analysis, underscoring that myeloma risk is best assessed by molecular and cellular genetic tests. Routine application of such studies, performed on a single bone marrow sample, is recommended for appropriate patient stratification in therapeutic trial design. The survival impact of new agents, such as bortezomib and thalidomide and its derivatives, will be profound if their clinical efficacy also extends to genetically defined high-risk myeloma, which to date has not been investigated. *CKS1B* function appears to directly or indirectly interact with ubiquitin ligases and/or the proteasome to regulate cell cycle progression [66]. New therapeutic strategies that directly target *CKS1B* or related pathways may represent novel, and a more specific, means of treating de novo high-risk myeloma and may prevent secondary evolution.

Cyclin D dysregulation is a common event in cancer and contributes to tumorigenesis by promoting hyperphosphorylation of the RB1 protein, activation of E2F, and transition through the early G1 to S phase of

the cell cycle. We have recently reported that dysregulated expression of one of the three D-type cyclins may be initiating genetic lesions in MM [12]. Based on data presented here we propose a two-hit pathogenic model of myelomagenesis in which activation of a D type cyclin is followed by *CKS1B* amplification leading to dysregulation of both early and late G1 to S phases of the cell cycle.

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